Interesting Facts About the Men who Served

- 10,413 Union soldiers were **under the age of 18** when they enlisted.
- Many drummer boys were **as young as 10 years old**.

- Of the **1,098 officers** in the Union Army at the start of the war, **286 resigned** to join the Confederacy.
- Of the **15,269 soldiers** in the Union Army at the start of the war, only **26** officially joined the Confederate Army.

Battle of Nashville, 1864

Think this top hat will protect my head?

Drummer Boy Orion Howe

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Prisoners of War

One interesting feature of the Civil War, is thousands of soldiers fought for both sides at one point or another. Many Confederates were captured by the Union army and later released. For reasons including survival and protection, one source estimates at least 6,000 of these Confederate soldiers volunteered to serve in the Union Army out West. These men were called “Galvanized Yankees,” suggesting they had changed colors on the outside, but were the same inside. After the war ended, most stayed out West because they were shunned in the South.

Union Forces: estimated at 2,000,000 and made up of whites, African Americans and Native Americans. To command all the men, the Union had 583 generals led by Lieutenant General U.S. Grant.

Confederate Forces: estimated between 600,000 and 750,000 made up of whites and Native Americans. In March 1865, near the end of the Civil War, the Confederate Congress allowed African Americans to serve in their military. Some were seen drilling in Richmond, VA, but none served in combat and there is no record of African Americans enlisting in the Confederate Army. The Confederate Army had 425 generals led by General Robert E. Lee.
**War Honors**

The **Medal of Honor** became a permanent decoration in 1863, during the Civil War. The president, on behalf of Congress, awarded **1,520 soldiers, sailors, and Marines** the Medal of Honor for either conspicuous conduct in battle or for capturing a Confederate flag. One soldier, **Captain Thomas Custer**, was awarded two Medals of Honor – once for capturing the flag and once for capturing two stands of colors, which marked a regiment’s location. He was the only person to receive two Medals.

The Confederates created what they called “**The Roll of Honor**,” which existed in writing. They never made and awarded any actual medals.

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**The Last Survivors**

Albert Woolson was the last Union survivor. In October 1864 he joined the 1st Minnesota Artillery as a drummer boy. He died on August 2, 1956 at age 109.

John Salling was the last Confederate survivor. In 1862 he joined the 25th Virginia Infantry Regiment. He died on March 16, 1959 at age 112.
New States

At the beginning of the Civil War there were 33 states. By the end there were 36 states. Thirteen of these formally seceded from the Union. By 1870, all 13 seceded states were readmitted to the Union.

The Civil War was the only war that created a state. Forty counties of western Virginia did not agree with Virginia’s decision to leave the Union. As a result, West Virginia was made a separate state on June 20, 1863.

Originially, the state name Kanawha was proposed for the counties of Virginia that stayed with the Union. The name came from the Kanawha River that flows through the state. When it was formally admitted to the Union in 1863, the state was named West Virginia.

War Casualties

The Civil War claimed more casualties than any war the U.S. has ever participated in.

- Union deaths = approximately 360,000
- Confederate deaths = approximately 258,000
- Combined = roughly 620,000 deaths
  + at least 471,427 wounded
totals 1,094,453 casualties.

The entire population of the United States in 1865 was 35.2 million, which means more than 3 percent of the population was wounded or killed during the war.

Battles were deadly, but most soldiers died from disease. According to one account 250,000 Union soldiers and 164,000 confederate soldiers died of disease.
Civil War Innovations

- **Clara Barton** headed up efforts to get food, clothing, and medical supplies to soldiers during the war. She went on to found the **American Red Cross** in 1881.

- **Triage** is a process of classifying the injured to determine in what order to treat them. The concept of triage started in France in the early 1800s. Advances made during the American Civil War included an established military **field ambulance service** and **aid stations** where the wounded with non-life threatening injuries could be treated instead of left to die on the battlefield.

- In 1861, Dr. Richard Gatling patented the **Gatling gun**. It was a hand-driven, crank-operated, multi-barrelled weapon. One of the first **machine guns**, a Gatling gun could shoot hundreds of rounds a minute.

- **Matthew Brady** and those who worked with him photographed the American Civil War. It was the **first time a war had been photo-documented** and the carnage the photos displayed increased public awareness about the uglier side of military conflict.

A War by Many Names

The **American Civil War** had many different names. How many of these have you heard?

- War Between the States
- War Against Northern Aggression
- Second American Revolution
- War of Attempted Secession
- Lost Cause
- War of the Rebellion
- Brothers’ War
- Late Unpleasantness
- War Against the States
- Mr. Lincoln’s War
- Yankee Invasion
- Confederate War
- Great Rebellion
- War of Secession
- War for the Union
- War for Abolition
- Southern Rebellion
- War for Separation
- War of the Sixties
- War of the Rebellion
- War Against Slavery
- War of the Southrons
- War for States’ Rights
- War for Southern Rights
- War for Southern Freedom
- War of the North and South
- Second War for Independence
- War for Southern Nationality
- War of the Southern Planters
- The War for Southern Independence
- The War for Constitutional Liberty...