

Museum of World Treasures

Civil War Vocabulary List

- All entries pertain directly to artifacts or signs in our exhibits.

Ulysses S. Grant – Union general whose leadership effectively ended the war against Robert E. Lee's troops and led to the surrender at Appomattox Court House.

Robert E. Lee – The commander of the Confederate Army who surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House.

Zouave – Light infantry regiments in the Civil War who adopted the name Zouave from French styles and tactics. They stood farther apart than normal infantry and loaded their rifles while flat on their backs. Their uniforms were baggy and North-African inspired.

Appomattox Court House – A village where Lee surrendered to Grant on April 9, 1865, signifying the ending of combat during the Civil War.

Gettysburg – Battle with the largest amount of casualties.

Shiloh – This battle had more casualties than all previous American wars combined (Revolutionary War & War of 1812).

Henry Repeating Rifle – Could fire at 28 rounds per minute, making it a useful tool for Union soldiers.

Tobacco Twist – Where soldiers would keep their tobacco, rolled and spun into twisted knots.

Cribbage – a popular card game among Civil War soldiers.

Artillery – Infantry armed with projectile weapons.

Lawrence Massacre – Also called Quantrill's Raid. An attack on Lawrence, Kansas, an anti-slavery city by pro-slavery activists.

Bleeding Kansas – A series of violent attacks to fight for Kansas's entrance to the union as a free or slave state.

Arlington House – A mansion outside of Washington, D.C. built by George Washington's adopted son. Home to Robert E. Lee during the Civil War, eventually became Arlington National Cemetery.

Mary Custis Lee – The only surviving child of George Washington's adopted son. Wife of Robert E. Lee.

Confederate – The southern forces

Union – The northern forces

Cavalry – Troops on horseback

Drummer Boy – Usually ages 7 and up, drummer boys helped communicate orders on the battlefields.

Infantry – troops on foot

LeMat Revolver – A unique Confederate weapon; a revolver with the capability of firing buckshot

CSS Alabama – A Confederate ship that attacked several Union trading ships and was finally brought down by the Union in the Battle of Cherbourg outside of France.

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