Triumphs of The Confederacy

1850-1876

by Joe Burton

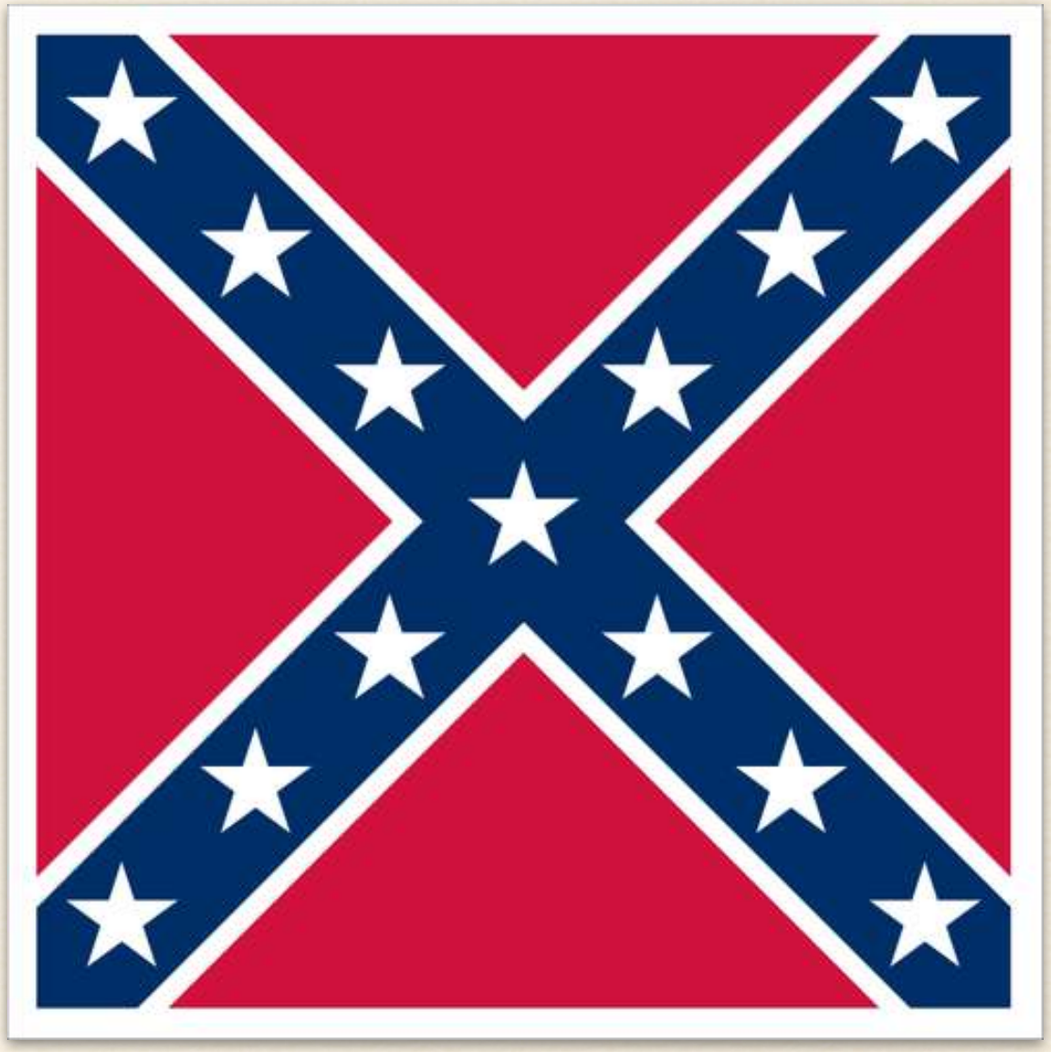
During the American Civil War (1861–65), the Confederate States of America began to use its first flag, the Stars and Bars, on March 5, 1861.

After the First Battle of Bull Run, when similarity between the Stars and Bars and the Union Stars and Stripes made it difficult for troops to distinguish friend from foe, Confederate commanders petitioned for a new flag.

In November 1861 the first Confederate Battle Flags were issued. Although variations of the Battle Flag pattern were numerous and widespread, the most-common design, known as the *"Southern Cross,"* featured a blue saltire (diagonal cross), trimmed with white, with 13 white stars…

…representing the 11 states of the Confederacy plus Missouri and Kentucky - on a field of red.

The Battle Flag was square, rather than rectangular, and its dimensions varied depending on branch of service, ranging from 48 inches (120 cm) across for the infantry to 30 inches (76 cm) across for cavalry.



Triumphs of The Confederacy

- From 1861 to 1863…
- …the Confederate Army in The East repeatedly stopped the Union's efforts to capture Richmond…
- …Capitol of The Confederate States of America (CSA).
- The Rebels held off the Yankees in The West…
- …where they controlled the Mississippi River…
- …confident from these victories…
- …the Southerners invaded Pennsylvania…
- …and came close to winning their independence at Gettysburg.

The Emancipation Proclamation…

…Lincoln personally opposed Slavery, but he insisted that the Civil War was being fought to preserve the Union, not to abolish Slavery.

The Emancipation Proclamation, issued in January 1863, was Lincoln's Official Declaration of Freedom, or Emancipation, for Slaves in The Confederacy.

It was meant to satisfy Abolitionists (Lesson 5|3) who pressured Lincoln to make ending Slavery a goal of The War.

It was also a Strategic Move to help the North win the war - the South had an advantage, since Confederates could force Slaves to help the war effort.

Ultimately, the document was more a symbolic than actual end to Slavery, since the Union could not force the rebellious Southern States to free Slaves, and it did not pertain to Slaves in Border States loyal to The Union, such as Maryland and Kentucky.

The Thirteenth Amendment to The Constitution freed the reaming Slaves. Above, is President Lincoln's draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The Road to Richmond

- The War's First Battle took place just 20 miles from Washington, D.C., on July 20, 1861.

- A huge *Union Army* advanced toward the *Confederate Capitol at Richmond* and collided with a smaller Confederate Force at *Bull Run*…

- …a small river near *Manassas Junction, Virginia*.

- The inexperienced Union Troops panicked and fled back to Washington, D.C.

- The *First Battle of Bull Run* was an embarrassment for the North.

Virginians Led by Brigadier General Thomas Jonathan Jackson at Manassas

“First Battle of Bull Run”

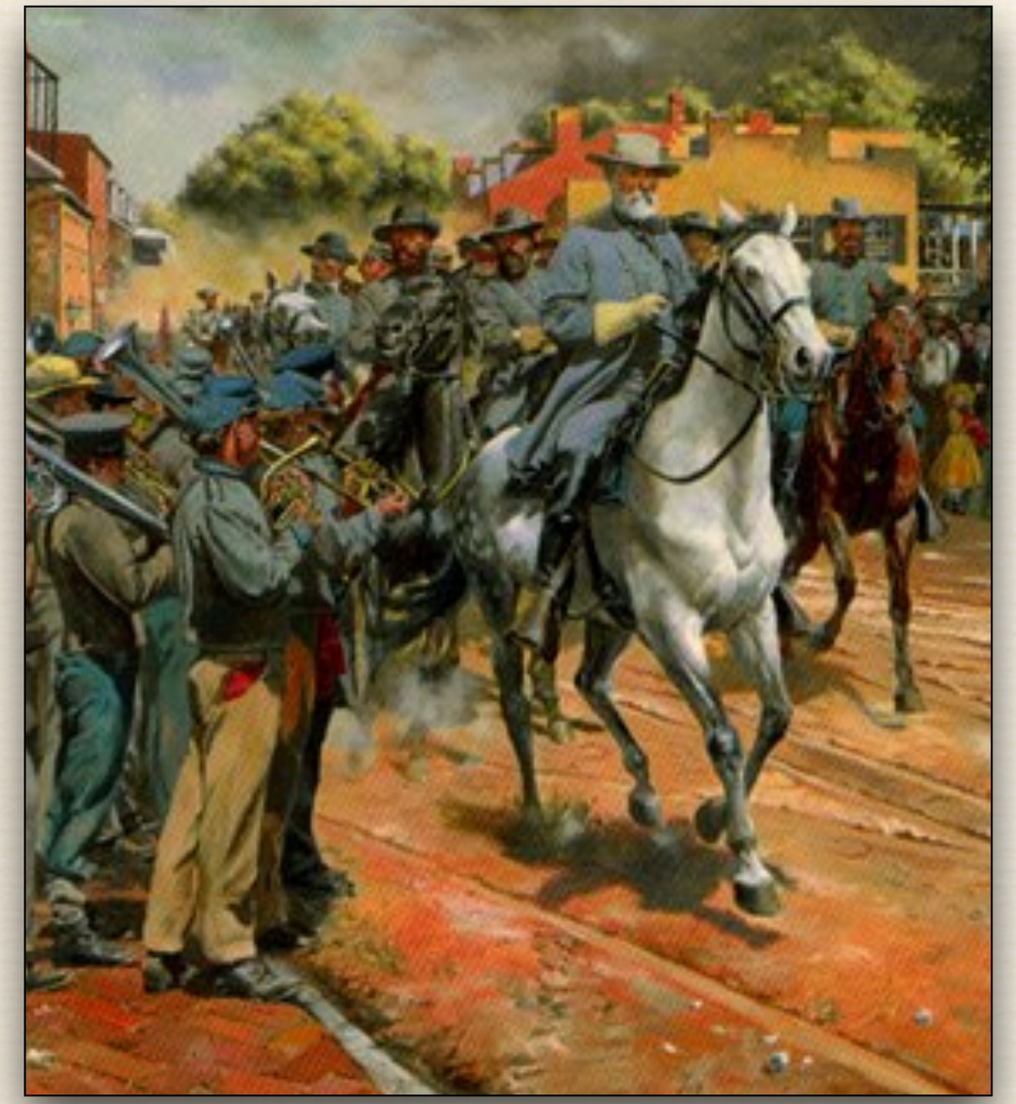
The Road to Richmond

- Nearly a year later…
- the North's Army of the Potomac launched a second campaign for Richmond.
- General Robert E. Lee was by then in command of the South's defenses and led his Army of Northern Virginia to a series of brilliant victories…
- …forcing the North to retreat yet again.

The Road to Richmond

- Lee relied on boldness and surprise…
- …usually sending one corps under General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson around the side…
- or flank…
- …of the enemy…
- …in a "flanking maneuver."
- Meanwhile, Lincoln was still looking for a strong leader who could win battles.

Second Battle of Bull Run



Time of Decision…

…in early 1863, many Northerners had come to the conclusion that further fighting was useless, since the North had made no headway.

A Union General, Ulysses S. Grant, had emerged from obscurity in 1862 to capture F*orts Henry* and *Donelson* in Tennessee and Kentucky - the North's first major victories.

But Grant's Army was driven back in December 1862, when he tried to take Vicksburg (the first time).

Many Southerners faced 1863 with great confidence. *"There never was an army like this,"* Lee boasted of his tough battle-hardened troops.

In June, 1863, Lee led his Army in an invasion of Pennsylvania. If he could get a victory on *'Northern Soil'* … he hoped that it might then convince Northerners (who had grown weary of the war) that the North could not defeat the South - and the bloodshed would end.

Battle of Fort Henry

Fought on February 6, 1862, in Donelson Middle Tennessee… it was the first important victory for the Union and Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in the *'Western Theater.'* The Print above is call '*The Morning of The Surrender of Fort Henry.'*

Battle of Fort Donelson

Fought from February 11–16, 1862, in the *Western Theater*. The Union capture of *Fort Donelson* near the Tennessee-Kentucky border opened the strategic *Cumberland River*, which became a very important avenue for the eventual invasion of the South.

The Union's success also elevated Brig. General Grant from an obscure and largely unproven leader to the rank of Major General, and earned him the nickname of *"Unconditional Surrender"* Grant.

The Battle of Gettysburg

- On July 1, 1863…
- …some of Lee's men ran into part of *The Union Army* on the edge of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania…
- …launching the most dramatic battle of the war.
- For the first two days, the Confederates had more men and pushed the Union troops out of the town…
- …where the Union clung to high ground.
- Late each day…
- …the rebels seemed about to smash through the *Yankees' Line*…
- …but additional Union Troops continued to arrive *just in time* to keep the South from advancing into Pennsylvania.

Battle of Gettysburg

After the Carnage of Gettysburg, in which Lee lost 28,000 Confederate Troops, a dispirited General Lee offered his resignation to Jefferson Davis, who refused to accept it.

Pickett's Charge…

…Lee felt that one more attack at Gettysburg would give the South the Victory they needed. Late on the third day of battle, Confederates, led by *General George Pickett,* marched toward the Union Army in formation.

They walked straight into the Union's cannon and musket fire; the carnage was staggering… huge gaps were made in the Confederate lines. They closed the gaps and fired back. Then, calling the *"Rebel Yell,"* they charged.

A few Rebels made it to the top of The Ridge where the Union Line was barely holding on after two days of brutal fighting.

Just then, Union reinforcements arrived. The Confederates were defeated. The great attack known as *"Pickett's Charge"* was over, and so was the South's invasion of The North.

After Gettysburg

- The next day, July 4, 1863…
- …Lee led his battered troops back to Virginia.
- The wagon train carrying the South's wounded stretched an agonizingly long 14 miles.
- Nine hundred miles away, Grants Union army had begun the infamous *Siege at Vicksburg* in mid-May…
- …this siege trapped 30,000 Southern Troops in a ring of artillery.

After Gettysburg

- After six weeks…
- …with both soldiers and civilians townspeople close to starvation…
- …*Confederate General John C. Pemberton* surrendered the city and his Army to Grant…
- …on the 4th of July.
- The defeats at *Gettysburg* and *Vicksburg* were too great a loss for the South to recover from.
- It was close to the end for the Confederacy.

Second Battle of Vicksburg - The Siege of Vicksburg…

…(May 18 – July 4, 1863) was the final major military action in the *Western Theatre.* In a series of aggressive maneuvers, Gen. Grant and his Army of The Tennessee crossed the Mississippi River and drove the Confederate Army of Mississippi, led by Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton, into the defensive lines surrounding the fortress city of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Vicksburg was the last major Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River. When two major assaults against the Confederate fortifications, on May 19 and 22, were repulsed with heavy casualties, Grant decided to besiege the city. The successful ending of the Vicksburg campaign significantly degraded the ability of the Confederacy to maintain its war effort… the Mississippi River was now under the control of Union Forces.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

In November 1863, President Lincoln delivered his most famous speech at the dedication of the Gettysburg Battlefield cemetery. The speech was so short that half the people there were not aware he had given it.

Only later, when people read the speech reprinted in the newspapers, did they see it as an eloquent statement of the meaning of the war and as a reaffirmation of America's great experiment in democracy.

Left, is one of the two confirmed photos of Lincoln at Gettysburg cemetery, taken about noon, just after he arrived and some three hours before his speech.

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

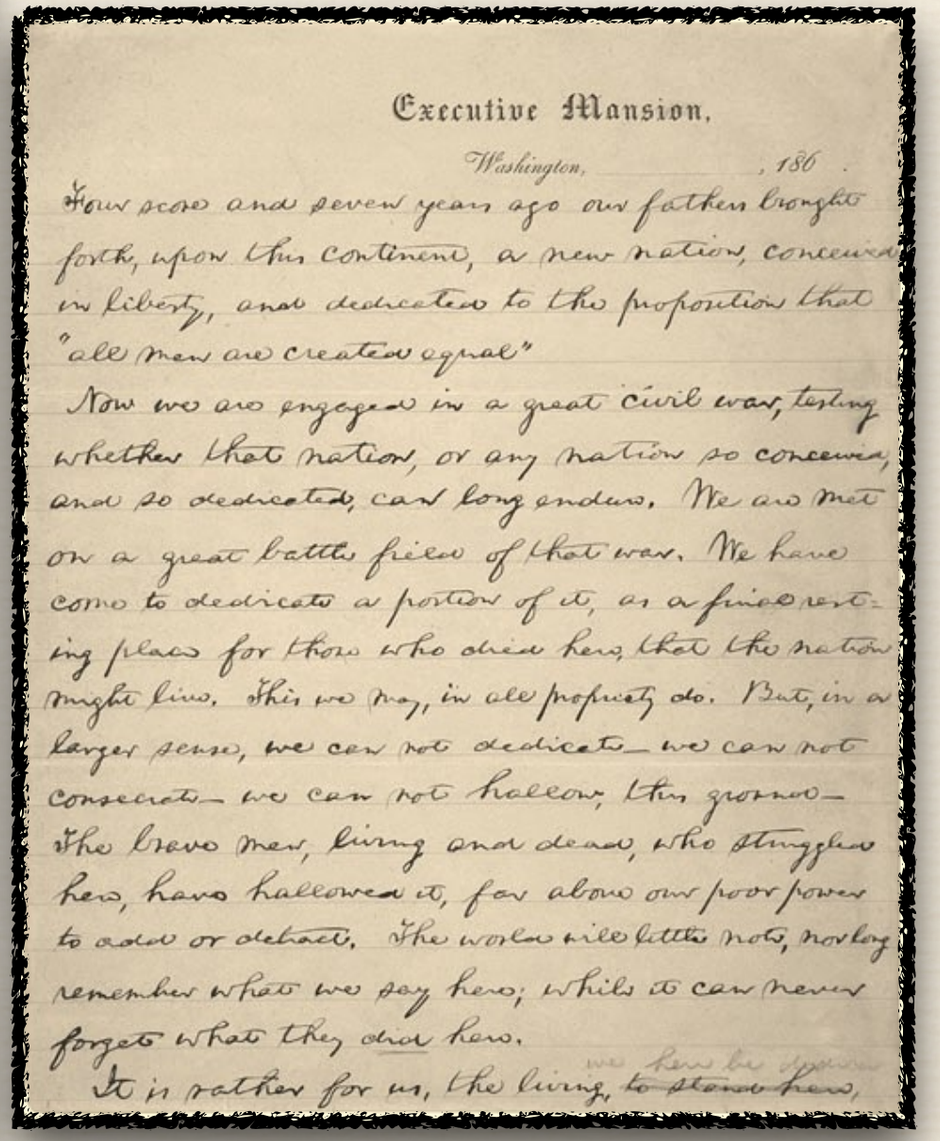
But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate - we can not consecrate - we can not hallow - this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain…

…that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

- Abraham Lincoln



Executive Mansion.

Washington, , 186 .

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal"

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow, this ground — The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, to stand here,

Lincoln Wrote the Speech on White House Stationary during the train ride to Gettysburg.

Major Battles of The Civil War

Write the Questions - Space Answers

36th State
10/31/1864

1. *What is the capital of Nevada?*
2. *What two states border Nevada on the North?*
3. *What two states border Nevada on the East?*
4. *What state borders Nevada on the south and West?*
5. *Name the river that runs from Northeastern Nevada?*
6. *What is the name of the Dam on the Colorado River?*
7. *Name the man-made lake that was formed by this dam?*
8. *What is the name of the large city in Southeastern Nevada?*
9. *What is the name of the National Park in Eastern Nevada?*
10. *What is the nickname of Nevada?*
11. *What does Battle Born mean?*
12. *What does the Silver Star mean?*

Nevada's official flag was adopted on March 26, 1929, but was revised on June 8, 1991. The flag has a deep blue background. It pictures a yellow, flowing ribbon that reads ***"BATTLE BORN."*** A five-pointed silver star and the words NEVADA are under the ribbon. These are surrounded by green sagebrush with yellow flowers. Sagebrush is Nevada's state flower. The silver star represents the rich mineral wealth of Nevada, especially the famous ***Comstock Lode*** (discovered in 1859), which is one of the largest silver and gold mines ever found. The words *"Battle Born"* on Nevada's flag allude to fact that Nevada became a state during the Civil War.