In June of 1863, General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate States of America decided to take the war to the north and attack Washington DC, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. On July 1 his Confederate Army of 75,000 men were spread through Chambersburg and Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The Union Army, commanded by General George G. Meade and his army of 97,000 men, were headed toward the northern town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This was the beginning of the bloodiest battle in the Civil War, a three-day battle where there were 51,112 casualties, over 5,000 horses died, and about 3,000,000 bullets were fired.

In this three-day battle more men fought and died than in any other battle ever fought on the North American soil. They prevailed until more Southern troops joined and pushed the Union Army back. The Union Army then joined together on Cemetery Hill where they fought late into the night. The Union Army finally was able to win this hill.

Day 1
The Battle of Gettysburg began July 1 with the Confederates attacking the Union Army on McPherson Ridge. Even though the Union Army was outnumbered, they were able to counter the Confederate Army’s attack. They prevailed until more Southern troops joined and pushed the Union Army back. The Union Army then joined together on Cemetery Hill where they fought late into the night. The Union Army finally was able to win this hill.

Day 2
Southern Pennsylvania was being “explored” because the Southern Army needed to keep their offense. On July 2, the battle lines were drawn with the two armies about one mile apart. The Union Army was on Cemetery Ridge and the Confederate Army was on Seminary Ridge.

Arlington Plantation Confiscated!
Robert E. Lee’s House is Taken
By Ashley

General Lee’s house, Arlington Plantation overlooking Washington DC has been confiscated. President Lincoln and Congress stated that in order to pay your taxes, you have to come to the capital to pay.

Robert E. Lee, Commanding General of the Confederate troops, knowing full well that if he went in person to pay he would be arrested, has decided that he won’t pay his taxes this month. While at battle, the Union has confiscated his land that originally belonged to his wife Mary Anna Randolph Custis, the granddaughter of George and Martha Washington.

Right now they are burying the Union dead on the grounds around his house. The gossip is that it will be called Arlington Cemetery.
The Civil War had many field hospitals during the battles. Each regiment had a doctor that was called a surgeon. The doctors were in charge of treating the sick and wounded in the regiment. The deadliest thing that faced a Civil War soldier was disease. For every soldier who died in battle, two died from disease. In the 1860s doctors did not understand bacteria and germs and how they affected the human body.

Most of the wounds during the Civil War were caused by gunshot. The Minnie ball was the standard bullet of the war. If a Minnie ball hit the bone it would shatter, break and create a very large wound.

Surgeons had a kit to do operations but did not sterilize the tools and equipment they used. When they had to cut off an arm or leg, called an amputation, they used a saw to cut the bone off, and that is why they are sometimes called ‘sawbones.’ Many medicines were made, but the wounds would take a long time to heal after the soldier got them.

If a soldier got wounded and the wound got infected, pus would start to appear. The doctors in that time thought that pus was good, but we now know it means infection. If a wounded person had an infection and pus was present the doctors would cut some of it off and put it on a person who didn't have it.

One of the most famous doctors in the Civil War was Col. Jonathan Letterman. He was the Medical Director of the Union Army of the Potomac. He created an ambulance system of getting wounded soldiers off the field and into the field hospital. Letterman told the soldiers to not shoot if someone had a red cross on their helmet. Jonathan Letterman promised to care for soldiers on both sides. He also saved doctors and nurses. Until he came, soldiers would shoot doctors and nurses who came on the battlefield. Now they were safe because they promised to take care of both armies’ injured soldiers.

Letterman had a hospital at Gettysburg named Camp Letterman. Over 30,000 soldiers of both armies were treated in field hospitals during the battle. Wounded soldiers were taken from the field hospitals by horse-drawn ambulances to the new hospital camp where they stayed in large canvas tents. The new camp had clean sheets and pillows and doctors and nurses to treat their patients with around the clock care. There was a lot of food in the camps and the nurses were more careful about keeping everything clean.

Dr. Letterman changed medicine in war and in battles.
CLOTHING
By Victoria, Rachelle, and Tiffany

Women and men's clothing in 1861-1865 wasn't like today's shorts and T-shirts. Women dressed very properly. A lady could not show any part of her body, she could only show her face and shoes or else she wasn't proper. A man would wear long pants, a long sleeve jacket and leggings in either gray for Confederate or blue for Union.

In 1861-1865 ladies always dressed very elegantly and properly or else they weren't considered ladies. All dresses were two pieces except for ball gowns. If the dress were not in two or more pieces a lady wouldn't be able to get it off without a lot of help. Ladies wore a lot of different things like cameos, which are a type of carved jewelry that could be a pin or a necklace which was usually passed down by family members, gloves, reticules or fans, stockings, bonnets or sun hats.

Men would wear uniforms showing that they were in the military. One of the uniform colors was blue, showing that the soldier was part of the Union States of America. The second uniform color is gray, showing that the soldier was part of the Confederate States of America. On both sides there were people who wore green uniforms which means they were a sharpshooter. Both sides would have a small colored rope or a patch that would have yellow for cavalry and red for infantry.

A woman would wear different dresses throughout the day. They had a morning dress that they would wear to have tea or have their friends over. They had a work dress when they did laundry or clean the house. They had an evening dress they would wear at parties. They wore bonnets and hats with their dresses. On their free time they would make clothing. During the Civil War they would make clothing for the soldiers and rugs.

A widow would wear nothing but black for a year. She would have to wear black boots, black dresses, black hats, and black gloves. If somebody died in a family the women would also wear black. If it were summer a woman would wear a lightweight black dress.

Children wore many different types of clothing. In the spring it was kind of chilly outside, so the boys wore a light jacket and a pair of pants. In the summer it was too hot to wear jackets and pants so boys wore thin pants. Girls wore light summer dresses. In the summer it was too hot to wear jackets and thin pants so girls wore light summer dresses so they wouldn't get too hot!

In the fall it was starting to get cold so the children would sometimes wear shorts and a shirt and other times they would wear a light jacket and pants. Girls would wear a heavy-duty dress, coats, and boots. Boys would wear long sleeve shirts, wool socks, small boots, pants, and a coat.

THE RIDE OF ROBERT E. LEE
By Gary

Robert E. Lee, at Gettysburg, rode between Culp’s Hill and Little Round top to see his troops loose the Battle of Gettysburg. He had won every battle until then. He didn't listen to General Longstreet, who told him to take the higher ground. General Pickett, on the third day, tried charging up toward Seminary Ridge, only to lose most of his command. Later, General Lee told General Longstreet that he was right and that they lost at Gettysburg, but would win later.
Carnage (cont.)

On day two there was bad communication between the Confederates and that was their downfall. The Union Army got control of Culp’s Hill. Colonel Chamberlain saved the Union Army from being defeated in the legendary defense of Little Round Top.

Day 3

On July 3, the Confederates, under the command of General Pickett, attacked straight toward Seminary Ridge. It is now called Pickett’s Charge and was the bloodiest part of the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg. Picket lost about 3,000 men, over half of his division. All fifteen of his commanders were lost and there were over 6,000 Southern casualties.

He returned to Robert E. Lee who ordered him to prepare his division for a possible Union attack. Pickett said, “Sir, I have no division”. Robert E. Lee’s bloody mistake ended the Battle of Gettysburg.

With the Confederate failure to capture Gettysburg their advance into the North ended and the Union was saved again. Lee’s retreat began on the afternoon of July 4. Behind him, this small town of only 2,400 was left with a total (from both sides) of over 51,000 casualties. Lee left his casualties on the ground at the Battle of Gettysburg.

JOHN WESLEY CULP, Native of Gettysburg Dies Fighting for the Rebels

By Roberto and Victoria

While fighting for the Confederacy, Wesley Culp died where he played as a kid on a field named after his grandfather.

He was born in 1839 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. A couple of years later his family moved to Indiana County, Pennsylvania. Wesley has a brother named John and a sister named Mary. The three of them grew up on Culp’s Hill. Wesley and David graduated from high school.

Wesley later moved to Virginia to become a carriage maker. In 1861 he joined the Infantry as a member of Lee’s troops. In late June his regiment entered Pennsylvania and in July, 1863 Robert E. Lee ordered them to attack the Union at Gettysburg.

The first day Lee’s troops drove the Union back onto a hill. On the second day Lee ordered some of his men including Wesley to go around the right side of the hill and try to move through the Union Army, Wesley, along with the other confederate soldiers, began the push at daybreak. The fighting was hard and intense. Culp knew the hill he was fighting on very well. Just years before he was playing war with his friends on that very hill. The hill Wesley grew up playing on now became a home for the dead.

Bodies were lying everywhere as the fighting continued. Wesley fought hard throughout the day when all of a sudden “boom,” Wesley felt a sharp pain in his chest, he had been shot. That day July 3rd, the same day Jennie Wade died, Wesley Culp

THE SECRET PASSAGE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Underground Railroad Station Discovered

By Nick, Ryan, William, and Nate

Mr. Kimber was our substitute teacher one day when we were working on our Civil War Paper. He told us that his family once owned a house that had been used as a station in the Underground Railroad. It was out in the country in Pennsylvania near the border with Delaware.

In the old house there were stones under a chair next to the hearth of the fireplace. If you moved the stones you saw a dark hole. If you went down the little ladder you would see a small room that lead to another room, which was the secret passage way. The second room could fit six to eight people. The room was totally dark. You were able to exit to the outside from the room but were only able to enter from the stone beneath the chair. Mr. Kimber said that his grandfather told him stories about the house and the slaves that hid there.

He also said that when the house was full, the runaway slaves would stay in the barn a little ways from the house.

Mr. Kimber said that when he was young he used to play hide and seek in the secret rooms.
**Abraham Lincoln’s View**

One Nation, Indivisible
By Danny

As President of the United States in 1863 it is my desire to keep the Union together because as one country we are stronger than we would be as separate countries. As I said in a letter to A.G. Hodges, Esq. of Frankfurt, Kentucky, “It was in the oath that I took, that I would to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.” It is our manifest destiny that we are to be one nation stretching from Mexico to Canada and from sea to shining sea. If each state were alone, it would easily fall. Only together are we stronger than our enemies. It is the Constitution which protects this Union of states. Therefore these rules protect the Union. As I said in my inaugural address in March, 1861, “Plainly the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy,” for without all states agreeing to follow the Constitution there will be mayhem, madness and anarchy.

It is the Federal government that must be superior over the states. The Federal government is like a father to a son. It protects and guides. This is why the states must obey the Federal rules. The Federal government has the authority over states and that is the strength of the Union.

I have never tried to hide what I think. It is my opinion, and also the opinion of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, that “all men are created equal” and this means that slavery is horribly wrong. As I said in my letter to A. G. Hodges, Esq., “I am naturally anti-slavery. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong.”

However, I have never used the Constitution to promote my personal opinions. Yet it is stated in Article 1, Section 9 of the United States Constitution that “the migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit shall not be prohibited by the congress prior to the year 1808.” It is long past this date set by our forefathers, and congress now has the freedom to prohibit such slave trade. It is my belief that we cannot have a Union split by slavery. The time has come for a choice to be made. Either we chose to end slavery or end the Union and the Union’s power.

**Jefferson Davis’ View**

We Were Forced To Leave The Union
By Nick

The North forced us to leave the Union. As President of the Confederacy, I thought the Union was being destructive because they wouldn’t let my Southern states expand. Our soil is depleted. We, the South, produce the food, cotton and tobacco for the United States, if we are unable to move west our country will not have that source of income.

We, the South, have the right to leave the Union because of the Declaration of Independence. In 1776 when they wrote the Declaration they said “---that when any form of government becomes destructive---, then it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and institute a new government----”

This is an issue of States Rights. The Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution states that any rights not given to the Federal Government by the Constitution belong to the states or the people. The Union forced us to leave because they took away our rights as citizens.

I would be happy to return to the Union, but only if President Lincoln understands that we need our right to expand slavery to the west.
Mary Virginia Wade was born on May 21, 1843 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. She was also buried there twenty years later, the only civilian casualty at the Battle of Gettysburg. She is now called Jennie, because her nickname Ginnie was reported wrong in a newspaper and ever since she’s been referred to as Jennie Wade.

Jennie was a very patriotic woman whose boyfriend, Jack Skelly, was a Union Soldier. One of their childhood friends was Wesley Culp, a native of Gettysburg who joined the Confederate Army and fought and died at Gettysburg.

On July 3, 1863 she was helping her sister with her newborn baby. She left her sister in the basement to bake bread in the kitchen for the Union Soldiers and was hit by a Confederate stray bullet. The bullet went through her heart and was lodged into her corset.

The Union Soldiers went to check on her and saw the lady that had brought hope to them lying on the ground and her hands covered in dough. They wrapped her body in a quilt and carried her to the basement. When they got to the basement they found a picture of her boyfriend, Jack Skelly, in her pocket. Wesley Culp never delivered her boyfriend Jack’s letter to her that he had given him in a hospital in Winchester. Jack died nine days later, on July 12, 1863. Today some people think it was fate that brought both Jennie Wade and Jack Skelly to their graves, but others think it was pure LOVE!

The American Flag flies over Mary Virginia Wade’s grave in Gettysburg in recognition of her effort in supporting the Union Army.

JOHN BURNS, 1812 Veteran

John Burns, a seventy-two year old veteran who had fought for his country during the War of 1812, volunteered to fight for the Union during the battle of Gettysburg. He brought with him an old musket that was then replaced by a shotgun and twenty-four rounds of cartridges.

He was wounded many times, but he survived. While John Burns lay on the ground wounded, some Confederates walked by and asked how he came to be wounded and where he lived. They took him home and he didn’t see them again for a while. They returned to his house and asked him questions to make sure he had not lied before. John did not see them again.
That way the Union troops would be running up toward the Confederates who could just keep shooting them down. Instead, Robert E. Lee sent Pickett’s division, 2,882 men, with two other divisions for a total of over 10,500, men across the open pasture to Seminary Ridge to break up the line of Union Soldiers. As the Rebels were charging, Union Soldiers killed one after another eliminating 67% of the division leaving 792 prisoner. Over 1,100 people died and 4,550 were wounded. There were a total of 6,467 Confederate casualties. The next day Robert E. Lee rode up to Pickett and said, “Get your division ready.” Pickett replied, “Sir, I have no division.”

Harriet Tubman’s Life Story, The Black Moses
By Zalinda & Ashley

Harriet Ross was born to a slave family in 1819. As she grew, she worked in the Big House of her master because she was too young to work in the fields. Once she tried to escape, but the foreman hit her in the head with the barrel of his gun. Due to this injury, she suffered narcolepsy, which means she could not control her sleep.

She married John Tubman when she was 25. Later she asked him to escape to the north with her, but he refused. Later, when she returned from her journey north to help him and her family escape, she found he already had another wife.

She left him and then continued her life by taking slaves north to freedom. She made a total of 19 trips to the north in the Underground Railroad. During that time she took over 300 people to freedom, including her parents.

Once she was in a railroad station waiting for a passenger. She saw two men looking at a wanted poster with her face on it which said that she couldn’t read. Finally, the men decided that it could not be a picture of her because she had a book. She later said that she was so nervous that she was holding the book upside down.

During the Civil War she was a spy for the Union getting information from the Rebels for the Union.

She died when she was 92 and is buried in Fort Hill Auburn, New York. She was buried with full military honors.

Pickett’s Charge, The Charge That Lead to Catastrophe
By Ruger

In the year 1863, during the battle of Gettysburg, General Robert E. Lee ordered General Pickett to lead a charge like no other, a charge that would end in catastrophe.

General Longstreet tried and tried to get General Robert E. Lee to not send Pickett and his men across the battlefield towards Seminary Ridge. He had been in a battle like this before. He knew that if they could get their troops to sneak around behind the Union Army on Culps Hill, Big Round Top, and Seminary Ridge to higher ground the Union troops would have to attack them.

That way the Union troops would be running up toward the Confederates who could just keep shooting them down. Instead, Robert E. Lee sent Pickett’s division, 2,882 men, with two other divisions for a total of over 10,500, men across the open pasture to Seminary Ridge to break up the line of Union Soldiers. As the Rebels were charging, Union Soldiers killed one after another eliminating 67% of the division leaving 792 prisoner. Over 1,100 people died and 4,550 were wounded. There were a total of 6,467 Confederate casualties. The next day Robert E. Lee rode up to Pickett and said, “Get your division ready.” Pickett replied, “Sir, I have no division.”
Hardtack is a very hard cracker that has been used at Gettysburg and in most wars. It was not only used in wars it was also used by explorers and lower class sailors. It was eaten for breakfast, lunch and dinner in the wars because it would fill them up and did not spoil. It didn’t taste the greatest though. Most of the time it was square with round holes in it. Those holes made hardtack easier to eat. It’s probably the hardest cracker ever. This extremely hard cracker is also known as a biscuit or hard bead.

People would eat hardtack many different ways. Some people would eat it by itself, or dip it in soups. Some people would even dip it in coffee. The soldiers would get a can of meat and some hardtack. They would dip hardtack in the meat juice to soften it so it wouldn’t break or crack their teeth.

Hardtack is not always a perfect little cracker. Many bad things can happen to hardtack if something is not done right. If it is not cooked long enough it will start to mold. If they didn’t keep it safe until it dried weevils would get to it. Weevils are little white bugs that commonly infest hardtack.

The soldiers would eat hardtack because in the field it was their main meal. Hardtack is still made and eaten in wars today.

**Ingredients**

First, you get water, salt, and whole-wheat flour. Mix the flour and salt together in a bowl. Add just enough water so that the mixture will stick, producing dough that won’t stick to your hands. Mix the dough by hand. Then roll the dough out, shaping it into a rectangle. Cut the dough into squares about 3” by 3” and ½” thick.

Finally, bake it by putting it in the oven at 375 for 35 minutes. Then let it sit for a couple days. The Hardtack will be nice and hard if you have done it right.

**Picture by Zalinda**

Suddenly, Confederate General Longstreet realizing how thin Sickles’ line was attacked; the fighting was one of the most ferocious battles of the war. Sickles was wounded by a twelve-pound cannonball and knocked off his horse.

He was carried off the battlefield on a stretcher. Surgeons found the leg so shattered that they had to amputate the leg. Sickles asked that the shattered leg be saved for further study. General Sickles said he would visit his leg every year until he died. (Editors note: It is rumored that General Sickles did visit his leg every year at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington DC until his death.)