



1861 to 1862

THE BATTLES BEGIN

Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, was just over the border from Confederate Virginia. To protect the capital, in July 1861 President Lincoln sent Union soldiers to fight the Confederates at a small creek called Bull Run. It turned out to be a bloody battle.

Northerners expected to win the battle quickly. But Confederate soldiers stood firm and fired accurately. Eventually, the Union soldiers turned and ran.

A congressman who watched the retreat reported: "The further they ran the more frightened they grew. To enable them better to run, they threw away their blankets, knapsacks, canteens, and finally **muskets.**" Confederate soldiers stopped to gather the Union equipment and added it to their stock. That day, 4,878 soldiers were killed, wounded, or went missing.

Civil War Generals



Ulysses S. Grant—North Early in the war, he led Union troops to victory in Tennessee. In 1864, he became commander of all Union forces. In 1868, he was elected U.S. president.



Robert E. Lee—South At first, he could not decide which side to fight for, but eventually he chose the South. In 1865, Lee became commander of all Confederate troops.

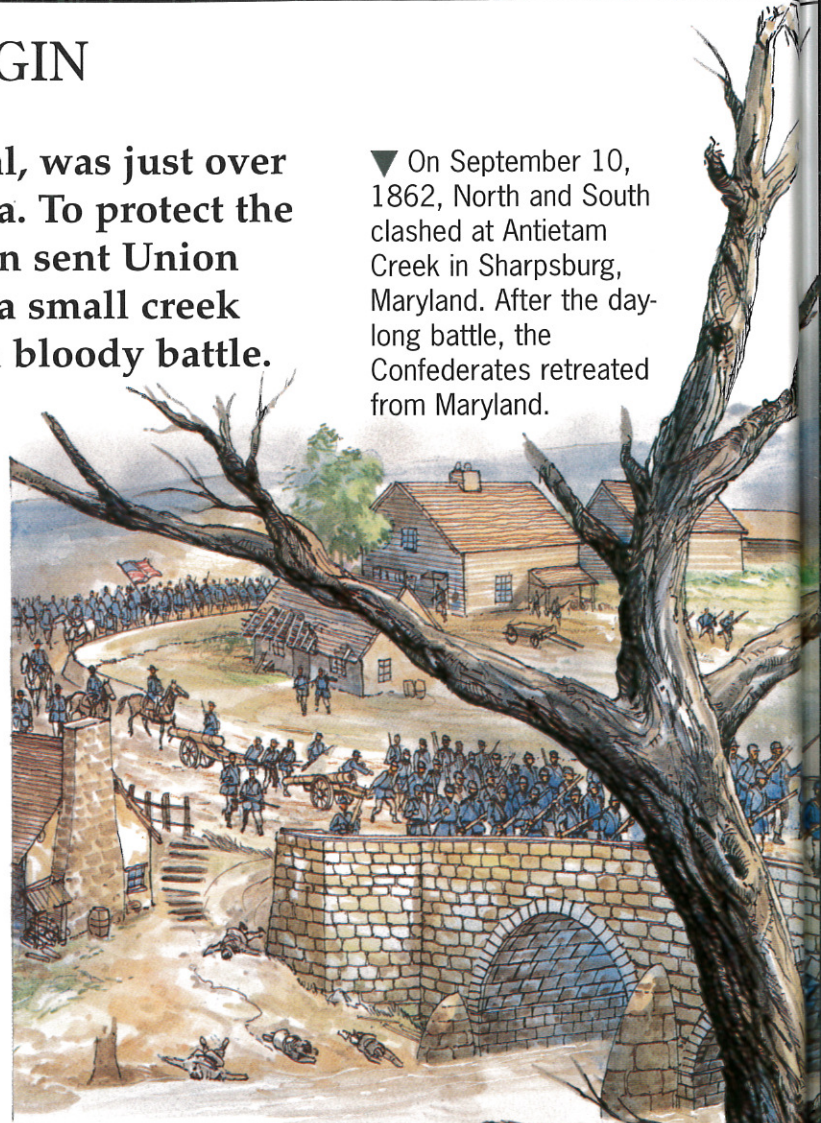


Stonewall Jackson—South Thomas Jackson got his nickname at Bull Run. He "stood like a stone wall," someone said. He died from war wounds in May 1863 at Chancellorsville.



William T. Sherman—North Sherman fought in the battles of Bull Run, Shiloh, and Vicksburg. In 1864, he led an army that captured Atlanta and burned much of the city.

▼ On September 10, 1862, North and South clashed at Antietam Creek in Sharpsburg, Maryland. After the day-long battle, the Confederates retreated from Maryland.



► The Civil War was one of the first war in history to be captured by cameras. Photographer Mathew Brady used a large, bulky camera and huge glass plates to take this photograph of President Lincoln with his generals on the field of Antietam.



► This map shows Confederate and Union states in July 1861. Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Maryland were slave states that stayed with the Union.



The worst day of the war
 Both sides spent many months training their soldiers. Several battles took place in and around Virginia. In September, 1862, Southern General Robert E. Lee decided to try for a victory on Union land. He took his troops to Maryland, a slave state that stayed in the Union. Lee might have succeeded, but luck was against him. At an abandoned Confederate campsite, a Union soldier found a scrap of paper wrapped around a package of cigars. The paper was a message written by General Lee. It said he was taking his army to Antietam Creek in Maryland. The soldier passed the note to Union General George McClellan, who took his troops to meet Lee's at Antietam. September 17, 1862 was the bloodiest day of the Civil War. Over 24,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Battle of Antietam. But there was no outright winner.

