

1863

	Gettysburg	Chickamauga and Chattanooga
Date(s)		
Location		
Generals		
Evidence: Secondary Document/Notes		
Evidence: Primary Document(s)		<i>Explain how the battles set up Sherman's Atlanta Campaign:</i>

Report of 1863 (how are things going for the North and the South-you may include additional primary/secondary document evidence)?

Chickamauga and Chattanooga

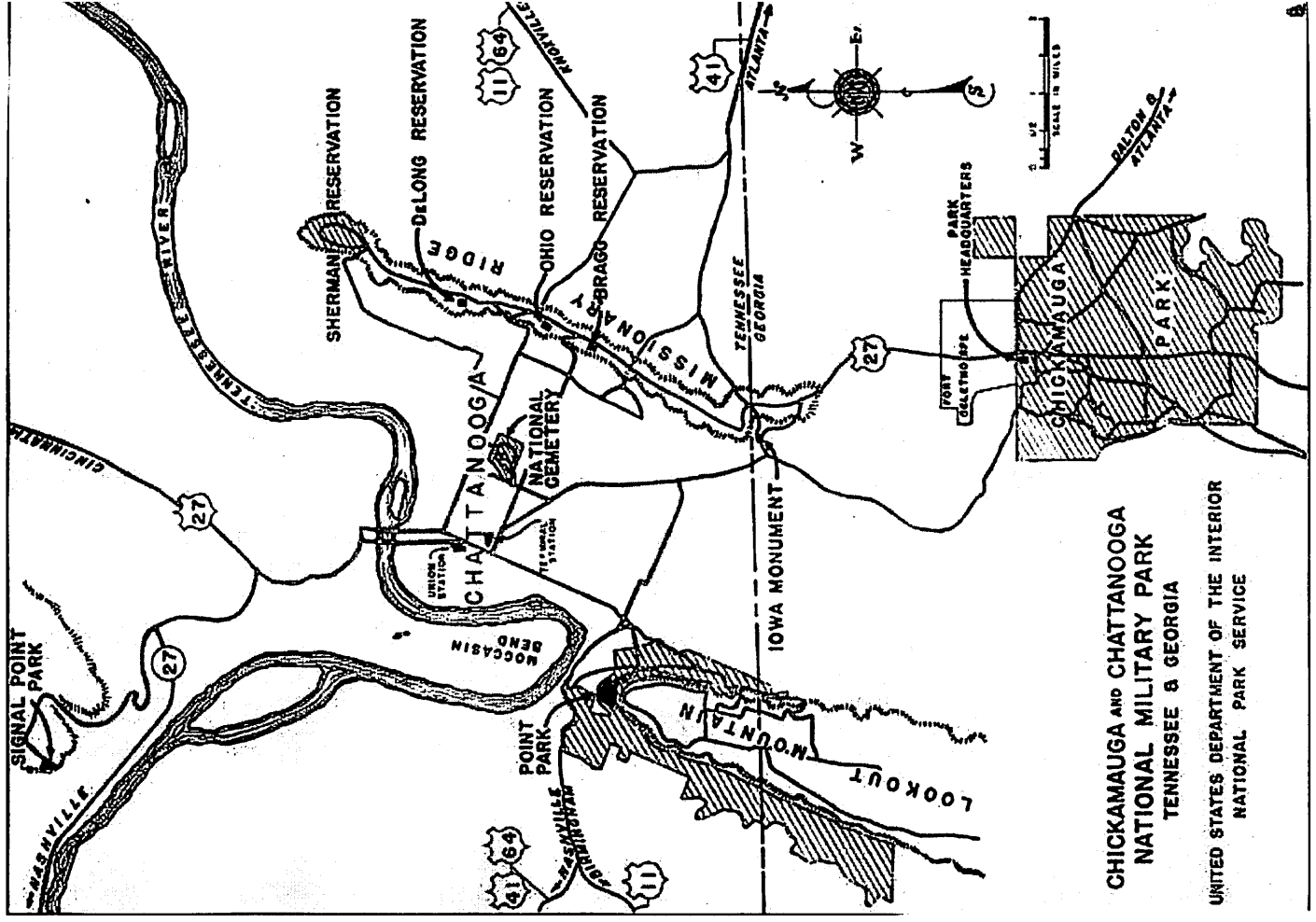
In north Georgia and south Tennessee, Union and Confederate armies clashed during the fall of 1863 in some of the hardest fighting of the Civil War. The prize was Chattanooga, a key rail center and the gateway to the heart of the Confederacy.

Through a series of skillful marches, Union General William S. Rosecrans forced Southerners under General Braxton Bragg to withdraw from Middle Tennessee to Chattanooga. Bragg dug in, guarding the Tennessee River crossings northeast of the city. However, early in September, Federals crossed the Tennessee well below Chattanooga, again forcing Bragg to withdraw southward. Eluding his Federal pursuers, Bragg concentrated his forces at Lafayette, Georgia, (26 miles) south of Chattanooga. Here reinforcements swelled his ranks to more than 66,000 men. Twice he unsuccessfully tried to destroy segments of Rosecrans' army. Then, on September 18, 1863, hoping to wedge his troops between the Federals and Chattanooga, Bragg posted his army on the west bank of Chickamauga Creek.

Fighting began shortly after dawn on September 19. The armies fought desperately all day, but the Confederates eventually pushed the Federals back to the Lafayette Road. On September 20, Bragg again tried to drive between the Union force and Chattanooga, but failed to dislodge Rosecrans' line. Suddenly, a gap opened in the Federal ranks and Confederates smashed through, routing Rosecrans and half his army. General George H. Thomas took command of the remaining Federals and formed a new battleline on Snodgrass Hill. Here his men held their ground against repeated assaults. After dark, Thomas' forces withdrew from the field to the defenses of Chattanooga. The Confederates pursued and besieged the city. By placing artillery on the heights overlooking the river and blocking the roads and rail lines, the Southerners prevented Federal supplies from entering the city.

Aware of Rosecrans' plight, Union authorities in Washington ordered reinforcements to his relief. General Joseph Hooker came from Virginia late in October and General William T. Sherman brought reinforcements from Mississippi in mid-November. Thomas replaced Rosecrans as head of Army of the Cumberland and General Ulysses S. Grant assumed overall command.

Within days of Grant's arrival in October, the situation began to change dramatically. Federal troops opened a supply route, nicknamed the 'Cracker Line,' from Bridgeport, Alabama. On November 23 Thomas' men attacked and routed the Confederates from Orchard Knob. On the 24th, aided by a heavy fog that enshrouded the slopes of Lookout Mountain, Hooker's soldiers pushed the Confederates out of their defenses. On November 25, with most of Bragg's army now concentrated on Missionary Ridge, Grant launched Sherman's troops against the Confederate right flank, and sent Hooker's men from Lookout Mountain to attack the Confederate left. Thomas' soldiers were sent to relieve the pressure on Sherman by assaulting the rifle pits at the base of Missionary Ridge. This was swiftly accomplished, but then, without orders, Thomas' men scaled the heights in one of the great charges of the war. The Confederate line collapsed and Bragg's troops fled to the rear, retreating into Georgia. The siege and battle for Chattanooga were over and Union armies now controlled the city and nearly all of Tennessee. The next spring, Sherman used Chattanooga for his supply base as he started his march to Atlanta and the sea.



**CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA
NATIONAL MILITARY PARK**
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

'I saw the surgeons hastily put a cattle horn over the mouths of the wounded ones, after they were placed upon the bench. At first I did not understand the meaning of this but upon inquiry, soon learned that that was their mode of administering chloroform, in order to produce unconsciousness. But the effect in some instances were not produced; for I saw the wounded throwing themselves wildly about, and shrieking with pain while the operation was going on.

'To the south of the house, and just outside of the yard, I noticed a pile of limbs higher than the fence. It was a ghastly sight! Gazing upon these, too often the trophies of the amputating bench, I could have no other feeling, than that the whole scene was one of cruel butchery.'

The battle's aftermath

Hearing that her family is safe in town, it is decided that Tillie should remain at the Weikert farm for a few days after the battle. On July 5, Tillie and some friends climb to the crest of Little Round Top and survey the battlefield below:

'By this time the Union dead had been principally carried off the field, and those that remained were Confederates.

'As we stood upon those mighty bowlders, and looked down into the chasms between, we beheld the dead lying there just as they had fallen during the struggle. From the summit of Little Round Top, surrounded by the wrecks of battle, we gazed upon the valley of death beneath. The view there spread out before us was terrible to contemplate! It was an awful spectacle! Dead soldiers, bloated horses, shattered cannon and caissons, thousands of small arms. In fact everything belonging to army equipments, was there in one confused and indescribable mass.'

Gettysburg Address-November 19, 1863

'Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us--that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion--that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.'

'But our merchants and bankers had too often heard of their coming, and had already shipped their wealth to places of safety. Thus it was, that a few days after, the citizens of York were compelled to make up our proportion of the Rebel requisition.'

July 1: Escape to a Safe House and the first encounter with the tragedy of war

As the sounds of battle increase and the fighting nears her home, Tillie joins a neighbor as she and her children flee to her father's (Jacob Weikert) house three miles south of town near Round Top. Tillie's parents elect to stay in town:

'At last we reached Mr. Weikert's and were gladly welcomed to their home.

'It was not long after our arrival, until Union artillery came hurrying by. It was indeed a thrilling sight. How the men impelled their horses! How the officers urged the men as they all flew past toward the sound of the battle! Now the road is getting all cut up; they take to the fields, and all is in anxious, eager hurry! Shouting, lashing the horses, cheering the men, they all rush madly on.

'Suddenly we behold an explosion; it is that of a caisson. We see a man thrown high in the air and come down in a wheat field close by. He is picked up and carried into the house. As they pass by I see his eyes are blown out and his whole person seems to be one black mass. The first words I hear him say are: 'Oh dear! I forgot to read my Bible to-day! What will my poor wife and children say'

'I saw the soldiers carry him up stairs; they laid him upon a bed and wrapped him in cotton. How I pitied that poor man! How terribly the scenes of war were being irresistibly portrayed before my vision.'

July 2: Officer brutality

During the battle's second day fighting shifts to the area around Little Round Top. Tillie remains in the Weikert home carrying water to passing Union troops while others bake bread for the soldiers. Towards noon she witnesses an incident at the front of the house:

'This forenoon another incident occurred which I shall ever remember. While the infantry were passing, I noticed a poor, worn-out soldier crawling along on his hands and knees. An officer yelled at him, with cursing, to get up and march. The poor fellow said he could not, whereupon the officer, raising his sword, struck him down three or four times. The officer passed on. Little caring what he had done. Some of his comrades at once picked up the prostrate form and carried the unfortunate man into the house. After several hours of hard work the sufferer was brought back to consciousness. He seemed quite a young man, and was suffering from sunstroke received on the forced march. As they were carrying him in, some of the men who had witnessed this act of brutality remarked:

'We will mark that officer for this.'

'It is a pretty well established fact that many a brutal officer fell in the battle, from being shot other than by the enemy.'

July 3: The surgeon's work

Lee aims his attack at the center of the Union line. The ferocity of the battle forces Tillie and the others to flee to a farm house farther from the fighting. Late in the day, as the battle subsides, the family decides to return to the Weikert farm:

'Toward the close of the afternoon it was noticed that the roar of the battle was subsiding, and after all had become quiet we started back to the Weikert home. As we drove along in the cool of the evening, we noticed that everywhere confusion prevailed. Fences were thrown down near and far; knapsacks, blankets and many other articles, lay scattered here and there. The whole country seemed filled with desolation.

'Upon reaching the place I fairly shrank back aghast at the awful sight presented. The approaches were crowded with wounded, dying and dead. The air was filled with moanings, and groanings. As we passed on toward the house, we were compelled to pick our steps in order that we might not tread on the prostrate bodies.

'When we entered the house we found it also completely filled with the wounded. We hardly knew what to do or where to go. They, however, removed most of the wounded, and thus after a while made room for the family.

'As soon as possible, we endeavored to make ourselves useful by rendering assistance in this heartrending state of affairs. I remember Mrs. Weikert went through the house, and after searching awhile, brought all the muslin and linen she could spare. This we tore into bandages and gave them to the surgeons, to bind up the poor soldier's wounds.

'By this time, amputating benches had been placed about the house. I must have become inured to seeing the terrors of battle, else I could hardly have gazed upon the scenes now presented. I was looking out of the windows facing the front yard. Near the basement door, and directly underneath the window I was at, stood one of these benches. I saw them lifting the poor men upon it, then the surgeons sawing and cutting off arms and legs, then again probing and picking bullets from the flesh.

'Some of the soldiers fairly begged to be taken next, so great was their suffering, and so anxious were they to obtain relief.

The Battle of Gettysburg, 1863

On June 24, 1863, General Robert E. Lee led his Confederate Army across the Potomac River and headed towards Pennsylvania. In response to this threat President Lincoln replaced his army commander, General Joseph Hooker, with General George Mead. As Lee's troops poured into Pennsylvania, Mead led the Union Army north from Washington. Meade's effort was inadvertently helped by Lee's cavalry commander, Jeb Stuart, who, instead of reporting Union movements to Lee, had gone off on a raid deep in the Union rear. This action left Lee blind to the Union's position. When a scout reported the Union approach, Lee ordered his scattered troops to converge west of the small village of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

On July 1, some Confederate infantry headed to Gettysburg to seize much-needed shoes and clashed west of town with Union cavalry. The Union commander, recognizing the importance of holding Gettysburg because a dozen roads converged there, fought desperately to hold off the Rebel advance. Other Union troops briefly stopped some Rebels north of town. During heavy fighting, the Confederates drove the Union troops through the streets of Gettysburg to Cemetery Hill south of the town. Lee ordered General Richard Ewell, now commander of the late Stonewall Jackson's old units, to attack this position 'if practicable', a vague order that Jackson normally took to mean launch an all-out attack. Ewell was not Jackson. He decided not to attack once he saw the Union artillery atop the hill. Had he attacked and succeeded, it might have changed the course of the war.

The rest of the armies arrived that first night. The Union army established a defensive position resembling a fish hook, with Culp's Hill and the two Round Tops anchoring each end. Lee decided to attack both flanks the next day. On his right flank, Union troops mistakenly shifted out of position, leaving Little Round Top undefended. At the last moment, a Union general rushed troops in just ahead of the charging Confederates. After a long day of fighting, they barely held the position. The misplaced bluecoats were pushed back through The Peach Orchard, The Wheat Field, and Devil's Den. On the left, Ewell's assault failed due mainly to his poor leadership.

Thinking the Union center had weakened from these attacks, Lee decided the next day to hit it first with artillery, and then an infantry charge led by George Pickett's division. Stuart's late-arriving cavalry was to come in behind the Union center at the same time, but they were held off by Union cavalry led by a young General George Custer. After an hour's duel, Union artillery deceived the Confederates into thinking their guns were knocked out. Then 13,000 Rebels marched across the field in front of Cemetery Hill, only to have the Union artillery open up on them, followed by deadly Federal infantry firepower. Scarcely half made it back to their own lines. In all, Lee lost more than a third of his men before retreating to Virginia. Meade, a naturally cautious man, decided the loss of one-quarter of his men had been enough, and only feebly tried to pursue Lee, missing an opportunity to crush him.

"The rebels are coming!"

Tillie Pierce was born in 1848 and when the battle began, had lived all her life in the village of Gettysburg. Her father made his living as a butcher and the family lived above his shop in the heart of town. Tillie witnessed the entire battle and published her observations twenty-six years after the event. Tillie attended the "Young Ladies Seminary" a finishing school near her home. She was attending school on June 26 when the cry "the Rebels are coming!" reverberated through the town's sleepy streets:

'We were having our literary exercises on Friday afternoon, at our Seminary, when the cry reached our ears. Rushing to the door, and standing on the front portico we beheld in the direction of the Theological Seminary, a dark, dense mass, moving toward town. Our teacher, Mrs. Eyster, at once said:

'Children, run home as quickly as you can.'

'It did not require repeating. I am satisfied some of the girls did not reach their homes before the Rebels were in the streets.

'As for myself, I had scarcely reached the front door, when, on looking up the street, I saw some of the men on horseback. I scrambled in, slammed shut the door, and hastening to the sitting room, peeped out between the shutters.

'What a horrible sight! There they were, human beings! Clad almost in rags, covered with dust, riding wildly, pell-mell down the hill toward our home! Shouting, yelling most unearthly, cursing, brandishing their revolvers, and firing right and left.

'I was fully persuaded that the Rebels had actually come at last. What they would do with us was a fearful question to my young mind.

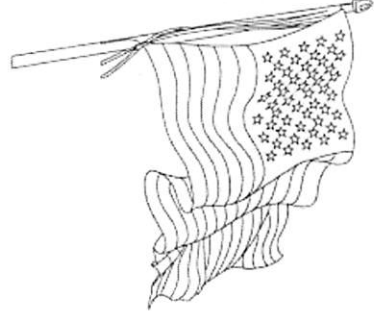
'Soon the town was filled with infantry, and then the searching and ransacking began in earnest.

'They wanted horses, clothing, anything and almost everything they could conveniently carry away.

'Nor were they particular about asking. Whatever suited them they took. They did, however, make a formal demand of the town authorities, for a large supply of flour, meat, groceries, shoes, hats and (doubtless, not least in their estimations), ten barrels of whisky; or, in lieu of this five thousand dollars.

Focus Question Responses-Week of January 20, 2015
Primary Document Analyses

<i>Date</i>	<i>Document Description/Summary</i>	<i>What the document reveals about this historical era...</i>



A PROCLAMATION.

By Joseph E. Brown, Governor of Georgia.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
ATLANTA, GA., July 18th, 1861. }

WHEREAS, it is believed there are many old military guns of one kind and another scattered over the State, and not in the possession of organized volunteer companies, which, by being collected up and altered from flint and steel to percussion, or otherwise repaired, if necessary, could be made serviceable in the present crisis. I therefore issue this, my Proclamation, calling upon all good and loyal citizens of the State, to make diligent enquiry and search for such guns, being the property of the State, and to collect them up wherever found and deliver them to the Clerk of the Superior Court of each county; and as a compensation therefor I will cause to be paid to said clerks two dollars for each gun, (which can be repaired and made fit for use) so delivered to him and forwarded to the military store-keeper at Milledgeville. This is not intended to apply to guns already collected and subject to the order of the Commander-in-Chief, nor to those in the hands of regularly organized and existing volunteer companies, but to such guns only as are scattered over the country and would not otherwise be returned to the State arsenal and made available in the present emergency. The two dollars thus offered by the State for the return of each of such guns, will be paid to the clerks respectively on the receipt of the guns at Milledgeville; and the Clerk will pay over the money to the persons who gathered them up and delivered them to him. The Clerks thus receiving the guns will please to put them up in boxes, or otherwise, and ship to Milledgeville, consigned to Capt T. M. Bradford, military store-keeper, accompanied by a letter stating particularly the number and kind sent, and where sent from, and that they have been collected and forwarded in pursuance of this Proclamation.

JOSEPH E. BROWN

By the Governor:

H. H. WATERS, Sec'y Ex. Dep't. 92t.

From the Charleston Mercury, July 16.

BATTLE OF BULL'S RUN.

MANASSAS JUNCTION. Va., July 18—7 o'clock P. M.—A battle has at last been fought and a great victory gained by the Confederate troops.

Yesterday morning, our scouts having brought in the news that the invaders were advancing in heavy column towards Fairfax Court House, the Southern pickets at that place were withdrawn and fell back towards Bull's Run, where a large body of the Confederate troops were concentrated and strongly entrenched.

At daybreak this morning, the enemy first appeared in force at Bull's Run, where it crosses the road, about three miles Northwest of Manassas Junction, and attempted to pass. Our troops immediately opened fire, which was replied to by the enemy, and the engagement soon became general.

On our side, Gen. Beauregard commanded in person. It is not yet known what United States officer conducted the attack. The fighting extended along Bull's Run for the distance of one mile.

The battle lasted, with intermissions, during the greater part of the day, the United States troops being three times repulsed, with heavy loss and three times rallying again to the attack. At four o'clock in the afternoon the battle reached its height. The enemy finally gave way and retreated in great confusion towards Alexandria. At five o'clock the firing had ceased altogether.

The First and Seventh Regiment of Virginia Volunteers were conspicuous in the action, and behaved nobly. The Washington Artillery, of New Orleans under Major Walton, also occupied a prominent position, and worked their batteries with tremendous effect.

The loss on our side was but slight. William Sangster, one of our riflemen was killed. Capt. Dulany, of the Seventeen Virginia Regiment was wounded in the arm. Col. Moore was also slightly wounded.

An United States officer of high rank was killed and his horse taken. Upon his person was found \$700 in gold.

A shot passed through the kitchen of the house where Gen. Beauregard was at dinner. The enemy, it is supposed, discovered his whereabouts. They also fired into our hospital, notwithstanding that they must have seen the yellow flag flying.

We have no authentic information as yet concerning the number of forces engaged, or the amount of the loss of the enemy. The impression prevails here that the battle will be renewed tomorrow.

WAR!

FORT SUMTER TAKEN!

There is no telling when the drama will close. Hostilities have commenced between the United States and the Southern Confederacy, as the telegraphic dispatches will show, to which we refer for particulars. The well manned batteries of Gen. BEAUREGARD made a breach in the walls of Fort Sumter, and compelled Maj. ANDERSON to surrender himself and force as prisoners of war to the Confederate States. This indeed is a good beginning on our side, and imparts great moral strength to our cause, besides stimulating our soldiery with confidence in the chiefs under whose orders they serve. The South is acting strictly on the defensive, and in no instance has been the aggressor; but if her enemies (the Black Republicans) desire a sharp struggle, they can be accommodated even at the doors of the Capitol at Washington.

But we hope that Mr. Lincoln will see the utter folly of trying to subdue the Confederate States, or to blockade their ports, and that after a brief contest, peace will follow, with the full understanding that the South is to be let alone. In the present excitement, however, no calculation can be made as to future hostilities, how long this will continue, or what will be the scale of operations.