

# The Battle of Fredericksburg

11-18 December 1862



Standard of Learning Enrichment

Educational Enrichment for Young Patriots

## WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Upon completion you will meet (and hopefully exceed) the requirements for the History and Social Science Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools, adopted in March 2001 by the Board of Education.

Specifically you will better understand :

### *Civil War*

*VS.7 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the issues that divided our nation and led to the Civil War by*

*b) describing Virginia's role in the war, including identifying major battles that took place in Virginia.*

# *The People: What They Wore*

## *the Confederate Soldier*

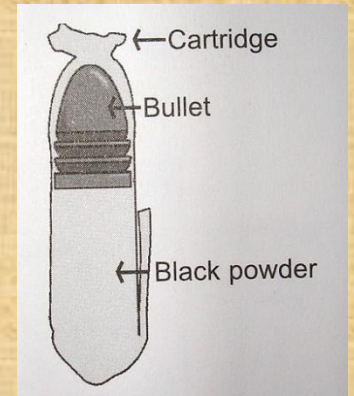
The typical uniform of the Confederate soldier included a forage cap or slouch hat, gray or butternut wool jacket, gray, butternut, or blue trousers, and brogans (boots). A haversack was used to carry their personal items.

Confederate soldiers usually traveled lighter than their Union counterparts. They typically carried their bedding rolled in their blanket and slung across one shoulder. This is called a bedroll.



# The People: How They Fought

Soldiers of both armies carried most commonly the muzzle-loading .58 caliber M1861 Springfield and English-made Enfield percussion rifled muskets. They were about 53 inches long and weighed about nine pounds. They were accurate at about 200 yards and effective at 1,000 yards. They fired “Minie Balls” - with a hollow-based lead slug about one inch in diameter and one inch long. A good soldier could fire his rifle about three times a minute.



# *The People: How They Fought*

Soldiers also carried a M1861 sword bayonet, which was affixed to the end of the musket. They also carried a cartridge box, canteen, and a haversack.



# The People: What They Wore

## the Union Soldier

The typical uniform of the Union soldier consisted of a blue forage cap, a dark blue sack coat, blue wool trousers, and leather brogans (boots).

His knapsack contained half of a two-man tent, a groundsheet, an overcoat, and his personal items. A rolled blanket was fastened with straps above the knapsack. The haversack carried their rations (food).

Student Task: Based on what you just learned, name the parts of a soldier's uniform.



# *The People: Leaders Just Like You*

*Confederate*

*Army of Northern Virginia*

**General Robert Edward Lee**

Lt. Gen. James Longstreet

Lt. Gen. Stonewall Jackson

Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart

*Union*

*Army of the Potomac*

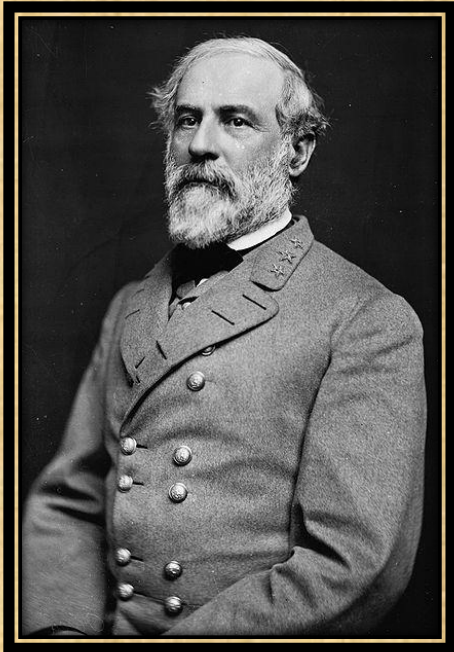
**Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside**

Maj. Gen. Edwin V. Sumner

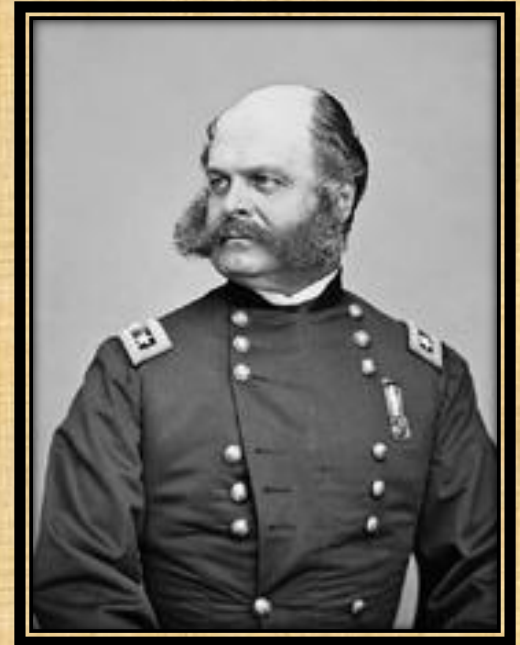
Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker

Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin





## *The Battle*



The Battle of Fredericksburg was the principal battle of the Fredericksburg Campaign, which was fought 11-15 December 1862, in and around Fredericksburg, Virginia.

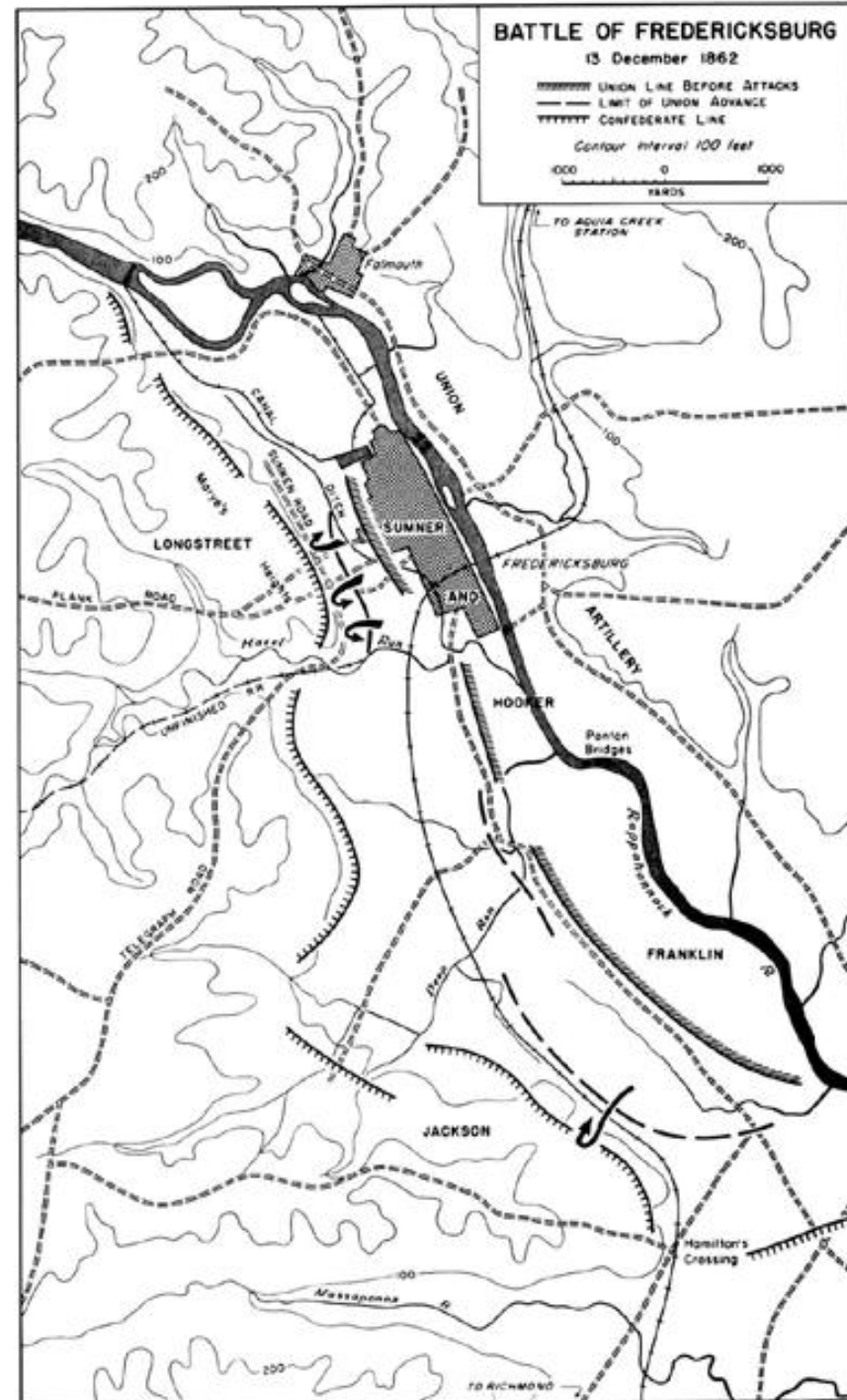
It is remembered as one of the most one-sided battles of the American Civil War. The Union Army suffered terrible casualties in futile frontal assaults, bringing an early end to their campaign against the Confederate capital of Richmond.

# The Battle

General Burnside wanted to capture Richmond. His plan relied on quick diversionary movement. He would concentrate his army in a visible fashion near Warrenton, pretend to attack Culpeper Court House, Orange Court House, or Gordonsville.

In hopes that General Lee would sit still, he would quickly shift his army southeast and cross the Rappahannock River to Fredericksburg, while the Union Army made a rapid movement against Richmond.

Burnside organized his Army of the Potomac into three grand divisions, consisting of 120,000 men. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia had nearly 85,000 men.

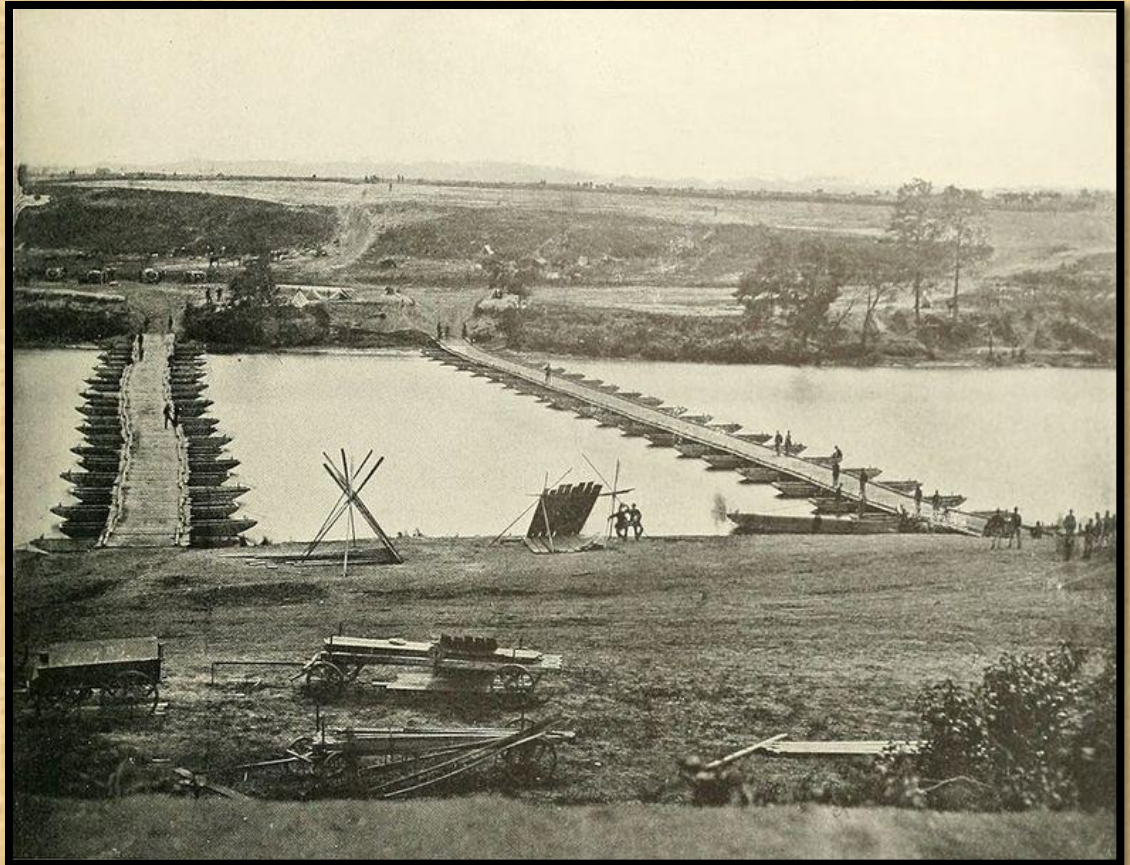


# *The Battle*

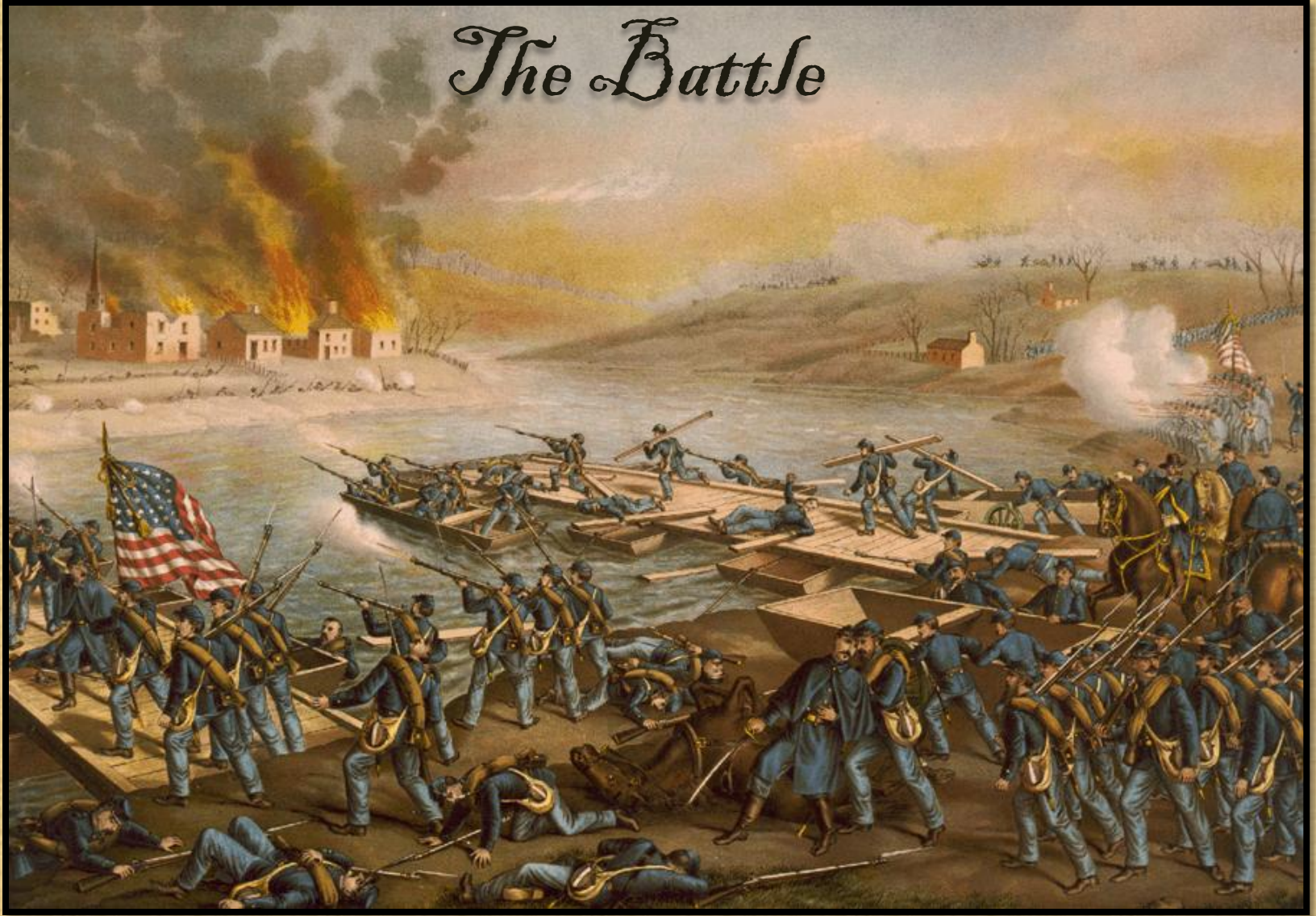
Lee anticipated he would fight Burnside northwest of Fredericksburg.

But when he saw how slowly Burnside was moving, he directed all of his army toward Fredericksburg.

Union pontoon bridges arrived at the end of the month, and by this time Jackson was present and Longstreet was preparing strong defenses.



# The Battle



The Union Army of the Potomac crossing the Rappahannock River with pontoons for the attack onto Fredericksburg.

# The Battle



The action on the heights also included the charge of the Irish Brigade, which lost 545 of its 1,300 men in the attack but advanced further up the heights than any other Union brigade.

Burnside planned to cross his army 10 miles downstream of Fredericksburg, but Union troops were already there. He decided to cross directly at Fredericksburg.

Six Union divisions attacked the Confederate positions along the heights. They assaulted one brigade at a time, for a total of sixteen attacks. They all failed costing them between 6,000 to 8,000 casualties.

Confederate losses at Marye's Heights totaled around 1,200. On 14 December, Burnside asked Lee for a truce to attend to his wounded, which Lee graciously granted. The next day Federal forces retreated across the river, and the campaign came to an end. Richmond was not captured.

# The Battle: The Aftermath



The casualties of each army showed the effects of the flawed tactics of the Union Army. Burnside was relieved of command one month later.

The Union army lost 12,653 men.

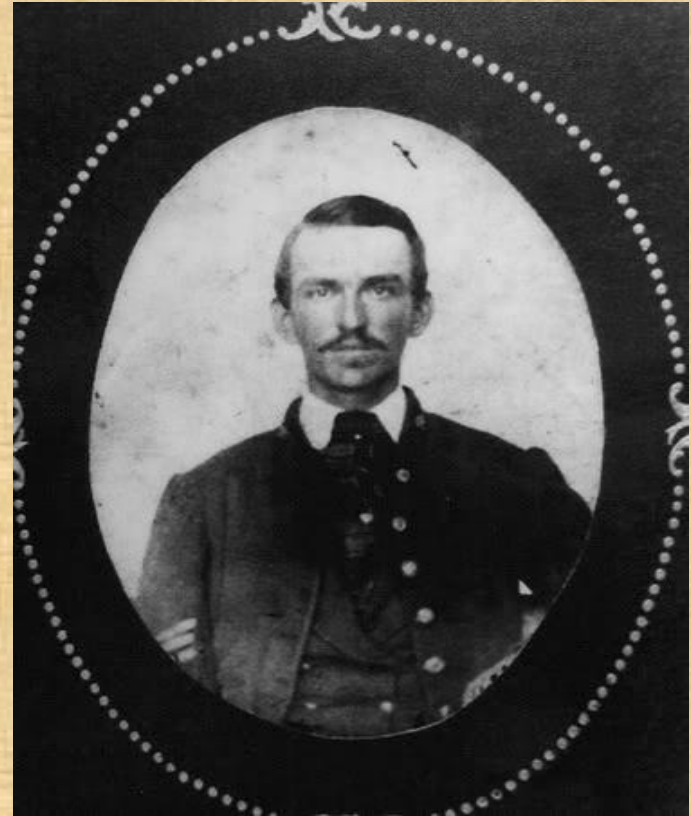
The Confederate army lost 5,377 men.

The Sunken Road at Fredericksburg

# *The People: Leadership Values*

The people that influenced the Battle of Fredericksburg displayed **selflessness**, **commitment**, and **courage**.

On 13 December 1862, Confederate Army Sergeant Richard Rowland Kirkland, Company G, 2nd South Carolina Volunteer Infantry, witnessed the suffering and heard the cries for help throughout the cold winter night by the wounded Union soldiers. After obtaining permission from his commander, Kirkland gathered canteens and in broad daylight provided water to numerous Union wounded lying on the field of battle. Union soldiers held their fire as he helped the wounded. Kirkland was nicknamed the "Angel of Marye's Heights."



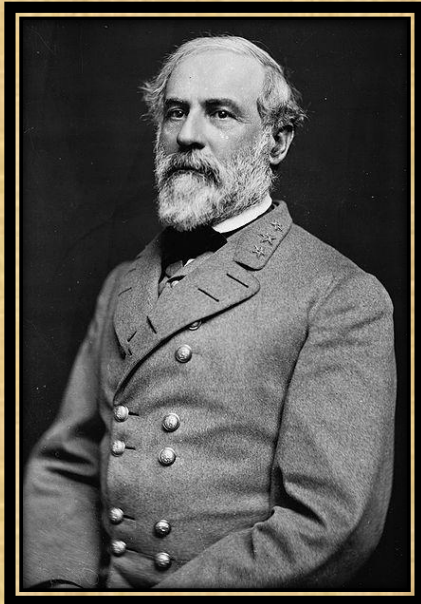
*selflessness*

# *The People: Leadership Values*

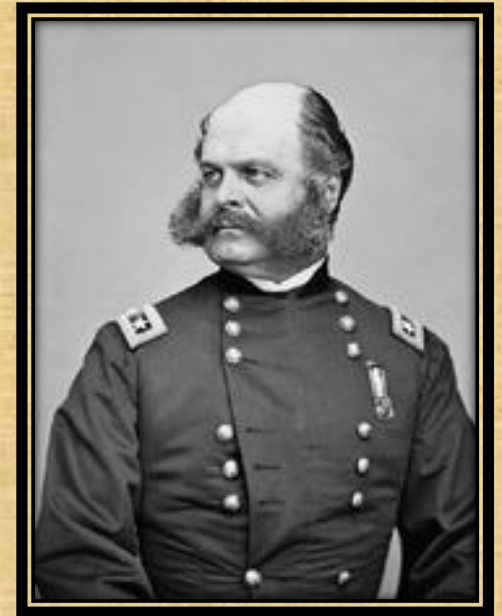
General Robert E. Lee and Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside were officers that joined the US Army to serve their country.

They both served in the military as senior commanders for over 30 years.

They gave themselves to a greater cause.



## *Commitment*



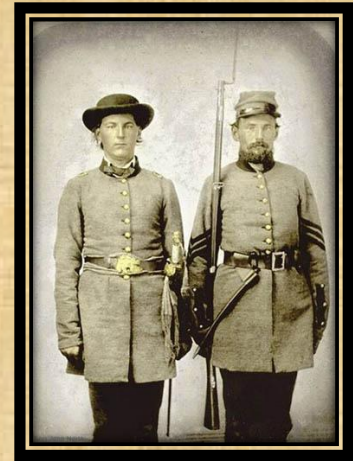
# *The People: Leadership Values*

Six Union divisions attacked the Confederate Army sixteen individual times, of which all failed, costing them from 6,000 to 8,000 casualties.

Individual soldiers faced the possibility of being wounded or dying for their country. Individual soldiers fought for what they believed was right.

What kind of trait leadership trait is displayed when you are scared to do something but you do it anyway?

## *Courage*



# Questions and Answers



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# *The People: Leadership Values*

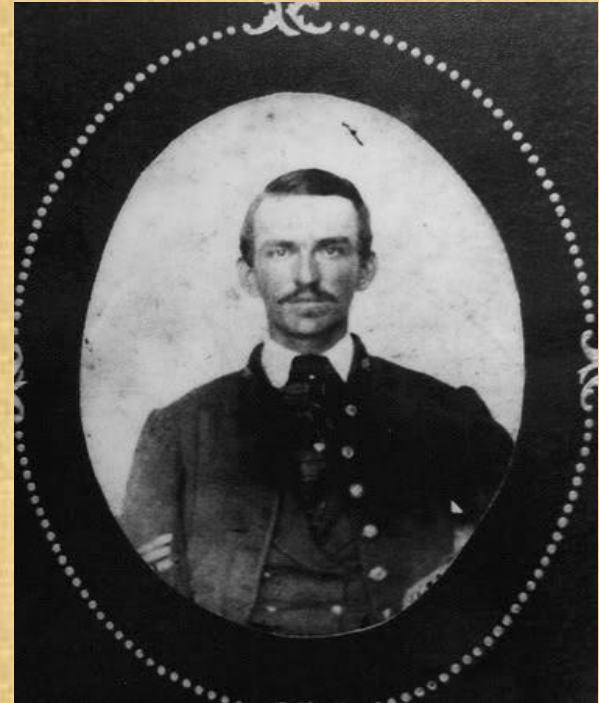
Confederate Army Sergeant Richard Rowland Kirkland showed selflessness by gathering canteens and providing water to numerous Union wounded lying on the field of battle.

## **What can you do at school to show selflessness?**

Let your school mates go before you in line  
Keep quiet if you finish your test early  
Sharing with your classmates

## **What can you do at home to show selflessness?**

Help your parents with chores  
Do not interrupt your parents when they are speaking  
Not complaining



*selflessness*

# *The People: Leadership Values*

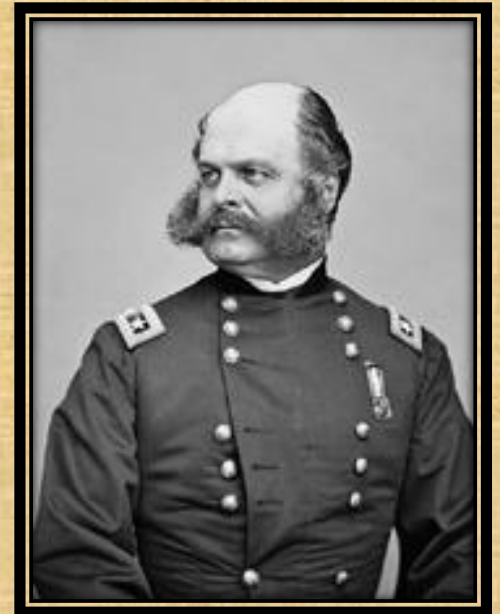
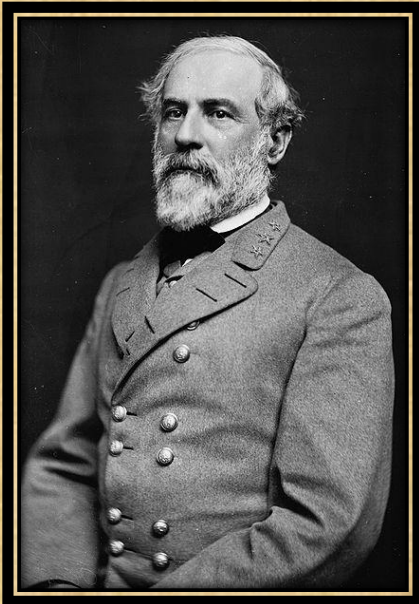
As an expression of commitment to their country, General Robert E. Lee and Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside were officers that served in the US Army.

**What can you do at school to that shows commitment?**

Listen in class and do your homework

Never quit when things get harder

Sticking up for your friends



## *Commitment*

# *The People: Leadership Values*

It took a lot of courage for six Union divisions to attack the Confederate Army sixteen individual times, of which all failed.

**What can you do at school to that shows courage?**

Raise your hand and ask for an explanation when you don't understand something

Admit you made a mistake and tell the teacher

Telling your friends to do the right thing and making good choices

## *Courage*

