

James H. and John E. Price
 New Company D, 6th Alabama Volunteer Infantry
 Army of Northern Virginia
 Confederate States of America

Table of Contents

Provenance.....	2
Introduction.....	2
Secession – 1860/61.....	2
First Blood - 1st Manassas.....	3
Official Report.....	4
Winter 1861/62.....	5
Siege of Yorktown, VA.....	6
Williamsburg, VA.....	6
Seven Pines, VA.....	6
Seven Days Battle, Virginia.....	10
Oak Grove.....	10
Mechanicsville, VA.....	10
Gaine's Mill, VA.....	10
Frayser's Farm, VA.....	11
Malvern Hill, VA.....	11
Battle of Second Manassas.....	11
Battle of South Mountain, MD.....	13
Battle of Antietam, Sharpsburg, MD.....	13
James H. Price - Medically Furloughed.....	18
Battle of Fredericksburg, VA.....	18
Battle of Chancellorsville.....	19
.....	21
Battle of Gettysburg.....	22
Return to Duty – James H. Price.....	27
Battle of the Wilderness.....	28
Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse.....	28
Elmira, New York – Federal POW Camp.....	29
Elmira POW camp a deadly place.....	29
POW's in the Civil War.....	31

Provenance

James H. and John E. Price were my GG uncles. My GG grandfather was their younger brother, David Houston Price, all sons of William Carroll Price and Naomi McDaniel.

- William Carrol Price & Naomi McDaniel
 - James H. Price
 - John E. Price
 - David Houston Price & Cynthia Choate
 - John Riley Price & Laura Claudine Russell
 - John Morris Price & Lois Winnell Cunningham
 - Barbara Winnell Price & Bobby Dale White
 - Bruce Dale White (me)

Introduction

James H. Price was a twin of John E. Price, who were born on 25 March 1843, to William Carroll Price and Naomi McDaniel Price in Long Island, Jackson County, Alabama. Like many Southern young men in the 1860's, they found themselves drawn to the excitement of the Civil War and eventually enlisted in the Confederate Army. This decision resulted in no small amount of family disharmony, as their parents were staunch Unionists. Details on their parent's ordeal during the Civil War can be found here, http://bruce-white.us/library/wcp_sec.pdf.

Both Price boys ended up assigned to the 6th Alabama Volunteer Infantry Regiment and were subsequently attached to the Army of Northern Virginia under the command of first Joseph E. Johnston and then Robert E. Lee. The decision to fight for the Confederacy also brought tragedy, as John E. Price was killed on 2 July 1863 in the assault on Culps' Hill at the Battle of Gettysburg, as part of the Army Corps under General Ewell. Likewise, John H. Price was severely wounded at the Battle of Antietam and then once recovered, was wounded again at the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, where he was taken prisoner. After he was discharged from the hospital, he was confined to the Union prisoner of war camp at Elmira, New York, known as "Hellmira".

Secession – 1860/61

On January 11th, a few weeks after a general referendum on Secession was held, Alabama formally seceded from the United States. On 4 February 1861, Alabama was a founding member of the Confederate States of America, whose first capitol was in Montgomery, Alabama. While generally, secession was approved by most Alabamians, a notable exception were the counties in the northeast

part of the state, which bordered on Tennessee. These areas were not generally conducive to large, plantation operations and hence did not have the slavocracy social structure. Instead, most of the people in this area were yeoman farmers, like could be found in Indiana, Illinois or Iowa.

My Great-great grandfather William Carroll Price was just such a man. He owned two small farms and was staunchly in favor of the Old Union, as the United States was termed in those days. Many of his relatives and neighbors were also Unionists and resisted secession and the rebellion. His two older twin sons however, were decidedly in sympathy with the rebellion. In 1861, they turned eighteen and determined to join the Confederate Army. Twice they attempted to run away, once at night. In both these instances, their father and uncle tracked them down and brought them back home, preventing them from joining the Confederate Army. One must keep in mind, that unlike the twenty-first century, a person was not a legal adult in the 1800's until you reached the age of twenty-one. Eventually, both boys succeeded in running away and were able to join the Rebel Army.

First Blood - 1st Manassas

16 June 1861: The 6th Alabama Infantry arrives on rail transport at Manassas Junction, Virginia.

20 June 1861: Manassas Junction, Virginia, Here the 6th was brigaded under just promoted Brigadier General Richard S. Ewell, Second Brigade, First Corp Army of the Potomac (CSA). The Brigade consisted of Rodes' 5th Alabama, Seibels' 6th Alabama, Seymour's 6th Louisiana, a 4 gun battery of 12 pound howitzers under Captain Rosser of Walton's battery, and Harrison's, Green and Cabell's companies of Virginia Calvary under Lieutenant-Colonel Jenifer. (OR).

21 June 1861: The 6th Alabama Infantry was stationed with its corps at Union Mills, Virginia to hold the flank of the Confederate line during the battle. The unit did not actively participate in the battle, but was held a reserve unit.

Official Report

JULY 16-22, 1861.--The Bull Run, or Manassas, Campaign, Virginia.

No. 95. -- Report of Brig. Gen. Richard S. Ewell, commanding Second Brigade, First Corps.

*HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE,
Union Mills, July 24, 1861.*

SIR: In conformity with Special Orders, No. 145, headquarters Army of the Potomac, I have the honor to report that upon the morning of July 21, 1861, I first received orders to hold myself in readiness to advance at a moment's notice. I next received a copy of an order sent to General Jones and furnished me by him, in which it was stated I had been ordered at once to proceed to his support.

I immediately commenced crossing my brigade over Bull Run, but whilst so doing received an order to fall back to my former position, which I did, and a short time afterwards received another order, brought by Colonel Terry, aide-de-camp, to cross again, proceed up the run, and attack a battery of the enemy upon its flank and rear, regulating my movements upon the brigades of Generals Jones and Longstreet. I again crossed the stream, and had proceeded about a mile and a half in execution of the order when I was stopped by an order to march at once to stone bridge, following General Holmes' brigade, which had already been ordered to proceed to that point.

I deem it proper to state that the courier said he had been accompanied by all aide-de-camp whose horse had given out before reaching me. I countermarched and marched at once to headquarters in the field, remained in reserve at that point until ordered back to Union Mills, which I reached after a long and fatiguing march the same night.

My brigade consisted of Rodes' Fifth Alabama, Seibels' Sixth Alabama, Seymour's Sixth Louisiana, a battery under Captain Rosser, the Washington Artillery, and four companies of cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Jenifer. The infantry would hardly have got back that night, but for the excitement of hearing that the enemy were in possession of the ford. As connected with this, I send a report of a skirmish on the 17th, of Colonel Rodes' regiment becoming engaged and checking the enemy, owing to the non-reception of the order to fall back on their appearance. ()*

Very respectfully,

**R. S. EWELL,
Brigadier-General**

Siege of Yorktown, VA

5 April – 4 May, 1862:

Marching from Fort Monroe, Major General George B. McClellan's army encountered Major General John B. Magruder's small Confederate army at Yorktown behind the Warwick River. Magruder's theatrics convinced the Federals that his works were strongly held. McClellan suspended the march up the Peninsula toward Richmond, ordered the construction of siege fortifications, and brought his heavy siege guns to the front. In the meantime, General Joseph E. Johnston brought reinforcements for Magruder. On 16 April, Union forces probed a weakness in the Confederate line at Lee's Mill or Dam No. 1, resulting in about 309 casualties. Failure to exploit the initial success of this attack, however, held up McClellan for two additional weeks, while he tried to convince his navy to maneuver the Confederates' big guns at Yorktown and Gloucester Point and ascend the York River to West Point thus outflanking the Warwick Line. McClellan planned for a massive bombardment to begin at dawn on May 4, but the Confederate army slipped away in the night toward Williamsburg.

Result (s): Inconclusive

Williamsburg, VA

5 May 1862:

In the first pitched battle of the Peninsula Campaign, nearly 41,000 Federals and 32,000 Confederates were engaged. Following up the Confederate retreat from Yorktown, Hooker's division encountered the Confederate rearguard near Williamsburg. Hooker assaulted Fort Magruder, an earthen fortification alongside the Williamsburg Road, but was repulsed. Confederate counterattacks, directed by Major General James Longstreet, threatened to overwhelm the Union left flank, until Kearny's division arrived to stabilize the Federal position. Hancock's brigade then moved to threaten the Confederate left flank, occupying two abandoned redoubts. The Confederates counterattacked unsuccessfully. Hancock's localized success was not exploited. The Confederate army continued its withdrawal during the night.

Seven Pines, VA

31 May – 1 June, 1862

After the Union defeat at Manassas in July 1861, General George B. McClellan took command of the Federal forces in and around Washington and organized them into a formidable fighting machine, the Army of the Potomac. In March 1862, leaving a strong force to cover the capitol, McClellan shifted his Army by water to Fort Monroe on the tip of the York - James River peninsula, only 100 miles southeast of Richmond. Early in April, he advanced toward the Confederate capital. Anticipating such a move, the Southerners abandoned the Manassas area and marched to meet the Federals. By the end of May, McClellan's troops were within sight of Richmond. Here General Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate Army assailed the Federals in the bloody but inconclusive Battle of Seven Pines.

On May 31, General Joseph E. Johnston attempted to overwhelm two Federal corps that appeared isolated south of the Chickahominy River. The Confederate assaults, though not well coordinated, succeeded in driving back the IV Corps and inflicting heavy casualties. Reinforcements arrived, and

both sides fed more and more troops into the action. Supported by the III Corps and Sedgwick's division of Sumner's II Corps (that crossed the rain-swollen river on Grapevine Bridge), the Federal position was finally stabilized. General Joseph E. Johnston was seriously wounded during the action, and command of the Confederate army devolved temporarily to Major General G.W. Smith. On June 1, the Confederates renewed their assaults against the Federals who had brought up more reinforcements but made little headway. Both sides claimed victory. The Confederate name for the battle is Seven Pines and the Union name is Fair Oaks.

The most remarkable thing about the ensuing action was that a plan as sound as Johnston's appeared at the outset-so simple and forthright, indeed, as to be practically fool-proof, even for green troops under green commanders-could produce such an utter brouhaha, such a Donnybrook of a battle, Seven Pines, or Fair Oaks as some called it, was unquestionably the worst-conducted large scale conflict in a war that afforded many rivals for that distinction. What it came to, finally, was a military nightmare: not so much because of the suffering and bloodshed, though there was plenty of both before it was over, but rather because of the confusion, compounded by delay.

Longstreet began it. Since his assigned route, out the Nine Mile road, would put him under Smith, who outranked him, he persuaded Johnston to give him command of the forces on the right. As next-ranking man he was entitled to it, he said, and Johnston genially agreed, on condition that control would revert to him when the troops converged on Seven Pines. Longstreet, thus encouraged, decided to transfer his division to the Williamsburg road, which would give him unhampered freedom from Smith and add to the weight of D.H. Hill's assault on the Union center. He did not inform Johnston of this decision, however, and that was where the trouble first began. Marching south on the outskirts of Richmond, across the mouth of the Nine Mile Road, he held up Smith's lead elements while his six brigades of infantry trudged past with all their guns and wagons. This in itself amounted to a considerable delay, but Longstreet was by no means through. When Huger prepared to enter Williamsburg road, which led to his assigned route down the Charles City road, he found Longstreet's 14,000 man division to his front, passing single file over an improvised bridge across a swollen creek. Nor would the officers in charge of the column yield the right of way; first come first served, they said. When Huger protested, Longstreet informed him that he ranked him. They stood there in the morning sunlight, the South Carolina aristocrat and the broad, hairy Georgian, and that was the making of one career and the wrecking of another. Huger accepted the claim as true, though it was not, and bided his time while Longstreet took the road.

The morning sun climbed up the sky, and now it was Johnston's turn to listen, as Davis had done two days ago, for the boom of guns that remained silent. As he waited with Smith, whose five brigades were in position two miles short of Fair Oaks Station, his anxiety was increased by the fact that he had lost one of his divisions as completely as if it had marched unobserved into quicksand. Nobody at headquarters knew where Longstreet was, nor any of his men, and when a staff officer galloped down the Nine-Mile road to find him, he stumbled into the enemy lines and was captured. When at last Longstreet and his troops were found-they were halted beside the Williamsburg road, two miles out of Richmond, which Huger's division filed past to enter the Charles Cityroad-Johnston could only presume that Longstreet had misinterpreted last night's verbal orders. The delay could be ruinous. Everything depended on the action being completed before nightfall; if it went past that, McClellan would bring up reinforcements under cover of darkness and counterattack with superior numbers in the morning. As the sun went past the overhead, Johnston remarked that he wished his army was back in its

suburban camps and the thing had never begun. He could no more stop it, however, than he could get it started. All he could do was wait; and the waiting continued. Lee rode out from Richmond determined not to spend another day like the office-bound day of Manassas. Johnston greeted him courteously, but spared him the details of the mix-up. Presently there came from the southeast an intermittent far-sounding rumble of cannon. It grew until just after 3 o'clock, with ten of the fifteen hours of daylight gone, the rumble was vaguely intensified by a sound that Lee believed was musketry. No, no, Johnston told him; it was only an artillery duel. Lee did not insist, although it seemed to him that the subdued accompaniment was rising in volume. Then at 4 o'clock a note came from Longstreet, informing the army commander that he was heavily engaged in front of Seven Pines and wanted support on his left.

That was the signal Johnston had been awaiting. Ordering Smith's lead division to continue down the Nine Mile road until it struck the Federal right, he spurred ahead to study the situation at first hand. As he rode off, the President rode up; so that some observers later said that the general had left in haste to avoid an irksome meeting. Davis asked Lee what the musketry meant. Had he heard it, too? Lee asked. Unmistakably, Davis said. What was it?

Mostly it was D.H. Hill. He had been in position for six hours, awaiting the signal from Huger as instructed, when at 2 o'clock he ran out of patience and surged forward on his own. (It was just as well; otherwise the wait would have been interminable. Cutting cross-country to take his assigned position on Hill's right, Huger had become involved in the upper reaches of White Oak Swamp. He would remain so all through what was left of this unhappy Saturday, as removed from the battle—except that the guns were roaring within earshot—as if he had been with Jackson out in the Shenandoah Valley.) Hill's attack was no less furious for being unsupported on the flanks. A forty year old North Carolinian, a West Point professional turned schoolmaster as a result of ill health, he was a caustic hater of all things northern and an avid critic of whatever displeased him anywhere at all. Dyspeptic as Stonewall Jackson, his brother-in-law, he suffered also from a spinal ailment, which gave him an un-military bearing whether mounted or afoot. His friends called him Harvey; that was his middle name. A hungry-looking man with haunted eyes and a close-cropped scraggly beard, he took a fierce delight in combat—especially when it was hand to hand, as now. His assault swept over the advance Federal redoubt, taking eight guns and a brigade camp with all its equipment and supplies. Scarcely pausing to reform his line, he went after the rest of Keyes' corps, which was drawn up to receive him just west of Seven Pines. Here too the fight was furious, the Federals having the advantage of an abatis previously constructed along the edge of a line of woods, while the Confederates, emerging from a flooded swamp, had to charge unsupported across an open space to reach them. Longstreet's complaint, made presently when he appealed to Johnston for help on the left, that green troops were "as sensitive about the flanks as a virgin," did not apply to Hill's men today. Especially it did not apply to the lead brigade, four regiments from Alabama and one from Mississippi under Brigadier General Robert E. Rodes. Inexperienced as they were, their only concern was the tactics manual definition of the mission of the infantry in attack: "to close with the enemy and destroy him." Advancing through the swamp, thigh-deep in mud and stagnant water, they propped their wounded against the trunks of trees to keep them from drowning, and came on, yelling as they came. They reached the abatis, pierced it, and drove the bluecoats back again. It was gallantly done, but at a dreadful cost: Rodes' 2000-man command, for instance, lost 1094 killed, wounded, or drowned. And there were no replacements near at hand. Out of thirteen brigades available to Longstreet here on the right—his six, Hill's four, and Huger's three—less than half went into action. Three of his six he had sent to follow Huger into the ooze of White Oak Swamp, and a fourth he had posted on the left to guard against a surprise attack, in spite of the fact that

there was nothing in that direction except the other half of the Confederate Army. However, the Federals were forming a new line farther back, perhaps with a counterattack in mind, and he was not so sure. Huger was lost on the right; so might Smith be lost on the left. At any rate, that was when he sent the note to Johnston, appealing for the protection of his virginal left flank. Smith's division, reinforced by four brigades from Magruder and A.P. Hill, followed the army commander down the Nine Mile road towards Fair Oaks, where the leading elements were formed under his direction for a charge that was intended to strike the exposed right flank of Keyes, whose center was at Seven Pines, less than a mile away. Late as the hour was, Johnston's juggernaut attack plan seemed at last to be rolling toward a repetition of his triumph at Manassas. But not for long. Aimed at Keyes, it struck instead a substantial body of men in muddy blue, who stood and delivered massed volleys that broke up the attack before it could gather speed.

They were strangers on this ground; the mud stains on their uniforms were from the Chickahominy bottoms. It was Sumner's corps, arrived from across the river. Commander of the 1st US Cavalry while Albert Sidney Johnston commanded the 2d-Joe Johnston was his lieutenant-colonel, McClellan one of his captains-Sumner was an old army man with an old army notion that orders were received to be obeyed, not questioned, no matter what obstacles stood in the way of execution. "Bull" Sumner, he was called-in full, "the Bull of the Woods"-because of the loudness of his voice; he had a peacetime custom of removing his false teeth to give commands that carried from end to end of the regiment, above the thunder of hoofs. Alerted soon after midday (Johnston's aide, who had ridden into the Union lines in search of Longstreet, had told his captors nothing; but his presence was suspicious, and the build-up in the woods and swamps out front had been growing more obvious every hour) Sumner assembled his corps on the north bank, near the two bridges he had built for this emergency. Foaming water had buckled them; torn from their pilings, awash knee-deep in the center, they seemed about to go with the flood. When the order to support Keyes arrived and the tall white-haired old man started his soldiers across, an engineer officer protested that the condition of the bridges made a crossing not only unsafe, but impossible. "Impossible?" Sumner roared. "Sir, I tell you I can cross! I am ordered!" Marching toward the sound of the firing, he got his men over the swaying bridges and across the muddy bottoms, on to the Fair Oaks and the meeting engagement which produced on both sides, in about equal parts, feeling of elation and frustration. If Sumner had kept going he would have struck the flank of Longstreet; if Smith had kept going he would have struck the flank of Keyes. As it was, they struck each other, and the result was a stalemate. Smith could make no headway against Sumner, who was content to hold his ground. Hill, to the south, had shot his bolt, and Keyes was thankful that the issue was not pressed beyond the third line he had drawn while waiting for Heintzelman, who had sent one division forward to help him but did not bring the other up till dusk.

By then the battle was practically over. Seven Pines, the Southerners called it, since that was where they scored their gains; to the Northerners it was Fair Oaks, for much the same reason. The attackers had the advantages in spoils--10 guns, 6000 rifles, 347 prisoners, and a good deal of miscellaneous equipment from the captured camp-but the price was excessive. 6134 Confederates were dead or wounded: well over a thousand more than the 5031 Federals who had fallen.

Johnston was wounded and President Jefferson Davis placed General Robert E. Lee in command. Seizing the offensive, Lee sent his force (now called the Army of Northern Virginia) across the Chickahominy River and, in a series of savage battles, pushed McClellan back from the edge of Richmond to a position on the James River.

Confederate Brigadier **Robert Hopkins Hatton** born November 2 1826, Steubenville Ohio, died May 31 1862, Fair Oaks Station Virginia. Pre-war profession was Teacher, lawyer, politician, US congressman. Enlisted May 1861 as Colonel of 7th Tennessee which fought at Cheat Mountain and Savage's Station. Promoted May 1862 Brigadier General commanded Hatton's Brigade in G W Smith's Division and killed at Seven Pines. Buried at Cedar Grove, Lebanon, Tennessee.

Seven Days Battle, Virginia

These were the first battles fought after Robert E. Lee assumed command of the Confederate forces, which were from then on known as The Army of Northern Virginia.

Oak Grove

25 Jun 1862

Oak Grove was the first of the **Seven Days' battles**. On June 25, Major General George B. McClellan advanced his lines along the Williamsburg Road with the objective of bringing Richmond within range of his siege guns. Union forces attacked over swampy ground with inconclusive results, and darkness halted the fighting. McClellan's attack was not strong enough to derail the Confederate offensive that already had been set in motion. The next day, Lee seized the initiative by attacking at Beaver Dam Creek north of the Chickahominy.

Result (s): Inconclusive (Union forces withdrew to their lines.)

Mechanicsville, VA

26 June 1862

Second of the **Seven Days' Battles**. Gen. Robert E. Lee initiated his offensive against McClellan's right flank north of the Chickahominy River. A. P. Hill threw his division, reinforced by one of D. H. Hill's brigades, into a series of futile assaults against Brig. Gen. Fitz John Porter's V Corps, which was drawn up behind Beaver Dam Creek. Confederate attacks were driven back with heavy casualties. Jackson's Shenandoah Valley divisions, however, were approaching from the northwest, forcing Porter to withdraw the next morning to a position behind Boatswain Creek just beyond Gaines' Mill.

Result(s): Union victory

Gaine's Mill, VA

27 June 1862

This was the third of the **Seven Days' Battles**. On June 27, 1862, Gen. Robert E. Lee renewed his attacks against Porter's V Corps, which had established a strong defensive line behind Boatswain's Swamp north of the Chickahominy River. Porter's reinforced V Corps held fast for the afternoon against disjointed Confederate attacks, inflicting heavy casualties. At dusk, the Confederates finally mounted a coordinated assault that broke Porter's line and drove his soldiers back toward the river. The Federals retreated across the river during the night. Defeat at Gaines' Mill convinced McClellan to abandon his advance on Richmond and begin the retreat to James River. Gaines' Mill saved Richmond

for the Confederacy in 1862.

Result(s): Confederate victory

Frayser's Farm, VA

30 June 1862

This is the fifth of the **Seven Days' Battles**. On June 30, Huger's, Longstreet's, and A. P. Hill's divisions converged on the retreating Union army in the vicinity of Glendale or Frayser's Farm. Longstreet's and Hill's attacks penetrated the Union defense near Willis Church, routing McCall's division. McCall was captured. Union counterattacks by Hooker's and Kearny's divisions sealed the break and saved their line of retreat along the Willis Church Road. Huger's advance was stopped on the Charles City Road. "Stonewall" Jackson's divisions were delayed by Franklin at White Oak Swamp. Confederate Maj. Gen. T.H. Holmes made a feeble attempt to turn the Union left flank at Turkey Bridge but was driven back by Federal gunboats in James River. Union generals Meade and Sumner and Confederate generals Anderson, Pender, and Featherston were wounded. This was Lee's best chance to cut off the Union army from the James River. That night, McClellan established a strong position on Malvern Hill.

Result(s): Inconclusive (Union withdrawal continued.)

Malvern Hill, VA

1 July 1862

This was the sixth and last of the Seven Days' Battles. On July 1, 1862, Gen. Robert E. Lee launched a series of disjointed assaults on the nearly impregnable Union position on Malvern Hill. The Confederates suffered more than 5,300 casualties without gaining an inch of ground. Despite his victory, McClellan withdrew to entrench at Harrison's Landing on James River, where his army was protected by gunboats. This ended the Peninsula Campaign. When McClellan's army ceased to threaten Richmond, Lee sent Jackson to operate against Major General John Pope's army along the Rapidan River, thus initiating the Northern Virginia Campaign.

Result(s): Union victory

Battle of Second Manassas

28 Aug 1862

In August 1862, Union and Confederate armies converged for a second time on the plains of Manassas. The naive enthusiasm that preceded the earlier encounter was gone. War was not the holiday outing or grand adventure envisioned by the young recruits of 1861. The contending forces, now made up of seasoned veterans, knew well the reality of war. The Battle of Second Manassas, covering three days, produced far greater carnage, 3,399 killed, and brought the Confederacy to the height of its power. Still the battle did not weaken Northern resolve. The war's final outcome was yet unknown, and it would be left to other battles to decide whether the sacrifice at Manassas was part of the price of Southern independence, or the cost of one country again united under the national standard.

After the Union defeat at Manassas in July 1861, General George B. McClellan took command of the Federal forces in and around Washington and organized them into a formidable fighting machine, the Army of the Potomac. In March 1862, leaving a strong force to cover the capitol, McClellan shifted his Army by water to Fort Monroe on the tip of the York - James River peninsula, only 100 miles southeast of Richmond. Early in April, he advanced toward the Confederate capital. Anticipating such a move, the Southerners abandoned the Manassas area and marched to meet the Federals. By the end of May, McClellan's troops were within sight of Richmond. Here General Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate Army assailed the Federals in the bloody but inconclusive Battle of Seven Pines. Johnston was wounded and President Jefferson Davis placed General Robert E. Lee in command. Seizing the offensive, Lee sent his force (now called the Army of Northern Virginia) across the Chickahominy River and, in a series of savage battles, pushed McClellan back from the edge of Richmond to a position on the James River.

At the same time, the scattered Federal forces in northern Virginia were organized into the Army of Virginia under the command of General John Pope, who arrived with a reputation freshly won in the war's western theater. Gambling that McClellan would cause no further trouble around Richmond, Lee sent Stonewall Jackson's corps northward to "suppress" Pope. Jackson clashed indecisively with part of Pope's troops at Cedar Mountain on August 9. Meanwhile, learning that the Army of the Potomac was withdrawing by water to join Pope, Lee marched with General James Longstreet's corps to bolster Jackson. On the Rapidan River, Pope successfully blocked Lee's attempts to gain a tactical advantage, and then withdrew his men north of the Rappahannock River. Lee knew that if he were to defeat Pope he would have to strike before McClellan's Army arrived in northern Virginia. On August 25 Lee boldly started Jackson's corps on a march of over 50 miles, around the Union's right flank to strike at Pope's rear.

Two days later, Jackson's veterans seized Pope's supply depot at Manassas Junction. After a day of wild feasting, Jackson burned the Federal supplies and moved to a position in the woods at Groveton near the old Manassas battlefield.

Pope, stung by the attack on his supply base, abandoned the line of the Rappahannock and headed toward Manassas to "bag" Jackson. At the same time, Lee was moving northward with Longstreet's corps to reunite his Army. On the afternoon of August 28, to prevent the Federal commander's efforts to concentrate at Centreville and bring Pope to battle, Jackson ordered his troops to attack a Union column as it marched on the Warrenton Turnpike. This savage fight at Brawner's Farm lasted until dusk.

Convinced that Jackson was isolated, Pope ordered his columns to converge on Groveton. He was sure that he could destroy Jackson before Lee and Longstreet could intervene. On the 29th Pope's Army found Jackson's men posted along an unfinished railroad grade, north of the turnpike. All afternoon, in a series of uncoordinated attacks, Pope hurled his men against the Confederate position. In several places, the Northerners momentarily breached Jackson's line, but each time were forced back. During the afternoon, Longstreet's troops arrived on the battlefield and, unknown to Pope, deployed on Jackson's right, overlapping the exposed Union left. Lee urged Longstreet to attack, but "Old Pete" demurred. The time was just not right, he said.

The morning of August 30 passed quietly. Just before noon, erroneously concluding the Confederates were retreating, Pope ordered his Army forward "in pursuit." The pursuit, however, was short-lived.

Pope found that Lee had gone nowhere. Amazingly, Pope ordered yet another attack against Jackson's line. Major General Fitz-John Porter's corps, along with part of McDowell's, struck Brigadier General W. E. Starke's division at the unfinished railroad's "Deep Cut." The Southerners held firm, and Porter's column was hurled back in a bloody repulse.

Seeing the Union lines in disarray, Longstreet pushed his massive columns forward and staggered the Union left. Pope's Army was faced with annihilation. Only a heroic stand by the northern troops, first on Chinn Ridge and then once again on Henry Hill, bought time for Pope's hard-pressed Union forces. Finally, under cover of darkness the defeated Union Army withdrew across Bull Run toward the defenses of Washington. Lee's bold and brilliant Second Battle of Manassas campaign opened the way for the South's first invasion of the North, and a bid for foreign intervention.

Battle of South Mountain, MD

14 September 1862

After invading Maryland in September 1862, General Robert E. Lee divided his army to march on and invest Harpers Ferry. The Army of the Potomac under Major General George B. McClellan pursued the Confederates to Frederick, Maryland, then advanced on South Mountain. On September 14, pitched battles were fought for possession of the South Mountain passes: Crampton's, Turner's, and Fox's Gaps. By dusk the Confederate defenders were driven back, suffering severe casualties, and McClellan was in position to destroy Lee's army before it could re-concentrate. McClellan's limited activity on September 15 after his victory at South Mountain, however, condemned the garrison at Harpers Ferry to capture and gave Lee time to unite his scattered divisions at Sharpsburg. Union general Jesse Reno and Confederate general Samuel Garland, Jr., were killed at South Mountain.

Result (s): Union victory

Battle of Antietam, Sharpsburg, MD

17 September 1862

The Battle of Antietam was and still is the bloodiest single day in American military history. More Americans were killed or wounded in this one day battle than any other battle, including the Battle of the Bulge in World War Two. During this battle, the 6th Alabama Infantry occupied the center of the Confederate line in the sunken road, known ever afterwards, as "Bloody Lane". James H. Price was wounded while fighting in this position and was then hospitalized and furloughed to recover.

At Antietam, Rodes' Brigade, under the command of Brigadier General Robert E. Rodes consisted of the 3rd Alabama commanded by Colonel Cullum A. Battle, 5th Alabama Infantry commanded by Major E. L. Hobson, 6th Alabama Infantry commanded by Colonel John B. Gordon and Lieutenant Colonel J. N. Lightfoot, 12th Alabama commanded by Colonel B. B. Gayle, and Lieutenant Colonel S. B. Pickens, other officers are Captain Tucker, Captain Maroney, Capt. A. Proskauer, and the 26th Alabama commanded by Colonel E. A. O'Neal.

On September 16, Major General George B. McClellan confronted Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Sharpsburg, Maryland. At dawn September 17, Hooker's corps mounted a powerful assault on Lee's left flank that began the single bloodiest day in American military history. More men were killed on this day than any other day in the war, Attacks and counterattacks swept across Miller's cornfield and fighting swirled around the Dunker Church. Union assaults against the Sunken Road eventually pierced the Confederate center, but the Federal advantage was not followed up. The 6th Alabama was at the center of the Confederate line, at the Sunken Road, also known as "Bloody Lane". Colonel Gordon was shot five times, the last one in the face, but was spared from drowning in his own blood only because his hat, into which he had fallen face down, had a bullet hole through it, allowing the blood to drain out.

Illustration 2: Bloody Lane in 2008



Illustration 3: Bloody Lane 1862

Many of these men would have been from the 6th Alabama.

Late in the day, Burnside's corps finally got into action, crossing the stone bridge over Antietam Creek and rolling up the Confederate right. At a crucial moment, A. P. Hill's division arrived from Harper's Ferry and counterattacked, driving back Burnside and saving the day. Although outnumbered two-to-one, Lee committed his entire force, while McClellan sent in less than three-quarters of his army, enabling Lee to fight the Federals to a standstill. During the night, both armies consolidated their lines. In spite of crippling casualties, Lee continued to skirmish with McClellan throughout the 18th, while removing his wounded south of the river. McClellan did not renew the assaults. After dark, Lee ordered the battered Army of Northern Virginia to withdraw across the Potomac into the Shenandoah Valley.

Importance: Antietam was one of the turning points of the war. It ended Lee's invasion of the North. After this battle, Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. This was now a war against slavery.

WHEN JACKSON'S TROOPS reached Sharpsburg on September 16th, Harpers Ferry having surrendered the day before, Lee consolidated his position along the low ridge that runs north and south of the town--stretching from the Potomac River on his left to the Antietam Creek on his right. "We will make our stand on these hills," Lee told his officers.

General Robert E. Lee had placed cannon on Nicodemus Heights to his left, the high ground in front of Dunker Church, the ridge just east of Sharpsburg (site of the National Cemetery), and on the heights overlooking the Lower Bridge. Infantry filled in the lines between these points, including a sunken lane less than a half mile long with worm fencing along both sides (later known as Bloody Lane). A handful of Georgia sharpshooters guarded the Lower Bridge (Burnside Bridge).

By the evening of the 16th, Gen. George McClellan had about 60,000 troops ready to attack--double the number available to Lee. The battle opened at a damp, murky dawn on the 17th when Union artillery on the bluffs beyond Antietam Creek began a murderous fire on Jackson's lines near the Dunker Church.

Miller's Cornfield

As the Federals marched toward Miller's Cornfield north of town, the Confederates rose up in the cornfield and fired on the advancing lines. McClellan responded by withdrawing his infantry and training cannon on the corn. "In the time I am writing," Hooker reported, "every stalk of corn in the northern and greater part of the field was cut as closely as could have been done with a knife, and the slain lay in rows precisely as they had stood in their ranks a few moments before."

Hooker's troops advanced again, driving the Confederates before them, and Jackson reported that his men were "exposed for near an hour to a terrific storm of shell, canister, and musketry." About 7 a.m. Jackson was reenforced and succeeded in driving the Federals back.

An hour later Union troops under Gen. Joseph Mansfield counterattacked and regained some of the lost ground. Less than 200 yards apart, the opposing lines fired lead into each other for a half hour. "They stood and shot each other, until the lines melted away like wax," reported a New York soldier, Isaac Hall. Fighting continued back and forth over the 20-acre cornfield, with the field changing hands 15 times, according to some accounts

Then, in an effort to turn the Confederate left flank, Gen. John Sedgwick's division of Gen. Edwin V. Sumner's corps advanced into the West Woods. There Confederate troops arriving from other parts of the field struck Sedgwick's flank, killing or wounding nearly half of his division--about 2,255 men--within a quarter hour of point-blank fire.

During the three hours of battle, the Confederates had stopped two Federal corps and a division from another, totaling about 20,000 men. Approximately 10,000 men from both sides lay dead or wounded.

MEANWHILE, Gen. William H. French's division of Sumner's Union corps moved up to support Sedgwick but veered south into the center of the Confederate line, under Gen. D. H. Hill. The Confederates were posted along a ridge in an old sunken road separating the Roulette and Piper farms. The 800-yard-long road had been worn down over the years by heavy wagons taking grain to the nearby mill, making an ideal defensive trench for the Rebels.

At dawn some five brigades of D. H. Hill's troops guarded this lane. Soon three brigades had been pulled out to support Jackson in the East Woods, but they were beaten back by Union Gen. George

Greene's attack on that position. By 9:30 a.m. the Confederates were stacking fence rails on the north side of the road to provide additional protection from the Union forces, advancing in parade like precision across the field

Firing from behind these improvised breastworks and sheltered in the Sunken Road, the Rebels seemed unassailable. They repelled four different Union charges against the position. "For three hours and thirty minutes," one Union officer wrote, "the battle raged incessantly, without either party giving way."

From 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., bitter fighting raged along this deeply cut lane (afterward known as Bloody Lane) as French, supported by Gen. Israel B. Richardson's division, also of Sumner's corps, sought to drive the Southerners back. By 1 p.m. about 5,600 killed and wounded troops from both sides lay along and in front of this 800-yard lane.

Finally, seeing a weak spot in the Confederate line, the 61st and 64th New York regiments penetrated the crest of the hill at the eastern end and began firing volley after volley full length down the sunken line. Then, misinterpreting an order, a Confederate officer pulled his regiment out of the road. The remaining defenders rapidly scrambled out of the lane, over the fence, and fled through the cornfields to the south, some not stopping until they had reached the outskirts of Sharpsburg itself. More than 300 Rebels threw down their arms and surrendered on the spot.

"Lee's army was ruined," one of Lee's officers wrote later. "And the end of the Confederacy was in sight." About 200 Rebel infantry attempted a weak counterattack, while Lee rushed 20 cannon to the Piper farm. An attack through this hole would have crushed the Confederate center, and the remaining divisions could be destroyed piecemeal. Fortunately for the South, however, McClellan decided against a counterattack with his fresh reserves. That fateful decision would allow the Confederacy to fight on for three more years.

SOUTHEAST of town, Union Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside's corps of 12,000 men had been trying to cross a 12-foot-wide bridge over Antietam Creek since 9:30 a.m. About 450 Georgian sharpshooters took up positions behind trees and boulders on a steep wooded bluff some 100 feet high and overlooking the Lower Bridge. Greatly outnumbered, the Confederates drove back several Union advances toward the bridge.

Finally, at 1 p.m. the Federals crossed the 125-foot-long bridge (now known as Burnside Bridge) and, after a 2-hour delay to rest and replenish ammunition, continued their advance toward Sharpsburg.

By late afternoon about 8,000 Union troops had driven the Confederates back almost to Sharpsburg, threatening to cut off the line of retreat for Lee's army. By 3:30 p.m. many Rebels jammed the streets of Sharpsburg in retreat. The battle seemed lost to the Southern army.

Then at 3:40 p.m. General A. P. Hill's division, left behind by Jackson at Harpers Ferry to salvage the captured Federal property, arrived on the field after a march of 17 miles in eight hours. Immediately Hill's 3,000 troops entered the fight, attacking the Federals' unprotected left flank. Burnside's troops were driven back to the heights near the bridge they had taken earlier. The attack across the Burnside Bridge and Hill's counterattack in the fields south of Antietam resulted in 3,470 casualties--with twice as many Union casualties (2,350) as Confederate (1,120).

Longstreet later wrote, "We were so badly crushed that at the close of the day ten thousand fresh troops could have come in and taken Lee's army and everything in it." But again McClellan held the 20,000 men of V Corps and VI Corps in reserve--and lost a second opportunity to defeat the entire Confederate army. By 5:30 p.m., the Battle of Antietam was over.

The next day Federal and Confederate leaders struck up an informal truce, so they could begin gathering up the wounded and dying. During the evening of the 18th Lee began withdrawing his army across the Potomac River.

Antietam on September 17, 1862, was the bloodiest one-day battle of the Civil War. Federal losses were 12,410, Confederate losses 10,700. One in four men engaged in battle that day had fallen. Some historians believe that Lee's failure to carry the war effectively into the North caused Great Britain to postpone recognition of the Confederate government. The battle also gave President Abraham Lincoln the opportunity to issue the Emancipation Proclamation which, on January 1, 1863, declared free all slaves in states still in rebellion against the United States. Now the war had a dual purpose: to preserve the Union and to end slavery.

Result(s): Inconclusive (Union strategic victory.)

Confederate Eyewitnesses: Bloody Lane

Colonel John B. Gordon, 6th Alabama Infantry:

"The day was clear and beautiful, with scarcely a cloud in the sky. The men in blue . . . formed in my front, an assaulting column four lines deep. The front line came to a 'charge bayonets,' the other lines to a 'right shoulder shift.' The brave Union commander, superbly mounted, placed himself in front, while his band in rear cheered them with martial music. It was a thrilling spectacle.

"The entire force, I concluded, was composed of fresh troops from Washington or some camp of instruction. So far as I could see, every soldier wore white gaiters around his ankles. The banners above them had apparently never been discolored by the smoke and dust of battle. Their gleaming

(Confederate.)

P | 6 | Ala.

James Price

, Co. D, 6 Reg't Alabama Infantry.

Appears on

Regimental Return

of the organization named above,

for the month of *Nov.*, 186*2*.

Commissioned officers present and absent:

Station

Remarks:

Alterations since last return among the enlisted men:

Date _____, 186 .

Place

Remarks:

Enlisted men on Extra or Daily Duty:

Absent enlisted men accounted for:

Wounded in battle

17 Sept. 1862, and fur-

loughed.

H. King Copyist.

(644)

bayonets flashed like burnished silver in the sunlight. With the precision of step and perfect alignment of a holiday parade, this magnificent array moved to the charge, every step keeping time to the tap of the deep-sounding drum. As we stood looking upon that brilliant pageant, I thought, if I did not say, 'What a pity to spoil with bullets such a scene of martial beauty!' But there was nothing else to do. . . .

"I [determined] to hold my fire until the advancing Federals were almost upon my lines, and then turn loose a sheet of flame and lead into their faces. I did not believe that any troops on earth, with empty guns in their hands, could withstand so sudden a shock and withering a fire. . . .

"The stillness was literally oppressive, as in close order, with the commander still riding in front, this column of Union infantry moved majestically in the charge. In a few minutes they were within easy range of our rifles, and some of my impatient men asked permission to fire. 'Not yet,' I replied. 'Wait for the order.' Soon they were so close that we might have seen the eagles on their buttons; but my brave and eager boys still waited for the order. Now the front rank was within a few rods of where I stood. It would not do to wait another second, and with all my lung power I shouted 'Fire!' "

Private John Dooley, 1st Virginia (about the flight from Bloody Lane):

"Oh how I ran! I was afraid of being struck in the back, so I frequently turned around in running, so as to avoid if possible so disgraceful a wound."

James H. Price - Medically Furloughed

From 26 September 1862, after the Army of Northern Virginia arrived back in Virginia until April of 1864, James H. Price was in the hospital and/or on furlough to allow his wounds to heal. He returned to duty in April of 1864, just in time for the start of the big fight between General Lee and General Grant.

Battle of Fredericksburg, VA

11 – 15 December, 1862

On November 14, Burnside, now in command of the Army of the Potomac, sent a corps to occupy the vicinity of Falmouth near Fredericksburg. The rest of the army soon followed. Lee reacted by entrenching his army on the heights behind the town. On December 11, Union engineers laid five pontoon bridges across the Rappahannock under fire. On the 12th, the Federal army crossed over, and on December 13, Burnside mounted a series of futile frontal assaults on Prospect Hill and Marye's Heights that resulted in staggering casualties. Meade's division, on the Union left flank, briefly penetrated Jackson's line but was driven back by a counterattack. Union generals C. Feger Jackson and George Bayard, and Confederate generals Thomas R.R. Cobb and Maxey Gregg were killed. On December 15, Burnside called off the offensive and re-crossed the river, ending the campaign. Burnside initiated a new offensive in January 1863, which quickly bogged down in the winter mud. The abortive "Mud March" and other failures led to Burnside's replacement by Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker in January 1863.

The 6th Alabama did not fight and was kept in reserve.

Battle of Chancellorsville

May 2-5, 1863

For the South in the Civil War, there were many astonishing victories, and heartbreaking defeats- from Thomas Jackson earning his nickname, "Stonewall," on the Henry House Hill at Bull Run, to the decimation of Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. However, one Southern victory may be hailed as the South's finest hour. This victory came at the Battle of Chancellorsville.

The spring of 1863 saw a small pinhole of light at the end of a dark tunnel for the Confederacy. Robert E. Lee had just given Ambrose Burnside and the Northern army a terrible lashing at Fredericksburg, saving Richmond from Union attack. Meanwhile, in the West, Ulysses Grant was bogged down trying to figure a plan of attack on the Mississippian stronghold of Vicksburg. Burnside's defeat the previous December at Fredericksburg and his even less impressive "Mud March" retreat promptly led to his removal from head of the Army of the Potomac.

In Burnside's position, Lincoln placed Joseph "Fightin' Joe" Hooker. Lincoln saw Hooker as popular with his troops and an aggressive general. Initially, Hooker did not disappoint Lincoln. He cleaned up the camps, drilled the men rigorously, upgraded the army's food, and boosted the troops' morale. Hooker was very confident of his abilities and this confidence sometimes worried Lincoln. Hooker told his Commander-In-Chief that it was not a matter of IF he could capture Richmond, but WHEN.

April of 1863 found Lee encamped at Fredericksburg and Hooker stationed just across the Rappahannock River. The Army of Northern Virginia under Lee totaled almost 60,000 men, while the Army of the Potomac enjoyed a population of 115,000 soldiers. Hooker's grand plan was to keep Lee's men at Fredericksburg entertained by leaving a portion of his army at Lee's front, while his main force-marched around behind Lee. They were to destroy the Rebel army from behind and then march on Richmond. "Fightin' Joe" Hooker began moving his troops toward Chancellorsville in Lee's rear on April 27th.

He sent a cavalry raid on Lee's communication and supply lines with Richmond to screen his movements and also sent 40,000 men to keep Lee's attention in his front. The ever-attentive Lee, however, was fully aware of what Hooker was doing. He had done it many times himself. Lee remained on the standby and waited for Hooker's plans to develop more fully. No sooner had Hooker's cavalry moved than its movements were reported to Lee by his own brilliant cavalry leader, J.E.B. Stuart. Lee then decided it was time to react. He had two choices. One, he could turn tail in retreat toward the safe havens of Richmond. His other choice was to face the threat to the rear from Chancellorsville which, in turn, would leave him open to attack from the Union troops Hooker had left at Fredericksburg. Here, Lee made one of the boldest, most brilliant moves of the war.

He went completely against conventional West Point wisdom and split his army in the face

of a larger numbered foe. This move left only 10,000 Confederates to defend against the 40,000 Union troops at Fredericksburg. Nevertheless, on April 30, the main body of Lee's forces marching toward Chancellorsville numbered only 50,000 troops against the Union's 70,000.

On May 1st, the Yankees were marching hard toward Fredericksburg, while the Rebels were marching hard toward Chancellorsville. In the middle of the dense, tangled growth of the Wilderness, the Battle of Chancellorsville gently began. Gently because right at the moment he met Confederate resistance, "Fightin' Joe" quickly withdrew his troops back to the trenches around Chancellorsville. This action gave Lee the initiative and he took advantage of it. During a council of war, the great minds of Generals Lee and Stonewall Jackson concluded that the right flank of the Union army was weakly protected and agreed on a plan of attack on that position for the next day, May 2.

Lee once again shot the then modern school of military thought all to pieces by splitting his army a second time. Lee gave Jackson 25,000 men to be at his disposal on May 2nd. At 4:30 in the morning, Jackson's troops began a very daring flanking march. Led on the backroads by a pastor from a local church, his troops remained undetected by the Union forces until early in the afternoon. When the rear of Jackson's troops was spotted, it was thought by the Yankees that Lee was retreating. Hooker sent a detachment of Daniel Sickles's Corps to find out just what was going on, but a small skirmish broke out and they returned to camp without the information they set out to retrieve. Jackson remained a secret.

The most unfortunate lot of men during the Battle of Chancellorsville was the XI Corps under the command of Union General Oliver O. Howard, which composed the Union right flank. This corps was made up primarily of German-Americans who were not particularly liked by the other Union troops. At about 5:30pm, while the XI Corps was cooking and eating supper, and playing cards, a few deer came running through the camp announcing the arrival of Jackson's troops. Jackson had completely caught the XI Corps off guard and totally demolished the Union right. Panic overcame the Union troops and they were easily pushed back two miles before the Confederate advance was halted by darkness and Union artillery. Jackson's march was a complete success. Wanting to continue with a night attack, Jackson and members of his staff ventured into the darkness to make a reconnaissance ride. Here, the South received its greatest loss of the war. A jumpy North Carolina regiment, thinking Jackson and his staff were Union cavalry, fired into the group, striking Jackson three times. Jackson was taken to the hospital, where his left arm was amputated. Lee, hearing of Jackson's accident and amputation said of Jackson, "He is lucky, for he has lost his left arm, but I have lost my right." Ten days later, General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson died of pneumonia. His presence was terribly missed through the rest of the war.

Even though he was badly whipped on May 2, Hooker still was not in a terribly bad position when fighting resumed on the third. He gained reinforcements over the night and his numerically greater army lay between the two parts of Lee's divided army. Yet, Hooker

could only think of defense and his troops were once again thrown into a pitched battle until Lee's artillery caught the union troops in a crossfire in Chancellorsville Clearing. By this time, Hooker had sent for reinforcements from Fredericksburg. While Hooker was falling back to his final position, the Fredericksburg troops overran the Rebel defenders and were on their way to help Hooker. Lee left a skeleton force to watch Hooker and turned the rest of his men to meet Sedgewick's troops at Salem Church and prevented them from coming to the aid of Hooker.

The two armies stayed still on the day of the fourth and on the fifth of May, "Fightin' Joe" Hooker withdrew back across the Rappahannock River.

Lee's boldness and audacity were exemplified in the Battle of Chancellorsville. He went against his and every general's training and split his army into three separate forces in the face of a superior numbered foe. Jackson then carried out an extremely successful 15 mile flanking movement and annihilated his opposition. The Army of Northern Virginia destroyed a very formidable army of twice its size, then defeated that army's reinforcements, giving the South its finest hour of the Civil War.

Battle of Gettysburg

1 – 3 July, 1863

It was during the fighting on the third day, on the left flank of the Confederate line, where the 2nd Corps was attacking Culp's Hill, that John E. Price fell in battle.

This most famous and most important Civil War Battle occurred over three hot summer days, July 1 to July 3, 1863, around the small market town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It began as a skirmish but by its end involved 160,000 Americans.

Before the battle, major cities in the North such as Philadelphia, Baltimore and even Washington were under threat of attack from General Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia which had crossed the Potomac River and marched into Pennsylvania.

The Union Army of the Potomac under its very new and untried commander, General George G. Meade, marched to intercept Lee.

On Tuesday morning, June 30, an infantry brigade of Confederate soldiers searching for shoes headed toward Gettysburg (population 2,400). The Confederate commander looked through his field glasses and spotted a long column of Federal cavalry heading toward the town. He withdrew his brigade and informed his superior, Gen. Henry Heth, who in turn told his superior, A.P. Hill, he would go back the following morning and "get those shoes."

Wednesday morning, July 1, two divisions of Confederates headed back to Gettysburg. They ran into Federal cavalry west of the town at Willoughby Run and the skirmish began. Events would quickly escalate. Lee rushed 25,000 men to the scene. The Union had less than

(CONFEDERATE.)

P 6 Ala

John E. Price
Co 6 Regt

Name appears on a
Register
of Claims of deceased Officers and Soldiers from
Alabama which were filed for settlement in the
Office of the Confederate States Auditor for the
War Department.

By whom presented *John E. Price, fa*

When filed *Oct 7*, 1863.

Where born _____

Where died _____

Comptroller:

When reported to _____, 186 .

When returned _____, 186 .

Number of settlements:

Certificates _____

Report _____

Amount found due _____

By whom paid _____

No. of Paymasters' Settlements _____

Abstract and No. of Voucher _____

Confed. Arch., Chap. 10, File No. 30, page *167*.

O. J. Taylor
(635) 3012 Copyist.

Illustration 4: Deceased Soldier Record - John E. Price

20,000.

After much fierce fighting and heavy casualties on both sides, the Federals were pushed back through the town of Gettysburg and regrouped south of the town along the high ground near the cemetery. Lee ordered Confederate General R.S. Ewell to seize the high ground from the battle weary Federals "if practicable." Gen. Ewell hesitated to attack thereby giving the Union troops a chance to dig in along Cemetery Ridge and bring in reinforcements with artillery. By the time Lee realized Ewell had not attacked, the opportunity had vanished.

Meade arrived at the scene and thought it was an ideal place to do battle with Lee's Army. Meade anticipated reinforcements totaling up to 100,000 men to arrive and strengthen his defensive position.

Confederate General James Longstreet saw the Union position as nearly impregnable and told Lee it should be left alone. He argued that Lee's Army should instead move east between the Union Army and Washington and build a defensive position thus forcing the Federals to attack them instead.

But Lee believed his own army was invincible and he was also without his much needed cavalry which served as his eyes and ears during troop movements. Cavalry leader Jeb Stuart had gone off with his troops to harass the Federals. Stuart's expedition would turn out to be for the most part a wild goose chase which left Lee at a disadvantage until he returned.

Lee decided to attack the Union Army's defensive position at the southern end of Cemetery Ridge which he thought was less well defended.

About 10 a.m. the next morning, Thursday, July 2, Gen. Longstreet was ordered by Lee to attack. But Longstreet was quite slow in getting his troops into position and didn't attack until 4 p.m. that afternoon thus giving the Union Army even more time to strengthen its position.

When Longstreet attacked, some of the most bitter fighting of the Civil War erupted at places now part of American military folklore such as Little Round Top, Devil's Den, the Wheat Field and the Peach Orchard. Longstreet took the Peach Orchard but was driven back at Little Round Top.

About 6:30 p.m. Gen. Ewell attacked the Union line from the north and east at Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill. The attack lasted into darkness but was finally unsuccessful at Cemetery Hill, although the Rebels seized some trenches on Culp's Hill.

By about 10:30 p.m., the day's fighting came to an end. The Federals had lost some ground during the

Rebel onslaught but still held the strong defensive position along Cemetery Ridge.

Both sides regrouped and counted their casualties while the moaning and sobbing of thousands of wounded men on the slopes and meadows south of Gettysburg could be heard throughout the night under the blue light of a full moon.

Generals from each side gathered in war councils to plan for the coming day. Union commander Meade decided his army would remain in place and wait for Lee to attack. On the Confederate side, Longstreet once again tried to talk Lee out of attacking such a strong position. But Lee thought the battered Union soldiers were nearly beaten and would collapse under one final push.

Lee decided to gamble to win the Battle of Gettysburg and in effect win the Civil War by attacking the next day at the center of the Union line along Cemetery Ridge where it would be least expected. To do this he would send in the fresh troops of Gen. George Pickett. Along with this, Gen. Ewell would renew the assault on Culp's hill.

But as dawn broke on Friday, July 3, about 4:30 a.m., Lee's timetable was undermined as Union cannons pounded the Rebels on Culp's Hill to drive them from the trenches. The Rebels did not withdraw, but instead attacked the Federals around 8 a.m. Thus began a vicious three hour struggle with the Rebels charging time after time up the hill only to be beaten back. The Federals finally counter attacked and drove the Rebels off the hill and east across Rock Creek. Around 11 a.m. the fighting on Culp's Hill stopped. An eerie quiet settled over the whole battlefield.

Once again Lee encountered opposition to his battle plan from Longstreet. Lee estimated about 15,000 men would participate in the Rebel charge on Cemetery Ridge. Longstreet responded, "It is my opinion that no 15,000 men ever arrayed for battle can take that position." But Lee was unmoved. The plan would go on as ordered.

Throughout the morning and into the afternoon amid 90° heat and stifling humidity the Rebels moved into position in the woods opposite Cemetery Ridge for the coming charge. Interestingly, some Union troops were moved away from Cemetery Ridge on Meade's orders because he thought Lee would attack again in the south. Several hours before, Meade had correctly predicted Lee would attack the center, but now thought otherwise. He left only 5,750 infantrymen stretched out along the half-mile front to initially face the 15,000 man Rebel charge.

Lee sent Jeb Stuart's recently returned cavalry to go behind the Union position in order to divert Federal forces from the main battle area. Around noon, Union and Confederate cavalry troops clashed three miles east of Gettysburg but Stuart was eventually repulsed by punishing cannon fire and the Union cavalry led in part by 23 year old Gen. George Custer. The diversion attempt failed.

Back at the main battle site, just after 1 p.m. about 170 Confederate cannons opened fire on the Union position on Cemetery Ridge to pave the way for the Rebel charge. This was the heaviest artillery barrage of the war but many of the Rebel shells missed their targets and flew harmlessly overhead.

The Federals returned heavy cannon fire and soon big clouds of blinding smoke and dust hung over the battlefield. Around 2:30 p.m. the Federals slowed their rate of fire, then ceased, to conserve ammunition and to fool the Rebels into thinking the cannons were knocked out - exactly what the Rebels did think.

Pickett went to see Longstreet and asked, "General, shall I advance?" Longstreet, now overwhelmed with emotion, did not respond, but simply bowed his head and raised his hand. Thus the order was given.

"Charge the enemy and remember old Virginia!" yelled Pickett as 12,000 Rebels formed an orderly line that stretched a mile from flank to flank. In deliberate silence and with military pageantry from days gone by, they slowly headed toward the Union Army a mile away on Cemetery Ridge as the Federals gazed in silent wonder at this spectacular sight.

But as the Rebels got within range, Federal cannons using grapeshot (a shell containing iron balls that flew apart when fired) and deadly accurate rifle volleys ripped into the Rebels killing many and tearing holes in the advancing line. What had been, just moments before, a majestic line of Rebel infantry, quickly became a horrible mess of dismembered bodies and dying wounded accompanied by a mournful roar. But the Rebels continued on.

As they got very close, the Rebels stopped and fired their rifles once at the Federals then lowered their bayonets and commenced a running charge while screaming the Rebel yell.

A fierce battle raged for an hour with much brutal hand to hand fighting, shooting at close range and stabbing with bayonets. For a brief moment, the Rebels nearly had their chosen objective, a small clump of oak trees atop Cemetery Ridge. But Union reinforcements and regrouped infantry units swarmed in and opened fire on the Rebel ranks. The battered, outnumbered Rebels finally began to give way and this great human wave that had been Pickett's Charge began to recede as the men drifted back down the slope. The supreme effort of Lee's army had been beaten back, leaving 7,500 of his men lying on the field of battle.

Lee rode out and met the survivors, telling them, "It is all my fault." And to Pickett he said, "Upon my shoulders rests the blame." Later when he got back to headquarters Lee exclaimed, "Too bad. Too bad!"

Oh, too bad!" The gamble had failed. The tide of the war was now permanently turned against the South.

Confederate casualties in dead, wounded and missing were 28,000 out of 75,000. Union casualties were 23,000 out of 88,000.

That night and into the next day, Saturday, July 4, Confederate wounded were loaded aboard wagons that began the journey back toward the South. Lee was forced to abandon his dead and begin a long slow withdrawal of his army back to Virginia. Union commander Meade, out of fatigue and caution, did not immediately pursue Lee, infuriating President Lincoln who wrote a bitter letter to Meade (never delivered) saying he missed a "golden opportunity" to end the war right there.

On November 19, President Lincoln went to the battlefield to dedicate it as a military cemetery. The main orator, Edward Everett of Massachusetts, delivered a two hour formal address. The president then had his turn. He spoke in his high, penetrating voice and in a little over two minutes delivered the Gettysburg Address, surprising many in the audience by its shortness and leaving others quite unimpressed.

Over time, however, the speech and its words - government of the People, by the People, for the People - have come to symbolize the definition of democracy itself.



Illustration 5: Culp's Hill

Return to Duty – James H. Price

In April of 1864, James H. Price returned to duty with the 6th Alabama Infantry, assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia. The following few months would see the bloodiest and most ferocious battles of the Civil War and in even in the Western Hemisphere, before or afterwards. The Union military under the supreme command of Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant began a series of coordinated actions on all fronts, geared towards depriving the Confederate Army from reinforcing theaters, depriving them of logistics and destroying the Rebel military forces in the field.

General Grant kept his headquarters with the Army of the Potomac, which was under the command of Major General George Gordon Meade. Beginning in the spring of 1864, while General Sherman was marching through Georgia, the Army of the Potomac once again crossed into Virginia in force and began a campaign to pin down and destroy the Army of Northern Virginia. This campaign ended on year later in April of 1865, when Lt. General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse.

Confederate:		
P	B	Ala.
James H. Price		
Co. (New) Co. 6 Reg't Alabama Infantry		
Appears on		
Company Muster Roll		
of the organization named above,		
for July 1 to June 30, 1864.		
Enlisted:		
When	Aug 1	1864
Where	Manassas Va.	
By whom	W. L. Gordon	
Period	2 yrs	
Last paid:		
By whom	H. A. Howard	
To what time	July 1, 1864	
Present or absent	Absent	
Remarks:	Missing since May 18, 1864	
Book mark:		
R. E. Lee		
(64)		District

Illustration 6: James H. Price - Return to Duty

Battle of the Wilderness

May 5 – 7, 1864

The opening battle of Grant's sustained offensive against the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, known as the Overland Campaign, was fought at the Wilderness, May 5-7. On the morning of May 5, 1864, the Union V Corps attacked Ewell's Corps on the Orange Turnpike, while A. P. Hill's corps during the afternoon encountered Getty's Division (VI Corps) and Hancock's II Corps on the Plank Road. Fighting was fierce but inconclusive as both sides attempted to maneuver in the dense woods. Darkness halted the fighting, and both sides rushed forward reinforcements. At dawn on May 6, Hancock attacked along the Plank Road, driving Hill's Corps back in confusion. Longstreet's Corps arrived in time to prevent the collapse of the Confederate right flank. At noon, a devastating Confederate flank attack in Hamilton's Thicket sputtered out when Lt. Gen. James Longstreet was wounded by his own men. The IX Corps (Burnside) moved against the Confederate center, but was repulsed. Union generals James S. Wadsworth and Alexander Hays were killed. Confederate generals John M. Jones, Micah Jenkins, and Leroy A. Stafford were killed. The battle was a tactical draw. Grant, however, did not retreat as had the other Union generals before him. On May 7, the Federals advanced by the left flank toward the crossroads of Spotsylvania Courthouse.

Result(s): Inconclusive (Grant continued his offensive.)

Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse

May 8 – 21, 1864

James H. Price was slightly wounded and captured by Union forces during this battle. He was first sent to the Confederate prisoner holding camp at Belle Plain, Virginia. Belle Plain was a major supply base, dock area, railroad head and temporary holding site for Confederate POW's.

After the Wilderness, Grant's and Meade's advance on Richmond by the left flank was stalled at Spotsylvania Court House on May 8. This two-week battle was a series of combats along the Spotsylvania front. The Union attack against the Bloody Angle at dawn, May 12-13, captured nearly a division of Lee's army and came near to cutting the



Illustration 7: Belle Plain - POW's

Confederate army in half. Confederate counterattacks plugged the gap, and fighting continued unabated for nearly 20 hours in what may well have been the most ferociously sustained combat of the Civil War. On May 19, a Confederate attempt to turn the Union right flank at Harris Farm was beaten back with severe casualties. Union generals Sedgwick (VI Corps commander) and Rice were killed. Confederate generals Johnson and Stuart were captured, Daniel and Perrin mortally wounded. On May 21, Grant disengaged and continued his advance on Richmond. **Result(s):** Inconclusive (Grant continued his offensive.)

Elmira, New York – Federal POW Camp

6 July 1864

On 6 July 1864, Private James H. Price was transported from Belle Plain, Virginia to Elmira POW Camp, at Elmira, New York. This was one of the worst Federal POW camps, with the proportion of deaths only exceeded by the Confederate Camp at Andersonville, Georgia.

Elmira POW camp a deadly place

Author Michael Horigan enlightens readers by describing the Union prisoner-of-war camp at Elmira, N.Y., where one-fourth of the 12,122 prisoners died. By Dane Hartgrove. Originally published in the Free Lance Star, on 15 January 2005.

WE TEND to think of the Civil War as the last conflict in which participants behaved chivalrously toward their opponents. But the gallant cavalry charges and the courteous dealings between opposing generals cannot hide the suffering experienced by so many who lived through those four years of internecine strife. And behind that suffering lay unnecessary cruelty, often inflicted upon those in no position to oppose it.

The Confederacy, never possessed of the means to fully equip and supply its armies in the field, was early accused of according poor treatment to Union soldiers who became prisoners of war. Unaware that Confederate authorities lacked the means to provide better treatment for these prisoners, Northern newspapers printed scathing accounts of conditions in Richmond's Libby and Belle Isle prisons. During the last year of the war, the horrors associated with Camp Sumter at Andersonville, Ga., fueled demands for retaliation against Confederate soldiers in Union hands.

Early in the war, the state of New York designated the town of Elmira as one of three recruiting depots at which its soldiers would receive basic training before joining the U.S. Army for deployment in the fighting forces. Just north of the Pennsylvania border in the western part of the state, Elmira was a rail junction with both manufacturing and agricultural assets. Later in the war, the town was made one of New York's three draft rendezvous, in part because it had ample barracks to house the draftees.

In April 1863, the U.S. government ended the cartel under which it had exchanged prisoners of war with the Confederacy, allegedly because the enemy had violated the terms of the agreement. By the following year, U.S. prison camps were approaching their capacity. Because it had available barracks adaptable for the purpose, Elmira was chosen as the site for a new prison camp for Confederate enlisted men and noncommissioned officers. The first prisoners reached Elmira in early July 1864.

The officers who examined the Elmira facilities recommended that it house no more than 5,000 men. However, Col. William Hoffman, the Army's commissary general of prisoners, ignored this recommendation, instead setting the camp's capacity at 10,000 men, double the recommended number. This decision naturally resulted in overcrowding, with the unexpected complication that waste matter from the prisoners' latrines fouled the camp's wells and an adjacent pond, thus becoming a source of disease. The camp administration did clean up the pond, but the men's water remained foul.

Furthermore, barracks that were adequate for 5,000 men could not be made to hold twice that number. Although lumber was available to construct more barracks for the additional men, they were instead housed in tents within the prison stockade until well after the start of cold weather.

The camp's first commandant resigned due to illness in September 1864. It can be argued that his preoccupation with health problems may have prevented him from correcting the inadequacies of the camp's facilities. But the camp's second commandant, Col. Benjamin Franklin Tracy, had no such excuse. Tracy was a New York political figure recommended for the Elmira post by key Republican Party leaders; he would later serve as secretary of the Navy under President Benjamin Harrison.

Shortly after his arrival, Tracy began to reject sizable portions of the meat delivered for the prisoners' consumption, declaring it unfit to eat. Although precise information is lacking, there also appears to have been an effort to decrease the amounts of vegetables, fruits and other provender fed to the prisoners. Significantly, the meat Tracy rejected was later sold in the local markets, with the funds thus obtained set aside in a special prison fund, none of which was ever expended in behalf of the prisoners.

It also should be noted that the camp functioned without a medical staff during the months of July and August 1864, and that its chief surgeon would later write to a colleague, referring to the prisoners, "I think I have done my duty having relieved 386 of them of all earthly sorrow in one month." With men weakened by scurvy, subject to chronic diarrhea and living in conditions that could aggravate minor complaints into major health problems, it is not surprising that 2,950 of the 12,122 prisoners assigned to the Elmira camp found their last resting place in the local cemetery. The inmates' name for the camp was "Helmira."

According to Horigan, the policies pursued at Elmira were not the spontaneous results of retaliatory action by a small number of field-grade army officers. They received their impetus from Secretary of War Edwin McMasters Stanton, who on May 5, 1864, wrote to the president complaining of the conditions to which Union prisoners of war were subjected by the Confederates. Stanton then suggested that "precisely the same rations and treatment be from henceforth practiced to the whole number of rebel officers remaining in our hands that are practiced against either soldiers or officers in our service held by the rebels."

The author continues, "there is no documented objection to this idea from President Abraham Lincoln. Therefore, in the matter of retaliation, the virtually unbridled use of power on the part of the secretary of war would have no trouble quashing any opposition" to his pursuit of a policy of retaliation. The mistreatment of Confederate prisoners at Elmira was in effect the official policy of the U.S. government. Although President Lincoln did not specifically order the retaliatory measures taken against Confederate prisoners, neither did he overrule Stanton and put a stop to what was clearly inhumane treatment. Lincoln was the nation's chief executive. As a later president would famously observe, "The buck stops here."

Michael Horigan has performed a valuable service in making the facts relating to the Union prisoner-

of-war camp at Elmira, N.Y., more broadly available to the public. His book should be read and understood by all who desire a thorough knowledge of our nation's most lamentable conflict.



POW's in the Civil War

While no such thing as a death or extermination camp existed on either side during the Civil War, two camps had appalling levels of maltreatment and death from such things as exposure, lack of food and medicine and contamination from polluted water. These two prisons were Andersonville in the South and Elmira in the north. At the beginning of the war, both sides believed the war would be relatively short, which was not the case. In the first two years of the war, both sides operated a system for exchange and parole of soldiers. Captured soldiers would be swapped with the opposing side, based upon a set of policies and rules. Thus, early in the war all POW camps were temporary in nature, as the captured soldiers were paroled and exchanged.

Especially after Grant took command of all federal forces, the exchange and parole program broke down. This happened for a few reasons, namely being that Grant caught several paroled and exchanged Confederate prisoners were actually going back into the line of battle, before being released from their parole. The second issue was that the Union had many, many more soldiers than did the Confederacy and thus could afford to not exchange prisoners, which resulted in a huge loss of manpower for the Confederates. Thirdly, the Confederates treated black Union prisoners differently, up to and including enslaving them or outright killing them.

When the exchange and parole system stopped, it resulted in both sides being overwhelmed with the amount of prisoners in their custody, to a point that their supply and logistical could not maintain the numbers of prisoners in anything close to a humane manner.

(Confederate.)

P | 6 Inf. Ala

James H. Price
Priv. Co. D. 6 Regt. Ala Inf.

Appears on a
Roll of Prisoners of War
at Elmira, N. Y., desirous to take the Oath of
allegiance to the United States.
Roll dated Headquarters Prison Camp, Elmira,
N. Y., March 15, 1865.

Joined station July 6, 1864.

Where captured Spottsylvania C.H.
May 20th

When captured May 19, 1864

Remarks: Volunteered May 1861
for 12 mos. was conscripted
at expiration of enlistment
desires to go to his home
at Nashville, Tenn where
his parents reside

So on roll

Number of roll:
100
J. N. Tanner

(639b) Copyist.

Confederate.

P | 6 Inf. Ala

J. H. Price
Priv. Co. D. 6 Regt. Ala

Appears on a roll of
Prisoners of War
received at Elmira, N. Y., July 6, 1864, from
Point Lookout, Md.

Where captured Spottsylvania C.H.

When captured May 20, 1864.

Remarks, charges, &c.:
Released May 29, 65.

Elmira, N. Y., Register No. 1; page 8

(639) O. J. Taylor Copyist.