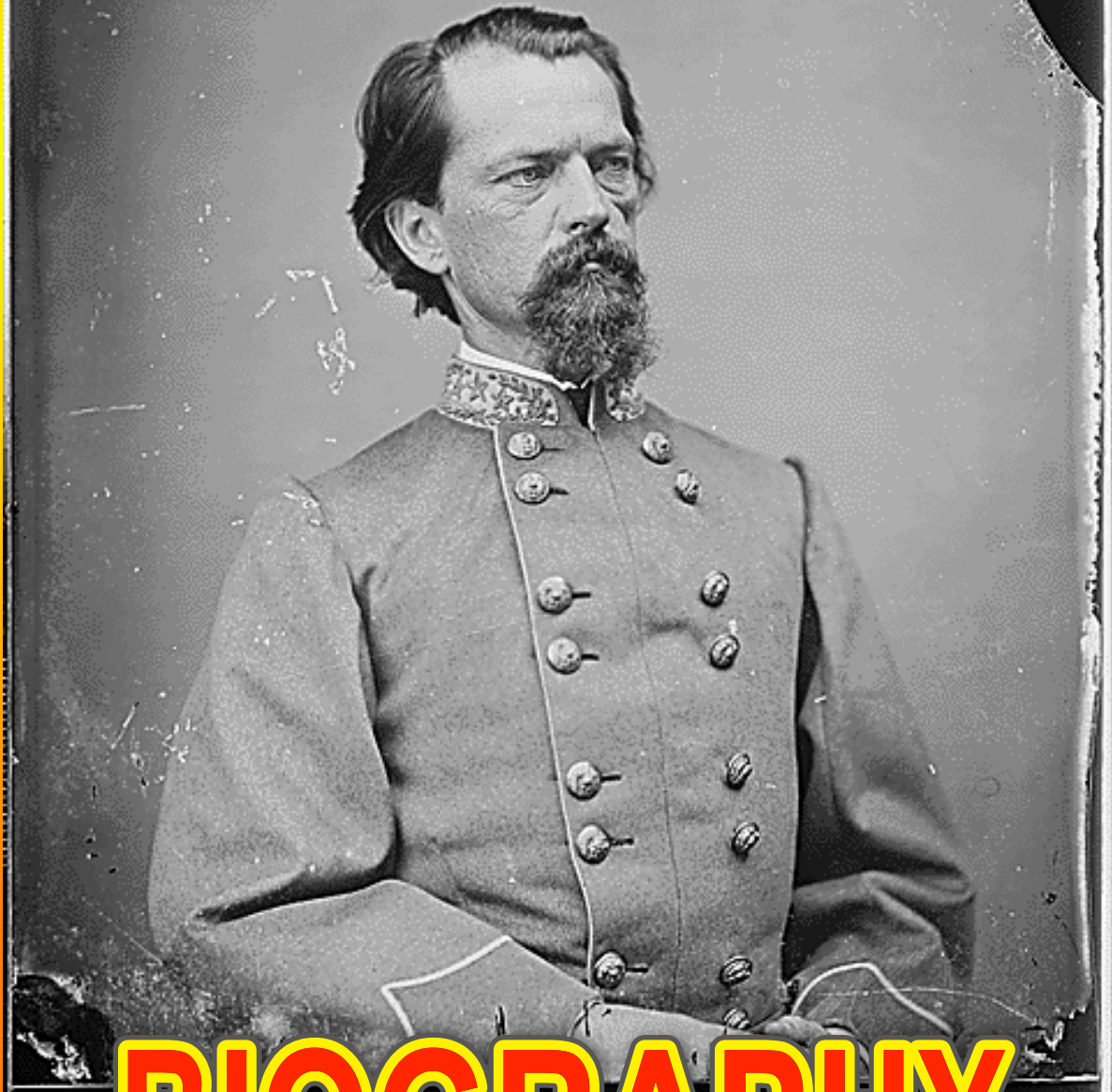


# JOHN BROWN GORDON



## BIOGRAPHY

# JOHN BROWN GORDON

John Brown Gordon was born on February 6, 1832 in Georgia. He started life on a plantation in Upson County, but then moved to a different part of the state, where Gordon's father ran a coal mine. Gordon studied law, but returned home to work on the mine.

It was at this time that the Civil War broke out, and Gordon's fortunes changed dramatically. He first joined the Confederate army as a captain, despite having no military experience or training. But Gordon was a natural, and he quickly rose through the ranks to become a major general.

During his time in the military, Gordon inspired his troops with his tall figure and strong voice. He was at the forefront of the action in many key battles like Gettysburg in Pennsylvania. He was wounded five times at the Battle of Sharpsburg.

When the Civil War ended in 1865, Gordon went to Atlanta, where he was active against Reconstruction, which aimed to bring confederate states back under Union control.

Gordon was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1872, and then as Governor of Georgia in 1886. After a brief time as Senator again, Gordon resigned and started working for the Western and Atlantic Railroad.

Later on, Gordon became the first commander of the United Confederate Veterans, and he drew on his war experiences to write a memoir in 1903.

# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'memoir'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'memoir' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'memoir'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'memoir'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'memoir' means.

Try this for other words, too. 2

# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: key	important

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

After the Civil War, Gordon became a senator and Governor of Georgia.

Later on, Gordon became the first commander of the United Confederate Veterans.

John Brown Gordon was born in Georgia in 1832.

Gordon worked in his father's coal mine until the Civil War broke out.

But as the war went on, Gordon rose through the military ranks to become a major general.

At the beginning of the war, Gordon had little military experience.

Gordon was wounded five times at the Battle of Sharpsburg.

# Get to the facts

1 When was John Brown Gordon born?

2 What did Gordon study?

3 Where did he work first?

4 How many times was Gordon wounded at Sharpsburg?

5 What did Gordon become in 1886?

# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

## The Battle of Sharpsburg

The battle raged on. I saw my fellow soldier, John Brown Gordon, get wounded again and again. Every time, he got back up and fought on. When he was wounded a fifth time... (now complete the story)

**Below is a plain text version for printing:**

## Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'memoir'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'memoir' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'memoir'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'memoir'.
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## Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – key	Synonym – important
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## Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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## **Make a story...**

### **The Battle of Sharpsburg**

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