

Battle of Nashville, 1864

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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**.



Drummer Boy Orion Howe

- 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.

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.



Fort Delaware prison camp

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**.

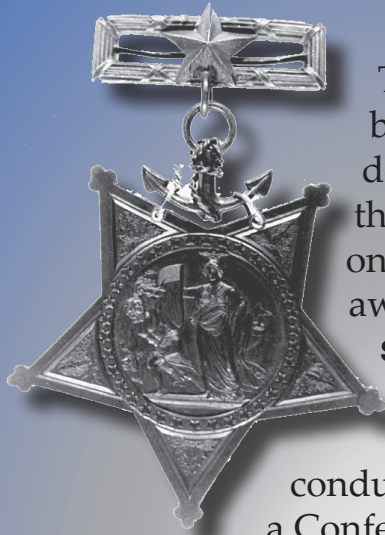
Confederate Forces: estimated between **600,000 and 750,000** made up of whites and Native Americans. In March 1865, near the end of the Civil War, the Confederate Congress allowed



Civil War soldier

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**.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR 1861-1865



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.



Front and back of Thomas Gehegan's Medal of Honor, which was revoked after he was charged with misconduct.

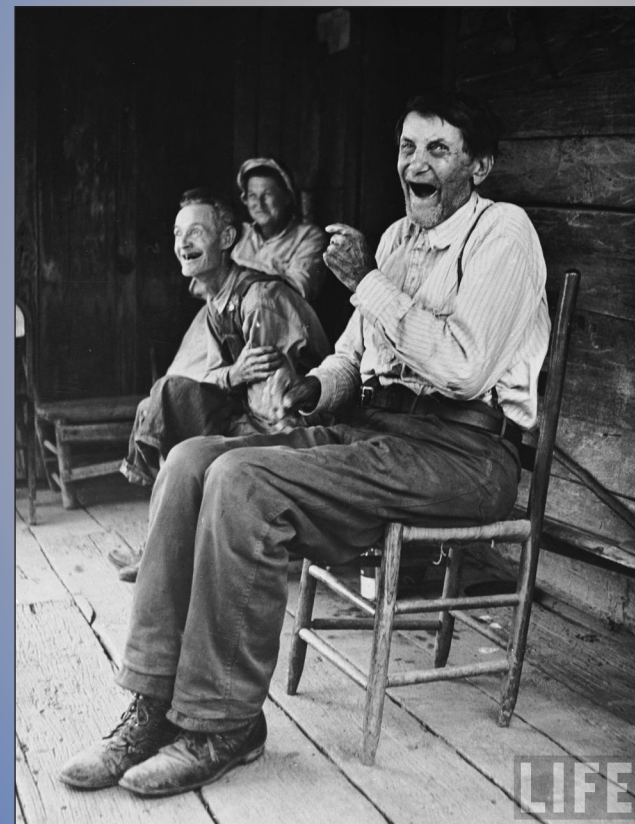
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR 1861-1865

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.

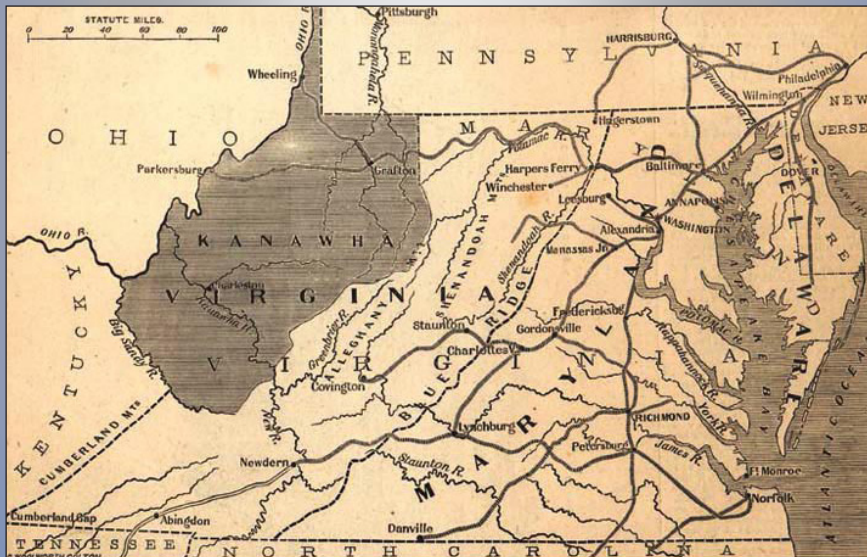


John Salling, oldest Confederate survivor. Photo taken 1953 by Allan Grant for Time, Inc.

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.



Originally, 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.

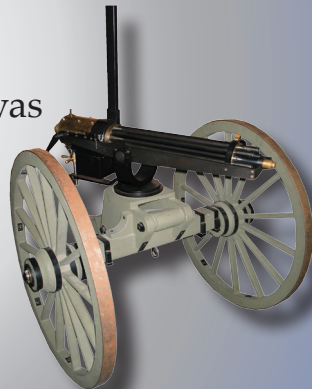


Battle of Gettysburg, 1863

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.



Gatling gun reproduction on exhibit in the *American Frontier* exhibit.

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 Planets
The War for Southern Independence
The War for Constitutional Liberty

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