Lesson One: Introduction to the Civil War

Specific Content of Lesson:
This lesson will be an introduction and overview of the Civil War. The students will notice the barrier between the North and the South and look at some of the causes.

Materials:
10 Facts of the Civil War- Overhead
Large Map of the United States (not included)
KWL Chart- Overhead
Uniforms-Overheads
Items from the trunk
Construction paper (enough for every student)-Not Provided
Markers, Colored Pencils, Drawing Utensils – Not Provided

Procedures:
1. Use the 10 facts of the Civil War as your guide throughout the unit. Explain #1 to them by pointing out where the division between the North and South took place (keep the rest of the facts covered until the appropriate time to show). Ask them:
   ♦ How many states they think would be included in the Civil War?
   ♦ How many states represent the North? South?
   ♦ How is the land different between the two sides?
   ♦ Where is the capital of the United States? Why is it located there?
     (Washington, D.C is centrally located on the East Coast and is not a part of any state.)
2. Continue this process with a KWL Chart (What the students know, What they want to know, and What they have learned). Simply ask the students what they know about the Civil War. Write down everything they say. You may need to prompt them with questions such as:
   ♦ Was there a difference in the way Northerners and Southerners made money?
   ♦ Think about where you live and the opposing region (Northern or Southern).
   ♦ Were there any laws that were different then they are now?
   ♦ How do you think they dressed for the war?
   ♦ Who were some of the war’s leaders?
   ♦ Which side would you want to be on? Why?
   Then ask the students what they want to learn. Keep this chart throughout the unit, because some questions may not be covered and it is always wise to at least answer them if you are not doing activities that will give the answers. **What they have learned will be at the end of the lesson.
3. Discuss how soldiers in the War would identify each other. Why do soldiers wear uniforms? Who else wears uniforms today and why?
4. Show the overheads of Civil War uniforms and accoutrements. (A Confederate officer’s uniform, the uniform of western North Carolina’s “Rough and Ready Guards,” a Union sharpshooter’s uniform, and a Union sailor’s uniform)
5. Pass around the replica Buncombe Riflemen’s uniform. Ask students what the uniform is made of [wool]. It would have been very hot in the spring and summer months. Make sure students notice the green velvet trim. What does this indicate about the Riflemen’s ideas about war? [Uniforms are relatively fancy, but in reality, soldiers spent a lot of time in dirty conditions.]

6. Using construction paper and markers, have the students create their own uniforms for each side. Tell them to write a caption about what the soldier is wearing, why, and what side they represent.

Evaluation:
Fill in the “What you have learned” part of the KWL Chart.
Images at War

Lesson Plan

Introduction

Visual materials can speak of the past with such immediacy that we feel ourselves in the presence of those times, drawn to knowledge by the power of emotion. Yet, like all documentary materials, images of the past carry contextual information which, after careful analysis, may reveal as much about the past as the evidence presented to our eyes.

Learning Objectives

To examine American attitudes toward war as revealed in Civil War photographs and World War II homefront posters; to explore ways in which the experience of war has helped shape the American social and cultural identity; to gain experience interpreting archival images; to organize a statement of findings.

1 Begin by asking students to examine the photograph titled "A Harvest of Death" by Timothy O'Sullivan (a member of Mathew Brady's photographic team) in the Selected Civil War Photographs collection at the American Memory website. (enclosed in transparency). This image of the aftermath at Gettysburg is perhaps the best known of several photographs in the collection that show Confederate casualties dead on the battlefield. Ask students to comment on the title O'Sullivan attached to his image. How does the title enlarge the scope of the picture beyond photojournalism? How does it slant the meaning of the picture within the partisan context of the Civil War? What was O'Sullivan's purpose in making this image for a Union audience? In what way does it comment on the Union cause? What attitudes toward the Civil War does the picture express? What might the picture look like if its purpose were to glorify a Union victory? Follow up these questions by asking students what other archival sources they might consult to support their interpretation of the photograph (e.g., periodicals and correspondence of the time).

2 Next ask students to examine the World War II poster titled "The Sowers" by Thomas Hart Benton in the "Powers of Persuasion" exhibit at the National Archives website. (www.archives.gov/index.html) This is one of several posters in the collection designed to influence American attitudes toward the enemy during the war. Ask students how the enemy is characterized in the poster. How does this characterization compare to O'Sullivan's portrayal of enemy casualties? How are the two images related to the special circumstances of the two wars? How are they related to our national memories of both wars? To our lasting attitudes toward both "enemies"?

3 Share with your students a broader selection of images from the "Powers of Persuasion" exhibit at the National Archives website or use some of the photographs enclosed. Ask students how an anthropologist might describe the American people based on the images portrayed in these posters. How might these posters have served to enhance solidarity among all Americans during World War II?
How does this compare with the solidarity O'Sullivan's Civil War image might have fostered?

4 Have students work in small groups to research and analyze other images of wartime America. They can search the Selected Civil War Photographs collection or the Photographs from the Office of War Information collection at the American Memory website for images of American mobilization during World War II. In addition to the "Powers of Persuasion" exhibit, students can find World War II images at the National Archives website in the A People at War exhibit and in a collection of "Pictures of African Americans during World War II," as well as in a collection of "Pictures of the Civil War." Have each group organize an exhibit that illustrates a range of American attitudes toward war and toward the role of civilians within the war effort. Ambitious groups might extend their research to include images from more recent wars, such as the Vietnam War and the Gulf War.

Extending the Lesson
Depending on your curriculum, you might use these images of war as a starting point for study of American literature about the experience of battle: for example, Stephen Crane's The Red Badge of Courage, stories from Ambrose Bierce's In The Midst of Life, Mark Twain's Private History of a Campaign That Failed, or Walt Whitman's Specimen Days; N. Scott Momaday's House Made of Dawn, Lillian Hellman's Watch on the Rhine, or Charles Fuller's A Soldier's Play. The images can serve also as a starting point for a broader investigation of the techniques of persuasion they represent. Finally, you might compare these images from wartime with the attitudes Americans express toward war through national monuments like the Iwo Jima Memorial and the Vietnam War Memorial.
Gettysburg, PA: Interior view of breastworks on extreme left of the Federal line
Gardner, Alexander, 1821-1882, photographer.
Created/Published: 1863 July
Summery: Photograph from the main eastern theater of the war, Gettysburg, June-July, 1863.
Two plates form variant view plate (LC-B811-0247A) and variant view (LC-B811-0247B).
Forms part of Civil War glass negative collection (Library of Congress).
LC-B811-247
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/l?cwar:14./temp/~ammem_0ehg::displayType=1:m856sd=cwpb:m856sf=00869:@@@
O'Sullivan, Timothy H., 1840-1882, photographer
Created/Published: July 1863
Two plates form left (LC-B811-2402A) and right (LC-B811-2402B) halves of a stereograph pair. Forms part of Civil War glass negative collection (Library of Congress).
LC-B811- 2402
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?cwar:18::/temp/~ammem_0ehg:T11:
Gettysburg, Pa. The Bryan house on 2d Corps line, near scene of Pickett's Charge.
Created/Published: July 1863
Photograph from the main eastern theater of the war, Gettysburg, June-July, 1863.
Two plates form left (LC-B811-2516A) and right (LC-B811-2516B) halves of a stereograph pair.
Forms part of Civil War glass negative collection (Library of Congress).
LC-B811-2516
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?cwar:17:/temp/~ammem_0ehg:T11:
Bull Run, Va. Catharpin Run, Sudley Church, and the remains of the Sudley Sulphur Spring house.
Barnard, George N., 1819-1902, photographer.
Created/Published: 1862 March.
Photograph from the main eastern theater of war, First Bull Run, July 1861
Two plates form left (LC-B811-0314A) and right (LC-B811-0314B) halves of a stereograph pair.
Forms part of Civil War glass negative collection (Library of Congress).
LC-B811- 314
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/?cwar:14:/temp/~ammem_mCgF::displayType=1:m856sd=cwpb:m856sf=00957:@@@
Beaufort, S.C. 50th Pennsylvania Infantry in parade formation.
O'Sullivan, Timothy H., 1840-1882, photographer.
Created/Published: 1862 February.
Photograph of the Federal Navy, and seaborne expeditions against the Atlantic Coast of the Confederacy -- specifically of Port Royal, S.C., 1861-1862.
Forms part of Selected Civil War photographs, 1861-1865 (Library of Congress)
LC-B811- 156A
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/I?cwar:6:/temp/~ammem_hZuK::displayType=1:m856sd=cwpb:m856sf=00741:@@@
Created/Published: Between 1860 and 1865
Photograph from the main eastern theater of war, Confederate winter quarters, 1861-1862.
Manassas, Va. Orange and Alexandria Railroad wrecked by retreating Confederates.
Barnard, George N., 1819-1902, photographer.
Created/Published: 1862 March.
Photograph from the main eastern theater of war, Confederate winter quarters, 1861-1862.
Forms part of Civil War glass negative collection (Library of Congress).
LC-B817- 7197
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/I?cwar:5:/temp/~ammem_BXHy::displayType=1:m856sd=cwpb:m856sf=03748:@@@
Richmond, Va. General view of the burned district.
Gardner, Alexander, 1821-1882, photographer.
Created/Published: 1865 April.
Photograph of the main eastern theater of war, fallen Richmond, April-June 1865.
Forms part of Selected Civil War photographs, 1861-1865 (Library of Congress)
LC-B817- 7110
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/I?cwar:6:/temp/~ammem_XwBd::displayType=1:m856sd=cwpb:m856sf=03711:@@@
Atlanta, Ga. Ruins of depot, blown up on Sherman's departure.
Barnard, George N., 1819-1902, photographer.
Gibson, James F., b. 1828, photographer.
Created/Published: 1862 July 9.
Photographs of the Federal Navy, and seaborne expeditions against the Atlantic Coast of the Confederacy -
- the Federal Navy, 1861-1865.
Reference: Civil War photographs, 1861-1865 / compiled by Hirst D. Milhollen and Donald H. Mugridge,
Forms part of Selected Civil War photographs, 1861-1865 (Library of Congress)
LC-B815-390
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/I?cwar:2:/temp/~ammem_KXjT::displayType=1:m856sd=cwpb:m856sf=00139:@@@
ROLE PLAYING THE CIVIL WAR
Lesson Plan

OVERVIEW: To help students comprehend the time frame of colonization to the present we begin with a blank bulletin board with a skeletal outline of the United States. We fill portions as colonies become states. We continue along the same flow into the Civil War unit. Students are really getting excited about the growth of the United States. They understand the time, effort, and work required to bring us as a nation to the point of the Civil War.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this unit is to provide a frame for the students to use in evaluating both points of view in the Civil War.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

1. Identify which states belong to the Union and which states belong to the Confederacy.
2. Identify three reasons of the North and three reasons of the South for the Civil War.
3. Identify and comprehend feeling experienced by both northern and southern states.
4. Identify the qualities of exceptional leaders regardless of their patriotic affiliation.
5. Feel compassion for participants in the Civil War regardless of their side.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Begin removing seceding states from bulletin board as they secede.
2. When the Civil War begins the students are divided into Union and Confederacy. They choose leaders, draw their flags, and learn the background to support their historical position. They create recruitment posters to encourage enlistment and support for their sides. (No interaction between Northerns and Southerns for the duration of the unit).
3. During Language period the North writes a report portraying Abraham Lincoln to be presented orally. The South writes a report on Robert E. Lee to be presented orally.

RESOURCES/MATERIALS NEEDED: All resources available in most schools.

TYING IT ALL TOGETHER: The class can improve on history by having a reuniting ceremony in following what Abraham Lincoln would have promoted had he lived. President Lincoln did have strong plans for reconstruction that were not implemented for lack of quality leadership.
THOMAS JEFFERSON MOSES  
The diary and memoirs of a Union Soldier

Objectives: the students will:

- Identify and assess the role of a private in the Union Army during the Civil War
- Use metacognitive strategies to comprehend text and to clarify meaning of vocabulary
- Identify and interpret the personal writings of someone from a former time, using terms such as main idea, author’s choice of words, mood and author’s use of figurative language
- Make inferences, draw conclusions, make generalizations, and support by referencing the text.

Procedure:

Tell the students about Moses’ life and show his Enlistment papers. There is a print form of the paper in the notebook for ‘translations’.

- How long was Moses signing up for? (3 years)
- Read selections from Moses’ memoirs and lead discussion about the narrative.
- Question students as to their understanding of the language
- Are there phrases or references they don’t understand? Why?
- Use the Soldier Talk & Civil War Slang pages to discuss terms that were used as soldiers.

Make copies or transparencies of sections of Moses’ diary entries or letters. Have students rewrite the text, correcting grammar, spelling and sentence structure to today’s standards.

The memoirs were probably written in 1911 and describe the organization and early action of Company G, 93rd Regiment, Illinois Volunteers. These recollections end abruptly after the surrender of Vicksburg. The diary was started on August 28, 1863. It is in poor condition and has been very difficult to transcribe. Included are selections that may be of particular interest. The spelling of the memoirs and diary have not been changed except where necessary for clarity. Punctuation has been added.

THOMAS JEFFERSON MOSES’ LIFE

Thomas Jefferson Moses was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania on May 24, 1843. His parents were Abraham Moses and Julian Rhoades Moses. Abraham Moses was a farmer and had six children. The Moses family was of German ancestry. In 1856 the family moved to a farm in Stephenson County, Illinois, near Freeport.

On August 12, 1862, Jefferson enlisted in the 93rd Regiment, Illinois Volunteers. The 93rd had a distinguished record, participating at Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge and the March to the Sea. It also suffered heavy casualties at Champion Hill and Allatoona Pass.

Private Moses became ill at Vicksburg and was furloughed in July, 1863. After returning home, he spent time in convalescent camps in Nashville and Memphis before rejoining his regiment on January 6, 1864 in northern Alabama. He participated in the battle of Allatoona Pass on October 5, 1864, the March to the Sea, the March through the Carolinas, and the Grand Review in Washington D.C.
VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT – print form

State of Illinois Stephenson Co town of Buckeye
I, Jefferson Moses born in Somerset Co
in the State of Pennsylvania aged nineteen years, and by occupation a
Farmer Do HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have volunteered this twelfth
day of August 1862 to serve as a SOLDIER in the Army of the United
States of America, for the period of THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper
authority: Do also agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may
be, established by law for volunteers. And I, Jefferson Moses
do solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies
or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President of
the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules
and Articles of War
Jefferson Moses
Sworn and subscribed to, at Cedarville this twelfth day of
August 1862, before J. Richart, J.P.
I Certify, on Honor, That I have carefully examined the above named Volunteer, agree-
able to the General Regulations of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all
bodily defects and mental infirmity, which would, in any way, disqualify him from performing the
duties of a soldier.
Examining Surgeon (left unsigned)
I Certify, on honor, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer,
previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely
sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and
that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I
have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service. This soldier has grey
eyes, brown hair, dark complexion, is 5 feet 8 1/2 inches high.
Regiment of (uncompleted) Volunteers,
Recruiting Officer

From THOMAS JEFFERSON MOSES’ MEMOIRS

MUSTERED IN AT CAMP DOUGLAS

We got to Rockford and went to a camp called Camp Fuller. The government had built what they
called baraks. Buildings all rugh boards. They were large enough to hold 100 men with officers
quarters at one end. They were fit up with bunks - three in a tier. I and Phillip Garmen were
together. We took a lower bunk. Each of us took with us from home a blanket. We put one in to
lay on, the other over us. Oh what a difference in beds we left at home. Nothing but hard boards
to sleep on. Well do I remember the first night. How sore my hips were in the morning. I thought
there and then must I sleep on hard boards for three years. It was a sad thought.

We got government rations. We got hard tack, coffee, meat, sugar and a lot of other things. We
got our first meal and seemed quer to us. We did not know how to go about cooking. But we got
along in good shape years after. We were some three weeks and drilled company drill. We had no guns yet. When we went on guard we took a good stout stick for a gun and walked our beat two hours at a time. What soldiering!

Some three weeks here we got orders to report in Chicago. I remember while at Rockford father came to visit me. I had learned to smoke during this time. I remember father took my pipe and took a couple of whiffs just to see how it tasted. The first time I think he ever tasted tobacco. He all ways was opposed to the weed and I had never smoked but a few times. Had never used the weed before.

Well when we got to Chicago they put us in barraks where some ten thousand rebels had been as prisoners of war. Oh how dirty and filthy they were. Here we got what the boys called lousy for good. It was a fearful place to put us in. In a couple of days we were joined by 8 other company and were mustered in as a regiment (93rd mustered in October 13, 1862). Our Colonel was from Freeport. Altho I had never seen him our company elected Joe Reel as our Captain with other officers to numerous to mention. Some time after we got cloathing and such a sight. We had to just take what they gave us. Then we began to trade with each other and that way we got our clothes to fit us. We also got guns. Oh what a time. We drew a gun, a caterige box and belt, a knap sack, a canteen, a haver sack. Just about a load for a man to carry.

We stayed in Camp Duglas some two or three weeks and while there 12 thousand of our soldiers were sent their (paroled Union prisoners). They were surrendered to the rebels at Harpers Ferry by General Miles who was to get a sum of money. He was shot thru the leg and died of his wound so he never got to use his ill goton riches. Some raid. His own men killed him. (This was a common rumor at the time but it is inaccurate that a General Miles surrendered in exchange for money).

Shortly after those troops landed we were taken out and put in tents near where Duglas was buried. (Senator Stephen Douglas - best known for the Lincoln-Douglas debates). I seen his grave several times. Those prisoners became disorderly and wanted to be sent to their own states. Oh how they did burn baraks, night after night. We would be called out and sent to quell them. A good many of them went home without being sent. They were all estern troops so we stayed till December.

FORAGING IN MISSISSIPPI

We carried pretty good loads. A knap sack, a change of clothes, a blanket, a rubber blanket with a lot of other things. Also a over coat. All soon got rid of some of our things - over coats, blankets, pant shirts, sox was discarded. Some places the side of the road was strewn with clothes. We camped close to Holly Springs. A very beautiful little town. I don't think I seen a neater and cleaner town in the south then Holly Springs. We left there. Came to a place called Lumpkins Mill. A small grist mill was here. On this march we camped in a timber and small creek ran at the foot of a hill. Just before we broke ranks the colonel said boys you know the orders against foraging. But over across the creek are a lot of hogs. But don't let an officer catch you. We got three or four nice big porkers and had plenty of fresh meat. We had very strict orders agaist taking any thing. But we lucky and were not caught. South of here I met a number of boys of the 46th Illinois (a Regiment with many members from Freeport area). We could only talk as we passed. We campt on the Tallahachie River. The water was a fright. Lots of dead mules in the river.
Here old Price, a rebel General, had built strong forts just across the river but he could not hold them. We took up our march for a town named Oxford. A nice clean town but no one seemed to be at home. The people had all moved out when they heard the yankies was coming. We marched south of Oxford to a little creek called Yankma Creek. Here we stayed several days. While here one night we had a earth quake. It shook the ground so we rolled on over in our beds. Some men, scared considerable, thought the rebels had planted some torpedoes (a land mine was called a torpedo during the civil war) to stop us.

One evening a great uprore in camp - fall in, fall in was the cry. Drums began to beat. Bugels blew and in a short time we started on the back track to where we did not know. We got to Oxford. Went in camp east of town during the night. The long roll of the drum began to be heard. We ware routed out and in line of battel. While here we heard the rebels had taken Holly Springs where our suplys were all burned up. The night we were in line we could hear teams and wagons moving south. No doubt they were rebels. But we soon broke rank and went to our quarters. Again the rebels destroyed nearly a million dollars worth of property. All the officers uniforms had been left their to follow up. But they were all destroyed. It caused lots of hardship. All our hard tack, all the meat was destroyed. We suffered for food. (This action in Holly Springs and Oxford took place on December 20 and 21, 1862).

On our way back we had nothing to eat but corn. I remember we got a big coffee mill. We spiked it to a tree and ground corn nearly all night. We were new to cooking but we learned. Oh how good it tasted to a hungry man. We marched back toward Holly Springs and on Christmas we camped for a few days at a place called Lumpkins Mill. A small grist mill on a creek was all that was there. Some of the boys ware out foraging and got a good sized fat hog. We bought some flour. The quarter master and our cook made some doughnuts. They tasted splendid. It was a cold Christmas. Right on a bare hill we camped. We had the old Zibly (Sibley) tent where 24 men slept in one tent. We left for some place we knew not of. We marched till we got to a small town on the Memphis and Charleston railroad at a small town called Jermontown. We stoped a few days then moved to a station called White Station. Some 12 miles from Memphis.

There we went east to winter quarters. When we got there an old planter by name of Brooks lived alone in a fine big house of (unidentified word). We had strict orders against foraging. But Brooks had a fine lot of sweet potatoes in rail bins. Some five or six of them. Well we were not alone in sampling Brooks potatoes. We kept taking till the bins was all empty. We stayed there quite a while. Their was an old log house stood some 20 feet or more from the main building. It must of been 20X30, some ten feet high. One end of gabel end was out and it looked as tho it was filled with cotton seed. A guard always stood pretty close to this building. One night one of the boys crawled around the guard and got up on top of the cotton seed. He began to dig down for nothing could be hid. But what we would find some two or three feet down he came on some boards. He dug till he uncovered a space and behold there were the choice of the potatoes. He came and routed us out. We began to carry potatoes till we had all we wanted. Then told the other companys and by morning the sweet potatoes were pretty near all gone. Say we lived good for some time. It was reported. Old Brooks still told the officers the old house was full of cotton seed. Hence the officers never done a thing to us. Their was some 50 or more goats running around in a yard and among them a lot of kids. We got quite a number of them. Spendid eating.

While we layed there the spring of 63 we had a snow storm. Some 10 inches of snow fell. Well do I remember the night for I was on picket a good mile from camp. In trying to keep my feet warm, I burned my shoes and pant legs so they crumbled to pieces. We were wet for it had rained the day before and till mid night. Some 20 or 30 rods from our picket were some cattel and amg them a nice fat calf. Our cook brought supper out and coffee. We told him we got the calf and hid it in the snow. So in the morning the cook went some little distance out to a small hay stack. Got a bundel of hay; roled the carcas in; started for camp. When he got to camp the hay had droped off so that the legs and part of the calf ware exposed. He dumped it in a barrel so we had calf meat for a time.
FROM THOMAS JEFFERSON MOSES' DIARY

BENTONVILLE, N. C.

(Jefferson Moses marched into North Carolina on March 8. One of the final battles of the war took place at Bentonville from March 19-21. The 93rd was in the line of battle but not directly engaged in the battle.)

March 8, 1865

To day we marched 12 miles and made cedoroy (cuduroy road) all day. It rained all day. To night we camp in north Carolina.

March 9, 1865

To day it rained all day. We did not march very far till we got in an awful swamp. We marched all day and are still at it to night. It is now past mid night and part of the horses is still in the mud and water. (The regimental history classified this day as one of the worst of the war. They were stuck in a quicksand swamp and the mules gave up and refused to budge. The wagons had to be pulled out by the men.)

March 10, 1865

To day we crossed the Lumber river a small river. We marched 10 miles. We marched 7 miles before we got to the Division. We got to camp at 4 this morning. We marched nearly all night.

March 11, 1865

This morning we are in the rear of our Corps. When we were redy to start the rebels crossed the swamp and cut two horses loose from the Ambulance and recrossed again but wounded one or two men. They were dressed in our uniform. To day we marched 8 miles in nearly all swamp. We did not get to camp till 11 o clock.

March 12, 1865

To day we marched 12 miles and come within 2 miles of the city of fayetteville. We were rear guard and did not come to camp till 10 o clock. The whole corps is in camp here. The city is now taken by the 14 corps and the caverly.

March 13, 1865

To day we lay in camp.

March 14, 1865
To day we lay in camp till nearly noon. Then we marched through the city of Fayetteville. It is a pretty nice town but we did not get to go through the center of the town. This evening we crossed the Cape Fear river on the pontoon bridge.

March 15, 1865

To day we leave at 1 o clock. To day we marched 10 miles. We did not get to camp till after dark. We waded mud and water (unidentified word) to our bodies. It was dreadful so it was.

March 17, 1865

Last night I was on picket. Yesterday it rained nearly all day and part of the night. This morning we were relieved from picket and went to the Division then marched back again. To day we marched 8 miles and got to camp in good time.

March 18, 1865

To day we marched 12 miles and got to camp at 3 pm. To day we come over a very swampy country. We waded one large swamp.

March 19, 1865

To day we marched 11 miles and camped. The 14 Corps had a heavy fight with the rebels. (The Battle of Bentonville had started)

March 20, 1865

Last night we had to throw up works. We had good works. To day we marched 10 miles and come on to the enemy. They are fortified pretty strong. Our men drove them a good piece to day. This afternoon we change camp. We moved about a mile and camped again. It rained very hard.

March 21, 1865

This morning it is nice and clear again. Last night our men charged the enemy's works and took one line of there works but they charged 5 or 6 times through the night trying to drive our men back again. The results I have not learned. (Confederate General Joe Johnston had a force of 21,000 men and attacked repeatedly on the left of the union line without success. His outmanned army was forced to retreat on the 21st. The 93rd was in the line of battle on the 20th but were on right side of the union line and were not directly involved in the battle.)

March 22, 1865

It is noon and we are in camp yet this morning. The rebels (unidentified word) there fortifications. Our troops have possession of all there outer works. To day it is very windy and very smokey.
ALLATOONA LETTER

(While Jefferson Moses frequently wrote letters during the war, this is the only one known to exist. He writes with more reflection and emotion than he shows in the diary. He was affected by the death of Henry Carl and writes at length about this in the first portion of the letter. He probably just learned in a letter from home of the pregnancy of his unmarried sister Clarry. In the latter part of the letter he is very provoked at the unnamed man responsible. Clarry gave birth to an out of wedlock daughter on February 25, 1865)

Camp of the 93rd Reg Ill Inft Vol at Allatoona Georgia Oct 24 1864

Dear father & Mother

It is with great care and much Kindness that god has shown towards me in giving me this present opportunity to address you with a few lines to let you know how I am prospering by this time. I am thankful to god that he has kept me safe so far and has blest me with good health until the last week. I have had Considerable Augue (ague was a common illness of soldiers during the war characterized by periods of chills, fever and sweating) but I feel pretty good as long as I haven’t got the Chills but what makes me the sickest is the fever after I am over the Chills but still it don’t last onley one day. I have had two chills in 6 day and if it don’t come eny oftner then that why I can be very thankful. Some of the boys in our reg have it every day regular at that but I hope I ought to shake again but I dont feel enything yet so far and I hope I may not get it.

Before I go further I will tell you of a sad day we had yesterdy. Sunday we had a very solom day in buring one of our Comrads that was near and dear to us. That was Henry C. Carl. He was a noble young man. Allway willing to do his duty when called upon and he was allway found at his post but god seen fit to call him away and god only Know how long it will be till some of us will hafto folow him.

Henry Carl was wounded here on the 5th at this battle Allatoona Georgia. He was wounded severely. He was shot through the right lung. The ball enterd right under his arm under the right arm and lodged near his back bone but docters took the ball out with out eny trouble and had hops of him recovering but I think he was shot to deep. It could not heal. Oh I did pity him so I did and how I do pity his family and wi...
they halted and the Chaplain read a couple of verses and said a couple of words then prayed a prayer. Three salutes were fired over his coffin then he was covered. I did not go down. I felt so very dizzy at the time and I did make around very much yesterday. Now Henry C. Carl and Simon Hulbert they lay in one row. All of our regt that were killed on the 5th lay in one row on a little hill and every one has a nies head board up. Henry and Simon were both mess mates and slept together and now they rest together until the Judgement day comes when all shall rise again to appear before God there to give an account of their steward ship here below. (Corporal Hulbert of Company G was killed on October 5 during the battle of Allatoona Pass. The regimental history lists his name as Lyman Hulbert.)

We have now moved into winter quarters. We moved our tents inside of the forts and now we have built us Chimneys. We have very present at present but how long we will stay is not in my knowledge to know. There is some rumors in camp that we have orders to March but I guess it is only a flying report not unless they should evacuat this rod which I dont think they will yet awhile.

I did not stat eny at first that I had a letter from you on the 21st dated the 3rd and 6th of this month. I was very glad to hear from you. We dont get our mail regular anymor since old hood (Confederate General John Bell Hood) has got in the rear of us. But now the railroad is nearly repaired. They Expect trains through every day now and I hope we may get mail more regular after this. You see the reason that you did not get my letter. Old hood had got in the rear of sherman but when old hood got to the road where he found old sherman. There to they had some fighting. I know not how much. I supose you see it in the paper before this all about it.

Oh father I was sorry to hear of the bad luck that Clarry (sister Clara Elizabeth Moses) had. I tell you father after I left home the time I had that furlow after I come down here again I often thought of such thing happening in the family. I have often layed in bead and studied thinking if there should such a thing happen to any of the girls. I would hardly know what to do but it is so we will hafto put up with whatever comes but if he dont take her why I would make him pay well for it and if I live to get home he can look out and watch him or he might get a stick threwed at him the confounded rascal. I would agoodal if I were at home now. I dont think he is eny better then she is or what is the reason the old folks dont want him. I guess by the time you get this he will be at home and time will show. I done hardly think of it. I dont know what I would do with such a person should I meet him. It would almost tempt me to fight him and I rather think if they dont get married he would better stay away from where I am if I ever get to go home. But I hope that thing may all com off right after all. At least I hope it may all come right.

Well I must close. I could write much more but space will not permit and by the time you get through you will get tired but I hop you will Excuse my poor writing and speling and my misstakes. This leaves me in tolerable good health hoping it will find you all well. My love to you all and I hop god will spare us that we may meet again shall ever be my wish till death. I still remain your son till death.

father and Mother Brother and sister Jefferson Moses

(post script) I would like to know how tall Addie Ema (sister Addie Emma Moses, age 3) is by this time. Oh I would give 10 dollars just to see her once and have a chat with her. I guess she would hardly know me now. I think I have changed fetures considerable since I left home.