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***Arkansas Militia in
the Civil War***

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Cover Photograph: The Hempstead Rifles, a volunteer militia company of the 8th Arkansas Militia Regiment, Hempstead County

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Message from the Editor

The previous two issues of the journal focused on WWI and Camp Pike to coincide with the centennial of the United States entry into the First World War and the construction of the Post now known as Camp Pike. In the coming year, commemoration of the Great War will still be important, with the centennial of the Armistice on 11 November 2018. In this issue, we continue the story of the Arkansas Militia during the 19th century that we presented before our foray into the Great War. COL Damon Cluck writes about the Militia in the State during the Civil War. In addition, it is the pleasure of the editor to introduce an article by Hannah McConnell, winner of our essay contest. Ms. McConnell writes about WWII and the state of Arkansas. The staff and board of the Arkansas National Guard Museum congratulates Hannah for her accomplishment. Finally, LTC Matthew Anderson continues with his featured artifact article. We hope you enjoy.

Dr. Raymond Screws

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The Arkansas Militia in the Civil War



Depot of supplies of the Army of the Southwest, Devall's Bluff, Prairie County, Arkansas

By **COL Damon Cluck**

The units of the Arkansas Militia in the Civil War to which the current Arkansas National Guard has a connection include the Arkansas State Militia, Home Guard, and State Troop regiments raised by the State of Arkansas. Like most of the United States, Arkansas had an organized militia system before the American Civil War (1861–65). State law required military service of most male inhabitants of a certain age. Following the War with Mexico (1846–48) the Arkansas militia experienced a decline, but as sectional frictions between the North and South began to build in the late 1850s the militia experienced a revival. By 1860 the state's militia consisted of 62 regiments divided into eight brigades, which comprised an eastern division and a western division. New regiments were added as the militia organization developed. Additionally, many counties and cities raised uniformed volunteer companies, which drilled more often and were better equipped than the un-uniformed militia. These volunteer companies were instrumental in the seizure of federal installations at Little Rock and Fort Smith, beginning in February 1861.

Once Arkansas left the Union in May 1861, the existing volunteer militia companies were among the first mustered into state service and be formed into new volunteer infantry regiments, also referred to as "State Troops." These new regiments comprised the Provisional Army of Arkansas. In July 1861 an agreement was reached to transfer the existing state forces into the Confederate army. The Second Division of the Army of Arkansas was transferred to the Confederate Army under the command of General William E. Hardee, but before the First Divi-

sion of the Army of Arkansas could be transferred, it participated in the Battle of Wilson's Creek near Springfield, Missouri, in August 1861. Following the battle of Wilson's Creek, the First Division voted to disband rather than enter Confederate Service.

In November 1861, Colonel Solon S. Borland, commanding Confederate forces at Pittman's Ferry received information regarding an Intimate invasion of Northeast Arkansas and issued an immediate call for Militia forces to re-enforce his position. The State Military Board authorized the activation of Eighth Brigade of Militia, and one company from the militia regiments of Prairie, Monroe, Poinsett, Saint Francis, and Craighead counties. The units that responded to this call were formed into three regiments of 30 Day Volunteers. Some of these companies later enrolled in regular Confederate service.

In the spring of 1862 a Union invasion of Northwest Arkansas necessitated an activation of parts of the state militia. In February 1862, General McCulloch issued a proclamation from Fayetteville requesting that "every man turn out and form companies, and rally to meet the advancing enemy." Brigadier General N. B. Burrow, commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, Arkansas State Militia reacted by activating his entire brigade consisting of six regiments for approximately three weeks. Later in the summer of 1862, when Major General Hindman assumed command of the Department of the Trans-Mississippi, the militia regiments were required to provide volunteers for new Confederate regiments or face conscription.

After the fall of Little Rock to Union forces in September 1863, Governor Harris Flanagin ordered out the militia regiments of Clark, Hempstead, Sevier, Pike, Polk, Montgomery, La Fayette, Ouachita, Union, and Columbia counties and directed them to supply mounted companies for new regiments of State Troops. This recruiting method succeeded in supplying several new mounted companies which participated in resisting Union General Steele's Camden Expedition in the spring of 1864. Sporadic recruiting of new volunteer companies from the Militia continued until March 1865.

The Arkansas Secession Convention directed each county to organize a Home Guard organization, which was intended to include old men and boys who were otherwise disqualified from active service. The Home Guard were later commissioned to begin guerrilla operations against occupying Union forces. Once Union forces secured the state capitol in 1863, the new loyal state government immediately began raising new loyal militia forces in an attempt to combat bands of guerrillas and bushwhackers operating behind Union lines.

The Marion County War

Two famous Arkansas veterans of the War with Mexico found themselves deeply involved in the first use of the Arkansas Militia following the War with Mexico. Allen Wood, who had raised a volunteer company in Arkansas, which became part of the 12th United States Infantry Regiment during the war with Mexico, was appointed as Adjutant General in 1849. On September 16, 1848, Governor John Sheldon Roane, himself a former Lieutenant Colonel in the Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Volunteers during the war with Mexico, ordered General Wood to investigate a state of unrest that existed in Marion County in 1849. Two warring families and their supporters vied for control of all county offices in what was known as the Tutt-Everett War. The Tutts, of the Whig Party and the Everetts, of the Democratic Party had a long running feud, which erupted into bloodshed in June 1849. It was said that virtually every man in the county had taken sides in the affair. General Wood raised two militia companies in Carroll County, one commanded by Captain William C. Mitchell, the other by Captain Tilford Denton to assist with the capture of members of the Everetts clan and to guard the jail. General Wood relieved Sheriff Jesse Mooney, who was thought to be a member of the Everett faction and took over the county jail in Yellville. The force was eventually reduced to one company of 75 men who remained in the county from September 1849 through December 1849. Almost as soon

as General Wood dismissed his militia companies, members of the Everett clan broke the prisoners out of jail. General Wood resigned the office of Adjutant General in a letter to the Governor dated July 28, 1851. On December 21, 1850, the Arkansas Legislature finally passed an act to pay for the militia called into service by General Wood. It is likely that the experience of calling out the militia for the Marion County War 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 order elections for offices of companies activated for this purpose.

Antebellum Militia on the Eve of Conflict

With the conclusion of the Mexican-American War, the Arkansas militia fell into a state of disorganization. Without a threat from Mexico or the Indians, it seemed Arkansans needed protection from no one. Election of militia officers in most counties basically stopped by 1849. Throughout much of the 1850s the Arkansas militia was practically dead; company and regimental musters were held infrequently, and officers stopped performing their duties. Governor Elias Conway, in an address to the state legislature dated November 7, 1854, stated that the state militia had not filed a single annual status report with the War Department since 1843. Without these reports, the militia did not receive its quota of Federal arms and equipment. 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 [in 1846]. 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.

Elias N. Conway, elected governor in 1854, came from a prominent family of Arkansas politicians, some of whom had served in the militia during its earlier and more active years. The condition of the Arkansas Militia when Governor Conway began his revival may best be summarized by a letter to the Governor from Col. Henry Rieff, Commander of the 20th Regiment Arkansas Militia dated January 3, 1860.

....the militia of this regiment (20th) have

not done any duty for several years and I do not now know who are officers and who are not, as fully as I could desire. Some have died, others no doubt removed from the county, but I am now endeavoring to investigate this matter and ascertain who are officers and order election to fill vacancies. In your letter you mention Bracken Lewis as Major but H.E. Moulden was Major but is now dead. He was Major in the 20th instead of the 32nd as stated in your letter. Lt.Col. M.S. Gregg is still living. In the 1st Battalion Maj. Moulden as before stated deceased. As you kindly offered to give me a list of the officers of Regt. 20, I will be glad to have it as it will aid me in ascertaining the officers names.

In answer to your letter relative to the 32nd Regt., I will say that Col. Denton is deceased. Also I think Lt.Col. Coulter has removed from the county and that Maj. Colwell who was elected in said regiment is deceased. Consequently the offices are all vacant. I will see General Neal as suggested who no doubt will order elections to fill the offices....

I shall proceed at once to have this regiment (20th) officered and enrolled and I think the times and signs of the times favor it,...

Governor Conway pushed the legislature to revise the militia laws and successfully sparked a renewed interest in the militia. He commissioned a printing of a digest of the militia laws of Arkansas in 1860. A review of the election returns for militia officers in each county in 1860 and the spring of 1861 provide some indication of the success of Governor Conway's attempt to revitalize the organization of the state militia. The militia was organized into two divisions of four brigades each. Each county supplied at least one regiment, and companies were normally organized in each township. Several counties had more than one regiment and one, Lawrence County, had three militia regiments. Regimental and company officers were elected at the annual muster. The election results were forwarded to the Governor either by the regimental commander or by the county clerk. The exact strength of these units is unclear. In May 1860, Col. George M. Holt, commander of the 18th Regiment from Saline County, claimed to have 1,000 to 1,200 men available and requested that the county be granted permission to form a second regiment.

Militia vs. Volunteer Companies



The Hempstead Rifles, a volunteer militia company of the 8th Arkansas Militia Regiment, Hempstead County

The Militia Law of Arkansas as published in 1860 provided for a two-tiered militia system. Section one of the law made all able-bodied free white male inhabitants between the ages of 18 and 45 liable for service. The militiamen were required to provide their own weapons and equipment and were to muster four times annually, including two company drills, one battalion muster, and one regimental muster. No provision was made for uniforms for the private militiamen, while officers were required to acquire and wear the uniform of the United States Army. Additionally, section 57 of the act allowed each county to raise up to four Volunteer Companies. These Volunteer Companies were to be either infantry, riflemen, cavalry, or artillery. While the Volunteer Companies were separate from the regular militia units, they remained under the supervision and authority of the local militia regimental commander, who was required to set the time and place of the election of officers for volunteer companies and certify their election to the governor. Volunteer Companies were required to drill at least once per month (although the Pulaski Artillery, a Volunteer Artillery Company organized in Little Rock in December 1860, scheduled drill three times a week). Volunteer Companies were allowed to select and acquire their own uniforms and their officers were authorized to wear the uniform of the company. While the standard militia units were organized into lettered companies organized roughly along township boundaries, Volunteer Companies usually adopted colorful names to set them apart. Membership in the Volunteer Companies was encouraged by the provision that once a militiaman had completed five years service in a Volunteer Company, he was exempted from further militia service.

In a letter "To The Militiamen Of The State Of Arkansas" dated August 27, 1860, Governor Conway exhorted the raising of additional volunteer companies:

All the volunteer companies authorized by law in every county in the state ought to be speedily and thoroughly organized and disciplined, and armed and equipped in the best manner as soon as possible..... It devolves upon each colonel commandant, not only to organize his regiment, but also to have formed within the bounds of his regiment, as many volunteer companies, independent of his regiment, as the law requires, and the number of militiamen will justify.

He commented that if all the volunteer companies authorized by the act were to be raised, the state would have a force of 22,000 volunteers. He explained that the general assembly had yet to pass a law allowing the state to provide arms for all the volunteer companies, and he encouraged the counties to consider taxing themselves in order to raise the funds.

Although several Volunteer Companies were already in existence at various locations around the state, the Governor's call sparked a wave of formations. State newspapers in the summer and fall of 1860 have several stories of volunteer companies being formed, drilling, and participating in the regular muster of the militia regiments. The leaders of these volunteer companies began to search for uniforms and equipment, often requesting them through militia channels to the Governor, but then turning to private sources when the State Government was unable to help. The state legislature responded to the need for arms and equipment in January 1861 by appropriating \$100,000 for the arming and equipping of the militia being formed into volunteer companies. Act Number 192, which was approved on January 21, 1861, appropriated money "for the purpose of arming the volunteer militia of this state, when formed into volunteer military companies...."

"Section 2. Whenever the several colonels or captains.... shall notify the governor that a volunteer company of not less than fifty men.... has been formed and organized... he is hereby required to cause to be delivered... arms and accoutrements suitable to such company...."

In the beginning, these companies continued to operate under the authority of the local militia commander, with the local regimental commander overseeing the election of officers and forwarding the election results

to the Governor. After the state actually seceded in May 1861, Volunteer Companies and Regiments were raised under the authority of the State Military Board, or directly by Confederate Government authorities.

The readiness of the Militia organizations was compared to that of the Volunteer Companies springing up around the state when the Crawford County Militia, the 5th Regiment Arkansas Militia, conducted its annual muster and drill on February 23, 1861, at Van Buren. They were joined on this occasion by two companies of volunteers, the Frontier Guards (led by Captain Hugh Thomas Brown) and the Independent Light Horse Guards (under Captain Powhatan Perkins). The two independent companies received rave reviews for their drill, but the performance of the 5th Militia Regiment provoked the following report from the *Van Buren Press*:

The special parade of this Regiment, by order of the Officers in command, took place in this City on Saturday last. In connection therewith, the Rifle Company, Capt. Brown, and Horse Company, Capt. Perkins, paraded, making a fine display—and in fact all the 'military' on the ground was composed of these two independent companies. A more decided burlesque on military parade could not be had, than the muster on Saturday. If any good was derived by bringing such a body of men together, for 'inspection' and 'drill,' we were not able to discover it—and we trust it will be at least a year, before another 'occasion' occurs for preparation to defend our rights and liberties against northern aggression.

A more favorable account comes from a report on the September 1860 muster of Pulaski County's 13th Militia Regiment:

The regiment, composed of ten companies, numbering about a thousand men, was drawn up in line of battle facing to the west... The regiment having been reviewed in form, changed direction to the right, and now in its turn, while the reviewing officers took position on the former front, marched before them by companies, in the following order: Pulaski Lancers, Lieut. Morrison, commanding cavalry, with lances, pennants and handsome uniforms of blue and red,

well drilled, and presenting a very gallant appearance; 1st comp. the Capital Guards, Capt. Peay, drilled like veterans of the 'Old Guard', and dressed in a uniform of blue and gold, never yet surpassed in taste and neatness; 2d company, exceeding well drilled and fine looking, Capt. Stillwell; 3d company, composed of gallant looking and intelligent men, Lieut. Griffith, commanding; 4th company, the elite of the regiment, Sergeant Lee of the 'Guards', commanding; 5th company presenting a most soldierly appearance, Capt. Johnson; 6th company, with the step and front of courage and intelligence, Capt. Bushnell; 7th company brave looking, erect and well-drilled, Capt. Vance; 8th company looking as if they might have seen service, and would like to see it again, Capt. Marshall; 9th company who we will venture to say, are all good riflemen, and familiar with the smell of gun powder, Capt. Wellman.

Following the parade of the 13th Regiment, Brigadier General Holt and the regimental officers gathered in front of Governor Conway's home and heard a speech in which the governor complemented them "upon the revival, at a critical time, of the military spirit which once animated the people, but seemed long to have been dead."^[128]

In October an article appeared in the same paper announcing a drill contest to be conducted as a part of a Fair scheduled for November 8–9, 1860, on the grounds of St John's College in Little Rock. The best-drilled militia company was to receive a "Premium."

Militia Operations: Spring and Summer 1861

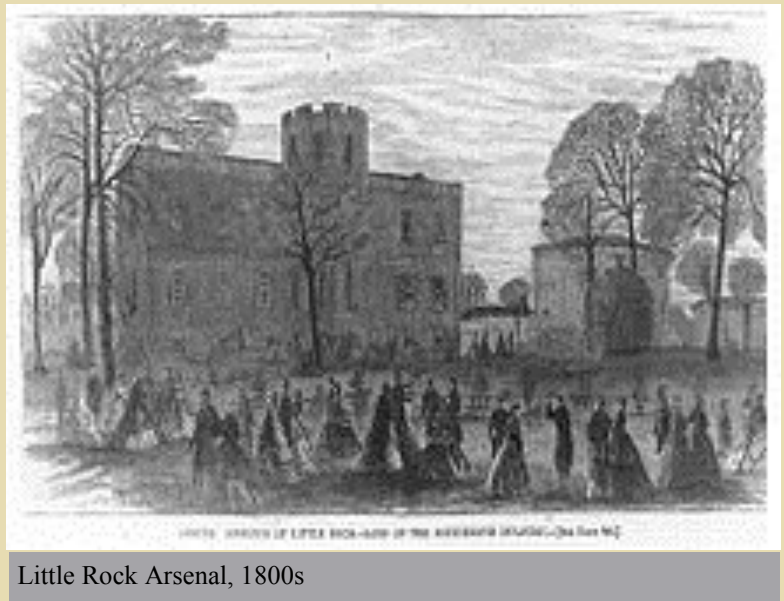
The Secession Crisis

Lincoln's victory in the presidential election of 1860 triggered South Carolina's declaration of secession from the Union. By February 1861, six more Southern states made similar declarations. On February 7, the seven states adopted a provisional constitution for the Confederate States of America and established their temporary capital at Montgomery, Alabama. A pre-war February Peace Conference of 1861 met in Washington in a failed attempt at resolving the crisis.

As the secession movement grew, people in Arkansas became greatly concerned. In January 1861, the General Assembly called an election for the people to vote on whether Arkansas should hold a convention to consider

secession. At the same time the voters were to elect delegates to the convention in case the vote should be favorable. On February 18, 1861, Arkansans voted to call a secession convention, but elected mostly unionist delegates.

Seizure of the Federal Arsenal at Little Rock



Anti-union forces began calling for the seizure of the Federal Arsenal in Little Rock. When rumors were circulated that the Federal Government intended to reinforce the troops at the Little Rock Arsenal, the leading citizens of Helena sent Governor Henry Massey Rector a telegram volunteering 500 men to assist in its seizure. Edmund Burgevin, adjutant general of the Arkansas State Militia, carried the message to the Governor. Burgevin complained of the impropriety of a direct offer of volunteers to the governor of a State which had not seceded, and might not secede. Governor Rector's response was: "The governor has no authority to summon you to take possession of a Federal post, whether threatened to be reinforced or not. Should the people assemble in their defense, the governor will interpose his official position in their behalf."

In response to the Governor's message, Militia companies began assembling in Little Rock by February 5, 1861, and they made their intention to seize the Arsenal known to its commander, Captain Totten. The Yell Rifles, including future Confederate General Patrick Cleburne, and the Phillips County Guards (both of Phillips County), were the first companies to reach Little Rock and report to Governor Rector. Governor Rector denied having called the militia forces, and sent the newly arriving companies into camps near the present state capitol building. In addition to the two Phillips County

Companies, the Jefferson Guards of Pine Bluff, the Southwestern Guards, and the LaGrange Cavalry responded to the call to seize the Arsenal. Eventually more than a thousand men assembled, representing Phillips, Jefferson, Prairie, White, Saline, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Monroe, and St Francis counties. Many citizens of Little Rock opposed the occupation of the Arsenal, fearing a loss of life and property. The Little Rock City Council reacted with alarm at this sudden invasion of the capitol by the newly formed volunteer companies and called out its own militia unit, the Capitol Guards, and ordered them to patrol the streets and stand guard over the volunteer companies. Although generally opposed to secession, the Little Rock City Council feared that a battle might ensue within the city itself and passed an ordinance requesting the Governor assume control of the assembling volunteer forces and to seize the Arsenal "to prevent the effusion of blood."



Captain Dandridge McRae commanded the Arkansas Guards, a volunteer militia company from the White County, during the Arsenal crisis. Later, McRae helped organize State Troops at Camp Rector, near Hopefield (present West Memphis). McRae, who was eventually promoted to Brigadier General, also helped raise the 15th Arkansas Infantry Regiment (Northwest)

Governor Rector, now armed with the city council's request, took control of the military situation. The 13th Militia Regiment of Pulaski County was activated and Brigadier General Holt, the local militia brigade commander, was placed in command. With militia forces surrounding the arsenal grounds, Governor Rector dispatched General Thomas D. Merrick, commander of the First Division, Arkansas Militia, with a formal demand for the Arsenal's surrender. Captain James Totten, Arsenal commander, agreed to evacuate the Arsenal in return for safe passage out of the state. Governor Rector agreed and the Militia took control of the Arsenal on February 8, 1861. Totten

and his men were escorted from the city by the Capitol Guards. Grateful citizens of Little Rock presented him a sword, which some later came to regret; Totten eventually met Arkansas troops on the field of battle. Later, artillery batteries were set up at Helena on the Mississippi River and Pine Bluff on the Arkansas to prevent reinforcement of Federal military posts.

The Yell Rifles returned to Helena, and then moved to Camp Rector, at Mound City (near present-day West Memphis, Arkansas), where they mustered into state service as Company A, 1st Arkansas Infantry, State Troops. Cleburne was eventually elected to command the new regiment. The Phillips Guards under the command of Captain George Otey, remained in Little Rock to provide a garrison for the newly seized Arsenal.

The First Convention on Secession

On March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln was sworn in as President. In his inaugural address, he argued that the Constitution was a "more perfect union" than the earlier Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union, that it was a binding contract, and called any secession "legally void." He stated he had no intent to invade the Southern states, nor did he intend to end slavery where it existed, but that he would use force to maintain possession of federal property. His speech closed with a plea for restoration of the bonds of union.

The next day, the Arkansas Secession Convention convened in the State House in Little Rock. David Walker, who opposed secession, was elected president. The convention continued in session for two and a half weeks. Feeling ran high and many fiery speeches were made, but it soon became evident that a majority of the members did not think that the situation at that time called for secession. The convention voted down a resolution condemning Lincoln's inaugural address, and defeated a conditional ordinance of secession. The opinion seemed to prevail that Arkansas should secede only if the Federal government made war on the Confederate States. Still hoping for a compromise settlement that would avoid war, the delegates agreed to go home until after the people voted on the secession question at a special election to be held in August.

Arkansas Leaves the Union

Fort Monroe in Virginia, Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina, and Fort Pickens, Fort Jefferson, and Fort Taylor, in Florida, were the remaining Union-held forts in the Confederacy, and Lincoln was determined to hold them all. Under orders from Confederate President Jefferson Davis, troops controlled by the Confederate

government under P. G. T. Beauregard bombarded Fort Sumter on April 12, forcing its capitulation. Northerners rallied behind Lincoln's call for all the states to send troops to recapture the forts and to preserve the Union, citing presidential powers given by the Militia Acts of 1792. President Lincoln called upon the "militia of the several states" to provide 75,000 troops to put down the rebellion. For months before that, several Northern governors discreetly readied their state militias; they began to move forces the next day. The first Arkansas Secession Convention pledged the state to "Resist to the last extremity any attempt on the part of such power (President Lincoln) to coerce any state that had succeeded from the old Union." In spite of the fact that Arkansas had yet to officially secede, a militia battalion was quickly organized under the command of Solon F. Borland. The force, including the Pulaski Lancers, the Capitol Guards, the Pulaski Light Artillery, and Captain Daniel Ringo's Peyton Rifles (all associated with the 13th Militia Regiment, Pulaski County) was dispatched to seize the Federal Arsenal at Fort Smith on April 23, 1861.

The Adjutant General, Edmond Burgevin, provided the state's response to the War Department's demand for troops:

Sir: I am directed by his Excellency the governor to acknowledge the receipt for Special Orders, No. 106, from the War Department at Washington. That order is based on the presumption of the State of Arkansas being willing to furnish the quota of troops required of her for the Federal Army, a presumption entirely improbable, and I can assure you, utterly impossible.

Further, I have to inform you that I had the honor on Tuesday night, April 23, 1861, at Fort Smith, to order the seizure of the person of Maj. R.C. Gatlin, Fifth Infantry, as a prisoner of war, and who is now at large on parole of honor not to serve against the State of Arkansas or the Southern Confederacy.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant.
Edmund Burgevin
Adjutant General of Arkansas

Faced with President Lincoln's demand for troops, the Secession Convention reconvened in Little Rock and, on May 6, 1861, passed the ordinance of secession by a vote of 69 to 1. Future Governor Isaac Murphy was the only "No" vote.

The Pulaski Light Artillery was initially assigned to garrison the captured arsenal at Fort Smith. Brigadier General Napoleon Bonapart Burrows, commander of the 8th Brigade, Arkansas Militia was sent to Fort Smith, where he began negotiations with the Chickasaw Nation to occupy Federal forts in the Indian Territory.

Organizing Arkansas State Troops

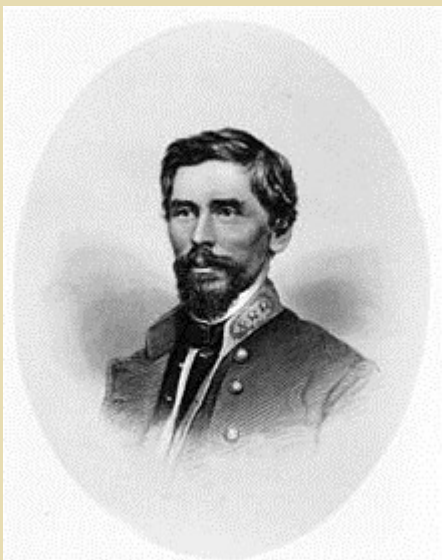
The Secession Convention continued to meet and began the process of drafting a new state constitution and ordering the state's military affairs. The new constitution sought to limit the power of the Governor by vesting authority for military matters in a three-person board chaired by the Governor. The Military Board was to oversee the organization of a state army; to arm, feed, and clothe the troops; and to call out the forces for such military expeditions as might be necessary to defend the state. The military board was composed of Governor Rector, Christopher C. Danley of Little Rock, and Benjamin C. Totten of Prairie County. Danley was soon replaced by Samuel W. Williams, who was replaced in turn by L. D. Hill of Perry County. The Secession Convention also adopted an ordinance providing for the organization of an "Army of Arkansas." The Army was to consist of two divisions: the 1st Division in the western portion of the state and the 2nd Division in the eastern portion of the state. Each division was to be commanded by a brigadier general. While called "divisions," the formations were actually intended to be of brigade size, with each being composed of four regiments of infantry and two artillery batteries. The ordinance required each regiment to consist of not less than six companies and not more than 10. Each company was to consist of not less than 64 men and not more than 96 men and four officers. The officers were to be elected by the men of the regiment. \$2 million was appropriated to fund the Board.

The Convention elected three of its members as commanders of the new army: Major General James Yell of Jefferson County (overall commander) Nicholas Bartlett Pearce, a graduate of West Point and resident of Benton County (commander of the First Division), and Thomas H. Bradley of Crittenden County (commander of the Second Division). Historian Leo Huff has referred to these commanders as "three political generals"; however, each had some connection to the militia. Major General Yell served as the commander of the 2nd Division of the Arkansas Militia, Brigadier General Pearce served as the Colonel of the Benton County Militia Regiment, and Brigadier General Thomas H. Bradley previously served as a major general in the Tennessee Militia. General Pearce, who graduated from West Point, had the most military training of the three generals. But all three of

these men did harm to the war effort by opposing the transfer of Arkansas troops to a unified Confederate command. Eventually, all three men were either relieved of their command or transferred to other activities.

The Secession Convention enacted an ordinance on May 30, 1861, that called upon all the counties in the State to appoint a "home guard of minute men" for local defense, until regular military regiments could be raised and deployed. These Home Guard units were made up of old men and boys who were not eligible for normal military service. Like the Militia, the Home Guard units were organized at the county level, with companies being supplied by each township. Originally these units were intended to be separate from the state militia. Most counties presumably complied with the law, but records of only a few of these 1861 home guard organizations can now be found. The Independence County Home Guard was established in accordance with this new ordinance. The Independence County Court, in special session, established and made appointments to the local home guard organization on June 29, 1861. Subsequent appointments were made in July, October, and November 1861. About 220 men were appointed in all the townships of the county. Most of them were property owners, many quite prominent and wealthy, and, as far as can be determined, all were over the conscript age. Some were quite elderly. Despite their age, wealth, and social position, many later served in regular Confederate units in the latter part of the war, especially in Dobbin's and Morgan's cavalry regiments. John Farrell Allen was appointed General Commander of the Independence County Home Guard.

Mobilizing Forces



Col. Patrick Cleburne, Commander, 1st Arkansas Infantry, State Troops, a.k.a. 15th Arkansas Volunteer Infantry, Confederate States Army

Militia leaders were hopeful that their existing formations would be mobilized and utilized to defend the state. Brigadier General Jett, commanding the 1st Brigade, Arkansas Militia even wrote directly to Confederate President Jefferson Davis and offered the services of his brigade, which he described as "all officered and ready for action except in arms and munitions of war." The Secession Convention had other plans: they intended for the militia to remain separate from the Confederate forces. The existing militia organizations were to be retained as a source of manpower and a last-ditch defense network. This resulted in many local militia company commanders volunteering their existing forces as new volunteer companies rather than organizing separate Confederate companies.

Efforts to mobilize the state's forces were subject to the competing interest of the State Military Board. The board recognized the need to quickly mobilize troops to defend the state, but wished to avoid as much of the cost of the mobilization as possible. Additionally, the Military Board feared that troops raised to defend the state would be diverted into the eastern theater of operations by the Confederate government. This concern quickly proved valid. The board made a decision not to mobilize the existing state militia regiments, and instead began organizing new Volunteer Regiments. The existing militia law authorized volunteer companies to be organized into regiments and brigades of volunteer troops. The regiments are also referred to as "State Troops" in state records from the period. Existing Volunteer Companies, already organized in the militia, were inducted into these new Volunteer Regiments. The militia regiments maintained a separate identity from the State Troops and later Confederate regiments.

The board dispatched Christopher C. Danley of Little Rock to Richmond to open negotiations with the new Confederate government for the transfer of State Troops to the Confederate government. The Board immediately issued a call for 10,000 troops (10 regiments). Acting under the militia law's authority to organize volunteer regiments, Governor Rector already directed volunteer units to begin organizing, so the first seven regiments were in the process of organization when the military board issued its call for troops.

Much confusion exists in tracking the formation of military units during the initial months of the war because several different governments (Confederate, state, and county), with competing interests, raised troops within the state. The State Military Board raised units, which it hoped to transfer to Confederate service. James F. Fagan, T. B. Flournoy, and Albert Rust received au-

thority directly from the new Confederate government to raise regiments for Confederate service. The War Department assigned the regimental designations of 1st Arkansas Volunteers (Fagan), 2nd Arkansas Volunteers (Hindman), and 3rd Arkansas Volunteers (Rust). The 1st and 3rd Arkansas Regiments organized, armed, and reported themselves ready for active service in May 1861, and received orders to report to Lynchburg, Virginia. Col. Hindman, however, had problems organizing his companies and obtaining arms, perhaps because the Arkansas State Troops were actively organizing in the same area. Col. Hindman's 2nd Arkansas Volunteers did not complete its organization and recruiting until June, and then had trouble getting orders from the War Department. Hindman's regiment was eventually sworn into state service and was transferred to Confederate service with the rest of the eastern division of the Army of Arkansas.

The Military Board developed its own plan for numbering the regiments of State Troops, but this plan was apparently ignored by the new brigade commanders, who tended to number regiments sequentially based upon the date they were sworn into state service. The plan was also ignored by Confederate authorities, who often renumbered the regiments of State Troops when they were transferred into Confederate service, based on the date they were sworn into the Confederate Army. The result is a great deal of confusion regarding the designation of any particular Arkansas unit.

The 1st Arkansas Infantry, State Troops, commanded by Colonel Patrick R. Cleburne, was one of the first regiments created from the initial wave of Volunteer Companies. Of the eight companies, which were inducted into state service as a part of this regiment at Mound City on May 14, 1861, seven were originally organized as volunteer companies under the militia law. The regiment was initially mustered into the Confederate Army as the 1st Arkansas Volunteer Infantry, Confederate States Army. Later it was determined that another regiment already received that designation. The unit recognized by the Confederate War Department as the 1st Arkansas Infantry was commanded by Col. James F. Fagan. Col. Fagan served as a lieutenant with Company C of the Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Volunteers during the War with Mexico. Fagan's regiment was not mustered into state service, but left the state for the Eastern Theater; it was mustered into Confederate service in Lexington, Virginia. Col. Cleburne's 1st Arkansas Infantry, State Troops, was redesignated as the 15th Arkansas Infantry. The confusion did not end there, because a total of three Arkan-

sas Infantry regiments were eventually named the "15th," the first being the aforementioned 1st Arkansas Infantry, State Troops commanded by Col. Cleburne. The new 15th Arkansas moved into camp with the 2nd Division of the Army of Arkansas, under the field command of Major General Yell, in Pocahontas.^[254]

Order of battle, Provisional Army of Arkansas

The new Army of Arkansas was to consist of two divisions: the 1st Division, covering western Arkansas, and the 2nd Division in the eastern half of the state. A major general was to command the Army, while each division was to be under the command of a brigadier general. Each regiment was to consist of six to 10 companies. As was tradition, company officers were elected by the men and regimental officers were elected by the company officers.

Brigadier General Thomas Bradely, who initially commanded the eastern or 2nd Division, was quickly relieved of command after a dispute with Col. Cleburne. Major General Yell assumed command of the 2nd (Eastern) Division and had the following units under his command:

- 1st Regiment, Arkansas State Troops, (15th Josey's Volunteer Infantry)
- 5th Regiment (Cross's Regiment), Arkansas State Troops, (5th Arkansas Volunteer Infantry, Confederate States Army)
- 6th Regiment, Arkansas State Troops, (6th Arkansas Volunteer Infantry, Confederate States Army)
- 7th Regiment, Arkansas State Troops, (7th Arkansas Volunteer Infantry, Confederate States Army)
- Helena Artillery (Key's Battery)
- Jackson Light Artillery (McCown's Battery)
- Clark County Artillery (Roberts Battery)

Brigadier General Pearce assumed command of the 1st (Western) Division and had the following units under his direct command:

- 3rd Regiment, Arkansas State Troops, (Gratiot's Regiment)
- 4th Regiment, Arkansas State Troops, (Walker's Regiment)
- 5th Regiment, Arkansas State Troops, (Dockery's Regiment)
- 1st Cavalry Regiment, Arkansas State Troops (Carroll's Regiment)
- Pulaski Light Artillery, (Woodruff's Battery).
- Fort Smith Artillery, (Ried's Battery)

On July 14, 1861, Confederate Brigadier General William J. Hardee arrived in Little Rock to assume unified Confederate command in the state. The following day the state Military Board signed an "Article of Transfer," which provided that all state forces (excepting the militia), some 10,000 men, were transferred on a voluntary basis to the command of the Confederate States of America. All weapons, ammunition, and supplies were also transferred. Before the transfer could take place, Arkansas State Troops got their first taste of real battle.

State Troops and the Battle of Wilson's Creek

Brigadier General Pearce, who lived in Benton County, established the headquarters, 1st Division, Provisional Army of Arkansas at Camp Walker at Maysville. Thus when a Union army began operating around Springfield



Brigadier General Nicholas Bartlett Pearce, Commander, Western Division, Provisional Army of Arkansas

in Southwest Missouri, Pearce's state troops were nearby. Pearce's troops, which are referred to as a brigade of State Troops in the official accounts of the battle, numbered 2,234 troops. Pearce agreed to cooperate with Brigadier General Benjamin McCulloch and his force of about 8,000 other soldiers from several commands, to form a sizable force and immediately marched toward Springfield. On August 10, 1861, Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon, the forceful commander of Union troops in Missouri, attacked the Confederates. The ensuing day-long battle was fought on a number of fronts. Captain William E. Woodruff, Jr., commander of the Pulaski Light Artillery, engaged in a fierce artillery duel with Captain James Totten, who only a few months earlier surrendered the Federal Arsenal at Little Rock. Captain Totten found himself with an opportunity to gain revenge, and his cannons roared throughout the day.

The Battle of Wilson's Creek came to an abrupt and inglorious halt when the Union commander was killed. Leaderless and outnumbered five-to-one, the bluecoats fled the battlefield. The Arkansas troops played a major

role in winning the battle, but paid a heavy price for victory. Two Arkansas units suffered particularly heavy casualties. Colonel Thomas J. Churchill's 1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles counted 42 killed and 155 wounded out of 600 men. Colonel John Gratiot's 3rd Arkansas Infantry, State Troops suffered 109 casualties, including 25 killed, out of a force of 500 men.

Pearce's Troops Vote to Disband

Shortly after the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Pearce's troops were polled as to whether they wanted to be transferred to Confederate command as had been arranged prior to the battle. Brig. Gen. Pearce actively campaigned against joining the Confederate States Army. Sources differ as to how many of these Arkansas state troops agreed to the transfer. It appears that few were willing to continue in either service. Colonel Gratiot's command voted in masse against the transfer, and they were marched back to southwest Arkansas, where they were mustered out of state service on September 19, 1861. By the end of September 1861, all organized state troops either transferred to Confederate command or mustered out of state service.

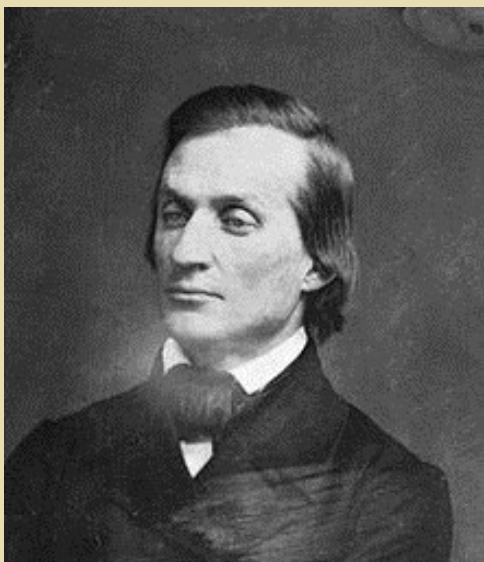
Arkansas Confederates Transferred East of the River

Between July 2 and August 1, 1861, eight regiments were organized by the Military Board. By November 1861, Governor Rector reported that 21 regiments had been raised, a total of 16,000 men, and an additional 6,000 men were soon to be in the ranks.

The Secession Convention and Military Board fears of Arkansas troops being transferred east of the Mississippi quickly became a reality. Brigadier General William J. Hardee led his new brigade of Arkansas Troops on a short uneventful raid into Missouri, and then transferred the command east of the Mississippi to join what would become the Confederate Army of Tennessee. Arkansas soon found itself virtually defenseless. By insisting that all state troops have the right to approve their transfer to Confederate service, state authorities effectively killed the chance of raising a large unified force in the state. Governor Rector's newspaper charged: "The Confederate government has abandoned Arkansas to her fate."

Militia operations: Fall 1861

Col. Borland Calls for Militia to Defend Northeast Arkansas: November 1861



Solon F. Borland served in the Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Volunteers during the Mexican War; He served as the Adjutant General and a United States Senator before the Civil War.

In May 1861, Pocahontas and the nearby strategically important Pitman's Ferry, in Randolph County, became an important Confederate military depot. Following the transfer of the State Troop regiments to Brig. Gen. Hard-ee, virtually all the regiments stationed in northeast Arkansas were transferred in late September east of the Mississippi River to Bowling Green, Kentucky. Col. Solon Borland was left in command of a small force at Pitman's Ferry. Col. Borland's force was the only defense left in Northeast Arkansas. The forces included: Borland's own cavalry regiment of seven companies, Col. McCown's five companies of infantry, Maj. Desha's four companies of raw troops, Capt. Robert's artillery unit of 60 men but no guns and about 150 recruits brought by Maj. McCray – altogether about 1286 men. But of these, owing to sickness and casualties Col Borland said he could count on no more than 600 for fighting service, and all were "raw, inexperienced, poorly disciplined and indifferently armed."

A second round of recruiting for new regiments was just getting underway when Col. Borland began receiving reports of enemy movements in Missouri. The initial reports seemed to indicate a possible movement on Pitman's Ferry. The Union army was massing troops in southeast Missouri mainly for the purpose of a thrust down the Mississippi River. But this posed a very real threat to all areas of northeast Arkansas. Col Borland in-

dicated that he had reliable information "that there are 300 infantry and 150 cavalry at Rives' Station, on Black River, 35 miles north of Pitman's Ferry. Also that there is a strong infantry force-7,000-at Greenville, 15 miles north of Rives' Station." Borland was maintaining a regular correspondence with Brig Gen. M. Jeff Thompson, of the Missouri State Guard, who commanded the First Military District of Missouri at Bloomfield, Missouri.

Reports of these Union troop movements were sent to area militia units. The *Jacksonport Herald* of October 26, 1861, published a communication received by Christopher W. Board, Commander of the 34th Militia Regiment of Jackson County.

23 Oct. 1861

Col. Board . . . We have commenced taking steps to call out the militia but will not call them out unless there is certainty a necessity for it. It might be well for your officers to take such steps as will enable prompt action in case of necessity. I send it to you, believing that you can have the proper persons ready for action; and at the same time keep down all unnecessary excitement . . . J.C. Marvin.'

Col. Borland moved his command from Pitman's Ferry to Pocahontas and was sufficiently alarmed over the reports to issue a call for reinforcements from the militia. On November 5, 1861, Col. Borland issued an appeal for volunteers in the surrounding counties to hastily organize companies for the defense of Pitman's Ferry until new regular Confederate regiments could be organized and dispatched.

When news of Borland's situation reached Little Rock, the state Military Board responded to Borland's call for aid by calling out the 8th Militia Brigade under the command of Brig. Gen. Phillips:

It being represented that the State was in danger of invasion, and that Colonel Borland's command was threatened with immediate attack, it was ordered that Brigadier-General Phillips be ordered to call out the Eighth Brigade of Militia, and that he also order out one company each from the following counties, viz: Prairie, Monroe, Poinsett, Saint Francis, and Craighead.

Brig. Gen. Theodore H. Phillips offered his services to Col. Borland, who welcomed his aid in the emergency. Phillips undertook the organization of the new 30 day

volunteer companies into a brigade. He placed a requisition for camp equipment as follows:

Requisition for Camp and Garrison Equipage
viz: Four camp kettles. 4 ovens, lids and pot
hooks, 4 coffee boilers, 15 tin cups. 25 tin
plates. 4 mess Bins, 1 coffee mill, 6 spoons, 8
knives. Requisition for forage for 8 horses,
96 lbs. of corn.

Brig. Gen Phillips added his explanation for the requisition: "In response to Col. Borland's call for militia service for 30 days. We have responded and entered service. [with] Capt. Ruffner." The receipt was dated Pocahontas November 23. 1861, and was signed by "T. H. Phillips, Brig. Gen. 8th Brigade of Arkansas Militia."

Col. Borland's call received an almost immediate response, but he continued to harbor serious misgivings about his situation. On November 10, he wrote to Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk, C.S.A., commanding the 1st Division Western Department, at Columbus, Kentucky, and told of his call for reinforcements from the militia. He said the response was "somewhat tumultuous." On November 9, 1000 men had arrived unorganized and so ill-supplied with arms that he deemed it best to direct them to return home. They followed this direction and assured Borland that within a week's time he would have at least 3000 men at his command. He told them that companies thus organized and prepared would be received into service for 30 days from the time they reported again to him. Borland added a postscript to this letter, saying that he had just received a report from his scouts that a Federal force of 7450 was between Reeve's Station and Greenville in Missouri. He told Gen. Polk that the force he had was wholly insufficient for either attack or defense. It should be three times as large or be abandoned altogether; and finally he asked to be relieved of his command. "It is a Brigadier's command, and should have his responsibility, which I am daily growing more and more distrustful of my competency to sustain. Public interests here would be better provided for by other and abler hands."

News of Borland's call for volunteers and the resulting convergence upon Pocahontas was of course reported to other parts of the state. The *Arkansas True Democrat* of November 14 printed a dispatch from Des Arc dated November 9, 11:00 pm:

The steamer Kanawa Valley left Jacksonport this morning and reports here that large numbers of men are flocking to Borland's aid. The Feder-

al forces 7,000 strong are advancing on Pocahontas rapidly, and were expected to make an attack on the town to-day. There is a tremendous excitement throughout the country. The women and children are all being moved from Pocahontas and active preparations are making for a stern resistance to the invaders. Borland's command has retreated from Pittman's Ferry to within a mile of Pocahontas, where they have made a stand. This intelligence is perfectly reliable. J.C. Morrill.

Some two dozen of these emergency companies were organized in Greene, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Lawrence and Randolph counties, including the areas now encompassed in present-day Clay, Cleburne, Sharp and Woodruff counties. They converged on Pocahontas and Pitman's Ferry, beginning about November 9, and were mustered into Confederate service for a period of thirty days. Few records of these hastily organized and short-lived companies have survived. It appears that three thirty-day regiments were organized from these companies.

1st Arkansas Regiment, 30 Day Volunteers, CSA

The 1st Arkansas Regiment, 30-Day Volunteers (infantry), seems to have been formally organized on November 23, 1861—at least that is the date of the appointments of the field and staff officers—under command of Colonel James Haywood McCaleb. Col. McCaleb was the commander of the 25th Militia Regiment, from Lawrence County. It appears that several of the companies that composed the new "30 Day Volunteer" regiment originated as part of the 25th Militia Regiment.

2nd Arkansas Regiment, 30 Day Volunteers, CSA

The 2nd Regiment Arkansas Regiment, 30-Day Volunteers (infantry), may not have completed its organization—only the records of one battalion of this regiment have survived. Only the records of the four companies of the 1st Battalion of the 2nd Regiment are extant. Four companies from northeast Arkansas constituted the 1st Battalion. The companies enlisted for 30-days of emergency service on November 18, and were discharged on December 18, 1861:

- Company A – Capt. John H. Miers' company from Jackson County.
- Company B – Capt. W. T. High's company ("High's Repellers") from Prairie (and present-day Lonoke) counties. This company appears to have originated as
- Company G, 50th Militia Regiment of Prairie County.

- Company C – Capt. James R. Morris’ company from Independence and present-day Cleburne counties, and
- Company D – Capt. Thomas G. Shinpock’s company from present-day Woodruff County.

The men of Companies A, B and C returned to their respective homes after being discharged. The men of Company D stayed on to enlist in Confederate service for one year and became Company K of McCarver’s 14th Arkansas Infantry. No colonel or lieutenant-colonel was ever assigned to the 2nd Regiment. The only field-grade officer mentioned in the record is a Major Allen, commanding the 1st Battalion, 2nd Regiment.

3rd Arkansas Regiment, 30 Day Volunteers, CSA

A 3rd Arkansas Regiment, 30-Day Volunteers (cavalry), almost surely never completely organized—only the rosters of two mounted companies, under Captains Reves and Hooker, have survived.

- Capt. Reves’ Mounted Company, 30-Day Volunteers, CSA – from Randolph County. Notation on muster roll—“This company was raised in Randolph county, Arkansas, in response to Colonel Borland’s call of November 5, 1861, mustered into the Confederate service on December 26, 1861, for 30 days, and discharged on January 26, 1862, at Pocahontas, Arkansas.”
- Capt. Richard Hooker’s Company, Arkansas Mounted Volunteers, 30 days 1861, CSA – Jackson County. This company was mustered into Confederate service November 29, and discharged December 28, 1861. Muster rolls for this period bear the remark: “the men were armed with shotguns and borrowed sabers.”^[333] Hooker’s Company began as a cavalry unit.^[324] They had evidently spent time training in camp at Jacksonport before going to Pocahontas. In a report of purchases of army equipment at Jacksonport for the military board, R. R. Kellogg wrote on December 20, 1861: “Enclosed please find an Invoice of Goods by the Committee for Jackson County at this place – together with the receipts of all that we have distributed. The tents loaned to Hooker’s Company have been returned and are now subject to your order.” Although Hooker’s Company was originally organized for 30 day service, it was reorganized on February 26, 1862, by Capt. Hooker at Jacksonport and more men were added. It figured prominently in actions around Jackson County in the spring and summer of 1862.^[324] Hooker’s Company was mustered into it Confederate service as companies C and D of the 32nd Arkansas Infantry Regiment.

Unattached Companies

Four additional companies were raised, possibly to fill out the rest of the 2nd Regiment or possibly for the 3rd Regiment of 30 day Volunteers, but they were never formally assigned to a regiment.

- Capt. Clayton’s Company, 30-Day Volunteers, CSA—From Lawrence (Now Sharp) county. Notation on muster roll—“This company was raised at Ash Flat, Arkansas, in response to Colonel Borland’s call of November 5, 1861, mustered into the Confederate service on November 9, 1861, for 30 days, and discharged on December 9, 1861, at Pitman’s Ferry, Arkansas.”
- Capt. Ballard’s Company, 30-Day Volunteers, CSA – from Randolph county, Notation on muster roll—“This company was raised in Randolph county, Arkansas, in response to Colonel Borland’s call of November 5, 1861, mustered into the Confederate service on November 17, 1861, for 30 days, and discharged on December 17, 1861, at Pitman’s Ferry, Arkansas.”
- Capt. Baker’s Company, 30-Day Volunteers, CSA – from St Francis county. Notation on muster roll—“This company was raised at Cotton Plant, Arkansas, in response to Colonel Borland’s call of November 5, 1861, mustered into the Confederate service on November 14, 1861, for 30 days, and discharged on December 14, 1861, at Pocahontas, Arkansas.”
- Capt. Ruffner commanded a company of volunteers from the southern part of Lawrence County and evidently camped with Gen. Phillips. They remained at Pocahontas until the emergency was over and Col. Borland felt their service was no longer needed.

The period of enlistment for these emergency companies expired from mid-December to early January, about the time that the new regular regiments arrived, and they were discharged and sent home. Most of the volunteers subsequently enlisted in various regiments organized in the third round of troop mobilization in March and April 1862.

Operations Against the Peace Society

The 45th Regiment Arkansas Militia was the regiment of Searcy and present-day Stone counties. It is the only militia regiment known to have been called up during the war for a specific mission. Confederate and State authorities became increasingly concerned about a shadowy organization in north-central Arkansas known as the Peace Society. The Peace Societies were largely union sympathizers who felt that the large slaveholding planters of southern Arkansas and the Deep South had caused

the war; they felt that they should be required to bear the burden of the conflict. Governor Rector ordered the 45th Arkansas Militia Regiment (Searcy County) to round up suspected Peace Society members in Searcy and Van Buren counties.

The regiment mustered on November 26, 1861, at Burrowville (now Marshall), and spent the next few weeks identifying and apprehending suspected Peace Society members throughout the mountains of north-central Arkansas. Finally, in mid-December, the regiment "escorted" their prisoners to Little Rock, where most of them were forced into Confederate service. Companies I and K of Marmaduke's 18th Arkansas (later 3rd Confederate) regiment were composed primarily of men rounded up by the 45th Militia. Their mission completed, the regiment returned to Searcy County and mustered out on December 20, 1861. The next spring, most of them enlisted in the 27th and 32nd Arkansas Infantry Regiments.

Inspection of militia units December 1861

The Military Board's efforts to mobilize necessary forces to defend the state, while maintaining the Militia as a separate organization, appear to have still been successful in the fall and winter of 1861. In early December 1861, the commanding generals of the Arkansas Militia Brigades made inspection tours of their districts. The Adjutant General, General Edmund Burevin, reviewed the Militia Division of Major General Thomas D. Merrick, who had mobilized as the Colonel of the 10th Arkansas. Major General James Yell reviewed the 2nd Militia Division. Brigadier General Holt, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, reported that the militia units in the eight counties that comprised the 2nd Brigade were well organized, and that domestic arms were more plentiful than he had expected. Regimental Drill was conducted on December 5, 1861, at St. Johns College in Little Rock, and on December 7 in Saline County.

Militia Operations: 1862

The Confederate Government in Richmond reacted to Arkansas' complaints on January 10, 1862, by creating District of the Trans-Mississippi from General Albert Sidney Johnston's Department of the West and dispatching Major General Earl Van Dorn to assume command. General Van Dorn arrived in Little Rock on January 29, 1862 and immediately made a requisition upon the State Military Board for ten additional regiments of infantry and four companies of artillery. In a proclamation, "To The People Of Arkansas, dated January 31, 1862, Governor Rector commented that: "From the best data in possession of the State authorities it is estimated that Arkansas has now 22,000 men in the Confederate Army, which

is equal to 37 per cent, of her population fit or subject to military duty—the 8,500 called for making 30,500 out of 60,000, being one-half, or 50 per cent, of her entire military force"

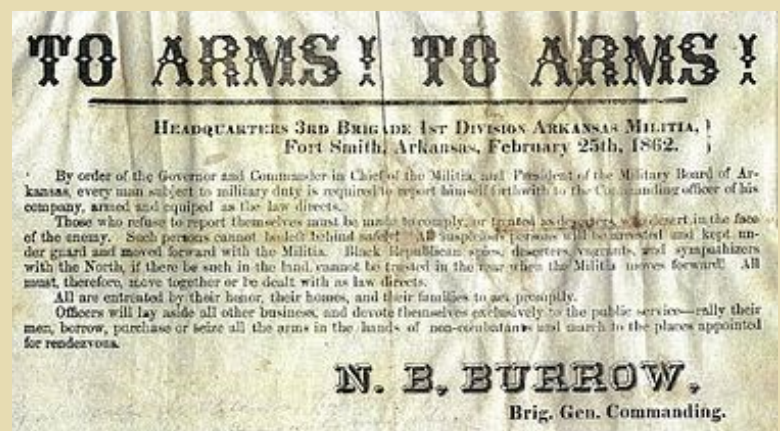
Under the Governor's Proclamation, the state was divided into four new "divisions" and each division was assigned a recruiting goal. Governor Rector warned that any division which failed to report the number of men to them by March 5, 1862, would be subject to a draft, by counties, until their due proportion according to population was furnished. Rector also stated that the State Military Board had the authority "to make a draft from the militia to obtain the required number for service."

Militia Called Out in the Face of Invasion

Before Major General Van Dorn could make much progress at building his new "Army of the West," a Union invasion of Northwest Arkansas necessitated an activation of the state militia. On February 17, 1862, General McCulloch issued a proclamation from Fayetteville:

To Able-bodied Citizens Of Western Arkansas:
The troops under General Price and myself are falling back before a superior force to the Boston Mountains. Thousands of Federal hirelings are within the line of your State, -whilst hundreds of men remain at home, notwithstanding their services are needed. Let every man turn out and form companies, and rally to meet the advancing enemy. Rally at once or it will be too late.

Brigadier General N. B. Burrow, commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, Arkansas State Militia reacted by activating his entire brigade. According to pay records and muster rolls from the period, the following elements of the 3rd Brigade were activated in the face of the Union invasion of Northwest Arkansas:



- 5th Militia Regiment, 3rd Militia Brigade, Crawford County, on duty 21 February -17 March,
- 7th Militia Regiment, 3rd Militia Brigade, Franklin County, on duty 22 February -19 March,
- 10th Militia Regiment, 3rd Militia Brigade, Johnson County, on duty 20 February -19 March
- 51st Militia Regiment, 3rd Militia Brigade, Sebastian County, on duty 4 March - 19 March,
- 58th Militia Regiment, 3rd Militia Brigade, Logan County, on duty 22 February - 21 March,
- 62nd Militia Regiment, 3rd Militia Brigade, Johnson County, on duty 22 February - 1 March

General Van Dorn received dispatches on February 22, from Generals McCulloch and Price, which indicated that General Price had rapidly fallen back from Springfield Missouri before a superior force of the enemy, and was endeavoring to form a junction with the division of General McCulloch in Boston Mountains, near Fayetteville. The State Military Board issued an order to Brigadier General George M. Holt, Commander of the 2nd Brigade of Arkansas Militia on February 26, to organize and put in camp each regiment in his militia brigade without delay. Brigadier General Burrow of the 3rd Militia Brigade, wrote from his headquarters at Van Buren to Governor Rector on March 2, informing the governor that he feared that only about 1,400 out of the 4,800 men enlisted in the brigade would report for duty. This estimate was based on the first returns from the units he had called out in response to Brigadier General McCulloch's call. Burrow indicated that reasons for this poor showing were that many had responded to General McCulloch's call by simply joining the existing volunteer regiments. Others had gone into hiding in the mountains in order to avoid militia duty. Finally, some joined the quartermaster department as teamsters and runners, and thus became exempt from militia duty, in order to escape combat.

On March 3, General Van Dorn reached the headquarters of Generals Price and McCulloch and on March 7–8, Van Dorn's Army of the West engaged the Federal Army of the Southwest near Elk Horn Tavern in what would become known as the Battle of Pea Ridge. After initial success on the first day of the battle, Van Dorn was forced to order a retreat due to a lack of ammunition to continue the fight.

In response to the call of the State Military Board, elements of the 2nd Brigade, Arkansas Militia were mustered during and immediately following the Battle of Pea Ridge. The 50th Militia Regiment, of Prairie County, mustered March 7–9, while the 15th Militia Regiment, of Pope County mustered March 10–11. These are the only

2nd Brigade units for which pay roll records are available. H.W. Sholar of Greene County wrote to Governor Rector on March 13, concerning Rector's recent call for 1,500 men to enlist in the militia. Sholar reported that companies were being raised in the county, but he complained that the men who refuse to enlist are threatened with death and "mob law" reigned in the County.

While General Van Dorn was fighting the Federals, Governor Rector was fighting attempts by the state legislature to abolish the Militia. The Legislature was called into a special session beginning March 5, but the legislature lacked a quorum until March 17, when they began a 5-day session. Legislators who were tired of the high cost of attempting to maintain a separate state army sought to abolish the Militia and passed an act to forbid Governor from paying Militia officers. The Legislature did appropriate \$575,000 to implement current military law. The Governor used a pocket veto to prevent the bill abolishing the Militia and the bill forbidding him to pay Militia Officers from becoming law, but signed the appropriation passed by the Legislature and used the funds to finance Militia activities.

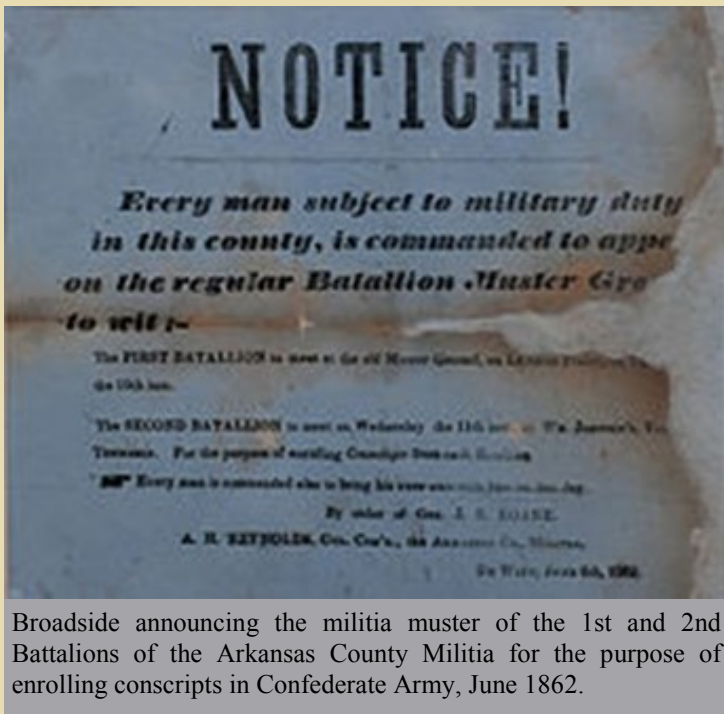
Governor Rector attempts to organize a new State Army

Following his defeat at this battle, General Van Dorn initially retreated to Fort Smith and began moving his army back across the state in the direction of Jacksonport. Van Dorn originally intended to attempt an invasion of Missouri from Northeast Arkansas, but before he could begin such an operation, he received orders from General Albert Sydney Johnston, directing him to move his army east of the Mississippi to assist with operations near Corinth, Mississippi. Van Dorn left the state with virtually every organized military unit and all the military stores and equipment that he could procure, once again leaving the State of Arkansas virtually defenseless in the face of a continued threat of invasion.

Furious with the authorities in Richmond, Governor Rector threatened to withdraw Arkansas from the Confederacy. Governor Rector issued an address on May 5, 1862, calling for the formation of 30 new infantry companies and 20 new cavalry companies. Rector indicated that if there were insufficient volunteers to fill these new companies, a draft would be made upon the militia regiments and brigades. As a further enticement, Rector also indicated that these regiments were for home defense and that they would not be transferred to Confederate Service without their consent.

General Hindman Assumes Command

Arkansas' Confederate congressional delegation joined Governor Rector in demanding defense for Arkansas. In the summer of 1862, President Jefferson Davis, created the Trans-Mississippi District, made up of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Major General E. Kirby Smith was placed in command, with headquarters at Shreveport, Louisiana. Major General Thomas C. Hindman, a resident of Helena and a forceful commander, was named to command the forces in Arkansas in a Special Order issued by General Bragg on May 26, 1862. With Federal troops only 35 miles from Little Rock, Hindman was forced to take drastic measures. While on his way to Little Rock he had "impressed" \$1 million from Memphis banks. At Helena he raided the stores, confiscated supplies ranging from medicine to ammunition, all of which he loaded on impressed steamboats. Of doubtful legality, these actions continued once Hindman reached Arkansas. Professor Michael Dougan has written that Hindman took "stores of all kinds" from citizens, even going so far as to raid the State Library to obtain paper for making cartridges. Finally, he burned thousands of bales of cotton to prevent their falling into enemy hands.



Broadside announcing the militia muster of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Arkansas County Militia for the purpose of enrolling conscripts in Confederate Army, June 1862.

Reaching Little Rock on May 30, 1862, General Hindman wasted no time in trying to correct the complicated situation in Arkansas. The general at once began to raise a new army. Facing the immediate threat of Federal occupation, General Hindman insisted that the State Military Board transfer all remaining state troops to Confederate service. Rector, having won the battle with Richmond and facing staggering costs in maintaining a state army, was in no position to refuse. On June 2, 1862, Rector issued a proclamation noting that it was "essential

that but one military organization shall exist within the Trans-Mississippi Department" and transferred all state forces to Confederate command.

Relying upon a recently adopted Confederate conscription law, General Hindman drafted large numbers of men. To encourage volunteering, Hindman announced that if men formed themselves into volunteer companies by June 20, 1862, they would be permitted to elect their own company officers, instead of their officers being appointed by General Hindman. It is possible that this led to the aforementioned large number of enlistments from former militiamen into Volunteer Regiments in the summer of 1862.

During the spring and summer, many former militiamen joined one of the newly formed volunteer regiments. It may be that the militiamen decided it was better to enlist and remain together than to wait for forced conscription under new Confederate Conscription laws, which were being strictly enforced during the summer of 1862. In some cases, the Militia was ordered to assemble at their Regular Battalion Muster Grounds for the purpose of enrolling conscripts for service the Confederate Army. In many cases, names on the militia muster rolls from the February–March call up of the militia match subsequent enlistments in new Volunteer Regiments being raised in the spring and summer of 1862. A good example of this process is Company A of the 1st Arkansas Cavalry Regiment (Monroe's), which was enlisted at Hickory Plains, Prairie County, Arkansas, on May 9, 1862, by Captain Patrick Henry Wheat. Of the 97 members of this company who enlisted at Hickory Plains, 49 were present for the muster of the 50th Militia Regiment on March 7, 1862.

Home Guard

Besides attempting to organize a strong force of regular Confederate troops, General Hindman used the conscription laws to create home guard units. The Confederate conscription statutes required that boys of 17 years and men between 45 and 50 serve in home guard units, similar to the traditional militia. On June 17, 1862, Hindman issued General Order Number Seventeen, providing that "for the more effectual annoyance of the enemy...all citizens of this district, who are not subject to conscription, are called upon to organize themselves into independent companies." In the thoroughness that typified Hindman, he suggested the types of operations which the home guards should carry out: "Their duty will be to cut off Federal pickets, scouts, foraging parties, and trains, and to kill pilots and others on gun-boats and transports, attacking them day and night, and using the greatest vigor in their movements." Although the home guard units were similar to the militia, the Federals accused Hindman

of legalizing bushwhacking. Many of the men who joined the home guards merely used the organization as an excuse to pillage isolated farms and villages. Northwest Arkansas, in particular, suffered at the hands of these guerilla bands.

The home guards proved to be popular with Confederate sympathizers in Arkansas, primarily because these units could not be sent out of the state without the consent of state authorities. While some of these groups did engage in informal guerrilla activities, others were well-organized and competently commanded. The Home Guard units continued to operate until the closing days of the war.

The Fall of Little Rock

General Hindman proved a more effective organizer than a battlefield leader. His new army met defeat first at the Battle of Prairie Grove (December 7, 1862) and later at the Battle of Helena in July 1863. The state capitol, Little Rock, fell to advancing Union Forces on September 10, 1863. Arkansas Confederate forces continued to resist until the end of the war, and managed to inflict a few embarrassing Union defeats, notably at Battle of Jenkins' Ferry and Battle of Marks' Mills during the Red River Campaign of 1864. Many of the units which participated in these final battles of the conflict in Arkansas were raised as State Troops from the militia of southern Arkansas.

Militia Operations After the Fall of Little Rock



Gordon Neill Peay served as Adjutant General to Governor Flanagin, 1863-1865

Governor Harris Flanagin (who had defeated Governor Rector in his re-election bid of 1862) began organizing a new force of state troops in the fall of 1863. Governor Flanagin appointed Gordon N. Peay to serve as his Adjutant General. Peay served in this capacity until the end of the war. Flanagin issued a proclamation on August 10, 1863, just a month before the capitol fell, announcing that he was authorized to raise new regiments of state troops and that by special agreement these new units could not be transferred out of the state by Confederate authorities. After the fall of Little Rock, recruiting was far more difficult than it had been in the first years of the war. The constant transfer of Arkansas troops into the eastern theater of the war, across the Mississippi River from their homes, was a major objection by the remaining population of men eligible for military service. With Federal forces now occupying the state capitol, the Confederate state government had no way of enforcing conscription laws in the counties behind the Union lines, except during raids by Generals Price and Shelby in 1864. The remaining Confederate regiments were plagued by desertions.

On September 16, 1863, in the immediate aftermath of the fall of the state capitol, Governor Flanagin issued General Order No. 6 from Arkadelphia, which called in to service the militia regiments of the counties of Clark, Hempstead, Sevier, Pike, Polk, Montgomery, La Fayette, Ouachita, Union, and Columbia in order to resist the Federal army. The Governor's order directed the regiments to march to Arkadelphia at the earliest possible day. Companies were to be mounted and commanders were to compel persons evading the call to come to the rendezvous. The intent was to form companies of twelve-month mounted volunteers. Only six physicians, one druggist, millers to supply the wants of the country, clerks, sheriffs, postmasters, and persons in the employ of the Confederate States were exempted from the order. In describing this call in a letter to General Holmes dated October 18, 1863, from Washington, Arkansas, the new Confederate state capitol, Flanagin stated that he issued the order calling out the militia, as an experiment, expecting to get volunteers. The order succeeded so well as to get companies organized in the counties where the call for the militia was enforced, which resulted in seven companies being collected under the call. Flanagin also stated that "the troops raised by the State are more than double all the troops raised by volunteering, or by the conscript law, within the past few months."

On October 26, 1863, Governor Flanagin directed Adjutant General Peay to:

...visit Lewisville, in La Fayette County, and

see Captain Ford, who has been raising a company of mounted riflemen under the State. I have been informed that this company has been sworn into the service of the Confederate States. If so, the only thing to be done is to communicate this fact to General Fagan. If the State troops which can be raised in La Fayette County are already raised you are authorized to disband the militia. If convenient, I would like for you to go to Union County. Captain Holloway has been raising a company of mounted riflemen in that county. If his company is organized, you can disband the militia of that county. If the colonel is inefficient, and Captain Holloway has not got his company formed, let him swear his men in and get the militia together, and compel those who are liable to the conscript law to go into the State or C. S. service.”

These new units of Arkansas State Troops were placed under the overall command of Col. William H. Trader who was detailed to Governor Flanagin by General E. Kirby Smith. Col. Trader remained in command of the state troops until he resigned in June 1864.

Pettus Battalion, Arkansas State Troops

On January 14, 1864, Governor Flanagin, through General Peay, issued General Orders, No. 8, which directed the following named companies of Arkansas mounted volunteers, which had been called into the service of the State under the proclamation of the August 10, A.D. 1863, compose and be designated as the 1st Battalion, Arkansas State Troops:

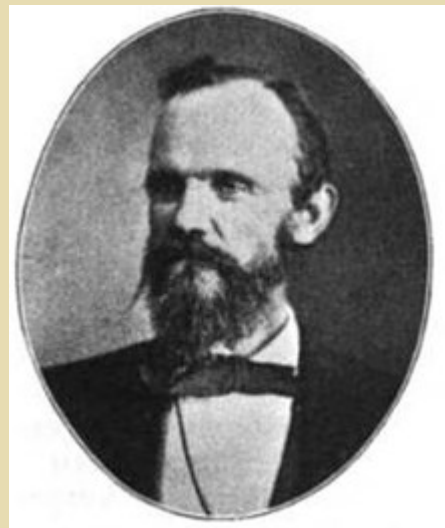
- Company A, of Hempstead County, Captain E. K. Williamson, commanding.
- Company B, of Clark County, Captain Reuben C. Reed, commanding.
- Company C, of Sevier County, Captain Allen T. Pettus, commanding.
- Company D, of Polk County, Captain G. A. Hale, commanding.
- Company E, of Hot Spring County, Captain John W. Dyer, commanding.

Allen T. Pettus was elected Lieutenant Colonel of this battalion. The unit participated in the battle of Marks Mill on April 25, 1864 as a part of Brigadier General William L. Cabell's Division. Lt. Col. Pettus was killed during the battle and Capt. P.K. Williamson of Company A commanded the battalion until the unit was increased to a regiment and transferred to Confederate service.

Newton's 10th Arkansas Cavalry Regiment

In August 1864, when the term of enlistment for these state troops was about to expire, Adjutant General Peay issued an order which directed that companies be allowed to vote on the subject of being transferred into Confederate service. However, the chance to vote on being transferred was merely a matter of form because Peay's order also had directions for those who refused transfer to Confederate service:

Men whose terms of service have expired, and who are not willing to be transferred, will be reported to and turned over to the proper enrolling officer of the Confederate States for conscription. Men whose terms of service have not expired and who are opposed to the transfer will be required to serve until the expiration of their term of enlistment, and such as do not then re enlist will be turned over to the proper enrolling officers of the Confederate States for conscription.



Robert C Newton, first commander of the Pulaski Light Artillery. Later commanded the 5th Arkansas Cavalry Regiment

On September 5, 1864, the State Troop companies, including Pettus Battalion, were formed into one regiment of cavalry to be designated as the 3rd Regiment of Arkansas Cavalry, with Col. Robert C. Newton assigned to the command of the regiment until an election could be held for field officers. The companies of this regiment included:

- Company A—Capt. Reuben C. Reed, composed of men from Clark County
- Company B—Capt. Robert S. Burke, composed of men from Montgomery County
- Company C—Capt. Cyrus K. Holman (replaced

Allen T. Pettus), composed of men from Sever County

- Company D—Capt. James B. Williamson, composed of men from Polk County
- Company E—Capt. Samuel Ogden (replaced P.K. Williamson), composed of men from Hempstead County
- Company F—Capt. Theophilus G. Henley, composed of men from Hempstead County
- Company G—Capt. George A. Hale, composed of men from Polk County
- Company H—Capt. William C. Corcoran, composed of men from Scott County
- Company I—Capt. Allen A. McDonald (replaced John W. Dyer), composed of men from Hot Spring County
- Company K—Capt. John Connally, composed of men from Pope County.

This unit was mustered into the Confederate Service on the October 31, 1864 as the 10th Arkansas Cavalry Regiment. Col. Newton was elected Regimental Commander. The unit operated in the Arkansas River Valley, interdicting the supply route between Little Rock and Fort Smith during the winter of 1864 to 1865.

The New Unionist Militia

In September 1863, Little Rock was captured by Union forces, and the Confederate state government fled to Washington, in Southwest Arkansas. From that point, effective Confederate control was limited to the southwest corner of the state. Home guard units and guerrilla bands continued to mount frequent raids. The Union government acted quickly to establish a loyal government in Little Rock.

That new loyal government was led by Isaac Murphy. Murphy had gained fame, and no small degree of hatred, by his firm refusal to vote for secession during the state secession convention. In early 1864, a convention was held in Little Rock to draft a unionist state constitution. On March 14 the document was approved by the available voters; Isaac Murphy was shortly thereafter elected governor.

Among Murphy's first acts was to call for the formation of a loyal state militia, as bushwhackers were running rampant in the state. On May 31, 1864, the legislature adopted Act Number Nineteen, which provided for the creation of "a loyal State militia." This legislation stipulated that "none but loyal and trustworthy men shall be permitted to bear arms in said organization." So that the legal militia could be easily separated from the guerrilla

forces, the act required each militiaman to "wear, as a mark of distinction, and for the purpose of being recognized at a distance, a band of red cloth [three] inches in width, to be worn on their hats, or in the most conspicuous [*sic*] manner...." Governor Murphy was authorized by the legislature to solicit 10,000 stands of arms from the Federal authorities to supply the militia force. Albert W. Bishop, a lieutenant colonel in the 1st Arkansas (Union) Cavalry, became Murphy's adjutant general.

Using United States Army officers to oversee recruitment, the new militia slowly took shape. Recruitment was most effective in strong unionist areas, especially northwest Arkansas, and in areas where a large Federal garrison could provide assistance. By the end of September 1864, militia drills were held at Little Rock and Fort Smith as well as other points. In Little Rock, authorities ordered businesses to close during the three-hour weekly drills to encourage full attendance.

The rural areas of Northwest Arkansas, which experienced continual depredations by guerrilla forces, witnessed the formation of paramilitary organizations akin to, but different from, the Militia. Portions of the area had been stripped of productive farms, given the roaming bands of bushwhackers and Federal troops who frequently impressed food and supplies. Thus, a large percentage of the population faced starvation. As early as 1863, well before the formation of the Murphy government in Little Rock, Colonel M. LaRue Harrison, a Unionist commander and the man after whom the city of Harrison would be named, formed what came to be known as "Farm Colonies." These colonies served both a military and agricultural purpose. The colonies organized Militia companies composed entirely of farmers, which would be expected to cultivate the land and protect it.

Connection to the Arkansas National Guard

Current Arkansas Army National Guard units do not trace their lineage and honors to any of the units that participated in the Civil War. This is due in part to the lack of organization and poor record-keeping at the state level both before and after the war, and in part due to confusion over identification of units. In contrast to other southern states whose current National Guard units are awarded the campaign participation credits for their unit's participation in the various campaigns and engagements while in Confederate service, no current Arkansas National Guard unit has Campaign Participation Credit for the period of the Civil War.

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Notes: *If you are interested in the citations for this article, please contact the staff at the Arkansas National Guard Museum.*

The Impact of World War II on the State of Arkansas

By Hannah McConnell

Winner of the Arkansas National Guard Museum Essay Contest

Arkansas has a rich military history spanning centuries. From the first military garrison sent to Arkansas Post in 1791, to current Arkansas National Guard deployments in the Middle East, military events have been important to the development of Arkansas as a state. In particular, World War II greatly affected the growth and development of our great state in both positive and negative ways. World War II helped shape Arkansas into the state that it is today by kick-starting several favorable social changes and helping to industrialize a largely rural farming state; however, the war also brought some less desirable changes to the Natural State.

Prior to World War II, Arkansas was known to have a relatively poor economy. The majority of the state was agricultural with most people living in rural areas. The Great Flood of 1927, the Great Depression, destructive tornadoes, and the drought of 1930 - 1931 are some of the major hardships the Natural State faced in the years prior to the war. Arkansas was also dealing socially with several important issues in the area of civil rights. Women generally did not have the opportunity to work outside the home except in such fields as teaching. Minorities, especially African-Americans, were still segregated from white citizens and often discriminated against as had been the case since the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War.

The beginning of World War II brought about an increase in the number of factories and factory workers within Arkansas. Because many young men had to leave the state to fight, women and other minority groups had the opportunity to join the work force. The first factory built in Arkansas to produce war related supplies, the Jacksonville Ordinance Plant, became operational in 1942. With thirty-three million dollars of government money invested in constructing and operating this plant, over fourteen thousand jobs were provided to Arkansans. Seventy-five percent of the people employed there were women, and over three thousand African-Americans were also employed by the plant. The Jacksonville Ordinance Plant was the first factory of its kind in the entire United States. With six ordinance plants in total, Arkansas was able to provide thousands of jobs to people who would otherwise be working in cotton fields, leaving the state for other industrial work, or staying at home.

As a result of the Second World War, the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps was established. The women of this organization were to be trained by the military in noncombat duties in order to allow men to focus on training and fighting overseas. Many women began working in the ordinance plants to produce items necessary for use in the war such as explosives, fuses, and detonators. Although the women did not go into combat, their training was very similar to that of the male troops. These women withstood a fast-paced five and a half day work week, were educated on various military subjects, and put through vigorous exercise routines. They were also trained to be surgical and medical technicians, x-ray technicians, dental and laboratory technicians, and physical and occupational therapists. Women stationed at Camp Robinson and Camp Chaffee in Arkansas also began teaching illiterate men how to read and write in order for the men to be better prepared for combat training and deployment.

One of the responsibilities of the members of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps was to provide transportation for troops who were undergoing training or preparing for deployment. I remember hearing my great grandmother, Clara "Sis" Hicks Coe, tell stories about her experiences as a chauffeur in the WAAC. She was the first female private from Arkansas in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps. On September 5, 1942, the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette's* headline read "Arkansas's First Private in the 'Wackies' to Leave Tomorrow." Clara "Sis" Hicks was the first female private from our state to be accepted into basic training. She went to the WAAC base in Des Moines, Iowa, for eight weeks of basic training. She then drove military vehicles at Fort Devins, Massa-



Clara “Sis” Hicks Coe seen second from left. Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps

chusetts and was later trained as a physical therapist at the army’s first physical therapy school in Pennsylvania. I recall her telling about the vehicle she drove at Fort Devins while transporting troops. The truck did not have a cover over the troops in the back, but it did have a cover above the driver’s area. However, my great grandmother stated that she would not use her cover. If the soldiers had to be exposed to the cold, rain, or other severe weather, the least she could do would be to endure it right along with them.

World War II also aided in the industrialization and urbanization processes in Arkansas. With higher wages offered by the ordnance plants and other factories, many members of Arkansas’s farming families chose to move from the rural countryside into the city to work in these factories. Because fewer people were working on farms, the need for automation in agricultural areas grew rapidly. This allowed many Arkansans to stay in the city instead of moving back to rural areas to resume farming jobs even after the war ended.

Prisoner of war camps and relocation camps also brought about positive economic changes for the state. Camps such as Camp Chaffee, Camp Dermott, and Camp Robinson were used to house twenty-three thousand German and Italian prisoners. Two relocation camps were constructed in Arkansas to house Japanese-Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Camp Rohwer was operational from 1942 to 1945, and Camp Jerome was operational from 1942 to 1944. The construction and operation of these relocation camps provided many jobs for the local communities in the state.

Although the war did bring about numerous beneficial changes to Arkansas’s economy, there were some negative changes as well. Because men were drafted to fight, farms were often left short-handed. In fact, approximately ten percent of Arkansas’s population served in World War II. Many people who worked in factories even before the war started moved out of state at the beginning of the war for the higher wages paid at industrial jobs outside the state of Arkansas. It is estimated that another ten percent of the state’s population left Arkansas in the early 1940s in order to get higher paying jobs in other states.

World War II also brought about various social changes within our state. For example, patriotism and an increasing sense of unity within the communities of Arkansas were quite evident. Governor Homer Adkins began a “Victory Garden Day” to encourage people to grow food in their personal gardens. Because food and

other vital materials were being rationed, the Victory Gardens would alleviate some of the stress brought about by food shortages. Many in the state used every available plot of ground to grow food to supplement the rationed food items. Arkansas was also ranked twelfth out of all forty-eight states for providing war bonds and other funds to support the war effort.



Along with providing food and money, Arkansans were also drawn closer together to provide emotional support for one another. Fear of losing a son, father, or husband was a tremendous struggle throughout the war. My great grandfather, Roy M. Lee, would occasionally tell of when he fought during World War II. He was captured by German soldiers while serving in France and held in a prisoner of war camp for approximately forty-nine days. His family endured many difficult days during the time he was missing and received tremendous support from the community. Fortunately, he was part of a prisoner exchange and was able to safely return home.

Minority groups were also allowed an opportunity to serve in various ways during World War II. African-Americans were able to enlist in the military and fight for their country. Many of them were brought into Arkansas for training. Many other African-Americans who did not enlist in the army began working in factories to help provide war materials.

While World War II brought about many positive social changes to Arkansas, there were some negative social effects as well. Because over fifty percent of the state's teachers left the teaching field to work in factories, the educational achievements in the state declined dramatically over the course of the war and in the years following. Because segregation was still practiced in Arkansas at the time, African-Americans were not allowed to work in the same areas as white Americans. There were also separate military units for black Americans. After Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese in December 1941, sixteen thousand Japanese Americans were held prisoner in Arkansas. Because of the increase of African-Americans training in the various military camps and Japanese-Americans being held prisoner in Arkansas, many citizens became uneasy and dissatisfied with the sudden change in demographics. This led to continued racial tensions within the state of Arkansas.

Arkansas's involvement in military events has had a tremendous impact on the state's social and economic development. The dedication shown and sacrifices made by Arkansans who wore the uniform of the United States military throughout history have had a tremendous impact in making Arkansas the great state it is today. From providing opportunities to women and other minorities during the Second World War to changing the overall economic system of the state in support of the war effort, the military has brought much change to the Natural State.

September 5, 1942 – *Arkansas Gazette*

**Arkansas's First Private in the "Wackies"
To Leave Tomorrow**



"Sis" Hicks Coe

Miss Clara "Sis" Hicks of Little Rock and Lonoke will leave tomorrow morning for Des Moines, Iowa and a career as chauffeur in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps.

She is the first Arkansas woman to be called as a Private in the WAAC. Several Arkansas women are undergoing training as "Wacky" officers, but Miss Hicks is the first Private.

After being employed in the accounting Department of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's offices here for three years, she decided on an Army career because she wants "to get it over with, quick." Her brother, Tom Hicks is serving at the Army Air Base in Columbia, S.C. and another brother, Bob Hicks, will be inducted soon.

An Experienced Chauffeur

Miss Hicks qualified as a chauffeur by driving a school bus at Lonoke during two of her years as a high school student and for four years following her graduation. She attended

Arkansas State Teacher's College at Conway two years

The daughter of O. E. Hicks of Lonoke, Miss Hicks will undergo eight weeks training at the WAAC Base at Des Moines before receiving an assignment. Then, she will drive an ambulance, a station wagon, or may be a chauffeur for an officer.

A total of 39 women have been accepted at the recruiting office for enlistment as Private in the WAAC. Those accepted are awaiting calls to active duty.

Editor's Note: It was my pleasure to interview "Sis" Coe. In her own words she related that after basic training, she left by train for Ft. Devins, Massachusetts on New Year's Eve where she was assigned to the Motor Corps. This area was a receiving place for three hospitals. She drove two Colonels for meat purchases for the hospitals or anywhere else they needed to go.

Many celebrities visited the hospitals. It was her duty to drive them to and fro from their hotel in Worcester. Some of the entertainers were Walter Brennan, Joe Louis and Mary Martin. The latter kept her waiting an hour, and almost got her in trouble!

About this time the Army opened the first Physical Therapy School in Leeksborg, Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh. The trainees lived in a 2-story house next to the hospital, which was connected by a tunnel. It was a two-year program condensed into six months. She remained in this program until she was discharged in 1944.

After returning to Lonoke, "Sis" joined the local American Legion, where she held the office of Commander for two years. She worked for the telephone company in Little Rock for 39 years. This 92 year-old lady has been an active member of the Lonoke community most of her life and has served on the Lonoke Planning Commission several years!

Featured Artifact: 155 mm C, Model of 1917 Schneider

By LTC Matthew W. Anderson

With America's entry into the Great War on April 6th 1917, the War Department had a daunting task to transform from a peacetime force to a nation at war. The United States had positioned itself to remain at peace and to stay out of the European War. Politicians were elected on promises to ensure that America remained out of the war. So when the War Department sought budget increases to keep up with technological advances and build an Army that could match European armies, Congress repeatedly turned down their requests. As a result, the American Army desperately needed among other things, field artillery and needed to find a solution fast.

While America could establish new installations and train large forces of men, equipping them took much longer. Looking at American production capacity, American arsenals had not been producing any modernized artillery, so time would be needed to design, build, test, accept into service, retool factories, and begin production. Looking at all the equipment that would have to be designed and fielded, estimates were that America could be ready to join the fight in the spring of 1919.

Great Britain and France needed America to get into the fight as soon as possible in 1917. France having developed the most advanced field guns of the day and having produced enough guns to support the remaining French Army. France was ready and able to continue production of their field guns for the American Army and also use this as a means to pay off some of its debts.

France leapt forward in technological advances in field artillery in the 1890s with the development of the hydro pneumatic recuperator. The design and manufacturing processes were a closely guarded state secret. The recuperator was simply two parallel cylinders, the first cylinder filled with hydraulic fluid and second cylinder filled with air. The first cylinder had a piston attached to a recoil rod, which was attached to a gun barrel in the forward position. When the gun fired and recoiled, the pis-

ton was drawn back against the hydraulic fluid and forced through a port leading to the second cylinder. As the non-compressible fluids entered the second cylinder, it pushed a piston against the air (compressible gasses) in the second cylinder. Then as pressure increased, compressed gasses pushed back against the piston forcing the hydraulic fluids back into the first cylinder thereby forcing the piston and recoil rod to return the gun barrel to the original forward position. The hydro pneumatic recuperator allowed field guns to be fired continuously once laid in position rather than having to roll the gun back into position and re-sight before firing each time. It was now only the gun barrel that recoiled on a rail rather than the entire gun and carriage. Other advantages were greater accuracy, greater range, and increased rate of fire. Disadvantages was increased time to manufacture, specialized skilled labor, increased cost, increased weight, and increased materials. The first French gun to incorporate this design was the French 75mm Model of 1897. While other countries had developed their own recoil systems, they were based on a recoil spring which was prone to cracking under repeated stress and as a result was limited to use on smaller caliber guns. Nations that acquired the French 75mm M1897 through either purchase or capture attempted to replicate the design but were unable to replicate the manufacturing processes and exacting tolerances necessary. The French 75mm M1897 was the first modern field artillery since it was a lightweight, mobile, rapid (15 to 30 rounds per minute) direct fire gun. It was the main field gun the French had at the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 with about 4,000 in service.

In 1910, the French Schneider company completed a design designated the 152mm Model of 1910. The M1910 was based on Russian contract requirements for a 152mm gun with the hydro pneumatic recuperator. The French Army was not interested in this design at the time because they already had longer barreled 155mm howitzers in their heavy artillery units that could conduct indirect fire at longer ranges. At the time, 155mm guns were thought to be too heavy for light mobile field art-



American GIs examine the French 75mm M1897 Schneider. Considered the first modern artillery due to its revolutionary recoil system. (Army Signal Corps Photo)

When the Great War broke out in July 28, 1914, allied and central powers initially fought a war of mobility but soon discovered that heavy artillery, machine guns and other modern weapons introduced to the battlefield brought the advances on the front to a stalemate and units dug trenches for protection in the defense. By 1915, trench warfare was the new normal and direct fire field artillery in 75mm was of limited use. The French Army quickly adopted the Russian contract gun with modification to 155mm designated the 155mm Court Model of 1915 Schneider (Court is the French word for Short which refers to the length of the barrel and is most of the time abbreviated as C). The M1915 Schneider was mass produced and fielded to field artillery units on the front. The 155mm round was about 95 to 100 pounds and was effective in destroying enemy strong points in the trenches by direct and indirect fire.

As the war progressed, the French Army experienced a brass shortage. Ways to cut back on the use of brass were identified. One area that could be cut back was the use of brass shell casings for the 155mm round made for the M1915 Schneider. Heavy artillery units used 155mm rounds in their Canon de 155mm GPF field guns but separately used powder bags placed behind the shell in the breech. The M1915 Schneider was modified to use the same breech seal design as the Canon de 155mm GPF field guns and was redesignated the 155mm C Model of 1917 Schneider. The French produced a total of 3,020 M1917 Schneider guns and converted many more of the M1915 Schneider guns already in service to the M1917 Schneider.

As America began to build its fighting force and send troops to join the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in France. American industry struggled to transition to war production. The Army Ordnance Department adopted the 155mm C Model of 1917 design with modifications such as a flat shield versus the curved shield, which reduced production time, a pivoting spade versus the removable spade, and improvements to the hydro pneumatic system were made for better monitoring fluid and air levels. They also replaced the steel spoked wheels with pneumatic tires for towing by motorized vehicles rather than the eight horses that would otherwise be required. The design with modifications was redesignated the US 155mm Model of 1918 Schneider. The French provided manufacturing rights, plans and advisors to help American manufacturers retool. To speed production, several manufacturers were assigned responsibility to manufacture different parts of the gun in the summer of 1917. While most parts could be produced rapidly, for example, the American Brake and Shoe Company produced so many barrels that it sold excess barrels to the French in 1918. The recuperator was a more complex part. The French solution was highly skilled laborers who hand lapped the cylinders until the correct tolerances were achieved between the piston and cylinder. American manufacturing wanted a more mechanical and efficient way to achieve the precision fit. After much trial and error, Dodge Motor Company figured out a process to mass produce the hydro pneumatic recuperator and by July 1918 was finally producing them in sufficient quantities to keep up with production requirements. The first regimental size shipment of M1918 Schneider guns was embarking when the Armistice was declared on November 11, 1918.

While American manufacturing was begun the process to mass produce the tools of war, the Army Ordnance department concurrently sought other ways to outfit the AEF. With the French Army fielding most all of the requirements it needed, French manufacturing was available to mass produce arms for the AEF. The Army Ordnance department ordered 1,631 155mm C Model 1917 Schneider guns of which 772 were delivered to the AEF before Armistice Day, November 11, 1918. The agreement for the French to provide arms did several things: First, it served as a means to get the AEF into the fight to bring about a rapid end to the war; second, France was able to pay off part of the debt to the US; third, weapons produced in France freed up shipping for troops and other war materials from the US; fourth, it allowed America time to transition to war production;

fifth, it allowed the AEF to go to war with the latest battlefield proven equipment.

The gun crew of the M1917 Schneider gun named "Calamity Jane" Battery E, 11th Field Artillery had the honor to fire America's last round in the Great War. With the 95-pound round locked in the breech and lanyard at the ready the gunner kept his eye on the officer in charge. The officer in the last seconds raised his hand to the ready and watched the second hand sweep to the top of his watch. Quickly he dropped his hand and shouted fire! The gunner pulled the lanyard firing the last American round of the war on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. The Great War and supposedly the war to end all wars was finally over.



142nd Field Artillery at Camp Du Valdahon, France 1918 (Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. Central Arkansas Library System)

The guns in this photo are French built 155mm C M1917 Schneider.

In 1919, when the AEF returned to the United States it brought with them their French made 155mm C Model of 1917 Schneider guns that it had fought with on the front. American artillerymen had grown fond of their Schneider guns. The guns were dependable with proper care of the recuperator, simple, durable, light and compact for a 155mm gun, rapid firing, accurate and delivered a heavy punch. The French Schneiders that were brought back to the United States were gradually converted to M1918 Schneiders by installing pneumatic tires and flat shields. A few that were worn out or had special historical significance retained their original configuration for historical and ceremonial display.

The United States and many other nations retained or acquired the M1917 Schneider guns in their armies after the Great War. When World War II began in September 1, 1939 with the invasion of Poland, M1917 Schneider guns in the Polish Army were used in the battle and

eventually captured and used by Germany redesignated as 15.5cm sFH 17(p). In the 1940 German invasion of France the M1917 Schneider gun was still the main heavy field artillery of the French Army. These were also destroyed or captured by Germany and pressed into service, some even along the Atlantic Wall redesignated 15.5cm sFH 414(f). In 1941, Germany again encountered M1917 Schneiders guns during Operation Barbarossa the invasion of Russia. What guns they were able to capture from the Russians were redesignated 15.5cm sFH 449(r). In the United States Army M1918 Schneider guns were again upgraded in 1941 and 1942 and used in the early battles in the Pacific and North Africa in 1942 and 1943. They were designated US 155mm M1918A3 Schneider. Vichy French also used M1917 Schneiders against the

Allied landings of Operation Torch in North Africa in 1942, before the Vichy French Forces surrendered. The United States Army replaced the M1918A3 Schneider guns as manufacturing caught up with demands for newer replacements. The US M1918A3 Schneider guns were then relegated to training use only by 1944 and no longer in service by 1945. Many countries continued to use the surplus M1917 Schneider guns that were available after WWII with some even using them up into the 1980's.

Weight: 7,600 pounds (Fully Equipped)

Elevation: 0 to 42 degrees

Traverse: 6 degrees

Rate of fire: 3 rounds per minute

Muzzle Velocity: 1,480 feet per second

Maximum Range: 12,300 yards



A US 155mm M1918A3 being used in combat in North Africa 1943 (US Army Signal Corps Photo).



Sgt. James B. Aets uses a quadrant to determine the elevation of the 155mm M1918A3 Schneider, while Cpl. Charles J. Hines sights on the aiming stake, while training stateside in 1942 (US Army Signal Corps Photo).



The museum's 155mm C M1917 with M1918A3 upgrades. Note the flat front plate and pneumatic tires were post WWI upgrades.





Back of the breech block is the serial number 2449, which indicates that this is the 2,449th M1917 Schneider out of the 3,020 made in France before the Armistice.



Top of Breech marked "155 C MLE 1917 - SCHNEIDER A1 TARBES - 1918 N-2449" indicating that this is a 155mm short barreled Model 1917 - Schneider which was at some point up graded and stamped A1. It was assembled in Tarbes, France in 1918 as Serial Number 2449.



Markings indicate that the breech block was made in Ruelle, France in 1917.



Stampings in the two photos above indicate that the some or all of the parts of the mount were made in Saint Ouen, France in 1918. 1347 indicates that it is the 1,347th mount made.



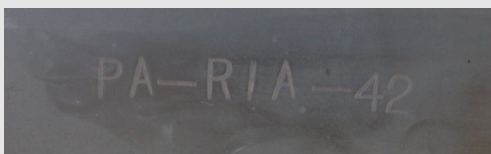
Note the spade which would be dropped and set into the ground to further stabilize the gun. On the right you can see the brake line connector which would likely be one of the modifications that took place in 1942 in order to make it compatible with the new vehicles of the day.



Sitting on top of the carriage is loading plate in the stowed position. The plate would be turned over and the small end would rest just inside the breech for loading then removed before closing and firing.



Data plate added in 1942 states “NO 336 CARR., HOW., 15MM. M1918A3 ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL 1942 N.F.R.” This is a rebuild / upgrade plate indicating that this was the 336th gun carriage to be upgraded to the M1918A3 configuration by RIA. It was completed and inspected in 1942 by initials N.F.R.



Stamping on the side of the breech indicates that it was inspected at RIA in 1942 by inspectors initials PA.

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