November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16th president to the United States of America. Lincoln followed the Northern belief that slavery should not spread to new territories and states. Southerners didn’t agree with this and were against Lincoln.

On December 20 of the same year, South Carolina seceded from the Union. They decided that instead of following laws that they didn’t agree with they would become their own country. Georgia, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana followed them. By February 9, 1861, these states agreed on becoming a new country, the Confederate States of America.

Shortly after Abraham Lincoln is sworn in as President of the United States of America in April, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas leave the Union and join the Confederacy. The Confederacy rallied together and attacked a northern fort, Fort Sumter, located in the South. This prompted the North to lead a march to Richmond, Virginia to capture the southern capital in hopes of ending the war.

About 25 miles outside of Washington, D.C. is the town of Manassas, Virginia. Confederate soldiers were guarding Manassas Junction, a major rail junction. In On July 16, 1861, Union General McDowell took his troops to Manassas Junction to stop the Confederates. Confederate General Johnston got away from them by hopping on trains and heading to Manassas.

July 21 brought soldiers over the Stone Bridge just through the woods near Bull Run. General McDowell led about 12,000 Union soldiers. They planned a surprise attack on the Confederate army on Matthews Hill, pushing the Confederates back causing them to retreat to Henry Hill. Soon, the Confederates sent reinforcements led by Colonel Thomas Jackson. It was said that, “There is Jackson, standing like a stone wall,” giving him the nickname “Stonewall Jackson” that stuck with him.

A Union soldier had set up a cannon perpendicular to the Confederate’s, hoping to wipe out the opposing weapons. When he called for assistance he was instead met by Confederate soldiers who took control of the cannon.

The Confederates staged a counter attack using what is now called the “Rebel Yell” which is a combination of a scream and cry as they ran toward the Union army. The sound of the yell caused fear and the Union army retreated. The Confederate army had won the battle.