

# Chapter 6

# Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861-1876

## Chapter Preview

### PEOPLE

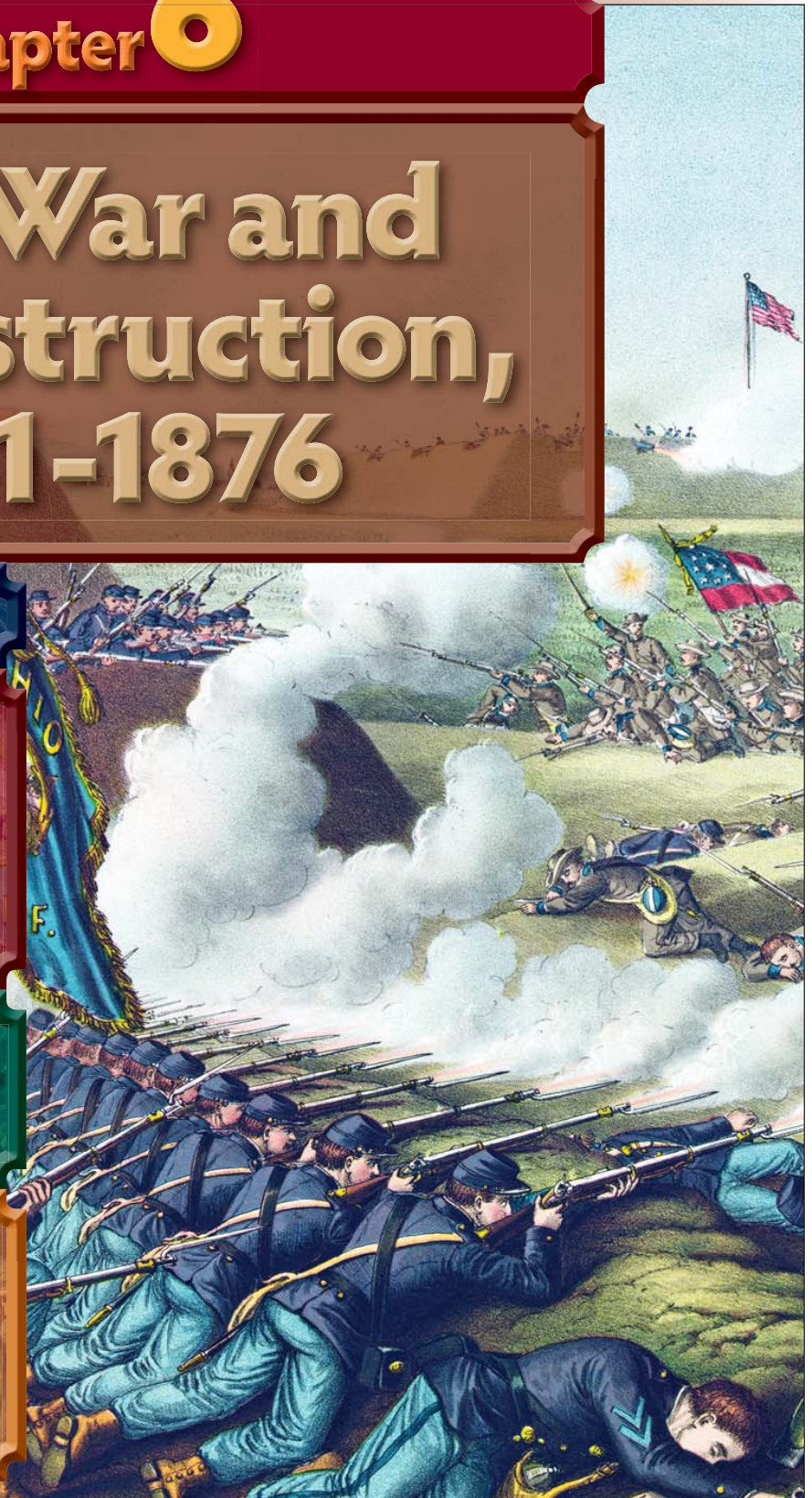
Ulysses S. Grant, Richard Taylor, Edward R. S. Canby, Albert Sidney Johnston, P. G. T. Beauregard, David Farragut, John C. Pemberton, William T. Sherman, David Dixon Porter, Joseph E. Johnston, Wilson Brown, Andrew Johnson, James L. Alcorn, Adelbert Ames, John Roy Lynch, Hiram R. Revels, Blanche K. Bruce, Ambrose Henderson, John M. Stone

### PLACES

Vicksburg; Holly Springs; Corinth; Shiloh, Tennessee; Yazoo Pass; Moon Lake; Bruinsburg; Port Gibson; Champion Hill; Appomattox Court House, Virginia

### TERMS

blockade, bivouac, casualties, battery, forage, Grierson's Raid, siege, Emancipation Proclamation, Reconstruction, disfranchise, amnesty, freedmen, Black Codes, impeachment, scalawag, carpetbagger, Constitution of 1868, Ku Klux Klan, Mississippi Plan, Shoestring District, Redeemers





**On February 4, 1861, South Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas established the Confederate States of America.** Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was named president of the Confederacy. On April 12, 1861, Confederates fired on the Union military base at Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. Within weeks after Fort Sumter, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina seceded. The other four slave states—Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware—did not secede.

After the firing on Fort Sumter, the Union navy blockaded the southern coastline. This **blockade** (use of naval forces to isolate a seaport and prevent ships from entering or leaving) prevented foreign ships from bringing supplies into southern ports. The Union military strategy was to divide and isolate large areas of the South by destroying the southern railroad system and controlling southern rivers. Mississippi was primarily involved in this phase of the Union military strategy, which culminated in the surrender of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863.

General Robert E. Lee finally surrendered his army to General Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865. General Richard Taylor surrendered the Confederate armies in Mississippi and Louisiana to Union General Edward R. S. Canby on May 4, 1865.

After peace was restored, the nation spent ten long difficult years reconstructing the Union. There were two phases of Reconstruction in Mississippi. The first phase was Presidential Reconstruction, 1865-1867. The final phase was Congressional Reconstruction, 1867-1876.

The Civil War and Reconstruction were tumultuous times, and the study of those years is complicated. But to understand Mississippi we must study those years and learn how the world was turned upside down. After their emancipation, former slaves often used the phrase, “The bottom rail is now on top.”

**Left:** After losing the critical railroad junction at Corinth following the Battle of Shiloh, Confederate forces under General Earl Van Dorn attempted to retake the town. They were defeated at the Battle of Corinth on October 3–4, 1862.

# Signs of the Times

## EXPANSION

Kansas, West Virginia, and Nevada were added to the Union during the Civil War, becoming the 34th-36th states. Nebraska became the 37th state in 1867.

## MUSIC

Songs of the period included "John Brown's Body," "Beautiful Dreamer," "Dixieland (Dixie)," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

## FASHIONS

In the 1860s, tailor Ebenezer Butterick invented the first paper dress patterns sold in the United States. With Butterick patterns, dressmakers could copy styles from Paris and other fashion centers.

## SPORTS

In 1869, the Cincinnati Red Stockings became baseball's first fully professional team, with ten salaried players. In the same year, Rutgers University beat its New Jersey neighbor Princeton in the first intercollegiate football game.

## ART

Famous American artist Winslow Homer made drawings of Civil War scenes for *Harper's Weekly*, dealing more with views of everyday camp life than scenes of battle. Photographer Mathew Brady invested his savings to make a photographic record of the Civil War. He and a crew of twenty photographers produced a lasting record of Civil War battlefields.

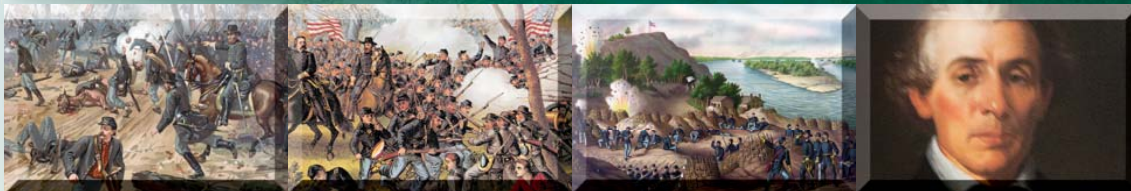
## LITERATURE

Louisa May Alcott published *Little Women* in two volumes in 1868 and 1869. The story of the four March sisters—Jo, Meg, Beth, and Amy—set in the Civil War is still read by young people today. Mark Twain published *Tom Sawyer* in 1876.

## INVENTIONS

Civil War period inventions included the ironclad ship and the Gatling gun. This gun, which had a rotating barrel with a dozen cylinders, was first used by the Union army. American inventor Thomas Edison received his first patent in 1869—for an electric vote recorder. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876.

# Figure 10 Timeline: 1861–1876



<p><b>1864</b> Sherman's march through Mississippi</p> <p><b>1863</b> Grierson's Raid Battle of Champion Hill Siege of Vicksburg; Confederates surrendered</p> <p><b>1862</b> Battle of Shiloh David Farragut captured Natchez Confederate General Pemberton placed in command of Vicksburg Grant camped at Oxford; Mrs. Grant almost captured at Holly Springs</p>	<p><b>1870</b> Mississippi readmitted to the Union</p> <p><b>1869</b> James L. Alcorn elected governor</p> <p><b>1868</b> 3rd state constitution</p> <p><b>1865</b> Mississippi and Louisiana Confederate armies surrendered William L. Sharkey appointed provisional governor</p>	<p><b>1876</b> Adelbert Ames resigned</p> <p><b>1875</b> "Revolution of 1875"</p> <p><b>1874</b> Vicksburg Riot</p> <p><b>1873</b> Adelbert Ames elected governor</p>
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<b>1860</b>	<b>1862</b>	<b>1864</b>	<b>1866</b>	<b>1868</b>	<b>1870</b>	<b>1872</b>	<b>1874</b>	<b>1876</b>
<p><b>1861</b> Confederate States of America formed Jefferson Davis elected president of the Confederacy Civil War began with Confederate capture of Fort Sumter</p>	<p><b>1862</b> David Farragut captured New Orleans</p>	<p><b>1864</b> Abraham Lincoln reelected president</p>	<p><b>1865</b> Andrew Johnson became president after Lincoln's assassination; Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox; President Johnson issued proclamation of amnesty</p>	<p><b>1866</b> Ku Klux Klan established</p>	<p><b>1868</b> Fourteenth Amendment passed; Andrew Johnson impeached Ulysses S. Grant elected president</p>	<p><b>1870</b> Fifteenth Amendment passed</p>	<p><b>1872</b> Ulysses S. Grant reelected president</p>	

## Section 1

# General Grant at Oxford



**Above:** Major General Ulysses S. Grant was in command of the Union army that defeated Confederate forces at the Battle of Shiloh (opposite page). He and his army spent the next fourteen months in Mississippi, eventually capturing the Confederate citadel of Vicksburg, and taking control of the Mississippi River, which split the Confederacy in half. This crucial victory persuaded President Abraham Lincoln to promote Grant to Commanding General of the U.S. Army.

### As you read, look for

- the bloody outcome of the Battle of Shiloh;
- the importance of Vicksburg to the Union strategy and the failed efforts to secure it;
- General Grant's activities at Oxford and what he learned there;
- terms: **bivouac**, **casualties**, **battery**, **forage**.

**In a complex military campaign designed to capture Vicksburg** and to control the Mississippi River, Union naval forces launched a coordinated attack against the ports of New Orleans and Memphis. While these naval battles were taking place, Union soldiers under General Ulysses S. Grant were marching through Tennessee and Mississippi on their way to Vicksburg.

General Grant's army assembled a supply depot at Holly Springs and **bivouacked** (camped with little shelter) at Oxford in the fall of 1862. After a Confederate raid destroyed his supplies at Holly Springs, General Grant was stranded between the Tallahatchie and Yocona Rivers and could not move against Vicksburg. Grant decided to take his army back up to Memphis, then move down the river and try to take Vicksburg by a naval assault. As he was leaving Oxford, General Grant learned an important lesson that would eventually determine the outcome of the Vicksburg campaign.

### Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862

As the Union forces under General Grant approached northeast Mississippi, Confederate commanders were ordered to defend the railroad junction at Corinth against Union attack. Corinth was known as the "Crossroads of the South" because two of the Confederacy's most important railroads, the Memphis and Charleston Railroad and the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, intersected at that small railroad town.

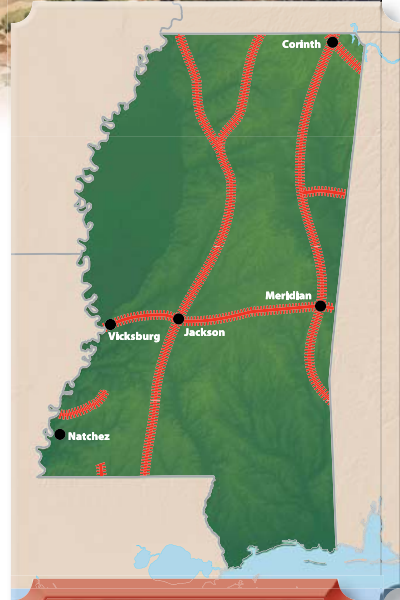
In early April 1862, Confederate troops intercepted General Grant's army northeast of Corinth at Shiloh, Tennessee. Early on Sunday morning, April 6, General Albert Sidney Johnston and General P. G. T. Beauregard led 40,000 Confederate troops into battle against General Grant, who had 45,000 men. The fighting lasted into the late afternoon, and Shiloh became one of the



## Something Extra!

The Battle of Shiloh is usually ranked as the 6th, 7th, or 8th bloodiest battle of the Civil War. The Battle of Gettysburg is universally ranked #1.

bloodiest battles of the Civil War. On April 7, General Grant's army, which had been reinforced during the night, turned the tide of battle against the Confederates, who were forced to retreat to Corinth. During the Battle of Shiloh, General Johnston, the highest-ranking general in the Confederate army, was killed. The Confederates had 11,000 **casualties** (persons killed, wounded, or missing in battle) and the Union had 13,000.

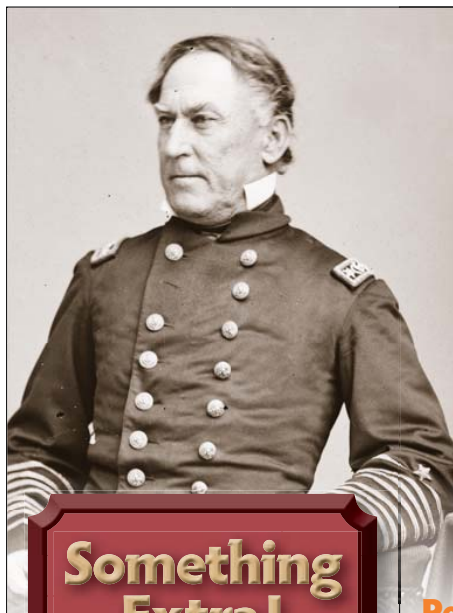


## Map 32 Early Railroads

Map Skill: Which Mississippi cities would be considered railroad junctions?

## The Importance of Vicksburg

After the Battle of Shiloh, General Grant resumed his march toward Vicksburg. As he was moving through north Mississippi, a Union naval assault against Confederate forts on the Mississippi River was underway. Since the establishment of the Confederacy, commerce between the midwestern farm states and the port of New Orleans had been cut off. It was essential to the Union economy that the Mississippi River be reopened to midwestern trade. Vicksburg's strategic location on the high bluffs above a sharp bend in the river gave its shore **batteries** (sets of big guns used for attack or defense) control over the traffic up and down the great river. Consequently,



## Something Extra!

When the U.S. Navy was established, Congress didn't allow the aristocratic-sounding rank of "admiral." The first full admiral in the U.S. Navy was David Farragut (above). The rank was created in 1866 to honor his achievements during the Civil War.

the capture of Vicksburg was a high priority for the Union military. President Lincoln said, "Vicksburg is the key. The war can never be brought to a close until the key is in our pocket."

### Farragut Fails to Capture Vicksburg

David Farragut, a veteran flag officer, captured New Orleans on May 1, 1862, and then sailed his fleet up the Mississippi River. Natchez surrendered on May 12, and on May 18 Farragut began a bombardment of Vicksburg that lasted for almost two months. On June 28, Farragut fought his way up the river past Vicksburg, where he met the federal gunboats that had sailed downstream after Memphis surrendered on June 6, 1862. These combined forces attacked the city. When Farragut realized that he could not capture the city, he attempted to dig a canal across the bend to divert river traffic around Vicksburg. When this effort failed, Farragut began fighting his way back downstream past Vicksburg.

### Pemberton Placed in Command of Vicksburg

On October 14, 1862, Confederate forces in Mississippi and Louisiana were placed under the command of General John C. Pemberton, whose duty was to hold Vicksburg at all costs. Pemberton faced an almost hopeless situation. Vicksburg was already cut off by naval forces north and south of the city, and soon he would be confronted by General Grant's army.

### General Grant Occupies Oxford

On November 12, 1862, General Grant established a supply depot at Holly Springs to provide his army with the necessary equipment and supplies for



its long march through hostile territory to Vicksburg. In December, General Grant's army, which included troops under the command of General William T. Sherman, moved south and occupied Oxford. The main building on The University of Mississippi campus, the Lyceum, had previously served as a hospital for Confederates who were wounded at Shiloh. When Grant occupied Oxford, the Lyceum became a hospital for wounded Union soldiers.

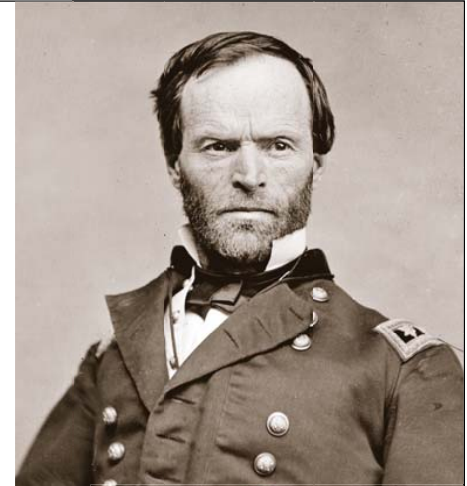
### Mrs. Grant Almost Captured at Holly Springs

During the Christmas season of 1862, Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant and her young son Jesse came to Mississippi to spend Christmas with General Grant. While Mrs. Grant was in Holly Springs, a Confederate cavalry unit under the command of General Earl Van Dorn attacked and destroyed the Union supply depot at Holly Springs on the early morning of December 20. There was just enough warning of the raid to get Mrs. Grant and Jesse out of Holly Springs on the late afternoon of December 19. Confederate troops were sent to capture Mrs. Grant in the house where she was staying, but she had already left for Oxford. Years later, in his memoirs, Jesse Grant remembered the hasty evacuation and recalled the image of his mother sitting in a chair in an otherwise empty boxcar during their nighttime escape to Oxford.

### What Grant Learned at Oxford

After the loss of his supply base at Holly Springs, General Grant was forced to change his plans for an overland assault of Vicksburg. Grant decided to march his army back to Memphis, and then move down the Mississippi River to Vicksburg.

As General Grant was leaving Oxford, he sent out troops and wagons fifteen miles in all directions to confiscate whatever food and supplies they could find. Grant later told Adam Badeau, the first writer to chronicle the general's Civil War campaigns, that he was astonished by how much food and supplies his soldiers found on those foraging expeditions. To **forage** is to secure food by stripping the countryside. Grant learned at Oxford that his army could live off the bountiful southern land. That discovery would eventually shape his Vicksburg strategy and influence future Union military campaigns.



### Something Extra!

The "T" in the name of General William T. Sherman (above) stood for "Tecumseh." He was named after the great Shawnee Indian chief.

**Opposite page, below:** Union naval forces under the command of David Farragut sailed up the Mississippi from the Gulf of Mexico, and captured New Orleans in May 1862. He continued up the river to Vicksburg, but his initial attempts to take the city were repulsed.

### Reviewing the Section

1. Define in sentence form: bivouac, casualties, forage.
2. Why were Confederate generals ordered to defend the railroad junction at Corinth?
3. What happened to Mrs. Grant when she visited Mississippi?