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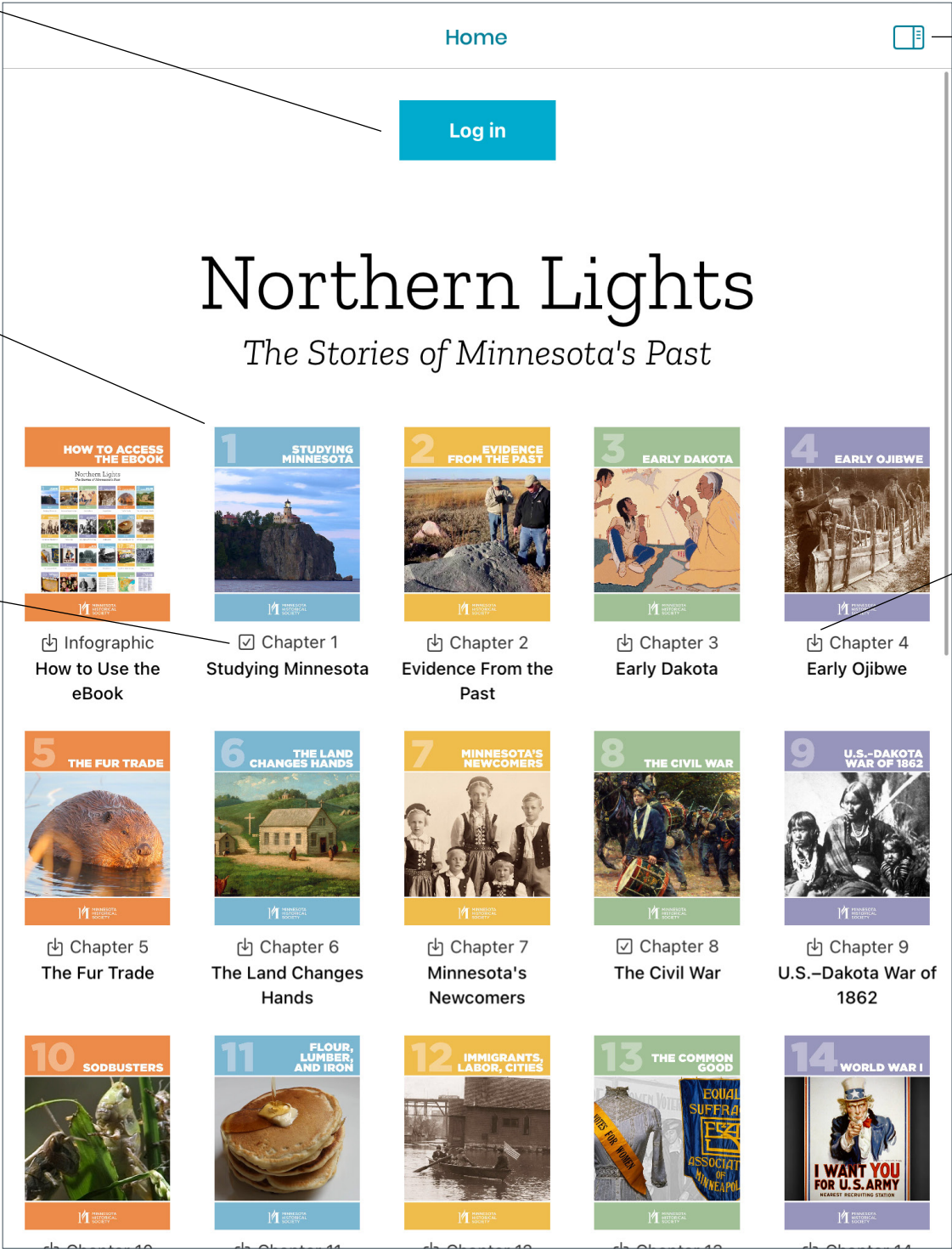
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Navigation menu



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See where all the Minnesota Studies benchmarks are addressed throughout *Northern Lights*.

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Charley at 18


Goddard again witnessed the ravages of war during July 1863. This time they were at a little town in Pennsylvania called Gettysburg.

The Battle of Gettysburg lasted for three hot, bloody days—July 1 through 3. On the second day, the First Minnesota Regiment played a crucial role in what turned out to be an important Union victory. After repeated attacks on the Union lines, Confederate soldiers were on the verge of breaking through. About the only thing standing in their way was the First Minnesota. The Minnesotans charged forward, knowing they probably would not survive. For about 10 minutes, they fought the Southerners almost face to face. Both sides used rifles and bayonets—long, knifelike daggers attached to the end of rifles. The Minnesotans stopped the Confederates just long enough for additional Union troops to arrive.



When the fighting was over, the ground was covered with dead and wounded men. Charley Goddard had been seriously wounded. He was shot in the leg and shoulder, but he lived. From his hospital bed, he wrote a letter to his mother that only hinted at the horrors he saw. It told about the Winona soldiers who had been killed or wounded at Gettysburg.




► Nurses and female volunteers at hospital camps helped wounded soldiers keep in touch with their families by writing letters for them.



▲ Charley Goddard wrote this letter to his mother from a hospital near Gettysburg.

  **LISTEN TO THE LETTER**

 **VIEW TEXT**

8.14

Navigation menu


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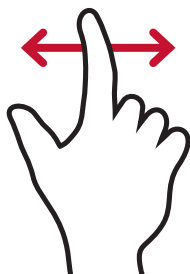
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