

# **New Hampshire in the Civil War Lesson Plan**

## **Travel in the Civil War**

*Created by:* New Hampshire in the Civil War workshop participants and the New Hampshire Historical Society, 2014–15

*Topic:* Travel in the Civil War: How far did they go? How did they get there?

*Level:* Middle School and High School

### **ABSTRACT / SUMMARY**

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Personal memoirs, journals, and letters telling of New Hampshire people's experiences in the Civil War often report how they traveled. Reading for details about how people traveled and mapping their journeys tell us much about the technologies and hardships of their days and nights on the road. Even though few battles took place in the North, railroads and ships allowed soldiers and supplies to travel to the front in a matter of days.

### **QUESTIONS / TASKS**

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Taking part in the Civil War, where did New Hampshire people go and how did they get there? How would their experience compare with how we travel today?

### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

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- Use primary and secondary sources to answer research questions
- Learn about travel and transportation during the Civil War

### **SEQUENCE OF ACTIVITIES**

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1. Read letters, journals, and memoirs from people during the Civil War describing when, where, and how they traveled.
2. Choose one account and draw a map of one of their journeys, including where they started, their route, and their destination.
3. As much as possible from the account, write an itinerary of their journey, including times and destinations, distances/miles covered, and mode(s) of transportation.
4. Research each kind of transportation that they used. For instance, if they used horses, find out how fast a horse walks, trots, and gallops. How many miles can a horse and wagon travel in a day before having to stop and rest? Where did railroad lines go in New England and to the South? How fast did trains go? What kinds of ships did soldiers and others use between New England and the South? How far could an army walk in a day? A week? And so on.
5. Using paper maps or online travel sites for reference, make yourself a travel plan, map, and itinerary for covering the same route today with today's transportation. Using your maps, itineraries, and research as evidence, write a page explaining at least three differences between travel now and travel during the Civil War. Is anything the same?

### **ASSESSMENTS**

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Students will create comparable maps and itineraries with details. Written explanations will cite at least three details to compare the transportation of today and Civil War transportation.

## PROJECT DURCATION

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In-Class Time (estimated): 2 class periods

Out-of-Class Time (estimated): 6 hours

- *Dependent upon source chosen and length of journey covered*

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### *Archives and Special Collections*

Cate Family Papers, 1831–1917	1981.110
George F. Towle Papers, 1861–1865	1980.015
George H. P. Rowell, 1862–1863	1967.024 (m)
Hiram Wentworth Diary, 1865	2008.024 (m)
John Gray Foster Papers, 1841–1877	1981.115
Julian More Diary, 1863	2008.026 (m)
Kate Sanborn Correspondence, 1864–1879	1995.053 (m)
Ruthven W. Houghton Papers, 1861–1864	1997.029
Sarah Low Papers, 1844–1965	1965.010

### *Library Collection*

Abdill, George B. <i>Civil War Railroads</i> . Seattle: Superior Publishing Company, 1961.	973.79 A135
Bryant, Elias Alexander. <i>Diary</i> . Concord: Rumford Press, n.d.	973.781 B915
Carr, Clark H. <i>8<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Company H, New Hampshire Volunteers: Letters to His Wife, 1861–1863</i> .	920 C311
Chandonnet, Ann Fox, and Roberta Gibson Pevear, ed. <i>Write Quick: War and a Woman's Life in Letters, 1835–1867</i> . Wilmington: Winoca Press, 2010.	973.78 W955
Child, William. <i>Letters from a Civil War Surgeon: The Letters of Dr. William Child of the Fifth New Hampshire Volunteers</i> . Solon: Polar Bear and Company, 2001.	973.781 C536
Dunbar, Seymour. <i>A History of Travel in America</i> . Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1915.	656 D8996
<i>Freedom Sanborn's Diary, 1862–1863</i>	920 S1985f
Holmes, Oliver Wendell. <i>Stagecoach Travel and Some Aspects of the Staging Business in New England, 1800–1850</i> .	977 M414P v.85
Houston, Alan Fraser. <i>Keep Up Good Courage: A Yankee Family and the Civil War</i> . Portsmouth: Peter E. Randall, 2006.	973.7478 Mr14h
Schwartz, Gerald, ed. <i>A Woman Doctor's Civil War: Esther Hill Hawks' Diary</i> . Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1984.	973.775 H395w
Silber, Nina. <i>Yankee Correspondence: Civil War Letters Between New England Soldiers and the Home Front</i> . Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1996.	973.781 Y23
Spicer, William A. <i>The Flag Replaced on Sumter: A Personal Narrative</i> . Providence, 1885.	973.73 S956f

### *Museum Collection*

Boot, 1861–1864	2014.010.16
Campaign Desk, circa 1862	1983.002.03
Campaign Desk, 1863–1864	2003.027

Canteen, 1862–1865	1965.545.01
Document Box, circa 1861	1946.037.13
Document Box, circa 1840	2012.031.11
Military Coat, 1861–1864	2005.002.01
Saddle, 1861–1862	1958.088
Saddlebag, 1860–1865	1966.545.289
Spur, 1860–1865	2013.005.01
Suitcase, 1825–1850	1922.007.02
Trunk, 1860–1890	1991.075.02
Wallet, circa 1863	1969.014.03
Writing Box, circa 1860	1948.003.03

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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### *Primary Sources:*

*Colonel Edward E. Cross Journal*, University of New Hampshire Library: Digital Collections, n.d. <http://www.library.unh.edu/digital/object/cross:0004>

Read pp. 18–24

*Daily Account of Samuel Wilkinson while in the United States Service, 1861–1864*. University of New Hampshire Library: Digital Collections.

<http://www.library.unh.edu/digital/object/digital:00001>

Read pp. 5–17

Note: Wilkinson was a soldier from Great Falls, NH, who had his arm amputated but survived the war.

### *Secondary Sources:*

Alcott, Louisa May. “Hospital Sketches,” *A Celebration of Women Writers*, n.d.

<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/alcott/sketches/sketches.html>

Read chapters 1 and 2

Note: Alcott was an author from Massachusetts but the route she took to the Union Hotel Hospital (Hurley-Burley House) in Washington, DC, was a common route for travelers to/from New England.

Hamilton, Henry S. *Reminiscences of a Veteran*. Concord: Republican Press Association, 1897. University of New Hampshire Library: Digital Collections.

<http://www.library.unh.edu/digital/object/digital:00147>

Read Chapters XXII and XXIII

Note: Hamilton was an immigrant from Ireland who served in the U.S. Army in the American West before the Civil War and then re-enlisted during the Civil War. Married and retired to Concord, NH.

Koenig, Alan R. “Railroad’s Critical Role in the Civil War,” HistoryNet, n.d.

<http://www.historynet.com/railroads-critical-role-in-the-civil-war.htm>