

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 casualties 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?

- 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)
Edward Cross–Henry O. Kent Letters, 1850–1862	2005.021
James E. Larkin Papers, 1861–1910	1997.005
Napoleon B. Perkins Memoir, 1843–1903	1994.066 (m)
NH Volunteers, 12 th 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:

Doubleday, Abner. *Chancellorsville and Gettysburg*. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1882.
973.7349 D7272

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

Holden, Walter, William E. Ross, and Elizabeth Slomba. *Stand Firm and Fire Low: The Civil War Writings of Colonel Edward E. Cross*. Hanover: University Press of New England, 2003.
920 C951h

Pride, Mike. *My Brave Boys: To War with Colonel Cross and the Fighting Fifth*. Hanover: University Press of New England, 2001.
920 C951

Sandborn, Freedom. *Freedom’s Diary, 1862–1863*.
920 S1985f

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:

“Col. Edward Cross Collection,” University of New Hampshire Digital Collections. Accessed July 16, 2015.

http://www.library.unh.edu/digital/islandora/solr/search/%20/1/category%3ACivil%5C%20War~%5C%20Edward%5C%20Cross%5C%20Collection*~/dismax

“Colonel Edward E. Cross Journal,” University of New Hampshire Digital Collections. Accessed July 16, 2015. <http://www.library.unh.edu/digital/object/cross:0004>

Secondary Sources:

“Chancellorsville,” Civil War Trust, n.d. Accessed July 16, 2015.

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

“Chancellorsville Battlefield,” National Park Service, n.d. Accessed July 16, 2015.

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

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

“Chancellorsville,” History.com, n.d. Accessed July 16, 2015.

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

Child, William. *A History of the Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers, 1861–1865*. Bristol: R. W. Musgrove Printer, 1893. University of New Hampshire Digital Collections. Accessed July 16, 2015. <http://www.library.unh.edu/digital/object/digital:00004>
See Chapter XVIII.

Wolfe, Brendan. “Chancellorsville Campaign,” Encyclopedia Virginia, 2012. Accessed July 16, 2015. http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/chancellorsville_campaign