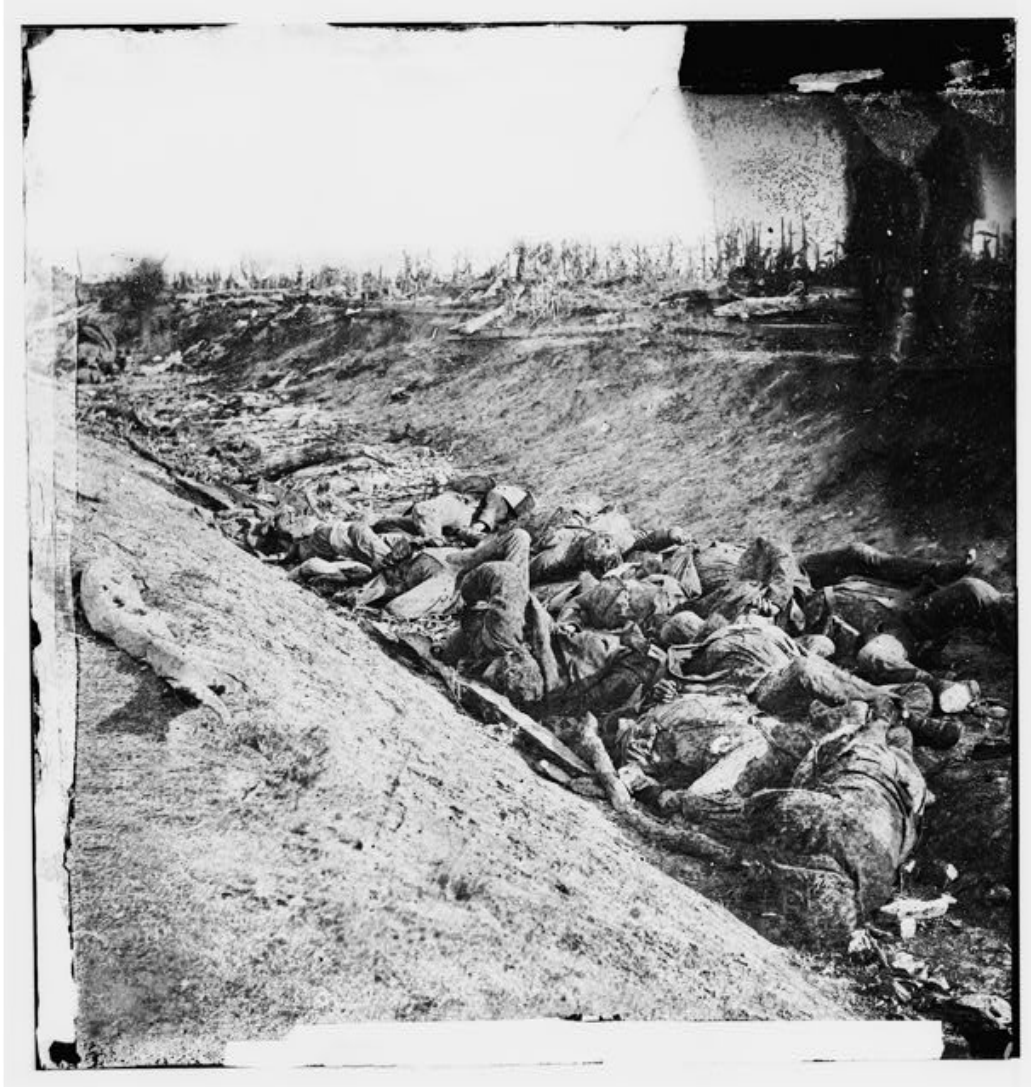


The Battle of Antietam

Source A



“Antietam, Maryland. Dead soldiers in ditch on the right wing where Kimball's brigade fought so desperately”, Photograph by Alexander Gardner, 19 September 1862, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C., digitized copy available at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cwpb.01088/?co=cwp>

Source B

I have at last been in a fight & a tough one too I bear the marks of it – in the shape of a ball hole through my left leg about four or five inches above my knee and a good hard rap from a piece of shell on the inside of the calf of my right. Neither of the wounds are serious but they interfere materially with locomotion for the present. We had 29 men when we went into action and have heard from 20 of them who are wounded I have heard of but two who have come out safe. George Travis had his leg broken. I helped him behind a stump & have not since heard from him – It is now nearly noon of the 18th. Albert

got a ball through his breast crosswise not very bad. Lieut Phetteplace was shot through the thigh. I got hit by the shell in the first of the firing which seemed to be mainly directed at our Company and the one on the right of it, probably with the design of capturing the colors which were between us I endeavored to rally our men around them twice and was then wounded and had to skedaddle to the rear I walked about two miles and they found a hospital and had my wound dressed It pains me considerably to day so much so that I shall not try to write much more. The details of the battle you will get in the papers much better than I could give them. I know scarcely anything of them as yet farther than what concerns our own Regt & don't even know where that is now. I know that the rebels flanked us and poured in a tremendous fire of Shell, grape & canister & musket balls, and learn that our troops have the best of it.

Letter from Lt. Samuel C. Hodgman, 7th Michigan Infantry, to his brother, 18 September 1862, in the United States Civil War Collection, Western Michigan University Archives and Regional History Collections, digitized copy available at:
<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/civilwar1/USCW0022.0001.001?rgn=main;view=fulltext>

Source C

Our victory was complete and the disorganized rebel army has rapidly returned to Virginia, its dreams of "invading Pennsylvania" dissipated forever. I feel some little pride in having, with a beaten and demoralized army, defeated Lee so utterly and saved the North so completely.

Letter from Gen. George B. McClellan to his wife, Mary McClellan, 20 September 1862, in George B. McClellan, *McClellan's Own Story* (New York: Charles L. Webster & Co., 1887), p. 613.

Source D

I now take up the history of the proclamation itself, as Mr. LINCOLN gave it to me, on the occasion of our first interview, as written down by myself soon afterward ...

Secretary SEWARD spoke. Said he: "Mr. President, I approve of the proclamation, but I question, the expediency of its issue at this juncture. The depression of the public mind, consequent upon our repeated reverses is so great that I fear the effect of so important a step. I may be viewed as the last measure of an exhausted government – a cry for help; the government stretching forth its hands to Ethiopia, instead of Ethiopia stretching forth her hands to the government." "His idea," said the President, "was that it would be considered our last shriek, on the retreat." (This was his precise expression.) "Now," continued Mr. SEWARD, "while I approve the measure, I suggest, Sir, that you postpone its issue, until you can give it to the country supported by military success, instead of issuing it, as would be the case now, upon the greatest disasters of the war!" Said Mr. LINCOLN; "The wisdom of the view of the Secretary of State struck me with very great force. It was an aspect of the case that, in all my thought upon the subject, I had entirely overlooked. The result was that I put the draft of the proclamation aside, as you do your sketch for a picture, waiting for a victory. From time to time I added or changed a line, touching it up here and there, waiting the progress of events. Well, the next news we had was of POPE's disaster at Bull Run. Things looked darker than ever. Finally, came the week of the battle of Antietam. I determined to wait no longer. The news came, I think on Wednesday, that the advantage was on our side. I was then staying at the 'Soldiers' Home,' (three miles out of Washington.) "Here I finished writing the second draft of the preliminary Proclamation; come up on Saturday; called the Cabinet together to hear it, and it was published the following Monday."

Excerpt from Francis B. Carpenter's account of Lincoln's Cabinet meeting on 22 July 1862; "The Emancipation Proclamation, Interesting Sketch of its History by the Artist, Carpenter", *New York Times*, 16 June 1865, available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/1865/06/16/news/emancipation-proclamation-interesting-sketch-its-history-artist-carpenter.html>

Source E

I am ... very much inclined to change the opinion on which I wrote to you when the Confederates seemed to be carrying all before them, and I am very much come back to our original view of the matter, that we must continue merely to be lookers-on till the war shall have taken a more decided turn.

Lord Palmerston, Prime Minister, to Lord Russell, Foreign Secretary, 22 October 1862, Russell Papers, PRO 30/22, UK National Archives, Kew. Quoted in *Amanda Foreman, A World on Fire: Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War* (New York: Random House, 2010), p. 324.

Questions

1. Using these sources and your own knowledge, analyze the significance of the Battle of Antietam.
(30 marks)
2. How useful are these sources for historians studying the significance of the Battle of Antietam?
(20 marks)