



CLASSROOM LESSONS:
America in the Civil War Era, 1829-77

Harpers Ferry/Maryland Heights & Lee's Retreat

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(2008)

National Standards: 2 A-B

Grade: 11-12 Honors

Duration: One day or expand to 3-4 days if combined with Lee's retreat video

Process:

- Students will read and analyze selected primary documents from the American Civil War. These documents will help students identify specific points of view, based on social background and/or rank in the military. The letters will enable students to connect what seem like small events (Harpers Ferry/Lee's Retreat) with the larger military strategies which occurred during the Civil War.
- Students should put themselves "into the shoes" of the individual soldiers/writers as they read the letters.
- Field work (optional): complete a field trip to Harpers Ferry, with climb to top of Maryland Heights. Read letters in situ. Discussion of letters' contents in relation to topography. Team work possible for identifying locations on maps, reading and discussing letters, comparing and contrasting events at Harpers Ferry with other strategic movements of armies.

Outcomes:

- Activities enable students to make connections between the physical landscape and historical events / primary resources.
- Develop map-reading skills for topographic maps
- Students will be challenged positively as they learn how to read 19th century style correspondence.

Harpers Ferry was a flashpoint prior to the Civil War, with John Brown's raid in 1859. After the outbreak of war in 1861, and through the end of the war in 1865, Union and Confederate forces fought numerous times to gain or regain control of the Ferry and the surrounding region. Harpers Ferry was strategic for both sides because it was located at the convergence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and was a natural gateway between the Maryland, West Virginia (which became a separate state in 1863), Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley. The essential question to be studied is, why and how did Union troops effectively retake and control the

Ferry in July 1863? Seven letters and other documents will enable students to be "eyewitnesses" to one of the events surrounding Lee's retreat and/or provide documents suitable for a field trip to Maryland Heights overlooking Harpers Ferry. Suggested questions and activities are included.

Recommended Resources:

Online:

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park: <http://www.nps.gov/hafe>

Harper's Weekly Original Civil War Newspapers:

<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/the-civil-war.htm> for contemporary events during the war

Official Records of the War of the Rebellion (OR):

<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/browse.monographs/waro.html>

Books:

David T. Gilbert, *A Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia*, (Harpers Ferry Historical Association, Fifth Edition: 1999), see pages 106-116 for information on Maryland Heights and related maps.

Thomas F. Hahn, *Towpath Guide to the C & O Canal* (revised 1996 combined edition), see pages 96-109 for details on Sandy Hook (across from the Ferry) and Harpers Ferry and the Shenandoah River.

Clint Johnson, *Touring Virginia's and West Virginia's Civil War Sites*, (John F. Blair Publisher, Winston-Salem, NC: 1999). See specifically "The Harpers Ferry Tour," pp. 45-67.

Festus P. Summers, *The Baltimore & Ohio in the Civil War*, (Stan Clark Military Books, Gettysburg, PA: new material copyright 1992), pp. 145-161.

Video:

Kent Masterson Brown, *Retreat from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics, and the Pennsylvania Campaign* ISBN: 978-0807829219; also high-definition DVD (100 minutes). For a review see <http://civilwarlibrarian.blogspot.com/2008/09/cwl-lees-retreat-from-gettysburg.html>

FPRI educator resources:

Papers and video from FPRI History Institute, "America in the Civil War Era,"

<http://www.fpri.org/education/americancivilwarera/>. See in particular

Walter A. McDougall, *Throes of Democracy*

Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*

Maury Klein, *The Technological Revolution*

Karl Walling, *Teaching Military History: The Civil War as Case Study*

Primary Resources:

"Letters from Maryland Heights - July 1863" For citation purposes, the letters are in possession of the author. The document (pasted in below) contains letter excerpts from the manuscript, "Social and Military History of the Eighth New York Heavy Artillery Regiment, 1862-1865" (to be published late in 2009)

Lockport Daily Journal, July 15, 1863. (Summary from newspaper at the Niagara County Historical Society)

Map of Harpers Ferry & heights, scanned from original in the National Archives

Letters from Maryland Heights Overlooking Harpers Ferry, July 1863

Historical Context:

On June 27, 1863 General Hooker had declared that Harpers Ferry was of "little strategic value except as a concentrating point for troops and stores." (*Baltimore American*, July 1, 1863) Hooker ordered the destruction of cannon and explosives and the evacuation of Maryland Heights. That same day, Lincoln who was dissatisfied with the blundering Hooker replaced him with Meade. Hooker's orders, though, were unfortunately carried out. This wanton destruction was reported in a letter written by a soldier in company F of the Eighth New York, and this was later published in his hometown newspaper on July 15, 1863:

Knoxey, near Frederick City, July 3rd 1863

A sad accident happened to us while at Harper's Ferry. We were ordered to destroy the powder in the magazine and evacuate the place, while executing the order one of the boys from another regiment took an ax to break open a keg of powder, instead of taking off the hoops he gave the head a blow with the ax, which ignited the powder and many shells. Such a noise, screaming and whistling I never heard before. The shells flew past my head and I did some tall running I tell you. When all was quiet, we went to the place, we found eight men dead, two from our regiment, Orderly Tullah and Pvt. O. Dimick, there were about 20 wounded. Capt. Hawkins was severely hurt, I'm afraid he will not be able to take command again of the company very soon. I guess all the wounded will live. Charley Richardson was burned pretty badly in the face. It was the worst sight I ever saw, some were blown all to pieces, arms, legs, hands, and heads lying all around detached from the body, some were blown 20 rods.

From July 1st through the 3rd, 1863, the battle of Gettysburg raged approximately 75 miles from Baltimore. This was a period of invasion fever for the loyal citizens of Baltimore—hogshead barrels were rolled across streets and all the Federal regiments were on alert. Martial law had been imposed earlier on the 30th of June and a company of soldiers from the Eighth New York Heavy Artillery Regiment in Baltimore had also been detailed to Maryland Heights across from Harpers Ferry, Maryland.

Hooker's evacuation, as it turned out, was unnecessary. On July 4th there was great celebrating in the Baltimore due to the defeat of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Unfortunately for the Federals, this euphoria quickly changed once they realized Lee was trying to make good his escape back to Virginia—and he would most likely go via Harpers Ferry. As a result, a much larger contingent of troops were dispatched rapidly via the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Harpers Ferry. Their objective was to re-secure Maryland Heights overlooking Harper's Ferry and to catch Lee. At one thirty in the morning of July 9th, officers in the Eighth New York were awakened with the orders to pack "their blankets and guns, with a few hard crackers." The regiment departed at 6:00 AM and fifteen hours later arrived on the east side of the Potomac River opposite Harper's Ferry. They were ordered to join other Federal troops that had been ordered earlier to re-occupy the Heights on July 7th. The regiment's commander, Colonel Peter A. Porter was put in command of all forces on Maryland Heights.

The regiment remained on Maryland Heights until the end of July, whereupon they returned to Baltimore. While at on the mountain and at Sandy Hook, the officers and men kept their loved ones informed through detailed letters. [Editor's notes: the selected letters that follow were read by students at the Overlook Cliff (see map) on Maryland Heights, above Harpers Ferry in June 2008. These accounts were useful, as well, in understanding the site of the Stone Fort at the top of the Maryland Heights and the role cannon played in fortifying the mountain. The original spelling of the writers has been retained, although minimal punctuation has been added for clarity.]

Letter Documents

Letter No. 1:

Lieutenant Marshall Cook of Company I was from South Byron, New York. He wrote the following to his sister-in-law, Julia, who was married to his brother, Irv. The letter was mailed from Sandy Hook, at the base of Maryland Heights just northeast of Harper's Ferry. Cook most likely was camped near the overlook rock just above the town:

July 11

Maryland Heights

Sister Julia

Here we are at our journeys end, at least for a day or two. I mailed a line to Irv this morning from Sandy Hook situated on the shore of the River. I might say about 500 [feet?] b[e]low is of all the places I ever was in, this beats them all & such a time as we had getting up to it. will venture to say there isent [isn't] a Regt in the service that on their first march found so

tiresome a one. To describe our position will say we are on the right (north) bank of the Potomac. there is two distinct ranges of mountains that the river severs, the ranges run ~~past~~ paralel to each other & about three miles apart. we are on the west range. as we are on the highes[t] peak have the most splendid view of the surrounding country which in grandure [grandeur] is far beyond any explanation [sic] that I can give. The atmosphere being smokey & hazy our vision is somehow obscured, still we can see farther than I ever thought of seeing before. As I write (being seated on a large rock which completely cover the ground hereabouts) the boys are cutting low shrubbery & boughs to make tent covers & beds of. we came out under marching orders carrying nothing but haversack & blanket as we all have to sleep h[ere?] on the ground each one looks out for himself & is busy at work devising means & ways to better his condition. we are encamped near what is called the stone Fort. there is no guns on it. However you no doubt remember the Maryland Heights was evacuated a short time since by our forces has since been occupied by the Rebs they having left only a few days ago. At the time our forces evacuated the post they destroyed any amory [armory] of ammunion. wish you could see the sight - one million dollars wouldent [sic] even cover the loss probably. Sunday morning. The fog is so thick I cant see a 100 yds. have just took my breakfast of hardtack & pork, bought a quarter of a pound of tea yesterday paid 60 cts for it. Direct your letters as before to Baltimore, allso send an extra sheet of paper & stamps in each letter "Write often." love to all. . . .

Cook also wrote another letter that day to his brother, Irv. This time he indicated he was near the brigade's headquarters on Maryland Heights.

Letter No. 2:

July 11th

Brigade Head Quarters

Maryland Heights

Dear Brother

I again attempt to write you thinking that perhaps [that I can persuade you to] save all of my letters — shall write often if you get one half that I write you will be totally well posted as to my whereabouts, occupation &c. Will say to begin with that its a rainy day here on the mountain. just such rain as we usually have in the fall of the year in Y[ork] State, cold & disagreeable. can't see over 8 rods the clouds are so thick. A part of the Potomac Army are encamped in pleasant Valley on the east side of the mountain consisting of the

first second & twelfth Corps the 94th. Willises old Regt is among them. should like to go down to see some of the Boys in the old 105th. Franklin Terry[a cousin] & others. some of the Boys here have just came up and say it doesnt rain down below. Have recd no letters since leaving Baltimore. shall expect some today. . . . We had a splendid view of the grand encampment below us last night. it recalled to my mind the camp fire of h[ome?][illegible] never shall forget it if I should live to be 100 years old. I had a rich treat last night. got a regular blowing up by no less a personage than an "Old Maid." The circumstances are these. on coming up from head Quarters last night couldnt find "much of anything" to eat, well says I, Capt I'me bound to have a pie, if there is one within long range of the fort. the Capt wished me the best of success & off I started down the mountain side to the east, but to go back a little. a few days ago I was coming up the mountain with one of our Boys when thinking a pie would go down nice & help a fellow up the hill, stepped to a log house by the way side & enquired of the Boy if his Mother had any pies to sell. without saying a word he started up west into the house & soon came out with a good berry pie. We masticated that in short order & then asked the price, the Mother was seated inside out of sight but said, nothing sir! but says I its worth something and willing to pay for it. when she replied by saying its worth eating sir! We thanked the Lady very kindly for the pie gave the Boy 10 cts for "his" trouble - but to return to my story. I at once made for the log house before spoken of thinking that. I shall soon have the indiscribable pleasure of eating good pie on arriving. at the house knocked at the door when a groan or a voice from within bade me come. I entered with one of my sweet smiles affacing itself on my face feeling perfectly confident of success surprised to say ----- [illegible] which I improved at once, but twas no go, the Old Lady gone north. . . . failing in this there was no use of one talking further. . . .

Letter No. 3: Another soldier, also in Company I, was Sergeant Jasper Dean. He wrote the following from Sandy Hook, also on July 11th.

July 11 1863

Sand Hook One mile from Harpers Ferry

Dear Mother

I recd your letter just before starting for this place which was thursday night and Friday morn at three o clock we recd marching orders. we was all day yesterday on the cars from Bal. got here after dark this morn. looks some like rain while sitting writing. I can look acrost the Pottomac and see Rebel picketts. they fired acrost yesterday and wounded several men before we came but have not since we have been here. our folks sent word over if they did not stop there fireing that we would shell there City and they stoped it. an enjine stands in sight that I have counted 8 rifle Ball marks being iron plated the balls did not go through. we expect soon to go up on to the Heights and shell out some rebel Batteries. we expect an awfull fight here soon perhaps to day. lees armey is very close within a pas[s] of it in sight. quite a smart fight took place near here yesterday. How long we shall stop here I am not able to inform you. I think at least untill we capture and drive the rebels out of the state. there is no chance of the rebels getting acrost the river at this place and the general opinion is here that we shall bag lee and his forse in this place. our armey is driveing them this way. there is a good maney troops around here and anxious for a fight. I am well and Hope these lines will find you the same. I will write again soon. if we stop here and are whare we can mail letters. ~~I havent~~ we are now just at the foot of Md [Maryland] Heights. I havent got aney ink so you must not scold at this lead pencil scratching if you can make out to read it all right. mother do not worey about me. I am all right and worrying does not help the matter a particle. I shall take good care of my health as I possibly can. Direct you letters as before or as you formerly have done untill further orders. give my love to all. . . . we did not bring our knapsacks with us. all we have got here is sixty rounds of amonition [ammunition] and other equipments for fighting and our haversacks and kanteens with three days rations of Hardtack. I will write more soon. good by for this time. From Your soldier Boy

T J Dean

Letter No. 4: The next morning, Dean took the opportunity to write again and he sent this note in a friend's letter:

Sunday July 12th 1863

Directed to Mrs L Baker from Jasper pleas Transfer

Harpers Ferry Md Heights

Dear Friends

. . . I wrote a few lines yesterday morn and told in that where I thought we wer going and in an half Hour after I wrote we was on the march up the Mountain. I am well suited with the place. we all live in Houses made by our own hands. Brush stone and Blankets are the material used for the purpose. I am well. it is very foggy this morn an a little misty like as though it was going to rain. I will write more of the particulars tomorrow morn. be of good cheer. from T J Dean

Letter No. 5: Dean knew his family would be concerned now that he was closer to the action in the field. Thus, true to his word, he wrote a lengthier letter the next day to his friends as home:

Monday morn July 13

Md Heights

Dear Friends at home

Having a few moment[s] time before going on pickett I will use it in writing to you. Yesterday we all worked hard drawing Cannnon up the mountain from early in the morn until late at night. Our Regt drew up by hand four Brass 24 Pdr Howitzers and three 32 Pdr and three six mule team loads of amonition. The boys are going to draw up today eight loads more. There is a great maney troops here enough to stop lee if he comes this way. We are 1400 feet above the Potomac. We do not expect to stop here very long. Heavy cannonading herd here ~~last~~ yesterday afternoon. It was in the vicinity of Antetam [Antietam]. We can see the mountains from here. I go to day onto the Rebel Burying ground whare dead mens bones lay on top of the ground. It is just in sight of here. They were shot ~~from~~ by gunes within ten rods from the place whare I am now writing. I must close the drum is beeating to fall in. From T J Dean I am well excuse Haste

The troops were happy to be 'in the Field' for once and not in Baltimore. Shortly after arriving, as with Dean, another soldier, John Hart reported he had made a bark house for shelter, but with the rain on the 13th life was very unpleasant with only "boughs and bark our bed on the ground." What Hart and others did not know at this time, though, was that under cover of rain and darkness on the 13th, Lee's troops would be able to skillfully slip past the Federal forces, a bit further to the northwest of Harper's Ferry at Williamsport and Falling Waters. When Meade reconnoitered to attack Lee on the 14th, the Army of Northern Virginia was already long gone.

Letter No. 6: The regiment's adjutant, Lieutenant Cooper, sent his next report to the hometown paper on the 13th of July from Maryland Heights.

Friend Waite: We arrived here Friday evening and the boys spread their blankets on the ground and were soon enjoying a sound sleep as if in a feather bed.

Saturday morning we took our line of march for Maryland Heights and it was the toughest march we ever experienced. It was very hot and the distance about five miles — three of which was up hill and very steep at that. The boys were loaded down with rations, 100 rounds of cartridges, knapsacks, canteens &c., and were willing to rest when they reached the top. At night they again spread their blankets on the ground and slept well. They went to work next morning throwing up entrenchments, and putting things in good condition, as everything was rendered unserviceable in the late evacuation. Nearly \$200,000 worth of ammunition having been destroyed and scattered all over the Heights.

Yesterday the boys had a good job in hauling four 30 pounder parrots, and four 24 pounder howitzers, up the Heights. They are just doing "good soldiering" now, but they don't grumble as it is what they have been sighing for for several months.

Several have been wounded on the Maryland side by the rebel pickets who are just across the Potomac, but not many shots are exchanged. It having been prohibited by mutual agreement.

Col. Porter has been appointed Acting Brig. General and has command on all the forces on the Heights. Surgeon Leet of the 8th Artillery is Brigade Surgeon. Lieut. J. R. Cooper has been appointed Ordnance Officer on General Nagle's staff. Gen. Nagle has command of all the troops in this vicinity.

There was quite a force of rebel cavalry just across on the Va. side. Our forces are on this side now, but will not be for long. In haste.

General Lee Escapes

A day after Cooper's report, John Hart added that the Federals "shelled the Ferry today and took possession of the place. No resistance made by the rebels." On the 15th from the heights, 6000 cavalry were seen crossing the river; and by the 16th Hart estimated that "between 40 & 50,000 of the Army of the Potomac [had] encamped below in the valley." Capt. Baker also reported on the 15th that Meade's army was in pursuit of Lee: "A train of

cavalry - artillery - wagons - and infantry have been passing us in the valleys below for two days and still they pour along. What an immense thing an army is. From our heights we can see them for miles winding along the crooked roads."

Letters written after the 15th, though, gave no clue to any change in plans due to Lee's escape. Rather, the same arduous duties continued. More cannon, such as a 9-pound Dahlgren gun and a 50-pound Parrot, were hauled up by rope to the top of the mountain on the 22nd and 24th respectively. It seemed this duty would continue indefinitely. Extra supplies were required immediately, requiring the Eighth's commander, Col. Peter Porter, to send a series of telegrams.

Telegram Documents

Telegrams sent to Secretary of War and Middle Military Department in Baltimore. (National Archives Roll 183 for 1863 (M504))

P. 0773: Sandy Hook July 16, 1863 To C. L. Isaacs, Ord. Officer, 9th Army Corps Balto
"Send tools with which to unspike guns and bore new vents. P. A. Porter Commanding Maryland Heights"

P. 0775: No date

"Bring men and camp kettles to Maryland Heights - Store all regimental property safely before leaving. P. A. Porter.

P. 0823 To Quarter Master July 19, 1863

"Send 600 feet of inch & $\frac{1}{4}$ rope for heavy guns Maryland Heights" [P. A. Porter]

Letter No. 7: Dean's letter of the 25th shares more specifics about life on Maryland Heights. By now he is at the very top of the mountain and getting pretty impatient with the lack of progress:

July 25 1863

Stone Ft Md Heights

Dear Friends

I take Pen once more in hand to write a few lines hoping they will find you all well. I wrote a few hasty lines yesterday but thinking of som[e] more that perhaps will interest you and haveing a chance to borrow a pen and ink I avail my self of the priveledge of useing it. I stated as usual of our

being all well and in good spirits and eager for a battle with Jasp and the prospect there is left for us to have a brush with the grey backs. this is one of the clearest mornings there has been since we have been on the Mountain. one can stand on the walls of the Fortification and see up and down the valley as far as the naked eye can reach and then see a clear serfice beyond. we can see with distinkness much farther than either of the armies of the Potomack. we can see plainly whare both armies are and some places can see there encampments. the armies are near as I can calculate are in rather a curious predickiment and allowing me to be judge it will be some time before they get into an other fight. we shall have to have reinforcements or rather have more of a defence at washington before our force will dare atack and I dont think that Lee will dare undertake to brake through our lines. if he does our folks will have a better chance at him for we can send a forse sufficient to defeat at aney point they wish to atact. on the other hand if we atact we must have force enough to make it pay and that would leave one of the gaps open whare by they might escape and get a chew at washington but may be a few dayes will make a change in things. I hope for the best. I think we are shure of sucess in acomplishing the objects of our designs at first and that before long I live in hopes that this was will be closed and our emblem (stars and stripes) will float over every town in the united states (or one united). all that is required is a few more victories and the work is done. hope for the best and all is well. I wish that every copperhead was in the last Battle with the black flag hoisted. I could see the work go on with pleasure. sweep the race from the face of the earth. they are to mean to die a natural death. aney person that will encourage the south at this time deserves the worst kind of death. . . I was over on the Verginia side of the Potomac the other day. had a splendid time. was al through the buildings whare John Brown consealed himself in and was unfinded in. Cas [Charles] Town is in plane sight of here whare he was executed. we have picked up and have got quite a comfortable dwelling place. last night it rained quite hard but it did not leak much. we have an inspection to day but I shall not go out as I am exempt while in the ordinance department. the Boys are going now. the drum just beat. I wish you could see this place that I am writing in. you would say I was excusable for not writing better if you can make out what is in it. I dont know as it makes aney difference how it looks. you are not obliged to let aney body see it. if they want to know how I am tell them Birt

*Fuller Seth Hall Spencer Halbrook and myself ~~own~~ and bunk and mess together. our Regt has not got there tents yet. we just recd our mules and wagons or 12 mules and two wagons. we have plenty of music now in the morn especially before the mules are fed. . . . it takes every thing to make up an army. it is one grand theater to behold and army on an march and especially soon after a halt for to fead and watter. we get soft Bread once in eight dayes. we have one ration. it is reported that we shall have it once in three dayes after this but never mind if we cant get soft Bread we can live on hard tack and them that cant chew must gum it. the Boys are blessed with one thing that is we can get Black Berries in abundance. . . . I shall have to close this or I shant be able to get it in one envelope. [This was a twelve-page letter.] . . . Perhaps the next Letter you receive for me will be writen on F[federal] Hill Bal[timore]. things look very much like a change this morn the 26 [th]. love to all from son
T J Dean*

Dean's reference to change was correct. Little would come of this escapade to Harper's Ferry. After three weeks on the mountain the men were "quite a dirty looking set of fellows." Finally after a military power squabble, Porter's regiment was released and marched down from on Maryland Heights on the 27th of July. They entrained on the Baltimore & Ohio two days later for Baltimore.

Class Activities

I. Reading the letters:

Classroom use: Have students read the historical context (or review their current study of Civil War events in June-July 1863). Students may be divided into pairs to read selected letters, or read the whole collection as homework. The letters should be read aloud to make sense of the language, spelling, and limited punctuation. To orient students in the classroom to the locations of the events, refer to the maps (both Civil War era and contemporary) included here. Orient students at the Overlook Cliff facing Loudon Heights.

Field Trip option (allow a minimum of five hours): If these letters are used in conjunction with a field trip to Harpers Ferry, all the letters can be read while sitting at the Overlook Cliff above Harpers Ferry. Or, if time and difficulty of the trek is not an obstacle, letters 4, 5, and 7 may be read at the site of the Stone Fort. is reached. For the Stone Fort letters (if on site), view the landscape through the gap between the trees to the east, or focus to the east if just using the map.

II. Teacher-led Discussion Questions:

1. Compare and contrast the letters written by officers (Cook and Cooper) with those of an enlisted man, Dean or Hart. (Consider level of education, military experience) Why might Cooper's description of camp comforts have been a bit more rosy than those shared by the enlisted men in their letters?
2. What information can be extracted from the letters that describes the terrain, weather and living conditions? How might these elements have affected the condition and morale of the soldiers? (July heat, incessant rain mid-July, steep grade of Maryland Heights, limited provisions, etc.)
3. Does Letter No. 1 reveal the location of Marshall Cook's position? What visual evidence does he provide? Are there any clues in Letter No. 2 as to where brigade headquarters are located?
4. What is the best way to determine if the reports in these letters are accurate?
5. In Letter No. 3, Dean is reporting from Sandy Hook. Where is this located on the map? Considering the shape of the contour lines on the map, how formidable a task might Dean have had climbing the mountain? Is there evidence of this in later letters?
6. What new technologies were utilized to fight the Civil War? (Consider different means of transportation such as trains for more rapid response, carrying troops, supplies, and mail; the telegraph for relaying orders and requests.) How long did it take the regiment to get from Baltimore to Harpers Ferry?
7. Compare battle action content (occupation of Harpers Ferry and Lee's retreat) in these letters with more contemporary histories. How accurate/inaccurate were the accounts of these men?
8. Read the telegrams. What was Col. Peter A. Porter's plan of action? Why would this have been necessary? (How did his request relate to the July explosion on Maryland Heights?)
9. Chart out the dimensions and weights of the different guns moved up onto Maryland Heights. How many men/animals might be required to move guns and ammunition?
10. The Union strategy to take and hold Harpers Ferry can also be analyzed as a COA (course of action). Locate in the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (OR) Hooker's reports about Harpers Ferry and compare it to Meade's plan. What were the flaws in Hooker's plan? Although Meade was successful at Gettysburg, why was he unable to prevent Lee's escape? In how far did the location of Harpers Ferry ultimately affect Lee's retreat? What conclusions can be drawn based on the letters from the Eighth New York?

III. Instructions for a Student-Designed Lesson:

"Attached is a Word document with primary source letters. The objective here is to design a lesson based on these primary sources. You will also be watching Kent Masterson Brown's *Retreat from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics, and the Pennsylvania Campaign* in conjunction with these and other letter collections. Your lesson is due _____. A couple of the best lessons will be used in class. This project is also designed to help you reflect on your own semester-ending project presentation and how you might present it effectively in class.

Essential questions to ask yourself (in order to design a lesson on Lee's Retreat & Harpers Ferry).

1. What is the most important lesson that you want others to take away from this material? (E.g., what did you get out of reading the letters initially?)
2. How does one determine what is important in these primary source documents?
3. How does one determine what is accurate/inaccurate in the material? Is there a way to assess this?
4. What additional resources should be used to support/refute the source material?
5. How can lessons here be applied to lessons/materials utilized earlier?
6. What would be the ideal form of assessment for students?

IV. Sample of submitted student-designed Lesson:

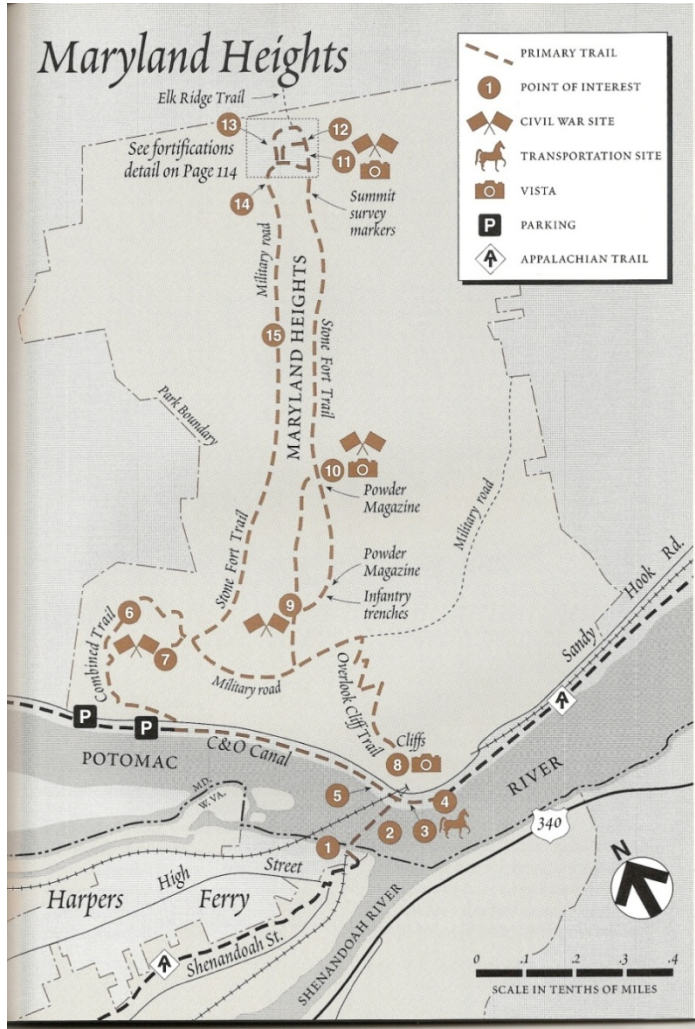
Lee's Retreat and Harper's Ferry Lesson

1. Introduce *General Robert E. Lee's* retreat from the Battle of *Gettysburg*: discuss the major obstacles to overcome (*weather, ambulance/baggage train, mountain passes, Union pursuit, etc...*)
2. Review the Union pursuit: *General Meade* was trying to engage the enemy at every opportunity, pin down *Lee*, and destroy the *Army of Northern Virginia*, thus ending the *Confederacy*-*Meade* failed to do this.
3. Introduce the continuing importance of *Harper's Ferry* and the Union position there: enemy armies always passed by and were often briefly engaged with the position
4. *Harper's Ferry*: Explain geography and why it was such an important post
5. Describe the process of hauling the major artillery up the mountains in order to mount them, overlooking the valley below
6. Have the students read the packet on *Lee's* retreat and the position at *Harper's Ferry* and the actual accounts of those who were there: use the accompanying chart to determine what is valid information and what is unreliable
7. Discuss the charts of the students and their findings: open discussion
8. Overall evaluation of the importance of *Harper's Ferry*: any additional comments/notes/information

Reliable information or inaccurate?	Source #1 (first account given)	Source #2 (second account given)	Source #3 (third account given)
Common accuracies: details are consistent in more than one account			
Inaccuracies: details are inconsistent with all accounts			
Overall evaluation of accurate data: what is reliable? Consistent details that are reliable for overall evaluation			

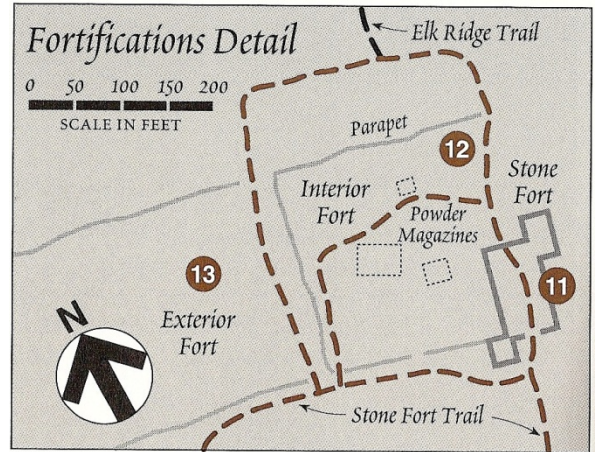
Contemporary Map Resources for Maryland Heights

Gilbert, *A Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry* (p. 107)



Stone Fort on top of Maryland Heights

Gilbert, *A Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry* (p. 114)



Map from the Civil War Period

This is a portion of a larger map. North elevation is Maryland Heights; lower right is part of Loudon Heights, and Bolivar Heights (middle left) adjoins the town. At the time of the Civil War, all of the heights were virtually stripped of trees and other vegetation in order to improve visibility and offer shelters for occupying troops.

