On the lower Mississippi there was the massive final defeat on July 4th at Vicksburg after a bloody six week siege. Then after three unbearably hot, sweaty days of battle at Gettysburg ending July 3rd, the result spelled the beginning of the end for the South. The 3 days of battle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania cast the final die of strategic direction. Gettysburg would record the highest individual numbers of American human suffering of any other in history on American soil. In terms of dead, missing and wounded, 28,000 subtracted from 78,000 Confederate troops would be recorded and 23,000 from the original 88,000 Union troops would fall during the three days.

The inevitable end then came torturously as the war struggled on, spilling precious blood on both sides for another 22 months before the faceless demon of war finally gave its last gasp.

After Gettysburg the North now held the strategic “high ground” of the war, though many battles to come would test the mettle of both sides to the absolute limits of human endurance.

100 years previous to the Battle of Gettysburg, town namesake Samuel Gettys worked to establish his tavern at the crossroads of the Shippensburg/Baltimore & Philadelphia/Pittsburgh crossroads in 1761. Little could he imagine that his town would be the site of the major tide-turning battle of the American Civil War. In fact... Samuel was still working firmly within the colonial laws of King George of England with nary a thought of an independent America.

Fate and loose strategy brought near 170,000 American brothers, fathers, sons, and friends to that one and a half square mile town of 2,400 local residents on July 1, 2 & 3, 1863. And the namesake of Mr. Gettys would be remembered more for the massive tragedy for all time beginning that Independence Day of 1863, than for the humble country tavern beginnings naturally labeling any other small Pennsylvania village.

For the Southern States, a decisive victory would mean the potential end of a war which became more and more drawn out every day. The logistics of the war was taking a devastating economic toll. The South was earnestly petitioning Great Britain for help in breaking the Union blockade of trade in and out of Southern ports. The British were dragging their feet... waiting for a positive sign that the Confederate States were in a position of dictating the remainder of the war.

For the Northern Union Army, another success was vital to obtain the momentum to push the Confederates back into the south.

Gettysburg is only about 60 miles or so, as the crow flies, to the Nation’s Capitol of Washington D.C. General

**Civil War Experience at Gibson Ranch • May 4 & 5, 2013**

EVENT OPENS: 9am SATURDAY & 9am SUNDAY

- FOOD CONcessions AVAILABLE
  - Open at 11:00am
- LIVING HISTORY CAMPS OPEN
  - 9:00am - 5:00pm Saturday
  - 9:00am - 3:00pm Sunday
- BATTLE RE-ENACTMENTS
  - Battle at 1:00pm and 4:00pm Saturday
  - Battle 11:00am and 2:00pm Sunday
  - Seating will be “picnic style”, bring a blanket

**CIVIL WAR MUSIC & DANCING**

- SCHOOL PROGRAM
  - May 3rd - Reservation Required
- 1860s CRAFTS
- FASHION SHOWS
- VISITS BY HISTORICAL CHARACTERS

![Map of Gibson Ranch](image)

General Admission
$7 per person
ten years and older

Returning Students,
no charge if they wear school day sticker.

Parking Included

Not recommended for small children & pets.

Seating is picnic style so bring a blanket.

8556 Gibson Ranch Road
Elverta, CA 95626
(916) 806-3868

www.gibsonranchpark.com

See Website for Latest Information

Put This Civil War Experience on Your Calendar! It Just May Be The Best One Ever!
Robert E. Lee’s plans include a march to Washington to execute powerful terms for the peace and end of the conflict. Leadership of the Army of the Potomac was transferred only days earlier from the resigning General Joseph Hooker and given to General George Mead. General Mead, still familiarizing himself with any recent strategy of the Army of the Potomac and unsure of the exact location of the rapidly northward-advancing Confederate troops, embarked on the safe strategy of moving his troops north. He had no current intelligence to identify precisely where Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s troops were.

Similarly, though General Lee was on the offensive travel-wise and did have a strategic mission to fulfill, he lacked complete enough surveillance information to know the exact position of the bulk of the Northern troops.

Fate or happenstance ruled the final location at Gettysburg more than long range battle plans. And the convergence of many separate divisions on both sides determined the eventual “acts” that played out on the rolling hills surrounding the town of Gettysburg.

For more investigation of the history of Gettysburg and the Civil War, try these links...

The Movie: “Gettysburg” (www.warnervideo.com)  
w/ Tom Berenger, Jeff Daniels, Martin Sheen  
http://www.gettysburg.edu/cw2013/college-war.dot  
http://www.gettysburg-chamber.org/adams-county-community/visitor-information  
http://www.gettysburgcivilwar150.com/pages/why_we_remember/interactive_map.aspx  
http://www.gettysburgcivilwar150.com/default.aspx  
http://www.byutv.org/watch/9ac86878-a985-4f44-b181-a8ac4257e1bb/american-ride-gettysburg  
http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/

What if you were assigned...

Infantry - The infantry was the rank and file of the army and they comprised the bulk of those fighting on both sides. They were armed generally with single shot muskets. They faced huge casualties, illness and constant weariness. Travel was by foot and they marched with all the necessities they could carry to sustain and protect their life. That life usually balanced on a deadly edge of poor sanitary conditions, little food & clothing, and the most basic of medical care. Often fighting for the last things they had to fight with and for including flag, cause & family. Privates were paid about $13/month when they were lucky enough to get paid. The Special Forces of the day were designated as sharpshooters.

Artillery - Artillery was the backbone of the Civil War military. Cannon were used to soften up the enemy lines, killing from distances of often well over a mile. An array of shells were used ranging from solid shot (cannon balls) to explosive shells, to canister (essentially very large shotfilled shells). A well-trained cannon crew could fire two shots every minute.

Medical - Doctors gave enlistment physicals, took care of sanitation and worked on the neverending lines of wounded. One battle could cause a neverending line of patients taking a week or more to treat. Modern anesthesia was non-existent and only the most basic of survival medical techniques were available to most of the wounded. Many died of the medical care, rather than the severity of the wound. The Civil War battles themselves changed the face of the medical profession itself as do all wars before or since.

Cavalry - Four types of Cavalry forces could be found during the Civil War. Some fought primarily on horseback with carbines, pistols, and sabers, but these represented only a small percentage of units. Some were mounted infantry who moved quicker on horseback from theater to theater and then fighting on foot when in battle. These troops were found primarily during the first part of the war. Dragoons fought on foot as well and formed a much rarer hybrid group as a type of cross between light cavalry and infantry. The last group were the Irregular Forces. These were the mounted troops engaging in guerrilla warfare. Their tactics and weapons employed all imaginable possibilities.

Camp Life - A day in a soldiers life was up by sunrise and drill all day. You could get a cup of coffee or some hardtack if you were lucky. Cleaning weapons and camp duties were also on the work schedule and they needed to be done on time.

Civilian Life - Civilian life was similar to what you would expect in any war where massive numbers of men are pulled from regular civilian jobs to fight away from home for months and years. Women and children stepped up to fill those roles and many others as well. In general, by the end of the war, southern cities were overcome with the massive challenges of little food, and loss of infrastructure. Normal life was rare. In the north, most fared better. All played a supportive role in medical care, fund raising, and the proliferation of propaganda necessary to maintain a spirit of winning.

Want to know more?

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