Post - Visit Worksheet

The Bushong family was forced to hide in their cellar as the battle raged on around them. Afterwards, their house and outbuildings became makeshift hospitals for those wounded in battle. Imagine you are a member of the family and write a journal entry about your experience during the battle. What did you see? What did you hear? Now that the battle is over what do you think will happen to your family and the farm? How might your chores differ right after the battle?

Pretend you are a VMI cadet. Write a letter home telling your family about the battle of New Market and your involvement. Were you in the battle? Were you wounded? Were you scared?

Did you read Ghost Cadet by Elaine Alphin before your visit? What places that are mentioned in the book did you see? Were they the same or different than you imagined? In the story, Benji finds Cadet McDowells’ pocket watch, do you have any other ideas as to what may have happened to the missing pocket watch?

Newspapers were the most reliable sources of news in the 1860s. Pretend you were a reporter at the Battle of New Market and saw the action first hand. Write an article describing your experiences. Remember to answer the questions: Who? What? When? Where? How?

Thank you for visiting the Virginia Museum of the Civil War!!!