

The Wood Book is a collection of letters and journals that General Wood wrote during 1863. One excerpt covers the events that he participated in during the Civil War.

Campbell Wood was a personal assistant to General Hood and relayed messages between Hood and General Robert E. Lee. He was to communicate between the two on whether or not the South should attempt to take over Little Round Top to gain ground in the war. Lee insisted that it would be an easy task to take it over while Hood disagreed. Wood continued to travel back and forth between the two, carrying messages and commands until they reached a final decision. Hood finally agreed with Lee and they attempted to gain control of Little Round Top, only to be disappointed. They were defeated almost immediately and lost a great number of men. Wood fought in the battle and was shot in the knee. He was treated by Robert E. Lee's personal physician and was able to continue on.

When Wood was no longer the assistant to General Hood, he married an 18-year-old woman named Margaret. He continued to put his personal entries in The Wood Book until his death. Wood lived to be 102 years old.

The Battle of Gettysburg was a battle fought from July 1 through July 3, 1863. The Army of the Potomac, under Union General George Gordon Meade, numbered about 85,000 men; the Confederate army, under General Robert E. Lee, numbered about 75,000 men. The battle began outside Gettysburg when Meade formed his forces together and advanced southward along Cemetery Ridge to the hills of Little Round Top. The Confederates were assembled in long lines and were unable to advance until late in the afternoon of July 2. That night Meade held a council of war and made the decision not to retreat. By the third day of the battle, the Confederates had lost their offensive stance. Lee decided to attack regardless of the opposition from other Confederate generals. The strain on the Confederates proved to be too great, and they fell back due to the loss of three-fourths of their troops. On the night of July 4, the battle was over without a clear winner. Both troops had lost thousands of men, but the North had men to replace their loss. The South had no one to replace their men, and so the Battle of Gettysburg was one of the deciding factors in the outcome of the Civil War.

I remember years ago when I would travel to my grandfather's house to hear him tell stories about my great-great-great-great grandfather, General Campbell Wood. My grandfather would get out the book that had been written by Wood and each visit he would share with me another one of Wood's exciting adventures in the Civil War. My grandfather eventually passed *The Wood Book* down to my father who continues to share with me more and more of the personal entries of my great-great-great-great grandfather.