

# **“The Civil War Soldier”**

## **1860’s**

An educational module based on primary sources available at the Florida Historical Society’s  
Library of Florida History  
Cocoa, FL

Created by: Heather M. Pierce

## “Civil War Soldier” Module Introduction

The Civil War was a turning point in American history that had long lasting effects on our nation. Its staggering casualty count coupled with the cruel nature of a nation tearing itself apart has left a frightening legacy. At the center of it all was the Civil War soldier who served as the central cog in the war machine that ripped the nation in two from 1861-1865. While relatively brief compared to some wars, the American Civil War remains the nation’s bloodiest conflict. About 620,000 men, two percent of the nation’s population, were killed while serving in the war.<sup>1</sup> The result of such loss was a deeply traumatic psychological experience for all those involved. While this certainly involved those who were serving on the front lines, it also included individuals on the home front who lost loved ones on an all too often basis.

The Civil War revolved around two major issues. The first was whether the nation would be made up of sovereign states capable of dissolving their confederation, or an indivisible nation under a sovereign federal government, and the second was over the issue of slavery.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, these issues created the perfect storm for the nation to go to war. Fortunately for historians, numerous correspondences have been preserved from the years of the American Civil War that shed light on these troubled times. These personal accounts provide extremely valuable insight into the lives of ordinary people who experienced the war firsthand. This module will contain documents from two collections, the Francis P. Fleming Papers and the Mary Martha Reid Papers.

The documents selected from the Mary Martha Reid Papers come from Mary Martha Reid’s own son, a Confederate Soldier, as well as from a personal friend of Mrs. Reid’s who laments the fate of her son who was missing in action. Mary Martha Reid was an extraordinary woman from the Civil War period who is known for her work with the Florida Hospital. Reid made her home in St. Augustine Florida, but served with great distinction at the Florida Hospital in Richmond, Virginia. She did so in part to be closer to her son, Raymond Reid, while he served as a soldier in the Confederate Army.<sup>3</sup> Raymond was in the Second Florida Infantry and was ranked a 4<sup>th</sup> Sgt. One of the letters in this collection comes from Raymond Reid as he describes the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862. Unfortunately, Raymond later died in a field hospital of a fatal wound to his stomach received on May 6, 1864 during the Battle of the Wilderness.<sup>4</sup>

The documents selected from the Francis P. Fleming Papers for this module contain two letters from Francis himself. Francis Fleming was born at Panama Park in Duval County. He became a private in a company of volunteers that was incorporated into the Confederate Army’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Florida Regiment in November 1862, and eventually went on to earn a battlefield promotion to First Lieutenant while in Virginia.<sup>5</sup> One letter accounts his experience during Major General George B. McClellan’s Peninsula Campaign, and the other describes the horrors of the Battle of Gettysburg. Fleming survived the war and later studied law and become an attorney.<sup>6</sup> Eventually Fleming became the fifteenth governor of Florida. As a Democratic governor Fleming supported segregation and was opposed to civil rights for African Americans. However, in an effort to counter a statewide yellow fever epidemic, Fleming’s administration did see the creation of a state board of health in Florida.<sup>7</sup>

The documents contained in this module provide insight into the life of an ordinary Confederate soldier during the Civil War. However, it also touches on the subject of what it meant to be the loved one of a soldier away at war. This topic still resonates with American military families today. These documents highlight aspects of the Civil War such as loss of life, psychological horrors, and uncertainty that really defined the

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<sup>1</sup> “Civil War Casualties,” Civil War Trust, accessed June 30, 2015, <http://www.civilwar.org/education/civil-war-casualties.html>.

<sup>2</sup> “A Brief Overview of the American Civil War,” Civil War Trust, accessed June 30, 2015, <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/civil-war-overview/overview.html>.

<sup>3</sup> *M.M. Reid Papers*, Library of Florida History, The Florida Historical Society at Cocoa, FL 32922.

<sup>4</sup> David W. Hartman and David Coles, *Biographical Rosters of Florida’s Confederate And Union Soldiers 1861-1865*, (Wilmington: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1995), 209.

<sup>5</sup> *Francis P. Fleming Papers*, Library of Florida History, The Florida Historical Society at Cocoa, FL 32922.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> “Francis Philip Fleming,” Florida Department of State, accessed July 9, 2015, <http://dos.myflorida.com/florida-facts/florida-history/florida-governors/francis-philip-fleming/>.

period. While all of these documents relate to a much larger topic in history, they also closely connect with the history of Florida. Extraordinary individuals served on both sides of the war, and their legacies remain as important windows to the past.

## Primary Source Guide Page

### **Q: What is a Primary Source?**

A: According to the Library of Congress, “Primary sources are the raw materials of history — original documents and objects which were created at the time under study.” The key to remember is that primary sources were created during the time period being studied.

### **Q: Are primary sources exclusively written documents?**

A: No! It’s true that many primary sources take the form of written accounts, like newspapers, letters, and journals. However, primary sources can take many forms. Remember the key to a primary source is that it was created in the time period being studied. Therefore, photographs, film footage, paintings, maps, clothing, architecture, everyday objects, and many other items can also be seen as primary sources.

### **Q: Is my textbook a primary source?**

A: No. Resources like textbooks, biographies, research papers, histories, and encyclopedias are not primary sources. This is because they were created after the time period being studied. Therefore, sources about certain periods in history, but not created during that period of history, are not primary sources.

### **Q: If textbooks and similar sources created after the period of history being studied are not primary sources, what are they? Are they reliable?**

A: These types of sources are known as secondary sources. However, that does not mean they do not contain good information. Textbooks, histories, biographies, and other sources about historical periods are constructed from the information found in primary sources. Therefore, the information contained in primary sources give people in later time periods the necessary information to create summaries and draw conclusions about the past. Furthermore, many secondary sources include primary sources like photographs or excerpts of personal accounts to support their interpretations of the past.

### **Q: What should I look for when I am studying a primary source?**

A: There are many things to look for when viewing a primary source. Of course, it depends on the nature of the source you are looking at. For example, if you are reading a letter from someone you should look for things like the type of language used, author biases, dates mentioned, the purpose of the letter, and to whom it was being addressed. Naturally, if you are viewing something like a painting as a primary source you will be looking for different things, such as what the painting depicts, what type of materials were used in its creation, and an artist’s signature.

### **Q: Why study primary sources?**

A: Primary sources are the most important link we have to the past. They reveal the important events, thoughts, opinions, styles, attitudes, and customs of the past. Primary sources are the most dependable way to get information about the past because they were created by those who lived it.

## Source #1

*Letters to Mary Martha Reid from her son, Raymond Jenckes Reid, during the Civil War. 17 Dec 1862: Camp near Fredericksburg.*

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Camp Near Fredericksburg  
December 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Mother

Dr. L'Engle goes to Richmond to day. I take the opportunity of writing you . The Battle has been fought. God has again blessed our armies [?] by another glorious victory. The enemy have crossed the river and removed their Pontoon-Bridges. Their dead are still on the Battle field and many of their wounded in our hands. They held the city during the battle and plundered the houses of every thing. Our men are in Town. It is turned upside down- Fine sofas & chairs were taken out of the houses and used by the Yankee [?] in the Breastworks . Poor people, they will find their houses sadly changed.

When the enemy made the attack the 8<sup>th</sup> Florida Regiment was on picket in the town- They were in rather a tight place- The Enemy opened on the town with their cannons. Every street had guns bearing on them. They suffered much- They were ordered to brake and get out the best they could- Three companies including Capt. Baya's are missing. Capt. Baya had commands of them. They are no doubt in the enemy's hands.

The fighting was on the right of us. A part of Anderson's Division being engaged. We were subjected to quite a heavy fire from their long range guns- The shells would come flying and bursting over us. More of our Regt. [regiment] hurt though some made narrow escapes. While under the fire of artillery- a very handsome flag was presented to our Regiment. It was sent by the Governor of the State of Fla [Florida] made by the Ladies of Tallahassee- We are proud of it and will never let it trail in the Dust.

Mr. Fraser has gone to see the Battle field. He is liked by the men- We find him an agreeable companion. We are sorry to lose Dr. L'Engle Yet I am glad he goes to the Florida Hospital. The Box you sent up for Mr. Fraser arrived safely- and I assure you we injoyed [enjoyed] its contents and are very grateful to you for your kindness. The little Bundles sent have all been received. I have not seen or heard any thing [anything] of Frank Daney in [?] for some time. I sent the letter for [?] by mail. I had no other means of sending it. I do hope he has received it.

The weather is quite pleasant now and has been for several days back.

Remember me to all friends- My kind regards to Dr. Palmer.

Good bye God bless & keep you from all harm.

Your Son  
Raymond J Reid

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### Key terms:

- **Pontoon Bridge:** a temporary bridge built across a river, supported by floating structures
- **Breastwork:** an earthen wall built at chest height as a temporary barrier for defense

Camp near Fredericks<sup>burg</sup>

December 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Mother

Dr. Snygle goes to Richmond to day. I take the opportunity of writing you.

The Battle has been fought. God has again blessed our Arms with by another glorious victory. The enemy have recrossed the river and removed their Pontoon-Bridges. Their dead are still on the Battle field and many of them wounded in our hands. They held the City during the battle and plundered the houses of every thing. Our men are in town. It is turned upside down. Fine Sofas & chairs were taken out of the houses and used by the Yankee Hiredlings in the breastworks. Poor people, they will find their

homes sadly changed.

When the enemy made the attack the 6<sup>th</sup> Florida Regiment was on picket in the town. They were in rather a tight place. The enemy shelled in the town with their cannon. Every street had guns bearing on them. They suffered much. They were ordered to break and get out the best they could. These companies including Capt. Waga's are missing. Capt. Waga had command of them. They are no doubt in the enemy's hands.

The fighting was on the night of us. A part of Anderson's division being engaged. We were subjected to quite a heavy fire from their long range guns. The shell would come flying and bursting over us. None of our Regt. hurt, though some

made narrow escapes. While under the fire of artillery, a very handsome flag was presented to our Regiment. It was sent by the Governor of the State of Fla. Made by the Ladies of Tallahassee. We are proud of it and will never let it trail in the dust.

Mr. Graves has gone to see the Battle fields. He is liked by the men. We find him an agreeable companion.

We are sorry to lose Dr. Lingle yet I am glad he goes to the Florida Hospital. The 93<sup>rd</sup> you put up for Mr. Graves arrived safely and I assure you we enjoyed its contents and are very grateful to you for your kindness. The little bundles sent have all been received. I have not seen or heard any thing of Frank

Dancy in Buxton for some time.  
I sent the letter for Buxton  
by mail. I had no other means  
of sending it. I do hope he has  
received it.

The weather is quite pleasant  
now and has been for several  
days back.

Remember me to all friends.  
My kind regards to Mr Palmer.

Good by. God bless & keep you  
from all harm.

Your Son

Raymond Reid



## Source #1 Questions:

**Directions: Answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Use the document to support your answers whenever possible.**

1. What does this letter reveal about the conditions in which soldiers fought? What were some of the threats? Use examples from the document.
2. The author of this letter describes a flag. What significance does this flag have? Consider the role of women, troop morale, and the attitudes of civilians in the South.
3. What details from this letter help you understand the conditions of which civilians lived during war?
4. The Battle of Fredericksburg is a famous Confederate victory during the Civil War. Based on this letter, what attitude do you think the author had in regards to the victory?

**Source #2**

*Letters to M.M. Reid 1863. 29 June 1863 from C.M. Hallows to Mary Martha Reid; the following is an excerpt from the original letter.*

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Bolingbroke June 29<sup>th</sup>  
1863

With my heart trembling with mingled feelings of fear & hope did I tear open the letter handed me yesterday in your well known & loved hand [?] my own dearest Martha, & although its contains no certain information of my idolized child, still it permits me to hope, yes dear friend only to hope, that he may be among the number of those poor unfortunates now confined in Fort Norfolk. –Oh Martha, dearest can it be that my child is there? that my boy is yet alive? That he is now suffering such horrors at the hands of our merciless & cruel foes. Oh when will this poor heart be at rest! When will this anguish cease [?]. Oh Martha do not [?] your exertions oh save my boy if he be alive-all my earthly hope is in you for you dear friend have done for me, what no one else could have done, Had it been your own child you could not have done more. Do endeavor to procure the names of those poor fellows & let me know at once for this state of suspense is wearing me away. I cannot give up my child while there is one day of hope to cheer me...[cont.]

Bolington June 29<sup>th</sup>  
1863.

With my heart trembling with  
mingled feelings of fear & hope,  
did I tear open the letter handed  
me yesterday in your well known  
& loved hand writing my own  
dearest Martha, & although it  
contains no certain information  
of my beloved child, still  
it permits me to hope, yes  
dear friend only to hope, that  
he may be among the number  
of those poor unfortunates,  
now confined in Lord's Hospital.  
Oh Martha, dearest can it  
be that my child is there?  
that my boy is yet alive?

that he is now suffering such  
torments at the hands of our  
merciless & cruel foes. Oh when  
will this poor heart be at rest!  
when will this anguish cease.  
Oh Martha do not inter-  
mit your exertions - oh save  
my boy if he be alive - all  
my earthly hope is in you  
for you dear friend have done  
for me, what no one else  
could have done. Had I  
been your own child you  
could not have done more.  
Do endeavor to procure the  
names of those poor fellows,  
I let me know at once, for  
this state of suspense is wearing  
me away - I cannot give up  
my child while there is one  
ray of hope to cheer me. I now

## **Source #2 Questions:**

**Directions: Answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Use the document to support your answers whenever possible.**

1. This letter is from the home front during the Civil War. What does this letter reveal about how civilians felt during the war?
2. Letters were the main method of communication during this time in history. Neither the telephone nor the Internet had been invented at this time. How does this letter reflect this situation of limited and/or delayed information? What are some of the shortcomings of the letter as a form of communication, particularly during wartime?
3. Put yourself in C.M. Hallows place, how would the development of better communication systems have helped civilians during the war? How would it have helped soldiers?

### Source #3

*Francis P. Fleming Civil War letters, 1862-1865. Peninsula Campaign; letter from Francis P. Fleming to his Aunt Tilly, 1862.*

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Camp 2<sup>d</sup> Fla. Infy  
Near Richmond July 28<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear Aunt Tilly,

I have had the pleasure of securing both of your kind letters since writing you and ought to have answered them sooner, but until about two weeks ago we have been in such a commotion that I have scarcely thought of answering letters; and the weather has been so warm lately, as to completely enervate one, and to almost deprive one of energy enough to write a letter.

I presume that anything that I might mention of the recent battles around Richmond would be rather stale news. You have probably long ere this heard of the defeat of McClellan's grand army that was to make its triumphal march into Richmond by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, instead of which, on that memorable day it seeking protection of its gunboats, on the banks of the James river, having been driven a distance of thirty miles, by our army. The battle commenced on Thursday, the 26 of June and continued on every ensuing day until the following Tuesday evening, when the last battle was fought. Our regiment was engaged in the most severe conflict of Friday—the storming of the batteries on Gains farm—our forces greatly inferior to that of the enemy charged him in his entrenchments, and drove him from them. We suffered greatly in the attack, as we had no protection, while the enemy were protected by his breastworks from which he poured into our advancing columns perfect hailstorms of grape, shell & musket balls, but our forced still charged on and succeeded in driving them from their position and thoroughly routing them when the slaughter on their side became terrible. Our men shot them down in great numbers, as they fled before them ~~leaving~~ throwing away (the Yankees) everything that encumbered their flight—arms, knapsacks, Blankets and accouterments of every description. I afterwards rode over the field; it was literally strewed with dead Yankees—most of our men had been buried. It was a sight that I neve [never] shall forget: Men and horses stretched on the ground in every conceivable shape and to see the hundreds of wounded, at the depot established for them adjacent to the battlefield. I thought, at one time, that such sights would be more than I could bear to look upon but seeing so many men shot and cut to pieces, one soon becomes accustomed to it, as it were, and such a sight as would in ordinary times be shocking in the extreme makes but a slight impression on a callous mind. Our Regiment was also engaged in the the (sic) severe fight on the following Monday, suffered very much in proportion to its size which by the recent battles, including the battle of “Seven Pines” is very much reduced, in the engagement on Friday we lost sixty five men, killed & wounded, among the former the lamented Capt Parkhill, his loss is greatly felt by our regt. Edward L'Engle was wounded slightly on the shoulder by the fragment of a shell, he volunteered to command a company that was without a commissioned officer during the conflicts. Dave Dunham who also wounded slightly by a piece of a shell but the wounds of each were so slight that they were on duty again next day. Poor Dave though was wounded severely on the head during the Sunday fight, by a piece of a shell which fractured the skull—he has since gone to Florida on a furlough—our loss in the Regt, on that occasion was about seventy five. The whole loss of the Regiment since the retreat from Yorktown including the battle of Williamsburg is over four hundred in killed & wounded. Col Perry was wounded during the battle Monday and the Regiment now under the command of Capt Mosely of our Company. Our loss during the five days of fighting was great being estimated at about fifteen thousand but that of the enemy is much greater probably twice as great, besides the loss of millions of dollars worth of his property captured and destroyed. We also captured about fifty pieces of artillery and about six thousand prisoners.

McClellan is very quietly lying under the guns of his Gunboats on the banks of the James about thirty miles from Richmond. In an address to his troops he makes a declaration that he will take Richmond “cost what it will of time treasure and blood.”

I have heard nothing from Seton but six weeks ago I saw one of our surgeons who remained in Williamsburg with the wounded and was, when I saw him, just from there, who told me that he was getting well, was in no danger at all from the effects of his wound, that he was well taken care of etc in the house of a private citizen. We are proceeding with the exchange of prisoners and I hope that he will soon be released.

I understand that the 8<sup>th</sup> Fla left the state for Virginia nearly two weeks ago but they have not arrived yet. I hope that we will soon have Fla troops enough here to form a Florida Brigade as I understand that the 5<sup>th</sup> Regt will probably come on and also the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Reid, formerly of St. Augustine, arrived at Richmond a few days ago for the purpose of assisting in the establishment of a hospital for the Florida troops. It is something that we very much need and should have been attended to long ago. Our sick & wounded are scattered all over the city, and unless you accidentally know ~~where~~ in what hospital a man is, it is almost an impossibility to find one.

Do you know that Com. Wilkes is in Command of the James River Squadron. What state is he from? I believe from Maryland. I wonder what has become of our old friends Miss Timard (?) and Piper in the melee. I presume Mr (?) P. is holding on with the state of Maryland to see which side is victorious.

The latest news is that Col John Morgan has penetrated far into Kentucky capturing eleven towns & cities and quantities of army stores.

Please write soon. You can say to his relations & friends that Mr. Maxwell is quite well. I believe that both of the Messrs Burroughs have gone home on a furlough.

Your affc nephew  
F.P. Fleming

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**Key terms:**

**Furlough**: leave of absence from duty, especially military duty.

Camp 2<sup>d</sup> Fla. Infy.  
Near Richmond July 28<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear Aunt Tilly,

I have had the pleasure of receiving both of your kind letters since writing you and ought to have answered them sooner, but until about two weeks ago, we have been in such a commotion, that I have scarcely thought of answering letters; and the weather has been so warm lately, as to completely enervate me, and to almost deprive me of energy enough to write a letter.

I presume that anything that I might mention of the recent battles around Richmond, would be rather stale news. You have probably, long ere this, heard of the defeat of McClellan's Grand Army, that was to make its triumphal march into Richmond by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July; instead of which, on that memorable day it seeking protection of its gunboats, on the banks of the James river, having been driven a distance of thirty miles, by our army. The battle commenced on Thursday, the 26 of June and continued on every ensuing day until the following Tuesday evening, when the last battle was fought. Our Regiment was engaged in the most severe conflict, of Friday - the storming of the batteries on Gainsfarm - our forces greatly inferior to that of the enemy charged him in his entrenchments, and drove him from them. We suffered greatly in the attack, as we had no protection, while the enemy was protected by his breast works. From which he poured into our advancing columns, perfect hailstorms of grape, shell & musket



balls, but our forces still charged on and succeeded  
in driving them from their position and thoroughly  
routing them, when the slaughter on their side  
became terrible, our men shot them down in great  
numbers, as they fled before them, ~~leaving~~ throwing away  
(the Yankees) every thing that encumbered their flight—  
arms, knapsacks, blankets and accoutrements of  
every description, I afterwards rode over the field; and  
it was literally strewed with dead Yankees—most of our  
men had been buried— It was a sight that I never  
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sights would be more than I could bear to look upon,  
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the wounds of each were so slight that they were on duty again next day. For Dave though, was wounded severely on the head, during the Sunday fight, by a piece of a shell which fractured the skull - he has since gone to Florida on a furlough our loss in the Regt, on that occasion was about seventy five. The whole loss of the Regiment since the retreat from Yorktown, including the battle of Williamsburg is one thousand, in killed & wounded. Col Flory was wounded ~~as~~ during the battle Monday, and the Regiment now under the command of Capt Smalley of our Company. Our loss during the five days fighting, was great, being estimated at about fifteen thousand, but that of the enemy is much greater, probably twice as great, besides the loss of millions of dollars worth of his property, captured and destroyed. We also captured about fifty pieces of Artillery and about six thousand prisoners.

McClellan is very quietly lying under the guns of his Gunboats on the banks of the James, about thirty miles from Richmond. In an address to his troops he makes a declaration that he will take Richmond "Cost what it will, of time, treasure and blood" he probably forgets that "it takes two to make a bargain"

I have <sup>heard</sup> ~~nothing~~ from Seton, but about six weeks ago I saw one of our surgeons who remained in Williamsburg with the wounded, and was, when I saw him, just from there, who told me that he was getting well, was in no danger at all from the effects of his wounds, that he was well taken care of &c in the house of a private citizen, we <sup>are</sup> proceeding with the exchange of prisoners, and

I hope that he will soon be released.

I understand that the 8<sup>th</sup> Fla left the state for Virginia, nearly two weeks ago, but they have not arrived yet. I hope that we will soon have <sup>Fla</sup> troops enough here to form a Florida Brigade, as I understand that the 5<sup>th</sup> Regt will probably come on, and also the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Miss Reid - formerly of St-Augustine - arrived at Richmond a few days ago, for the purpose of assisting in the establishment of a hospital for the Florida troops. It is something that we very much need, and should have been attended to long ago. Our sick <sup>& wounded</sup> are scattered all over the city, and unless you accidentally know where in what hospital a man is, it is almost an impossibility to find one.

Do you know that Com. Wilkes is in command of the James River Squadron & what state is he from? I believe from Maryland, I wonder what has become of our old friends, Messrs. Tremain & Piper, in the matter. I presume Mr P. is holding on with the state of Maryland to see which side is victorious.

The latest news is, that Col. Edwin Morgan has penetrated far into Kentucky, capturing eleven towns & cities and quantities of army stores.

Please write soon, you can say to his relatives & friends that Mr Maxwell is quite well. I believe that both of the Messrs Burroughs have gone home on a furlough.

Your affe nephew

J. P. Fleming

## **Source #3 Questions:**

**Directions: Answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Use the document to support your answers whenever possible.**

1. Examining this letter, describe at least three types of dangers and/or difficulties a soldier in the Civil War may expect to encounter. Use specific examples and quotes from the letter to support your answer.
2. What evidence in this letter reveals some of the disadvantages of the South/Confederate soldiers at this battle and in general?
3. Discuss some of the psychological effects Fleming discusses in this letter. What does this letter reveal about the realities soldiers had to face during the Civil War and how they were forced to deal with such things?

#### Source #4

*Francis P. Fleming Civil War letters, 1862-1865. Battle of Gettysburg; letter from Francis P. Fleming to his brother 1863.*

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Camp near Hagarstown Md. July 7th 1863

Tomorrow we will probably have an opportunity of sending off the mail. We have had, since my first date, probably the fiercest and most bloody battle of the war, just beyond and around Gettysburg Penn. Our advance arrived there on the morning of July 1st and found the enemy very strongly posted in the heights of Gettysburg. Gen. Ewell's Corps had a hard fight with them and succeeded in driving them through the town. The next day the battle became general. Our Corps (A.P. Hill's) occupied the center, Longstreet the right and Ewell the left. We attempted to carry the enemy's position by storm and succeeded so far, in the center, as to force two lines of battle but they then sent heavy reinforcements which owing our weakened condition after having charged across an open space of a mile and a half through a terrific fire from thirty pieces of artillery (I am speaking now of the part acted by our Division) and musketry were too strong for us, and after having as I said before forced two lines of battle and driving them from their guns, we were compelled to fall back to an original position. Had two or three Brigades been sent to support us we could have held position that it cost us so dearly to take. Longstreet drove them on the right, but for the reason above stated, he lost part of the ground that he gained. Our left was scarcely engaged. Major Mims and Capt Ballantine were wounded and left on the field and fell into the hands of the enemy, and in falling back Capt Moseley fainted from exhaustion and was also taken prisoner, which left Seton in command of the Regiment. The next day the battle was resumed. The cannonade on that day was the most rapid that I ever heard; it probably exceeded any thing of the war. Our Brigade was again sent in, and charged the enemy under a murderous fire, but were again compelled to retire. Our loss in the fighting of the 2nd and 3rd days was very heavy. Our Brigade that numbered nearly seven hundred before, now numbers about one hundred and sixty. Seton was so fortunate as to go through both fights and escape unhurt. Dave Dunham, on the second day, was missing; it is supposed that he was captured, as were a good many more, when we had to fall back. Capt McCaslan of the Marion Company was killed. No troops could have fought better than our Floridians. Our great loss bears testimony to this. The 2nd lost about one hundred and fifty. Wm. Livingston was wounded in the leg and fell into the hands of the enemy. Gen Lee finding it impossible to force the enemy from his position at Gettysburg commenced a retreat on the 4th inst and today we arrived here. We have had several little cavalry fights at the passes of the mountains, since we commenced our retreat, but nothing of much importance. In one of these fights Gen. Hampton received a wound on the shoulder, but it is not very severe. We lost at the battles of Gettysburg Brig Gen. Kemper and Maj. Gen. Hood wounded Brig. Gen Garneth killed. Kemper is said to be mortally wounded. The losses on each side, I think, is greater than in any previous battle of the war. The enemy lost Maj Gen. Reynolds killed. We took about ten thousand prisoners. We were obliged to leave our wounded at Gettysburg. They have, of course fallen into the hands of the enemy. We have no idea what our next move will be. Some suppose that we will cross over into Va. others, that we move in some other direction through this state. Time will tell. We fought the Yankees at a great disadvantage at Gettysburg. They occupied heights similar to those that we occupied at the first battle of Fredericksburg.

Capt. L'Engle is well. He says that he would write, but having been up traveling all last night, he is too sleepy and tired. Give my love to Mary, Aunt L-, Cousin Susan and all. Please send this to Mother when you have read it. It may be some time before I can write her.

Your affe [affectionate] brother

F. P. Fleming

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#### Key Terms:

**Brigade:** a military unit consisting of two or more combat battalions or regiments and associated support units. It is smaller than a division and is commanded by a brigadier general or a colonel.

**Cannonade:** a sustained bombardment with heavy artillery.

Camp near Hagerstown Md. July 7<sup>th</sup> 1863 -  
Tomorrow we will probably have an opportunity of  
sending off the mail. We have had since my  
first date probably the fiercest and most bloody  
battle of the war just beyond and around Gettysburg  
Penn. Our advance arrived there on the morning  
of July 1<sup>st</sup> and found the enemy very strongly  
posted on the heights of Gettysburg. Gen. Emell's Corps  
had a hard fight with them and succeeded in driving  
them through the town. The next day the battle became  
general. Our Corps (A.P. Hill's) occupied the center. Long-  
street the right & Emell the left. We attempted to  
carry the enemy's position by storm and succeeded  
so far, in the center, as to force two lines of battle  
but they then sent in heavy reinforcements to which ours

our weakened condition after having charged across  
an open space of a mile & half through a terrific  
fire from thirty pieces of artillery. (I am speaking now  
of the part acted by our Division) and musketry - were  
too strong for us, and after having as I said before  
forced two lines of battle, and driven them from  
their guns, we were compelled to fall back to our  
original position. Had two or three Brigades been  
sent to support us we could have held position,  
that it cost us so dearly to take. Sergeant drove  
them on the right, but for the season above stated,  
he lost part of the ground that he gained. Our  
left was scarcely engaged. Major Moore & Capt.  
Ballantine were wounded and left on the field &  
fell into the hands of the enemy, and in falling  
back Capt. was severely wounded from exhaustion &  
was also taken prisoner, which left Seton in  
Command of the Regiment. The next day the  
battle was resumed, the cannonade on that <sup>was</sup> day the  
most & rapid that I ever heard: it probably exceeded  
ed any thing of the war. Our Brigade was again sent  
in, and charged the enemy under a murderous fire, but  
were again compelled to retire. Our loss in the fighting  
of the 2<sup>d</sup> & 3<sup>d</sup> days was very heavy. Our Brigade <sup>that</sup> numbered  
nearly seven hundred ~~men~~ before, now numbers  
about one hundred & sixty. Seton was so fortunate as to  
go through both fights & escape unhurt. Dan Dunham,  
on the second day, was missing; it is supposed that he  
was captured, as were a good many more, when we had  
to fall back. Capt. 3<sup>d</sup> Caslow of the 3<sup>d</sup> Marine Company  
was killed. No troops could have fought better than  
our Filibidians. Our great loss bears testimony to this.  
The 2<sup>d</sup> lost about one hundred & fifty.

1863

Gen Livingston was wounded in the leg and fell into  
to the hands of the enemy. Gen Lee finding it im-  
possible force the enemy from his position at Gettys-  
burg Commenced a retreat on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. and  
today we arrived here. we have had several  
little Cavalry fights at the passes of the Green-  
mountain, since we commenced our retreat. but nothing  
of much importance. In one of these fights Gen. Hampton  
received a wound on the shoulder. but it is not very  
serious. We lost at the battles of Gettysburg Brig. Gen. Kam-  
per & Maj. Gen. Hood wounded & Brig. Gen. Garnett killed.  
Kemper is said to be mortally wounded. The losses  
on each side, I think, is greater than in any previous  
battle of the war. The enemy lost ~~3000~~ Brig. Gen. Reynolds  
killed. we took about ten thousand prisoners; we were  
obliged to leave our wounded at Gettysburg when we  
They have, of course, fallen into the hands of the enemy.

We have no idea what our next move will be. some  
suppose that we will cross over into Virginia. others  
that <sup>we move</sup> we <sup>will</sup> move in some other direction through this state  
time will tell. We fought the Yankees at a  
great disadvantage at Gettysburg. they occupied  
heights similar to those that we occupied at  
the first battle of Fredericksburg.

Capt. S. Eagle is well. he says that he would  
write, but that having been up traveling all  
last night, he is too sleepy & tired. Give my  
love to Mary Aunt Lewis. Cousin Susan & all.  
Please send this to Mother ~~etc~~ you have



read it. It may be some time before I  
can write him.

Your affe brother -

F. P. Fleming

Betterburg

## **Source #4 Questions:**

**Directions: Answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Use the document to support your answers whenever possible.**

1. The battle of Gettysburg resulted in severe damages for both Unions and Confederates. The magnitude of the battle greatly affected the soldiers present. What emotions does Fleming express in this letter? Use examples from the document to support your answer.
2. How does this letter regarding the battle of Gettysburg compare in tone to the letter Fleming wrote regarding the Peninsula Campaign near Richmond? How are they similar? How are they different? Use examples from the document to support your answer.

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