

Arkansas Military History Journal

A Publication of the
Arkansas National Guard Museum, Inc.

Vol. 11

Winter 2017

No. 1



**ARKANSAS MILITIA
AND THE
MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR**

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Cover Photograph: Flag presented by Ms. Josephine P. Buckner to Albert Pike's Little Rock Guards; inscribed with the words "Up Guards and at em."

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Message from the Chair

I want to thank the many senior leaders of the Arkansas National Guard who took the time out of their busy schedule to attend the first annual Arkansas National Guard Museum Awards Banquet held at the MWR facility on Camp Robinson. Nearly 50 attendees enjoyed the dinner prepared by the MWR staff as well as remarks provided by MG (Retired) Don Morrow. We also got a chance to honor one of the founding members, and long-time director, of the Arkansas National Guard Museum, COL (Retired) Steve Rucker. The Arkansas National Guard Museum Foundation board of directors would like to thank all of those who had a hand in putting the event together, especially to Ms. Erica McGraw as well as the MWR team.

I am also pleased to introduce this new edition of the Arkansas Military Journal. In the following pages you will discover the role of the Arkansas Militia from early statehood in 1836 including the Mexican War in April 1846. In these pages, you will learn about individuals, who's names are connected to well known locations in our state, including Captain Albert Pike and Governor Archibald Yell. These were the early military and civilian leaders of our state who answered the call as our nation encountered the security challenges of the early to mid-1800s.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Arkansas Military Journal.

BG Keith A. Klemmer

Arkansas National Guard Museum Foundation Chair

Message from the Editor

In the last issue of the *Arkansas Military History Journal*, COL Damon Cluck provided a detailed description of the rich and colorful history of the militia during Arkansas' territorial period. In this current issue, COL Cluck continues the story into the early statehood period of Arkansas including the Mexican War. As Brigadier General Keith Klemmer mentions in his comments above, the 1840s in Arkansas introduce us to well-known Arkansans such as Albert Pike, who became famous throughout the America during the Civil War when he fought on the side of the Conference. I hope all of you enjoy the continuation of the militia tradition Arkansas. In addition to COL Cluck's article, MAJ Matthew Anderson provides another outstanding Featured Artifact piece, this time on the Model of 1819 Hall Breech loading rifle. MAJ Anderson's insight has enhanced to Journal and made folks aware of some of the interesting artifacts at the Arkansas National Guard Museum. You will also see that we a writing contest for students grades 9 through 12, which we introduced in the last issue. Finally, if anyone would like to contribute an article to the Journal, please contact me at the Museum. The articles do not have to be long.

Dr. Raymond Screws

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Arkansas Militia and the Mexican-American War



The story of the Arkansas Militia and the Mexican-American War begins with the continuation of troubles along the ambiguous boarder between Arkansas and Mexico that had existed since the 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty.¹ The confusion over the location of the western boundary of Arkansas in the area southwest of the Red River led to constant friction between settlers, Indian Nations, the Territorial Government and the Mexican Government. In 1836, many issues were culminating in a way that would affect Arkansas and its militia forces. The Texas Revolution began in 1835 and played out into 1836, at the same time that the Territory of Arkansas gained admission to the Union as the 25th State on June 15, 1836. Within days the State Governor received a request for troops to relieve federal troops in Indian Territory in order to ensure that the conflict in Texas didn't spill into United State Territory and simultaneously free federal forces for use in Florida during the Seminole War. Ironically the Arkansas National Guard found itself conducting similar missions, securing the international boarder during the Mexican Expedition of 1916 and again during Operation Jump Start in 2006. Arkansans enthusiastically supported the Mexican-American War in 1846, and many future leaders of the Arkansas Confederate forces gained valuable experience during the conflict. The performance of Arkansas troops during the invasion of northern Mexico and the Battle of Buena Vista did not bring great credit upon the state. Following the Mexican-American War, the state's militia forces fell into decline until the administration of Governor Elias Nelson Conway, just before the outbreak of the Civil War.

AMERICAN MILITIA SYSTEM IN THE POST-REVOLUTIONARY WAR PERIOD

At the time of the Mexican-American War, dramatic changes were occurring in the way the United States employed its militia, and these changes ultimately led to a rapid decline in the traditional general militia. The basis of the United States military tradition, and the militia itself, harkens back to the middle ages. The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of what would become England relied upon the *fyrd*, in which all freemen had to serve. Those who refused military service were subject to fines or loss of their land. In the year 1181, English King Henry II issued his "Assize of Arms," which provided that every freeman was to acquire arms, train regularly, and to answer the king's call to service.² This body of armed citizenry provided the King with a cheap system of manpower. As warfare became more complicated, with the introduction of firearms, which required greater training and logistical support, the capability of the *fyrd* began to waiver. English Kings developed the concept of the Trained Bands or Trainbands. These companies were required to drill more often and maintain a higher degree of proficiency than the general *fyrd*. The *fyrd* did not cease to exist, but its mission shifted to defense of the local area in times of invasion, and to serve as a manpower pool, from which members of the Trained Bands could be drawn. The Trained Bands, unlike the *fyrd*, could be used for offensive warfare outside of the unit's home area. This two-tiered system of militia was eventually carried into the colonies.

Colonists in the New World, relied upon the militia for

the common defense. Many Americans now assume that the colonies always had the military support of their mother country to defend them prior to the Revolution, but this is not the case. British regular forces only made occasional appearances, and in relatively small numbers, in the colonies, prior to the 1750's.³ Colonists relied upon the general militia system to defend the colonies against Native Americans, enforce colonial territorial expansion, and confront the ever-present French along the frontier.⁴ It was only when conflicts between the European Powers spilled into the New World that British Regular Army Soldiers made their appearance. Colonists quickly developed a very negative view of the capacities of the British regular forces and their perceived impact on civil liberties. Many colonists, rightly or wrongly, viewed British regular forces as a failure in the new world. Where colonial militias learned to fight the Native Americans on their own terms along the frontiers, British military leaders, made the often-fatal mistake of failing to adapt to warfare in the colonies. When British General Edward Braddock marched the 44th and 48th Regiments of Foot to near annihilation in the wilderness of western Pennsylvania, colonists saw this as evidence that British regular forces were not up to fighting in the colonies.⁵

Tensions between colonists and the British government mounted in the late 1700s because the British Parliament believed that the colonies should be required to bear the cost of maintaining regular troops in the colonies. The colonists saw this as an unreasonable burden since they had always relied upon, and funded their own militia forces for their protection and they believed that the British regular troops were only sent to the colonies to continue struggle between the European powers, and not to protect the colonies. As the frictions over these and other issues grew, the colonies began to revamp their militia units. In addition to the traditional general militia, some states began developing a separate class of militia, often referred to as the select militia, or using the ancient term, Trained Bands.⁶ The famous Minutemen of Lexington and Concord were members of such Trained Bands. During the American Revolution, the general militia had the tasks of providing a manpower pool, from which members of the Continental Line were drawn, guarding the local area, and in great need, for the *levee en masse* mobilization to resist immediate invasion. This last case occurred rarely even during the Revolutionary Period and the War of 1812.

Following the successful Revolution, the new United States dedicated itself to a firm reliance upon the militia for national defense rather than a large standing army. This was due in part to the distrust of a standing army as a possible tool of oppression, and in part on the very practical basis that militias were far less expensive than standing armies, and the new government was always underfunded. This reliance on the militia proved problematic during the War of 1812. Many states, freed from the existential threat of the British Govern-

ment failed to maintain militia formations. Arms were not acquired for every person on the enrolled militia lists, and training had been lacking to non-existence. As a result, the performance of some militia formations was an embarrassment to the system. Additionally, throughout the war, militiamen steadily refused to be deployed outside the United States, many citing the constitutions militia clause for legal support.⁷

Many thought the time had come to turn to a standing army to make up for the weakness of the militia's during the war, and the militia's refusal to deploy outside the states, but this was not to be. States remained jealous of their military prerogatives, and once again, the financial realities of a large standing army led to a continued small regular force, and a reliance on the militia. But one development was assisting with the issue of using the militia as an expeditionary or deployable force to fight foreign wars, the rise of the volunteer unit.⁸ The Militia Act of 1792 recognized that there were military organizations other than the general, or enrolled militia, present in the states:

*And whereas sundry corps of artillery, cavalry, and infantry now exist in several of the said states, which by the laws, customs, or usages thereof have not been incorporated with, or subject to the general regulations of the militia: SEC. 11. Be it further enacted, to retain their privileges. That such corps retain their accustomed privileges, subject, nevertheless, to all other duties required by this act, in like manner with the other militia.*⁹

These *sundry corps*, were represented in the various state and territorial militia laws as volunteer, select, or independent companies. In a time that former colonial citizens were still wary of the trappings of English aristocracy, these special, usually private units, were viewed with some suspicion, thus the need to bring these sundry corps, under the authority of the militia system. At one point, the United States Army even did away with cavalry as a branch because of the close association of cavalry with European nobility. Between 1803 and 1815, Congress passed no less than seven different acts granting the President the power to accept the services of various members of volunteer companies.¹⁰ In this first phase of legislation regarding volunteer companies, Congress granted the President the right to appoint officers in the volunteer organizations, and volunteers were regarded largely as a temporary auxiliary of the regular army, rather than a separate class of militia. By the time of Second Seminole War, in 1836, Congress again authorized the President to accept the service of Volunteers, but reserved to the states and territories, the power to appoint officers in accordance with their state laws. As the new government struggled to understand how to access and utilize the state militias for national defense, one of the methods that was

utilized was by raising volunteer organizations from the state militia. At no time prior to the Civil War, did the national government ever have the power to draft men into service. The only power to draft manpower, belonged to the states, and was generally exercised through the militia systems. When a need arose, the Continental Government, and later the federal government simply assigned a quota for a number of volunteers or units to the states, and the states filled the quota with drafts from the enrolled militia. The only other way the national government could raise manpower was through recruiting, which often required the payment of a bounty for enlistments.

During the War of 1812, the President was authorized to raise companies of Rangers from the western states to assist with the war along the frontiers. These companies of volunteers were among the more successful militia organizations during the war. Brigadier General Edmund Hogan, served in one of these Missouri Ranger companies prior to becoming the commander of the Arkansas Territorial Militia. Every version of the Arkansas Militia Law, from the territorial period forward authorized the formation of these companies within the militia system. These companies existed sporadically during the territorial period, and served mainly as social organizations, that seemed to satisfy the need or desire that some men felt to demonstrate their martial skill outside of the somewhat comical and sometimes disreputable, general militia musters, that continued to occur in Arkansas throughout the territorial and early statehood period.

The raising of volunteer companies from the militia, became the primary method of drawing manpower from the militia for national needs during the period between the War of 1812 and the Civil War.¹¹ Volunteer companies were often just as ill-disciplined as their general militia brethren, but they had something the others lacked, a genuine desire to serve. Whether that desire was based on a patriotic spirit or just a general desire for adventure, loot, glory, fame or vengeance, can be argued, but the desire was present and in many cases, it came with a degree of knowledge and skill in the kind of warfare that was common during this period, actions against Native Americans. President Andrew Jackson utilized volunteer companies for the Blackhawk War of 1832 and again during the Seminole Wars of 1836, leading to the first national use of the Arkansas Militia, but before that adventure happened, the Territorial Militia utilized volunteer companies one last time in the disputed Mexican Border region.

STATEHOOD

GOVERNOR JAMES S. CONWAY

James Sevier Conway came to Arkansas in 1820, as a federal surveyor and established a cotton farm along the Red

River in present-day Lafayette County. From 1825 to 1831, Conway surveyed the western boundary of Arkansas from the Red River to the Arkansas River and negotiated with Louisiana to set the southern boundary. He went on to serve as the first State Surveyor.¹² On October 3, 1825, Conway was commissioned as the Colonel Commandant of the Lafayette County Militia.¹³ When Arkansas entered statehood in 1836, Conway's prominent family and association with President Jackson helped him become the first governor of the State of Arkansas. His election was the result of a powerful dynasty known as "The Family" that dominated state politics until the Civil War.¹⁴ On October 22, 1836, Colonel John N. Boyle was appointed Adjutant General of the Militia. At the same time, Lieutenant Colonel Jesse Derrnen and John J. Clendenin were appointed Aids-de-camp by Governor Conway.¹⁵ On December 28, 1838, Governor Conway appointed Col. William Conway as Adjutant General, in place of John N. Boyle, who resigned. Col John S. Ficklin, was appointed Quartermaster General.¹⁶

A CALL TO ARMS

The first use of the Arkansas State Militia occurred in the same month that Arkansas was admitted to the union, June 1836.¹⁷ Several events contributed to the Federal Government's call for troops from Arkansas. The Second Seminole War began in Florida in 1835, at the same time, the Texas War of Independence was underway. Federal Government removed its regular army troops from forts and posts in the Indian Territory in order to supply troops for the fighting in Florida. Many of the remaining regular army troops were transferred to posts along the Sabine River, positioned to either prevent a Mexican invasion or to assist the Texas revolution as directed.¹⁸ President Jackson asked for and was granted funds by Congress to raise a volunteer force from Arkansas to help fill the void left by regular forces along the border with the Indian Territory. Secretary of War Lewis Cass issued a call for troops to Territorial Governor William Savin Fulton on May 15, 1836.¹⁹ Fulton responded by issuing a proclamation on June 22, 1836, calling for 1,000 volunteers. The volunteers were to assemble into companies, elect officers and report to the Governor immediately. The Governor's proclamation was published in the same edition of the *Arkansas Gazette* that reported on the passage in Congress of the act which admitted Arkansas to the Union.²⁰

ARKANSAS REGIMENT OF MOUNTED GUNMEN

On June 28, 1836, thirteen days after the state was admitted to the Union, General Edmund P. Gains (U.S. Army) called upon the Governor to furnish one regiment for the defense of the western frontier. Governor Fulton responded by revising his call for volunteers.²¹ The

Governor's call specified that the volunteer companies raised north of the Arkansas River would rendezvous at Little Rock, while those raised south of the river would rendezvous at Washington in Hempstead County.²² The organization of the Volunteer Companies played out against the backdrop of the first political race for the office of Governor of Arkansas. Absalom Fowler, a Whig candidate, ran against James S. Conway, a Jacksonian Democrat. Conway won the hotly contested race in the election conducted on August 1, 1836, his inauguration was scheduled for September 13, 1836. On August 6, 1836, Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Vose wrote to Governor Fulton to assure the governor that:

*Your Excellency may rest assured that everything will be done, in my power to render the situation of the Volunteers both comfortable and pleasant, while stationed in this vicinity.*²³

By August 18, 1836, Volunteer Companies from Conway, Pope and Pulaski counties gathered in Little Rock.²⁴ These three companies marched south for the rendezvous at Washington, Arkansas and were joined en route by a company from Saline County.²⁵ These four companies made the rendezvous at Washington. Being short of the number of companies needed to form a Regiment, the unit formed initially into a battalion, to be commanded by a lieutenant colonel.²⁶ An election was held at Washington, Arkansas on September 1, 1836, and Absalom Fowler, the former candidate for Governor, was elected lieutenant colonel of the battalion.²⁷ The other officers were as follows:

COUNTY	RANK	NAME
	Lieutenant Colonel	Absalom Fowler
	Adjutant	Robertson Childress
	Sergeant Major	Samuel D. Blackburn
	Quarter Master	Allen Martin
	Surgeon	Dr. James Bird
Conway Company	Captain	Thomas Mathers
	1st Lieutenant	Alexander G. McFarland
	2nd Lieutenant	Peter Kuykendall
Saline Company	Captain	Robert Brazil
	1st Lieutenant	Jesse Spencer
	2nd Lieutenant	Johnson J. Joyner
Pulaski Company	Captain	John R. Cummins
	1st Lieutenant	William Badgett
	2nd Lieutenant	William W. White
Pope Company	Captain	Laban C. Howell
	1st Lieutenant	John R. H. Scott
	2nd Lieutenant	Samuel Hays

COUNTY	RANK	NAME
Hempstead County	Captain	Samuel Moore
	1st Lieutenant	Robert L. Davis
	2nd Lieutenant	Robert Cross
Sevier County	Captain	Charles Pettigrew
	1st Lieutenant	Robert Walker
	2nd Lieutenant	William Whitehead

On the march from Washington, Arkansas to Fort Towson, the battalion was joined by an additional company from Sevier County, bringing the total to six.²⁸ The battalion suffered its first casualty on September 10, 1836, when Private William R. Wingfield was killed by a fallen tree during a storm.²⁹ On September 11, Lt. Col. Fowler wrote to report that the unit had crossed the Choctaw line. Before entering into the Indian Nations, Lt. Col. Fowler issued an address to his troops on September 12, 1836:

Comrades and Soldiers of the Arkansas Battalion

You have now passed the boundary of your State- the line which separates the fires of the white and the red men. You have torn yourselves from the endearments of home, and with a zeal which has ever characterized the freemen of the west, assumed the character of soldier in the cause of your country....

Being the first military body organized for service in our State, it should be the first consideration with every officer and soldier to sustain the honor of Arkansas and the chivalry of her sons.....

Hitherto your march has been confined to your own boarders, among your fellow-citizens- tis now changed. You are in the midst of the sons of the forest, whose sires proudly trod the soil when the name of America was unknown to our fathers. They as well as you are men, and their rights must be respected. The same regard to personnel rights and the rights of property which influenced you among your own people, should be adhered to, even more tenaciously than before you crossed the line. The Indian tribes, particularly those who, retiring before the onward march of civilization, have left the bones of their father and crossed the Mississippi, to the west, are entitled to every protection from our government. Let every one of you observe that guaranty in his own person. Let it not be said that the person of a friendly Indian was insulted, his property trespassed upon, or his domestic relations violated by a soldier of Arkansas.....³⁰

Flower indicated that these rules would be enforced anytime

the battalion was in the presence of friendly Indians. He finished his address with an appeal for unity among the members of the battalion:

*Among yourselves every warm and brotherly feeling should be cherished. Thrown together from different parts of the State—mostly unknown to each other – you should suffer no prejudice to exist in one company against another.*³¹

The battalion reached Fort Towson on the Red River on September 14, 1836, and was attached to the 3rd Infantry Regiment under the command of Lt. Col Vose.³² At Fort Townson, the battalion was issued weapons and equipment.

A CONTESTED ELECTION

An additional Volunteer Company, raised in Randolph County, commanded by Captain John Kavanaugh, stopped in Little Rock long enough to participate in the inauguration of the new state's first elected Governor, James S. Conway, on September 12, 1836.³³ Conway dispatched the company to join the volunteers at Fort Towson with an order directing, that since the battalion would now have seven companies, it should be formed into a regiment and an election held for Colonel. This order was delivered to Lt. Col. Fowler on October 2, 1836, when the Randolph County company reached Camp Vose, near Fort Towson. Lt. Col. Fowler apparently did not believe that the Governor had the authority to order an election because the unit was now under the control of the regular army. Nonetheless, on October 4, 1836, a new election was conducted for the office of Colonel Commandant, Adjutant and Lieutenant Colonel. In this second election, Captain Laban C. Howell defeated Fowler and was elected Colonel.³⁴ Fowler had not run for the office of Lt. Col. and Charles Pettigrew was elected to this office. On October 5, 1836, Lt. Col. Fowler issued Regiment Order No. 17, which announced his intention to “repair to Little Rock to tender his resignation to the Governor of Arkansas.” The order indicated that he was leaving Captain Howell in command of the Regiment, as senior captain present. The order did not acknowledge Howell as Colonel.³⁵

Lt. Col. Fowler returned to Little Rock, but instead of resigning, he wrote to Governor Conway and contested the Governor's authority to order an election of the volunteer organization once it had entered government service. He also alleged that the formation of a regiment was not legal because there were only seven companies, not the required ten companies to form a company. Fowler's objections were published in Little Rock papers on October 21, 1836. The same day Governor Conway's response was included.³⁶ Governor Conway of course asserted that he did

have the authority and the obligation under Arkansas's militia laws to order the election. Ultimately Conway attempted to solve the issue by finding that while Howell had been properly elected Colonel of the Regiment, Fowler was still the duly elected Lt. Col. because Conway said he had not directed an election for that office.³⁷

Next, Lt. Col. Fowler rode to Fort Gibson to appeal to General Arbuckle to restore him to command. General Arbuckle deferred to become involved in the squabble. Fowler next returned to the regiment at Fort Towson on October 23 and demanded that Capt. Howell surrender the command. For some reason, Howell did so apparently, content to wait for the judgement of the Governor to be confirmed. Fowler apparently placed Captain Howell under some form of house arrest for munity. When Howell refused to comply with the terms of the house arrest, he rode to Fort Gibson to appeal to the regular army officers to settle the dispute with Lt. Col. Fowler. After returning from Fort Gibson, Captain Howell returned to his own company, which was camped a few miles away from Fort Townson at Camp Liberty on November 17, 1836. When Howell came to Lt. Col. Fowler's headquarters at Camp Independence, Fowler had him arrested and held in the guard house at the point of the bayonet!

THE MUNITY

At this point, five of the companies in the battalion were quartered at Camp Independence, and Captain Howell's Pope County Company and Captain Kavanaugh's Randolph County Company were stationed at Camp Liberty. Fowler became convinced that the troops at Camp Liberty were preparing to attack Camp Independence in order to free Capt. Howell. At one point on November 19, Captain Ruben Blount, the quartermaster, reported that the two companies were marching on Camp Independence. Lt. Col Fowler began trying to turn out members of the five companies stationed with him at Camp Independence to defend the Camp. Apparently only a few members of the companies rallied to Lt. Col. Fowler's call, but the ones that responded received a passionate speech in which Fowler implored them to “stand firm to their posts, and that in a few minutes the enemy would be in view,” Lt. Col Vose intervened at this point and persuaded the Pope and Randolph companies, who stated they were only conducting drill, to return to their camp. The next day, Lt. Col. Fowler had Captain Kavanaugh, and several of the other men, which he labeled mutineers, were placed under arrest.³⁸

Finally, General Arbuckle, who was in overall command, intervened to settle the dispute. He issued a letter which

confirmed the election of Captain Howell as Colonel and threatened to arrest Fowler if he did not release Howell and his fellow mutineers.³⁹ By December 7, the regiment with Colonel Howell now in command, was ordered to move to Fort Gibson. The regiment lost several members to sickness while at Fort Towson. Both Howell and Fowler wrote letters to the Little Rock newspapers explaining their view and Fowler would eventually demand a Court of Inquiry in order to clear his name, but ultimately Captain, now Colonel Howell gained and maintained command of the Battalion through the remainder of its service.⁴⁰ Two additional companies joined the regiment, one from Lawrence County commanded by Captain Willis Phillips in late October and one from Independence County commanded by Captain Marcus W. Reinhardt in late November, bringing the regiment to its final strength of nine companies.⁴¹ The regiment was ordered into winter quarters at Fort Gibson on December 11, 1836. Secure in his command, Colonel Howell organized the regiment into the following lettered companies:⁴²

COMPANY	ENROLMENT DATE	COUNTY
A	August 9, 1836	Conway
B	August 12, 1836	Saline
C	August 18, 1836	Pope
D	August 31, 1836	Hempstead
E	August 13, 1836	Pulaski
F	September 3, 1836	Sevier
G	September 5, 1836	Randolph
H	November 24, 1836	Independence
I	October 31, 1836	Lawrence

While their leaders quarreled the soldiers of the Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Gunman performed scout duty and patrolled the border until they were relieved in 1837 by federal troops. Twenty-two members of the 1st Regiment of Arkansas Mounted Gunmen died in service. Causes of death included accidents and disease, but none was due to hostile action.⁴³ By February 7, 1837, General Arbuckle discharged most of the Arkansas troops to return to their homes.⁴⁴

2ND REGIMENT OF ARKANSAS MOUNTED GUNMEN

Through a twist of historical irony, the 2nd Regiment of Arkansas Mounted Gunmen never came into existence, but the 1st Battalion of the 2nd Regiment did. In August 1836, General Matthew Arbuckle (U.S. Army) made a second requisition on Governor Fulton for troops and the governor responded by calling on the counties of Carroll, Crawford, Independence, IZard, Jackson, Johnson, Lawrence, Scott, Searcy

and Washington to raise volunteer companies. The Colonels Commandant of the county militia regiments were ordered to assist in the organization of these additional volunteer companies.⁴⁵ General Arbuckle's call specified that this new organization would be composed of two companies of cavalry, and eight companies of infantry, but soon after, Governor Conway was forced to admit that due to the disorganized nature of the state militia, it was impossible to fill the infantry regiments, even by drafts on the militia. It seems that Arkansas militiamen were not fond of walking and would only volunteer to serve mounted. Governor Conway recommended that General Arbuckle call for companies of mounted gunmen, rather than infantry.⁴⁶ The volunteer companies for what was intended to become the 2nd Regiment of Arkansas Mounted Gunmen were ordered to rendezvous at either Fayetteville, or Fort Coffee, Indian Territory. Only three companies eventually answered this call for troops.⁴⁷

COMPANY	COMMANDER	ENROLLED IN FEDERAL SERVICE	COUNTY OF ORIGIN
A	Captain Onesimus Evans	September 27, 1836	Washington
B	Captain Benaiah Bateman	September 30, 1836	Independence
C	Captain Thaddeus C. Wilson	November 26, 1836	Washington

The three responding companies were organized under a single battalion, commanded by Onesimus Evans, who was promoted to Major. Major Evans signed his address to his troops at the end of their deployment as the "Commander, 1st Battalion, 2nd Regiment of Arkansas Mounted Gunmen." The muster rolls for this battalion also bear the designation of 1st Battalion, 2nd Regiment. The battalion was increased to a total of five companies in January 1837, when the first seven companies of the 1st Regiment were mustered out of service. Companies H and I of the 1st Regiment were reassigned to the 1st Battalion of the 2nd Regiment for the remainder of their service. Like their brothers in the 1st Regiment, the members of Evans Battalion spent the winter of 1836–1837 conducting patrols in Indian Territory and occasionally escorting supplies to other army posts further south along the Sabine River. The battalion was mustered out of service between March 27 and April 13 at Camp Washington, near Fort Gibson.⁴⁸ The battalion suffered 7 deaths and 5 desertions during its service. None of the deaths were due to hostile action.⁴⁹

AFTERMATH

One Regular Army observer of the Arkansas troops on the frontier wrote to the *Arkansas Gazette* with the following description of their service:

So far as the Arkansas Volunteers, it is but just to

*say that their conduct, while they have been in Indian Territory, has been, with but few exceptions, such as to entitle them to much credit: their deportment towards the natives has ever been respectful and proper. Those volunteers... have served in both the Choctaw and Cherokee nations and have had an opportunity of seeing and of becoming acquainted with the actual condition and feeling of the Indians on the frontier towards the whites, and they will, by that means, have it in their power to.... allay the unnecessary apprehension of Indian hostilities which has to long existed on this frontier.*⁵⁰

The fight between Absalom Fowler and Governor Conway continued to play itself out in the local papers until well into 1837, with supporters of the Governor and Colonel Howell on one side and Lieutenant Colonel Fowler on the other, each writing descriptions of the events for the papers.⁵¹ Many of the volunteers of 1836 would lead Arkansas militia formations over the next decade. While the troops were deployed, the legislature was busy passing a new militia law for the state.

MILITIA ACT OF 1836

At the time that the Arkansas Territory was created, it adopted all of the existing laws of its parent Territory of Missouri, including its Militia Law. The Arkansas Territorial Legislature amended the existing militia law on several occasions, but did not pass a new law of its own until after statehood. On October 23, 1836, the Arkansas Legislature passed a new Militia Law, which converted the Arkansas Territorial Militia into the Arkansas State Militia.⁵²

TWO CLASSES OF MILITIA

The new law began by defining who was and who was not liable for militia duty. All "able-bodied free white male inhabitants of this State, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years" were required to perform militia duty, subject to the following exemptions: "Judges of the supreme and circuit courts, secretary of state, auditor and treasurer of the State, clerks of the supreme and circuit courts, postmasters who have the care of the mails of the United States, post riders, ferrymen on all public roads, and ministers of the gospel."⁵³ However, in addition to the compulsory service for all able-bodied free white males, the law also authorized the raising of Volunteer Militia Companies for up to five years at a time. Each regiment was authorized to raise up to three of these Volunteer Companies, one company each of Riflemen, Artillery and Cavalry. The election of the officers of the Volunteer Companies was certified by the regimental commander. The Volunteer Companies were to remain under the authority of the regiment from which they were formed and were subject to the same rules and regulations as all other militiamen ex-

cept that the Volunteer Companies were authorized to select their own uniforms.⁵⁴

ADMINISTRATION OF THE MILITIA

The law allowed the governor to appoint an Adjutant General and a Quartermaster General each with the rank of Colonel.⁵⁵ The militia was divided into two divisions, each commanded by a major general, and each division was divided into three brigades, each commanded by a brigadier general. This organization was similar to the 1833 amendment passed by the territorial legislature, but now the general officers were elected by the field grade officers of the militias instead of being appointed by the president.⁵⁶ The new law set the time and place for the first election of general officers to occur in 1837. Each officer was required to wear a sword and all officers above the company grade were required to wear the uniform of their equivalent in the United States Army.⁵⁷ The terms of service for officers were set at three years and provisions were made to allow election results to be contested.⁵⁸ Militiamen were required to attend two company musters, one battalion muster and one regimental muster each year.⁵⁹ Regiments were authorized and directed to conduct annual Courts Martial and provisions were made for the collections of fines levied by the Court Martial and payment of the members of the court. Parents and guardians were made liable for payment of fines on behalf of their children under the age of 21 who failed to appear at a designated muster. Money raised by payment or collection of fines was utilized to purchase drums, fifes and Colors. Commissioned officers were required to report to the local parade ground, with a rifle or musket, two days before the annual regimental muster for the purpose of receiving additional training to prepare them to drill their soldiers. The militia was to be trained in accordance with the regulations of the regular army of the United States. First sergeants were required to call roll no later than 10 o'clock on each day appointed for a muster to determine the number present. The law limited the amount of time that a militiaman could be called to duty to six months per tour. Any officer was authorized to call out the militia in the event of sudden invasion or insurrection. The law provided that copies of the law were to be printed and delivered to each officer, who was to hand his copy of the law to his successor upon leaving office.⁶⁰ Copies of the law were offered for sale at the offices of the *Arkansas Gazette* in Little Rock.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MILITIA

The 1836 Militia Act organized the state militia into two divisions, each divided into three brigades. The returns for the first elections under the new Militia Act were published in the *Weekly Arkansas Gazette* on January 10, 1837. The *Gazette* article lists the Colonel's Commandant for only 13 counties and states that if there are other election returns, the Governor wished that they be presented immediately, or failing elections, that the names of qualified individuals be forward-

ed for appointment. The Arkansas Military Department Records, Spanish American War, List of Commissioned Officers of the Militia 1827–1862, (hereinafter The List of Commissioned Officers) contains a roster, by county of all militia commissioned issued from statehood through 1865. The List contains returns for several counties not listed in the January 10, 1937, *Gazette* article. The table below includes all recorded Colonels Commandant between 1837 and 1842. The year of their commission is in-

Division	Brigade	Colonel	County
1st Division Maj. Gen. R.C.S. Brown (1837-1839) Maj. Gen. Seaborn G. Sneed, (1839 - Nov 1844)	1st Brigade Brig. Gen. Thomas Williamson (1837-1844)	Not Yet Organized	Hot Spring
		Col. W. Barkman (1839)	Clark
		Not Yet Organized	Pike
		Col. B. P. Jett (1837)	Hempstead
		Col. T.T. Williamson (1837) Col. James Abraham (1838)	Lafayette
		Col. Thomas C. P. French (1837)	Sevier
		None Reported	Miller
	2nd Brigade Brig. Gen. Robertson Childress (1837-1839) Brig. Gen. Richard C. Byrd (1840-1844)	Col. William Lockhart (1837)	Saline
		Col. Richard C. Byrd(1837) Col. Thomas Thorn (1837)	Pulaski
		Col. Lake Clifford (1837) Col. Moses H. Blus (1837)	White
		Col. Bennett B. Ball (1837)	Conway
		Col. William G. H. Teevault(1837) Col. Matt T. Logan (1838) Col. James S Moffett (1841)	Pope
		Col. Charles Huckery(1837) Col. J. Shoapshire (1840)	Johnson
		Col. Walter Cauthron (1827)	Scott
	3rd Brigade Brig. Gen. Jesse Miller (1837-1841)	Col. William Reins(1837) Col. William S. Reeves (1837) Col. Henry Starr (1841)	Crawford
		Col. John H. Newman (1838).	Franklin
		Col. Ruben W. Reynolds (1837) Col. Jessie K. Oldham (1841) Col. Edward Freyschlag (1842)	Washington
		Col. Allen Graham (1838) Col. William Walker (1840)	Benton
		Col. D. P. Walker Col. Allen Graham (1837)	Madison
		Col. James Channey (1837)	Carroll
		Col. Jesse Carroll (1841)	Marion

2nd Division Maj. Gen. Stephen V.R. Ryan (1836-1846)	4th Brigade Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Drew (1837-1844)	Not Yet Organized	Izard
		Lt. Col. Hiram A. Long (1841)	Van Buren
		Col. Daniel J. Chapman (1837) Col. Pleasant Turney (1838)	Independence
		Lt. Col. George W. Cromwell (1837) Col. Asa M. Carpenter (1841)	Jackson
		Col. George. W. Ferguson(1837)	Lawrence
		Col. James G. Russell (1837)	Randolph
	5th Brigade Brig. Gen. Wright Elliott (1840-1841)	Col. Henry S. Holt (1839)	Greene
		Col. Henry H. Curl (1839) Col. John H. [Illegible] (1841)	St. Francis
		Col. Charles Neely (1839)	Poinsett
		Col. Elisha Burk (1839)	Phillips
		Col. Wiley Lewis(1837) Col. P.G. Pollock (1841)	Crittenden
		None Recorded	Mississippi
	6th Brigade Brig. Gen. John Clark (1837-1846)	Col. James L. Dawson (1838) Col. James Yell (1842)	Jefferson
		Col. George M. Blackman (1837)	Monroe
		Col. John H Lenox(1837)	Arkansas
		Col. Raybon Smith (1837) Col. Edward McDermott (1841)	Chicot
		Col. Edmund Tatum (1838)	Union

A careful review of *The List*, indicates that commissions were issued to the Colonels Commandant of all of the existing counties save Izard, Miller and Pike. The law required each county commandant to divide the regiment into battalions and companies. This appears to have been completed in all of the counties except Izard, Miller and Pike. Arkansas County, organized only one company. In most counties, commissions were issued to a Lieutenant Colonel, a Major, for each regiment and the Captain, 1st Lieutenant, 2nd Lieutenant, and 3rd Lieutenant for each company in the regiment within a few months of the election of the first Colonel. The new militia law provided for the election of General Officers by the Field Grade Officers of the militia regiments. The first Major Generals were R.C.S. Brown and S.V.R. Ryan.

NEW GENERAL OFFICERS

MAJOR GENERAL S.V.R. RYAN

Stephen Van Renssalaer Ryan was nominated on December 18, 1835, by President Andrew Jackson to command the 2nd Brigade of the Arkansas Territorial Militia.⁶¹ Ryan was

the namesake of Major General Stephen Van Renssalaer, of Albany, New York and the son of Jeremiah Ryan, a revolutionary veteran. Major General Renssalaer, who led troops during the War of 1812, Battle of Queenstown Heights, recommended the young Ryan for appointment to United States Military Academy at West Point.⁶² Ryan was accepted and graduated from West Point in 1825. Ryan served in the garrison at Fort Monroe, Virginia where he attended the Artillery School for Practice, at Fort Gibsonia Indian Territory, on commissary duty at the new federal arsenal in Little Rock from 1831-1832 before resigning from the Army in 1833.⁶³ While serving at the Little Rock Arsenal, Lieutenant Ryan is listed as a weapons inspector as one of the officers involved in the removal of the Choc-taw tribes. After leaving the Army, Ryan took up residence at the Mississippi River town of Napoleon, Arkansas where he purchased a warehouse, served as postmaster, and was involved in real estate transactions concerning the establishment of a Naval Hospital at Napoleon.⁶⁴ Ryan, with his West Point education and professional army experience left an indelible mark on the Arkansas Militia during the early statehood period. Ryan served in that role until

1846. Ryan was elected to the General Assembly, serving first in the State House of Representatives in the 2nd General Assembly and later in the State Senate from Arkansas County. Ryan advocated for the formation of Desha County.

MAJOR GENERAL R.C.S. BROWN

Richard C.S. Brown was appointed as the Sherriff of Crawford County in 1835, but resigned in 1836. R. C. S. Brown represented Crawford County in the first Arkansas constitutional convention, January 4 to 13, 1836, and on August 1, 1836, Brown was elected to represent Crawford and Scott Counties in the State Senate representing the first General Assembly.

R. C. S. Brown, who resided for many years at Van Buren, and presided over the circuit court, was a man of mark and exerted great influence. His learning as a lawyer was said not to have been profound, but he had good common sense, and was prompt in his decisions. He did not seek to become an eminent jurist while judge of a circuit court. He was popular with the bar and the people. He was a Tennessean, a grandson of the famous Gov. Sevier. He was especially successful in civil law, and afterward became very prominent in State affairs. He also became agent for the Pottawattamie (Cherokee).⁶⁵

Ultimately Brown's election to become a Judge of the Seventh Circuit led to the end of his Militia career. On August 3, 1839, Governor James Conway declared that Brown had vacated the office of Major General of the 1st Division, by accepting the position as Judge because the Arkansas Constitution rendered the offices incompatible. Fellow attorney Seaborn G. Sneed was elected to succeed Brown. Brown was nominated as Indian Agent for the Cherokee Tribe in 1848 by the President. He took the position in March, 1848, and served until the following year when he was removed. On June 6, robbers broke into the Brown's house to get possession of \$18,000, which was due to be paid to the Indians. The bandits struck Brown with an axe, but his neighbors heard the disturbance, went to his rescue, and frightened the robbers away.⁶⁶

MAJOR GENERAL SEABORN GRAHAM SNEED

Seaborn Graham Sneed, was born on January 15, 1802, in Green County, Kentucky. Prior to coming to Arkansas, the family lived in Clay County, Missouri where in 1823 Sneed was elected colonel of the Missouri militia. He was also elected to serve as a Justice of the Peace in Missouri. Sneed and his wife Marinda Adkins of Tennessee, moved to Arkansas in 1830. He was licensed to practice law in the same year and in

1831 was elected prosecuting attorney for the Fayetteville district in 1831. After being appointed as the registrar of the United States Land Office in Arkansas, he was elected district judge of the Fayetteville district. He was commissioned judge of the Fourth Judicial District on November 18, 1844, and served until 1848. The family moved to Austin, Texas, in the fall of 1848, where he helped organize the Democratic Party in Travis County, Texas. It was said that although, Sneed's knowledge of the law was limited, his mastery of rhetorical skills was legendary. He was described as "large and portly, fiery and tempestuous."⁶⁷ While serving as defense counsel during the murder trial of Cherokee Indian Chief Stand Watie, General Sneed was described as follows:

He received an indifferent education and set out in life with no other knowledge of law than such as he derived from Blackstone and one or two other books. But Gen. Sneed has natural talents of a high order. In ingenuity, I have never seen him excelled; in his judgment of human nature among the common class of men, he excels every phrenologist in the world. His powers of declamation are of a superior order. —He has an untiring fund of humorous wit which never fails to call forth a laugh. He was better suited to the early practice of the country than any man in Arkansas. For he possessed a boldness which never shrank from a contest with the most lawless. He would do his duty faithfully, and then fight his antagonist with right good will. Gen. Sneed, at the same time is exceedingly generous, kind and liberal. His popularity is of that kind which no one can ever shake.⁶⁸

Apparently Major General Sneed resigned in 1844, probably due to this appointment to the judge of the Fourth Judicial District on November 18, 1844. In January of 1845 we find candidates being announced for the position of Major General of the 1st Division of Arkansas Militia. The candidates included Mr. T. L. Green, Colonel Thomas D. Merrick, and S. D. Blackburn.⁶⁹ S.D. Blackburn was elected to fill this position.⁷⁰

BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS T. WILLIAMSON

Thomas T. Williamson, of Lafayette County, was elected Colonel Commandant of the Lafayette, County Militia in 1837. Later that year he was elected Brigadier General of the 1st Brigade, consisting of the southwestern counties

of Hot Spring, Clark, Pike, Hempstead, Lafayette, Sevier, and Miller. On May 17, 1839, Brigadier General Williamson appointed Moorhead Wright, as Aid-de-camp, with the rank of Major of Cavalry; Grandison D. Royston as Brigade Major, with the like rank of Major of Cavalry, and Dr. James H. Walker, as Surgeon of the Brigade. Williamson was deeply involved in the sale of bonds for the Arkansas Real Estate Bank, and was appointed as the president of the Washington Branch Arkansas Real Estate Branch in 1838.⁷¹ He also had considerable holdings in Louisiana. He served as a state senator from Lafayette County and he ran as a candidate for Major General of the 1st Division to replace Major General R.C.S. Brown in 1839.⁷² Brown was defeated in this election by Seaborn G. Sneed.

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERTSON CHILDRESS

Robertson Childress, of Pulaski County, served as the Adjutant of the Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Gunmen, with the rank of Major, during its 1836 deployment to the Indian Territory. Childress had married Laurena Matilda Hall, on July 14, 1835, in Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas. In 1837, he was elected Brigadier General of the 2nd Brigade, consisting of the central Arkansas Counties of Yell, Saline, Pulaski White, Conway and Pope and Perry. On March 8, 1838, General Childress appointed future governor Henry M. Rector, as his Aide-de-camp, with the rank of Major of the Cavalry; George A. McDaniel, as Quartermaster, with the rank of Major; and M.J. Woodfin, Brigade Surgeon. He died in office about 1839, leaving two children. Major General Sneed ordered a new election to fill the vacancy:

*Whereas, it has been represented to me, that the office of Brigadier General of the Second Brigade, a First Division, of Arkansas Militia, has become vacated by the death of Brigadier General Robertson Childress; it is hereby ordered that an election to fill said vacancy, be held at the several places of holding elections within said brigade, on Tuesday, the 25th day of February next.*⁷³

Robert C. Byrd of Pulaski County was elected to succeed Brigadier General Childress.

BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD C. BYRD

Richard C. Byrd was elected Colonel of the Pulaski County Militia Regiment in 1836. Byrd served as auditor for the Arkansas Territory and from 1829 to 1831. He served in the Territorial Legislature in 1833. He served as a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1836, and in the Arkansas Senate in 1840, 1842, 1846, and 1848. For reasons that are unclear, Byrd apparently resigned prior to May, 1837, because a special election was ordered to replace him on May 1, 1837. In November 1839, the weekly *Arkansas Gazette* announced

that Colonel R.C. Byrd was a candidate the office of Brigadier General of the 2nd Brigade. On March 4, 1840, Byrd was commissioned Brigadier General of the 2nd Brigade, consisting of the central Arkansas counties of Saline, Pulaski, White, Conway, Pope and Johnson. On June 24, 1840, Brigadier General Byrd ordered commanding officers with in the brigade to “see that the officers and soldiers under their command be organized and equipped as the law directs.” He also appointed Thomas W. Newton, of Little Rock, to be his Aid-de-camp, with the rank of Major of Cavalry, and Geo. H. Burnett, Esq., to be his Brigade Inspector, with the rank of Major of Cavalry, and Dr. John R. Desha to be Brigade Surgeon. Byrd ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1844.⁷⁴ When Governor Thomas Stevenson Drew resigned from office on January 10, 1849, Byrd was President of the Senate and became acting governor. Byrd served as governor until April 19, 1849, when he was succeeded by Governor John Selden Roane. After serving as acting governor, Byrd returned to his mercantile store in Jefferson County, Arkansas, and passed away on June 1, 1854, at aged 49. When Byrd left the command of the 2nd Brigade, Colonel Bennett B. Ball of Conway County was elected to succeed him.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JESSE MILLER

In 1837, Jessie Miller, of Crawford county was elected Brigadier General of the 3rd Brigade consisting of the northwest counties of Scott, Crawford, Franklin, Washington, Benton, Madison, Carrol and Marion. Miller was elected sheriff of Crawford County in 1833 and was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1835.⁷⁵ He appointed Jesse Turner, Esq. as his aid de camp, Charles G. Scot, Esq, as Brigade Major, and Dr. David Williams as the Surgeon of the Brigade.⁷⁶ Washington Duvall of Crawford County was elected to succeed Brigadier General Miller.

BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS S. DREW

Thomas Stevenson Drew arrived in Clark County, Arkansas Territory, in 1817, and worked as a traveling peddler and school teacher. During the 1820s, he became active in politics and was involved in establishing mail delivery to southern Arkansas and northern Louisiana. He eventually became a successful planter on a farm near Pochahontas, in Randolph county and influential figure in the state Democratic Party.⁷⁷ In 1837, he was elected Brigadier General of the 4th Brigade, consisting of the north central counties of IZard, Van Buren, Independence, Jackson, Lawrence and Randolph. On March 21, 1838, he appointed Dr. George B. Croff, Brigade Surgeon for the 4th Brigade. In 1844, he was nominated by the Democratic Party as candidate for Governor, which he won in a three-way election with 47 percent of the vote.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WRIGHT ELLIOTT

Dr. Wright W. Elliot, of Helena served as the Colonel Commandant of the Phillips County Militia during the territorial

period, beginning in 1828. Elliott served as delegate from Crittenden County to the Arkansas Constitutional Convention of 1836.⁷⁸ In 1840, Elliott was elected Brigadier General of the 5th Brigade, consisting of the northeast Arkansas counties of Greene, St. Francis, Poinsett, Phillips, Crittenden and Mississippi.⁷⁹

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN CLARK

John Clark of Sevier County served as the Colonel Commandant of the Sevier and Miller County Militia during the Territorial period. He played an active role in the disturbances that occurred in the disputed border region in Miller County in the early 1830s. In 1837, he was elected Brigadier General of the 6th Brigade, consisting of the southeast Arkansas counties of Bradley, Jefferson, Arkansas, Chicot, Union and Desha. On July 19, 1837, Brigadier General Clark appointed John P. Winston, as his Aide de Camp and George W. Ferere, Major of the Brigade, each with the rank of Major.⁸⁰ On March 20, 1841, from his Head Quarters at Columbia, Arkansas, he appointed Samuel Wooley, as his Aide-de-Camp with the Rank of Major of Cavalry.⁸¹ On November 16, 1842, Brigadier General Clark appointed Albert Rust of Union county to be Brigade Major.

INITIAL ORGANIZATION

The two new Division Commanders set about getting their new commands organized. Apparently the 1st Brigade, composed of Hot Spring, Pike, Clark, Hempstead, Lafayette, Sevier and Miller counties was slow to conduct an election for Brigadier General, for we find Major General R.C.S. Brown twice ordering the election to be held and threatening to attach the brigade to one of the other brigades if no election was conducted.⁸² A General Order was published in the *Arkansas Gazette* on November 14, 1837, directing the commissioned officers of the First Brigade to conduct the election on the first Monday in January, 1837.⁸³ This election apparently did not occur as required by law because in February 1837, we again find a General Order from Major General Ryan ordering the election and threatening to attach the brigade to another brigade that had the officers required by law.⁸⁴

On February 21, 1838, Major General Brown announced the appointment of John Henry and James M. Randolph, of Van Buren, Crawford county, in the Third Brigade; Samuel H. Hempstead, of Little Rock, Pulaski County, in the Second Brigade; and John Field of Washington, Hempstead county, in the First Brigade as his Aides-de-Camp, each with the rank and title of Lieutenant Colonel of Cavalry. He also announced the appointment of John S. McClellan, as Quartermaster General, and Barton B. Clements as Surgeon, of the 1st each with the rank and title of Lieutenant Colonel of Cavalry.

On July 23, 1838, Brigadier General Robertson Childress ordered elections for Colonel in White and Pope Counties, as vacancies apparently occurred in both counties. It seems that

Field Grade officers in the 5th Brigade, of the 2nd Division apparently were slow to conduct the required elections for Brigade Commander, On November 21, 1839, Major General Ryan issued Division Order No. 6 from his headquarters at Napoleon, Arkansas which stated:

The 5th brigade of the militia of this state, having, for its better organization, been, by division order, attached to the 6th brigade; and there being official information that elections have been held for officers in several of the regiments of the 5th Brigade, it is ordered, that an election be held at the proper places of election for each regiment, on Saturday, the 18th day of January, 1840, to fill the office of Brigadier General of the 5th brigade, which office is now vacant. Reference is made to sections 13 and 15 of the law for the organization of the militia of this state where it will be found in what manner this election must be conducted, and to whom the returns of the same must be made.

Dr. Wright W. Elliot, of Crittenden County was eventually elected to the position at the election.

On February 7, 1840, Major General Sneed appointed his staff pursuant to the Militia Act of 1839, appointing Onesimus Evans, of Fayetteville, as Assistant Inspector General; B.P. Jett, of Hempstead county, Aide-de-camp in the First Brigade; Edward Cole, of Little Rock, Aide-de-camp in the Second Brigade; John Henry, of Franklin county, to be Aide-de-camp in the Third Brigade; Dr. N. Spring, of Benton county, Surgeon of Division; all with rank of Lieutenant Colonels of Cavalry. Lieutenant Colonel Evans commanded Company A, 1st Battalion, of the 2nd Regiment of Arkansas Mounted Gunmen during the 1836 mobilization in Indian Territory.

INDIAN REMOVAL

The removal of Indian Tribes from eastern states to the Indian Territory began under President Andrew Jackson in the 1830s continued in the 1840s. Tribal groups were organized in their home area and began the journey up the Arkansas River, usually by steamer, as far as water conditions would allow and then continue overland through the state until they reached Indian Territory. While serving at the Little Rock Arsenal Lieutenant S.V.R. Ryan served as a weapons inspector. His duties including assisting with removal of the Choctaw tribes under the September 27, 1830, "Dancing Rabbit Creek" treaty. Under this treaty and the Indian Removal Act signed on May 26, 1830 by President Andrew Jackson, 12,500 Choctaw were removed, of which 100-400 were said to have died of Cholera.⁸⁵ When the tribe reached Little Rock the Choctaw chief stated to the *Arkansas Gazette* that the removal was a "trail of tears and death". The job of escorting these bands of refugees along the "Trail of Tears" often fell to the Arkansas Militia. Governor Conway signed a proclama-

tion on October 22, 1836, which stated that there were numerous Indians "roving about the state.... without any fixed place of abode and committing depredations upon the property of the citizens contrary to the laws...." He ordered the Indians to leave and directed that "The Commandant of Regiments of the Militia in the several counties in the state and all subordinate officers are required to give their aid in carrying this order into effect."⁸⁶ It appears that members of the Pulaski, Conway, and Johnson County regiments were engaged at various times in guiding and or guarding various groups of Indian Tribes passing through the state in 1838.⁸⁷ Governor Conway again signed a proclamation on July 18, 1840, which read:

WHEREAS, representations have been made to me, that numerous Indians are roving about the state, particularly in Union county, without any fixed place of abode, and committing depredations upon the property of the citizens, contrary to the laws of the United States:

Therefore, I, James S. Conway, Governor of the state of Arkansas, in order to prevent difficulties from arising by the said Indians trespassing on the lands within the limits of this state, do hereby order them to depart beyond the limits thereof, under the penalties prescribed by law.

And the commandants of regiments of the militia in the several counties in the state, and all subordinate officers, are required to give their aid in carrying this order into effect.

One of the primary roles that the United States army performed in the Indiana Territory was to enforce peace between indigenous tribes such as the Osages and the tribes that were being resettled in the area, such as the eastern Cherokees. Fort Gibson and Fort Wayne were established in the Cherokee Nation to facilitate peace keeping operations. In the 1840s, the army continued to perform these roles, but also became involved in calming troubles between the major political factions in the Cherokee Nation. These political struggles internal to the Cherokee nation, often spilled across the state line in to Arkansas. Governor Yell called upon the Militia to respond to reports of disturbances along the border with Indian Territory. On January 12, 1842, an article ran in the paper under the caption, *Another Indian Murder*:

We learn, by two letters, of 3d and 4th inst., from Lewis Evans, Esq., residing in Washington county, immediately on the Cherokee boundary line, to Gov. Yell, that a most wanton and unprovoked murder was committed on the 31st ult., by a Cherokee Indian named Moses Alberty, jun., on the body of Mr. George Long, a very respectable and peaceable citizen of Madison county.

The murder was committed a few miles from Evansville, within the Indian country. A short time before the murder, a party of Indians, of whom Alberty was one, made an attack upon Col. Chas. M. McClellan, of Cane Hill, who succeeded in making his escape, Mr. Long shortly afterwards alighted from his horse. Mr. Long shortly afterwards slighted from his horse at the same house, and was warming himself by the fire, when he was attacked by Alberty, and wantonly murdered, without the slightest provocation....

The Governor has also, we understand, promptly ordered Major General Sneed to organize and hold in readiness a regiment of not less than 500 militia or volunteers, to protect the frontier against aggression or outrage from the Indians, and to bring the murderer to justice, if he should not promptly be surrendered to the U.S. authorities.

The letters referred to above, state that there was a great excitement among the citizens along the frontier, and a universal demand for the punishment of the murderer and chastisement of his abettors. There will be no difficulty, we understand, in raising the volunteers required by the Governor, or a much larger number, if needed.

There is no indication that these 500 volunteers were actually mobilized. However, in 1845, an internal political struggle between the recently arrived Cherokees led by Chief John Ross, and minority parties, including the Old Settler and Treaty parties, led by Chief Stand Watie turned violent. The conflict led to the murders of thirty-four people between November 1845 and November 1845 and resulted in the destruction of property belonging to both Cherokee and Arkansas residents of the area. Refugees from the conflict took shelter in the abandoned Fort Wayne, just across the state boarder from Maysville, in Benton County. The Cherokee refugees living at Fort Wayne became a threat to the nearby Arkansas community. The area around Maysville became plagued with robbery and several reported murders. Rumors were rampant among white settlements along the frontier that an Indian invasion of Arkansas was imminent.⁸⁸ This led Colonel W.R. Ogden of Benton County to call out a volunteer company to protect the local citizenry. The company of 30 men was stationed in Maysfield in Benton County. In late January 1846, General Arbuckle dispatched Colonel Mason to the area to gain an understanding of the situation and to convince the militia to stand down. By early February 1846, the militia company was withdrawn, because without the governor's approval of their activation, they were unable to pay for their subsistence.⁸⁹ General Arbuckle, ordered elements of the 1st Dragoons from Fort Gibson to occupy a series of camps along the Arkansas Boarder, including Fort

Wayne. An uneasy peace returned to the troubled border area, and under threat from President Polk of an enforced division of the Cherokee Nation, Cherokee leaders made peace with one another. In 1857, the United States Congress approved an act to settle certain accounts between the United States and the State of Mississippi and other states. Included in Section 9 of this act, was a provision for the Secretary of War to pay up to \$1200 to the State of Arkansas reimbursement for cost incurred when the Benton County militia was called out by Colonel Ogden.⁹⁰

GOVERNOR ARCHIBALD YELL

On March 4, 1840, Archibald Yell of Fayetteville, in Washington County, became the state's second elected governor. Yell served as the state's first Congressman beginning in 1836, after moving to Arkansas Territory in 1831. Yell had significant experience serving in volunteer companies in the Tennessee Militia prior to coming to office. He served in the Creek War in 1813, and later followed friend General Andrew Jackson to the Battle of New Orleans, serving and receiving special notice as a sergeant. In 1818, he again served under General Jackson, as a captain, during the First Seminole War in Florida.⁹¹ Ever the Jacksonian Democrat, he shared their belief in the value of a strong militia, as opposed to a large and expensive standing army, so he set about ensuring that the militia was properly organized:

THE MAJOR GENERALS of the Arkansas Militia will, without delay, proceed to organize their divisions into brigades, regiments, battalions, and companies, where it has not already been done, as directed by law, and report their strength and condition to the Adjutant General of the State, that the State of Arkansas may receive her due proportion of the public arms from the general government.

The Commander-in-chief expects every officer to do his duty. During the next year, the troops of the first division will be reviewed and inspected in person by the Commander-in-chief.

A. Yell Executive Department 15th Nov., 1840

Governor Yell appointed Samuel H. Hempstead, of Little Rock, Adjutant General; Abraham Whinnery, of Benton county, Inspector General; Elias Rector, of Crawford county, Quarter Master General; Elias N. Conway, of Little Rock, Pay Master General; A.C. Childress, of Lawrence county, Commissary General; all with the brevet rank of Brigadier General. Dr. John R. Desha, of Little Rock, Surgeon General; Lambert Reardon, of Little Rock, and Thomas B. Hanley, of Helena, Aides de Camp, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

On January 1, 1841, Adjutant General Hempstead, issued General Order No. 4, which announced that to enable him to

make the proper returns of the strength and conditions of the Militia of the State of Arkansas to the President, in accordance with the Militia Act of March 21, 1803, and to ensure that the State could receive its proportion of arms, provided for by Act of Congress on April 23, 1808, commanders of Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Brigades and Divisions were required to make the returns required by law. In response, on March 25, 1841, Major General Ryan, from his headquarters at Napoleon, issued Division Order No. 7, which stated:

By the act of the Legislature of Arkansas, approved 28th December, 1840, it is required of Major General of the Militia of Arkansas, on or before the first day of April 1841, to order the Brigadiers of the brigade of their respective division, to forthwith organize into companies, battalions, and regiments, all persons subject to the performance of military duty, within the limits of their respective brigades.

General Ryan required the brigade commanders to report to his headquarters at Napoleon on or before the first day of July, 1841, regarding the condition of their respective brigades. In response to this division order, Brigadier General John Clark of the 6th Brigade, 2nd Division, issued a Brigade Order directing the counties of Arkansas, Bradley, Chicot, Desha, Jefferson, Monroe, and Union, to immediately organize into companies, battalions and regiments and make the necessary returns to Brigadier General Clark's headquarters on or before the first day of June, 1841. Brigadier General Byrd took similar steps in the 2nd Brigade, announcing the "imperious necessity of prompt and energetic measures to organize immediately" The Commandants Conway, Johnson, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, White, and Yell Counties were ordered to have all vacancies filled and to make full report of the strength and condition of each company, on or before May 1, 1841. Brigadier General Wright Elliott was slower to respond to Major General Ryan's order, but on May 5, 1841, he issued an order requiring "the counties of Green, Poinsett, St. Francis, Phillips, Crittenden, and Mississippi, to be immediately organized into companies, battalions, and regiments, as the law directs, and make returns to me at my Head Quarters without delay."

VOLUNTEER COMPANIES

Success of volunteer organizations in the War of 1812, and in the various Indian incidents that followed, drove a change from reliance on drafts on the general militia for man power and to a reliance on volunteer companies. While early federal legislation on this issue, reserved to the president the right to appoint officers in the volunteers, in practice, volunteer companies retained the right to elect their own officers, with the President appointing General Officers. State Militia laws provided the rules for the election of officer in the volunteer

companies. Generally, when the President called for volunteers, the response was either from volunteer companies that were already in existence within the organized militia, or from new volunteer companies raised after the Presidents call. In either case the States utilized their own militia laws to conduct the elections, to the extent that the law did not disagree with the specifics of the Presidents call.⁹²

MILITIA ACT OF 1838

On December 17, 1838, an Act to authorize the raising volunteer of companies and regiments was approved by the Arkansas General Assembly. This act provided that citizens:

May raise and organize themselves into volunteer companies and regiments of cavalry, artillery, infantry, or other independent companies, and may elect their officers, and be governed by the same regulations as the militia of this State are by the existing laws: Provided, that said companies, battalions, and regiments, do not reduce any organized company of militia under the number now required by law.

Volunteer or independent companies were authorized by the Militia Law since the formation of the territory in 1804, and were authorized by the Militia Law of 1836, but the new law clarified and expanded the status of volunteer companies. It is likely that this revision was spurred by the conflict associated with the election of officers of volunteer organizations during the 1836 mobilization in Indian Territory of the Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Gunmen. Lieutenant Colonel Absalom Fowler argued that Governor Conway lacked the authority to order a new election of officers because the volunteers fell under authority of the regular army and because the unit lacked the 10 companies normally required to create a regiment, rather than a battalion. The act clarified the number of companies that could be organized into a separate battalion (two) and established the minimum number of companies required for a volunteer regiment (four). The new act allowed the volunteer companies to make bylaws for their own government and to select and prescribe their own uniform. The volunteer regiments were required to meet and parade at least twice a year, each battalion was required to meet and parade at least twice a year, and each volunteer company was to meet and parade at least four times each and every year.

The act required the Governor to commission the officers of any company, battalion, or regiment, raised and organized under the provisions of the act, and to furnish said companies with such arms as the State may have in possession. The act allowed the Governor to require a bond for the commanding officer of the volunteer organization to ensure the return of the arms, in good condition when the companies were dissolved. It gave priority to these volunteer companies for entering into service under a call to service over other compa-

nies of militia. This was likely intended to reward membership with the assurance of preferential treatment when companies were being chosen to enter federal service. Volunteer organizations organized under the act were entitled to the usual staff officers, to be appointed by the commanding officer. They not be subject to the commands of County Commandants but reported only to Brigadier General except when in actual service.

The act clarified the staffs assigned to each division, brigade and regiment of the regular militia. Major Generals were entitled to a staff consisting of one assistant inspector general, one assistant quartermaster general as many aid-de-camps as there may be brigades in his division, one surgeon of division, all of whom were appointed by the major general, have the rank of lieutenant colonel of cavalry. Each brigadier general was entitled to one brigade inspector, one aid-de-camp, one brigade quartermaster, and one surgeon of brigade, appointed by the brigadier general, each having the rank of major of cavalry. Each Colonel Commandant or the lieutenant colonel of each separate battalion was entitled to one adjutant, one quartermaster, and one surgeon, each with a rank of captain of cavalry; also, one sergeant major, one quartermaster sergeant, and one drum major, each with the rank of non-commissioned officers.

This act apparently had the effect of spurring organization of new volunteer companies around the state. A headline in the *Arkansas Gazette* in July 1839, read "Military Fever sweeps Arkansas, companies of volunteers forming."⁹³

As a sort of military fever is raging at the present time, we publish the law passed at the late session of the legislature, relative to the organization of volunteer companies. An artillery company is now forming in this city, under command of Captain Pike, which bids fair to become an ornament to the city, and we hope that some of our patriotic young men will see about raising an infantry company, which will be the means of creating a spirited rivalry, and thus insure our always having a respectable military force at hand, if ever an emergency should occur to render their services necessary. There are several volunteer corps organized in different parts of the State, and we hope soon to hear of there being at least one in every country where the population will admit of it. To young men, the practice of the manual and military exercises affords a rational and innocent amusement, and at the same time renders them abler to serve their country when it is necessary to take the field "in earnest."

Between 1838 and Governor Drew's election in 1844, fifteen volunteer militia companies were formed. But just a few months after announcing this volunteer fever, the same

newspaper published a warning to those counties who failed to organize:

*As there are several counties in this State, in which the militia is but partially organized, we would state that unless the citizens speedily form themselves into companies, our commanding officers, according to law, will have to attach all of them subject to military duty, to such companies, battalions, and regiments, as are organized, to be commanded by officers not elected by themselves, but by others, which will occasion much more trouble than to elect officers of their own, and hold their drills and parades within the bounds of their own districts and counties.*⁹⁴

The *List of Commissioned Officers* records the issuance of militia commission to the following volunteer companies be-

CAPTAIN	TYPE OF COMPANY	DATE COMMISSIONS ISSUED	COUNTY
Capt. William Bruce	Cavalry	September 17, 1845	Clark
Capt. Thomas Moore	Cavalry	May 6, 1837	Crawford
Capt. John Junnson	Cavalry	July 2, 1839	Crawford
William H. Darmell	Infantry	July 10, 1844	Crawford
Hiriam Brady	Infantry	June 1, 1846	Crawford
John M.M. Felch	Infantry	June 25, 1846	Crawford
John Iremmess	Cavalry	July 9, 1846	Crawford
Capt. N. A. Pryor, "Van Buren Volunteer Minutemen"	Cavalry	September 17, 1847	Crawford
Capt. William Chilton	Infantry	October 18, 1852	Crawford
Ruben T. Redman	Cavalry	October 24, 1846	Crittenden
Capt. J. H. McCarty	Cavalry	July 8, 1846	Franklin
Capt. John M. Mitchell	Infantry	August 10, 1846	Green
Capt. B.B. Owens	Cavalry	August 1, 1846	Independence
Capt. Shelby Smith	Cavalry	June 20, 1846	Jackson
Capt. Lyns Armstrong	Cavalry	April 10, 1841	Johnson
Capt. John Armstrong	Rifle	January 31, 1842	Johnson
Capt. Pleasant Collins	Cavalry	July 21, 1842	Johnson
Capt. William Floyd	Infantry	April 27, 1846	Johnson
Capt. Marvin B. Street, Vice Floyd	Infantry	January 4, 1847	Johnson
Capt. John Hill	Cavalry	October 14, 1847	Johnson
Capt. James Underwood	Cavalry	October 25, 1847	Lawrence
Capt. John Saunders	Rifle	May 25, 1844	Madison
Capt. James H. Sims	Cavalry	June 17, 1846	Ouachita
Capt. Luke Clifford	Infantry	May 6, 1841	Phillips
John W. Shaver	Rifle	May 15, 1841	Poinsett
Capt. Charles Neeley	Rifle	August 4, 1846	Poinsett
Capt. Marcus P Bynum	Cavalry	March 26, 1842	Pope
Capt. Andrew I Bayliss	Cavalry	May 10, 1844	Pope

CAPTAIN	TYPE OF COMPANY	DATE COMMISSIONS ISSUED	COUNTY
Capt. Albert Pike	Infantry	May 11, 1843	Pulaski
Capt. Albert Pike	Artillery	March 29, 1837	Pulaski
Capt. William Ammeear	Infantry	April 22, 1847	Pulaski
Capt. John C. Peay (Little Rock Guards)	Infantry	September 25, 1848	Pulaski
Capt. Robert Brazil	Cavalry	October 26, 1837	Saline
Capt. Andrew M. Dodd	Cavalry	February 22, 1843	Saline
Capt. David Hilley	Infantry	May 18, 1837	Scott
Capt. James F. Gains	Infantry	August 18, 1846	Scott
Capt. John Hensley	Cavalry	August 5, 1846	Searcy
Capt. [Illegible] Drews	Rifle	August 20, 1841	Union
Capt. Thompson M Loins	Artillery	March 24, 1838	Washington
Capt. Onesimus Evans	Cavalry	April 16, 1844	Washington
Capt. Samuel Marrs	Cavalry	September 20, 1843	Washington
Capt. Martian Gregg	Rifle	July 18, 1845	Washington
Capt. James Bowen	Rifle	May 18, 1846	Washington
Capt. George C. North	Rifles	September 17, 1847	Washington
Capt. Huckely	Rifle	January 21, 1845	Yell
Capt. Nehemiah Cravens	Cavalry	June 18, 1846	Yell



PIKE'S ARTILLERY

On August 27, 1836, amid concerns over hostile Indian attacks during the Texas Revolution, a volunteer artillery company, the First Artillery Company of Arkansas Militia, was organized in Pulaski County. The original commander of the battery was Captain John T. Fulton and the First Lieutenant was a young lawyer and newspaper editor by the name of Albert Pike.⁹⁶ The battery was formed and sufficiently drilled on its two six pound howitzers to fire a 26 gun salute on the day of Governor Conway's Inauguration, September 13, 1836. The battery was trained as both artillery and infantry. The battery was reorganized under the Militia Act of 1836, and elected Albert Pike as the commander on March 29, 1837. The unit became known as Pike's Artillery and the *Arkansas Gazette* referred to Pike's Artillery Company or the Little Rock Guards, as the unit was also known, regularly in the years between 1836 and 1846. The battery was a regular at Fourth of July celebrations and other causes for military demonstrations in the early 1840s. William F. Pope, an early settler in Little Rock, recorded in his memoirs that Pike's forty-man artillery company sent a "special agent" to New York City to obtain the following uniforms:

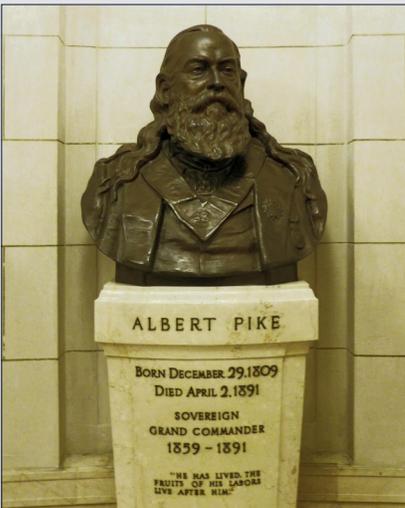
ARKANSAS MILITIA ACT OF 1843

*A full set of black broad-cloth, the coat cut swallow tail and faced with red. The trousers were of the same material, with a wide gold braid down the outside seams. For headgear, they had black beaver Shakos, with red pompoms. For summer wear, the uniform was a gray blouse, with red trimmings, with white duck trousers and gray fatigue caps.*⁹⁷

On one particular occasion Pikes Artillery Company was reviewed by the Quarter Master General of the Army, Thomas S. Jesup, who complimented them on their appearance and precision of drill.⁹⁸ Pike later served in the Confederate Army and as a leader in Freemasonry; he was the only Confederate leader honored with an outdoor statue in Washington, DC.



This statue on Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C., was sculpted by [Gaetano Trentanove](#). As the carving on the pedestal says, it was "ERECTED 1901 BY THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF AASR OF FREEMASONRY FOR THE SJUSA." It is the only statue of a Confederate general in a city filled with statues of Civil War generals. When Lev and I found the statue many years ago, someone had left a hand-lettered sign saying "Albert Pike/Take a Hike!" Except for the fact that "Soldier" is one of the four attributes mentioned on the base of the statue -- Author, Poet, Soldier, Scholar -- the monument is not intended to commemorate Pike's checkered military career, but to honor him as a prominent Mason.



Pike's remains were moved in December of 1944 to the new House of the Temple. His burial in a vault behind the steps in the Temple, required an act of Congress. The vault is in the wall behind this memorial bust.

Albert Pike
Born December 29, 1809
Died April 2, 1891
Sovereign
Grand Commander
1839 - 1891

"He has lived. The fruits of his labors live after him."

By 1843, the rapid growth in the number of counties in the new state necessitated the addition of two new brigades. The Legislature responded with "An Act for the better organization of the Militia of this State."⁹⁹ This new act, which had 50 sections, basically restated most of the 1837 law but added nine sections which dealt with the filling of vacancies among the officer corps. The act referred to counties which had not yet organized their militia and directed the sheriff of said counties to announce elections for the office of Colonel Commandant and required the sheriff to continue to announce elections until the office was filled. Colonels were given guidance on filling vacancies. The law expanded the number of musters or drills that were to be conducted to include one regimental muster, one battalion muster, and four company musters each year. Volunteer Companies of cavalry, artillery and riflemen were authorized and the act allowed for the formation of one regiment of cavalry in each brigade where four or more cavalry companies had been formed. The act provided for pay for a regimental adjutant and for the musicians at the regimental and company levels. A Judge Advocate was appointed for each regiment and procedures for the conduct of courts martial and collection of fines were clarified. Emphasis was placed on reporting the attendance at company musters to enable the state to make its required return to the United States War department. In the same session, the legislature passed a separate act entitled "An act requiring the Adjutant General to report the strength of the Militia of this State" to the proper officer of the General Government.¹⁰⁰ This act was apparently necessary because the state failed to receive its authorized allowance of weapons from the federal government for a number of years because state had not filed the proper reports or "returns" with the War Department. A return from Arkansas filed with the Secretary of War dated January 15, 1844, reported the State as having a total of 17,137 militiamen.¹⁰¹ The 1844 return indicated that the state had three cavalry companies, and one rifle company but no organized artillery company.¹⁰² This may be because Pike's Company reorganized as an Infantry unit in May 1843. The *Arkansas Gazette* announced on January 1, 1841, that Governor Archibald Yell numbered the regiments as follows:¹⁰³

DIVISION	BRIGADE	REGIMENT	COLONEL	COUNTY
1st Division Major General S.G. Sneed (1839-Nov 1844) Maj. Gen. S.D. Blackburn (1844-1852) Maj. Gen. Thomas D. Merrick (1852-1861)	1st Brigade Brig. Gen. Benjamin P. Jett. (1844-1861)	47th Regiment	Col. Calvin Clift (1846)	Hot Spring
		28th Regiment	Col. W. Barkman (1839) Col. George Wells (1845)	Clark
		38th Regiment	Maj. James C. Mansfield (1845) Lieut. Col. Charles Bratcher (1846)	Pike
		8th Regiment	Col. Samuel Baldwin (1844) Col. John W. Cocke (1846) Col. Thomas M. Bankhead (1848)	Hempstead
		40th Regiment	Col. Alexander C. Owen (1846)	Lafayette
		37th Regiment	Col. Thomas C. P. French (1837) Col. Lewis C. Props (1843) Col. Thomas Beavers, (1846)	Sevier
		39th Regiment	Col. Alfred B. Faile (1845)	Ouachita
		57th Regiment	None Recorded before 1860	Montgomery
	2nd Brigade Brig. Gen. Richard C. Byrd (March 1840-1844) Brig. Gen. Bennett B. Ball (1844-1860)	26th Regiment	Col. Charles Fitch (Hitch) (1844)	Yell
		18th Regiment	Col. J.J. Joiner (1840) Col. Stephen L Dodson (1845) Col. George W. Rutherford (1846)	Saline
		13th Regiment	Col. James H. Obaugh (1841) Col. T.D. Merrick (1842) Col. Franklin Smithson,(1845) Col. Stephen S. Tucker, (1846) Col. Isaac J. Howard (1846)	Pulaski
		21st Regiment	Col. M.H. Blue (1844) Col. James Elliott, (1845) Col. Jonathan Owen (1846)	White
		4th Regiment	Col. John Allen (1843)	Conway
		15th Regiment	Col Ruben R. Flemming (1843) Col. Hiram W. Taylor (1846) Col. John A. Bryant, (1846) Col. Hugh Hamilton (1848)	Pope
		36th Regiment	Col. William Turner (1844)	Perry
	3rd Brigade Brig. Gen. Washington Duval (1841-1860)	10th Regiment	Col. Charles Huckery(1837) Col. Oliver Pafsham (1845) Col. William Goodrich (1845)	Johnson
		17th Regiment	Col. Samuel Lee (1845)	Scott
		5th Regiment	Col Henry Starr (1841)	Crawford
		7th Regiment	Col Thomas C. Tomberlin (1843) Col A.B. Alston (1846)	Franklin
	4th Brigade Brig. Gen. Allen Wood (August 1845-1847) Brig. Gen. William T. Neal (Nov, 1847-1861)	20th Regiment	Col. George G. Gregg (1843) Col. [Illegible] Newton (1843) Col. Abner Blackburn (1845) Col. Henry Rieff (1847)	Washington
		32 nd Regiment	Col. Allen Wood (1841) Col. William T. Neal (1845) Col. Isaac C. Denton. (1848)	Washington
		2nd Regiment	Col. [Illegible]nge Mattly (1843) William R. Ogden (1846)	Benton
		11th Regiment	Col. I. H. Carleton (1843) Col. Benjamin Vaughn (1845)	Madison
			Col Joseph Bowen (1845)	Madison
		3rd Regiment	Col. Telford Denton (1843) Col. John M. Ferguson (1845)	Carroll

DIVISION	BRIGADE	REGIMENT	COLONEL	COUNTY
2nd Division Maj. Gen. S.V.R. Ryan (1836-1846) Maj. Gen. James Yell (1846-1861)	5th Brigade Brig. Gen. Wright W. Elliot, (Feb 1840-1844) Brig. Gen. John Preston, Jr. (1844-1861)	19th Regiment	Col. John H. [illegible] (1841)	St. Francis
		14th Regiment	Col. Charles Neely (1839)	Poinsett
		12th Regiment	Col. Elisha Burk (1839)	Phillips
		30th Regiment	Col. P.G. Pollock (1841)	Crittenden
		48th Regiment	None Recorded	Mississippi
		35th Regiment	Col. George M. Blackman (1837)	Monroe
	6th Brigade Brig. Gen. John Clark (1837-1846) Brig. Gen. Thomas S. James (Oct 28, 1846-1865)	27th Regiment	Col. I.E. Crane	Bradley
		24th Regiment	Col. John B. Nicolay (1846)	Jefferson
		1st Regiment	Col. John H Lenox(1837)	Arkansas
		23rd Regiment	Col. Edward McDermott (1841)	Chicot
		29th Regiment	Col. Edmund Tatum (1838)	Union
		6th Regiment	Col. Elijah Cheatham (1841)	Desha
	7th Brigade No Commander elected prior to 1861	43rd Regiment	Col. George Adams (1844) Col. G. S. Irons (1844)	Fulton
		42nd Regiment	Col. John A. Beck (1843) Col. Andrew B. Smith (1846)	Izard
		22nd Regiment	Col. Sims S. Owings (1846)	Van Buren
		31st Regiment	Col. Jesse Carroll (1841)	Marion
		45th Regiment	Lt. Col. Robertson, (1839) Col. William Majors (1846)	Searcy
		41st Regiment	Col. Thomas Thompson (1842)	Newton
	8th Brigade No Commander elected prior to 1861	9th Regiment	Col. Daniel J. Chapman (1837)	Independence
		34th Regiment	Col. Asa M. Carpenter (1841)	Jackson
		25th Regiment	Col. G.G. Birdsong (1845)	Lawrence
16th Regiment		Col. James G. Russell (1837)	Randolph	
33rd Regiment		Col. Henry S. Holt (1839)	Greene	

FIRST SIGNS OF DECAY

Even as the General Assembly expanded the militia on paper, there were signs that the militia was not healthy in all parts of the state. The two new brigade command billets remained unfilled until the great militia revival of 1860. A review of *The List of Commissioned Officers* indicates that following the Militia Act of 1836, all but a couple of counties followed the act's requirement to elect Colonel Commandants, partition the county into battalions and companies and elect the company grade officers. But in several, particularly eastern counties, this initial organization was the last recorded activity prior to the revival of 1860. Arkansas County for instance elected a County Commandant, and company officers, but no further commissions were issued for the county until March of 1860. Desha County elected its last officers in 1841, and then went dormant until February 1860. Mississippi and Craighead counties never organized their militia prior to 1860. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the western most counties, along the frontier with Indian Territory, seem to have had greater levels of militia ac-

tivity. Washington, Sebastian, Johnson, Madison, Sevier, Hempstead and Crawford counties seem to have had the most consistent and persistent militia organizations, with elections continuing in some areas up until 1849. The Washington and Madison county militias even grew to the point of organizing a second regiment in each county. In some counties, militia activity was clearly linked to political activity, where men running for office were expected to hold rank in the militia, such seems to be the case in Pulaski, Phillips and Jefferson counties, where there was little if any threat that would spark interest in the militia, but militia elections seem to have been constantly maintained up to the Mexican War. Many other counties completed their initial organization, but elections seemed to cease at the beginning of the Mexican War in 1846.

NEW GENERAL OFFICERS

MAJOR GENERAL SAMUEL D. BLACKBURN

Major General Samuel D. Blackburn of Pulaski County was commissioned as the Major General of the 1st Division, Ar-

kansas State Militia in 1844-1852. Blackburn served as the Sargent Major for the Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Gunmen during its 1836 service in the Indian Territory. Upon returning from Indian Territory he established a law practice in Little Rock.¹⁰⁴ Blackburn appointed David J. Baldwin and Robert M. Cox to serve as his Aids de Camp, Lewis Evans, of Washington county, Assistant Inspector General; Ebenezer Cummins, of Pulaski county, Assistant Quarter Master General, and George W. Powell, of Franklin county, Surgeon of Division, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonels of Cavalry.¹⁰⁵ On May 2, 1846, he appointed Charles P. Bertrand, of Little Rock, 2nd Aid de Camp, and William Goodrich, of Clarksville, Johnson County, Assistant Adjutant General of Division with the rank of Lieutenant Colonels of Cavalry. Blackburn was party to several law suits revolving around issues involving the Arkansas Real Estate Bank. He resigned sometime prior to June 1852.

MAJOR GENERAL JAMES YELL

James Yell was commission Colonel Commandant of the 24th Regiment, Jefferson County Arkansas on April 12, 1842. He was commissioned Major General commanding the 2nd Division of the Arkansas Militia on July 17, 1846. He was the nephew of Colonel and former Governor Archibald Yell. He represented Jefferson County in the Arkansas Senate from 1842 to 1845. In 1854, he ran unsuccessfully for Governor. He served until the end of the Civil War in this capacity. He was a delegate to the Secession Convention in 1861, and briefly commanded a division of Arkansas State Troops in northeast Arkansas before those troops were transferred to Confederate Service.

MAJOR GENERAL T.D. MERRICK

T.D. Merrick was appointed Adjutant to Colonel J.H. Obaugh, in the 13th Regiment of Pulaski County in 1841. He was elected Colonel Commandant of the same regiment on September 6, 1842. He was a prominent member of the Little Rock business community as a merchant and cotton broker.¹⁰⁶ Merrick was an important figure in in Freemasonry, holding the position of Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas in 1845. Merrick was also involved in city politics, serving on the board of aldermen, as fire chief for a number of years, and as mayor from 1854 to 1855. He ran as a candidate for Major General in the 1st Division in the 1844 election to replace Major General Seaborn, but was defeated. He was elected Major General of the 1st Division in 1852. There are few if any General Orders issued by Major General Merrick prior to the militia revival of 1860. In fact, it is interesting that Merrick's name appears in Little Rock newspapers more often as the Adjutant of the 13th Regiment, than it does as either County Commandant or Major General prior to 1860. Merrick paved a key role in the seizure of the Little Rock Arsenal in 1861, and he entered Confederate Service as the Colonel of the 10th Arkansas Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENJAMIN PENDLETON JETT

Dr. Benjamin P. Jett, of Hempstead County was elected Colonel Commandant of the Hempstead County militia in 1837. Jett, who was born in Culpeper County, Virginia in 1808, came to Hempstead County in 1829, purchasing land about four miles south of the community of Washington.¹⁰⁷ His office and drugstore were in the town. Besides practicing medicine, he became involved in state politics, being elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1838 and again in 1853. Jett was elected Brigadier General of the 1st brigade, consisting of the southwestern Counties of Hot Springs, Pike, Hempstead, Lafayette, Sevier, Ouachita, and Montgomery. During his second term in the State House of Representatives, Jett was elected Speaker of the House. In 1857, he purchased the *Hempstead Democrat*, a Washington newspaper established, which he edited for about two years. In 1860, he served as an elector for presidential candidate Breckinridge. During the Civil War, Jett helped organized volunteer companies for Confederate service, and his son served as a second lieutenant in the Hempstead Rifles.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENNETT B. BALL

Bennett B. Ball of Conway County served as the Colonel Commandant of the Pulaski County Militia during the territorial period, elected in 1833. In 1837, Ball was elected Colonel Commandant of Conway County, Arkansas. He served as the County Judge of Conway County from 1835-1835, and as the prosecuting attorney for the 2nd Circuit in 1836.¹⁰⁸ When Brigadier General Richard C. Byrd became acting Governor in 1844, Ball was elected to succeed him as Brigadier General of the 2nd Brigade, consisting of Yell, Saline, Pulaski, White, Conway, Pope and Perry Counties. He appointed Ebenezer Cummins, of Little Rock, Aid-de-camp, with the rank of Major of Cavalry.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WASHINGTON DUVAL

In 1841, Washington Duval, of Crawford County, was elected Brigadier General of the 3rd Brigade, consisting of the western counties of Johnson, Scott, Crawford, and Franklin. He appointed J.J. Green of Van Buren, as his Aide de Camp.¹⁰⁹ In 1846, General Duval was announced as a candidate for Sheriff of Crawford County.¹¹⁰ Washington Duval is listed in the United States Federal Census Slave Schedule for Crawford County, Arkansas as owning seven slaves.¹¹¹ Duval is listed as the post master of Natural Dam, Crawford County, Arkansas, in 1842.¹¹² Duval apparently died in office sometime prior to 1860.

BRIGADIER GENERAL ALLEN WOOD

In 1841, Allen Wood, was elected Colonel Commandant of the new 32nd Regiment, of Washington County. This was a

new second regiment, authorized in Washington County, the first being the 20th Regiment. In 1845, Wood was elected Brigadier General of the 4th Brigade, consisting of the northwestern counties of Washington, Benton, Madison, and Carroll. In 1846 during the Mexican War, Wood resigned his position as Brigadier General and raised a company of Arkansans for the Twelfth Infantry. During the administration of Governor John S. Roane, he served as the Adjutant General of Arkansas. Upon Brigadier General Allen's resignation, William T. Neal was elected to command the 4th Brigade.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM T. NEAL

William T. Neal of Washington County was elected as the Lieutenant Colonel of the 1st Battalion of the 32nd Regiment, from Washington County in January 1843. In 1845, he was elected Colonel Commandant of the Regiment. He was elected Brigadier General of the 4th Brigade on 4 November 1847, to replace Brigadier General Wood when he resigned to accept a commission as a Captain in an infantry company for the Mexican War. William T. Neal's brother, James Neal, served as a Lieutenant in Captain Stephen B. Enyart's company of Dragoons during the Mexican War. Neal played an active role in the reorganization of the militia, which occurred under Governor Elias N. Conway's administration in 1859 and 1860. At the beginning of the Civil War, Neal raised a volunteer company from his militia regiment and entered Confederate Service as the Lieutenant Colonel of the 16th Regiment, Arkansas Volunteer Infantry. He was killed during the Civil War by the Federals in a skirmish near Clarksville, in Johnson County, Arkansas on April 1, 1864.

BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS S. JAMES

Thomas S. James of Jefferson County was elected Lieutenant Colonel of the 1st Battalion, 24th Regiment on March 4, 1844. He was elected Brigadier General of the 6th Brigade, consisting of the southeastern Arkansas Counties of Bradley, Jefferson, Arkansas Chicot, Union and Desha, on October 28, 1846. He served as the County Clerk of Jefferson County from 1844-50.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN PRESTON, JR.

John Preston, Jr. of Helena, in Phillips County was elected Brigadier General of the 5th Brigade, consisting of the eastern counties of St. Francis, Poinsett, Phillips, Crittenden, Mississippi, and Monroe. Preston was a Lawyer and Plantation owner near Helena and owned several slaves.¹¹³ Politically, Preston was a close ally of Albert Pike, sitting on the Whig Central Committee. During the War with Mexico, Preston raised a volunteer company from Phillips County and was elected Captain. His company and Albert Pike's company were separated into a separate squadron of cavalry, and were praised for the drill and discipline of their soldiers, unlike the rest of the Arkansas Regiment. In 1850, Preston ran unsuccessfully for the United States House of Representatives, as a Whig, against

Democratic candidate Robert W. Johnson.¹¹⁴

REGIMENTAL MUSTERS

In the years before the war with Mexico, regimental musters were apparently conducted and brigade commanders were active in inspecting their units as evidenced by this 1843 order from Brigadier General R.C. Byrd, commander of the 2nd Brigade of the Arkansas Militia:

BRIGADE ORDER, NO. 12

Head Quarters

Little Rock, August 12, 1843

Notice is hereby given, to the commandants of the several regiments composing the second brigade of the first division Arkansas Militia, that they be reviewed in the following order, at their respective muster grounds:

The 15th regiment (Pope county), Col. S. Moffit, commandant, on Saturday, the 7th day of October next.

The 26th Regiment, (Yell county), Colonel Charles Fitch, commandant, on Thursday, the 12th day of October next.

The 4th regiment, (Conway county), Colonel B.H. Ball, commandant, on Saturday, the 14th day of October next.

The 36th regiment, (Perry county), Col. Wm. Turner, commandant, on Thursday, the 19th day of October next.

The 21st regiment, (White county), Colonel M.H. Blue, commandant, on Saturday, the 21st day of October next.

The 13th regiment, (Pulaski County,) Colonel T.D. Metrich, commandant, on Thursday, the 26th day of October next.

The 18th regiment, (Saline county), Colonel J.J. Joiner, commandant, on Saturday, the 28th day of October next.

R.C. Byrd, Brig. General

Of Second Brigade, Arkansas Militia

*Times & Advocate copy, two weeks.*¹¹⁵

Brigadier General Ball, who succeeded General Byrd as commander of 2nd Brigade, issued a similar order on August 24, 1844, giving notice that he intended to review the troops on their regimental muster grounds. Regimental, Battalion and

Company musters, parades and drills of the 13th Regiment from Pulaski County were regularly published in the local newspaper, between statehood until approximately 1849.¹¹⁶

Militia Order

All persons liable to Military duty in the first Battalion, 13th Regiment, Arkansas Militia, are hereby ordered to attend a Battalion Muster, at the State House, in the City of Little Rock, on Saturday, the first day of April next, at 10 o'clock, A.M., Armed and equipped as the law directs.

Commandants of companies are also notified to hold company musters, at their respective muster grounds, on Saturday, the 25th of March inst.

*E. Walters, Lt. Col.
Commanding 1st Battalion
13th Regiment, Arkansas Militia
Little Rock, March 14, 1843¹¹⁷*

From an October 12, 1848 order by Colonel I.J. Howard of Pulaski County, we learn that officers were required to report three days prior to each muster for drill.¹¹⁸ This was done in accordance with the muster provisions of the militia law to ensure that officers understood the drill that was to be conducted at the muster of the full unit. On April 29, 1840, the Gazette carried a description of the muster of one of the battalions in the 13th Regiment:

We attended a parade of the second battalion of the militia of this county a week or two since, at the house of Mr. J.H. Reed, on Bayou Metre, on the north side of Arkansas. Some hundred and seventy men were paraded, under Maj. A.J. Ferguson, and made as good an appearance as could be expected of untrained soldiers, although, from the day being stormy, but little could be done in the way of evolutions. After being reviewed by Col. Thorn, the men were dismissed, and were addressed by Messrs. Cummins and Hempstead, two candidates for the Legislature. Mr. Bertrand, another of the candidates, offered to mount the stump, but as the "boys" did not seem inclined to listen, the speech did not come off. The fact of the matter was, that out of near two hundred persons who were on the ground, not more than twenty-five were Whigs of the new kind, and out of those we did not hear the name of Harrison once. - Mr. Cummins had given them "Whiggery" enough for one day.

Newspapers in other parts of the state also contained announcements of regular musters:

*March 28, 1846,
Headquarters, First Battalion 5th Reg't. Arkansas Militia,
Order No. 2*

*TO THE MILITIA composing the Van Buren Township;
You are hereby ordered to meet at the usual place of holding elections in your township on Tuesday the 24th of March to elect a Captain vice. T.C. Boyer, removed from this State.*

*Thos. E. Wilson,
Lieut. Col. Com.*

GOVERNOR DREW'S REFORM OF VOLUNTEER COMPANIES



The election of 1844 saw two of the state's militia Generals running for office. Brigadier General Richard C. Byrd, commander of the central Arkansas 2nd Brigade of the State Militia ran against Brigadier General Thomas Stevenson Drew, commander of the northern Arkansas 4th Brigade. Both ran as Democrats. Drew ran as a consensus candidate in a badly divided Democratic party. The third candidate in the race was Whig candidate Lorenzo Gibson. Brigadier General Drew won by a plurality.¹¹⁹ As Governor, Drew did not utilize the office of Adjutant General in the same way earlier Governor's had to issue orders to the militia. Most of Governor Drew's orders were issued directly to the militia commanders. Perhaps as an olive branch to the Whig party, or perhaps because of the man's experience as a militia leader, he appointed Albert Pike of Little Rock as Adjutant General. Pike served as Adjutant General from 1845-46, and then Governor Drew Appointed Solon Borland, as Adjutant General. Borland apparently only served briefly before mobilizing with the Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Volunteers. In a letter to the Citizen Soldiers of Arkansas, Governor Drew, encouraged the creation of volunteer companies and clarified the connection between what he styled as the "Volunteer Corps," and the state militia:

Having held for eight years and upwards, the command of a general officer, in the Militia of this state, and observed the impotence of any law heretofore passed by the legislature, to effectuate one single purpose of this enactment towards organization and discipline, in a reliable shape for active and serviceable purposes, in time of hostility, I took occasion in my first regular message to the General Assembly, to their attention to this subject, in the following words recom-

mended the passage of a law authorizing the raising of volunteer companies, and to wit; " Volunteer Companies are believed to be among the most efficient constituents of the militia, both for the purposes of discipline and for infusing sprit among our Citizen Soldiers. It would therefore be good policy I think, to encourage their formation. ¹²⁰

In response to Governor Drew, the legislature passed, and on January 9, 1845, Drew approved a law authorizing the raising of volunteer companies, under the caption, "Act Supplementary to an Act for the better organization of the militia."¹²¹ The new act provided that as many as four companies of volunteers could be raised in each county, one of Infantry, one of Riflemen, one of Cavalry, and one of Artillery. The act gave the volunteer organizations a degree of independence from the general militia by providing:

That every volunteer corps now organized, or which may hereafter to raised, in this state, shall hereafter be wholly independent of the Militia of the country, except at Battalion and Regimental parades, when such companies, shall parade as part of the county Regiment, and in regard to such parades, all existing laws shall fully apply to such volunteer companies.

Apparently, this act finally helped spur interest in the formation of volunteer militia companies around the state. *The Saturday Arkansas Intelligencer* of Van Buren, ran the following editorial on May 24, 1845:

The "Crawford Guards" have revived again after long delay they have procured forty good and serviceable musquets, and are determined to make a gallant and well trained company. They have chosen good officers.

*We are requested to ask, and we ask for our own information, why the Militia have not been mustered for upwards of a year? Why have no Colonel and no Captain brought out their 'trained bands' for review? Have they given up the duties of their offices, and left the Militia officerless? See to it.*¹²²

After Governor Drew's reforms, over 25 volunteer companies were formed before the militia declined and became dormant in the 1850s. Most of these formed during the Mexican War, but several companies were formed after the war had concluded. Exactly how long each of these units existed is unclear, but there is evidence in *The List of Commissioned Officers*, of replacement of officers in some of the companies for several years.

MEXICAN–AMERICAN WAR



Caption: Flag presented by Ms. Josephine P. Buckner to Albert Pike's Little Rock Guards; inscribed with the words "Up Guards and at em."

With the successful conclusion of the Texas Revolution in 1836, a nine-year period of uneasy peace followed. However, in 1845, the expansionist United States Congress admitted Texas to the Union. War with Mexico followed immediately.¹²³

CALL TO ARMS

Upon the declaration of war in April 1846, Congress authorized the calling of 50,000 volunteers to augment the regular Army which, at the outbreak of the war, consisted of just 734 officers and 7,885 enlisted men. Although the war caused the army to be increased somewhat in size, the United States has always had a reluctance to maintain a large standing military, thus the call for volunteers.¹²⁴ On May 9, 1846, in anticipation of a call for volunteer companies, Governor Drew issued General Order No. 7 which read:

Whereas, information to be relied upon has been received, that actual hostilities have commenced between the United States and Mexico - that our Army of Occupation" is surrounded by a large body of Mexican troops - and that General Taylor has made a requisition upon the States of Louisiana, and Texas, for reinforcement, to enable him to meet the enemy. And, whereas, it is probable that more troops will be required, and, in order to supply them, a call will be made upon this State.

Therefore, I, Thomas S. Drew, Governor and Commander in Chief of the State of Arkansas, make this my preliminary Proclamation to all persons under my command, liable to do military duty, to hold themselves ready to be enrolled into the military service of the Union; particularly directing and requiring each and every General of Division, General of Brigade, and Colonel of Regiment, to take, forthwith, all necessary and proper steps to ascertain the strength and condition of their respective commands, in men, arms, and equipment; and to report, at the earlies practicable moment, to the Adjutant General.

*Confidently relying upon the patriotism, and gallantry of our citizen Soldiers, that in the evens of their services being needed, voluntary enrollment will supersede the necessity of a Draft, I suggest the speedy organization of Volunteer Companies, throughout the State...*¹²⁵

On May 15, 1846, Secretary of War W. L. Marcy wrote to Governor Drew requesting one regiment of cavalry or mounted gunmen and one battalion of infantry. Secretary Marcy's message included a copy of the Congressional act and provided number and types of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates authorized in the volunteer companies. The cavalry was to proceed to Fort Smith where they would serve as replacements for regular forces being sent to the battlefield.¹²⁶

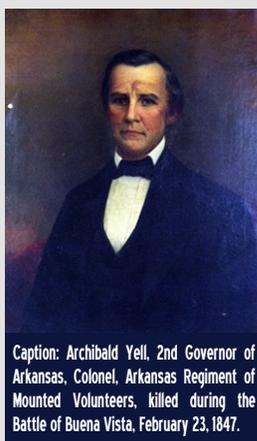
The Federal legislation authorizing the volunteers, left the appointment of officers to the States. The law provided that to organize the volunteer units each governor was to direct his militia officers or the county sheriffs to assemble the local militia units and call for volunteers. The volunteers were then to march to the state rendezvous point and organize into units and be mustered into federal service. The companies that answered the call were a combination of existing volunteer militia companies, such as Capt Albert Pike's Little Rock Guards or the Crawford County Avengers (a.k.a. the Van Buren Avengers) under Captain John S. Roane and new volunteer companies organized after the Governor's call.¹²⁷

On May 27, 1846, in accordance with the federal legislation, Governor Thomas Drew issued a proclamation calling for volunteers to fight in the Mexican War.¹²⁸ He established Washington in Hempstead County as the Rendezvous point and appointed Brigadier General Solon Borland to receive and muster the volunteers into service. Governor Drew also clarified that the militia laws of the state would govern the election of officers for the volunteer companies raised under this proclamation and federal legislation. The next day, on May 28, 1846, Governor Drew wrote to Col Henry Starr, Commandant of the Crawford County Militia and likely at the same time to other regimental commanders to provide his guidance for formation of the volunteer companies:

Sir: the mail that conveys this letter, will furnish you with an Extra Banner; from which you will perceived I am relying upon you and other gallant spirits, to aid in the formation of Volunteer Companies, from various Regiments in the state; at least for 15 Companies!

I hope you will excerpt yourself in aid 9of the object of the Proclamation, and encourage our citizen soldiers in your vicinity to rally to the standard of our common country.

So soon as a company of 94 men, including officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, musicians, &c., as per schedule, are enrolled, and the organization completed by the election of officers, you or the captain of the company, will cause a muster roll to be made out and forwarded to me with a report informing me of the probable time you will be able to rendezvous....¹²⁹



Caption: Archibald Yell, 2nd Governor of Arkansas, Colonel, Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Volunteers, killed during the Battle of Buena Vista, February 23, 1847.

The war drew volunteers from every strata of society, including two of the most famous Arkansans of the period, former governor Archibald Yell, who was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, and Albert Pike. Yell left Washington and enlisted in Solon Borland's company in Little Rock as a private. Albert Pike was serving as the commander of the "Little Rock Guards" which answered the governor's call as a cavalry unit. Arkansas Militiamen were represented by

George Morrison, who joined out of necessity. Morrison stated that he joined Pike's company because he had been out of work and needed the salary of \$10 per month.¹³⁰ After a round of speechmaking and picnics, a rendezvous was set at Washington in Hempstead County. Twenty-two companies of cavalry and seven companies for infantry answered the governor's call.¹³¹ From these volunteer companies, two new commands were formed, the Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Volunteers, which would deploy to Mexico, and the Arkansas Battalion of Infantry and Mounted Rifles, which would serve along the western frontier, replacing federal troops being utilized in the war effort. By the middle of June 1846, the Arkansas troops were organized. Judging from the number of weapons drawn, the companies initially ranged in size from sixty to seventy-one men.¹³² By June 20, the Arkansas troops were marching to Washington, Arkansas. The sleepy little village of Washington was awash with activity as troops from all across the middle South stopped to rest and organize into larger units.

When it came time to elect the regimental commanders, the Arkansas troops had a choice of two men: Albert Pike and Archibald Yell. Pike, a good militia commander and outstanding jurist, politician, and author, was a leader of the Whig Party in Arkansas. Pike, like the Whig Party in general, was opposed to the war in Mexico. Still, Pike took his militia responsibilities seriously and muted his criticism of the war. Pike's politics, combined with his aristocratic bearing and reputation as a stern disciplinarian, resulted in the election of Yell as colonel. Yell resigned his congressional seat to join the Arkansas troops. Although an influential politician, he had neither military training nor the willingness to learn. The election of Yell was to result in disaster for the Arkansas volunteers later in the war. Two other prominent Democrats, John S. Roane and Solon Borland, were elected lieutenant colonel and major, respectively.¹³³

THE ARKANSAS REGIMENT OF MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS



The Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Volunteers was formed from troops from the following counties: ¹³⁴

COMPANY	COUNTY	CAPTAIN	DATE MUSTERED INTO FEDERAL SERVICE
A	Pope	James S. Moffett	July 1, 1846
B	Pulaski	Solon Borland Christopher Dailey	July 2, 1846
C	Johnson	George W. Patrick	June 30, 1846
D	Independence	Andrew R. Porter	July 3, 1846
E	Pulaski formerly the "Little Rock Guards"	Albert Pike	July 2, 1846
F	Crawford, the "Van Buren Avengers"	John S. Roane John L. Dillard	June 29, 1846
G	Sevier	Edward Hunter	July 1, 1846
H	Franklin	William C. Preston	June 30, 1846
I	Hot Springs and Saline formerly the "Saline Rangers"	William English	July 1, 1846
J	Phillips	John Preston, Jr.	July 10, 1846

ARKANSAS BATTALION OF INFANTRY AND MOUNTED RIFLES

With the outbreak of the Mexican War in May 1846, soldiers of the 6th Infantry and 1st Dragoons stationed at Fort Smith, Arkansas and Fort Gibson in Indian Territory departed for Mexico. Ongoing political violence in the Cherokee nation had prompted the army aggressively to patrol the region. The deployment of regular army forces from the region to Mexico left a reduced garrison in the troubled frontier region. To replace these men, five companies of volunteers from the state of Arkansas were called into service as the Battalion of Arkansas Volunteers. The battalion occupied Fort Smith and Fort Gibson, as well as Fort Wayne in Indian Territory, for nine and a half months during 1846 and 1847.

In order to continue the important policing function among the Indian fractions, the Secretary of War requested Governor Drew to provide five companies of Infantry as reinforcements for the army. The battalion of infantry rendezvoused at Fort Smith. The order allowed the substitution of two companies of Cavalry for two infantry companies of these provide easier to raise. Raising Infantry companies, rather than Cavalry proved to be a problem just as it had in 1836.

Governor drew initially allocated infantry companies from Johnson County, commanded by Capt. William Grey, from Washington County, commanded by Capt. George Cline, and

from Pope County commanded by Capt David West. The cavalry companies were allocated to the Lawrence county company commanded by Captain John Ficklin and Madison County, Commanded by Capt. Allen Wood. Two perspective company commanders, Capt. George Cline of Washington County and Capt. Andrew Motion from Crawford County both wrote to General Arbuckle to explain that it was impossible to raise infantry companies because the men preferred to serve as cavalry. Captain Wood and his intended replacement, Captain Stephen Enyart, led their companies into the Regular Army, for service in Mexico, rather than accept service on the border.¹³⁵ Eventually Capt. John H. H. Felch raised a company of infantry near Fort Smith to replace Capt. Cline's company and Charles H. Pelham's company from Independence County replaced Capt Wood's company.

The battalion received its issue of uniforms, equipment and weapons at Fort Smith. In July, elections for battalion officers were held and Capt William Grey was elected battalion commander, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Grey received orders to station himself and three companies, A, B, and C at Fort Gibson, Company E under Captain Pelham to Fort Wayne, and Capt. Felch's Company D, was to remain at Fort Smith. All companies reached their assigned duty stations by August 7th.¹³⁶

Captain Pelham's Company E and members of Captain Felch's Company D won praise for their actions along the

border, and at the end of their term, citizens in the local communities wrote petitions asking for their continued service.¹³⁷ The battalion was hit hard by disease, especially the measles. Capt John Fickle of Lawrence County, died of the measles at Fort Smith, in December 1846, as did many others of the battalion. Twenty-nine members of the battalion died while in service, and twenty others were discharged due to disabilities.¹³⁸

Lieut. Col. Grey and the main body of the battalion, stationed with regular army officers at Fort Gibson, had an even more difficult time. Grey's habit of furloughing his men to recuperate at home and his men's refusal to perform certain work details around the camp led to friction with the regular army commander of the post, Lt. Col. Gustavus Loomis. Late pay for the volunteers, led to an increase in desertions, which caused more friction.

The nine and one half month service of the Battalion of Arkansas Volunteers came to an end in April 1847. The last companies left Fort Gibson and departed for home on April 20, 1847. The Battalion helped maintain a fragile peace among the factions of the Cherokee Nation, while the Regular and other Arkansas Volunteer Companies fought the War with Mexico. The Arkansas Battalion of Infantry and Mounted Rifles consisted of five companies of men totaling about 380 men. The following companies made up the battalion:

COMPANY	COUNTY	OFFICERS	DATE OF COMMISSIONING OF OFFICERS	DATE MUSTERED OUT OF FEDERAL SERVICE/LOCATION
A	Johnson	Capt. William Grey	June 15, 1846	April 20, 1847, Fort Gibson, Indian Territory
B	Pope	Capt. David West	June 18, 1846	April 20, 1847, Fort Gibson, Indian Territory
C	Lawrence	Capt. John S. Ficklin	June 22, 1846	April 20, 1847, Fort Gibson, Indian Territory
D	Crawford	Capt. John H. H. Felch	June 25, 1846	April 15, 1847, Fort Smith, Arkansas
E	Independence	Capt. Charles Pelham	June 27, 1846	February 28, 1847, Fort Wayne, Creek Territory

ARKANSAS TROOPS IN THE REGULAR ARMY

On February 11, 1847, Congress authorized the raising of ten new infantry regiments to launch a mission against Vera Cruz and inland to Mexico City. Brigadier General Allen Wood of Carroll County, resigned his position as Brigadier General of the 4th Militia Brigade and raised a company of Arkansans for the Twelfth Infantry. Wood accepted a commission as a Captain and joined the forces of General Winfield Scott in the summer of 1847. Wood's Arkansans fought in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco on August 19 and 20, 1847, on the outskirts of Mexico City. In a matter of weeks, Mexico City fell to Scott's forces. Shortly thereafter, the surviving Encarnacion prisoners were released. Captain Stephen Enyart of Washington County, who was originally been assigned to raise a com-

pany for the Arkansas Battalion of Volunteers for service in Indian Territory, recruited a company of volunteer dragoons under a requisition from the Secretary of War dated April 19, 1847. This company was received into service June 15, 1847, served at Meir, Mexico, and along the Rio Grande River, guarding supply wagons until June 1848.¹³⁹

AFTERMATH

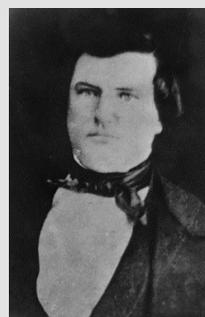
Many Arkansans, especially Albert Pike, did not take lightly the poor record of the Arkansas volunteers. Pike, who was probably still smarting over his defeat for regimental commander, criticized Colonel Yell long before the return to Little Rock. In a letter to the *Arkansas Gazette* on March 8, 1847, Pike severely reprimanded the Arkansas officers for not properly training and disciplining their men. He wrote: "Poor Yell! He atoned for his error with his life; but other brave men died with him, who were not in fault...."¹⁴⁰

Naturally, Colonel Roane and many of Yell's fervent supporters resented Pike's attitude. Roane and Captain Edward Hunter, commander of the Sevier County company, wrote letters to the Little Rock Banner soon after the Battle of Buena Vista charging that Pike's squadron had taken no part in the battle. Pike was furious and, upon his return to Little Rock took up the matter with Roane. A duel ensued, although neither man was injured.¹⁴¹



1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles

GOVERNOR JOHN SELDEN ROANE



Caption: Lt. Col John S. Roane later served as the Adjutant General and eventually Governor of Arkansas. He served as a Confederate general during the American Civil War.

John Selden Roane came to Arkansas from Tennessee and settled near his brother in Pine Bluff in Jefferson County in 1837. In 1840, he served as the Prosecuting Attorney for the 2nd Judicial District in 1840 and 1842 he was elected to the legislature from Jefferson County. In 1845, after moving to Van Buren, in Crawford County, he was again elected to the State House and became Speaker. At the beginning of the Mexican War, Roane became the Captain of a volunteer company from Crawford

County known as the Van Buren Avengers. He was elected Lieutenant Colonel of the Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Volunteers. Upon the death of Colonel Yell, he assumed command and led the Regiment for the remainder of its service. Upon returning from Mexico, Colonel Roane became the Adjutant General for the remainder of Governor Drew's time in office. In March 1849, he was elected Governor of Arkansas, to replace Thomas Stevenson Drew, who resigned. During the Civil War, Roane accepted a commission as a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army and led a brigade at the Battle of Prairie Grove.

THE MILITIA FALLS DORMANT

A malaise seemed to descend on the Arkansas Militia following the War with Mexico. The militia had never been strong in some counties, but after a brief spark of interest in the formation of volunteer companies during and immediately following the Mexican war, observable militia activity stopped in the state. Unlike their predecessors, Major Generals Blackburn and Yell, elected in 1844 and 1846 respectively, issued few orders but did push their brigades and counties to organize and make their returns. The last militia commissions for regimental, battalion and company officers in the general militia were recorded in 1849. The *Arkansas Gazette* regularly carried announcements for elections and musters of the Pulaski county militia regiment from 1830 through the 1840, but in 1849, these announcements suddenly stopped. On December 24, 1850, a resolution was offered in the State Senate instructing the Committee on the Militia to inquire in to the cause of the Militia of the state not being organized conducting musters.¹⁴² General Wood resigned the office of Adjutant General in a letter to the Governor dated July 28, 1851.¹⁴³ T.D. Merrick's election as Major General of the 1st Division in 1852, was not even mentioned in a Little Rock newspaper. It is likely that this break down in the command structure of the militia, which existed since the early days of the territory, led to the passage in 1852 of a law styled "an Act to provide for the organization of the Militia when called to suppress insurrections." This law allowed the county sheriff to call out the militia and order elections for offices of companies activated for this purpose.¹⁴⁴ One Little Rock newspaper editor wrote in 1852:

*There is not a volunteer military company in Little Rock; in fact, the editor cannot recall having seen a single muster in this town since the beginning of the war with Mexico. What has become of the military spirit of our young men? If it is not entirely extinct, we would like to see a little of it exhibited in the organization of a uniformed company here.*¹⁴⁵

CONCLUSION

During the early statehood period, the militia remained an important institution in Arkansas society and politics of the

region and played an active role in providing for the national defense. Every elected Governor in the years before the Civil War experienced serving in the militia, and all but Governor Yell, served as Colonels or Brigadier General in the Arkansas Militia. But by the late 1840s, interest in and reliance upon the militia waned. There are two important reasons for this decline, the lack of an apparent external threat, and the beginning of a period of relative growth and prosperity that lasted until the Civil War. The militia system in much of the South had never been as developed as in the northern states, and the system was in decline for some time in the region. While the Mexican War sparked a brief resurgence in interest, the relatively easy victory in America's first foreign war actually encouraged a sense of complacency with regard to maintenance of the general militia. Locally, the Texas War of Independence, followed 9 years later by the Mexican-American War permanently moved the international border 700 miles to the southwest. Native Americans had been removed from the state and interactions between the Arkansas militia and the Indian Nations during the mobilizations of 1836 and 1846, educated Arkansans regarding the basic peaceful nature of the tribes that were relocated to the Indian Territory. The construction of federal military installations in Arkansas, and to the west in Indian Territory also made the population feel more secure and detracted from a reliance on the militia.

In addition to the new-found sense of security, Arkansans were distracted by prosperity. The population of the state grew rapidly between 1840 and 1860. While distracted by the collapse of the state banking system, overall the economy of the state grew dramatically during the 1850s. The number of slaves grew rapidly during this period as well, as plantation agriculture took hold in much of the state. Arkansas quickly progressed from a frontier region to a rapidly developing part of the Antebellum South.

With the Mexican threat eliminated and the near-absence of a serious Indian threat, Arkansans saw little reason to maintain a state militia until the buildup of sectional tensions preceding the Civil War. Fourteen years after the Mexican War, Arkansas Militia men and Mexican War veterans like John S. Roane and Albert Pike again found themselves leading troops in battle, this time as General Officers of the Confederate States Army. The American Civil War produced a different type of record for Arkansas' militia and volunteer companies.

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Featured Artifact: Model of 1819 Hall Breech Loading Rifle

By Major Matthew W. Anderson



In the museum, there is a display case with a lone odd looking rifle that is well worn and damaged. Most not knowing the significance of this rifle in American history would simply brush past it without a second look. The significance is not so much in who, how and when it was used but rather who and how it was developed and the impact it had on America and the world.

From the time of the first firearm to the early 1800s, gunsmiths were craftsmen who built one rifle at a time, hand crafting and fitting each part to the firearm being built. Parts interchangeability was a concept but not possible without much work to ensure proper fit and function. This was a slow process by skilled craftsmen for the production of firearms. To increase production, to supply an army, one had to take on more apprentices to learn the trade. A further problem was that firearms could not be repaired by Soldiers in the field by exchanging parts, firearms had to be sent back to armories with proper tools to custom make and fit new parts. Many nations recognized the need for mass production and experimented with ways to achieve consistent results but the means were not yet available.

John Hancock Hall was a militiaman in the Portland Light Infantry, which was organized in 1803. His father passed away when he was 13 and his mother passed away when he was 27 in 1808. John took over as head of the family for his younger brothers and sisters and worked as a cooper in the shipyards. It is likely from his experience in the Portland Light Infantry, John Hall saw the problem with martial arms common during that era. Units at the time were organized with nine infantry companies armed

with muskets while a tenth light infantry company were armed with rifles. Rifles using lands and grooves twisted down the length of a barrel provided greater range and accuracy but quickly fouled from powder residue after two to three rounds preventing a round from being rodded down the barrel. This required the firer to move to safe location to clean the rifle before it could be used again. Muskets in the hands of an experienced militiamen could fire at a rate of three rounds a minute but the smooth barrel and undersized rounds had considerably shorter range and far less accuracy. The problem was how to arm every militiaman with a rifle that could be loaded quickly and would not foul so that every militiaman was able to achieve greater range, accuracy and an increased, sustained rate of fire.

John Hall completed his design concept of a breech loading rifle in 1811. On February 21, 1811, John Hall wrote to President James Madison a letter advising him of his invention.

“...greatly to increase the force of our militia, it is such as will enable a man to load a rifle either lying on the ground or sitting on horseback in less time and with less trouble than is now taken in loading smooth bore guns standing on foot; bayonets may be used on such rifles as conveniently as on common muskets...”

On March 4, 1811, the Secretary of War William Eustis responded to John Hall that he was unclear as to what he invented due to the vague description but that if he were to forward the details to his office

they would take it into consideration. John Hall having received the positive response, wrote to the patent office on March 16, 1811, to execute an application for a patent. William Thornton was in charge of the patent office at the time and claimed in a letter to already have patent in a breech loading design and was familiar with others made in England. The earliest known breech loading design is from 1664. Others had also been developed in Germany and Italy. John Hall unaware of other breech loading rifles immediately went to the patent office to confront Thornton. Thornton showed him a Ferguson rifle, which used a screw type breech loader that was still slow to load. Thornton then claimed that he also had come up with a similar tip up breech design but had nothing to show for it. It was evident to John Hall that he was not going to get a patent unless he included Thornton on the patent. His patent was approved on May 21, 1811.

While he was seeking a contract to make his arms for the War Department, John Hall began producing approximately 50 per year of his breech loading flintlock rifle for sporting use and private purchase militia use during the War of 1812. Continual refinements were made in the design and in the tools that aided less experienced persons to produce parts. In 1815, John Hall received a government contract for 200 rifles but turned it down because at the time he did not believe he would be able to meet the delivery deadline. In a January 1816 letter to Col. George Bomford, Deputy Chief of Ordnance John Hall wrote:

“Although the guns had acquired a high degree of perfection, yet within the last nine months a very considerable degree of improvement has been made in them – in rifling the barrels on a true taper – in the hammer spring – in the upper shaft – in the apron – in the form and proportions given to the hammer tail and in the work generally. Much improvement has been made in the tools for executing the work with accuracy by not very expert workers...”

John Hall received his first government contract for 100 Hall rifles in 1817, for test and evaluation. The rifles he delivered in 1817 were more durable versions of his breech loading hunting rifles.

The tests included having an infantry company of 38 men fire each firearm at 100 yard targets for 10 minutes. The results were as follows:

Firearm	Rate of Fire	Rounds Fired	Hits	% of Hits
Hall Breech Loading Rifle	3.1	1,198	430	36%
Smooth Bore Flint Lock Musket	2.2	845	208	25%
Muzzle Loading Rifle	1.3	494	164	33%

To fire the Hall Breech Loading Rifle a militiaman pulled the lever forward of the trigger guard aft and press upward to expose the forward part of the breech. A 100 grain charge of black powder was poured into the breech. A .525 inch ball weighing approximately 220 grains were pressed into the breech with the thumb until flush with the face of the breech. The breech was pressed down until the spring-loaded locking ears and lever locked in place. In a flintlock the hammer was cocked, frizzen opened and the pan primed with 10 grains of fine black powder. In a percussion system the hammer was cocked and a percussion cap would be placed on the nipple. With the rifle ready to fire, the militiaman aimed using the sights offset to the left side and pull the trigger. The .525 inch lead ball deformed to engage the 16 groove, clockwise twist rifling to produce a stabilizing spin as it exited the 32.5 inch barrel. The effective range was 800 to 1500 yards.

The Hall Breech Loading Rifle passed the trials. The Hall Rifle was designated the Model of 1819. John Hall was awarded a contract to produce 1000 rifles and to move his operations to the arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Conditions of the contract included that parts were interchangeable. He would be paid a government salary and for his patent \$1 per rifle.

John Hall immediately set about establishing his shop and developing the machine tools and gauges that were necessary to create parts with the precision necessary to achieve interchangeability, something no one up to this point had achieved in manufacturing. Much trial and error occurred. A water mill was used to provide power. Leather belts used to transfer the power to the machines were widened to reduce slippage, tools built on wooden platforms were found to still not be stable enough to minimize vibrations. Large cast iron bases had to be specially made for each to fix the vibration problem.

In a letter to Secretary of War John C. Calhoun in 1822, John Hall wrote:

“I have succeeded in an object which has hitherto completely baffled all the endeavors of those who have heretofore attempted it – I have succeeded in establishing methods for fabricating arms exactly alike, and with economy, by the hands of common workmen, and in such manner as to ensure a perfect observance of any established model...”

In 1824, after almost five years and \$150,000 of developing the tools necessary for precision manufacture, the first 1000 rifles were manufactured and assembled by the end of the year. Another contract was immediately approved for another 1000 rifles and were completed by the end of 1825. In 1826, John Hall's claims of parts interchangeability was put to the test. A special US Ordnance Department commission was sent down to Harpers Ferry. To prepare for their arrival, John Hall disassembled 100 Model 1819s and brought in 100 newly manufactured stocks. When the commission arrived, each was directed to randomly select parts from the piles to be assembled. The three rifles were assembled and fired. The remaining 97 rifles were then reassembled. The test was a complete success, the military commission was amazed by the results and potential. Their report stated “Arms have never been made so exactly similar to each other by any other process. Machines we have examined effect this with a certainty and precision we should not have believed, till we witnessed their operation.” “... system, in the manufacture of small arms, entirely novel,” and “...the most beneficial results to the Country, especially, if carried into effect on a large scale”. Another contract was awarded in 1828 for 3000 rifles.

By 1841, Model 1819s were manufactured with percussion fire systems and old flint locks versions were converted. A carbine variant was also developed and used by Dragoon and Cavalry troops. They were popular due to their ease of loading while mounted on horseback. Many of the carbines were manufactured under another contract with Simeon North of Connecticut who was given gauges and guidance from John Hall to ensure uniformity and interchangeability. This represented a major achievement in manufacturing by having a separate business able to machine parts to the same tolerances so that they could be used in conjunction with

parts made in another location.

The last of the Model 1819s were manufactured in 1853. At this time, Hall rifles and carbines were pulled from active service and put into storage. In all, 23,500 rifles and 27,684 carbines were produced.

Besides use in the Mexican-American War the Model 1819 Hall Flintlock and Percussion Cap Breech Loading Carbines and Rifles were still in service in militias around the United States at the outbreak of the Civil War. For example, at the Federal Arsenal at Little Rock the Arkansas Militia confiscated 10,247 arms on February 8, 1861.

Model 1816 .69 cal (flintlock) 5,625

Model 1816 .69 cal (percussion-converted) 53

Model 1842 .69 cal smoothbore (percussion) 357

Model 1855 .58 cal rifle-muskets 900

Model 1816 common rifles 125

Model 1841 rifle ("Mississippi Rifle") 54

Model 1847 Musketoon 2

Hall's carbines 267

Hall's rifles (flintlock) 2,864

It is possible, although not confirmed, that the example on display at the Arkansas National Guard Museum was in the inventory of the Little Rock Arsenal. The same building which is now the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History.

While the ease of loading and accuracy was well received, there were still problems with the design. The locking of the breech to the barrel was flush but without overlap resulting in a flash of hot gases and burning powder escaping from the adjoining area. In addition to the blinding flash in the shooters eyes, escaping fire could also ignite any powder that was accidentally spilled in the area below the breech on the stock and trigger mechanism resulting in burns to the hand. Another problem was the escaping gasses resulted in the decreased velocity of the round by 200 to 300 fps. Gradual wear-



ing of parts further increased these undesirable traits.

Top view of Model 1819, rifle pointing to the right, shows the rear offset sight on the right. Also note the gap in the receiver, this rifle is missing the locking lugs which would aid in keeping



Top view of receiver showing the markings "J. H. HALL H. FERRY U.S. 1832"



the breech against the barrel chamber.

Left side view of receiver showing the lever forward of the trigger guard which would be pressed aft to open the breech.



View of the breech in the open position. This is where the rifle would be loaded with black powder and lead ball.



Right side view showing the breech in the open position



Bottom view showing the trigger guard and the breech lever

John Hall's machine tools, gauges and processes which achieved parts interchangeability became known as the American System of Manufacture. John Hall envisioned being able to produce his rifle on a mass production scale but was continuously disappointed when the contracts came to produce only 1000 rifles a year. He once wrote to Colonel Bomford expressing his frustration with the limited production contracts and advising that greater quantities could be produced in a year. He wanted an opportunity to demonstrate the systems full potential. Many nations and businesses came to observe the new American System and the employees who worked under John Hall went on to apply the system to other areas of manufacturing. America transformed to mass production industrialized nation.

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ESSAY CONTEST

Arkansas Military Historian Essay Competition

The Arkansas Military Historian Essay Competition is **state wide competition open to students enrolled in grades 9-12 in public, private, and parochial schools, and those in home-study programs.** The Arkansas National Guard Museum Foundation, recognizing the importance of encouraging young scholars and promoting research regarding Arkansas Military History, has established this \$500 annual prize. The winning essay will be published in the *Arkansas Military History Journal*.

Each competitor will submit an essay that addresses the following topic:

“What military events have most shaped the social, political or economic development of Arkansas?”

The committee will judge papers according to the following criteria:

- 1) Clear thesis
- 2) Elaboration on the thesis with specific, concrete, personal example(s)
- 3) Evidence of critical-thinking, such as synthesis and evaluation, when reflecting on the essay question
- 4) Organization and fluency
- 5) Overall effectiveness of the student’s ability to communicate the impact that military events have had on the development of Arkansas and its people?

Submission Guidelines:

Length: Submissions for the 9-12 Arkansas Military Historian Essay should be approximately 1,500 words. Formatting: Number all pages except for the title page. All pages are to be double-spaced. Use 12 pt. Times New Roman Font. Margins are to be 1” left and right, and top and bottom. Submissions must be composed in Microsoft Word. The author’s identity is to appear nowhere on the paper. A separate, unattached page should accompany the paper, identifying the author, title of paper, home address, telephone number, email address, and name of school. Papers that do not adhere to these guidelines will be disqualified.

Deadline: Entries must be emailed or postmarked by the annual deadline of May 1st.

Winning papers will be announced in no later than August 1, 2017.

The Arkansas National Guard Museum reserves the right to publish in the *Arkansas Military History Journal* any essay (or portion thereof) submitted to the competition. It will do so solely at its discretion, but full acknowledgment of authorship will be given. If someone’s essay is published in whole or in part, the author will receive three (3) copies of the Journal.

To submit your materials by email: Send the following materials as separate attachments in the same email (formatted in MS Word), with the subject line “Arkansas Military Historian Essay”:

1. The paper
2. A page with identifying information (author, title of paper, home address, telephone number, e-mail address, and name of school.)

Email to: raymond.d.screws.nfg@mail.mil

To submit your material by mail:

Send five copies of the paper and five copies of the page with identifying information. In the lower left hand corner on the front of the envelope write: **Arkansas Military Historian Essay Competition** and mail to:

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Arkansas Military History Journal
A Publication of the
Arkansas National Guard Museum, Inc.

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