

THE ★★★★★ CIVIL WAR ★FOR★ KIDS

A HISTORY WITH
21 ACTIVITIES



JANIS HERBERT



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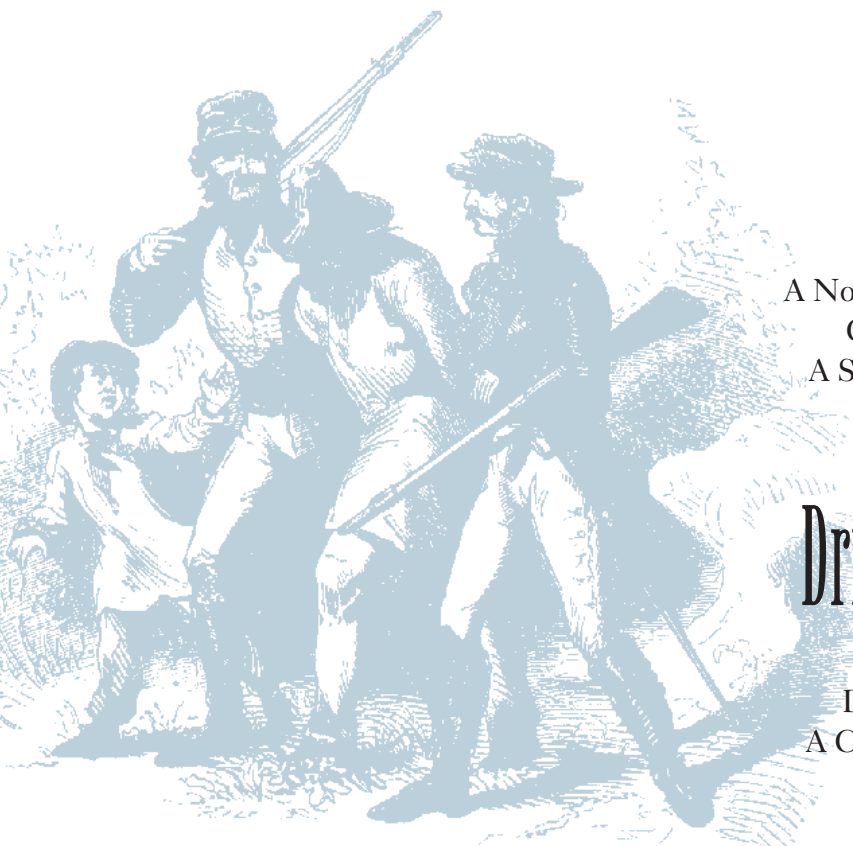
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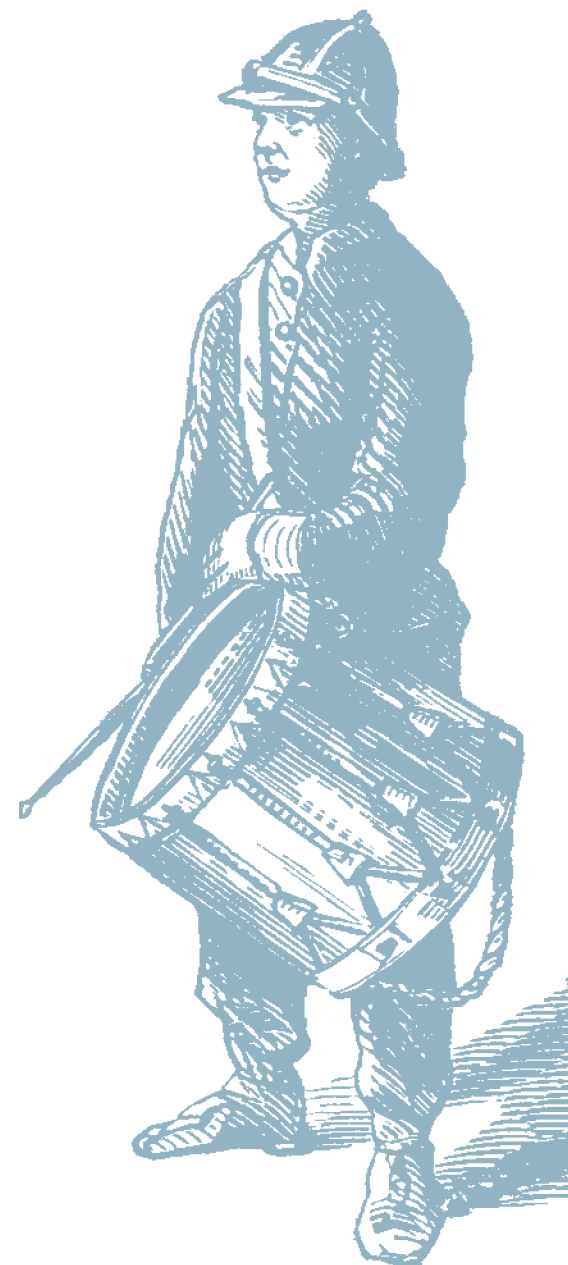
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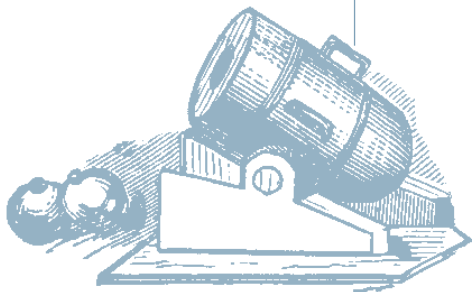


THE CAPITOL UNDER
CONSTRUCTION, 1860





LINCOLN ON THE BATTLEFIELD
OF ANTIETAM, 1862



1863

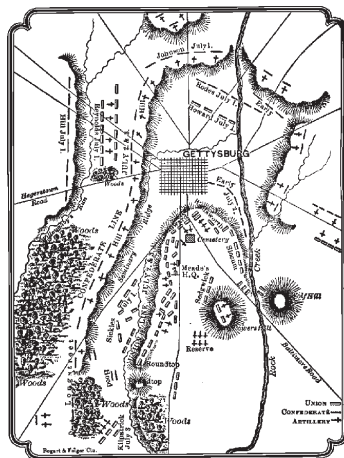
AUGUST 29–AUGUST 30 Second Manassas (Second Bull Run)
SEPTEMBER 17 Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg)
SEPTEMBER 22 Lincoln announces Emancipation Proclamation
DECEMBER 13 Battle of Fredericksburg
DECEMBER 31–JANUARY 2, 1863 Battle of Stones River (Murfreesboro)

MAY 1–6 Battle of Chancellorsville
MAY 18 Siege of Vicksburg begins
JULY 1–3 Battle of Gettysburg
JULY 4 Vicksburg falls

SEPTEMBER 19–20 Battle of Chickamauga

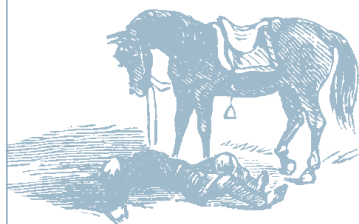
NOVEMBER 19 Lincoln gives the Gettysburg Address

NOVEMBER 23–25 Battle of Chattanooga (Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge)



MAP OF THE BATTLE OF
GETTYSBURG

1864



THE RUINS OF ATLANTA, 1864

MAY 5–6 Battle of the Wilderness
MAY 8–12 Battle of Spotsylvania
MAY 11 Battle of Yellow Tavern
JUNE 3 Cold Harbor
JUNE 18 Siege of Petersburg begins

AUGUST 5 Farragut enters Mobile Bay

SEPTEMBER 2 Atlanta falls

NOVEMBER 8 Lincoln reelected President

NOVEMBER 15 Sherman's March to the Sea begins

NOVEMBER 30 Battle of Franklin

DECEMBER 15–16 Battle of Nashville

DECEMBER 21 Sherman reaches Savannah

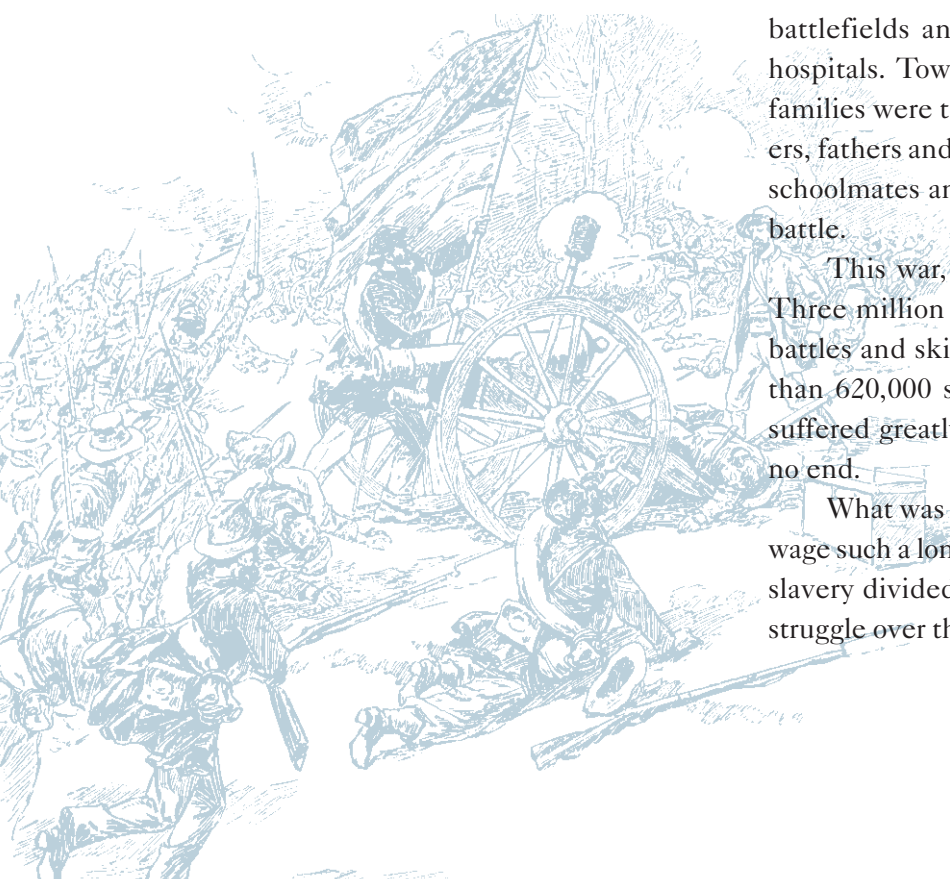
1865



GENERAL LEE LEAVING
APPOMATTOX

APRIL 2 Petersburg and Richmond fall
APRIL 9 Surrender at Appomattox
APRIL 15 Death of President Lincoln

Introduction



Not long ago, a great war was waged in our nation, the United States. Your great-great-grandfather might have been a soldier in this war. Your great-great-grandmother might have plowed fields while her husband fought, or served as a nurse on the battlefields. This war was fought on their land, in their small communities. Their farms became battlefields and their homes were turned into hospitals. Towns were divided, and sometimes families were too. Brothers fought against brothers, fathers and sons were on opposing sides, and schoolmates and old friends faced each other in battle.

This war, the Civil War, lasted four years. Three million Americans fought in over 10,000 battles and skirmishes across the country. More than 620,000 soldiers died. Those who fought suffered greatly in this war that seemed to have no end.

What was it that led a once-united people to wage such a long and terrible war? The practice of slavery divided the nation and caused people to struggle over the basic principles upon which the

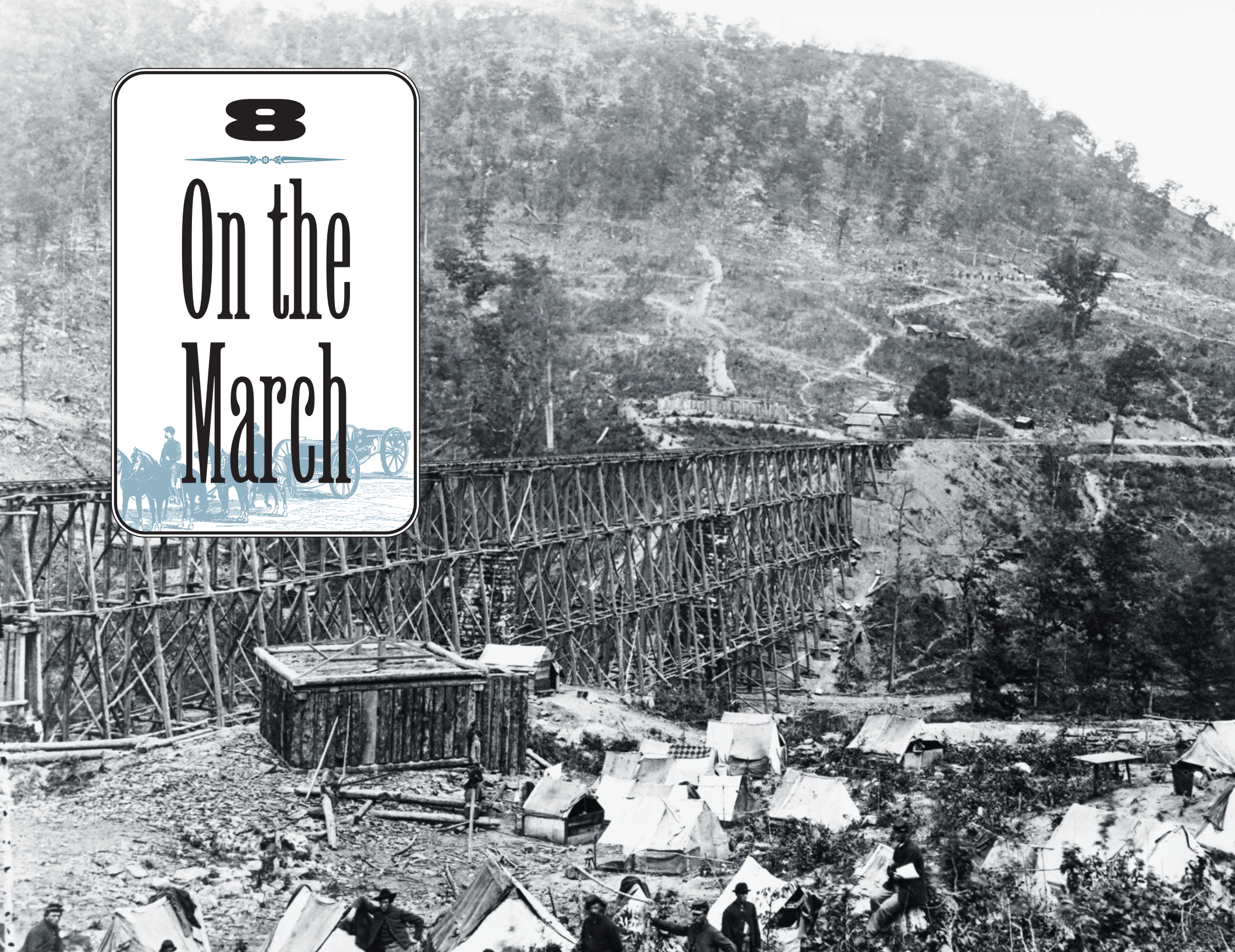
country had been founded. They went to war to decide whether we would continue to be a nation and, if so, what kind of nation we would be.

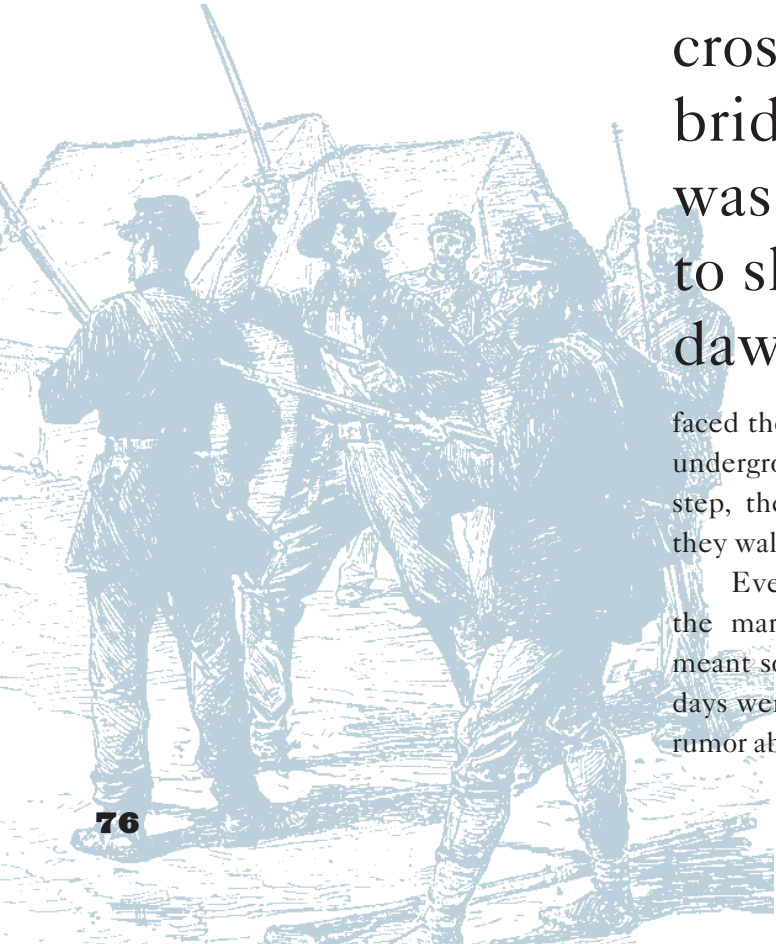
The deeds of the soldiers and the people of this time are told, briefly, here. You'll learn about the terrible battles the armies fought—Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg. You'll find out what it was like to hear the drum rolls, see the flags unfurl, and “Forward march!” into battle. Along the way, you'll learn how to send signals and decode messages, make a soldier's lean-to shelter, drill like a private, and command like a general.

So join Clara Barton as she tends the wounded at Antietam . . . Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain as he shouts “Fix bayonets!” to his brave men at Gettysburg . . . nine-year-old drummer boy Johnny Clem as his drum is smashed at Shiloh . . . Generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant as they lead their men in the great Civil War. Because of these heroes, the United States was reborn with a new understanding of freedom and union. Join them in the greatest struggle our country has known.

8

On the March





On the march to Chancellorsville, the soldiers of the Union Army of the Potomac each carried nearly 60 pounds of clothing, rations, weapons, and ammunition. For two days, they marched in the rain. After crossing the Rappahannock River on pontoon bridges, they waded the Rapidan. The water was chest-high, and that night they went to sleep muddy, dripping wet, and cold. Up at dawn on the third day of the march, they

faced the daunting Wilderness, with its tangled undergrowth of brambles and vines. With each step, their packs felt heavier. With each step they walked closer to battle.

Even with the hardships, sometimes life on the march was better than camp. Marching meant something was happening. In camp, the days were long, especially in winter. Months of rumor about the war's progress came to a blessed

end when the soldiers received a few days' worth of marching rations. Then they knew the time had come to pack up and go. They seldom knew where the march would lead them, but it felt good to go anywhere.

The night before a march they pared down their belongings. With all the weight a soldier carried, every ounce mattered. If there was time, they were allowed to pack personal items in a

Who Rode Whom?

Robert E. Lee's horse was Traveller.

William Tecumseh Sherman rode Sam.

George McClellan rode Dan Webster.

Ulysses S. Grant loved all horses,
especially Cincinnati.

Stonewall Jackson went to battle
on Old Sorrel.

Jeb Stuart's famous rides were
on a horse named Virginia.

Philip Sheridan's horse Rienzi is
displayed at the Smithsonian
Institution in Washington, D.C.

box and ship them home. If not, anything they couldn't carry was burned or abandoned. The soldiers slowly reread letters, then burned them in the campfires, maybe keeping one special letter in a shirt pocket close their hearts. In the morning when the bugle sounded, tents were struck in moments. The men doused their campfires, shouldered their belongings, joined their regiments, and fell into line. At the signal to move forward, the march began.

Soon, long lines of men were strung out along the country roads. Flankers walked on either side of the marching column to keep a lookout for enemy troops. The supply trains followed—hundreds of mule-drawn wagons carrying ammunition, medical equipment, fodder for the animals, and food for the troops. There were wagons carrying pontoon boats and hospital wagons carrying the sick. Ambulance wagons also followed, a grim reminder to the men of what lay

National Archives



Union column along the Rappahannock River

Famous Mascots

Old Abe, Robert Lee, and Stonewall were Civil War heroes of the animal world. These mascots traveled with their regiments. Old

Abe, an eagle, was carried on a special perch by Wisconsin soldiers. Three of his bearers were shot from under him, but he survived the war and returned to

Wisconsin. Robert Lee, who wasn't quite as brave as his namesake, was a dog who belonged to an artillery regiment. When battle broke out, he hid in an ammunition box. Stonewall was also an artillery dog. He showed up for roll call on his hind legs with a pipe in his mouth. A little dog named

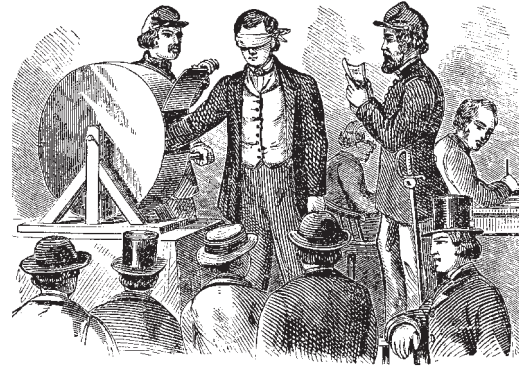
Jack looked for wounded men from his Pennsylvania regiment after a battle. Jack was captured by the Southern army, then exchanged for a Confederate prisoner.

Cats, roosters, and tame raccoons also served as mascots.

ahead. The wheels of these wagons wore ruts in the dirt roads. The men were ordered to keep in formation, but often they dropped out to fill a canteen at a stream or well. At noon, they stopped for a meal.

Hooker loaded his men down with eight days' worth of rations on their march to Chancellorsville, but more often three days' worth were carried. These were packed in men's "haversacks," cloth bags hung over the shoulder from a strap. A wallet, a bone toothbrush, tobacco and a pipe, a knife, and an extra supply of hardtack were among the items a soldier might keep handy in his haversack. The soldiers also shouldered their knapsacks and carried tin canteens, mess gear, and cartridge boxes filled with ammunition. In the winter they might also have a pair of blankets and an overcoat. If they had tents, each soldier would carry half a tent. When they stopped for the night, each would pair up with another soldier to put two halves together. Of course, they all had weapons. A rifle-musket added another ten pounds to the load.

If the days were warm the roadsides were littered with blankets and overcoats that seemed to grow heavier with each step. Even tents were discarded, especially on a summer march. Of course, what seemed like a good idea on a warm afternoon might be regretted later that night! When it rained, wagons and animals got stuck on



the muddy roads and had to be pushed. The soldiers pulled rubber ponchos out of their knapsacks or put their small tents over their heads and slogged along through the mud.

When it was impossible to make any progress through the mud, a group

was assigned to build timber highways called "corduroy roads." They cut down large trees, laid them along both sides of the road, and covered them crosswise with smaller logs. They covered these with underbrush so that the men's feet and the hooves of the horses and mules wouldn't go through the cracks of the logs. If a small stream crossed the army's path, the men took off their shoes and socks, put their equipment over their heads, and waded across. If it was a deep, wide river, the engineers were put to work to construct a bridge.

Armies traveled by railroad, too. The railroads transported food, livestock, clothing, and munitions. Empty cars leaving the battlefield carried wounded soldiers back to the cities. Railroads were so important that cavalry operations concentrated on wrecking tracks, and many battles were fought over important railroad junctions. Movement of troops by rail played an important role in battles at Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Twenty thousand soldiers, their artillery, and their horses were transferred from the Army of the Potomac to Chattanooga in



*Union engineers bridging the
Tennessee River*

eleven days. This was the farthest and fastest any army had ever moved.

For the most part, the men marched. They marched day and night, up hills and down valleys, around and across mountains. They swam rivers, clambered over rocks, wound through dark woods. They marched on roads and across empty countryside. They marched in rain, snow, sleet, and under the burning summer sun. Sometimes they hiked for days without rations. Sometimes they slept on frozen ground. Sometimes they marched barefoot. Sometimes they practically marched in their sleep.

When they reached their destination, the soldiers made camp. They scoured the nearby countryside for downed wood or fence posts. Soon thousands of men would circle hundreds of small campfires to cook their evening meals. In winter camp cooks prepared the meals, but on the march the soldiers cooked their own. The Union soldier's marching rations included meat, desiccated vegetables, coffee, and sugar. Confederate rations might include bacon, cornmeal, rice, and molasses. Sometimes there wasn't any food. When that happened, the soldiers foraged in the woods for nuts and berries. If they were near farmland, the farmers' fields and orchards were soon stripped.

If low on time or supplies, Yankee soldiers settled for a meal of hardtack and coffee. Hardtack was the name given to the flour and water biscuits rationed to the soldiers. They were often so stale and hard that the soldiers called them "teeth dullers" and "sheet-iron



Build a Lean-to Shelter

If a soldier didn't have a tent, he could still have shelter by building a simple lean-to.

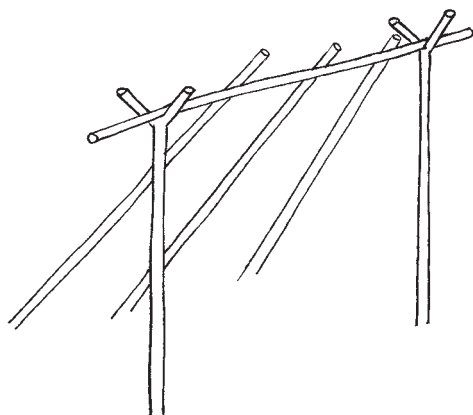
What you need

2 branches, about 3 feet tall, each with a fork at one end

4 long straight branches, about 4 feet long

An old blanket

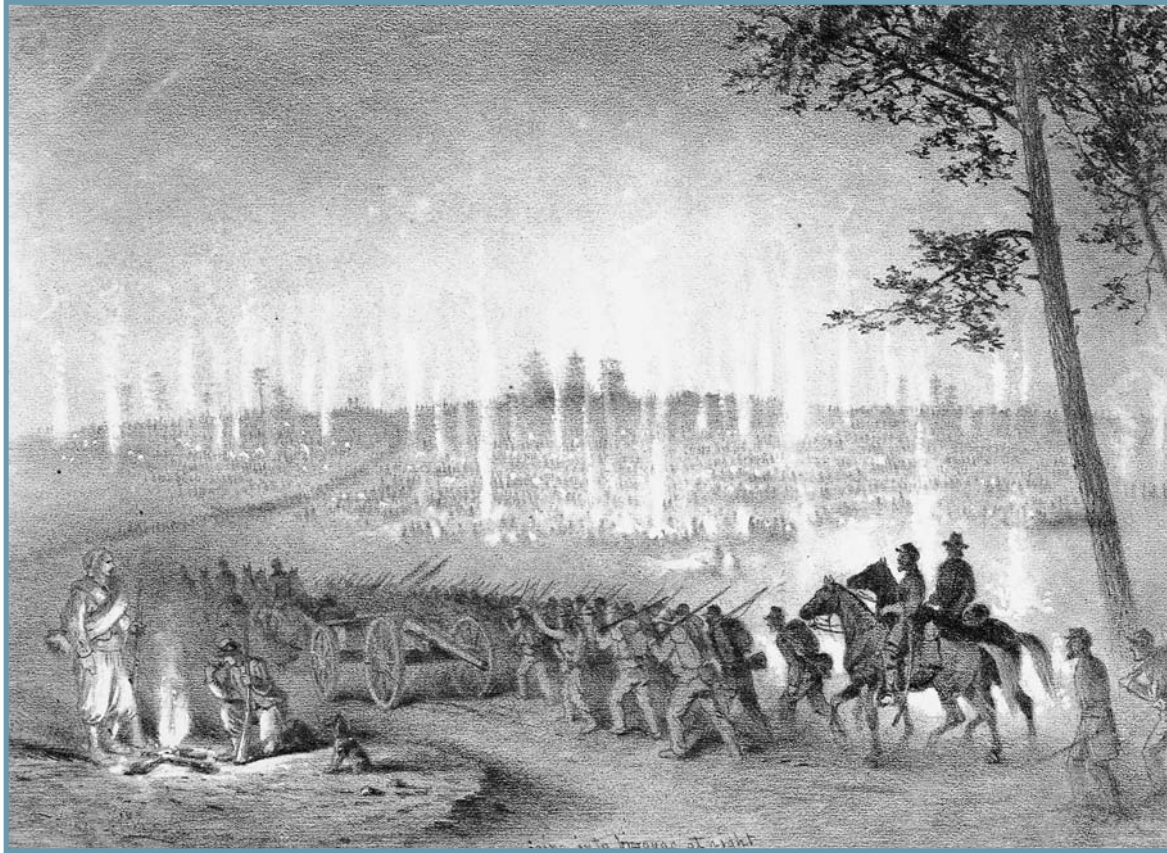
Place the two forked branches upright in the ground, four feet apart. Lay a branch across them at the top, resting it inside the forks. Place each of the remaining three branches at an angle all along one side with one end braced against the ground and the other leaning against the top pole. Spread a blanket over these branches to make a roof.



crackers.” Sometimes they were moldy or infested with bugs (which didn’t stop the hungry men from eating them!). They ate them plain, broken up in their coffee or soup, or crumbled in cold water and fried in pork fat. They called this last dish “skillygalee.” Coffee was the soldiers’ favorite drink, and they parceled out their ration of it with care. If they wanted cream for it, they bought it from the sutler or “borrowed” it from a nearby cow.

Rebel soldiers fried coarse cornmeal in bacon grease to make a meal they called “sloosh.” They also made cornmeal biscuits. They didn’t have the luxury of real coffee, but made a substitute out of ingredients such as dried apples, peanuts, potatoes, or chicory.

After the meal, the soldiers gathered for a final roll call. Picket duty was assigned to some. The rest of the men rolled up in their blankets and fell, exhausted, into deep sleep.



Going into Bivouac at Night

BY EDWIN FORBES



Homemade Hardtack

Eating these tasteless crackers is about as enjoyable as eating a rock—and just as hard! Try dipping them in milk or water to soften.

ADULT SUPERVISION IS RECOMMENDED

What you need

Oven

2 cups flour

Mixing bowl

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup water

Wooden spoon

Rolling pin

Knife

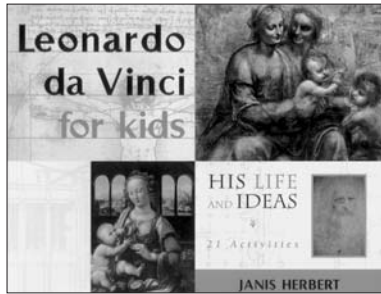
Skewer

Cookie sheet

Oven mitts

Preheat oven to 350°F. Place flour in the bowl. Add water and stir with a wooden spoon until ingredients are well mixed. Knead with your hands for 30 seconds. Roll out the dough to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thickness and cut into 3-inch squares. With the skewer, make eight holes in each square. Place on a cookie sheet and bake for 20 to 25 minutes. Remove from oven using oven mitts and let cool. This recipe makes 18 crackers.

More Books from Janis Herbert



Leonardo da Vinci for Kids

His Life and Ideas, 21 Activities

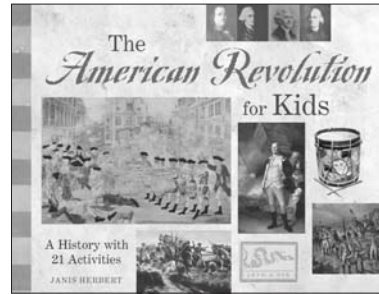
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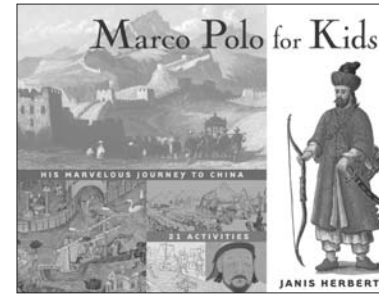
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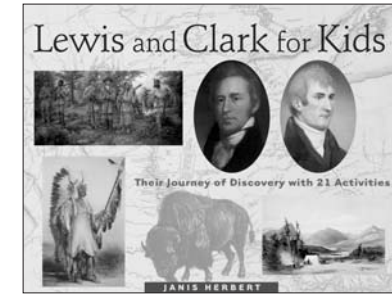
— *San Diego Union-Tribune*

"The book offers suspenseful stories, as Polo and his men face shipwrecks, bandits and other dangers."

— *The Dallas Morning News*

This activity book centered on Marco Polo's journey to China from Venice along the 13th-century Silk Road includes 21 activities that highlight the diverse cultures he encountered along the way.

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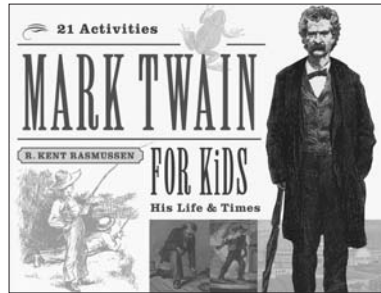
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Mark Twain for Kids

His Life and Times, 21 Activities

By R. Kent Rasmussen

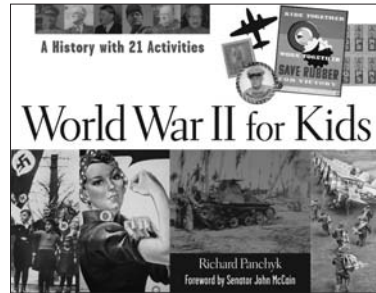
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Foreword by Senator John McCain

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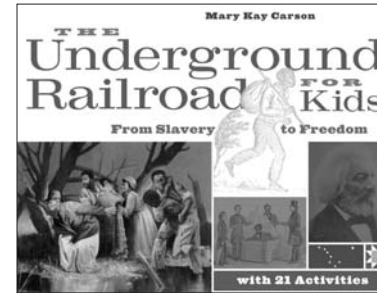
— *Publishers Weekly*

Twenty-one activities show kids how it felt to live through World War II and add a humanizing global perspective to the war.

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American Folk Art for Kids

with 21 Activities

By Richard Panchyk

Forewords by William Ketchum Jr. and Mr. Imagination

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— *Booklist*

“Contains great supplemental material for art teachers or homeschoolers on an often overlooked topic.”

— *School Library Journal*

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Ages 9 & up

“For children who *really* want to know what it felt like to take an active role in the past, *The Civil War for Kids* is *it!*”

— *Civil War Book Review*

“*The Civil War for Kids* is valuable in bringing this most important time in our history to a young audience.”

—Jeff Shaara, author of *The Last Full Measure* and *Gods and Generals*

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“An interactive book that the entire family can enjoy together, it’s good history and good fun!”

—Robin E. Reed, Executive Director, Museum of the Confederacy



The Civil War explodes in this activity guide spanning the turmoil preceding secession, the first shots fired at Fort Sumter, the fierce battles on land and sea, and finally the Confederate surrender at Appomattox. Making butternut dye for a Rebel uniform, learning drills and signals with flags, decoding wigwag, baking hardtack, reenacting battles, and making a medicine kit bring this pivotal period in our nation’s history to life.

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An educator’s guide to this book is available at www.zephyrpress.com

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