

Civil War
ROUNDTABLE
Of
Arkansas

P.O. Box 7281 • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72217



Our 44th Year

FOR THE MEETING TUESDAY, June 24, 2008

Meets Fourth Tuesday; January-November

Founded March 1964

Second Presbyterian Church

600 Pleasant Valley Drive

Little Rock

Program at 7 p.m.

Online: www.civilwarbuff.org

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Dues \$15 Per Year

VISITORS WELCOME!

VISIT THE BATTLEFIELDS WHEN YOU CAN...

WHILE YOU CAN

Recruiting Black Regiments

By

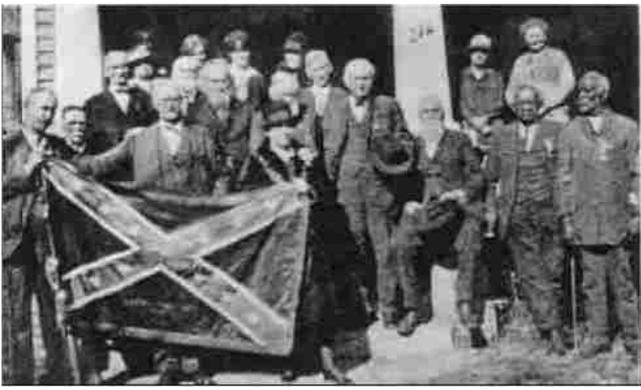
Mark Christ

Mark Christ is community outreach director for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an Agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. He directs the agency's National Register/Survey, education, special projects, and public information programs. He joined AHPP in 1990 after eight years as a professional journalist. A 1982 graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, he receives a Master's degree in 2000 from the University of Oklahoma, where he wrote a thesis based on the Little Rock Campaign of 1863.

He has edited several books for the University of Arkansas Press, including *Rugged and Sublime*, *Reflections on Arkansas Properties Listed on the*

National Register of Historic Places, and *Getting Used to Being Shot At: The Spence Family Civil War Letters*. He most recently edited *All Cut to Pieces and Gone to Hell*, *The Civil War Race Relation*, and *the Battle of Poison Spring*; and *The Earth Shook and trees trembled., Civil War Arkansas 1863-1864*, published by the Old State House Museum.

Black Confederates? Why haven't we heard more about them? National Park Service historian, Ed Bearrs, stated, "I don't want to call it a conspiracy to ignore the role of Blacks both above and below the Mason-Dixon line, but it was definitely a tendency that began around 1910" Historian, Erwin



L. Jordan, Jr., calls it a “cover-up” which started back in 1865. He writes, “During my research, I came across instances where Black men stated they were soldiers, but you can plainly see where ‘soldier’ is crossed out and ‘body servant’ inserted, or ‘teamster’ on pension applications.” Another black historian, Roland Young, says he is not surprised that blacks fought. He explains that “...some, if not most, Black southerners would support their country” and that by doing so they were “demonstrating it’s possible to hate the system of slavery and love one’s country”. This is the very same reaction that most African Americans showed during the American Revolution, where they fought for the colonies, even though the British offered them freedom if they fought for them.

It has been estimated that over 65,000 Southern blacks were in the Confederate ranks. Over 13,000 of these, “saw the elephant” also known as meeting the enemy in combat. These Black Confederates included both slave and free. The Confederate Congress did not approve blacks to be officially enlisted as soldiers (except as musicians), until late in the war. But in the ranks, it was a different story. Many Confederate officers did not obey the mandates of politicians, they frequently enlisted blacks with the simple criteria, and “Will you fight?” Historian Ervin Jordan, explains that “biracial units” were frequently organized “by local Confederate and State militia Commanders in response to immediate threats in the form of Union raids...” Dr. Leonard Haynes, an African-American professor at Southern University, stated, “When you eliminate the black Confederate soldier, you’ve eliminated the history of the South.”



As the war came to an end, the Confederacy took progressive measures to build back up its army. The creation of the Confederate States Colored Troops, copied after the segregated northern colored troops, came too late to be successful. Had the Confederacy been successful, it would have created the world's largest armies (at the time) consisting of black soldiers, even larger than that of the North. This would have given the future of the Confederacy a vastly different appearance than what modern day racist or anti-Confederate liberals conjecture. Not only did Jefferson Davis envision black Confederate veterans receiving bounty lands for their service, there would have been no future for slavery after the goal of 300,000-armed black CSA veterans came home after the war.



The Indian Division Army of the Trans-Mississippi Brig. Gen. Douglas H. Cooper, Commanding

In 1861, the area of present-day Oklahoma was known as "Indian Territory". About 60,000 Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole Indians resided in the Territory with some 1,500 white men married to Indian women, and some 10,000 Negro slaves. About 2,500 Osage, Caddo, Wichita, Shawnee, and Delaware were part of the I.T. population. Approximately 3,000 Comanche, Kiowa, Cheyenne, and Kiowa-Arapaho were found in the western part of Oklahoma, the Texas panhandle, southeast Colorado, and southwest Kansas.

Of these people, approximately 3,500 fought in the Union army while about 15,000 served the Confederacy. Indian Territory gave a greater percentage of her population to the cause than any state except Virginia. Given the task of keeping invading Federal armies out of Texas, Oklahoma suffered more destruction and loss of civilian life than any state of the Confederacy. However, the Indians held; the Federals were never able to reach the Red River.



The fifteen thousand Confederate troops of Indian Territory, of whom no more than seven to eight thousand men were

in the field at one given time were, by the end of the war, organized into a division of two brigades.

Brig. Gen. Douglas H. Cooper commanded the division. Col. Tandy Walker commanded the second, or Choctaw Brigade, composed of Choctaw and Chickasaw units. Brig. Gen. Stand Watie, a Cherokee, commanded all the Indian units not in the Choctaw Brigade.

The Confederate congress abandoned Richmond in the spring of 1865 without acting on Cooper's promotion to major general and Tandy Walker's promotion to brigadier general.

Unlike the rest of the Confederacy, Indian Territory troops grew more and more successful after July 1863. The great majority of the Division, still in the field and undefeated in June of 1865, was finally surrendered at Doaksville, Choctaw Nation, on June 23, 1865, by Stand Watie, the last Confederate general in the field to surrender. General Cooper only surrendered his person in May 1865.

Winchester Colbert, governor of the Chickasaws, in surrendering his troops, became the last civil authority of the Confederacy to surrender on July 16, 1865, at Tishomingo, I.T.

Maj. George Washington, hereditary chief of the White Band Caddos, was the last military officer to surrender, doing so immediately after Gov. Colbert at Tishomingo in July 1865. With the Caddo surrender, the last of the Indian Division, Army of the Trans-Mississippi, Confederate States Army passed into legend.

The red warriors of the Confederacy had performed their mission; except as prisoners of war, no Yankee ever crossed the Red River. Cooper's soldiers has kept the faith.



Australian Union and Confederate Veterans of the American Civil War of 1861 – 1865. <http://www.acwv.info/>

It has been created from numerous sources, government documents, research libraries and hundreds of pieces of information emailed in and donated by individuals from all over Australia and the United States; and includes work by individuals in both the “Sons of Confederate Veterans”, the “Sons of Union Veterans”, the “American Civil War Round Table of Queensland” the “American Civil of Round Table of Australia”, the late Roy Parker and others.

Hundred of thousands of individuals from all over the world participated in the American “War Between the States”; many in the north forcibly and against their will, inducted into Union service right off ships as they immigrated to America seeking a better life. Many others volunteered for what they thought would be a very short conflict, in a war that was deemed by the U.S. Constitution to be both illegal and without merit. Men of the southern states, however, white and black, all served voluntarily in defence of their “states rights”, brought on by aggressive northern governmental taxation, and in the protection of their homes and property from total destruction.

What ever the reason for their participation, no matter what their nationality, no matter what their race and no matter for which side they fought; all served gallantly as honourable soldiers in a war that took thousands of lives needlessly. As such, all American Civil War Veterans, Union and Confederate, should always be remembered and honoured for their bravery and gallantry in that disastrous conflict.

Many veterans after the war was over left America for other parts of the world, seeking peace and solitude, hoping to forget the tragedies of war and begin life anew somewhere else. Many returned to their native lands of Scotland, England, Ireland, Germany, Russia and other countries. Many others followed Australians who fought in the war back to Australia, where they built new lives, married, raised families and left many descendants who remain even today.

Civil War Sesquicentennial
Remembering Arkansas Life
1861-1865

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial has gone through the formative stages and is now ready for assessing the needs for the coming celebration. If you have any suggestions, you can contact the members of the Commission.

The members of the committee are:

Ms. Carolyn Ashcraft, Director
Arkansas State Library Little Rock

Mr. Charles Durnette, Commander
Arkansas Division, SCV Little Rock

Mr. James Branson Appointed
Stuttgart, Arkansas

Mr. Bill Gatewood, Director
Old State House Museum Little Rock

Mr. Richard Davies, Director
Department of Parks and Tourism

Ms. Dora Kate Lee, President
United Daughters of the Confederacy
Batesville, AR

Ms. Laura A. Miller President
Arkansas Historical Association Little Rock

Mr. Mark Christ
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Little Rock

Mr. DuShun Scarbrough, Chairman
Martin Luther King Commission Little Rock

Dr. Wendy Richter, Director
Arkansas History Commission Little Rock

Mr. John C. Scott, Superintendent
Pea Ridge National Military Park
Garfield, AR

Mr. Don Hamilton, Appointed
Little Rock

Mr. Jerry Armstrong Appointed
North Little Rock, AR

Mr. Thomas Dupree Appointed
Jacksonville, AR

Mr. W. Danny Honnoll, President
Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails
Foundation Jonesboro, AR

Mr. Ernest Cunningham Appointed
Helena, AR

Dr. George Lankford Appointed
Batesville, AR

Dr. Jamie Brandon Appointed
Magnolia, AR

Ms. Ellen DiMaggio Appointed
Little Rock, AR

Mr. Samuel D. Wang
Sons of Union Veterans Fort Smith, AR

**NEWS AT THE
MCARTHUR MUSEUM**

In 1848, the Cyrus Alger Co. produced four artillery pieces called “6-pounder guns, light”, which have since been known as “Cadet” guns. Only 50.5 inches in total length and weighing but 570 pounds, all four guns were sent to the Virginia Military Institute. Three years later, Alger made two more for the Arkansas Military Institute in Tulip, Arkansas.



Four additional guns were manufactured for the Georgia Military Institute in 1852. Of these ten Alger Cadet Guns, only seven are known to survive. These guns were intended for drill and instruction; however, a shortage of field pieces in the Confederacy at the beginning of the Civil War resulted in the Cadet guns being commandeered for active duty. The two from Arkansas were carried to Virginia in 1861 by the school’s cadets as Company

I of the Third Arkansas Infantry. These Arkansas soldiers fought in battles at Vicksburg, Harpers Ferry, Chickamauga, and Gettysburg.

On July 3, one of the two Alger Cadet guns from the Arkansas Military Institute, on loan from the Petersburg National Battlefield, will be exhibited at the museum, the first time this artillery piece has been viewed in Arkansas.

In conjunction with its return, the museum will also debut an oil portrait of Lt. William Rector, son of Governor Henry Rector, who was killed on July 3, 1863 at the Battle of Helena

FUTURE PROGRAMS

July 22 -- Brig. Gen. Parker Hills (ret) of Clinton, Mississippi.
Battle of Raymond

August 26 – Dr. Michael B. Dougan
Christian missionaries and Indians -- slavery and related themes

September 23 -- Dr. Ruth Hawkins
Restoration of the Lakeport Plantation near Lake Village

October 28 -- Tom Dillard
Infrastructure in Arkansas during the Civil War

November 25 - Connie Langum, Park Historian, Wilson's Creek

December – No Scheduled Meeting

2009

January 27, 2009 – Robert E. Lee Dinner

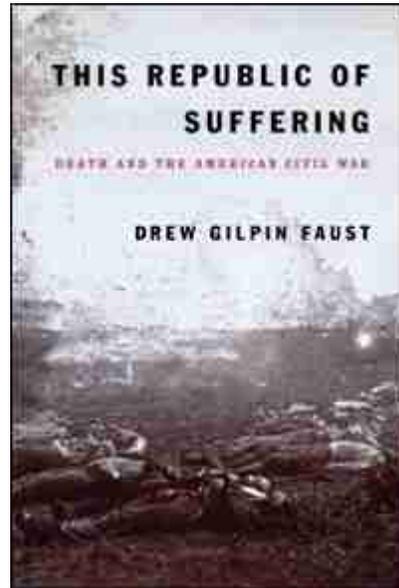
April 28 2009 - Historian Terry Winschel,
Vicksburg National Military Park

**We Who Study
Must Also Strive To Save!**

...I just finished reading “This Republic of Suffering” by Drew Gilpin Faust, and cannot recommend it highly enough. The chapter on the effort to locate and rebury the dead after the war is especially appropriate to your project.

Mark Christ

[Arkansas Historic Preservation Program](#)



Historian Drew Gilpin Faust writes that Civil War deaths — both their number and their manner — transformed America. Her new book is *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*.

The Civil War death rate was six times that of World War II, when adjusted against the size of the American population, Faust points out.

"For those Americans who lived in and through the Civil War, the texture of the experience ... was the presence of death," she writes. "At war's end this shared suffering would override persisting differences about the meanings of race, citizenship, and nationhood to establish sacrifice and its memorialization as the ground on which North and South would ultimately reunite."

Faust is the president of Harvard University, where she also holds the Lincoln Professorship in History.

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Irish Confederates

The Civil War's Forgotten Soldiers

Phillip Thomas Tucker

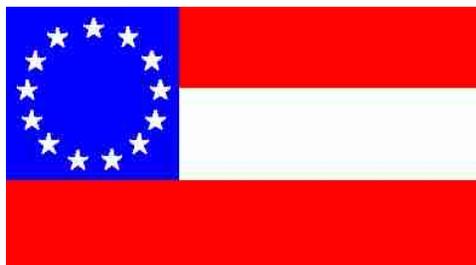
THE CIVIL WAR CONTINUES TO FASCINATE HISTORIANS AND GENERAL READERS.

Contemporary Civil War scholarship has brought to light the important roles certain ethnic groups played during that tumultuous time in our nation's history. Two new books, focusing on the participation of Irish immigrants in both the Union and Confederate armies, add to this growing area of knowledge.

While the famed fighting prowess of the Irish Brigade at Antietam and Gettysburg is well known, in [*God Help the Irish!*](#) historian Phillip T. Tucker emphasizes the lives and experiences of the individual Irish soldiers fighting in the ranks of the Brigade, supplying a better understanding of the Irish Brigade and why it became one of the elite combat units of the Civil War.

The axiom that the winners of wars write the histories is especially valid in regard to the story of the Irish who fought for the Confederacy from 1861–1865. Throughout the course of the Civil War, Irish Confederates made invaluable contributions to all aspects of the war effort. Yet, the Irish have largely been the forgotten soldiers of the South. In *Irish Confederates: The Civil War's Forgotten Soldiers*, Tucker illuminates these overlooked participants.

Together, the two books provide a full picture of the roles Irish soldiers played in the Civil War.



Jacksonport State Park



In the 1800s steamboats made Jacksonport a thriving river port. During the Civil War, the town was occupied by both Confederate and Union forces because of its crucial locale. Jacksonport became county seat in 1854, and construction of a stately, two-story brick courthouse began in 1869. The town began to decline in the 1880s when bypassed by the railroad. The county seat was moved in 1891 to nearby Newport, and Jacksonport's stores, wharves and saloons soon vanished.

Today the park's museums, the 1872 courthouse, the nearby Mary Woods No. 2 sternwheel paddleboat, and interpretive programs share the story of this historic river port.

The park offers **20 Class A campsites with water and electric hookups including 50 amp service at all sites**, a swimming beach on the White River, standard pavilion, picnic sites, playground and the Tunstall Riverwalk Trail.

The park is on Ark. 69 in Jacksonport (just three miles north of Newport).
For more information

<http://www.historystateparks.com/>

Contact Information

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SEE YOU TUESDAY NIGHT

for Mark Christ

GOD BLESS AMERICA

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Civil War Round Table of Arkansas