**The First Battle of Bull Run**

War preparations took some time, so it was not until three months after Fort Sumter that Union and Confederate troops met again at the **First Battle of Bull Run** in Virginia, between Washington, D.C., and Richmond. Still believing that the war was a trifling matter that would be over quickly, a number of government officials and spectators from both sides came to “observe” the battle, some even packing picnic lunches. The Union was led by Irvin McDowell and the Confederates by Joe Johnston and PGT Beauregard.

The North was successful in the morning, but Confederate reinforcements arrived by train in the afternoon. Also General Stonewall Jackson was able to hold the center of the Confederate line.

By the end of the day, Union forces had lost and were forced to retreat. The loss shocked Northerners out of their complacency and prompted them to prepare more seriously for the struggle ahead. Meanwhile, many Southerners interpreted the victory as an indicator of an early end to the war and as decisive proof that most Northerners didn’t have the will to fight.