

THE SOCIAL DISPATCH



Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania--this is America's battleground, where the Civil War roared to its bloody climax. No place more vividly reflects the War's tragic cost in all its forms. A town bombarded and looted. Farms large and small ruined. Refugees by the thousands forced into the countryside. More than 85,000 men wounded; 15,000 killed--most buried in graves unknown.



Civil War Era Joke

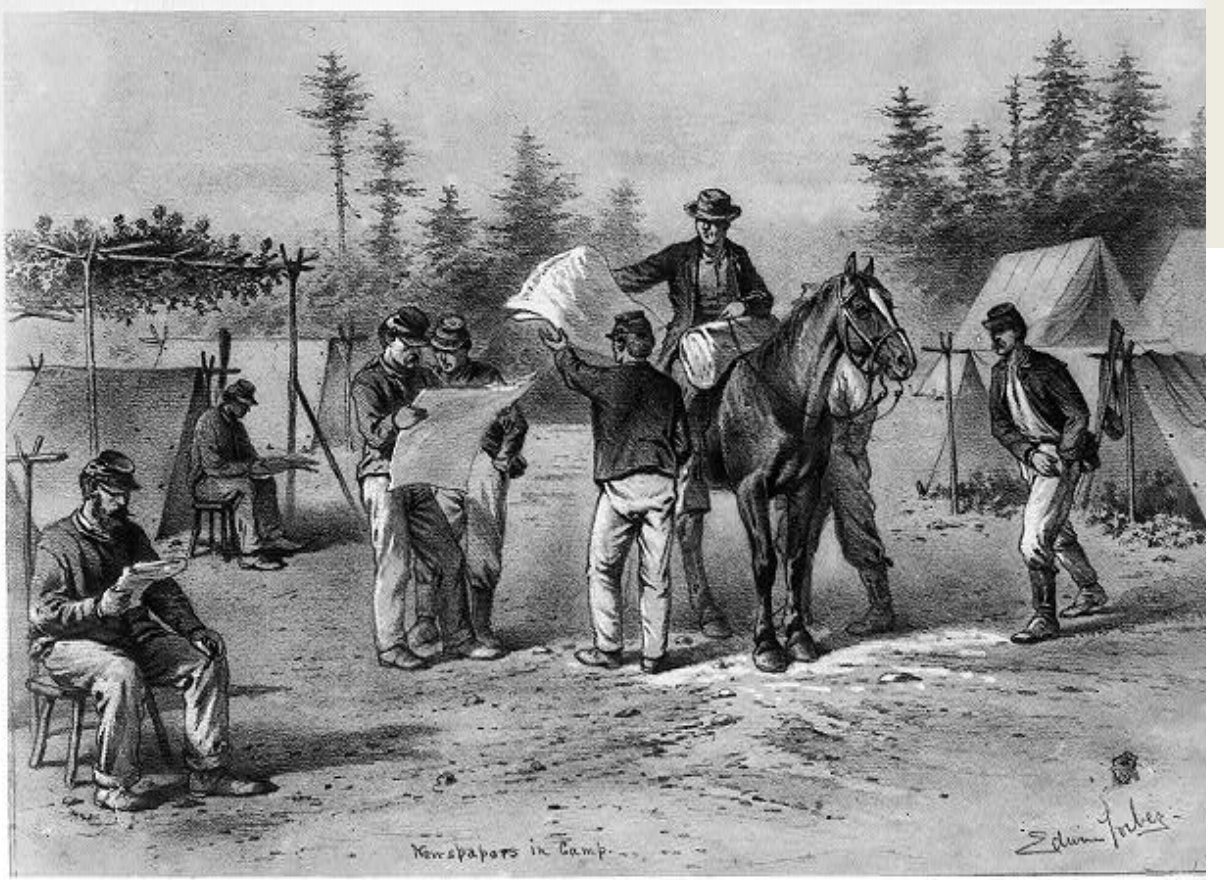
What part of a fish weighs the most?



US Fish and Wildlife drawing

The scales.

(Joke printed in the *Springfield Republican* in Springfield, MA, January 1, 1862)



Library of Congress Image: "Newspapers in Camp"

Newspapers in Military Camps

When Civil War soldiers were stuck in camp, they had a variety of ways to keep themselves entertained. Some would play games, wrestle, or read their letters from home. Some went so far as to write and publish their own newspapers.

Newspapers were a way for soldiers to share news of other battles, publish poetry, read passages of the Bible and even write propaganda for the other side.

These newspapers were often be short-lived because could only be produced while the armies were in camp for an extended period of time and had access to printing materials.

In the summer of 1861, members of the 2nd PA Infantry published a camp newspaper while they occupied the town of Martinsburg, Virginia (now West Virginia). They took over a local printing press and published their newspaper, *The American Union* to celebrate the 4th of July and their patriotic feelings. But when they moved on from Martinsburg, the newspaper ended.

The 100th PA Volunteer Infantry Regiment, a regiment that fought at the battle of Fredericksburg, published a newspaper called *The Camp Kettle*. In its first issue, the paper explained that its purpose was to be a "welcome visitor around the campfire and the quarters, sort of a familiar little friend, that whispers kind words and friendly advice."

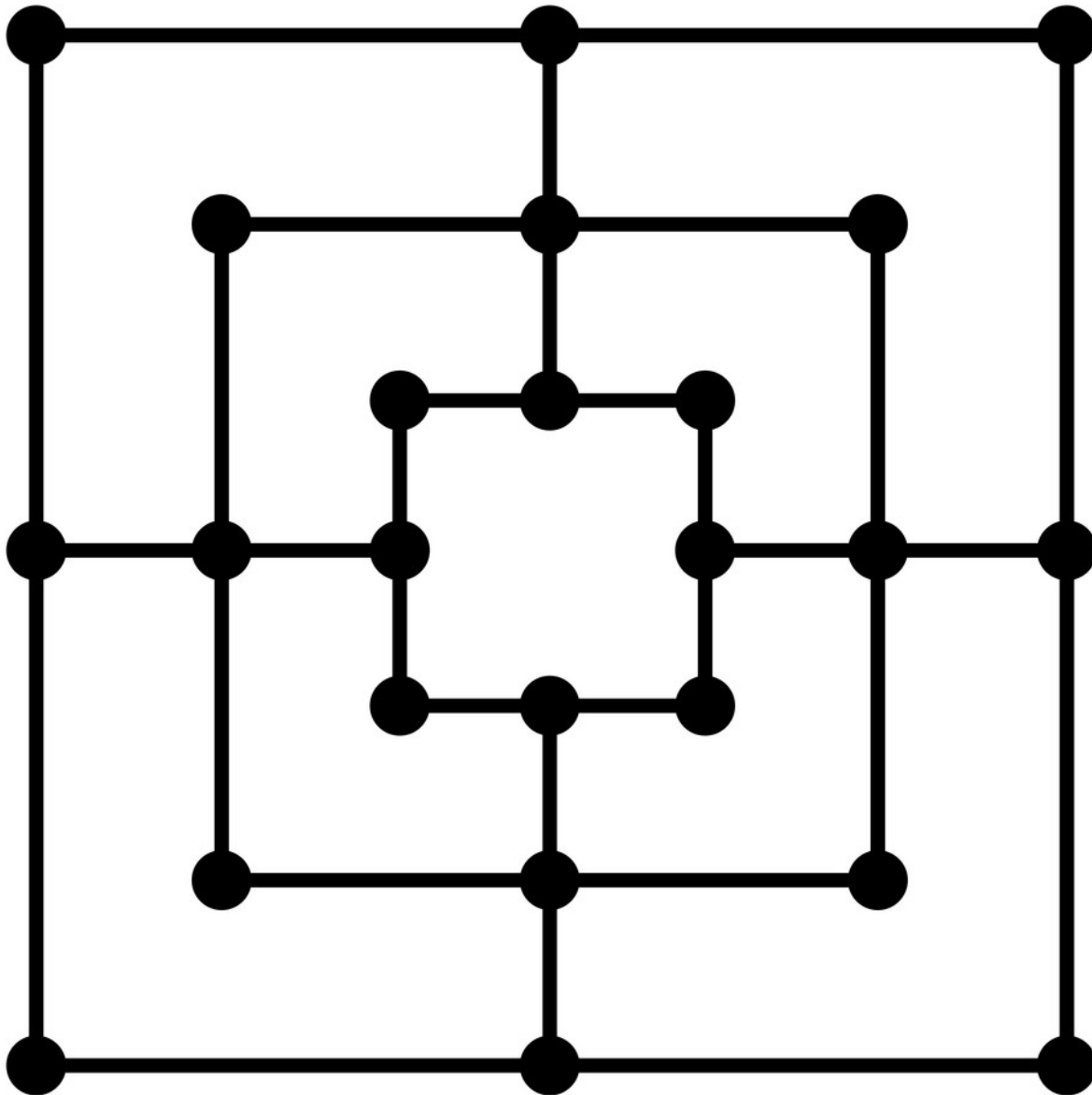
MARY TODD LINCOLN'S WHITE CAKE RECIPE

Recipe from *Lincoln's Table* by Donna D. McCreary, adapted by Janice Cooke Newman

- 1 cup blanched and chopped almonds
- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 cups flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup milk
- 6 egg whites
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Confectionary sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a Bundt cake pan. Cream butter and sugar. Sift flour and baking powder three times. Add to creamed butter and sugar, alternating with milk. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into the batter. Stir in vanilla. Pour into prepared pan and bake for 1 hour. Turn onto a wire rack to cool. Then dust with confectionary sugar.

Nine Men's Morris Game Board



Nine Men's Morris Rules

Nine Men's Morris is a game that dates to the Roman Empire. It is a strategy game and easily played at home.

Each player should have nine pieces, or "Men." You can use whatever you have at home, like popcorn kernels, small rocks or even pennies.

The goal is to line three pieces up horizontally or vertically in a "Mill" and remove your opponent's men from the game. You win by removing the other men until there's only two left or when your opponent has no legal move.

Decide who will go first, perhaps by a coin toss.

Take turns placing your pieces on the points/dots.

When you create a Mill, remove one of your opponent's pieces.

Continue placing pieces until all have been placed.

Now take turns moving your pieces. Pieces can be moved along the lines to any adjacent open spot.

A Mill can be broken and reformed many times but in order to remove a piece, you must create a new mill, you cannot just use an existing mill.

Fly Rule: when a player is down to three pieces, they can move to an empty space. Players must move a piece on every turn.

Winning: when the opponent has no legal moves or only has two pieces left.

Have fun!

A Noiseless Patient Spider by Walt Whitman

A noiseless patient spider,
I mark'd where on a little promontory it stood isolated,
Mark'd how to explore the vacant vast surrounding,
It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself,
Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.

And you O my soul where you stand,
Surrounded, detached, in measureless oceans of space
Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing, seeking the spheres to connect them,
Till the bridge you will need be form'd, till the ductile anchor hold,
Till the gossamer thread you fling catch somewhere, O my soul.

A Poem by You!

Walt Whitman wrote a poem about a spider he was watching. What have you noticed around you that you could write a poem about?

Virtual Scavenger Hunt

With your parent/guardian, use [nps.gov/frsp](https://www.nps.gov/frsp) to find the answers to these questions:

Which house was built first: Ellwood or Chatham?

How many United States soldiers are buried in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery?

After gaining her freedom from J. Horace Lacy, where did laundress Ellen Mitchell move to?



Library of Congress action sketch of a soldier checking a pass outside of Fredericksburg, VA.

Documenting Life During a Crisis

The Civil War disrupted the lives of all Americans: men went off to fight in battles, enslaved people gained their freedom, women volunteered as nurses and children saw their homes turned into battlefields.

One way to process a crisis and how it is affecting daily life is to document it, which could be in the form of a letter, a diary/journal or even a drawing.

Use this page to start a journal of what life is like during this current global crisis. A journal can be written in the style of a letter to yourself or a loved one, a daily record of what is going on each day or even a drawing because sometimes we can express ourselves better through drawings than through words. When you run out of room on this page, move on to a new piece of paper.

Private Abram J. White, 147th New York Volunteers, Diary Excerpts at the time of the Battle of Chancellorsville

April 17th, 1863

done nothing but drill 2 hours

April 19th, 1863

went on Picket down on the Rapahannock River near where we crossed on the 31st of Aprile

Sunday May 2nd

in the morning we Crossed the pontoons and marched near the field and formed the second line of Battle there was very heavy firing all this day we lay on our arms all night.

May 3rd, 1863

when they Commenced the Charge we was put in the rifle pit and staid their until relieved by the Bucktails

May 4th, 1863

lay behind the 14th Regalars again in our old place all day

May 5th, 1863

was moved down on the right we lay thair until 4 AM

May 6th, 1863

on account of the rain we retreated acrost the river marched about 4 miles and camped 4 miles from Falmouth

Identifying Symbols

Under General Joseph Hooker's command in 1863 for the Chancellorsville Campaign, the Union Army adopted the use of Corps Badges. These were colored symbols attached to soldiers' hats so that they could easily be identified with a quick glance while on the battlefield.



Sixth Corps, First Division



Third Corps, Third Division

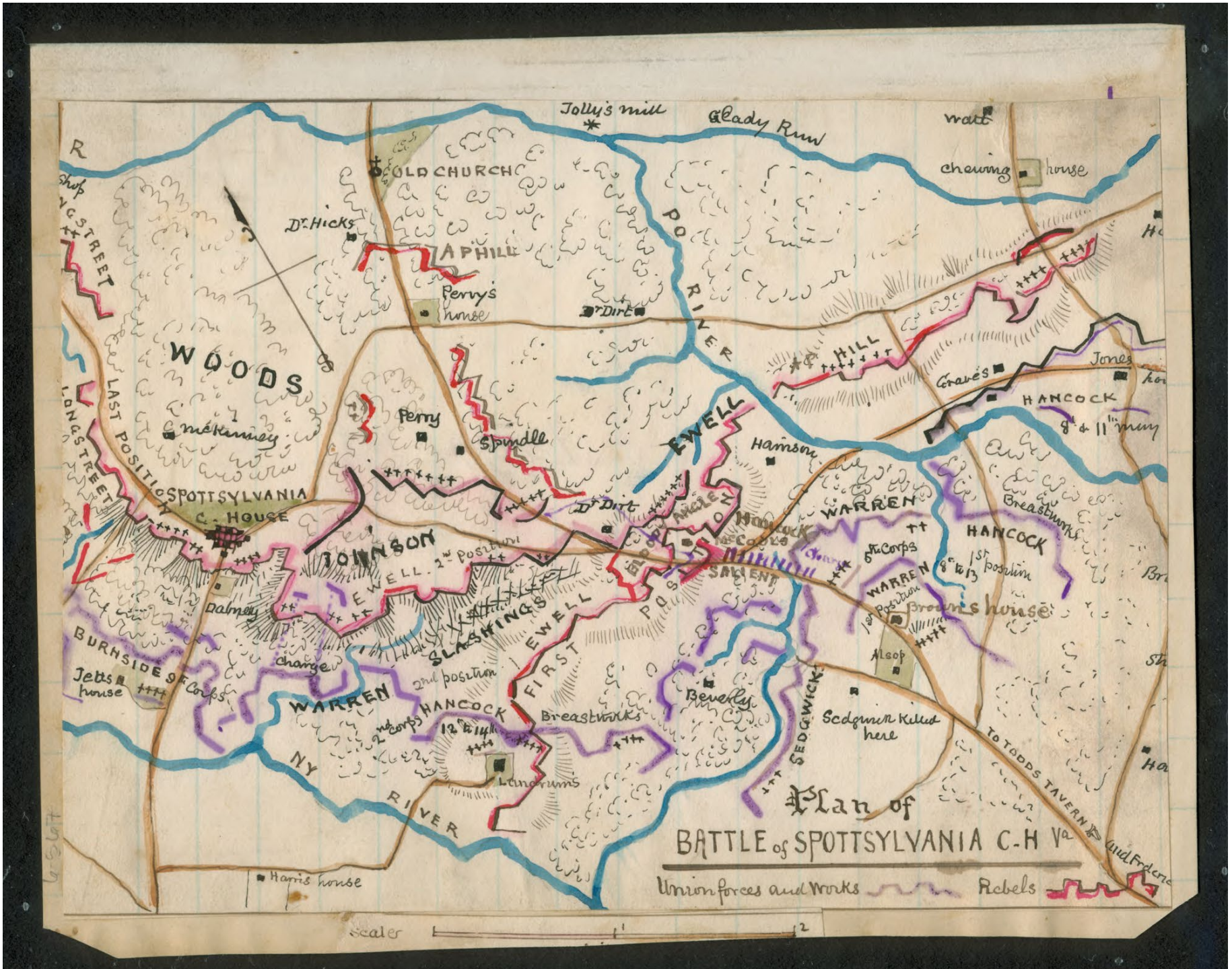


Eleventh Corps, First Division

Design a Corps Badge for each member of your family (pets can be included if you want).

In addition to these symbols on soldiers' hats, groups of soldiers would also have a flag to identify them as a unit. Using the different Corps Badges you created, design a flag that represents your family as a unit.

Cartography or Map Making



Library of Congress map of the battle of Spotsylvania Court House

Accurate maps were very important for officers during a battle. They needed to know where all of their troops were, and the location of rivers, roads, and important landmarks like court houses and churches.

- On the map, identify the following features:
 - The Po River
 - The Ny River
 - The Old Church
 - Spotsylvania Court House
 - Chewning's House
 - Burnside's 9th Corps
 - Where Major General John Sedgwick was killed

This map also includes a key, which helps people to read the map and understand what the different colors and symbols represent.

On the back of this page, draw a map of your house, neighborhood, town, or school. Be sure to include a key, labels, and your location on the map!

Thank you so much for reading our newspaper, "The Social Dispatch"! Now it is your turn to create your own newspaper to help you remember these unique times. You can make your newspaper a one-time issue or a recurring issue. We hope that you will share it with us!

We look forward to when we can all go back out and explore our National Parks with other people so that we can meet you in person!