

# 112 ⇒ THE CIVIL WAR: AN OVERVIEW, 1861-1865 ⇒

"...[black soldiers] have proved themselves among the bravest of the brave, performing deeds of daring and shedding their blood with a heroism unsurpassed by any other race." Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton



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1861-65

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After reading this chapter, how would you evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each side? What predictions would you make about the length of the war? What generalization (summary) would you make about the North's eventual victory?

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
<b>POPULATION</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 11 states: 9 million people, including 3.5 million slaves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 23 states: 22 million people</li> </ul>
<b>ARMIES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>CONFEDERATE ARMY:</b> 600,000 to 1,500,000 total, according to estimates (There are no exact statistics because the Confederate archives in Richmond were destroyed by fire.)</li> </ul>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>AFRICAN-AMERICANS:</b> Not until March 13, 1865, did the Confederate government open the army to blacks. It was too late; the Confederacy surrendered on April 9, 1865.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>UNION ARMY:</b> 2,128,948 total (In 1861 the entire United States Army consisted of only 16,350 men.)</li> <li>■ <b>AFRICAN-AMERICANS:</b> 178,895 total (134,111 from slave states) 21 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients</li> </ul> <p>In 1863 the all-black 54th Regiment from Massachusetts performed with great valor at the Battle of Fort Wagner. Lincoln defended the use of blacks in the military:</p>  <p>"You say you will not fight to free Negroes. Some of them seem willing to fight for you. [After victory] there will be some black men who can remember that, with silent tongue and clenched teeth, and steady eye and well-poised bayonet, they have helped mankind on to this great consummation; while, I fear, there will be some white ones, unable to forget that with malignant heart and deceitful speech, they strove to hinder it."</p>
<b>NAVIES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Confederacy had no real navy, only a few cruisers. It relied on privateers to run the Union blockade of the 3,500-mile southern coast.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 42 ships in 1861; 671 ships in 1864</li> <li>■ 84,415 white sailors; 29,000 black sailors</li> </ul>

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MILITARY LEADERS

GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE

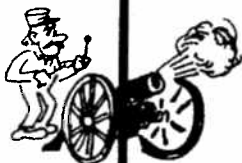
Commander, Army of Northern Virginia

- General Pierre G.T. Beauregard
- General Braxton Bragg
- General Simon Bolivar Buckner
- General Jubal Early
- General Nathan Bedford Forrest
- General Ambrose P. Hill
- General John Bell Hood
- General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson
- General Albert Sidney Johnston
- General Joseph E. Johnston
- General James Longstreet
- General John C. Pemberton
- General J.E.B. (Jeb) Stuart

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT

Commander, All Northern Armies

- General Don Carlos Buell
- General Ambrose E. Burnside
- General Benjamin F. Butler
- Admiral David G. Farragut
- General Henry W. Halleck
- General Joseph Hooker
- General Irvin McDowell
- General George B. McClellan
- General George G. Meade
- General John Pope
- General William S. Rosecrans
- General Winfield Scott
- General Philip Sheridan
- General William Tecumseh Sherman



ADVANTAGES

- Outstanding generals, many of whom had fought in the Mexican War
- Strong military tradition
- Strong motivation—fighting to preserve way of life
- Fighting on home ground—knew the territory
- Skilled with guns and horses because of rural experiences
- Cotton could be exchanged on world market for weapons and manufactured goods.

- Superior leadership of Abraham Lincoln
- Larger population.
- Military power—a five to two advantage in men available to fight
- Industrial power; more manufactured goods
- Greater wealth
- Three-fourths more railroads
- Two-thirds more farm acreage
- Controlled shipping

DISADVANTAGES

- Autocratic leadership of Jefferson Davis
- Inflation: printed paper money that lost its value because of no hard money (gold/silver), called specie, backing it
- Inferior numbers in men, money, and machinery
- State sovereignty yielded to national sovereignty in order to conduct the war.

- Weak motivation—not fighting for a cause.
- Unaggressive officers—failed to press advantages.
- Far from home base—resulting in poor communications and a long supply line
- 3,500-mile enemy coastline—hard to blockade
- Vast land—could conquer but not hold territory
- European aid to Confederacy

IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY MADE THE CIVIL WAR AMERICA'S FIRST MODERN WAR

RAILROADS

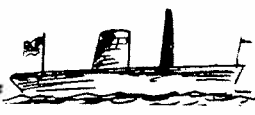
WEAPONRY

IRONCLAD SHIPS

CAMERAS

TELEGRAPH

MEDICINE



Clara Barton established a precedent for female nurses in the Union Army. In 1881 she founded the American Red Cross.

⇨ THE CIVIL WAR: AN OVERVIEW ⇨

"We seek peace—enduring peace. More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginning of all wars—yes, an end to this brutal, inhuman and thoroughly impractical method of settling the differences between governments."—Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1945

**CASUALTIES:**

THE CIVIL WAR RESULTED IN ALMOST AS MANY DEATHS AS THE TOTAL OF ALL OTHER AMERICAN WARS.

One in every five military men in the Civil War died in service. Of 620,000 men who died, 340,000 were from the North and about 280,000 from the South. Of the survivors, the last "Billy Yank," Albert Woolson, died in 1956 at the age of 109; the last "Johnny Reb," Walter Williams, died in 1959 at age 117.

In 1913 at a fiftieth anniversary reunion at Gettysburg, Union and Confederate veterans reenacted Pickett's Charge, the South's disastrous attack of Union forces.

Describing the event from the Union side, Philip Meyers wrote:

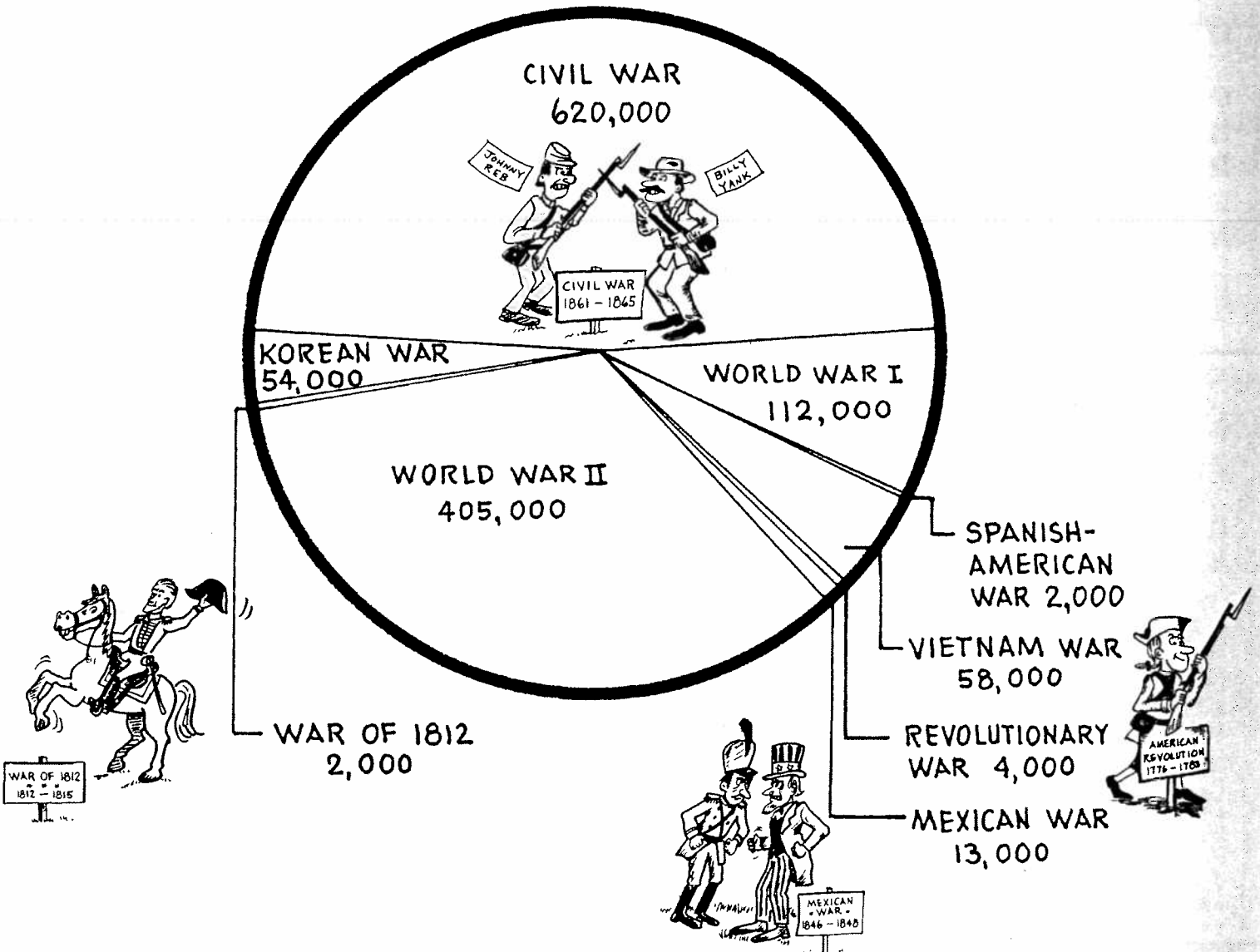
"We could see not rifles and bayonets but canes and crutches....

At the sound of the Confederates' rebel yell, the Yankees...

burst from behind the stone wall, and flung themselves

upon their former enemies...not in mortal combat,

but reunited in brotherly love and affection."



**LIEUTENANT GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT** of Illinois  
 Commander of the Union Army, 1864-65

**GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE** of Virginia  
 Commander of the Confederate Army



"Bobby Lee, Bobby Lee, he'll do this, that, and the other." I'm tired of hearing about Bobby Lee. You'd think he was going to do a double somersault and land in our rear. Quit thinking about what he's going to do to you and think about what you're going to do to him.

UNION STRATEGY

1. Capture Richmond, the Confederate capital.
2. Split the Confederacy by gaining control of the Mississippi River.
3. Blockade the South.

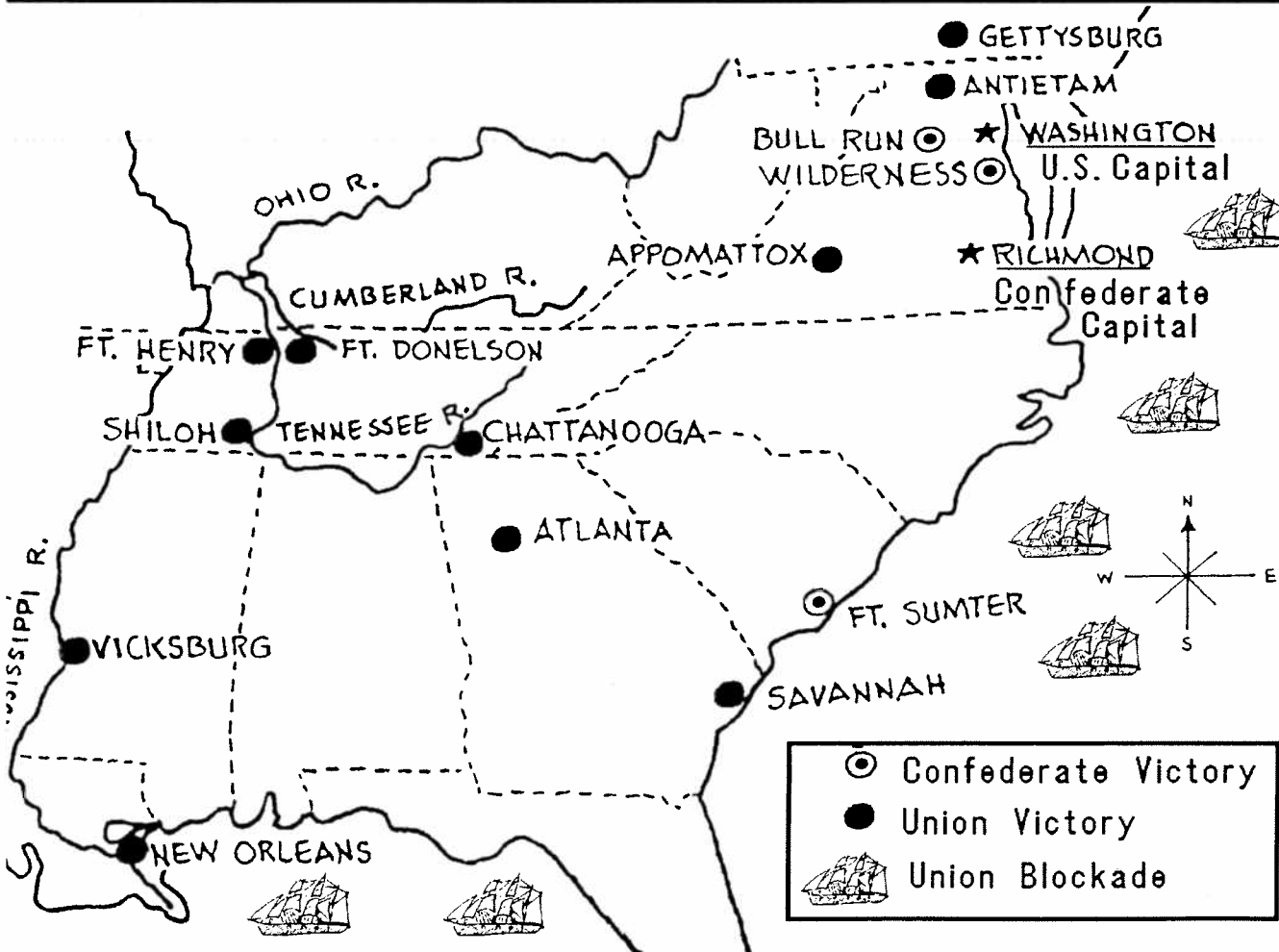
I have fought against the people of the North because I believed they were seeking to wrest from the South its dearest rights. But I have never cherished toward them bitter or vindictive feelings, and I have never seen the day when I did not pray for them.

CONFEDERATE STRATEGY

1. Capture Washington, the Union capital.
2. Seize central Pennsylvania.
3. Divide Northwest and Northeast.
4. Gain recognition of Confederacy's independent status.



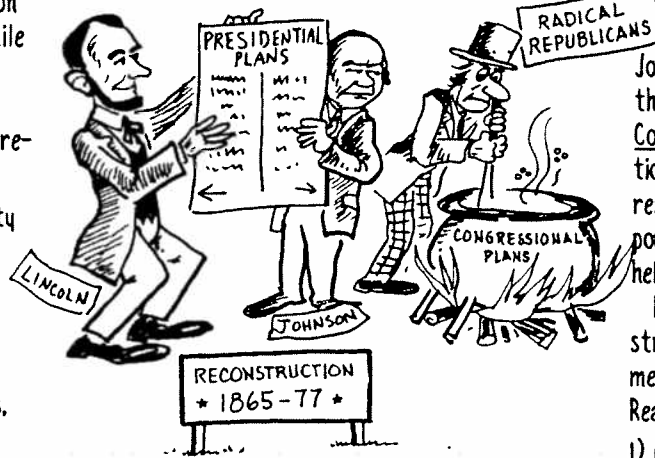
## MAJOR BATTLES



1865— President Andrew Johnson

Tennessee followed a Reconstruction plan similar to Lincoln's, beginning while Congress was in summer recess. By December, all the southern states except Texas had met Johnson's requirements for readmission to the Union:

- loyalty oaths in exchange for amnesty for all southerners except Confederate leaders and those whose wealth exceeded \$20,000 (Johnson disliked rich people.),
- ratification of the 13th Amendment,
- repudiation of Confederate war debts,
- disavowal of secession ordinances.



1866— Congressional Radical Republicans

led by Congressman Thaddeus Stevens and Senator Charles Sumner, rejected Johnson's moderate plan, refused to admit the southern states, and set up the Joint Committee of Fifteen to direct Reconstruction. Alarmed by southern Black Codes restricting former slaves, they increased the power of the Freedman's Bureau, an agency to help the 4,000,000 freed slaves.

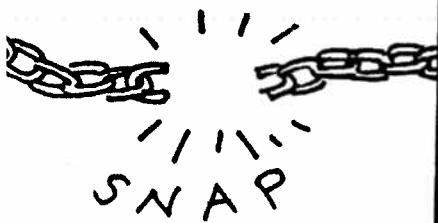
In 1867 Congress passed the First Reconstruction Act, replacing southern governments with five military districts. Readmission to the Union now required:

- 1) writing state constitutions giving blacks the vote; ratification of the 14th Amendment,
- 2) later, ratification of the 15th Amendment.

RECONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS

13TH AMENDMENT:  
ABOLISHED SLAVERY

Ratified December 18, 1865



14TH AMENDMENT:  
GRANTED BLACK CITIZENSHIP

Ratified July 28, 1868



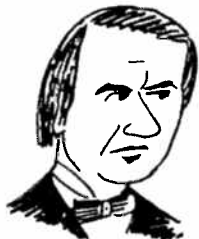
15TH AMENDMENT:  
GAVE BLACK MALES THE VOTE

Ratified March 30, 1870

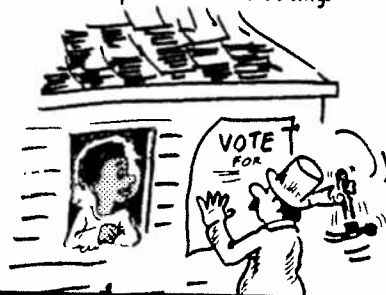


1868: Impeachment of President Johnson

Radical Republicans impeached (brought trial) Johnson for firing Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, a Radical Republican, thus violating the Tenure of Office Act. The Senate vote was one short of the two-thirds needed for conviction. Johnson remained in office but lost power to the Radicals.



1868— Ulysses S. Grant was elected president, with the support of Radical Republicans. Blacks now had the vote (and elective office) in the new southern governments, and Grant received nearly all 700,000 black votes cast. The Ku Klux Klan, a secret white society, intimidated blacks to keep them from voting.



1877— The Compromise of 1877 ended Reconstruction. In the 1876 contested presidential election, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes gained southern support by promising to end military rule in the South. Blacks gradually lost their political and civil rights but began regaining them in the 1960s, based on the Reconstruction Amendments.

And so we close this half of America's story of liberty with Lincoln's words:



"With malice toward none; with charity toward all; with firmness in the right... let us strive on to finish the work we are in..."



"As to peace...three things are indispensable. 1. The restoration of national authority throughout all the states. 2. No receding...on the slavery question.... 3. No cessation of hostilities short of an end of the war...."—Abraham Lincoln, April 6, 1865

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December 8, 1863—LINCOLN'S "TEN PERCENT" RECONSTRUCTION PLAN

Anticipating the war's end, Lincoln announced a lenient plan of reconstructing, or rebuilding, the Union. He said the South had rebelled rather than seceded, therefore he as commander in chief should direct reconstruction. Congress said it should do so because the South had seceded and should be treated as a conquered land. Lincoln's plan reflected his approach: "Let 'em up easy."

THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN BROKEN UP BY THE SECEDING STATES. NOW THE UNION MUST BE PUT TOGETHER AGAIN.



- 1) Amnesty: All southerners, except Confederate leaders, could win pardon and regain citizenship by taking an oath to support the Constitution and a proposed 13th Amendment abolishing slavery.
  - 2) When ten percent of a state's registered voters, as of 1860, took the oath, they could re-establish their state government's ties to the Union.
- July 1864—Congress disregarded Lincoln's plan and passed the harsher Wade-Davis Bill, which he vetoed.

March 4, 1865—LINCOLN'S SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS

After winning reelection in November 1864, Lincoln called for a time of healing.



With malice toward none; with charity toward all; with firmness in the right... let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds...to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace.

April 9, 1865—THE WAR ENDED IN A UNION VICTORY as General Lee surrendered his Confederate Army to General Grant at Appomattox Court House, a village in Virginia. Under Lincoln's authority, Grant gave unconditional terms of surrender, along with generous concessions.

Grant's terms of surrender: "Peace being my great desire, there is but one condition I would insist upon...that the men and officers surrendered shall be disqualified for taking up arms again, against the Government of the United States." Grant then added one of the most humane conditions in military history: after signing paroles, the soldiers were not to be disturbed by the United States authority.... There would be no jailing or hanging of traitors. Neither Lincoln nor Grant wanted to punish the South.

Lee and Grant set outstanding examples of reconciliation: Following the surrender, Grant silenced Union celebrations, saying, "The war is over; the rebels are our countrymen again."

Lee swore allegiance to the United States, influencing thousands of his devoted ex-soldiers to do the same. He became president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia (later named Washington and Lee University), where he told students: "Make your sons Americans." He once warned a professor to stop speaking disrespectfully of Grant, under penalty of being fired.



Appomattox is a short distance from Jamestown, where America's democratic experiment in self-government began. Therein lies the meaning of the Civil War for us: the democratic experiment survived a threat to its very existence, and we are the beneficiaries. It could have gone another way. Had the South successfully seceded, other disgruntled states could follow, gradually undoing the Union.

April 14, 1865—Five days after the war ended, John Wilkes Booth, a crazed actor seeking vengeance for the South, assassinated Lincoln at Ford's Theatre. Walt Whitman expressed the nation's unspeakable grief in his poem "O Captain! My Captain!"

"O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done....  
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won....  
But O heart! heart! heart!  
O the bleeding drops of red,  
Where on the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead....  
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound,  
its voyage closed and done,  
From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;  
Exult O shores, and ring O bells!  
But I with mournful tread, walk the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead."

