

The Confederate Army

A month before the Civil War broke out, the Confederate government took steps to raise 3 district armies. In time, 2 of these- militia enlisted for 12 months service and volunteers recruited for the duration of the conflict-became inextricable entwined, organizationally and administratively. Although only the militia was originally designated by the term, both forces became known as the Provisional Army of the Confederate States. The act of 6 mar. 1861 that organized these forces also provided for the establishment of the Army of the Confederate States of America, a counterpart to the U.S. Regular Army.

At the outset, Confederate officials projected this Regular force to number about 10,000 officers and men, a figure that President Jefferson Davis later cited as proof that "the wish and policy" of his government "was peace." Early legislation called for this force to consist of a corps of engineers, 1 regiment of cavalry, 6 regiments of infantry, a corps of artillery (which would also handle ordinance duties) and 4 staff bureaus: the adjutant and inspector general's, the quartermaster general's, the commissary general's, and the medical departments. Later laws increased the number of cavalry and infantry regiments, one of the foot units being designated a Zouave outfit, as well as the size of the engineer corps and each staff bureau. No officer above the rank of brigadier general would be assigned to the combat arms, while each staff department was to be headed by a colonel.

The chief value of this force was as an administrative arm into which former U.S. Army officers were accepted just before the shooting started. Intended as a peacetime establishment, it lost much of its utility once it became evident that militia and volunteers would carry the bulk of the South's combat burden and when new laws permitted Regular officers to hold the rank in the Provisional Army as well. When money appropriated for the raising, organizing, and equipping of Regular units was diverted to the Provisional, the recruiting of Regulars declined sharply. In consequence, that army attained a fraction of its intended size. Although the Official

Records mention numerous Regular units (1 battery, 12 cavalry and 7 infantry regiments, and various independent companies of line and support troops), other sources indicate that only 750 officers and 1,000 enlisted men served in the Confederate Regular Army and that only 5 companies remained in existence through most of the war.

Because of its political philosophy, the Confederacy could not easily form an effective field army. Confederate officials, though supporting state sovereignty, believed the new nation required a military establishment controlled by the central government to ensure organizational stability and facilitate recruitment, supply, and training. Even before the war broke out, they sought a small army of about 10,000, roughly equivalent to the Regular Army of the U.S. (previously mentioned), to be raised, maintained, and employed by the authorities in Richmond. Soon, however, it became clear that war would come before so complex a force could be formed. Therefore, on 6 Mar. 1861, the Confederate Congress set up a provisional army, comprised of militia enlisting for 12 months' service; later, nonmilitia volunteers made up the bulk of this force.

Officially, the troops composing the Provisional Army of the Confederate states were made available to the government by consent of the southern governors, who retained authority over the raising, organizing, and maintaining of units, including the appointment of their officers. But in May 1861 President Jefferson Davis was granted the authority to accept volunteer units without state consent, to appoint their field officers, and to form and staff brigades and larger formations. Additional legislation, increasing the central government's authority over the army, lengthened enlistment terms to cover the duration of the war, implemented conscription, and organized government bureaus that effectively transferred unit recruiting and organization from the state capitals to Richmond.

In effect, this army, designed to be an interim expedient became the virtually the sole Confederate fighting force.

Source: Mostly taken from "The Historical Times Encyclopedia of the Civil War."

Subject: Soldier's Life

Soldier's Life

[Source: Atlas Editions; Civil War Cards]

Training

To be an effective soldier in the Civil War, a man needed to know much more than how to drill on the parade ground and how to fire his musket. It was mostly the hard school of experience that turned a green recruit fresh from his country home into a lean, weatherbeaten soldier who was able to march all night and fight all day on scant rations. Many volunteers did not survive long enough to make the transition. Adaptation to army discipline and regimentation was one of the first trials of the new soldier. The idea of showing respect to and obeying the orders of a higher-ranking soldier irrespective of that person's prewar social standing, family, or wealth required a major psychological adjustment for many men.

Providing for physical needs posed severe difficulties in Civil War armies. Soldiers had to learn how to properly cook the rations that were issued to them and how to forage for supplemental food. They

learned what they could do to help prevent scurvy, typhus and other camp diseases.

Bad water and poor sanitation caused the death of many soldiers. Survivors learned the value of proper sewage disposal and the necessity of clean drinking water. They learned how to build shelters to protect themselves from the elements and how to make repeated all-day marches and they also learned the necessity of maintaining their clothes, shoes and weapon.

Infantryman's Equipment

Volunteers went off to fight at the beginning of the war with a great deal of baggage-both army-issued equipment and personal items. In the early days of the war, a soldier carried ten pounds of gun: eighty rounds per man of ball cartridge, one pound of powder and five pounds of lead. Heavy equipment included; knapsack, haversack, three-pint canteen, all full with 3 days rations, rubber blanket, woolen blanket, shelter tent, full winter clothing, tin cup, tin plate, knife, fork, spoon, stationery, photographs, journal, Bible, tobacco, pipes, comb and brush, shaving tools, sewing kit, toothbrush, soap and whatever other gear did not hang from hooks on their belts. Soldiers had to carry their own gear and weapons and they soon discarded all but the essentials. Many soldiers even quit carrying extra clothes, just wearing what they had on.

The haversack, a foot-square canvas bag with a waterproof lining, a

buckled flap, and a strap that was slung over the right shoulder, became the soldiers' indispensable carryall. It was designed to hold three days' rations, but the men would usually eat them all on the first day rather than carry the weight. This left the haversack free to carry a few personal items and most important, apples, blackberries, and other forage.

Body Armor

When the fighting started in 1861, many North and South inventors began producing metal shields, helmets, and vests promoting them as being bulletproof. Both governments tested and considered issuing armor to their men, but both rejected the idea, primarily because of the cost, which depending on the design would range from \$5 to \$15 per man. One ad for armor in Harper's Weekly claimed its product had been "repeatedly and thoroughly tested with plated bullets at 10 paces, rifle bullets at 40 rods, by many army officers and is approved and worn by them," but when the soldiers tested them, the results were tragic.

In the first year of the war many men bought their armor privately; some entire regiments were outfitted with it before marching off to battle. Soon, however, bulletproof vests and the men who wore them were held in contempt by their fellow soldiers. The armor was hot, heavy and uncomfortable and because the extra 10 pounds of steel plate was too much to be carried on long marches, thousands of vests were discarded in roadside ditches.

Army Headgear

Hats provided soldiers warmth in winter and shade in summer, offered some protection from rain, and served as handy bags for carrying foraged eggs and blackberries.

The styles of hats most commonly worn during the Civil War were the forage cap and its cousin the kepi. The original 1858 forage cap had a narrow leather visor and a high crown with a round, usually perfectly flat, top that flopped forward at a sharp angle. The kepi was a french-style forage cap with a lower crown and a top that tilted at a smaller angle. Where the top of a forage cap was flat, a kepi usually had a raised roll around the outside of the round, otherwise flat, top.

Confederate regulations called for the color of a kepi to match the wearer's branch of service; red for artillery, yellow for cavalry, dark blue for staff, and light blue for infantry. Most, though, were some shade of gray because of dye shortages. Officers added gold braid; one strand denoted a lieutenant, two a captain, three a field officer and four a general.

The Hardee hat, a stiff, high-crowned, wide-brimmed style that was the official dress hat for union officers and enlisted men, was universally disliked. Union soldiers modified it or discarded it for headgear more to their liking, usually choosing kepis or forage caps.

Some units became known for their distinctive headgear.

Wisconsin's "Black Hat Brigade" was so named for the color of headgear all of its members wore. Zouave units wore a wide variety of tasseled turbans and other exotic hats. The 79th New York, called the Cameron Highlanders wore the style of cap called the glengarry for dress occasions and at the start of the war when they marched from New York into Washington. In battle however, they wore the chausser style kepi with the small New York State seal button on the side. While their fellow Scotsmen in the 12th Illinois wore tam-o'-shanters.

One additional item given to Civil War soldiers on both sides was the havelock, a cap cover made popular by Sir Henry Havelock of the British army in the Sepoy Rebellion in India in 1857. Made of white linen or cotton, the havelock was to be worn over the soldier's cap with its long tail covering the man's neck. The havelock was supposed to protect men who were fighting in hot climates from sunstroke. But the soldiers found the havelock actually made them hotter by not allowing air to circulate around their head and neck. Many Civil War soldiers used their havelocks not as cap covers, but as coffee strainers, dishcloths, or gun patches.

Soldiers' Shoes

If the Union or Confederate soldier was not a horse-mounted cavalryman or officer, he was a foot soldier. Throughout the war, these men marched long and hard, sometimes up to 30 or 40 miles a

day. As a result, shoes became sorely needed by both sides.

The Union, backed by its industrial strength and factories, had the benefit of the sewing machine, a newly perfected invention that enabled thousands of Northern shoemakers to leave their benches and become soldiers. But the Confederacy fared far worse; it was extremely low on shoes. Worse still, corruption existed in some Confederate commissaries, where quartermasters shorted the soldiers and profits were pocketed.

There are many accounts of Rebels marching for miles barefoot during the winter. Ill-fitting shoes were also a problem, and carefully guarded shoe shops, situated close to brigade headquarters, were established to repair footwear. Often, Rebel foot soldiers with no shoes or poorly fitted ones were organized into separate commands to march apart from the rest of the troops on the soft grassy roadsides.

The men preferred shoes with broad bottoms and big, flat heels, instead of boots, which were heavy, twisted the ankles, and were difficult to put on and remove especially when wet. Shoes and boots were so valuable that special missions were made to procure them. They were even pulled from the feet of dead men on the bloodstained battlefields and were used by prisoners to barter for supplies such as food or tobacco.

CIVIL WAR FORTS

ALABAMA. . .

Fort Gaines

"Damn the torpedoes. Full speed ahead". This famous quote was given by Admiral Farragut during the Civil War Battle of Mobile Bay. This week long naval and land battle resulted in the siege of Fort Gaines and its eventual capture by Union forces.

Fort Blakely

Just hours after the surrender of General Robert E. Lee miles away in Virginia, the Battle of Blakeley was fought at Fort Blakeley on April 9, 1865 at 5:30 p.m. It was a major news event in the ongoing coverage of the Civil War and was depicted in a front page drawing in "Harper's Weekly" of May 17, 1865. "Probably the last charge of this war, it was as gallant as any on record," Harper's reported. Historic Blakeley State Park was created in 1981 to preserve the National Register Site and its 5 1/2 miles of pristine breastworks.

Fort Morgan

In the early daylight of August 5, 1864, the Federal fleet began its attack on Fort Morgan. Farragut's plan was for the fleet to dash up the narrow ship channel directly under the guns of the fort. The wooden ships were lashed together in pairs with the Tecumseh and three other ironclad monitors leading the way. As the tiny Confederate fleet waits, only the monitor Techumseh is destroyed by the "torpedos" (mines).

DELAWARE. . .

Fort Delaware

Now known as Fort Delaware State Park, the fort not only still exists, it is very much as it was when it held over 40,000 Confederate, Federal and political prisoners. Though now they go home at night, during the day, its dark, damp corridors still echo to the sounds of prisoners and guards as military and civilian living historians re-live the life and pathos of this infamous island. We cordially invite you to come and experience first-hand what the men of the North and South alike endured.

FLORIDA. . .

Fort Pickens

Fort Pickens was the largest of a group of forts designed to fortify Pensacola Harbor. Constructed between 1829-1834, Pickens supplemented Fort Barrancas, Fort McRee, and the Navy Yard. Located at the western tip of Santa Rosa Island, just offshore the mainland, Pickens guarded the island and the entrance to the harbor. Its construction was supervised by Colonel William H. Chase of the Corps of Army Engineer. Using slave labor, the fort used over twenty-two million bricks and was intended to be impregnable to attack.

GEORGIA. . .

Fort McAllister

Built between 1861 - 1862, this fort withstood two years of battle before falling on December 13, 1864 during General Sherman's March to the Sea.

KENTUCKY. . .

Fort Duffield

On September 4, 1861 Confederate troops under the command of General Leonidas Polk occupied Columbus, Kentucky this action effectively ended Kentucky's neutrality; two days later U.S. Grant's Federal troops took Paducah, Kentucky. The actions of Grant and Polk brought the Civil War into the Commonwealth.

LOUISIANA. . .

Fort deRussy

Fort deRussy is located on the south bank of the old Red River Channel north of Marksville, LA, in the river's closest bend towards Marksville. It has recently been purchased by La Commission des Avoyelles, the local historical organization, and plans are underway

to restore parts of the fort. It is ranked in the top 1/3 of the best preserved civil war sites by members of the National Park Service and the Civil War Trust.

Fort Pike State Commemorative Area

In 1861 the silence of Fort Pike was broken. Before the actual start of the Civil War, the Louisiana militia captured the fort. Confederates held it until the Union forces took New Orleans in 1862, whereupon the Southerners evacuated Fort Pike. Federal forces then reoccupied the fort and used it as a base for raids along the Gulf coast and Lake Pontchartrain areas and as a protective outpost for New Orleans. In spite of all this activity, not a single cannon ball was ever fired in battle from Fort Pike.

MARYLAND. . .

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine

During the American Civil War union troops were stationed at Fort McHenry to help keep Baltimore out of the hands of those who would have Maryland join the southern rebellion. The fort's guns were turned toward the city. The fort was used as a temporary prison where political prisoners suspected of being confederate sympathizers were held, often without trial. Following the Battle of Gettysburg in early July, 1863 nearly 7,000 confederate soldiers were detained in the fort.

MASSACHUSETTS. . .

Fort Warren

Fort Warren, located on Georges Island in Boston Harbor, is a former Civil War prison and was a harbor defense fort for many generations. Today the Fort is maintained by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and is the cornerstone of the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area. The fort is situated on a 45-acre island at the entrance to Boston Harbor where it is in a prominent position to guard what used to be the main shipping channel.

MINNESOTA. . .

Fort Snelling

In 1858, the year Minnesota became a state, the fort was sold to a land developer and platted as a town site. Plans for the city of Fort Snelling were abandoned, however, with the outbreak of the Civil War. Between 1861 and 1865 Minnesota expanded the fort as a training center for thousands of volunteers who joined the Union Army. After the war, the regular Army returned.

MISSOURI. . .

Fort Davidson State Historic Site

Earthwork remnants of Fort Davidson, occupied by Union Forces during the bloody Battle of Pilot Knob, are still visible at this 37-acre historic site. The Civil War battle on Sept. 27, 1864, lasted less than one hour, but an estimated 1,200 men, most of them Confederates, were wounded or killed. Exhibits in the visitor center feature the historic battle.

NORTH CAROLINA. . .

Fort Branch

At the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, the Confederate Army chose the site of Fort Branch to provide the upper Roanoke Valley with badly needed protection against the Union gunboats that were beginning to enter eastern North Carolina's rivers and sounds. The fort was named in honor of General Lawrence Branch, a local hero who had been killed on a Maryland battlefield.

Fort Macon

The War Between the States began on April 12, 1861, and only two days elapsed before local North Carolina militia forces from Beaufort arrived to seize the fort for the state of North Carolina and the Confederacy.

RHODE ISLAND. . .

Fort Adams

The United States Naval Academy relocated to Fort Adams during the early months of the Civil War. The fort housed the cadets and served as a training facility until more suitable quarters could be secured in the town of Newport. The fort also served as the home to USS Constitution ("Old Ironsides") and was used to house midshipmen and as a training vessel.

SOUTH CAROLINA. . .

Fort Sumter National Monument

The first engagement of the Civil War took place at Fort Sumter on April 12 and 13, 1861. After 34 hours of fighting, the Union surrendered the fort to the Confederates. From 1863 to 1865, the Confederates at Fort Sumter withstood a 22 month siege by Union forces. During this time, most of the fort was reduced to brick rubble. Fort Sumter became a national monument in 1948.

The Union Army In The Civil War

When the Civil War began, the Regular Army of the United states numbered 16,367 officers and men comprising 198 line companies distributed among 4 artillery regiments, 5 mounted regiments, and 10 regiments of infantry. The army also embraced 8 staff bureaus-the Adjutant General's, Inspector General's, Judge Advocate General's,

Quartermaster General's Subsistence, Medical, Pay, and Ordnance departments-a Corps of Engineers, and a Corps of Topographical Engineers.

Dozens of Regular officers resigned their commissions in 1861 to serve with the Confederacy, although few enlisted men followed their lead. In stead of using the remainder as a nucleus of professionalism withing the volunteer forces of the North, the government kept the Regular Army a separate service, and Regulars were parceled out to various armies according to need. Numerous officers and men, however, were granted leave from their units to accept higher rank in the volunteers. At war's end, each returned to his original rank and unit, more than one major general of volunteers reverted to a captaincy in the regular establishment.

Various administrative changes took place in the Regulars during the conflict. Two that occurred in 1863 affected the staff departments: the Corps of Topographical Engineers and the Corps of Engineers, previously separate entities, joined under a common organization; and the Signal Corps was established as a permanent bureau. Other organizational changes affected the line arms. In May 1861 a sixth mounted regiment was formed and 3 months later a reorganization resulted in the 1st U.S. dragoons being redesignated the 1st U.S. Cavalry, the 2nd Dragoons becoming the 4th and 5th Cavalry respectively (to the detriment of unit morale), and the newest regiment being christened the 6th U.S. Cavalry. Also in May 1861, a fifth artillery regiment was authorized and was the first to be composed exclusively of light field batteries. That same month, 9

new infantry regiments were ordered recruited. Unlike the older outfits, composed of 10 companies three 8-company battalions.

The Regulars served in every theater of operations. The artillery regiments were broken up, each sending some companies to serve in the East, others in the West. Centralized administration suffered because, as one artillery officer lamented, "regimental organization simply went to pieces." Of the cavalry regiments, the 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 6th served prominently in the Army of the Potomac. Most heavily engaged were the 5th and 6th, a battalion of the former losing all but one of its officers during a dramatic charge against Confederate infantry and artillery at Gaines' Mill and the latter participating in 57 engagements from Williamsburg to Appomattox. The 3rd Cavalry served entirely in the West, as did most of the 4th Cavalry. A mainstay of the Army of the Cumberland, the latter for a time lacked 2 companies, which formed a headquarters escort unit in the Army of the Potomac.

Among the infantry regiments, the 1st and 2nd were broken up, serving in both the east and the West. The 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, and 17th infantry saw action mostly in the Army of the Potomac. The 5th infantry remained in the southwest and 9th in California throughout the conflict, while the 13th, 15th, 16th, 18th, and 19th regiments fought in the Western armies. Portions of the latter 4 outfits formed the Regular brigade of the West, a counterpart to the brigade that included most of the Regular infantry serving in the Army of the Potomac.

As with the Confederate army, the Union army had to rely

heavily on "Volunteers" from the several states. The state "volunteers" elected their own officers and initially furnished their own weapons and uniforms and as in the Confederate forces bore the brunt of the fighting.

Source: Mostly taken from "The Historical Times Encyclopedia of the Civil War."

THE SOUTHERN LOYALISTS

By: Robert E. Hurst

[From a recruiting poster for the 1st Alabama US Cavalry]

MEN OF THE HILLS!

Yeomanry. Loyal Southerners. Come to Your Country's Call!

To put down TREASON and REBELLION and hand down to our Children, unimpaired, the Rich Legacy of the Glorious Union achieved and sealed with the blood of our forefathers.

DO NOT CAST YOUR LOT WITH THE REBELS.

The secessionists, the flatlanders, the planters, the so-called gentlemen whose fine daughters do not acknowledge your existence

would have you fight their RICH MAN'S WAR. If you join their rebel army it will be a POOR MAN'S FIGHT.

TROUBLESOME TIMES IN ALABAMA FOR UNION MEN.

Loyal Union men of good moral habits - farmers and farmer's sons - are now joining THE FIRST ALABAMA UNION CAVALRY, UNITED STATES VOLUNTEERS. Our flag is THE OLD FLAG. Our country is in peril and needs men of valour to fight for Freedom and Uncle Abe.

Muster rolls are open at secret sites in Winston, Franklin, Marion, Blount, Morgan, Randolph, Walker, Jefferson, St. Clair, Lawrence, Fayette, DeKalb and Jackson counties.

So you think that just because you come from the south, your ancestors must have been Confederates? Richard Nelson Current, author of "Lincoln's Loyalists," estimates that as many as 100,000 white, Southern males wore the Blue instead of the Gray as regular soldiers or local militia. Did you know every state in the Confederacy except for South Carolina raised at least one unit for the Federal Army, for a total of 55 regiments?

Were these men patriots or were they, as some Southern historians such as William Stanley Hoole maintained, traitors to the Cause? Who were these men who risked so much to remain loyal to "the Old Flag, sealed with the blood of our forefathers?" Were they uneducated hill folk, or were they sophisticated anti-slavery and anti-plantation

visionaries? I want to address the Southern Unionist, specifically,

1. The facts of their numbers and demography.
2. An assessment of their impact on the conduct of the war.
3. Some history of one of the most valiant of these units, the First Alabama Cavalry, US Volunteers and one soldier in it, the 50-year old Pvt. Billington Sanders Hurst.
4. The fate of these men after the war.

From the perspective of the present, we must deal with the Myth of the Lost Cause rather than the reality. With time, the myth has grown to epic proportions; a solid Confederacy of people standing firm against the tyranny of the strong central government, of agriculturalism and Jeffersonian Democracy against the factory and the political machine. From the very beginning, division haunted the Confederacy. In Alabama, for example, of 52 counties, 23 voted to remain within the Union. These counties lay mostly within the Appalachian Highlands of northern Alabama, and this division was one that was repeated everywhere within the South. The people of the uplands were pro-Union, and the people of the plantation areas represented the fire-eaters of the Confederacy. Where plantations ruled, slavery held sway, and the Confederacy was strong. Where free men tilled the soil, slavery, slaves, the Confederacy, and most particularly the Planters, were not popular. On the coastal lowlands of North Carolina, where the people earned their living by fishing

and commerce, lumbering and other enterprises that were inimical to the slave labor economy, the people tended to remain loyal to the nation their forefathers had fought to build.

Sadly, the war that was fought among Southerners was never civil, and in a war characterized by grand gestures among the principal armies, viciousness seemed to prevail. We're all familiar with Grant stopping the war to present his friend Pickett with a silver tea set on the occasion of the birth of his child. But how many know that same George Pickett faced prosecution as a war criminal for hanging 22 men of the First NC. Hostage taking and murder were common, and the Confederates so feared the Unionists within their midst that they used brutal tactics to suppress them.

Consider Alabama, the only state for which I have the figures handy. A Deep South state, the location of the first capitol of the Confederacy, yet 23 counties voted the "Cooperationist" ticket. In Winston County, not a single vote was cast for secession. In the 23 loyalist counties, the vote was 21,665 to 12,042. However, the plantation states wielded the power, and in the slave-holding plantation counties, 24,865 voted to secede and 6,965 voted to remain. The totals for the state were 28,630 to remain in the Union and 36,907 for secession. Barbour, Bibb, Butler, Henry, Lowndes, Marengo, Pike and Russell Counties tallied no Cooperationist votes. Thus, 43.7% of the voters of the ostensibly solid Confederate state voted to remain within the Union.

The vote for secession followed closely the distribution of slaves or the number of bales of cotton produced in Alabama. Winston County held only 122 slaves, or 3.41% of the population, and in most of the loyal counties, the proportion of slaves was less than 20%. However, substantial Unionist sentiment was found even in the plantation counties. In Green County, with 76.5% of the population being African slaves, nearly 40% of voters wished to remain within the Union. It must be pointed out that these figures overestimate Unionist support because many Southerners voted Cooperationist and then enlisted in Confederate forces. Nonetheless, I think we can conclude that at the beginning, the South was far from united in its rebellion, and substantial minorities still held the Old Flag in high regard, while in some areas the loyalists comprised a majority. This represented a worrisome threat that drained substantial Confederate resources throughout the entire war.

The mountain area in western Virginia and eastern Tennessee was one of the major hotbeds of Unionism. Virginia, arguably the very heart of the Confederacy, was split along lines similar to those seen in Alabama. The people of the mountain counties of Virginia remained so solidly Union that they petitioned to be admitted as a separate state in 1863. Tennessee was perhaps the most split of the states voting to secede and sent approximately equal numbers to each Army. As mentioned by Sam Watkins, the First Tennessee, the regiment that stood Sherman's assaults on the Dead Line at Kennesaw Mountain all alone and saying they needed no help, had Union sympathizers in its ranks.

The Unionists were a thorn in the side of the Confederacy from the beginning, and Abe Lincoln, that wily old politician, sought to exploit this advantage. East Tennessee and West Virginia were hotbeds of outrage against the rebellion. The only problem for Lincoln was to get access for recruiters and arms.

Lincoln immediately authorized a number of individuals to raise regiments of loyal Virginians. Normally the governor of the state was responsible for enrolling the state militia into the Federal Army, and clearly none of the Southern governors would be any help. William Burton, the governor of Delaware refused to cooperate, but Lincoln found a way to enroll the Delawareans through Robert Patterson, then commanding the Pennsylvania troops. The First Delaware enrolled through Pennsylvania, and at first, Lincoln used this mechanism to enroll Virginians. Ohio served as a major recruiting ground for Virginians.

Early Federal military movements revolved around protecting the Virginia Unionists and maintaining access to these military resources. McClellan moved on Grafton in May of 1861, partly to protect the B&O Highway and partly to protect the Unionists. Cox moved up the Kanawha toward Charleston, then held by Gen. Henry Wise, a rabid secessionist and ex-governor of Virginia. Wise reported to Lee he was surrounded by hostile people. "They invite the enemy, feed him, and he arms and drills them. A spy is on every hill top, at

every cabin, and from Charleston to Point Pleasant they swarm." On the retreat "the State volunteers under my command lost from three to five hundred men by desertion. The Kanawha Valley is wholly disaffected and traitorous." Well, not entirely. Thomas Jackson called the Kanawha home.

The government of the State of Virginia moved its military forces to attempt to stem the hemorrhage of potential manpower and moved some 5000 men to Mill Creek, near Martinsburg, which slowed recruiting across the Ohio considerably.

A few men even were raised in the heart of the Tidewater. In spite of hopes to raise an entire regiment of Loyal East Virginians, only a single company, The First Loyal East Virginia Infantry rallied to the Old Flag. Other men joined the Accotink Home Guard. Both units spent most of their time patrolling telegraph lines. But when the total was added up, 31,872 white Virginia men, including those who joined before West Virginia was admitted as a separate state, wore the Blue. This figure did not count militia who did not enter Federal service. When it was said that on July 3, 1863, as the troops lined up for their ill-fated assault, that "All Virginia was there," it just wasn't true.

Tennessee was a bitterly divided state, and considerable efforts were expended by both sides either to deny the military resources to the enemy or to tap them. East Tennessee, particularly, was a hotbed of

Union sentiment, and no one was more vigorous in the cause than Andrew Johnson. Johnson had campaigned vigorously in East Tennessee prior to the secession vote. A friend of Johnson's, James T.T. Carter, an Annapolis graduate and lieutenant in the US Navy, was detailed from the Navy to drill troops in East Tennessee. Carter, incidentally, was the only American to hold the ranks of Major General and Rear Admiral.

The problem with East Tennessee was its inaccessibility to the Federals. Guarded by the Cumberland Mountains, and cut only by three passes, the region was denied to the Union. The trip to Union territory was arduous, and the Rebels managed to interdict the passes. A New Market physician and Mexican War veteran, John W. Thornburgh, organized a cavalry company and was ambushed in Baptist Gap. Only about a third managed to get through to Barbourville, Kentucky. Thornburgh, himself, and 8 men were captured. The remainder retreated to their homes. Nonetheless, some two thousand men managed to escape and became the First and Second East Tennessee.

Reaching the loyalists was a source of contention between Lincoln and his generals. Buell saw only the military difficulties and was less than enthusiastic. George Thomas, one of his division commanders, was even less enthusiastic. Buell's refusal to move on East Tennessee was one of the main reasons Lincoln replaced him.

Another Carter brother, William B., looked to organize a bolder

stroke. On the night of November 8, loyal men burned a number of bridges on the east Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, one of the few steel arteries of the South. The Confederates reacted with a savagery that belied their talk about "rights". Isham G. Harris, the fire-eating governor of Tennessee, wrote to Jefferson Davis, "The burning of railroad bridges in East Tennessee shows a deep-seated spirit of rebellion in that section. Union men are organizing. This rebellion must be crushed out instantly, the leaders arrested, and summarily punished."

Confederate troops began scouring the hills, and slowly the numbers of captives increased, reaching the hundreds. Secretary of War Judah Benjamin sent the following instructions for dealing with the "traitors".

1st. All such as can be identified as having been engaged in bridge-burning are to be tried summarily by drum-head court-martial, and, if found guilty, executed on the spot by hanging. It would be well to leave their bodies hanging in the vicinity of the burned bridges.

2nd. All such as have not been so engaged are to be treated as prisoners of war, and sent with an armed guard to Tuscaloosa, Ala., there to be kept imprisoned . . . till the end of the war.

P.S. Judge Patterson, Colonel Pickens, and other ringleaders of the same class must be sent at once to Tuscaloosa to jail as prisoners of war.

Several prisoners were hanged and left near the railroad, where passengers were encouraged to flog their dead bodies with canes as the train passed. The weather being somewhat warm, the corpses were cut down after only 36 hours. This barbarous treatment was justified by Jefferson Davis' proclamation, "stating that all those who did not fully recognize their allegiance to the Government should remove from its limits, with their effects before October, 1861. Those persons who remained tacitly recognized the Government and are amenable to the laws."

Not everyone supported such high-handed practices and recognized the resulting calm was more apparent than real. Meanwhile, the disaffected continued to trickle through the passes. Finally, after Grant opened the way by taking Forts Donelson and Henry, Nashville fell in February, 1862 and East Tennessee was available for recruiting. Andrew Johnson was appointed military governor, but he and his subordinates botched the recruiting job by bickering among themselves. Besides, some of the ardor had been cooled by the Emancipation Proclamation.

The Confederates tried to recruit in East Tennessee, finally resorting to the draft. Many wondered whether the results were worth the effort. East Tennesseans were notoriously unreliable, often surrendering at the first opportunity, or simply deserting. Worse, the more conscription was enforced, the more men went North.

The deserters presented problems to both sides. The Confederates felt justified in executing men who had left the Confederate Cause to join the Union. Yet, these men claimed the only reason they wore the Gray was because of the draft, and had they been given a choice, they would have worn the Blue in the first place. The Federal authorities recognized that they were asking a lot of men to doubly risk their lives by serving against the Confederacy. Many of the "galvanized Yankees" were placed in units that guarded the frontiers and fought Indians.

All over the South, the pattern of Tennessee was repeated. In North Carolina, a number of regiments were raised on the coast and in the highlands. Even Georgia sent a regiment near the end of the war. In Alabama, my great great grandfather, Billington Sanders Hurst managed to elude Confederate patrols and, at age 50, rode 210 miles from his home in St. Clair County, Alabama, to enlist as a private in the First Alabama Cavalry, US Volunteers. More about the proud Fighting First later.

In Arkansas, the main problem was with equipping volunteers. Surprisingly, Louisiana was also a hotbed of loyalist sentiment. The Cajun population, particularly, held no love for the planters and enlisted in Union units in considerable numbers. The Irish, German and Yankees of New Orleans saw the Confederate cause as treason, and when Butler and Farragut steamed up the Mississippi in April, 1862, the dragooned men holding Ft. Jackson were such unwilling conscripts

that they spiked their guns and shot the officers who wouldn't agree to surrender. The fort fell without a Union shot being fired.

If a brigade of Federals could have worked their way through Indian Territory to West Texas and the Hill Country, Texas would undoubtedly have returned to the Union. Sam Houston, the governor at the time of the secession vote, had done everything legal and illegal he could manage to keep Texas in the Union. The German immigrants saw no advantages to the Confederacy. Even today, few of the courthouses in areas settled by Germans display the ubiquitous Confederate infantryman on the square. The Hispanic population in Texas was solidly Unionist, and a number of irregular units were formed. These units were most unreliable, however, because Mexico started its own civil war about that time, and these men had the bad habit of taking their equipment further South. The situation in Texas was particularly bitter. More than a hundred Unionists were hanged for their loyalty. Every state of the Confederacy except for South Carolina sent at least one regiment of white men to the Union Army. Mississippi contributed the First Mississippi Mounted Rifles, though the unit never filled completely. Florida contributed the First and Second Florida Cavalry. Georgia contributed the First Georgia Battalion. Many other Georgia men enlisted in Tennessee units or the First Alabama, as did nearly 100 South Carolinians and 300 Mississippi men.

PART II. Who Were These Men

Why were some men of the South vehement supporters of the Union, while other Southerners rallied to the Stars and Bars? William Stanley Hoole, author of a monograph on the First Alabama, characterized them as a "poor, often underprivileged people who had long been isolated on their rocky highlands, suspicious of intruders and generally antisocial. Blindly hating the affluent slave-holder and his slave alike, they had first refused to support the cause of secession and, afterwards, ignored all Confederate civilians and military conscription laws." The descendants of the men of the First have charged Hoole, better known for his Confederate histories, with slander. In fact, Hoole was only reporting what the Myth of the Lost Cause needed to claim. To validate the Great Rebellion, the loyalists needed to be discounted.

Very few Unionists owned slaves, but, then, very few ordinary Confederate soldiers were slave-holders, either. Throughout the South, only one family in three owned as much as a single slave. Examination of the 1860 census for Washington County, NC, which furnished roughly equal numbers of men to each army, showed the average Union soldier owned only \$269 in personal property. The average Confederate soldier owned \$3,759, but is this an example of the fallacy of the mean? None of the Unionist heads of household reported more than \$1000 in family income, while a couple of dozen Confederates did. All but one of the Unionists was a landowner, while 19 of the Confederates were landless. After all, the mean of one million dollars and one hundred dollars is \$500,050.

Close examination showed the Confederates of Washington County to be large planters and their dependents, their sons, the merchants with whom they dealt, the lawyers and clergymen they patronized, and the poor white men who worked as day laborers, an alliance of the very rich and the very poor. The division between Unionist and Secessionist was not simply between rich and poor. The middle class that had no economic interest in the slave economy tended to be solidly Unionist, and why not? These Middle-class folk themselves were oppressed economically by the system. Moreover, they tended to be mightily offended by the airs put on by the planters, who tended to see themselves as a privileged aristocracy. In the case of the Hurst family, Billington owned 160 acres of land in St. Clair County, Alabama. I've seen his property, and it is good bottom land, rich and productive, and I doubt if he were a hillbilly. Interestingly, the geographic division of politics remains still in Alabama, where politics in the northern part of the state still has a much stronger populist flavor than in the old plantation counties.

PART III. The Fighting Southern Federals

What was the impact of the Southern Loyalists? Three factors need to be considered; the direct contribution of the men as soldiers to the Union cause, the resources expended by the Confederacy to counter the threat, and finally, the loss of manpower to the Southern cause.

Taking these in reverse order, the loss of manpower to the South was probably fatal to its cause. While estimates of the numbers differ.

Current estimates that as many as 100,000 white men of the South served the Union cause as Federal forces and local defense forces. This was more men than Lee or any other Southern commander ever had under arms at any time. In addition, thousands of other troops were diverted from the main armies to control the loyalists. Cavalry patrols. How much difference would the cavalry patrols that tried to interdict the flow of manpower have made to the cavalry-poor army of Johnston?

Consider the impact of the 30,000 East Tennesseans who joined the Union. Had they joined the Confederate forces, this would have amounted to a swing of 60,000 men, and when the 10,000 Confederates who were required to keep East Tennessee in subjugation are added in, a difference of 70,000 men results.

Finally, there is the direct contribution. There is no question that some of the southern units were hard-fighting, crack units, while others were of questionable value. The Tennessee Unionists units were of solid quality, as were most of the Virginia units, who saw fighting almost from the beginning at Philippi and Romney under McClellan. The First Mississippi Mounted Infantry rode with Grierson in his famous raid through the heart of Mississippi. In the movie "The Horse Soldiers" with John Wayne and William Holden, the Southern-speaking men (Ken Curtis) were authentic and represented the First Mississippi. It is true that when Pickett executed 22 men of the First North Carolina USV, he did, in fact, cut the heart out of some units, particularly those containing "galvanized Yankees."

Still, these men could, and did, perform valuable duty in less exposed positions.

Other Unionists such as the First Alabama were dependable units, just as hard-fighting as any Ohio, Maine, or Pennsylvania troops. The Myth of the Lost Cause demands the loyalists be branded as poor soldiers. Interestingly, many of the Unionists served in cavalry units, and early in the war, the quality of the Union cavalry in general was very poor. But by 1864, the Federal cavalry were, in general, at least equal to the Confederates. The hard-riding Blue troopers of Phil Sheridan scattered Jeb Stuart's plumed cavaliers and killed the famed cavalryman. While they never tamed "that devil Forrest", the Union cavalry in general, and the First Alabama did humble Joe Wheeler and Wade Hampton.

The First Alabama began humbly. Poorly trained and equipped, and sent against superior numbers of Confederate cavalymen in 1862, they fared poorly early. But by the time Sherman began his Red Clay Minuet with Johnston, the First was a solid, invaluable unit. The regiment was formed in 1862 in Huntsville and Memphis and mustered into Federal service that December in Corinth, Mississippi. Company officers were chosen from among the men, and Captain George E. Spencer was later named Colonel and given overall command.

During most of its operational life, the First Alabama was part of the 16th Corps, Army of the Tennessee. As a cavalry unit, its

missions were scouting, raiding, reconnaissance, flank guard and screening the army on the march. The names on its battle flag, like most cavalry actions, are mostly forgotten; Nickajack Creek, Vincent's Crossroads and Cherokee Station among others. Better known names are there, too; Streight's Raid through north Alabama; and battles at Dalton, Resaca and Kenesaw Mountain in the Atlanta Campaign.

One general characterized the Alabama troops "invaluable...equal in zeal to anything we discovered in Tennessee." And Major General John Logan, commanding the 15th Army Corps in Sherman's forces, praised the troopers as "the best scouts I ever saw, and (they) know the country well from here to Montgomery." General Sherman, knowing the value of his Alabama troops as soldiers and symbols of the loyal South, honored the First by his selecting it to be his escort on the march from Atlanta to the sea.

The First, part of Kilpatrick's Third Cavalry Brigade (with the Fifth Kentucky and Fifth Ohio) rode over 700 miles in 55 days during the winter of 1864. In February, they routed a brigade of Wheeler's cavalry at Williston, SC, taking 5 battle flags and scattering the Confederates over miles of countryside. On March 10, surprised in camp by 5,000 of Wade Hampton's and Joe Wheeler's cavalry, the 800 men of the Third Brigade killed 103 of their attackers with the loss of 18 men and officers at Monroe's Crossroad (also known as the Battle of Kilpatrick's Pants). The official report said that "a bloody hand-to-hand conflict" followed, lasting more than three

hours. Brave Lieutenant Stetson managed to turn the tide when he crept to one of his guns and delivered a barrage of cannister into the ranks of the attackers.

The First displayed a darker side, also and was "zealous in its chastisement of Rebels". They took seriously their role as foragers, and it was charged the First, knowing where a Southerner was likely to stash his food, never went hungry. This is not entirely true because they often went hungry and their horses starved for lack of forage. They relished their job as incendiaries, too and "laid Barnwell in ashes" despite Kilpatrick's efforts to stop them. These actions are more understandable when one learns the fates of their families. Many had their homes burned or their families abused, and some saw their kin lynched by vindictive Confederates. So badly were many of their innocent families treated that a "Refugee House" was established in Nashville for those who were able to escape Rebel persecution. Our family fared well, probably because Billington's son, my great grandfather, served in the 19th Louisiana Infantry, CSA.

PART IV. The Fate of the Southern Unionists During Reconstruction

The fate of the Southern Unionists began to be clear with the massacre at Ft. Pillow, where Forrest's men massacred a number of white soldiers of the 13th Tennessee Cavalry. The commanding officer, Maj. Bradford, was shot after he had surrendered and was being taken to Forrest's headquarters at Jackson, TN. Yet, Ft. Pillow is

remembered mainly for the massacre of black soldiers. Both Congress and Lincoln were forgetting the Tennessee loyalists, and forgotten they are today. Yet, these men risked more for their nation than did the men of the North, for they risked execution on capture and consigned their families to the often not-so-tender mercies of their often unforgiving neighbors.

In part, they fell into obscurity because Lincoln saw the African-American population as representing a larger manpower resource, and after the war, the Radical Republicans sought to consolidate their power through the freed slaves rather than the Southern Unionists. There were some exceptions. Col. Spencer, commander of the First Alabama, was elected governor and then Senator, and was the only Republican re-elected to the Senate. Nonetheless, he ended up his years in Nevada, leaving Alabama for a variety of reasons.

The end of the war did not end the private grudges that the division of the Southern whites had produced. Victorious Union veterans sought retribution for the deprivations their families had suffered during the war. Yet, the government failed to reimburse them for their losses, or even to provide effective protection in many areas. Andrew Johnson was extremely generous in pardoning ex-Confederates, and in many areas these pardoned men established governments that were inimical to the Union veterans. Some were murdered, many left and went West, while others, such as Billington Sanders Hurst moved away from their homes. On his return, he gathered his goods and left. Our family never spoke of him again and I was the one who discovered his

Union service. He moved to Jefferson County, Alabama, where he married again. In 1881 he was apparently destitute and applied for a disability pension.

Reconstruction under the Act of 1867 brought temporary relief, but the loyalists, like all Southerners, had been impoverished by the War. The Southern economy was in shambles, and the industrial powers of the North quickly established their economic hegemony. Until the late 1940's Southern goods moving north paid a higher price on the railroads than Northern goods moving South or Southern raw materials moving north. Moreover, the white loyalists felt alienated in the Republican Party, which tended to give more emphasis to the needs of the freed slaves than to the loyal whites. One of the tenets of Northern industry was to divide and conquer, and by setting black against white, a reservoir of cheap labor could be guaranteed. Additionally, the often corrupt and inefficient "Carpetbagger-Scalawag) governments did little to help Southerners of any color or loyalty, preferring to line their own pockets. Finally, as racial divisions emerged in the South, the loyalists saw how they finally would have to decide their political loyalties, and so they submerged into the white culture virtually without a trace. Only in the last decade have most descendants of men who served with the First Alabama learned the truth about their ancestors.