

“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

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Suggested procedure for use of this module:

1. Utilize this module as a companion to teaching the Civil War. Review the circumstances that triggered the war and the major challenges faced by soldiers during this period, particularly by Confederate troops.
2. Major military engagements mentioned in the following primary sources include the Battle of Fredericksburg, the Battle of Gettysburg, and the Peninsula Campaign. It may be helpful to review these before introducing students to these primary sources.
3. Review the definition of primary sources and their importance. Included in this module is a primary source guide page answering some questions students may have about the nature of primary sources and their uses.
4. Have students read the short introduction to the module regarding the content that will be addressed in this module to establish historical context.
5. Have students read the primary source transcript and compare it to the original document scan. Encourage students to read along with the original document to see how much they can decipher on their own.
6. Refer students to the key terms section following applicable sources to find definitions of unfamiliar terms.
7. Instruct students to answer the set of questions accompanying each source (either alone or in groups). Encourage them to cite evidence from the primary source whenever possible.
8. Have a copy of the teacher's discussion guide handy and review the questions in class using the discussion guide to highlight important details from the sources.

Standards This Module Helps Meet:

Florida Standards

Language Arts:

- **LAFS.910.RH.1.1:** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.
- **LAFS.910.RH.1.2:** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.
- **LAFS.1112.RH.1.1:** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.
- **LAFS.1112.RH.1.2:** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.

Sunshine State Standards

Social Studies Grade 8:

- **SS.8.A.1:** Use research and inquiry skills to analyze American History using primary and secondary sources.
- **SS.8.A.1.5:** Identify, within both primary and secondary sources, the author, audience, format, and purpose of significant historical documents.
- **SS.8.A.5.5:** Compare Union and Confederate strengths and weaknesses.
- **SS.8.A.5.6:** Compare significant Civil War battles and events and their effects on civilian populations.
- **SS.8.A.1.7:** View historic events through the eyes of those who were there as shown in their art, writings, music, and artifacts.
- **SS.8.A.5:** Examine the causes, course, and consequence of the Civil War and Reconstruction including its effects on American peoples.

Social Studies Grades 9-12:

- **SS.912.A.1:** Use research and inquiry skills to analyze American history using primary and secondary sources.
- **SS.912.A.1.1:** Describe the importance of historiography, which includes how historical knowledge is obtained and transmitted, when interpreting events in history.
- **SS.912.A.1.2:** Utilize a variety of primary and secondary sources to identify author, historical significance, audience, and authenticity to understand a historical period.
- **SS.912.A.2.1:** Review causes and consequences of the Civil War

Common Core Standards:

English Language Arts Standards » History/Social Studies » Grade 6-8:

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5** Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.6** Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).

English Language Arts Standards » History/Social Studies » Grade 9-10:

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.1** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.2** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.6** Compare the point of view of two or more authors for how they treat the same or similar topics, including which details they include and emphasize in their respective accounts.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.9** Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

English Language Arts Standards » History/Social Studies » Grade 11-12:

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.

“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.¹ 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.² 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.³ Raymond was in the Second Florida Infantry and was ranked a 4th 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.⁴

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 2nd Florida Regiment in November 1862, and eventually went on to earn a battlefield promotion to First Lieutenant while in Virginia.⁵ 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.⁶ 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.⁷

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 period. While all of these documents relate to a much larger topic in history, they also closely connect with the

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

² “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>.

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

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

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

⁶ Ibid.

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

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.

Camp Near Fredericksburg
December 17th 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 8th 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

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^{burg}

December 17th 1862

My Dear Mother

Dr. Snyde 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 6th 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 93rd 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 bye 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 #1 Questions: Teacher Discussion Guide

1. What does this letter reveal about the conditions in which soldiers fought? What were some of the threats? Use examples from the document.

- Students should note that soldiers were fighting under very dangerous conditions.
- The document states, “We were subjected to quite a heavy fire from their long range guns- The shells would come flying and bursting over us.”
- Reid also writes, “Three companies including Capt. Baya’s are missing. Capt. Baya had commands of them. They are no doubt in the enemy’s hands.”
- Thus, along with the threat of being killed, soldiers also faced the danger of being captured by the enemy as prisoners of war.

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.

- Reid writes, “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.”
- Encourage students to make observations such as the following...
- The flag was sent by the Governor of Florida (the men’s home state), which would have been considered an honor.
- There is obvious pride on part of Reid and his fellow soldiers in receiving such a token. This is supported by the fact that he makes note that the flag is “very handsome,” and that they will, “...never let it trail in the dust.”
- Furthermore, students can see that this flag was of special significance to Reid because he mentions it in his letter home to his mother.
- This flag is described as being made by women in Tallahassee. The women who made this flag did so in an effort to boost troop morale.
- This demonstrates that there was active participation on part of civilians in the South in the war effort.
- Ask students how flags associated the Confederate cause are regarded today, especially the Confederate battle flag used by the Confederate Army (Army of Northern Virginia).

3. What details from this letter help you understand the conditions of which civilians lived during war?

- This letter does an excellent job of pointing out some of the dangers civilians faced during the war.
- Reid writes, “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... Poor people, they will find their houses sadly changed.”
- Students should note that when battles were being fought, there was an active effort to destroy civilian property.
- Reid also writes, “The Enemy opened on the town with their cannons. Every street had guns bearing on them. They suffered much...”
- This indicates that civilian towns were also at the mercy of enemy fire, which could leave great amounts of physical destruction.
- Ask students how they would feel if the warfront was so close to home. Encourage them to think about the fear and uncertainty that civilians would face on a regular basis during the 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?

- The author is naturally very pleased by the Confederate victory at Fredericksburg.
- Students should note that Reid states, “God has again blessed our armies...” and that it was “...another glorious victory.”
- This demonstrates a sense of thankfulness and also reveals the presence of the author’s religious beliefs, which were very typical during this period.

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.

Bolingbroke June 29th
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 29th
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 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
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 #2 Questions: Teacher Discussion Guide

1. This letter is from the home front during the Civil War. What does this letter reveal about how civilians felt during the war?

- This letter reveals a sense of anxiety that civilians felt in regards to the fate of their loved ones. All people could do is hope for the best while their family and friends were away at war.
- Students should also note that there is a sense of anger towards the enemy expressed on part of the civilians. In this letter C.M. Hallows calls the Union forces a “merciless and cruel foe.”
- Students may also note that there is a sense of compassion towards others that results in a sense of solidarity. C.M. Hallows expresses a deep sense of gratitude to her friend Mary Martha Reid, who she relies on for support.

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?

- Discuss some of the following points with students...
- C.M. Hallows is in the dark about what has happened to her son. She fears that he is dead, but is holding out hope that he may be a prisoner of war at Fort Norfolk. This demonstrates the difficulties of transmitting information efficiently.
- Information in letters can be incorrect due to the time it takes for them to be delivered. During war things can change in an instant. Thus, the news of a loved ones passing may reach loved ones in an untimely manner.
- Furthermore, news of battles and other important information is time sensitive resulting in information becoming useless before it ever reaches its intended recipient.
- Letters can also be lost.
- Hearing a loved one’s voice, or seeing their face, while they were away from home was an impossibility at this time. Some families went years before being reunited, while some left home to never see or hear from their loved ones again.

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?

- Students may note the fact that better access to loved ones through faster and more dependable means of communication would have greatly relieved some of the stresses felt by civilians with loved ones at war.
- Improvements in communicating during wartime will be seen today in technology like video chatting, email, and cellular phones/satellite phones.
- Furthermore, real time communication holds benefits for soldiers and commanders while engaged in battle. Better communication systems mean more effective battle planning and coordination.

Source #3

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

Camp 2^d Fla. Infy
Near Richmond July 28th 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 4th 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 heard 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 8th 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 5th Regt will probably come on and also the 9th.

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

Key terms:

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

Camp 2^d Fla. Infy.
Near Richmond July 28th 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 4th 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 Monday 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
shall forget! Men and horses stretched on the ground
in every conceivable shape, and to see hundreds of
wounded, at the depots established for them adjacent
to the battlefields. 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 same fight, on
the following Sunday, 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 of Friday we lost sixty five men,
killed & wounded, among the former the lamented
Capt. Parkhill, his loss is greatly felt by the 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 conflict. Dave Dornham was
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. 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 Massey 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 ^{heard} 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 ^{are} proceeding with the exchange of prisoners, and

I hope that he will soon be released.

I understand that the 8th 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 5th Regt will probably come on, and also the 9th.

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 ^{& 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, 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 #3 Questions: Teacher Discussion Guide

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 letter.

- Student answers may include anything of the following...
- **Everyday discomforts.** For example, Fleming writes that the weather was warm enough to "...almost deprive one of the energy enough to write a letter"
- **Severe dangers posing potential for injury** such as the: "perfect hailstorms of grape, shell & musket balls..." that faced soldiers in battle.
- **Loss of life,** which not only was a danger for individual soldiers, but was also a traumatic reality for soldiers who lost friends or relatives in the war.
- **Loss of Leadership.** Fleming writes, "...sixty five men, killed and wounded, among the former the lamented Capt Parkhill, his loss is greatly felt by the regt." Losing superior officers could be a real detriment to the soldiers and to the war effort overall.
- **Distance from loved ones.** Fleming is writing this letter to his Aunt Tilly. Soldiers during the Civil War, just like soldiers today, often became homesick and longed to be with their loved ones.
- **Lack of/Need for proper medical care.** Fleming expresses a pressing need for a proper hospital for the sick and wounded soldiers. He writes, "Mrs. Reid, formerly of St. Augustine, arrived at Richmond a few days ago for the purpose of assisting in the establishments of a hospital for the Florida troops. It is something that we very much need and should have attended to long ago. Our sick & wounded are scattered all over the city, and unless you accidentally know in what hospital a man is, it is almost an impossibility to find one."
- **Psychological struggles** of the soldiers who witnessed death in battles. Fleming writes, "It was a sight that I never shall forget: "Men and horse stretched on the ground in every conceivable shape and to see the hundreds of wounded, at the depot established for them adjacent to the battlefields. 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."

2. What evidence in this letter reveals some of the disadvantages of the South/Confederate soldiers at this battle and in general?

- Fleming mentions outright that the Confederate forces were inferior to the Union Army. He writes, "...our forces greatly inferior to that of the enemy..."
- In this instance, Fleming's troops did not have as sufficient protection during the battle. Fleming writes, "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..."
- The Confederates also suffered great loss of life (Fleming writes that fifteen thousand were killed in battle). Furthermore, in this instance, the Confederates experience the loss of valuable men. Fleming writes, "Capt Parkhill, his loss is greatly felt by the regt."
- The Confederates were also facing the hardship of having their sick and wounded being "scattered all over the city." They had much need for a hospital, and Fleming describes being relieved that M.M. Reid created the Florida Hospital in Richmond.

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?

- This letter contains some graphic descriptions of the horrors men often witnessed while fighting during the war. Dead enemy soldiers, dead companions, and destruction were common sights.
- Fleming writes, “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.”
- This paragraph reveals that soldiers were forced to steel themselves against such imagery.
- The fact that men like Fleming developed such a “callous mind” supports the fact that soldiers encountered these sights of death and destruction frequently.

Source #4

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

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

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 7th 1863 -
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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, which over-

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
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sent to support us we could have held position,
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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 ^{was} day the
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were again compelled to retire. Our loss in the fighting
of the 2^d & 3^d days was very heavy. Our Brigade ^{that} numbered
nearly seven hundred ~~men~~ before, now numbers ~~less~~
about one hundred & sixty. Seton was so fortunate as to
go through both fights & 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. 3^d Caslow of the 3^d Marine Company
was killed. No troops could have fought better than
our Filibidians. Our great loss bears testimony to this.
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per & Maj. Gen. Hood wounded & Brig. Gen. Garnitt killed.
Kemper is said to be mortally wounded. The losses
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great disadvantage at Gettysburg. they occupied
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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 & let 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.

Source #4 Questions: Teacher Discussion Guide

1. The battle of Gettysburg resulted in severe losses of 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.

- Student discussion should include emotions like:
- **Horror** concerning the number of casualties. Fleming writes, “The losses on each side, I think, is greater than in any previous battle of the war...” and “We have had, since my first date, probably the fiercest and most bloody battle of the war, just beyond Gettysburg Penn.”
- **Uncertainty** concerning the Confederate loss with statements like, “We have no idea what our next move will be...”
- **Despair** over the consequences of the battle. Fleming writes, “We were obliged to leave our wounded at Gettysburg. They have, of course fallen into the hands of the enemy.”
- **Pride** such as when Fleming writes, “No troops could have fought better than our Floridians. Our great loss bears testimony to this.”

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.

- The fighting near Richmond Fleming describes from the Peninsula Campaign was a Confederate victory. His later letter describes the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg.
- Fleming’s tone in the letter from the Peninsula Campaign is fatigued, but triumphant. He writes of the Union General McClellan, “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 4th 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.”
- Fleming is much more subdued in his letter from Gettysburg. He writes, “We have had, since my first date, probably the fiercest and most bloody battle of the war, just beyond and around Gettysburg Penn.”
- From his letter at Gettysburg Fleming also makes note of the severe losses his men experienced. He writes, “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.”
- However, students should note that both letters express dismay over the death of soldiers, whether in defeat or victory.
- Both letters also mention a disadvantage of Confederate troops to their Union counterparts. In his letter from outside Richmond Fleming writes, “...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...”
- In the letter concerning Gettysburg Fleming writes, “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.”

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