New Hampshire in the Civil War Lesson Plan
Colonel Edward Cross at the Battle of Chancellorsville

Created by: New Hampshire in the Civil War workshop participants and the New Hampshire Historical Society, 2014–15
Topic: New Hampshire’s Connection to the Battle of Chancellorsville
Level: Middle School and High School

ABSTRACT / SUMMARY
The Union Army lacked decisive leadership during critical battles in the Civil War, in the opinion of some critics. One such instance was the Battle of Chancellorsville, where Confederate General Robert E. Lee made the risky decision to divide his army while facing the larger military force of the Union Army. Despite the advantage of larger numbers, Union General Joseph Hooker’s lack of military leadership resulted in significant causalities and a Confederate victory. Eventually, Joseph Hooker would be replaced by Major General George Meade.

Colonel Edward Cross, a native of New Hampshire, served as Colonel of the 5th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry. Cross and the 5th New Hampshire Volunteers participated in the battles of Fair Oaks (June 1, 1862), Antietam (September 17, 1862), and Fredericksburg (December 11–15, 1862). During the Battle of Chancellorsville (April 30–May 6, 1863), Cross led a brigade. He died at the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1–3, 1863) and is buried in Lancaster, NH. Cross’s letters and journals include descriptions of the battles and reveal what life was like for a soldier during the Civil War.

QUESTIONS / TASKS
How can historians use primary sources to illuminate larger national questions?

Write a field report detailing the events of the Battle of Chancellorsville and include a recommendation to either keep or remove General Joseph Hooker from his military leadership position.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES
- Learn to use primary sources and secondary sources to answer research questions
- Understand why the Battle of Chancellorsville is important and New Hampshire’s connection to it

SEQUENCE OF ACTIVITIES
1. Research the Battle of Chancellorsville
2. Read the account of the Battle of Chancellorsville in Cross’s journal and Chapter XVIII of the History of the Fifth Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers
3. Take notes:
   a. What did you learn about the battle and the experiences of the New Hampshire regiment?
   b. How did the decisions made by Generals Joseph Hooker and Robert E. Lee impact the outcome of the battle?
4. Using the notes, write a field report to President Abraham Lincoln detailing the events of the Battle of Chancellorsville. Include a recommendation to remove or keep Union General Joseph Hooker in his military position. Use specific examples from the resources.

**ASSESSMENTS**
Detail and use of primary resources in the field report

**PROJECT DURATION**
In-Class Time (estimated): 2 class periods
Out-of-Class Time (estimated): 2 hours

**RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*Archives and Special Collections:*
Edward E. Cross, carte de visite photograph 2014.501.012
Edward E. Cross Letter, October 7, 1861 1998.003 (m)
James E. Larkin Papers, 1861–1910 1997.005
Napoleon B. Perkins Memoir, 1843–1903 1994.066 (m)
NH Volunteers, 12th Regiment, Regimental Papers 1993.021 (m)
Olof Jewett and Alonzo Jewett Correspondence, 1862–1863 2010.061 (m)
Rodney H. Ramsay Correspondence, 1862–1863 1990.031 (m)

*Library Collections:*
Hale, Charles A. “With Colonel Cross at the Wheatfield.” *Civil War Times*, 1970. 973.7478 Mr51

*Maps:*
Battle-fields of Virginia: Chancellorsville, 1867 973.73 H832
Battle of Chancellorsville, 1896 973.73 H223
Campaign of Chancellorsville: A Strategic and Tactical Study, 1910 973.73 B592
**Museum Collections:**

Camp Edward E. Cross Ribbon, 1889  
1996.505.22

Camp Edward E. Cross Ribbon, 1889  
2013.019.12

Cane  
1906.005.05

Joseph Hooker, engraving  
2010.501.0556b

Sword Hilt  
1966.545.173

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Primary Sources:**

http://www.library.unh.edu/digital/islandora/solr/search/%201/category%3ACivil%5C%20War~slsh~Col.%5C%20Edward%5C%20Cross%5C%20Collection*~/dismax

http://www.library.unh.edu/digital/object/cross:0004

**Secondary Sources:**

http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/chancellorsville.html

http://www.nps.gov/frsp/chanville.htm

http://www.nps.gov/abpp/battles/va032.htm

http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/battle-of-chancellorsville

http://www.library.unh.edu/digital/object/digital:00004  
See Chapter XVIII.

http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/chancellorsville_campaign