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Visions of War

Four Visions about the Civil War

- 1) January 12, 1861 at Parkville , Michigan
 - “terrible war”
- 2) August 3, 1861 at Roosevelt, New York
- 3) January 4, 1862 at Battle Creek Michigan
- She published these three visions in “Testimony for the Church, No. 7” February 1862 (1T253-268).
- 4) November 5, 1862 at Battle Creek Michigan: The Rebellion
 - 1T 355-368

The North and South developed along different lines

| NORTH | SOUTH |
|--|--|
| Diverse economy based on industry and agriculture | Economy based on agriculture |
| Large cities undergoing rapid urbanization | Mainly rural with a few cities |
| Massive immigration strengthened the economy | Few immigrants |
| Favored federal spending on internal improvements and wanted high tariffs | Opposed federal spending on internal improvements and wanted no tariffs |
| The Northeast was economically linked with the Midwest | Sought to expand by creating more slave states |
| Economy based on free labor | Economy based on slave labor |

Historical Context – 40 years



Parkville Michigan Vision January 12, 1861



Parkville Michigan Vision

January 12, 1861

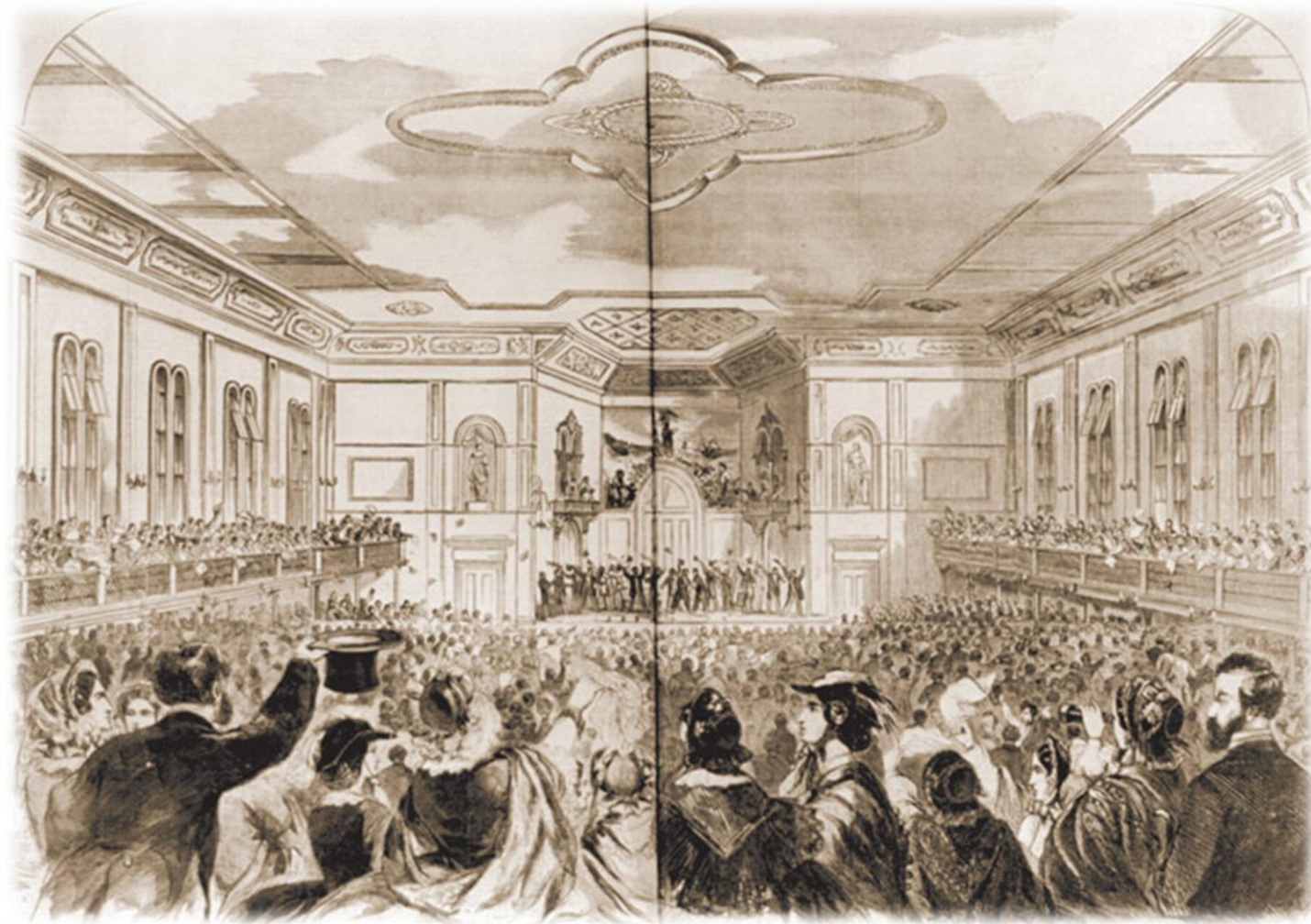
- “There is not a person in this house who has even dreamed of the trouble that is coming upon this land. People are making sport of the secession ordinance of South Carolina, but I have just been shown that a large number of States are going to join that State, and there will be a most terrible war. In this vision I have seen large armies of both sides gathered on the field of battle. I heard the booming of the cannon, and saw the dead and dying on every hand.”

Parkville Michigan Vision

January 12, 1861

- “Then I saw them rushing up engaged in hand-to-hand fighting [bayoneting one another]. Then I saw the field after battle, all covered with the dead and dying. Then I was carried to prisons, and saw the sufferings of those in want, who were wasting away. Then I was taken to the homes of those who had lost husbands, sons, or brothers in the war. I saw their distress and anguish. Then looking slowly around the house she said, “There are those in this house who will loose sons in that war.”

South Carolina Secedes December 20, 1860



Other States Follow South Carolina

- Within weeks of Carolina's secession, six other Lower South states left the Union.
 - Mississippi, January 9
 - Florida, January 10
 - Alabama, January 11



Large Number of Other States to Follow

- After the Vision on January 12:
- Georgia, January 19
- Louisiana, January 26
- Texas, February 1

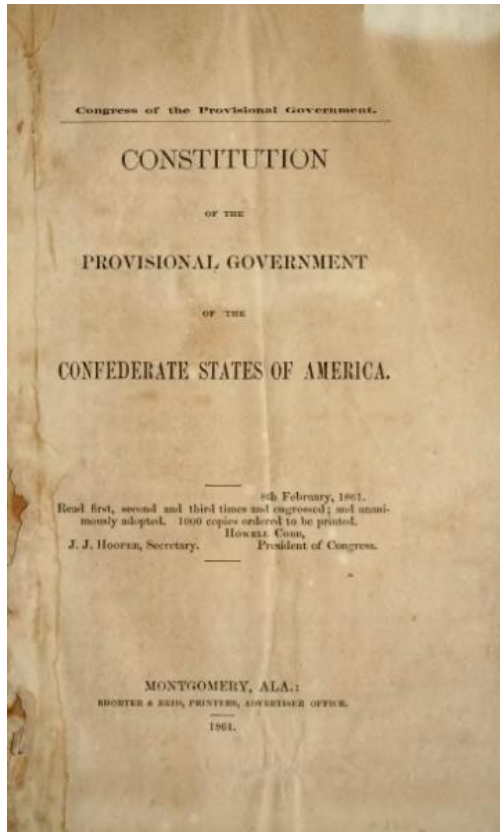
Twelve Weeks Following the January 12 Vision

- Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln – March 4



Twelve Weeks Following the January 12 Vision

- Feb. 4-March 11: Confederate Constitution



Twelve Weeks Following the January 12 Vision

- April 12-13: Shelling of Fort Sumter



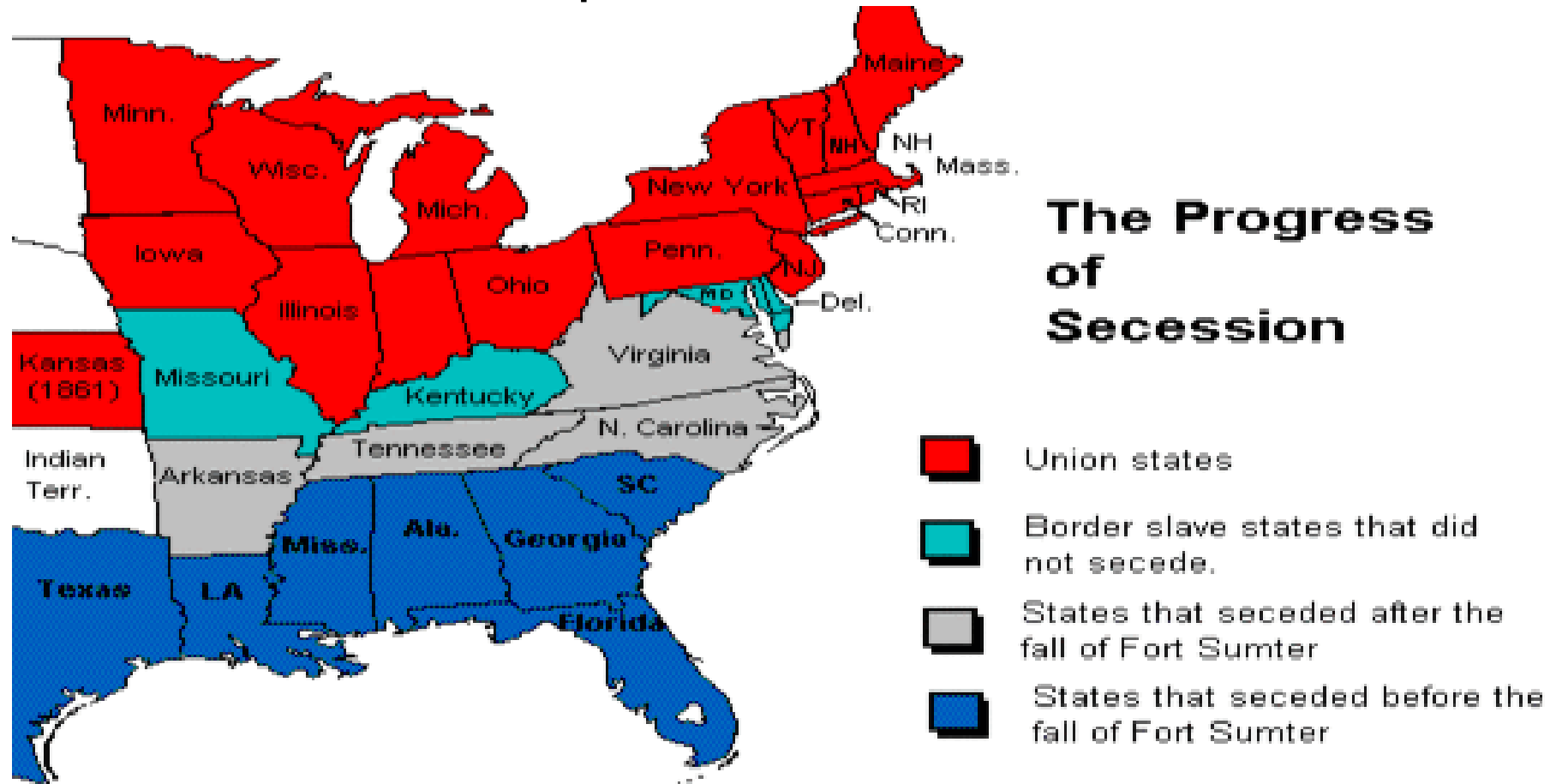
Twelve Weeks Following the January 12 Vision

- April 15: Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers.



Twelve Weeks Following the January 12 Vision

- Upper states secede: April-June



North Expected a Short War

- The *New York Times* had already dogmatized after Lincoln's call for 75,000 troops:
 - "Whatever war there is, may easily be made a war at sea,--a war of blockades,--a war having for its sole object the protection of American property and preservation of American commerce."
- On May 4 *Harper's Weekly* editorially concluded that "if Abraham Lincoln is equal to the position he fills, this war will be over by January, 1862."

Battle of First Bull Run (July 1861)



The Vision

- Two days after the battle of Bull Run or Manassas, James and Ellen White left Michigan on a tour and reached Roosevelt, New York, where on August 3 she experienced a “vision.”
- Her insights gave courage to these church members about the stability of the Union and its armies.
- This vision was timely because the Adventists shared quite fully in the common despair of the North.
- First printed in the *Review*, August 27, 1861, and later published in *Testimonies*, vol. 1.

The Vision

- **“I had a view of the late disastrous battle at Manassas, Va. It was a most exciting, thrilling, distressing scene. The Southern army had everything in their favor, and were prepared for a dreadful contest. The Northern army was moving on with triumph, not doubting but that they would be victorious. Many were reckless, and marched forward boastingly as though victory were already theirs. As they neared the battle-field, many were almost fainting through weariness and want of refreshment. They did not expect so fierce an encounter. They rushed into battle and fought bravely, desperately.”**

The Vision

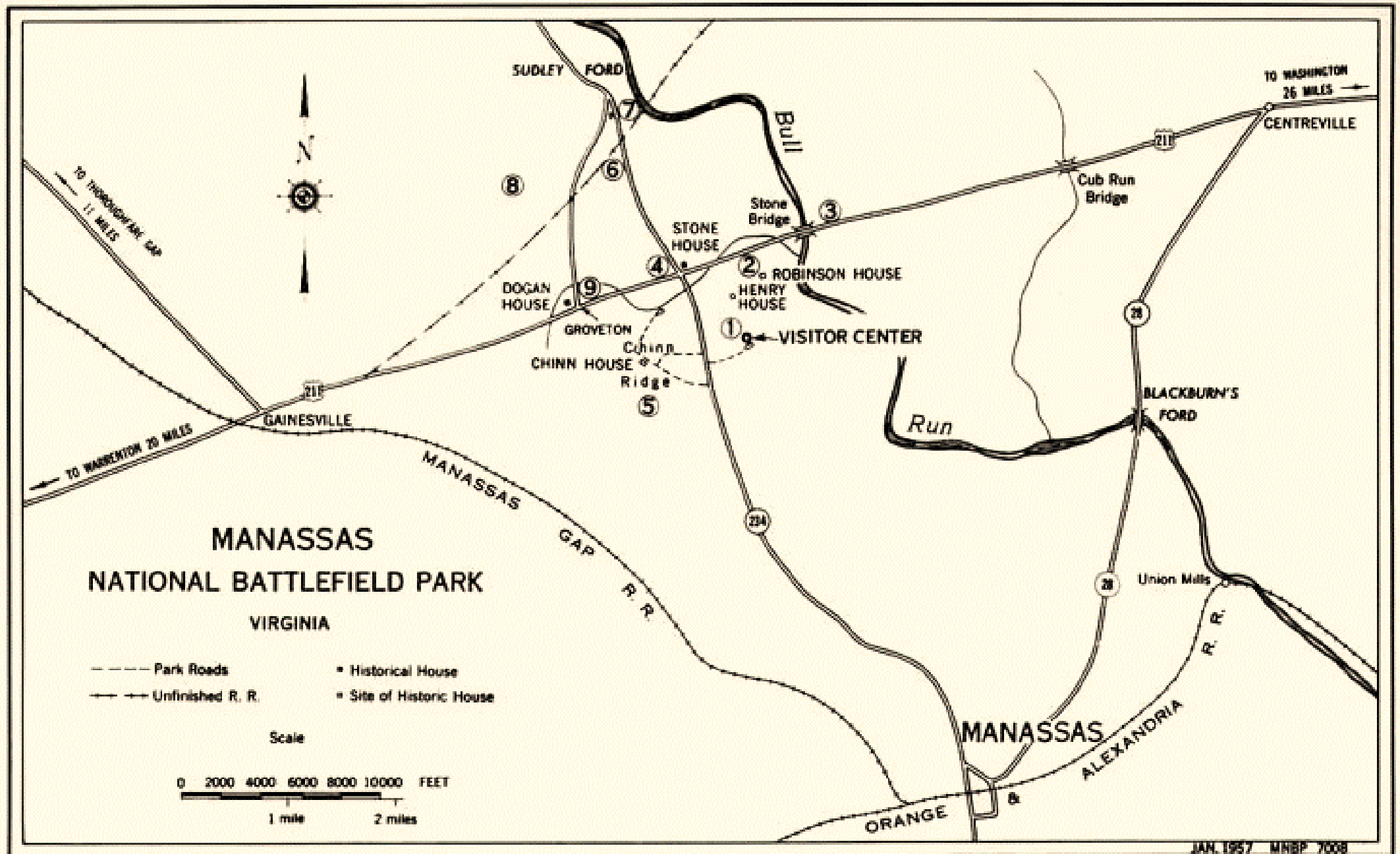
- **“The dead and dying were on every side. Both the North and the South suffered severely. The Southern men felt the battle, and in a little would have been driven back still further. Northern men were rushing on, although their destruction was very great. Just then an angel descended and waved his hand backward. Instantly there was confusion in their ranks. It appeared to the Northern men that their armies were retreating, when it was not in reality so; and a precipitate retreat commenced. It seemed wonderful to me.”**

The Battle: Background

- The Confederacy had transferred its seat of government from Montgomery, Alabama to Richmond, Virginia.
- Washington vs. Richmond
- Both sides sought to mobilize men and resources and plot military strategies.
- The North had to mount an active campaign to force the Confederate states back into the Union.
- The Confederacy had the easier task of countering the North's moves.

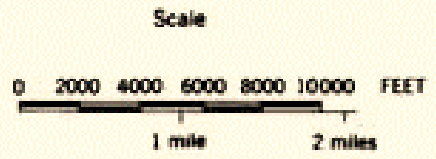
The Battle

- Winfield Scott advised a carefully executed strategy that would take several years invading the South.
- Lincoln was under pressure to make it a quick and decisive blow to end the war.
- Manassas Junction had attracted the attention of military strategists in both the North and South.
- Lincoln, thus sent his forces under the leadership of General Irvin McDowell (35,000 men) to Manassas backed up with Robert Patterson's 18,000 men.
- The Confederates had Gustave T. Beauregard and Joseph E. Johnston heading their forces.

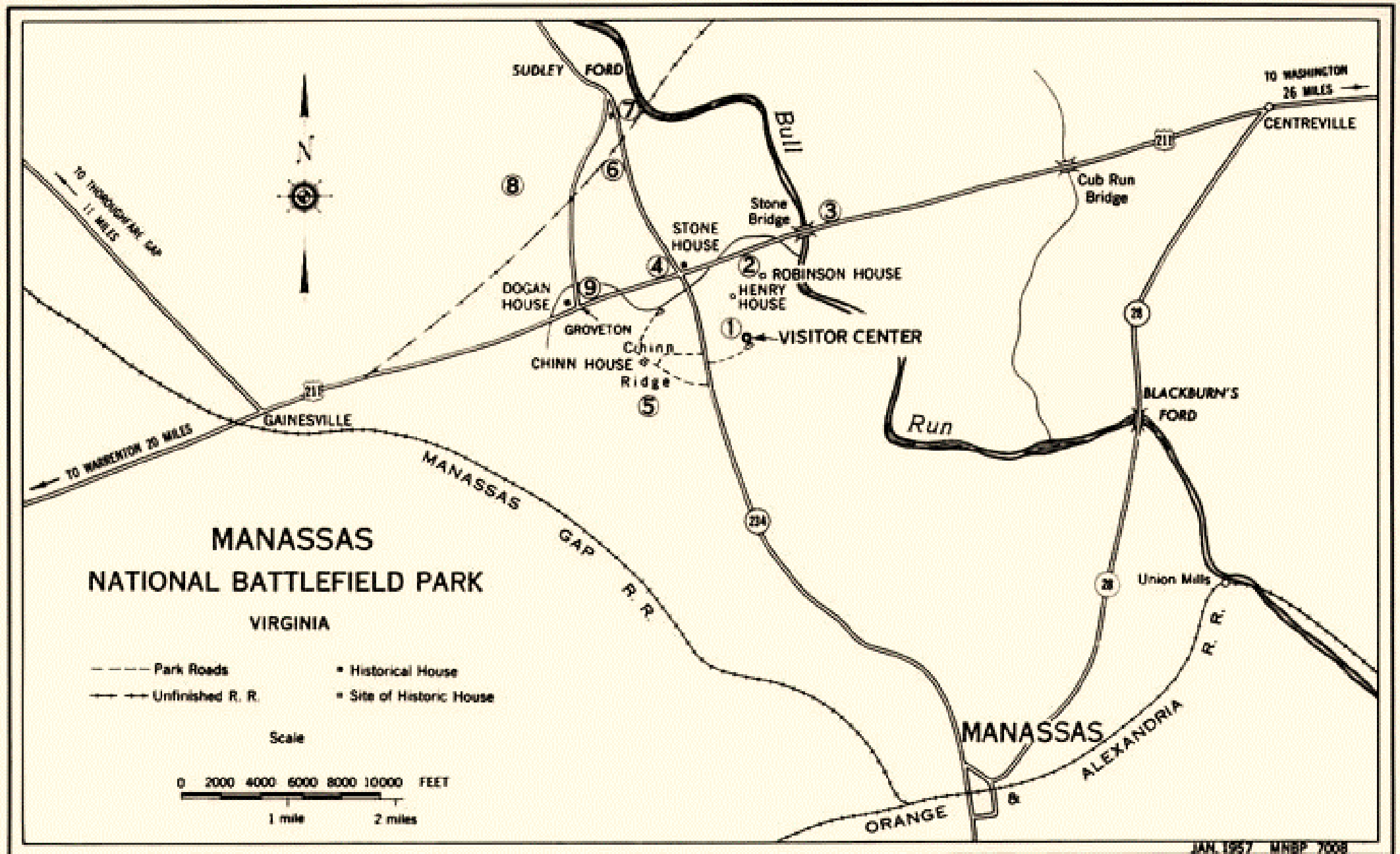


**MANASSAS
NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK
VIRGINIA**

- Park Roads
- Unfinished R. R.
- Historical House
- ◆ Site of Historic House

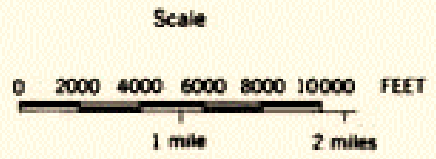






**MANASSAS
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Henry House

Judith Carter Henry





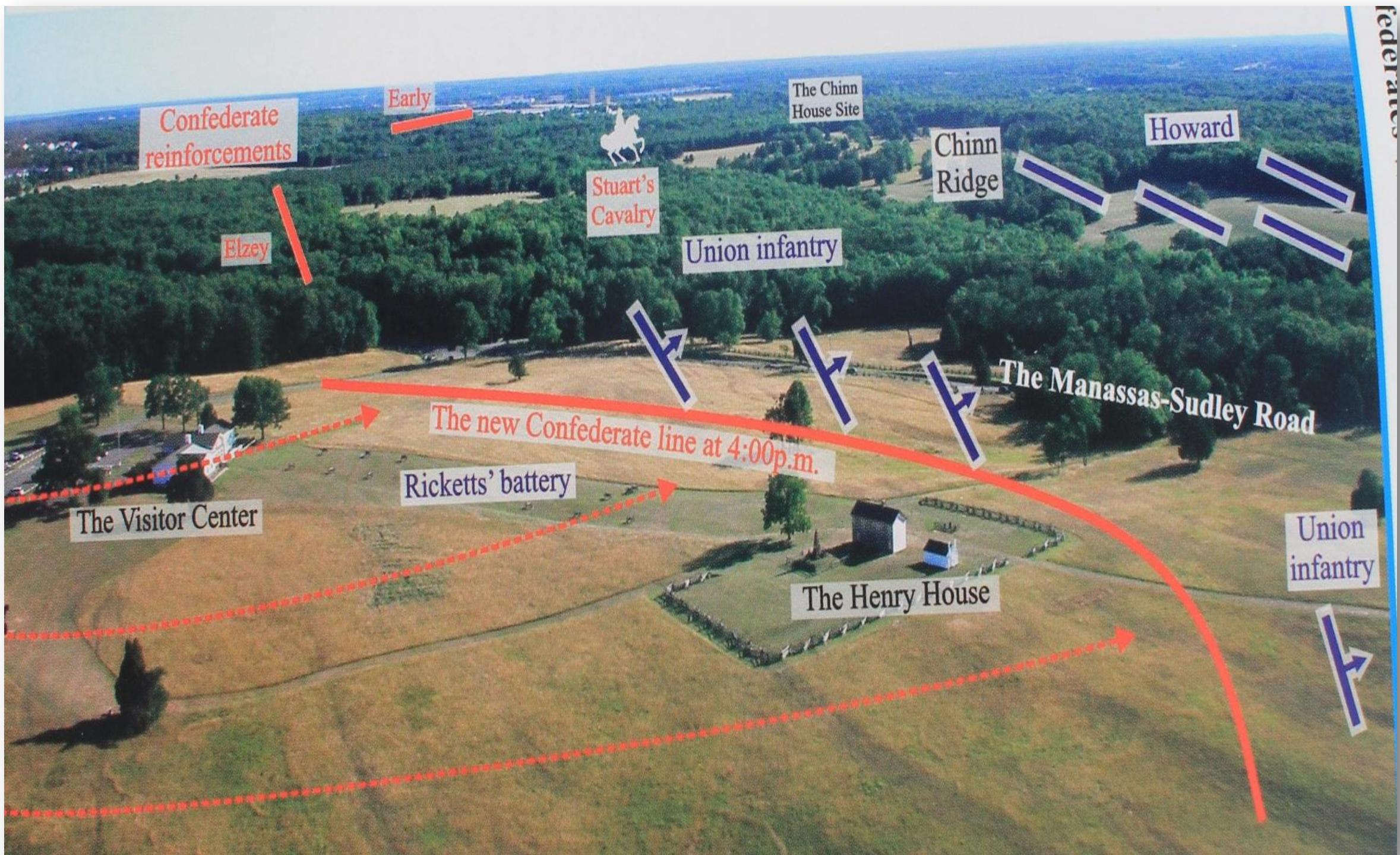
Standing like a Stonewall

- South Carolina officer Barnard Bee at one point pointed to the Virginians and yelled to his men, “There stands Jackson like a stone wall. Rally on the Virginians.”





THERE STANDS JACKSON LIKE A STONE WALL



Confederate reinforcements

Early

The Chinn House Site

Stuart's Cavalry

Chinn Ridge

Howard

Elzey

Union infantry

The Manassas-Sudley Road

The new Confederate line at 4:00p.m.

Ricketts' battery

The Visitor Center

The Henry House

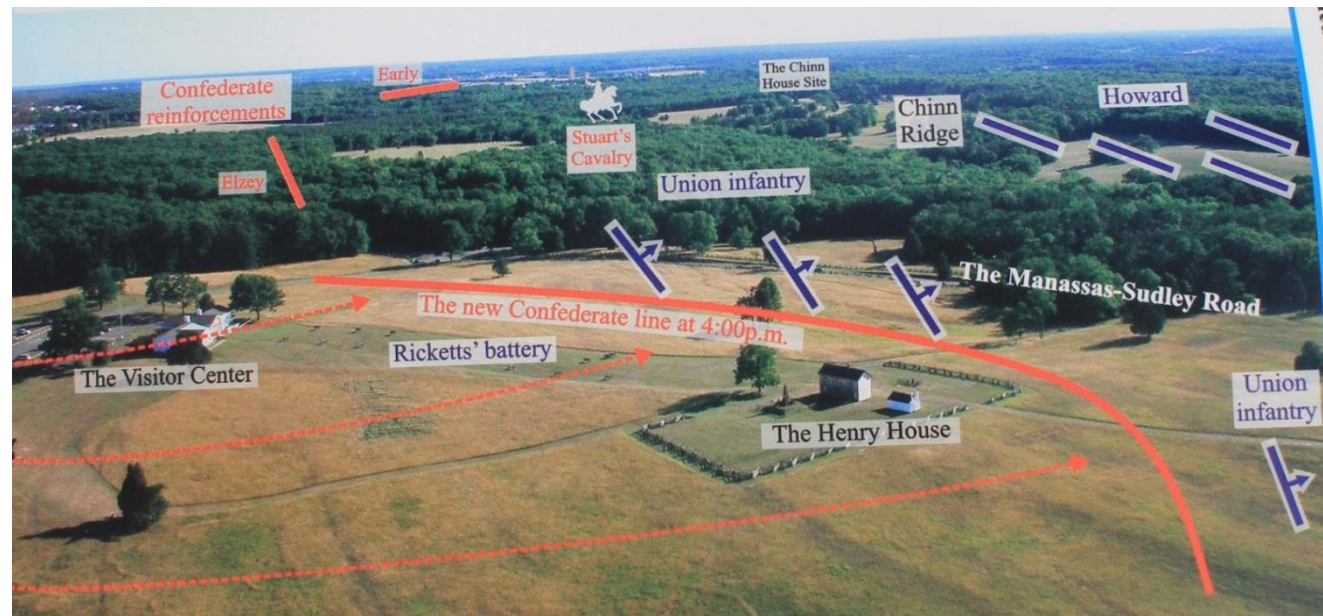
Union infantry

Federates



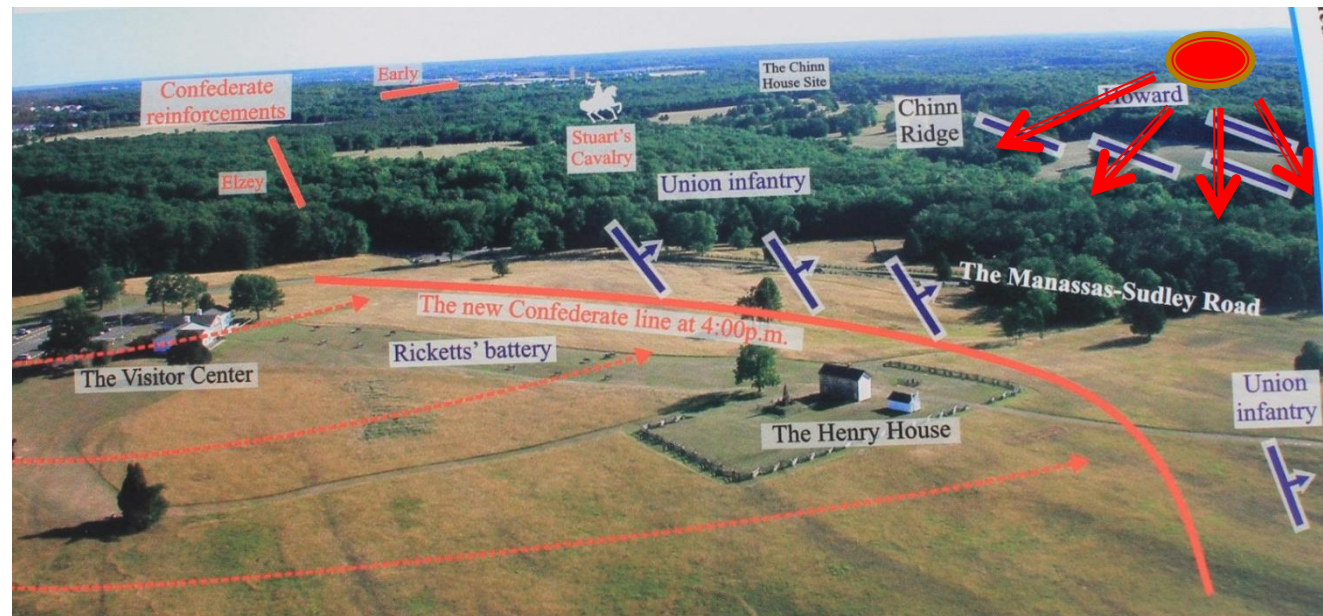
W. W. Blackford

- “It was now about four o’clock and the battle raged with unabated fury. The lines of blue were unbroken and their fire as vigorous as ever while they surged against the solid walls of gray, standing immovable in their front.”



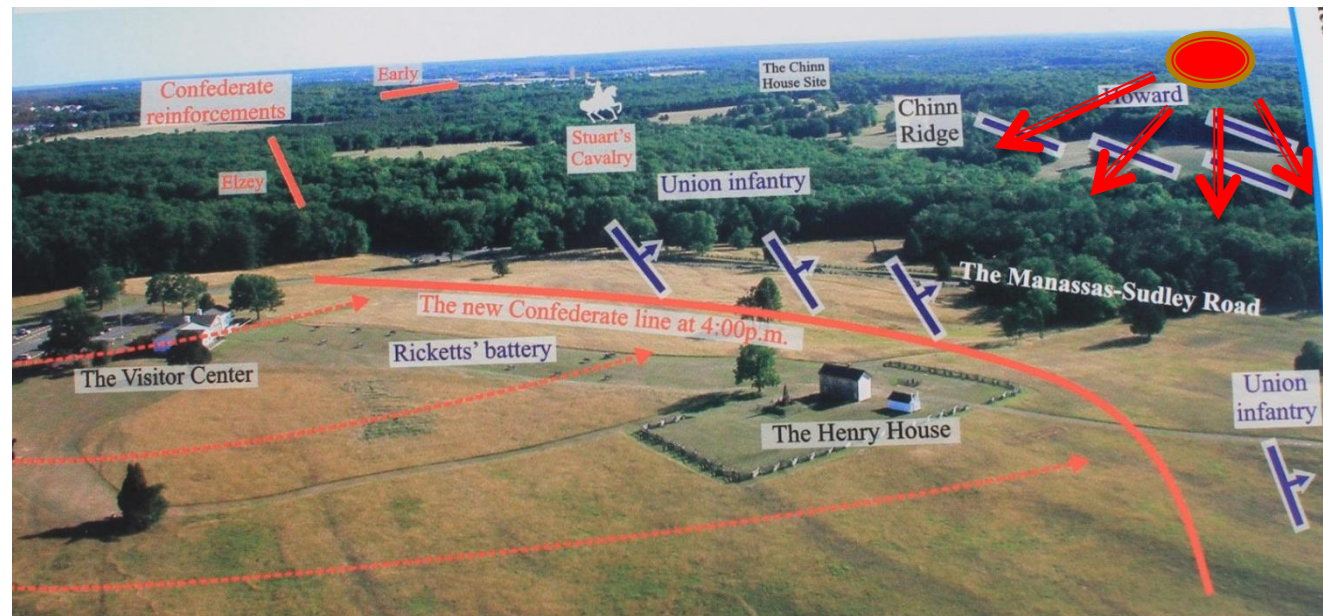
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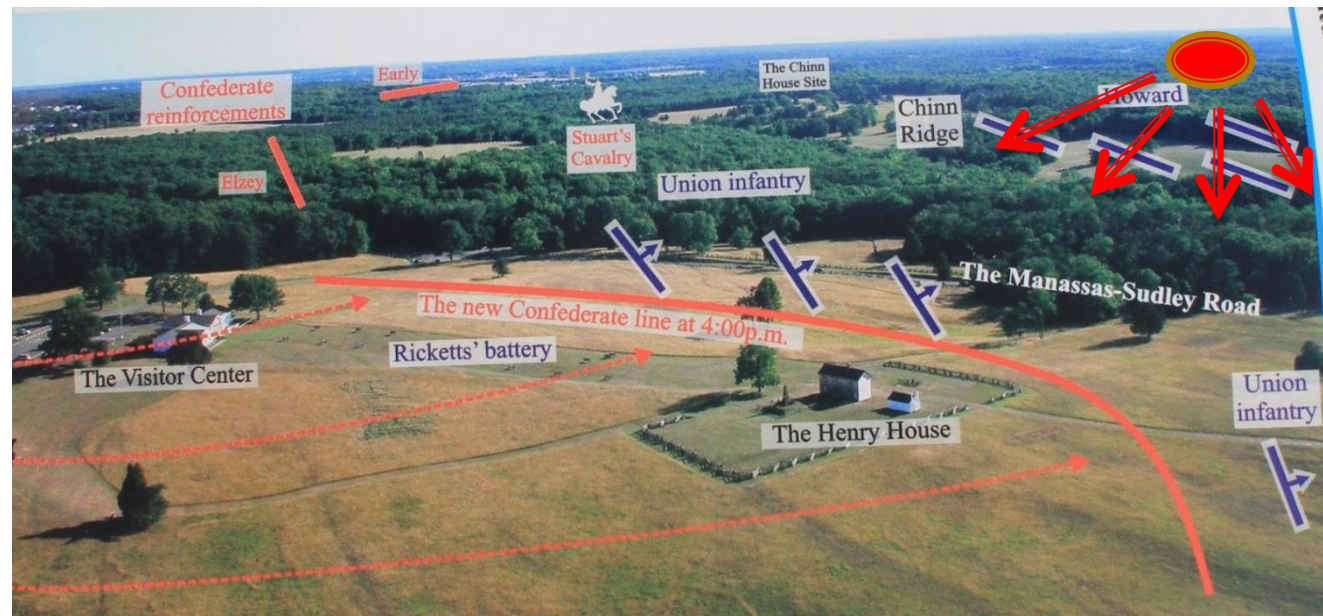
W. W. Blackford

- “But now the most extraordinary spectacle I have ever witnessed took place. I had been gazing at the numerous well-formed lines as they moved forward to the attack, some fifteen or twenty thousand strong in view,



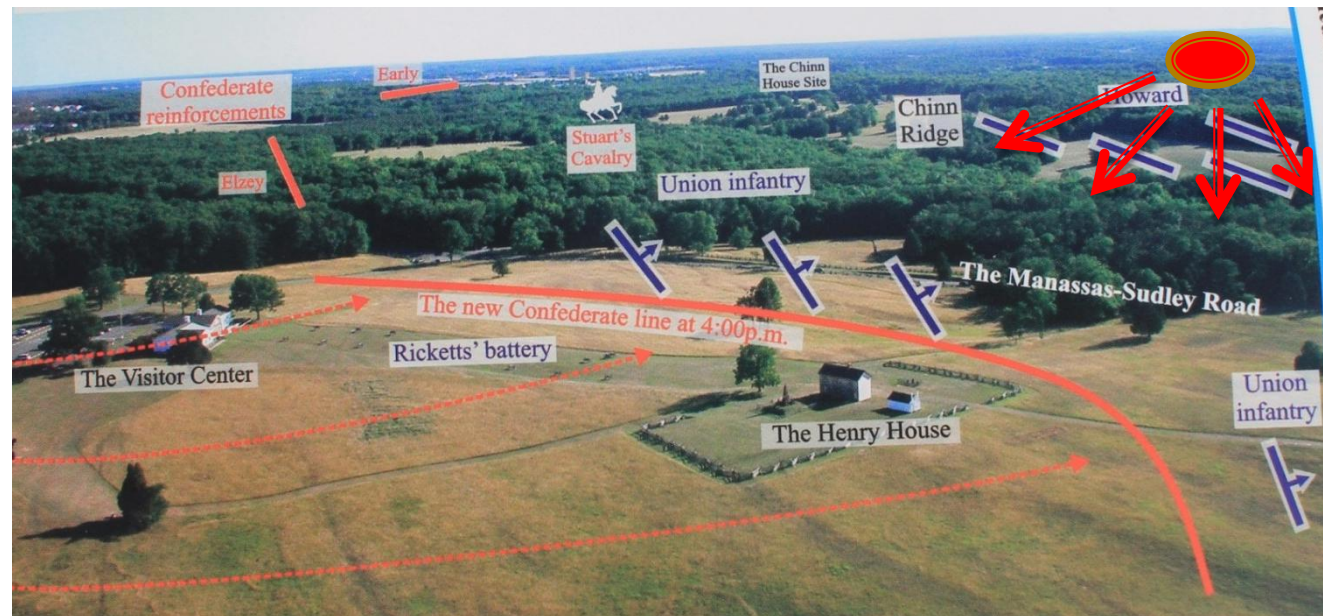
W. W. Blackford

- and for some reason had turned my head in another direction for a moment, when someone exclaimed, pointing to the battle field, 'Look,! Look!'"



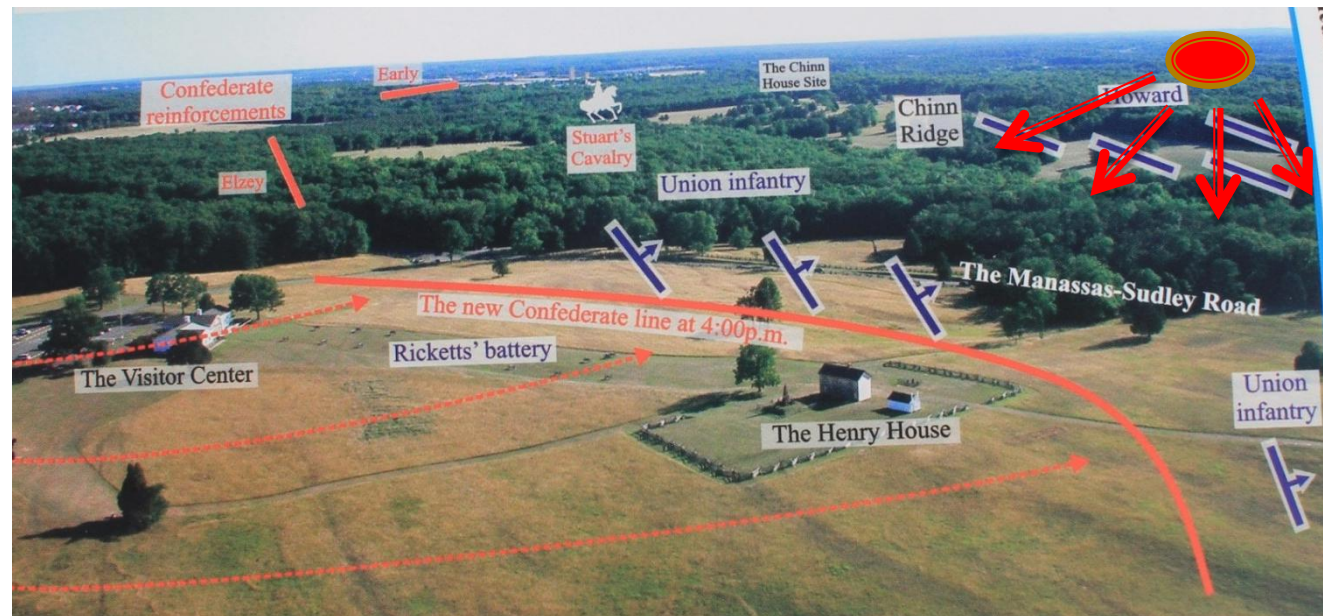
W. W. Blackford

- “I looked, and what a change had taken place in an instant. Where those well-dressed, well-defined lines, with clear spaces between, had been steadily pressing forward, the whole field was a confused swarm of men, like bees,



W. W. Blackford

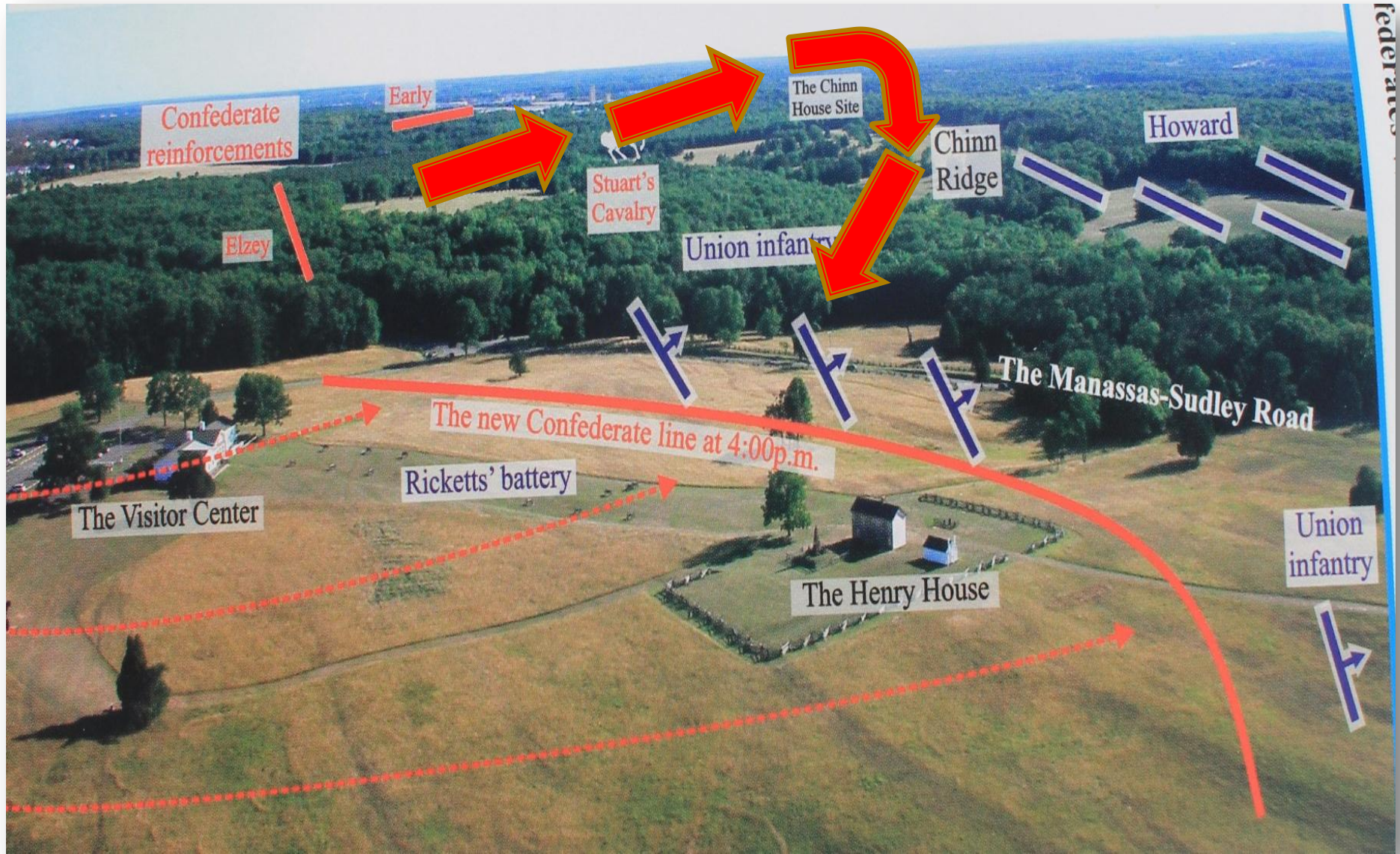
- running away as fast as their legs could carry them, with all order and organization abandoned. In a moment more the whole valley was filled with them as far as the eye could reach." (*War Years with Jeb Stuart, 34*)



White and Blackford

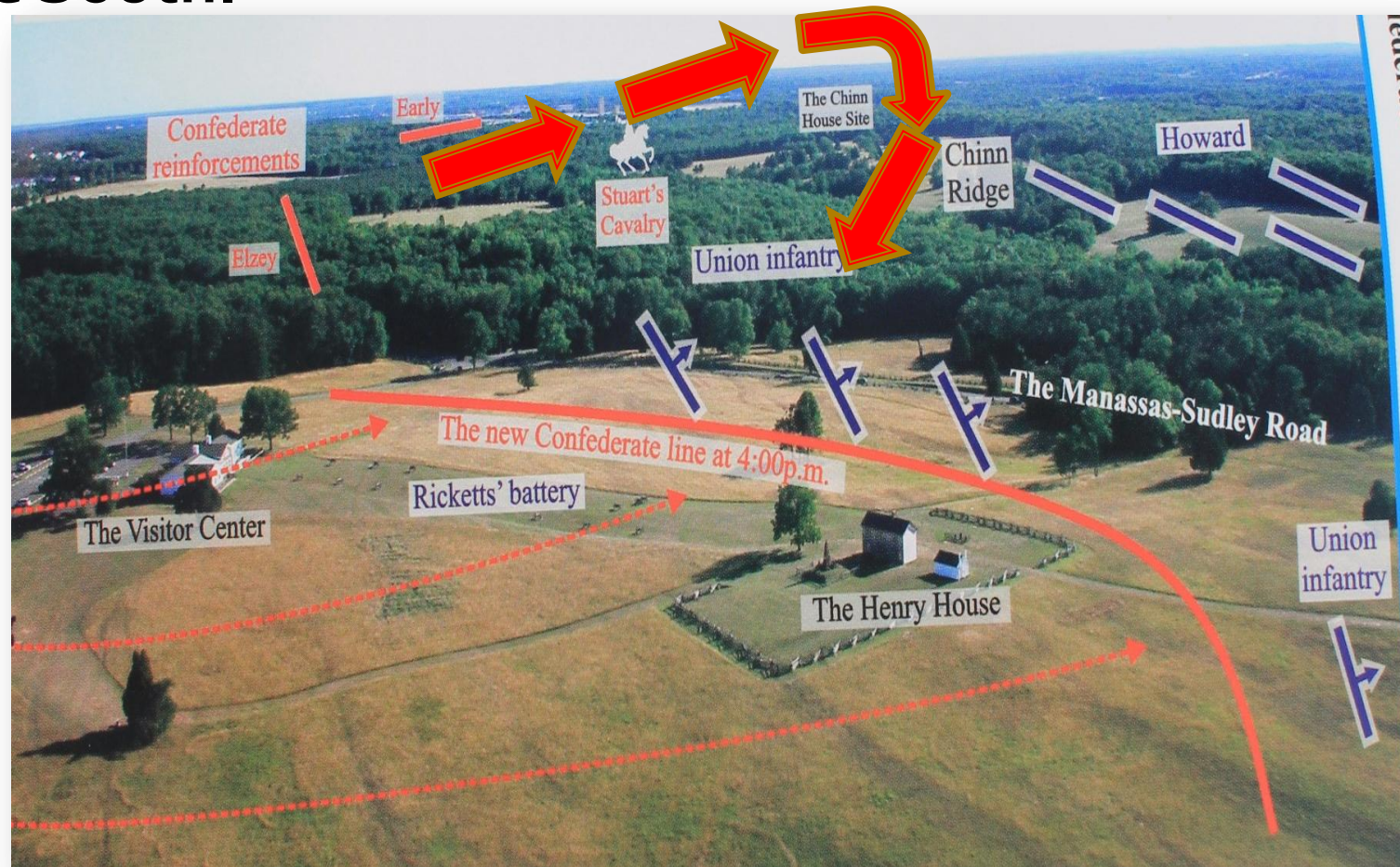
- **“Thus the panic which touched off the retreat to the Potomac was accounted for by White; but graphically detailed by Blackford. She spied the backward wave of the angelic hand; he sensed the electric effect of it. She proceeded to read into the disaster salvation from greater destruction; he soon felt bitterly disappointed because the Confederate leaders failed to exploit their victory.”**
 - Lee E. Eusey, *“The American Civil War: An Interpretation”* (Andrews University, 1965)





Federates

- “And in this battle had the Northern army pushed the battle still further, in their fainting, exhausted condition, a far greater struggle and destruction awaited them, which would have caused great triumph in the South.”



- “God would not permit this, and sent an angel to interfere. The sudden falling back of the Northern troops was a mystery to all. They knew not that God's hand was in the matter” (1T 267).



The Forecast

- “Then it was explained that *God had this nation in His own hand*, and would not suffer victories to be gained faster than He ordained, and would permit no more losses to the Northern men than in His wisdom He saw fit, to punish them for their sins” (T 267).

The Battle Pattern

- This victory would not come quickly and easily, though. For God “would not *suffer* victories to be gained faster than He ordained, and would *permit* no more losses to the Northern men than in His wisdom He saw fit.” The words “suffer” and “permit” indicate the divine displeasure with the North because of its compromises with the slave-holding South.

The Battle Pattern

- At the beginning of this particular vision, White set forth her view very clearly: “God is punishing this nation for the high crime of slavery.” Her indictment included both sides in the war: “He will punish the South for the sin of slavery, and the North for so long suffering its overreaching and overbearing influence.” Yet, “He has the destiny of the nation in His hands” (1T 264).

The Battle Pattern

- Accordingly, God would not let the North experience victory out of his blessing and pleasure, but out of his patience and tolerance. He would permit battles losses out of his wisdom to humble and punish the North. The victories would keep the South from crushing the North and the losses would humble it to the point of repentance. Thus, ultimate victory would come slowly and painfully.

The Battle Pattern

- But this victory would evidently come, according to White, after the North experienced enough losses as God's wisdom "saw fit" and enough victories as He "ordained" them. This terminology indicated divine control and intervention in the pattern of battle victories and losses in the war.

The Battle Pattern

- This is the distinguishing feature of White's contribution to the way the war played out. Rather than the battle patterns of victories or losses being totally dependent on the decisions of generals and commanders or the strengths or weakness of the armies, God had the final word in the battles of the Civil War.

The Battle Pattern

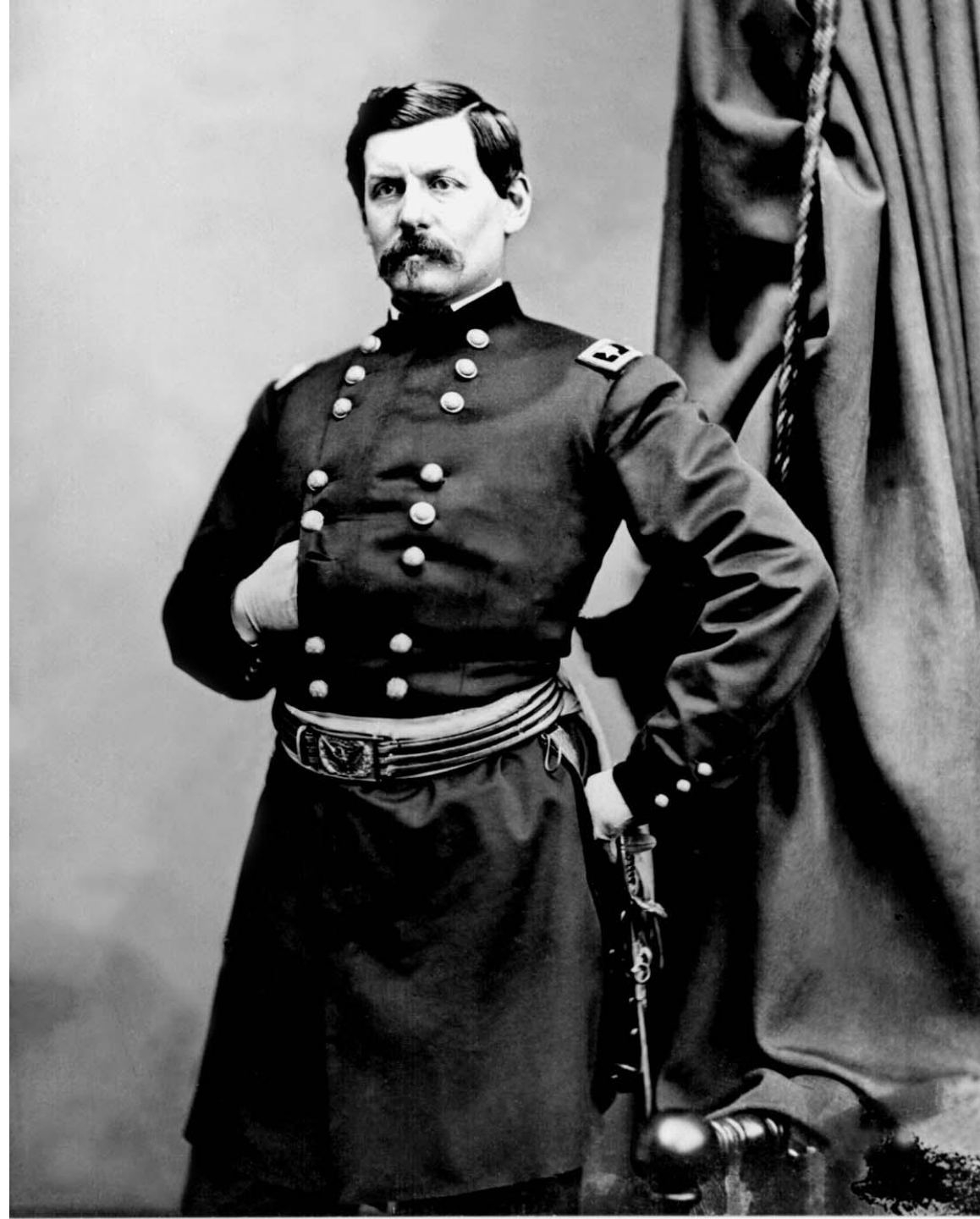
- These words, then, first published approximately a month after the battle of First Bull Run, indicate a seesaw pattern of Union victories and losses in the forthcoming war. That is, according to Ellen White's interpretation, there would be "up" periods in the battles and "down" periods for the Union throughout the war.

The Battle Pattern

- **The implication in this forecast was that once God's purposes of punishment ran their course and the sin of slavery was dealt with, the Union would experience enough victories to win the war. Moreover, once emancipation became official and transformed the war into a crusade to end slavery, the patterns of battle would be decidedly in favor of the Union.**

Pattern of Battles: 1861

- First Bull Run (July 21) **defeat**
- Wilson's Creek (Aug. 10) **defeat**
- Balls Bluff (Oct. 21) **defeat**
- George B. McClellan builds up a massive Union army during the fall.



Pattern of Battles: 1862

- Battle of Fort Henry (Feb. 6) **victory**
- Battle of Fort Donelson (Feb. 11-16) **victory**
- Pea Ridge (Mar. 6-7) **victory**
- Shiloh (April 6-7) **victory**
- Navel Success **victory**
- Seven Days Battles (Jun 25-July 1) **defeat**

Pattern of Battles: 1862

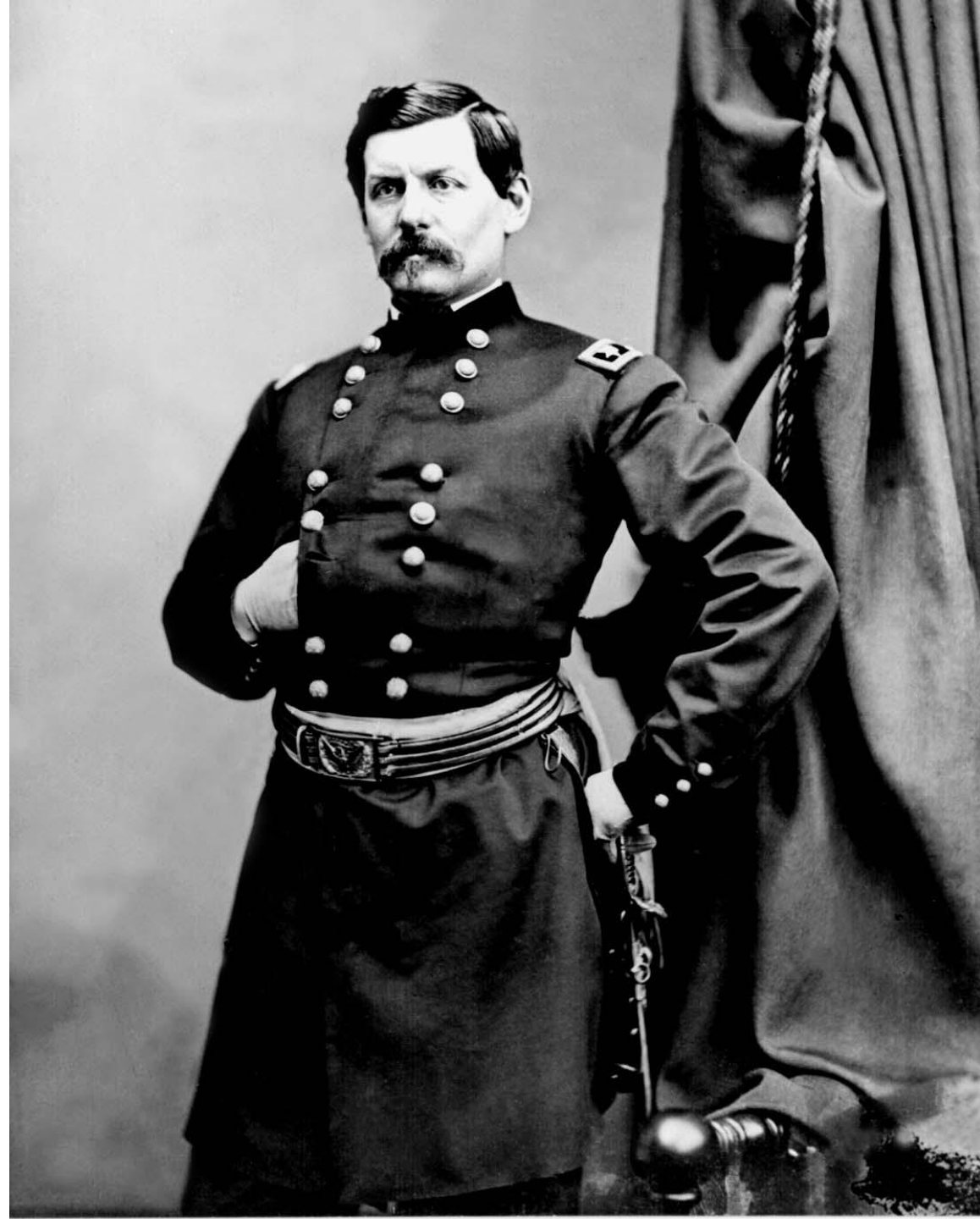
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- Navel Success **victory**
- Seven Days Battles (Jun 25-July 1) **defeat**
- **First Draft of Emancipation Proclamation**
- Second Manassas (Aug 28-30) **defeat**
- **Antietam (Sept 17)** **victory**

September 1862

- September 1862 was a major turning point in the American Civil War. After the Union summer losses at the Seven Days and Second Manassas battles, it was a real possibility that the Confederate States of America might win their independence.

September 1862

- Several factors, for example, were evident by the end of August:
 - The British government was preparing to give the Confederacy diplomatic recognition;
 - Confederate armies launched a major offensive into Maryland, Kentucky, and western Tennessee;
 - The Northern armies and citizens were demoralized;
 - Lincoln had shelved his Emancipation Proclamation to wait for a victory that might never come.





SPECIAL ORDER 191

- Special Order 191 could've been the biggest turning point on the Civil War

Special Order 191
to 191

I The citizens of Frederick have been
swindling while ordered by members of the Army to
buy their provisions and to give them as good as new
to those to officers and men purchasing supplies for
benefit of the Army, all officers and men of the
Army are strictly prohibited from receiving provisions
but, except in cases in which they will see the
evidence of this fact in writing from Division Commander
the General that in Frederick will see the

Special Order 191

- As Bruce Catton explained, “the fog of war which always limits the vision of an army commander suddenly dissolved and everything became clear. McClellan knew as much about Lee’s plans as if he had personally attended Lee’s last staff conference. The game was being handed to him on a silver platter.” McClellan had become “the beneficiary of the greatest security leak in American military history.” According to Catton, “Lee’s army of invasion had split into pieces like an exploding shell, and the Army of the Potomac, massed in and near Frederick, Maryland, was ideally situated to exploit this situation. No Civil War general was ever given so fair a chance to destroy the opposing army one piece at a time.”

SPECIAL ORDER 191

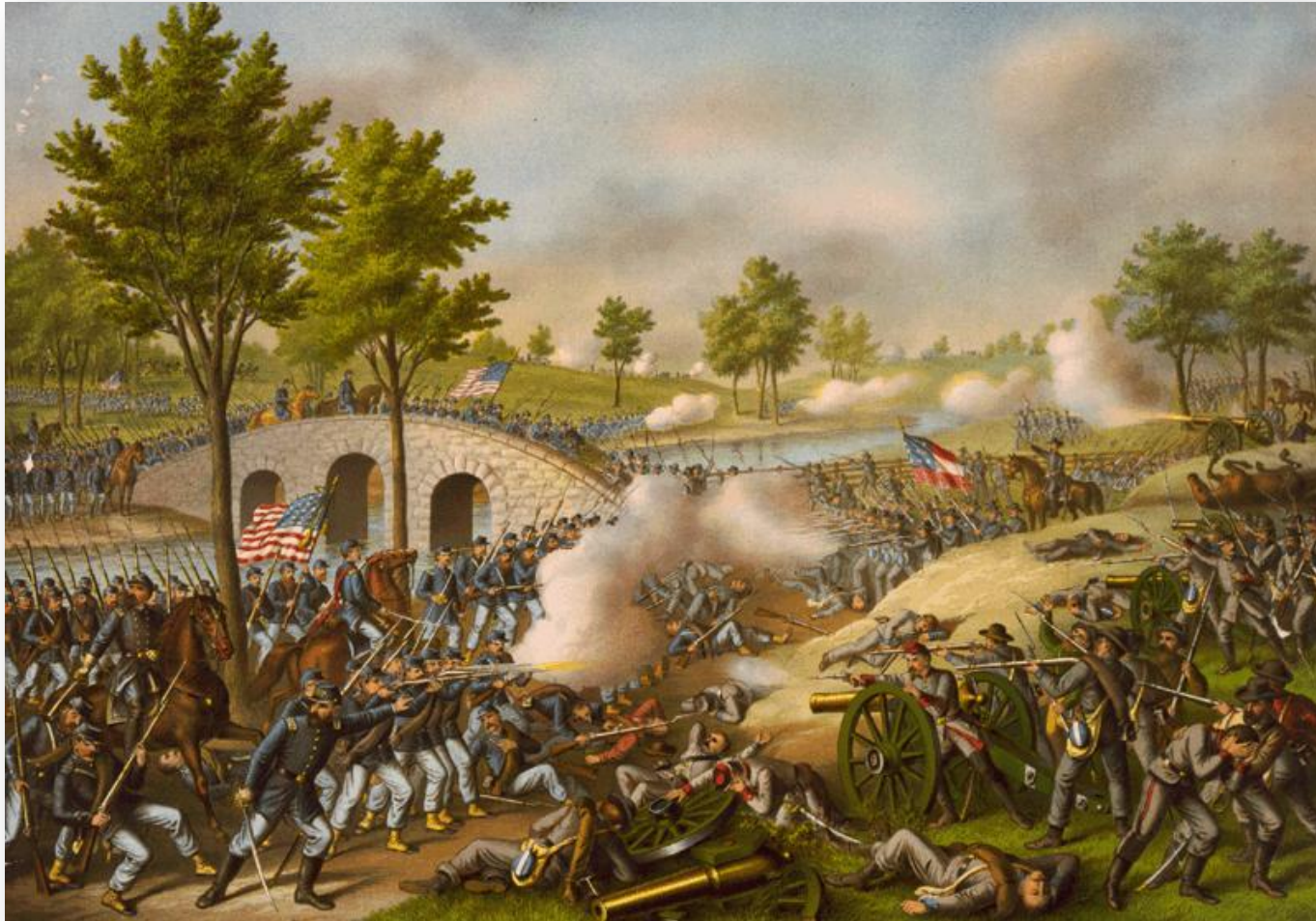
- Special Order 191 could've been the biggest turning point on the Civil War

Special Order 191
To 191

The brigades of Sedgewick have been
mounting while ordered by members of the Army to
be taken down in order to give them a general order
to allow to officers and men purchasing supplies for
benefit of the Army, all officers and men of the
Army are strictly prohibited from receiving presents
but except on a receipt in which case they will be
evidence of this fact in writing from Division Commander
The General Order that in Sedgewick will be...



Battle of Antietam



Battle of Antietam

- Antietam was the bloodiest day of battle in American history (September 17, 1862). On that day 6500 to 7000 men were killed in action. According to one estimate, “approximately one man died every five or six seconds of the battle.

Battle of Antietam

- **“The number of casualties in one day at the battle of Antietam was nearly four times the number of casualties on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Twice as many people were killed and mortally wounded than were killed by the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. Indeed, the number of battle deaths in one day at Antietam exceeded the total battle deaths in all the other wars the United States fought in the nineteenth century; the War of 1812; the Mexican-American War; the Spanish-American war; and the Indian wars.”**







Consequences of Antietam

- 1) England backed off from intervening in the war and giving the Confederacy diplomatic recognition for the being.
- 2) The battle impacted the November elections.
- 3) The most important consequence of Antietam was that Lincoln now had the victory he needed to issue his Emancipation Proclamation.

Emancipation Proclamation



Antietam – First Major Turning Point

- Interpreting this point in the war from Ellen White's August 1861 forecast, God had "ordained" the much needed victory at Antietam. Its timing was delicate and precise, a moment in the war when so much hung in the balance.

Antietam – First Major Turning Point

- **If the Union had lost this momentous battle, England would have intervened and given the Confederacy diplomatic recognition, the Union cause would have been defeated in the November elections, and, most importantly, the character of the war and the future of slavery in the South would have remained unchanged without Lincoln's Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.**

Antietam – First Major Turning Point

- But God “in His wisdom,” to apply White’s words here, “saw fit” to give this victory to the Union in September 1862 (1T 267). It was the beginning of the end—a long and bloody end.

Pattern of Battles: 1862

- Battle of Fort Henry (Feb. 6) **victory**
- Battle of Fort Donelson (Feb. 11-16) **victory**
- Pea Ridge (Mar. 6-7) **victory**
- Shiloh (April 6-7) **victory**
- Navel Success **victory**
- Seven Days Battles (Jun 25-July 1) **defeat**
- Second Manassas (Aug 28-30) **defeat**
- **Antietam (Sept 17)** **victory**
- Fredericksburg (Dec 13) **defeat**
- Stones River (Dec 31) **draw/victory**

Pattern of Battles: 1863

- Chancellorsville (May 1-4) **defeat**
- Gettysburg (July 1-3) **victory**
- Vicksburg (July 4) **victory**
- Chickamauga (Sept 19-20) **defeat**
- Chattanooga (Nov 23-25) **victory**

Battles of Chattanooga



Chattanooga

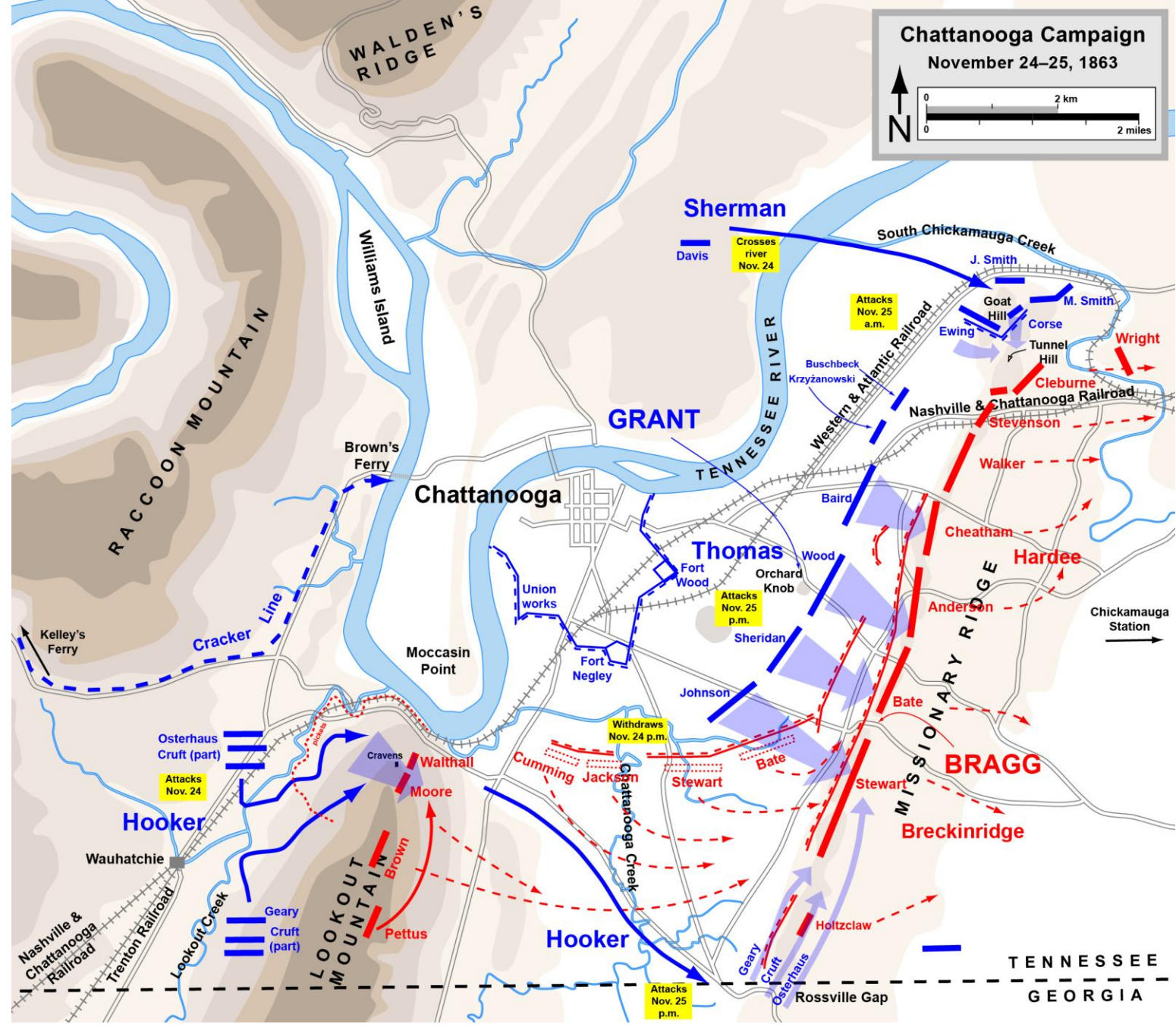
- Chattanooga was extremely important to the Union objectives of winning the war. Located in southeastern Tennessee close to North Georgia with the Blue Ridge Mountains and Appalachian Plateau to the east and the mountains of the Cumberland Plateau to the west, the city was a convergence of roads, major railroads, and the Tennessee River.

Chattanooga

- It has been called the “gateway to the Confederacy” because of its major east-west railroads, and its major railroad south to the important city of Atlanta. It was vital to the Confederacy’s ability to transport troops and supplies to its armies, and thus “the most important strategic point in the Confederacy.” Union control of Chattanooga would split the Confederacy again and open the gate to strike at its heartland.

Chattanooga Campaign

November 24–25, 1863



WALDEN'S RIDGE

RACCOON MOUNTAIN

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

GRANT

Sherman

Thomas

Hooker

Hooker

BRAGG

TENNESSEE
GEORGIA

South Chickamauga Creek

Davis

J. Smith

Goat Hill

M. Smith

Ewing

Corse

Tunnel Hill

Buschbeck Krzyzanowski

Western & Atlantic Railroad

Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad

Wright

Cleburne

Stevenson

Walker

Cheatham

Hardee

Anderson

Chickamauga Station

Fort Wood

Orchard Knob

Union works

Fort Negley

Baird

Johnson

Withdraws Nov. 24 p.m.

Cumming

Jackson

Stewart

Bate

Stewart

Bate

Stewart

Brekinridge

Holtzclaw

Geary

Cruft

Attacks Nov. 25 p.m.

Rossville Gap

Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad

Trenton Railroad

Lookout Creek

Osterhaus Cruft (part)

Attacks Nov. 24

Hooker

Wauhatchie

Geary

Cruft (part)

Cravens

Walthall

Moore

Brown

Pettus

Brown's Ferry

Williams Island

Cracker Line

Kelley's Ferry

Walden's Ridge

Attacks Nov. 25 a.m.

Attacks Nov. 25 p.m.

Attacks Nov. 25 p.m.

Attacks Nov. 25 p.m.

Attacks Nov. 25 a.m.

Attacks Nov. 25 p.m.

Attacks Nov. 25 p.m.

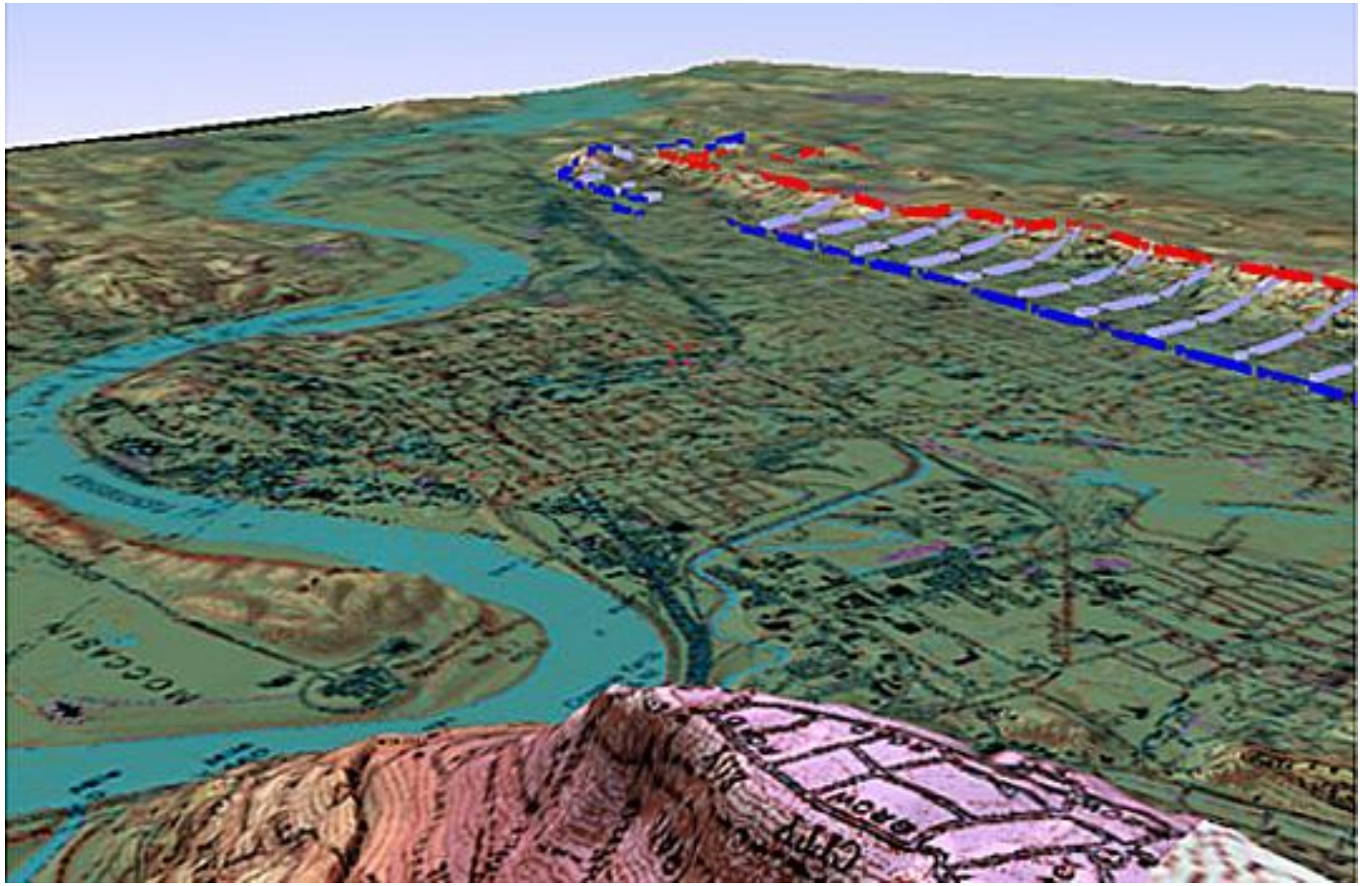
Crosses river Nov. 24

Withdraws Nov. 24 p.m.

Attacks Nov. 25 p.m.













- About 3:40 p.m., approximately 23,000 men in four divisions surged forward over the cleared plain and up to the heights where a line of approximately 9,000 Confederates nervously waited.





• BATTLE OF MISSION RIDGE • Nov. 25th 1863 •

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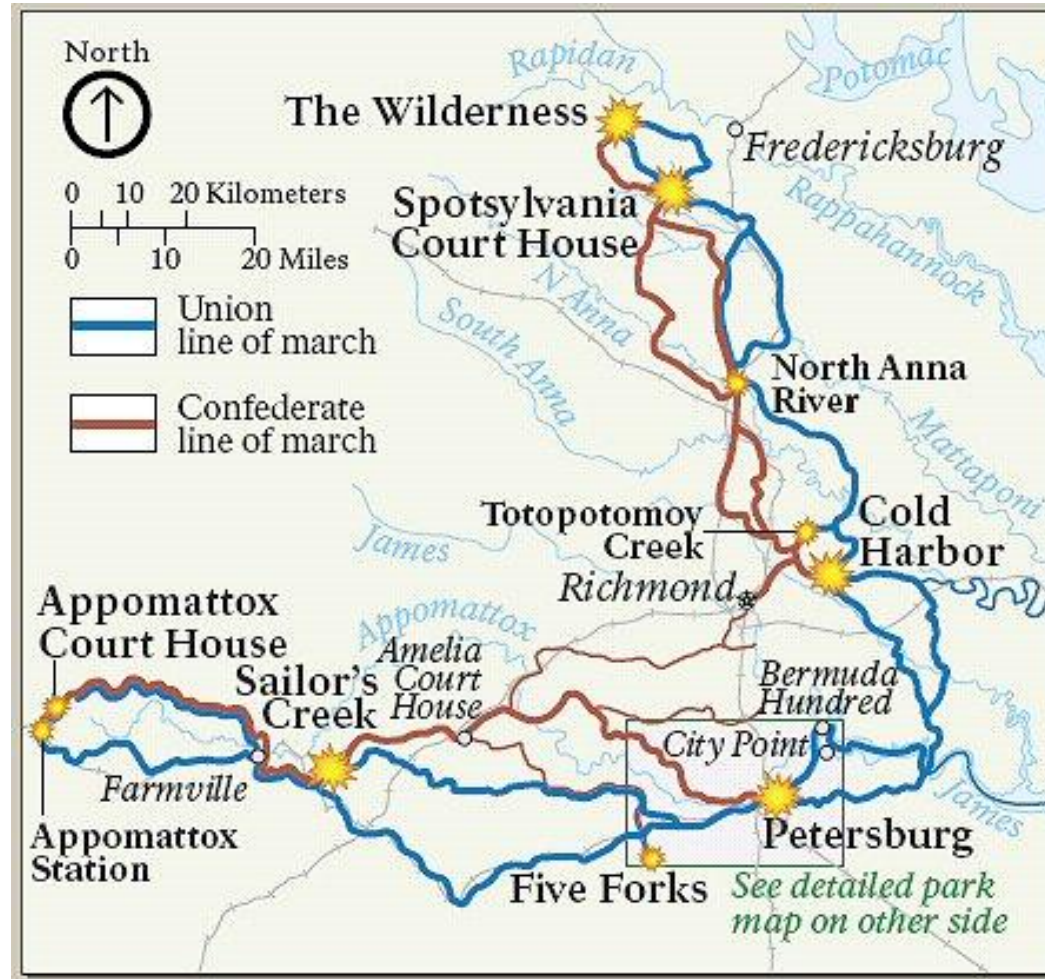
Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman, and Philip Sheridan



Grant made General in Chief of Northern Armies, Spring 1864



Grant's Overland Campaign 1864



Pattern of Battles: 1864

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| ■ Wilderness | (May 5-7) | draw |
| ■ Spotsylvania | (May 8-20) | draw |
| ■ Cold Harbor | (Jun 1-3) | defeat |
| ■ Petersburg | (Jun 15-18) | draw |

Pattern of Battles: 1864

- Kennesaw Mount. (June 27) **defeat**
- Crater (July 17) **defeat**
- **Stalemate: Grant and Sherman**

Election of 1864



Abraham Lincoln
Republican



George McClellan
Democratic

Pattern of Battles: 1864

- Kennesaw Mount. (June 27) **defeat**
- Crater (July 17) **defeat**
- **Stalemate: Grant and Sherman**
- **Atlanta** (Sept 2) **victory**
- Sherman's March (Nov-Dec) **victory**
- Nashville (Dec 15-16) **victory**

Pattern of Battles: 1865

- Sharman's March (Jan-Mar) **victory**
- Petersburg Breakthrough (April 2) **victory**
- Fall of Richmond (April 3) **victory**
- Appomattox Court (April 9) **victory**

The Forecast

- “Then it was explained that *God had this nation in His own hand*, and would not suffer victories to be gained faster than He ordained, and would permit no more losses to the Northern men than in His wisdom He saw fit, to punish them for their sins” (T 267).

God had this Nation in His Own Hand

- 1) God has this Nation in His Own Hand today.
- 2) If God has this Nation in His Own Hand, then it is reasonable to believe that He has your life in His Own Hand.