

CIVIL WAR

Introduction

As the tension between the North and the South grew in the days that led up to the Civil War, it appeared inevitable that a conflict would soon occur. The explosion of the Civil War between the seceded Confederate States (the South) and the Union States (the North) called for arms on both sides. Over one million Confederate and two million Union soldiers participated in over two hundred battles that lasted for four years. Traveling further than the span of the East Coast, many soldiers endured great hardships while serving their respective armies. Horrid living conditions, unsanitary medical instruments, harsh weather, and a deficient diet led to the suffering of many soldiers who had survived battle. This lesson helps students imagine what it was like to be a Union Army Captain.

Grades: 6-8

Materials

Primary Source Documents:
Muster-Out Roll and
Volunteer Discharge
Certificate.

Standards

NY STATE STANDARD 1: HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES AND NEW YORK

Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of the United States and New York.

COMMON CORE: CC6-8RH/SS2

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

AASL STANDARDS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNER: 2.1.1

Continue an inquiry-based research process by applying critical thinking skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation, organization) to information and knowledge in order to construct new understandings, draw conclusions, and create new knowledge.

Learning Objectives

Using primary sources related to the Civil War, students will:

- » Learn about primary sources, what they are and how to interpret them in order to help understand the past.
- » Expand their knowledge about the Civil War and imagine what life was like as a Union Army Captain.
- » Create a fictional story from the primary source documents.

Assessment

Assessment should be largely based on the student's composition of a fictional story, which demonstrates their ability to:

- » Decipher primary source documents.

- » Demonstrate their knowledge about the Civil War by incorporating factual information into a fictional story about a Civil War Union Captain.
- » Construct new understandings through creative writing.

Students should use what they have learned from analyzing the primary source documents to create their own fictional story about the Civil War Union Captain, Alonzo T. Mason.

Getting Started

- » Explain that primary sources are original documents that tell us about the historical moments in which they were created. Ask the following questions: How can you tell that you are looking, touching, or listening to a primary source? What is a secondary source? Explain that secondary sources are interpretations of primary sources.
- » Introduce the skill of the lesson. In this lesson students will use primary sources to understand the Civil War and the life of an army captain during the nineteenth century. Students will then construct a fictional story based on the life of Alonzo T. Mason and the 128 Regiment of New York Volunteers.

Direct Instruction

1. Read aloud the “Muster-out Roll of Captain Alonzo T. Mason.” Explain what a muster roll and a muster-out roll are (See Teacher’s Notes for more information). Ask the students if the muster-out roll reminds them of anything (for example: taking class attendance). Ask them whose job is it to take attendance and whose job is it to read the muster-out roll? Why do we take attendance and why would a captain call his soldiers? Is there anything else that a muster-out roll can be compared to? Ask students to compare and contrast the muster-out roll to a graduation ceremony, voter polls, or checking attendance after a fire drill.
2. Have the students look at the muster-out roll. Ask: What does this document tell you? What conclusions can you draw from the information provided in the primary source document? For example, explain that students can see how many soldiers volunteered, where they came from, and how long they served in the army.
3. Read aloud the discharge paper. Point out its similarities and differences from the muster-out roll. Compare the discharge paper to a diploma. Ask students: Who signs a diploma? Who signed the discharge paper? What are some of the responsibilities of an army captain? What kinds of things would Captain Alonzo be responsible for providing to his unit? (For example: food, water, clothing, shoes, blankets, direction, transportation, guns and artillery). Make sure the students are thinking about the needs of an army within the context of the Civil War (for example: How did soldiers travel to the battleground during the mid-nineteenth century?)
4. Guide students through the process of developing their own fictional story based on the responsibilities of a Civil War captain. Express that their stories should incorporate facts from the primary source documents and historical events from the war (For example: the Battle of the Ironclads, the Battle of Bull Run, or the Battle of Antietam). Have students draw a portrait of Captain Alonzo T. Mason to illustrate their story.

Reflection and Sharing

- » Have each student share their answer to the following question with the class: What are some examples of how you incorporated the primary sources into your story?
- » If time permits, students may also share an excerpt from their written fictional stories.

MUSTER-OUT ROLL of Captain George T. Mason, Company, [A.] in the 123 Regiment of
 by _____ at _____, (the place of general rendezvous, on the
 unless sooner discharged; from the _____ day of _____, 186 _____, (when
 at _____, in the month of _____, 186 _____, and marched thence to _____ here it a

NUMBER OF RANK	NAMES. PRESENT AND ABSENT. <small>(Please to alphabetical order—the first indication name to be written first.)</small>	RANK	AGE	JOINED FOR SERVICE AND ENROLLED AT GENERAL RENDEZVOUS— COMMENCEMENT OF FIRST PAYMENT BY TIME.				MUSTERED INTO SERVICE.				
				WHEN.	WHERE.	BY WHOM.	PERIOD.	WHEN.	WHERE.	BY WHOM.	BY PAYMASTER.	TO WHAT TIME.
1	George T. Mason	Capt	23	Aug 9/62	Salem, N.Y.	J. B. Hall	3 yrs	Nov 1/63	Fullahoma	Dr. J. B. Patterson		
1	George Robinson	1st Lieut	31	Aug 7/62	Greenwich, N.Y.	G. T. Mason	3 yrs	Nov 1/63	Fullahoma	Dr. J. B. Patterson		
2	Harvey M. Bowditch	2nd Lieut	19	Aug 7/62	Greenwich, N.Y.	G. T. Mason	3 yrs	Nov 1/63	Fullahoma	Dr. J. B. Patterson		
1	Eugene Cowan	1st Serg	20	Aug 7/62	Greenwich, N.Y.	G. T. Mason	3 yrs	Sept 4/62	Salem, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
2	John W. Richards	2d "	22	" 4/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
3	Albert M. Booth	3d "	19	" 7/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
4	Albert A. Brown	4th "	26	" 4/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
5	Joseph Safford	5th "	23	" 12/62	"	A. Reynolds	"	"	"	"	"	"
1	Agnes M. Hoyatt	1st Lieut	25	Aug 7/62	Greenwich, N.Y.	A. Reynolds	3 yrs	Sept 4/62	Salem, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
2	Thomas K. Rice	2d "	22	" 4/62	"	A. Reynolds	"	"	"	"	"	"
3	William H. Manning	3d "	19	" 7/62	"	A. Reynolds	"	"	"	"	"	"
4	Charles H. Mason	4th "	24	" 4/62	"	G. T. Mason	"	"	"	"	"	"
5	Richard Durham	5th "	23	" 7/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
6	Charles Tucker	6th "	21	" 7/62	"	J. C. Shaw	"	"	"	"	"	"
1	Allen Joshua	1st Lieut	23	Aug 4/62	Greenwich, N.Y.	J. C. Shaw	3 yrs	Sept 4/62	Salem, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
2	Bentley Israel	2d "	36	" 12/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
3	Brooks Ezra	3d "	22	" 12/62	"	G. T. Mason	"	"	"	"	"	"
4	Briggs Aaron	4th "	18	July 22/62	"	A. Reynolds	"	"	"	"	"	"
5	Bodie Ferdinand	5th "	19	Aug 7/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
6	Barnes John	6th "	21	" 4/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
7	Brown Albert	7th "	20	" 23/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
8	Bush George R.	8th "	18	Sept 4/64	"	John Reynolds	1 year	Sept 4/64	Tracy, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
9	Campbell Charles	9th "	28	Aug 7/62	"	A. Reynolds	3 "	" 4/62	Salem, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
10	Carter John S.	10th "	24	" 4/62	"	J. C. Shaw	"	"	"	"	"	"
11	Chapin Marcus	11th "	23	" 7/62	Tracy, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager	1 year	Aug 7/64	Tracy, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
12	Croft John	12th "	21	" 20/64	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
13	Downing George	13th "	38	" 4/62	Greenwich, N.Y.	G. T. Mason	3 yrs	Sept 4/62	Salem, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
14	Dove John	14th "	19	" 4/62	"	A. Reynolds	"	"	"	"	"	"
15	Decker John	15th "	30	" 4/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
16	Dobson Alexander	16th "	19	" 4/62	"	J. C. Shaw	"	"	"	"	"	"
17	Dwyer Thomas	17th "	19	Sept 4/64	Tracy, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager	1 year	" 7/64	Tracy, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
18	Dwight Charles J.	18th "	33	Aug 7/62	Greenwich, N.Y.	G. T. Mason	3 yrs	" 4/62	Salem, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
19	Eames Samuel S.	19th "	39	" 4/62	"	A. Reynolds	"	"	"	"	"	"
20	Fuller Benedict	20th "	20	" 4/62	"	G. T. Mason	"	"	"	"	"	"
21	Fryer George	21st "	20	" 12/62	"	A. Reynolds	"	"	"	"	"	"
22	Gaines John	22nd "	20	" 12/62	"	G. T. Mason	"	"	"	"	"	"
23	Gallatin Richard	23rd "	19	" 12/62	"	A. Reynolds	"	"	"	"	"	"
24	Halligan John T.	24th "	22	" 4/62	"	G. T. Mason	"	"	"	"	"	"
25	Hughes Thomas	25th "	30	" 7/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
26	Hughes John	26th "	20	Feb 27/64	"	J. C. Shaw	"	"	"	"	"	"
27	Hughes George	27th "	27	Aug 7/62	"	A. Reynolds	"	"	"	"	"	"
28	Hughes Robert	28th "	21	" 12/62	"	A. Reynolds	"	"	"	"	"	"
29	Hughes James	29th "	40	" 7/62	"	J. C. Shaw	"	"	"	"	"	"
30	Hughes William	30th "	35	" 7/62	"	G. T. Mason	"	"	"	"	"	"
31	Hughes James	31st "	32	" 4/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
32	Hughes Alexander	32nd "	21	" 12/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
33	Hughes John	33rd "	18	" 12/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
34	Hughes John	34th "	20	Aug 4/62	Greenwich, N.Y.	A. Reynolds	3 yrs	" 4/62	Salem, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
35	Hughes John	35th "	33	" 4/62	"	G. T. Mason	"	"	"	"	"	"
36	Hughes William	36th "	31	" 27/64	Tracy, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager	1 year	" 7/64	Tracy, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
37	Hughes Thomas	37th "	24	" 27/64	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
38	Hughes David	38th "	19	" 7/62	Greenwich, N.Y.	A. Reynolds	3 yrs	" 4/62	Salem, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
39	Hughes James	39th "	32	" 27/64	"	G. T. Mason	"	"	"	"	"	"
40	Hughes George	40th "	19	" 27/64	Tracy, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager	1 year	" 7/64	Tracy, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
41	Hughes Benjamin	41st "	26	" 4/62	Greenwich, N.Y.	G. T. Mason	3 yrs	" 4/62	Salem, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		
42	Hughes John	42nd "	43	" 7/62	"	A. Reynolds	"	"	"	"	"	"
43	Hughes George	43rd "	19	" 4/62	"	G. T. Mason	"	"	"	"	"	"
44	Hughes John	44th "	24	" 4/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
45	Hughes George	45th "	41	" 12/62	"	A. Reynolds	"	"	"	"	"	"
46	Hughes John	46th "	26	" 4/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
47	Hughes John	47th "	21	" 7/62	"	J. C. Shaw	"	"	"	"	"	"
48	Hughes William	48th "	18	July 27/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
49	Hughes Oscar	49th "	20	Aug 7/62	"	G. T. Mason	"	"	"	"	"	"
50	Hughes Robert	50th "	22	" 7/62	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
51	Hughes William	51st "	39	Sept 4/64	Tracy, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager	1 year	" 12/64	Tracy, N.Y.	Capt J. B. Hager		

Detail of a Muster-out Roll for Company A in the 123 regiment of the New York Volunteers, August 9, 1862. Albert M. Cook Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Libraries