

Men-at-Arms

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# The Confederate Army 1861–65 (4)

Virginia & Arkansas



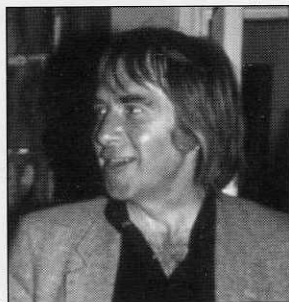
Ron Field • Illustrated by Richard Hook

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Virginia & Arkansas



Ron Field • Illustrated by Richard Hook

Series editor Martin Windrow

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## Dedication

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For Jaime and Daniel

## Author's Note

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This sequence of books within the Men-at-Arms series provides a state-by-state analysis of the uniforms, arms and equipment worn and carried by the Militia and Volunteers who served the Confederate States during the American Civil War, 1861–65. Each of the 14 states that provided soldiers for the Southern cause is dealt with in order of secession, i.e. the order in which they left the Union. This arrangement helps to illustrate how some of the original seven Confederate States of America, formed on February 8, 1861, influenced the military fashion and supply of weapons and equipment of those states that later joined the Confederacy. The first title in the sequence covered South Carolina and Mississippi; the second, Florida, Alabama & Georgia; the third, Louisiana & Texas (see inside rear cover of this book); it is planned that subsequent titles will include (5) Tennessee & North Carolina; and (6) Missouri, Kentucky & Maryland.

## Acknowledgements

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## Editor's Note

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Throughout this sequence of books, which draws heavily upon direct quotation from 19th-century texts, the changes in spelling conventions since that time produce unavoidable inconsistencies, which we hope are not too distracting. It was felt important to reproduce period quotations verbatim, but since the narrative text is in present-day American spelling the reader will often encounter – in the most obvious examples – both "grey" and "gray," "sabres" and "sabers," etc.

## Artist's Note

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Readers may care to note that the original paintings from which the color plates in this book were prepared are available for private sale. All reproduction copyright whatsoever is retained by the Publishers. All enquiries should be addressed to:

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# THE CONFEDERATE ARMY 1861-65

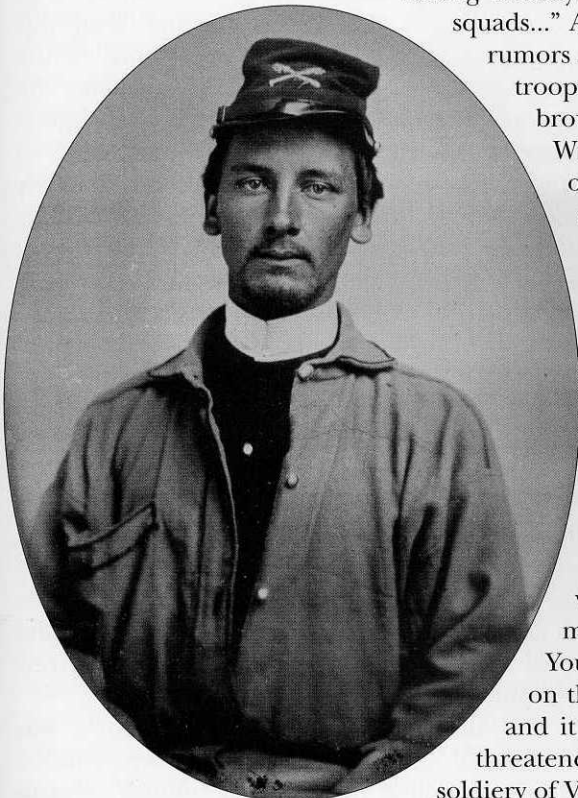
## (4) VIRGINIA & ARKANSAS

### VIRGINIA

Cornelius B. Hite enlisted in the Clarke Cavalry, which was organized in December 1859. Here he wears service dress, including a high-crowned blue forage cap with gold embroidered crossed sabers, a gray "fatigue" overshirt with narrow dark (perhaps yellow) trim around the collar and pocket top, and a white neck stock. This unit originally mustered in as Co D, 1st Virginia Cavalry, but was transferred to the 6th Virginia Cavalry as Co D on the organization of that regiment in September 1861. (William A. Turner Collection)

ON APRIL 17, 1861, the ordinance of secession was passed by the Convention of Virginia. This took the "Old Dominion State" out of the Union, and authorized Governor John Letcher to raise an army to "repel invasion and protect the citizens of the state" during a time of emergency. This ordinance was kept secret for three days to allow time for the volunteer militia companies to seize the Federal installations at Harper's Ferry and the Gosport Navy Yard at Portsmouth, but a proclamation was finally issued by Virginia on Sunday, April 21. This order mobilized "every armed and equipped volunteer company of artillery, infantry and riflemen in the counties between Richmond and the Blue Ridge, and in the valley from Rockbridge County to the Tennessee line."

Of events in the state capital of Richmond that day, the *Daily Dispatch* reported: "Early in the morning, armed men were hurrying to and fro, companies assembling at their various rendezvous, and the drums rolling harshly... Men were drilling in regiments, companies and squads..." Although most of the troops were dismissed by noon, rumors soon spread that the sloop *Pawnee*, carrying Federal troops, was coming up the James River to seize ammunition brought to the city the previous evening from Norfolk. With the Capitol bell tolling, the citizen soldiery turned out to defend their city. According to the *Dispatch*: "In a very short time, troops were in motion, and cannon were conveyed to the wharves... Citizens armed themselves with rifles, pistols, shot-guns, and other weapons, and hurried to the same point... The throng at Rocketts swelled to thousands, while on the neighboring hills were assembled a vast multitude of ladies and children, attracted by the exciting rumors... The Governor rode down and gave such orders as were necessary, and steamers were held in readiness for any service required. Cavalry companies scoured the country below; the Howitzer corps, Company F, and the Fayette Artillery, were promptly on duty. A company from Manchester marched down on the opposite side of the river. The Young Guard and the Virginia Life Guard were drawn up on the wharf." Although the alarm turned out to be false, and it would be another year before Richmond would be threatened by the approach of the Union Army, the citizen soldiery of Virginia were ready.



## The Virginia militia system

On the eve of civil war, the militia of Virginia was organized territorially into five divisions, 28 brigades and 185 regiments of the line. Each militia brigade embraced two or more counties and contained four or more regiments. On an average, during the years 1851–60 there were between 125 and 150 active volunteer militia companies of light infantry or riflemen. These belonged either to distinctive Volunteer Militia regiments or battalions, or were formed into a "Volunteer Battalion" of a line militia regiment. John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry, plus rumors of attempts to free the prisoners at Charlestown, VA, prompted a call for approximately 50 volunteer companies into active state service for various periods of duty during October and November of 1859. The number of volunteer militia companies continued to grow during 1860, and formed the basis for the state's volunteer army in 1861. By the end of September of that year Virginia had raised and turned over to the Confederacy 55 regiments and one battalion of infantry; one regiment and 19 independent batteries of artillery; and eight regiments of cavalry.

### GLOSSARY of organizational terms

**Beat or Common Militia** Formed as a result of the Federal Militia Act of May 8, 1792. Each state in the Union was required to enrol its white male population between the ages of 18 and 45 into a militia of "Heavy Infantry."

**Volunteer Militia** Specialized in artillery, cavalry, dragoons, light infantry or riflemen, and were fully uniformed and armed at their own expense, except when called into state service, when the state supplied arms. As such, they were exempt from Beat Militia requirements.

**Six-month Volunteers** Organized March 6, 1861, when the CS Congress authorized President Jefferson Davis to call out an unspecified number of state militia for six months' service. Later, on June 6, 1863, 49,500 men were called out for six months' service "within the state."

**Twelve-month Volunteers** 100,000 men were called out for one year on March 6, 1861; a further 19,500 were raised on April 8, 1861; and 32,000 on April 16, 1861.

**Twelve-month garrison duty** On March 9, 1861, 7,700 volunteers were called out for one year to garrison Southern forts.

**Reserves** On June 30, 1861, 30,000 volunteers were called out as a "reserve army corps" to serve as needed. On February 17, 1864, the CS Congress authorized the establishment of reserve forces for state defense; these units were organized on various occasions thereafter.

**Volunteers "for the war"** On February 2, 1862, 500,000 men were called out for three years or "for the war."

**Conscripts** On April 16, 1862, the President was authorized to draft all white males between 18 and 35 (with substitutes permitted), and the terms of all men already in service was extended to three years.

**Army of Arkansas** A force comprising the 1st through 5th State Regiments, enlisted for six months' state defense on May 20, 1861.

**Provisional Army of Virginia** On paper consisted of two artillery regiments, eight infantry regiments, one regiment of riflemen, and one of cavalry enlisted for three years. It was not popular, and only one infantry battalion was recruited, which was transferred to Confederate service on June 30, 1861.

**Virginia State Rangers** Recruited among men from western Virginia whose homes were held by the invading Federal army, this organization was established on March 27, 1862. Consisting of about 15 independent companies, it was transferred to Confederate service in February 1863.

**Home Guard** Formed unofficially in 1861 throughout Virginia for service within county boundaries only, this body became official on May 14, 1862, and existed until at least November 1864, by which time most units had been absorbed into the Reserve Forces.

**Virginia State Line** Organized on May 15, 1862, this force never reached more than five regiments, although it was intended to consist of ten regiments of volunteers, composed of men not subject to conscription.

**Reserve Forces of Virginia** Established on February 17, 1864, this organization placed all white males between 17 and 18, and 45 and 50 years of age in Reserve regiments and battalions.

### 1858 pattern state uniform

A state uniform was prescribed for the forces of Virginia by the militia law of 1858. Detailed in general orders dated May of that year, this uniform was based on "the regulations of the army of the United States," except that the buttons bore the obverse pattern of the Virginia "state seal," trousers were dark blue, and all branches of service wore frock coats. Coats for generals and field grade officers were double-breasted, while those of all other ranks were single-breasted. Colored trim around collar and cuffs for enlisted men was yellow for cavalry, scarlet for artillery, sky-blue for infantry, and green for riflemen. Trousers had a 1/8in-wide gold cord seam stripe for general, field and mounted staff officers, and a welt in branch-of-service color for other ranks, 1 1/2in wide for sergeants and 1/2in wide for corporals and privates. "Hardee" hats followed US regulations, although all officers were permitted three black ostrich feathers. The hat brims of general, field and staff officers, plus all cavalrymen, were looped up on the right, and those of all others on the left – as per US Army regulations for 1858.

The influence of this state uniform was widespread. Although Volunteer corps formed prior to March 2, 1858, were permitted to retain

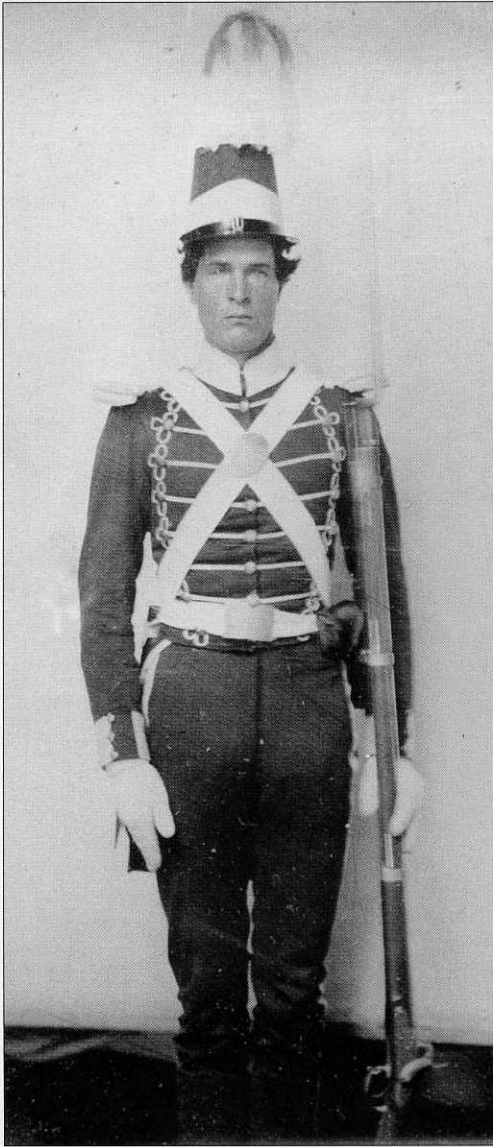
their distinctive uniforms, those formed subsequently were theoretically expected to adopt it. Organized at Staunton in the Shenandoah Valley during the summer of 1858, the West Augusta Guard (nicknamed the "Wags"), who later served in the "Stonewall Brigade" as Company L, 5th Virginia, wore the infantry version of this uniform. Other infantry companies wearing uniforms based on state regulations included the Brunswick Guard, who enlisted as Co A, 5th Battalion, Virginia Volunteers; the Southern Guard, who became Co G, 6th Virginia Infantry; and the Farmville Guards, who served as Co F, 18th Virginia Infantry. When the Southern Guard paraded in April 1860 they wore "a blue frock coat, with one row of buttons in front, blue pants with gilt lace on side seam, and hat something similar to those worn by the Seventh Regiment of New York." This indicates that headgear

consisted of a black felt or beaverskin "National Guard"-style dress cap with patent leather top and bands at top and bottom.

Among the cavalry companies wearing a version of the state uniform were the Botetourt Dragoons of Fincastle, who adopted "a blue cloth suit, trimmed with yellow" in January 1860. Others included the Governor's Mounted Guard, Black Horse Troop, Hanover Troop, Valley Rangers, Loudon Light Horse, Cumberland Light Dragoons, Amelia Light Dragoons, and Old Dominion Dragoons. At an encampment near Richmond in November 1860 the Botetourt Dragoons were "uniformed in blue, with yellow plume on hat." The Old Dominion Dragoons adopted a coat of "heavy blue satinnet," but deviated from state regulations by wearing caps of "ordinary army pattern... made at Norfolk [VA] by W.H.C.Lovitt"; these were "ornamented with cross sabres in front," and bore in "large brass letter the initials of the company's name, 'O.D.D.'" The uniforms worn by many of the above units were made by tailor William Staggs of 11th Street, Richmond, whose work was considered by the Richmond *Enquirer* to be "not only pleasant to the wearer's feel, but... agreeable to the sight of all."



**This unidentified major wears the dark blue uniform prescribed for the Virginia state militia in 1858. This half-plate ambrotype is reversed; his M1858 dress hat bears the embroidered old-English script "VA" within an oval wreath, specified for field officers. The shoulder boards of his epaulettes are plain, which indicates the rank of major. His trousers have 1/8in gold seam stripes, and he holds a M1821 sword with eagle pommel. Note the flower-like secession cockade pinned to his chest, at the left in the picture; it is tinted light blue in the original image. (Courtesy Allen Cebula)**



Charles A. Pace of the Danville Blues, a light infantry volunteer company organized in 1841, which became Co A, 18th Virginia Infantry. Probably photographed in 1861, Pace wears full dress: an 1851 blue cloth dress cap with fountain plume, and blue tailcoat and pants, all faced and trimmed with white or buff. Note the cotton web material used for the cartridge box and bayonet scabbard cross belts as well as the waist belt. (Eleanor S. Brockenbrough Library, The Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, VA)

### Volunteer Militia, 1860-61

Plans for a state-wide militia uniform were thwarted by the act of March 30, 1860, which once again permitted companies to choose their own style of dress. Only two Volunteer organizations in the state adopted anything like a regimental uniform. These were the 1st Regiment of Virginia Volunteers, originally organized in 1851, and the 2nd Battalion Virginia Volunteers, established in 1860. On July 5, 1858, the celebrated 7th New York Regiment visited Richmond, and their smart black-trimmed gray jackets, caps and pants, with white waist and shoulder belts, left a marked impression on their Virginian counterparts, who wore a mixture of blue, green and gray uniforms. Efforts to prescribe a regimental uniform for the 1st Virginia in the wake of the New Yorkers' visit initially came to naught; but by July 1859 the *Daily Richmond Enquirer* was able to report that "The different Companies attached to the First Regiment of Virginia Volunteers... are almost all adopting the *gray uniform*. Even the Irish and German Companies are throwing off their characteristic styles of national dress, and are adopting the American gray ..."

Although a detailed description of the regimental full dress chosen by the 1st Virginia does not survive, a reconstruction of it is possible based on the changes which occurred in company dress on the eve of the Civil War. From available evidence it seems that most of these companies adopted a "National Guard"-style dress cap with pompon, a gray cloth fatigue cap with black band, a gray frock coat trimmed according to company preference, plus a gray shirt and a black or dark blue overcoat. With the exception of the Virginia Rifles and the Howitzers, all companies wore white webbing cross belts; the former retained their black cross belts, and the Howitzer Company preferred only a dark leather waist belt to support their M1840 Light Artillery sabers.

The Richmond Grays – Co A, 1st Virginia – had been wearing a gray uniform based on that of the 7th New York since their organization in 1844. In about 1851 the short-skirted frock coat replaced their "spike-tailed" coatee, and the "National Guard"-style shako with white pompon, as worn by the 7th New York, was adopted. By 1859 the Grays also had items of undress uniform, including a nine-button gray fatigue jacket with belt loops, black edging on a low standing collar, and black shoulder straps; a gray forage cap with "RG" in brass letters on the front, and black oilskin covers. New gray frock coats of the long-skirted pattern were procured in early 1861.

After their organization in December 1860, the Richmond City Guard – Co B (originally called the Fireside Protectors, and also later known as Lee's Riflemen, after Capt James Kendall Lee, their second commanding officer) – adopted a plain gray frock coat with "gold braid rectangles" on the collar and gold epaulette bridles. A company of





Irishmen called the Montgomery Guard – Co C – paraded for the first time in their “new and beautiful grey uniform” for the Fourth of July celebrations of 1859, on which occasion the *Daily Richmond Enquirer* reported that it looked “neat, fits well, and though it is *grey*, is more preferable to the eye, than the marked abundance of vivid *green* that formerly characterized the style of the gallant Montgomeries.”

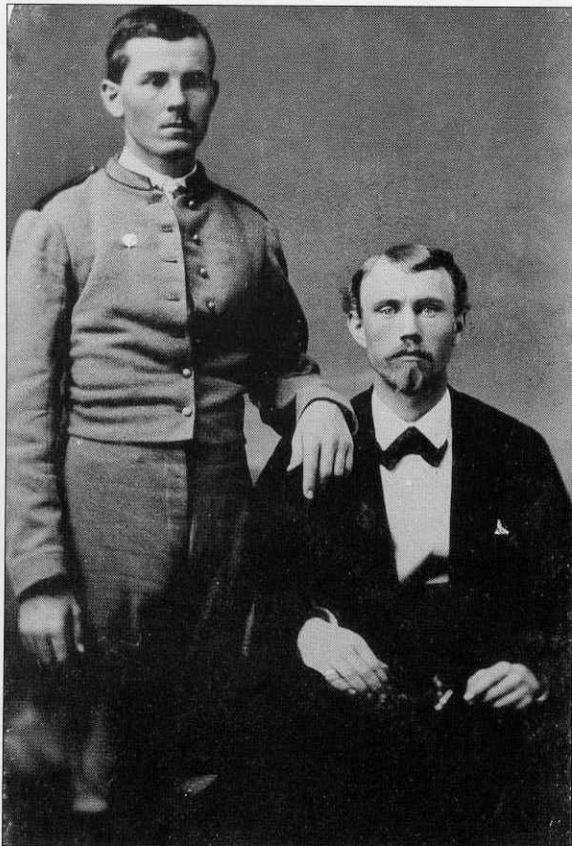
The Richmond Light Infantry Blues – Co E – were normally resplendent in their dark blue coat with white cassimere collar, cuffs, and buttoned-on plastron front, blue trousers with white seam stripes, and a blue cloth cap with pompon. By February 1861 this unit had adopted their gray regimental uniform with long-skirted frock coat.

Organized on June 23, 1859 under Richmond attorney Randolph Milton Cary, Co F of the 1st Virginia chose a full dress consisting of a long-skirted cadet-gray frock coat; the collar was edged with black cord, and black worsted epaulettes had a white fringe, and white cord inside the crescent. Pants were also gray, with 2in black seam stripes. Headgear consisted of the ubiquitous “National Guard”-style dress cap. This company also adopted a fatigue jacket, cap and trousers similar to those of the Richmond Grays.

By 1861 the dress uniform of Co F had been revised somewhat. As later described by John H. Worsham, who joined the unit that year: “This company had a fine cadet gray uniform. It consisted first of a frock coat which had a row of Virginia fire-gilt buttons on its front. Around the cuff of the sleeve was a band of gold braid and two small fire-gilt buttons. On the collar the same gold braid was so arranged that it looked very much like the mark of rank for a first lieutenant afterwards adopted by the Confederacy. The pants had a black stripe about one and a quarter

**Pte Donald McKenzie Dunlop of the Petersburg Grays, Co B, wears full dress (left) and service uniform (right) in this excellent pair of photographs. Surmounted by an acorn-shaped pompon, his “National Guard”-style shako bears the 1821 eagle plate above a metal wreath enclosing an ornate letter “B.” His gray frock coat is trimmed with dark blue and yellow, and his worsted epaulettes have blue boards and white fringes. His service dress headgear is a gray and dark blue McDowell-type cap with tall crown; the plain fatigue shirt has two low-set open chest pockets, and a dark blue side stripe is visible on the gray trousers. McKenzie served throughout the war; he was wounded in the right leg at Hatcher’s Run on April 7, 1865. (Courtesy of the Petersburg Museums, Petersburg, VA)**

Taken at the studio of G.W.Minnis on Sycamore Street, Petersburg, this *carte de visite*-size tintype shows O.J.Radcliffe and W.E.Beasley, both of whom served in the pre-war Lafayette Guards, which mustered into Confederate service as Co D, 12th Virginia Infantry in 1861. Radcliffe wears the service uniform of this unit: a seven-button gray "roundabout" or shell jacket, with low standing collar and shoulder straps both trimmed with a dark facing color. (Author's collection)



inches wide along the outer seams. The cap was made of the same cadet gray cloth, trimmed with black braid and two small fire-gilt buttons. On its front was the letter F. The non-commissioned officers had their mark of rank worked on the sleeves of their coats with black braid."

Company G, commanded by Capt William Gordon, was originally organized in July 1859, and by February 1860 paraded in "full uniform and undress cap," consisting of a nine-button gray frock coat, the collar edged with black braid and decorated with a gold loop; gray trousers with broad black seam stripes; and a gray forage cap with black band and brass letter "G" on the front. By August 1860 this company had also acquired an "undress uniform" which included a "Fatigue Jacket."

Formed on November 9, 1859, the Howitzer Company – which later expanded into a battalion known as the Richmond Howitzers – initially assembled during January 1860 in "red shirt, grey pants, [and miscellaneous] fatigue cap." During the following month they acquired a "full dress uniform" from "Stagg's," and "dress caps from Ellet & Weisiger." The former consisted of a gray frock coat with "wings" or epaulettes, while headgear was presumably a version of the "National Guard" dress cap. Gray fatigue caps with a red band and gilt letter "H," their company designation within the 1st Regiment, were being worn by October 1860.

The Virginia Rifles – Co K – laid aside their blue-faced green dress uniforms, and appeared on parade in "new gray uniforms, with black cross belts and shoulder straps" on April 12, 1860. It seems that most companies received "new Regimental overcoats" during January 1860. According to J.H.Worsham, Co F "had black cloth overcoats – the skirt reaching a little below the knees, the capes a little below the elbow – and the buttons were Virginia-gilt."

A drum corps led by Drum Major Charles Randolph Maximilian von Pohle was attached to the 1st Virginia in 1860. A German immigrant born at Delitsch near Leipzig in 1821, Pohle first paraded with his corps of six, later 14 drummer boys wearing a "rich and showy uniform" on May 31, 1860. Consisting of boys over the age of 16, the Drum Corps wore red jackets and white pants. The Armory Band, under the leadership of James B.Smith, became the regimental band of the 1st Virginia in April 1860; members were photographed wearing long-skirted plain gray frock coats, gray chasseur-pattern forage caps with dark bands, and darker, possibly blue trousers with narrow, light-colored seam stripes.

The 2nd Battalion Virginia Volunteers was formed in Spotsylvania County during the spring of 1860, when the Fredericksburg Rifle Grays, Washington Guards, and the Coleman Guards – all of Fredericksburg – were detached from the 16th Regt, Virginia Militia. On April 23 of that year the Richmond *Daily Dispatch* announced:

“The Fredericksburg (Va.) volunteer companies have adopted the gray uniform of the Richmond Regiment.”

Individual volunteer militia companies which were organized throughout Virginia, especially following the John Brown Raid of October 1859, wore a variety of colorful and unusual uniforms. The Rockingham Rifles were raised in Rockingham County in the Shenandoah Valley during November 1859, and adopted a single-breasted dark blue frock coat with three rows of eight “Virginia” buttons and gold lace trim around the collar. Dark blue trousers bore green velvet seam stripes (as per Federal and state regulations for riflemen), and M1851 dress caps of “Blue cloth on felt body, trimmed with green, black visor and green ball pompon, and the letters R.R. in front.” Recruited at Middleburg, Loudon County, during December 1860 by Capt Richard Welby Carter, the Loudon Light Horse initially wore “black pants and red shirts.” This unit enlisted as Co H, 1st Virginia Cavalry in 1861, and Carter commanded the regiment by 1863.

Fatigue shirts, or “hunting-shirts,” were particularly popular among the volunteer militia of Virginia on the eve of Civil War. The Fincastle Rifles – who eventually enlisted as Co D, 11th Virginia Infantry – were formed in Botetourt County during December 1859, and hastily donned a “fanciful uniform” reported in the *Alexandria Gazette* as being “a plain linsey hunting shirt – black and red.” This was subsequently described in the *Richmond Dispatch* as “a common plaid linsey hunting-shirt, with green baise cape, black pants, and glazed caps.”

In the Lynchburg area the hunting shirt consisted of an over-shirt with falling collar, pointed cuff facings, and a double-breasted panel or removable plastron front. The Rifle Greys of Lynchburg were organized on January 23, 1860, and elected Maurice Langhorne as their captain. The following day the *Daily Virginian* announced that the “uniform of the company will be made in Virginia of Virginia goods, the cloth being manufactured at Staunton; the suit made by our tailors [including Charles J. Raine]; and the caps by Sinzer.” Members of the Rifle Greys were photographed wearing gray hunting shirts with colored facings on collar, plastron and cuffs. Once the plastron was removed, the shirt revealed narrow bands of braid running vertically down the front, parallel with and outside the two rows of buttons. This company also wore gray forage caps with dark bands, and the letters “RG” at the front. Their pants were gray with broad seam stripes. The Wise Troop, of Lynchburg, named after ex-Governor Henry A. Wise, was formed during November 1859, and adopted “red coats... bright blue pants with a gold cord down the sides,” and helmets with “the brightest scarlet horsehair tufts hanging down behind them.” Later, during July 1861, after this unit had entered war service as Co B, 2nd Virginia Cavalry, a *New York Times* reporter stated that “a uniform coat taken from a secession captain [John S. Langhorne] of the ‘Wise Cavalry’ was on exhibition in



**This unidentified infantryman is armed with a M1822 musket converted to percussion; his belts are made from some of the 57,912 yards of cotton webbing issued to Virginia volunteers from October 1859 through October 1861 for making up cartridge box, bayonet and waist belts. His plain oval shoulder belt plate is typical of the type worn by thousands of Virginians at the beginning of the conflict. Also note his contrasting dark leather cap pouch and cartridge box. (William A. Turner Collection)**

**Pte Edwin Sanford Gregory of the Lynchburg Rifles, which became Co E, 11th Virginia Infantry; in full marching order, he wears the fatigue uniform of his company. Note the lighter bands of trim visible either side of the removable plastron front on his "hunting shirt." His equipment includes a rigid box-framed militia knapsack complete with oilcloth-covered blanket roll, and he is armed with a M1841 "Mississippi" rifle. (Lynchburg Museum System)**



Philadelphia. This garment was further described as being "scarlet faced with black velvet, on which are two rows of bell buttons, on the face of which are the Virginia arms with the motto *Sic semper tyrannis*. It was a curious looking uniform, and as lining was scarce in 'the land of cotton,' it was patched up with common bolting cloth."

The first uniform of the Little Fork Rangers, of Culpeper County, was described in their regimental history as "beautiful and conspicuous – red, white, blue and yellow. They would have furnished a splendid target for Yankee bullets, had they worn them into battle, but fortunately they did not. Blue caps, red cut-away jackets with yellow stripes designated their branch of service – cavalry. This was their uniform during the summer and fall of 1860. During the winter and early spring of 1861, they wore black trousers with a red stripe down the seam."

During the fall of 1860 two military companies were formed by the students of the University of Virginia, near Charlottesville. The Southern Guards, under Capt Edward S.Hutter, wore a light blue pullover shirt fastened with three small buttons, and trimmed with dark blue around a low standing collar, pocket, buttoned front and cuffs. Their high-crowned forage caps were gray and quartered with black piping. Trousers were originally to be black, but an ambrotype of company member Henry Mitchie and friend shows gray pants with wide black seam stripes. The other company was the Sons of Liberty, commanded by Capt James T.Tosh, who wore "red shirts."

### **Volunteer forces, 1861**

Following secession, the older Volunteer Militia units of Richmond were the first troops to respond to the call. Mustered into active service of the state in April 1861, the various companies of the 1st Virginia wore a mixture of gray frock coats and fatigue jackets trimmed with black when they left for Manassas Junction during the following month. Expanded into a three-company battalion by this time, the Howitzers wore dark gray fatigue jackets with belt loops, and red wool piping around collar and shoulder straps. In order to supply a "cheap uniform" for the expanding muster roll of this unit, on May 15, 1861 ready-cut cloth was made available for collection from the store of William H.Richardson by womenfolk prepared to sew it together.

The 179th Regiment Virginia Militia, embracing the city of Richmond east of 10th Street, had taken steps to clothe and arm some of its companies for possible active service as early as February 1861. On February 4 it was recommended that the uniform of the regiment should consist of a "Blue flannel cloth hunting shirt with blue fringe and Virginia buttons: pants, dark (civilian)." It is not known how far this

recommendation was acted upon, or how many of its companies were thus clothed. However, the Fireside Protectors, raised during January 1861 and subsequently known as the Virginia Life Guard, were attached to the 179th as “a uniformed company of the line,” and later volunteered for state service as Co B, 15th Virginia Infantry wearing a uniform of this description manufactured at the Crenshaw Woolen Mills. It was described as “cheap but serviceable.”

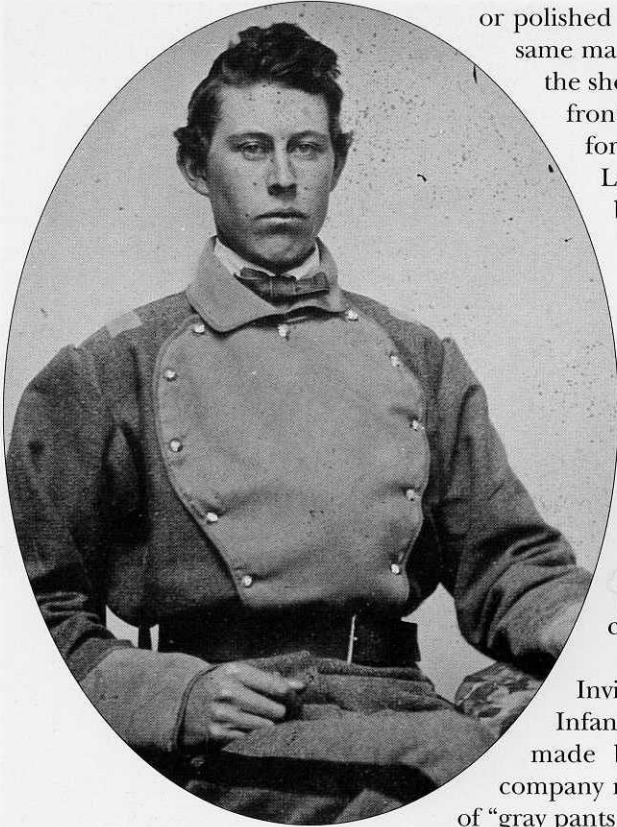
Organized in the western suburbs of Richmond by Capt Charles Y. Morris, the Henrico Home Guard, 33rd Regiment Virginia Militia, received newly made coats, plus the order to let “every man be present in black pants” on April 20, 1861. Originally known as the Sidney Guard and raised in the Oregon Hill and Sidney Hill districts of the western suburbs, the Henrico Guard were reported to be wearing “grey pants, black stripes [and] grey shirts” in early May 1861. The unit became Co D, 15th Virginia Volunteers under Capt Lawson H. Dance.

As for the countless other Virginia companies that volunteered for Confederate service during the spring and summer of 1861, their uniforms were generally composed of a mixture of frock coats, jackets, tail-coats and “hunting shirts” varying in color through gray, blue, green, black and red. Headgear variously consisted of dress caps, forage caps, “Sicilian”-style stocking caps, slouch hats, and Mexican War-pattern hats. The Fluvanna Rifle Guards – who enlisted as Co C, 14th Virginia Volunteers – arrived in Richmond on May 11, 1861 wearing “blue hunting shirts trimmed with red.” The Southern Guards from Yellow Branch, Campbell County, were reported by the Petersburg *Daily Express* of May 4, 1861 to be wearing “black jackets; [and] grey pants with black stripes.” According to surviving photographs, this may be interpreted as meaning a gray hunting shirt faced with black collar, plastron, and cuffs; at least four members of the company were photographed wearing large “secession cockades” pinned to their plastrons. Caps were gray with black bands, and the letters “SG” in front.

The Lynchburg Rifles were raised among the faculty and students of Lynchburg College during the spring of 1861. On May 1 the *Lynchburg Daily Virginian* reported: “The Lynchburg Rifles are progressing well in their drills. They promise to make a fine company. Their uniforms are being made and will soon be completed. They are of gray goods trimmed with blue and will look well.” Based on photographic evidence, this uniform was much like that worn by the Lynchburg Home Guard, and consisted of a gray hunting shirt with dark blue collar, plastron, and cuffs with a single small button sewn at the point. When unbuttoned and removed, the plastron front revealed three broad vertical bands of silk



**Two members of the Southern Guards of Campbell County, which was mustered into Confederate service as Co B, 11th Virginia Infantry; they wear gray “hunting shirts” with black plastron, collar and pointed cuffs. Note the brass letters “SG” on their caps. (William A. Turner Collection)**



Charles Holtzclaw enlisted in the Appomattox Rangers, who mustered into Confederate service as Co H, 2nd Virginia Cavalry. In this one-sixth-plate tintype the collar, cuffs, shoulder straps and plastron front on his "hunting shirt" are tinted pale blue. (David Wynn Vaughan Collection)

or polished cotton trim. On some shirts a small patch of the same material appears to have been sewn along the top of the shoulders, in imitation of a shoulder strap. The shirt front could, in turn, be unbuttoned and fastened back forming two wide lapels. The forage cap worn by the Lynchburg Rifles was gray with a dark (probably blue) band; their trousers were also gray with dark inch-wide seam stripes. Commanded by Capt James E. Blankenship, this unit became Co E of the 11th Virginia Infantry.

Other companies wearing hunting shirts made by the tailors and ladies of Lynchburg included the Lynchburg Artillery, and the Beauregard Rifles – temporarily known as “the Zouaves.” Artilleryman James McCanna of the former unit was photographed at some time in late April or May 1861 wearing a gray shirt with plastron front removed to show herringbone-pattern trim, possibly red in color. Cuffs and collar were also faced in the same shade.

Elsewhere in the state, the Appomattox Invincibles – who enlisted as Co A, 44th Virginia Infantry on April 26, 1861 – adopted a uniform of cloth made by the Crenshaw Woolen Mills, designed by company member 1st Lieut John M. Steptoe and consisting of “gray pants with black stripes one inch-wide, a gray shirt with collar to turn down or throw open and trimmed with black cord. The cap also will be gray with a black band. The pants and shirt to be held to the waist with a patent leather [sic] belt with brass plate in front.”

Before their arrival in Richmond on April 30, 1861, a mounted company from Grayson County called the Daredevils were pleasantly described by the *Daily Dispatch* as “deep in leggings, moccasins, and other backwoods appliances.” According to other reports, this company wore “red hunting shirts,” but would change this color for gray before going into service.

### Cavalry and artillery

Virginia cavalry companies were particularly fond of wearing hunting shirts. The Wise Troop, from Lynchburg, had undress shirts plus caps made by N. Guggenheimer. By May 6, 1861, the Henrico Dragoons were reported to have “discarded their dress uniform” and were clothed in “serviceable shirts, capable of standing the wear and tear of a campaign.” The shirt worn by James Henry Woodson of the Appomattox Rangers – Co H, 2nd Virginia Cavalry – was gray with possibly pale blue plastron, collar and cuffs. That worn by Bladen Dulany Lake of the Mountain Rangers – Co A, 7th Virginia Cavalry – was gray faced with black in a broad band running down the buttoned front, and on collar, cuffs and pocket tops.

Other Virginia cavalry units seem to have clung to their pre-war dress when they entered Confederate service. The Amelia Light Dragoons and the Loudon Light Horse – respectively Cos G & H, 1st Virginia

Cavalry – continued to wear their dark blue 1858 state regulation dress well into the summer of 1861. The latter were wearing it when they took part in the charge on the 11th New York (Ellsworth's Fire Zouaves) at First Manassas.

Eventually to become Co A, 4th Virginia, the Prince William Cavalry proudly enlisted on April 17, 1861 in a uniform of gray cloth made at Kelly's Mills in Culpeper County, which consisted of "a frock coat with one row of buttons up the front and one each side; connecting at the top with a gold lace V." They also wore gray pants with "yellow stripes, black hats with black plumes on the left side held up with crossed sabers and a shield with the letters PWC in front – a neat uniform in which the most insignificant must look his best." After the secession of Virginia the Little Fork Rangers purchased gray cloth from the Swartz Mills at Waterloo, which was cut by a tailor at Warrenton and put together into uniforms by the ladies of the neighborhood. They went on to become Co D of the 4th Virginia Cavalry.

The Bedford Light Artillery made "a fine appearance" in their uniform of "dark blue material, the coat buttoning straight up the front, fastened at the waist by a belt, with a short skirt below it." The pants and coat were trimmed with red, with "a cap to match, mounted with two brass cannon crossed obliquely." Enlisted at Danville in Pittsylvania County in April 1861, the Danville Artillery arrived in Richmond wearing "a neat grey jacket and pants, trimmed with red." This unit served as an escort for Gen Robert S. Garnett, who was killed on July 13, 1861, during the Cheat Mountain Campaign.

### Virginia Zouaves

The fashionable influence of the Zouave uniform style (internationally popularized by the prowess of those French North African regiments in the Crimea and Italy during the 1850s) was more fully represented in Virginia by the Richmond Zouaves, who were organized under Capt Edward McConnell, Jr, during May 1861. Their uniforms were made by the ladies of the Monumental Episcopal Church, and consisted of a blue jacket and baggy reddish-orange trousers. On June 10, 1861, the Richmond *Daily Whig* published the following by "Le Zouave," an anonymous member of the unit: "At drill hours our Armory [Corinthian Hall] presents quite an animated scene, and uniforms other than the blue and orange, mingle *cum toga civile*. Tonight, two of the Zouaves Francais were present and expressed themselves well pleased at our appearance and movements. All thanks to the courteous Frenchmen, whether we deserve the compliments or not." The latter is a probable reference to members of Coppens' Battalion of Louisiana Zouaves, who had arrived in the city three days earlier<sup>1</sup>.



This portrait is tentatively identified as Samuel Grubb, who enlisted in the Loudon Cavalry – later Co K, 6th Virginia Cavalry. His full dress consists of an 1813 leather dragoon trooper's helmet with yellow horsehair plume, and a cadet-gray frock coat with yellow trim and brass shoulder scales. He holds a naval sword, and proudly displays a .36cal Massachusetts Adams revolver – he has pulled it halfway out of its holster. See Plate D2. (David Wynn Vaughan Collection)

1 See Men-at-Arms 430, *The Confederate Army 1861–65* (3): Louisiana & Texas

The Richmond Zouaves also adopted leggings of white duck (cotton canvas), which F. Thomas of Richmond undertook to make for 75 cents a pair. However, when Capt McConnell called to collect them Thomas refused to hand them over, claiming that he had quoted \$1.50 a pair. McConnell handed over the extra cash, but subsequently hauled Thomas through the Mayor's Court on charges of fraudulently obtaining "\$5.00, one roll of ducking, and one gross of buckles."

### **Virginia Penitentiary clothing**

As in several of the other Confederate states, Virginia put the prisoners in her state penitentiary to work manufacturing cloth and other goods in the years prior to and during the Civil War. Standing on the Richmond city line at the western terminus of Byrd Street, northwest of Gamble's Hill, this institution was producing "Penitentiary kersey" as early as December 1859, and by May 1861 was making "flannel shirts, cloth for uniforms [and] army shoes" under the direction of "agent and store-keeper Colonel R.M. Nimmo." Work at the Penitentiary was disrupted on July 1, 1861 when a fire, probably started by the convicts, destroyed the looms in the weaving department. Three days later the *Richmond Dispatch* reported:

"The prison proper escaped entirely. The spinning and weaving departments, the axe and a portion of the blacksmith shop, were destroyed. The wood, paint and all other shops in the western portion of the building were saved. A large quantity of raw material, and goods of various kinds were also saved. It is said that the actual loss of property will not exceed \$15,000. The looms in the weaving department, and much other valuable machinery, cannot be replaced at this time in consequence of the Lincoln blockade. Perhaps the State may be enabled to purchase similar articles from some cotton factory in the Southern Confederacy. Every convict thrown out of employment by the disaster will be put actively to work in a few days." In fact, production in the weaving department was halted until 1862, although at least the axe workshop was back in operation towards the end of November 1861.

### **The winter clothing appeal**

By late July 1861 the uniforms of many Virginia troops were already wearing out. According to regimental historian Charles T. Loehr, those of the 1st Virginia Infantry were "somewhat in need of repairs." Even the Drum Corps required new jackets and pants. In response, the Confederate central government asked the state governments to supply their volunteers with "Woolen Clothing," for which they would receive



This cavalryman wears a dark shirt with a broad placket down the front, and a very full ribbon bow tie; note the suspenders supporting his light-colored trousers, which have dark seam stripes. His sword belt is fastened with a two-piece Virginia plate bearing the 1776 state coat of arms, consisting of an Amazon standing over a fallen figure of Tyranny (i.e. Britain). The leather slings are fastened together in the absence of his saber. (William A. Turner Collection)



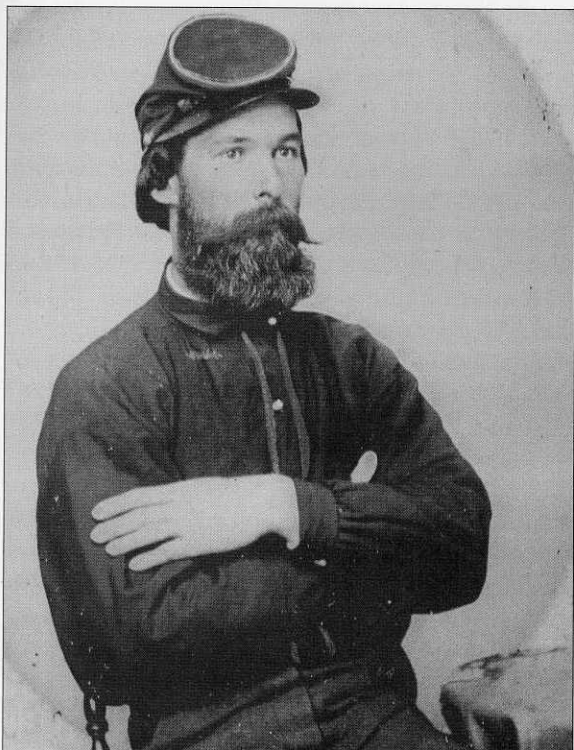
**BELOW** In 1861 Tomley Lumpkin enlisted in the King and Queen Artillery, which was attached to the 4th Battalion, Virginia Heavy Artillery. Expanded into a regiment in 1862, this unit was assigned to duty as the 34th Virginia Infantry on May 23 of that year. Lumpkin wears a dark blue or gray forage cap and fatigue shirt, both of which were tinted red in this one-sixth-plate ambrotype taken by photographer C.Rees of Richmond. (William A.Turner Collection)

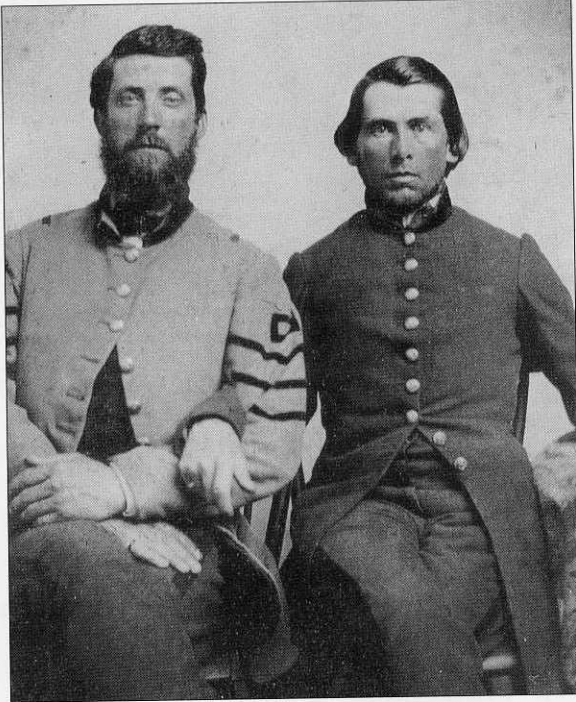
**BELOW RIGHT** The gilt militia artillery crossed cannon insignia on the fez worn by this Virginian indicates that he is an artilleryman. His checked or "hickory" fatigue shirt is edged around collar, shoulders and pleated front with dark, possibly red trim; he holds an artillery saber and has a revolver tucked into his belt. (Dave Taylor Collection)

payment via the commutation system amounting to \$25 a month for each NCO and enlisted man. The first appeals for winter clothing began to appear in the Richmond press towards the end of August, and on September 9 the Richmond City Council appropriated \$50,000 in order to supply volunteers from that city with winter clothing. The 1st Virginia probably received new uniforms via this source by late October.

A photograph of Hampden Pleasants Hay of the Richmond City Guard and L.R.Wingfield of the Old Dominion Guard, taken some time before the former was sent on detached service, shows men from different companies in the regiment wearing an identical uniform, possibly based on the fatigue dress adopted before the war by the Richmond Greys and Company F. The pattern of fatigue jacket issued to the 1st Virginia in October 1861 may well have influenced the Confederate Clothing Bureau, established in Richmond during September of that year, in its decision to produce the short-waisted "shell jacket" as part of the uniform supplied by the Quartermaster Department to troops in Confederate service throughout the remainder of the Civil War.

A continued supply of state-manufactured clothing was particularly essential for those troops not in Confederate service. Units making up the Virginia State Line, established on May 15, 1862, were clothed purely on this basis. A quartermaster depot, established at Wytheville under Capt J.B.Goodloe, had manufactured the following articles by December 27, 1862: "6,912 shirts, 6,708 drawers, 3,368 jackets, 3,960 pants, 1,897 overcoats, 1,764 military caps." A statement accompanying the 1862 report of the Quartermaster General indicates that the following articles were issued from the depot at Wytheville between





1st Sgt Alan G. Copenhaver and Pte Charles Scott Venable of the Smyth Dragoons - Co A, 8th Virginia Cavalry. Both wear nine-button frock coats with what is probably yellow facing color; note the variation in shade between the two coats. Venable subsequently served as an aide to Gen Robert E. Lee. (William A. Turner Collection)

July/December 1862 and January 1863: "4,111 shirts, 3,897 prs. drawers, 3,257 prs. shoes, 3,466 prs. pants, 1,517 caps, 1,413 overcoats, 1,347 yds. colored shirting, 75 gross overcoat buttons, 6,662 yds. gray cloth, 947 prs. socks." In his 1862 report Quartermaster General L. R. Smoots remarked that "No efforts or expense have been spared on the part of this office, to supply the wants of the state line troops."

### Volunteer aid societies

As early as April 24, 1861 the ladies of Richmond were busy sewing uniforms for the Virginia volunteers. According to the *Daily Dispatch*, the basements of three Baptist churches in the city, including St Paul's, were converted into "regular tailoring establishments" with "some hundred or more suits turned out." Captains of companies and individual volunteers leaving their orders at these places were advised that they would find "a tailor, with shears and measuring line, and dozens of ladies, glad to have an opportunity of fitting them out, of course, free of cost." By the

beginning of September 1861 the "Army Committee" of the YMCA was also sewing uniforms, and advised military companies to leave "materials already cut out, and furnished with the necessary trimmings" at their depot on Main Street in Richmond.

Elsewhere in Virginia, the ladies of Staunton in the Shenandoah Valley made "caps, shirts, jackets, pantaloons, in fact nearly everything used by soldiers." Produced by the Ladies' Military Cap Association, the former were described as being "better than those produced in the North, and are furnished at one fourth the price." A Soldiers' Aid Society at Lynchburg had "fitted out several Companies" by the beginning of May 1861, and was making uniforms for a unit recently organized in Nelson County; initially called the Piedmont Grays, this enlisted as the Nelson Grays - Co G, 19th Virginia Infantry. By the beginning of September the Upper Zion Soldiers' Aid Society had been formed by the ladies of Caroline County, north of Richmond. Mount Moriah Church in Amherst County uniformed the Amherst Rifle Greys - Co I, 19th Virginia Infantry. By mid-September the ladies of West Point Church, King William County, had organized a Relief Society to make uniforms for various companies.

### Military suppliers

Much of the cloth for the uniforms worn by Virginia volunteers was procured from mills such as the Crenshaw Woolen Company of Richmond, which had been converted from a flour mill in 1860 by Lewis D. Crenshaw. This firm produced "Fine Cassimeres and Cloths of every variety, from Fine Virginia Merino and Mestizo wool." It began by producing "Army Cloths... at first expressly for the Virginia Military Academy" in 1861. Kelly, Tackett & Ford of Fredericksburg initially produced a variety of goods, including red flannel and light blue cloth.

By October 1861 this firm was reported to have furnished "the Confederate government and their soldiers with three times as many woolen goods, for coats and pants, as any other establishment in the south!" The Scotsville Manufacturing Company, and Bonsack & Whitmore, both made large quantities of woolen jeans cloth. Material of various colors was also obtained from a Staunton mill, while the Swartz Woolen Mills at Waterloo supplied cloth for the troops from Culpeper County and vicinity.

Typical of the cloth available for military companies to purchase on the eve of secession was that advertised for sale in 1860 by Kent, Paine & Co., on Main Street, Richmond: "60 pieces Medium and fine Blue Cloths, 250 pieces Blue and Grey Satinets; Army Clothes; Green Clothes, for Rifle Corps; Medium and Extra Military Buttons; Gauntlets; Gilt and Worsted Braids and Cords..." By April 1861 this firm was offering clothing made to order from "Grey Cassimeres, manufactured in Maryland, Virginia and Georgia," and by the following month, "Red and Blue Shirts; Heavy Jeans Colored Shirts; Tweed Cassimere Fatigue Jackets... [and] heavy French Linen Fatigue Jackets and Shirts."

In Lynchburg in May 1861, A.B.Rucker had for sale at cost price to military companies "2,000 yards of gray jeans manufactured by Jacob Bonsack." Later in the year, Henry A.Burroughs was advertising "Army Buttons, Virginia Buck Gauntlets, Fatigue Jackets, Fatigue Shirts, Sashes [and] Berlin Gloves." In Petersburg, M.M.Davis & Co sold the "most serviceable Flannel Shirt for soldiers in use," plus "Grey Satinets for Military Uniforms." Towards the end of June 1861, Noah Walker & Co of Richmond was offering "500 pairs Heavy Cottonade Pants [and] 300 pairs Black Cassimere Pants, suitable for Artillery companies."

Merchant tailors making uniforms in Richmond included L.Lichtenstein on Franklin Street who, on June 19, 1861, advertised his "experience in Cutting, Trimming and making Military Clothes in Europe, for the Prussian army." Uniforms were also "Cut and Made to Order" by Lewis Cohen & Brother at Wall Street, under St Charles Hotel. Military overcoats were available "Ready Made, or Made to Order" at the Military Clothing Depot owned by William Stagg on 11th Street in Richmond.

Virginia boasted its fair share of hatters. Established in Richmond during 1836, John Dooley announced that his Southern Hat Manufactory was supplying "a great part of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee, with Military Goods" by October 1861. Earlier that year he had advertised "Grey, Blue and Black Cadet and Fatigue style Caps... Particular attention is paid... to the Black Military Cap. It is the finest, most durable, and warmest Cap now manufactured." "Grey Fatigue Caps" were advertised by Bamilton & Seagers of 45 Main Street, Richmond, in May 1861. On the 13th of that month, military cap manufacturer Conrad Saser of 155 Broad Street advised all who had

**SAMPLE SUITS**  
FOR  
**CAVALRY, RIFLEMEN, AND INFANTRY,**  
ALWAYS ON HAND.

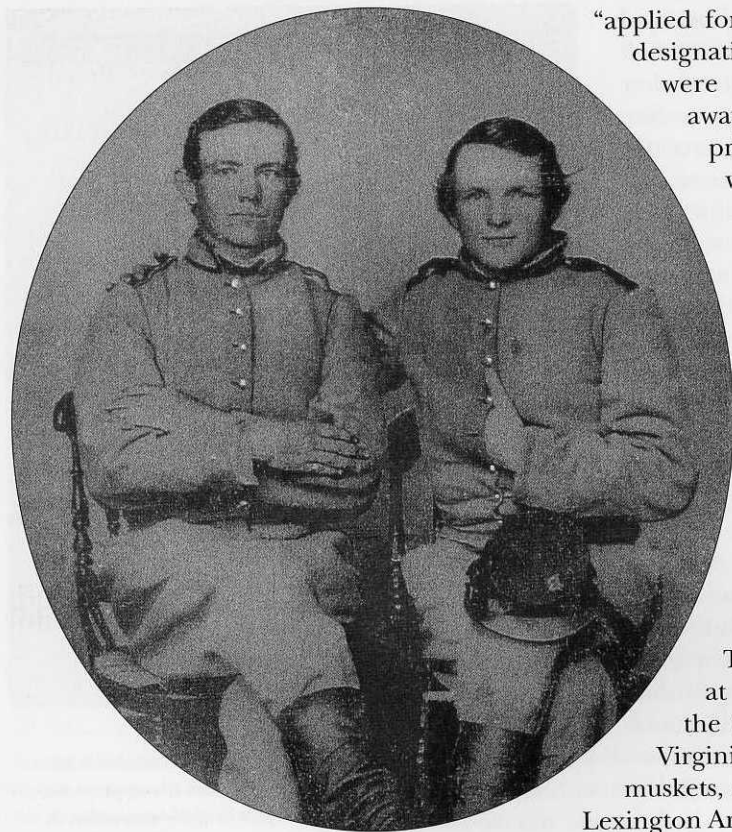
Goods Furnished in Shorter Time  
AND AT LOWER FIGURES  
**THAN ANY HOUSE IN THE STATE**

**CHARLES J. RAINE,**  
SUCCESSOR TO  
**GLASS & RAINE.**

Jan 23-14

**VOLUNTEER COMPANIES**  
THROUGHOUT  
**THE COUNTRY**  
CAN BE SUPPLIED WITH  
**ANY KIND OF UNIFORMS**  
—BY—  
**SENDING THEIR ORDERS**  
TO  
**139 MAIN STREET,**  
LYNCHBURG, VA.

Lynchburg tailor Charles J.Raine made uniforms for most of the volunteer militia companies in central southern Virginia. His distinctive style of "hunting shirt" with removable plastron front was worn by the Home Guard, Rifle Grays and Wise Troop of Lynchburg, the Southern Guards from Campbell County, and the Appomattox Rangers. This advertisement appeared in the *Lynchburg Daily Virginian* on January 23, 1860. (Author's collection)



**The uniform worn by Hampden Pleasants Hay, Co B, and L.R.Wingfield, Co D, 1st Virginia Volunteers, shows the style of service uniform adopted by their regiment in October 1861, possibly based on the fatigue dress adopted before the war by the Richmond Greys and Co F. Both men wear an eight-button gray fatigue jacket with dark blue or black tape trim around the collar, and shoulder flaps of the same color. Their trousers are plain gray, and tucked into boots, possibly indicating winter wear. At right, Hay holds a dark-colored forage cap with a gilt letter "B" fixed to the top. (William A.Turner Collection)**

“applied for military caps and covers and letters designating the Companies” that their orders were ready for collection. Several doors away, hatter William T.Moore was promising that orders for “Fatigue Caps” would be promptly filled. P.Seabury of Lynchburg advertised “a few hundred Hats for Companies” toward the end of June 1861.

Operating at “Charles H.Langley’s tin store” on 13th Street in Richmond, K.M.Lewis advertised himself as “the only Southern Brand Cutter” of “Brass Letters for Military Caps” in the city on May 16, 1861. However, brand cutter A.K.Graham was advertising the same for five cents per letter two days later.

### **Arms and equipage**

Two ordnance depots existed in Virginia at the outbreak of the Civil War. One was the State Armory in Richmond, where the Virginia Manufactory of Arms produced rifles, muskets, swords and cannon. The other was the Lexington Arsenal, established in 1816 and controlled by the Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute since 1839. The Federal government also maintained two ordnance stations in Virginia, the most important of which was the Harper’s Ferry Arsenal and Armory, containing machinery for manufacturing US regulation rifles and rifled muskets, plus approximately 20,000 completed arms. The other was the arsenal of the Gosport Navy Yard at Portsmouth, though this contained only a small store of muskets. All completed weapons were destroyed by retreating Federals when Virginia State troops occupied Harper’s Ferry on April 18, 1861; but valuable machinery, materials and unfinished arms were saved, and eventually divided between the Confederate arsenals established at Richmond, VA, and Fayetteville, NC. When installed, this machinery was used to alter and repair old weapons, and did much to arm Confederate forces during the early stages of the war.

Meanwhile, in January 1861 a commission headed by Col Philip St George Cocke was appointed to purchase further arms for Virginia. By April this body had secured 5,000 percussion muskets, revolvers, and cavalry sabers. Furthermore, a State Ordnance Department was established under Col Charles H. Dimmock which was charged with “altering and improving” small arms, and manufacturing new weapons.

When the plant at the State Armory was placed under Confederate States authority on June 15, 1861, the state moved all its small arms to a tobacco factory at the corner of Cary and 7th streets, where operations continued. By the end of October 1861, Col Dimmock reported that 5,000 flintlocks had been altered to percussion, and that this work was continuing at the rate of about 100 guns per day. By the end of October

1861 the Armory had issued 44,172 flintlock and 24,788 percussion muskets. About 10,000 flintlocks were transferred to other states. Other arms issued included 363 rifled muskets with bayonets, 133 Sharps rifles, 1,923 Harper's Ferry rifles, and 1,220 Hall rifles.

Most of the Virginia State Line units were issued Virginia Manufactory flintlocks altered to percussion by the CS Ordnance Department, which also managed to collect 35,000 privately owned flintlocks from all over the state. These were cleaned, converted for percussion, and distributed among the State Line and militia. The department also altered and restocked about 1,000 Hall rifles, which in their converted form were called Reed's rifles (this weapon was subsequently declared to be utterly worthless).

Private small arms suppliers in Virginia included Mitchell & Tyler on Main Street, Richmond, who offered "Arms for Volunteers," and announced that they could supply "the best English and American guns, including the Minnie Musket, English Enfield Rifle, Rifled Musket – with either Angular or Sword Bayonets [and] Fine Navy Pistols." In Petersburg, C.Leonard at 56 Sycamore Street advertised "Forty Good Double [barreled shot] guns, suitable for mounted men; Fifty Single [barreled shot] Guns; One Colt's Revolving Gun; Two Revolving Rifles; Thirty-Six Percussion and Flint Hall Breech-Loading Rifles; Twelve Home-Made Rifles; Pistols of Colt's, and other makers."

Evidence survives as to the weapons carried by some individual companies. On April 18, 1861 the Richmond Greys were ordered to carry their muskets to "Mr Snead, the Locksmith" to have them reamed to suit the patent cartridge invented by C.A.McEvoy. The Richmond Light Infantry Blues did likewise before they left Richmond for service in Western Virginia on June 13, 1861. By May 6 the Virginia Life Guard was reported to be armed with "that choice modern implement of destruction, the Enfield rifle."

Most of the early Virginia cavalry companies were poorly armed. Although carbines were a rarity in 1861, most troopers were mustered in with at least one revolver and a saber per man. Some later units secured shotguns or flintlock rifles. Indeed, the Washington County Mounted Rifles, under Capt William E.Jones, arrived in Richmond on June 17, 1861, carrying "double-barrelled guns and pistols." This unit replaced the Clarke Cavalry as Co D, 1st Virginia Cavalry during the following September. Earlier the same month, Col Jubal Early, 24th Virginia Infantry, reported of the Virginia cavalry at Lynchburg that: "There is no company of cavalry here fully armed. Two companies have double-barreled shot-guns, bought by their counties, but no sabers, and are but beginning to drill. There are two companies tolerably well drilled, with forty or fifty sabers each. One had no guns and the other a few... There are about a hundred flint-lock pistols, which have been gathered from old companies. A number of sabers, of old patterns, have also been



**This unidentified volunteer has a round shoulder belt plate bearing the Virginia state coat of arms, attached to his cotton web belts. His dark blue pants, with narrow cords at the seams, indicate that his company may have worn the 1858 state uniform for full dress. An 1839 forage cap with oilcloth cover rests on the table by his side. (William A.Turner Collection)**



**James Malcolm Hart, a private of Crenshaw's Virginia Battery, wears an unusual combination of oilcloth poncho and fur-lined rain cape over an over-sized gray overcoat. Under magnification, a gilt trident can be seen at the right front of the cape. (David Wynn Vaughan Collection)**

Some had been produced pre-war by Northern-based companies such as J.S. Smith & Sons of New York, and Emerson Gaylord of Chicopee, MA, others by the State Armory and in England during the conflict. Large numbers of enlisted men's plates were also issued by the State Armory between October 1, 1859 and November 1, 1861: "12,916 waist belt plates, 9,630 breast plates, 3,852 cavalry saber belt plates, [&] 1,341 cartridge box plates." Apart from 364 waist belt plates, no plates of any type are believed to have been issued after November 1862 through October 1863. During September 1864 it was reported that 20 waist belt plates had been supplied, and that about 1,000 belt plates were ready for issue. Infantry waist belt plates and cavalry saber belt plates were mostly rectangular and of cast brass, and also bore the state seal, either placed in a laurel wreath or set in an oval. Other examples featured the word "VIRGINIA" enclosed within a silver wreath, or the letters "VA" entwined in the center. "Breast" or shoulder belt plates were oval, either plain or bearing unit designations such as "1st Regiment Virginia Vols"; or circular, with the state seal. Cartridge box plates may well have been the "US" regulation pattern until issues were stopped after secession. Distinctive waist belt plates were worn by certain units, such as the Richmond Grays and the Petersburg City Guard.

Only 20,136 cartridge boxes were issued to Virginia forces by October 1861, and less than a quarter of these were equipped with leather shoulder belts. However, 57,912 yards of web belting were supplied to troops for both cartridge box and bayonet scabbard shoulder belts. This material must also have served for waist belts, since only 2,079 leather belts were distributed.

collected. All the companies want cartridge-boxes and cap boxes... All the companies here are well mounted, and would make fine companies if there were arms for them."

Manufacturers of edged weapons in Virginia included Boyle & Gamble. Located on South 6th Street in Richmond, this company was in operation throughout the war and produced swords of all kinds, plus knives and bayonets. Running a saw manufactory in partnership with Edward Boyle before the war, Lewis Burger and his two brothers made Bowie knives. Williams and Elliott's Hardware Store at 67 Main Street, Richmond, sold "Bowie-Knives, Camp Knives [and] Pocket Knives." Fishback & Moyers of Gordonsville, produced swords which they described as "strong, of good length, finely tempered, ground to a keen edge... altogether a dangerous instrument."

Gilt sword belt plates bearing the obverse of the Virginia state seal were first used extensively during the Civil War.



**ABOVE Distinguished by his two-piece sword belt clasp bearing the Virginia state coat-of-arms, this lieutenant wears an example of the dark blue uniform adopted for the state's uniformed volunteers in 1858. He holds a M1850 Foot Officer's sword in a dark leather scabbard. (William A. Turner Collection)**

**ABOVE RIGHT David Bowman, of Co H, 12th Virginia Cavalry, holds a large D-guard Bowie knife of a type popular with Southern volunteers during the early part of the war. (William A. Turner Collection)**



During April 1861 the Richmond Trunk Factory, owned by James Knotts, advised that they were making "Knapsacks, Sword Scabbards, and Cartridge Boxes." In Lynchburg, John H. Bailey produced knapsacks and belts, and claimed he could make "50 per day" of the former. The knapsacks carried by the Marion Rifles – who enlisted as Co K, 15th Virginia Infantry – were made by "Mr Boshier." On April 17, 1861, the Richmond Howitzers were requested to leave their knapsacks at "Montague's paint shop, on Bank street, near Goddin's Hall," presumably to have the designation "Co H" painted on them. Five days later a notice from Montague appeared in the press offering to mark guns as well as knapsacks "before they leave the city."

A salesman named Reith at Kent, Paine & Co invented a "tent-knapsack" used by Virginia companies. Reporting that Reith had served in the British Army both in Africa and the Crimea, the *Daily Whig* concluded: "The advantages of this knapsack are that by means of broader straps it is carried with more ease; by means of a string the oil cloth covering may be used also as a bed in lieu of an extra oil cloth carried with the common knapsack; and lastly out of these covers may be constructed a tent large enough for a single file, using two muskets in the place of two tent poles." The Richmond Zouaves were the first Confederate unit to adopt the "Reith" knapsack.

A rigid box knapsack carried by a member of the Gordon Rifles – Co C, 30th Virginia Infantry – measured 14½in wide by 15¾in high by 3½in deep, and was "rounded over on the top with tin," inside which the blanket was tucked. Covered with black-painted canvas on the sides and unpainted canvas on the front, it consisted of a single compartment closed by two rectangular flaps secured by thongs, and

Planter John J. Thomas enlisted in the Hempstead Rifles, a pre-war volunteer militia company which in 1861 became Co A, 3rd State Infantry Regiment (Gratiot's) in the Army of Arkansas. His full dress uniform features an 1851 cap with eagle plate surmounted by a round wool pompon, and a jacket or tailcoat with a high standing collar, fastened with 12 small buttons. He also wears leather gauntlets, and holds what appears to be a Foot Artillery sword - which may have been a studio prop. (Courtesy Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives)



a rear flap of black bridle leather on which was painted in 2½in high white letters, "GR."

Saddle and harness maker D.F.Grooms of Richmond made "sets of infantry accoutrements, saber belts and harness" in 1861. The horse "equipments" of the Governor's Mounted Guard included a "dark blue schabraque with orange stripe and army bridles and bits (brass)." Drums were made by F.Polster, who owned a music store on Broad Street in Richmond. On May 22, 1861 a correspondent from the *Daily Whig* visited this establishment and reported: "All the materials, except the tin, are produced or made here. The drums constructed by Mr Polster are not only equal to, but in our opinion, superior to those obtained heretofore in Yankee land."

## ARKANSAS

### Antebellum militia

Throughout the decade before the Civil War the enrolled (or non-uniformed) militia of Arkansas was divided into two divisions: the First Division covered the western portion of the state, with its Indian frontier, while the Second embraced the remainder. The militia laws authorized the formation of a regiment within each county, while on paper each township could raise a uniformed volunteer militia company either of artillery, cavalry, infantry or light infantry. While some counties had none, by 1860 a few - such as like Pulaski, Jefferson and Desha - had three or more volunteer companies of reasonably long standing.

In Pulaski County these included the Capital Guards, established in January 1860; the Pulaski Light Cavalry (also called the Pulaski Lancers), a mounted company under Capt Thomas J.Churchill, who later became governor of the state; and the Totten Artillery, later known as the Pulaski Light Battery, commanded by Capt W.E.Woodruff, Jr. The Jefferson Guard, Southern Guard and Pine Bluff Artillery were established in Jefferson County, while the Napoleon Grays were attached to the 6th Militia Regiment in Desha County. In addition, the Arkansas Military Institute had existed at Tulip, in Dallas County, since 1850. Modeled on the Virginia Military Institute, its cadets apparently adopted the gray dress and fatigue uniforms of that revered establishment. The doors of the AMI were closed in 1861 as the cadets under Capt James B.Williamson enlisted as Co I, 4th Arkansas Infantry.

On January 21, 1861, Governor Henry M.Rector approved two acts of the legislature which reorganized the militia, and placed Arkansas in a more defensible position. The





raising of further volunteer companies was encouraged, and moves were made to arm them, especially those units being formed along the western borders of the state. At the same time the legislature ruled that militia officers were to wear a uniform based on US Army regulations, "except commissioned officers of companies, who shall be allowed to adopt any uniform which they may see proper [for themselves and their men]."

### **Army of Arkansas, 1861**

On May 15, 1861, the secession convention of Arkansas created a Military Board consisting of Governor Rector and two advisors, with powers to call out the militia and volunteer forces, and to control the forts, arms and munitions of the state. On May 20 the Military Board established the "Army of Arkansas," a force enlisted for six months' state defense and comprising the 1st through 5th State Infantry Regiments, or State Troops; the 1st and 2nd Mounted Rifles; at least three batteries of artillery, including the Totten Artillery, the Fort Smith Battery and the Helena Light Artillery; and several other battalions and companies of cavalry and infantry. Most of these units were turned over to the Confederate War Department on July 15, 1861.

The Army of Arkansas embraced most of the former volunteer militia companies, who volunteered for state service in a mixture of full dress and hastily prepared service uniforms. Organized at Van Buren

ABOVE **The Totten Battery, renamed the Pulaski Light Battery in 1861, was organized by William E. Woodruff, Jr, in 1860. Lieutenant Omer R. Weaver was killed at Wilson's Creek while serving Gun No. 1 of this unit. (Courtesy Wilson's Creek National Battlefield)**

ABOVE LEFT **An unidentified enlisted man of the Pulaski Light Battery wears the company's 1861 "gray jeans" uniform with red trim (see Plate G2). Under magnification his cap can be seen to bear the dull brass letters "P" and "B" either side of the brighter gilt militia artillery insignia. (Courtesy Wilson's Creek National Battlefield)**



**Sgt Simon McCown of the Davis Blues from Nashville, AR, which mustered into state service as Co F, 5th State Infantry Regiment (Dockery's) in May 1861. His richly trimmed gray wool uniform may have been a product of the clothing factory situated near Nashville. (Courtesy Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, AR)**

in Crawford County on January 5, 1861, the Van Buren Frontier Guard were originally attached to the 5th Regt, Arkansas Militia, but enlisted for state service as Co G, 2nd Regt, Arkansas State Troops (Gratiot's). According to Clem McCulloch, deputy postmaster at Van Buren, who was an original member of the company, "... we sent our measures to Philadelphia and had uniforms made of sky blue soldier cloth for pants and navy blue coats and high crowned hats without brim, only a visor or 'bill' and with large detachable plumes and pompom [i.e. pattern 1851 dress caps]." Photographed in this uniform on May 18, 1861, McCulloch wears a single-breasted, nine-button, dark blue frock coat with turned-down collar, with a rectangular US "eagle" plate fastening his waist belt.

Second Lieutenant Decatur McDonald of the Fort Smith Rifles - Co D, 3rd Regt State Troops - was photographed wearing a short-skirted gray frock coat, darker gray trousers, and a plumed hat pinned up on the right. Others in his company wore gray coats and pants trimmed with buff braid. The Crawford Artillery - Co F - were outfitted in a uniform of gray jeans cut and made by the ladies of the county. John H. Rivers of the Centerpoint Riflemen, 5th Regt State Troops, recalled: "We had Uniforms made at home, all alike, the shirts were made of hickory checks, and had red stripes across the breast, five in number: And the pants were out of some thin goods: They were blue, and had red stripes on the outside of each leg, about an inch wide: We were proud of Our Uniforms."

In April 1861 the Des Arc Rangers - who enlisted as Co B of Thomas J. Churchill's 1st Mounted Rifles - adopted a uniform consisting of a "red flannel shirt, with a deep blue breast and back, blue cuffs and black velvet collar, with three

rows of brass buttons in front; black pants, with red stripes up the sides; United States cavalry fatigue cap, with ostrich plume."

Other volunteer militia companies entering state service included the Pulaski Lancers of Little Rock, who wore uniforms of "blue and red" and carried lances with pennants. The Capitol Guards, formed in the same city during January 1860, wore a full dress resembling "the regular army uniform." On the 19th of that month the *Old-Line Democrat* reported of this company: "We had the pleasure of examining the cloth out of which the uniforms are to be made, and in our humble judgment will equal any in the South. The coats are dark, navy blue, single breasted, buttoned full to the neck; gilt buttons with a device of the Capitol upon them. The pants are made of the same material, with gold trimmings.

*(continued on page 33)*



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VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER MILITIA, 1860-61  
1: NCO, Continental Morgan Guards - Co A, 31st VA Militia  
2: Montgomery Guard - Co C, 1st VA Volunteers  
3: Drum Major, 1st VA Volunteers



VIRGINIA VOLUNTEERS, 1861

1: Richmond Howitzers – Co H, 1st VA Volunteers

2: Officer, Richmond Zouaves – Co E, 44th VA Inf

3: Alexandria Riflemen – Co A, 17th VA Inf



VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER  
INFANTRY, 1861-62

1 & 2: Warrenton Rifles - Co K, 17th VA Inf

3: Lynchburg Home Guard - Co G, 11th VA Inf

4: Beauregard Rifles - "The Zouaves"

VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER CAVALRY, 1861-62

- 1: Appomattox Rangers - Co H, 2nd VA Cav
- 2: Loudon Cavalry - Co K, 6th VA Cav (full dress)
- 3: Loudon Cavalry (service dress)
- 4: Valley Rangers - Co E, 1st VA Cav



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**ARKANSAS MILITIA, 1861**

**1: C/Sgt, Belle Point Guards,  
5th State Inf (Dockery's)**

**2: Sgt, Davis Blues - Co F, 5th State Inf**

**3: Musician, Saline Guards - Co E, 1st AR Inf (Fagan's)**



ARKANSAS VOLUNTEERS, 1861

1: Camden Knights – Co C, 1st AR Inf (Fagan's)

2: Cpl, Jackson Guards – Co G, 1st AR Inf

3: Musician, Co H, 3rd AR Inf





ARKANSAS MOUNTED TROOPS  
& ARTILLERY, 1861-62

1: County Troop - Co D, 2nd AR Cav Bn (Phifer's)

2: Pulaski Light Battery (Woodruff's)

3: Officer, Napoleon Cavalry - Co G, 1st AR Mtd Rifles



ARKANSAS INFANTRY & ARTILLERY,  
1862-63  
1: Co H, 23rd AR Inf (Lyles')

2: Co G, 24th AR Inf (Portlock's)  
3: 5th Bty, AR Light Arty -  
Appeal Battery (Bryan's)

Brigand [M1858 Hardee] hat with a black plume caught upon the side with a gilt clasp. The trappings are of patent leather... We are glad that this company has seen fit to award the making of the uniforms to Mr W.[illiam] H.Hart of this city, 'for none could better be.' His large experience, taste, and interest will render him to do his best in this contract. Besides all this, he is a citizen of our city, and when this company is in full uniform, the anxious inquiry will be made, 'Who made the uniforms?'"

### **Volunteer forces, 1861-62**

The first Arkansas volunteers for Confederate service in Virginia were organized for 12 months in May 1861, and consisted of the 1st Volunteer Infantry commanded by Col James F.Fagan. The Eldorado Sentinels – Co A – were described as "well uniformed" in neat gray caps and frock coats, with black cap band, collar and cuffs. Twenty-four men from this unit left home without these items, and were "uniformed in Virginia at [their] own expense." Captain Charles S.Stark, commanding the Clark County Volunteers – Co B – chose to wear a light gray coat probably trimmed with light blue, while his sky-blue pants carried a gold stripe. His coat had three rows of nine buttons, with three small buttons up the

**No two men are dressed alike in this image of Co H, 3rd State Infantry Regiment, photographed at Arkadelphia in June 1861. They wear pullover fatigue shirts of various cuts and shades, with trim of different colors around the pockets, cuffs and collars. All wear slouch hats of various colors and shapes, and at least 30 of them have large D-guard Bowie knives. Many have tin cups attached to their belts, and wear what appear to be canvas packs on their backs. Under magnification, the man third from the right in the second rank can be seen to wear small, round, dark-tinted spectacles; and the fourth man from the right in the fourth rank is unmistakably an African-American. (Courtesy Wilson's Creek National Battlefield)**





**This unidentified Arkansas volunteer wears a fatigue shirt with facing color on the collar, shoulders, buttoned front edge and pocket tops. He holds a M1849 Colt Pocket revolver, and a small "Arkansas tooth pick." (Author's collection)**

front of the cuffs. His company possibly wore a similar uniform. Originally elected to command the Saline Guards – Co E – in April 1861, Fagan himself wore a dark blue double-breasted frock coat fastened by two rows of five buttons, with rank indicated by Federal-style shoulder straps. His "chasseur"-pattern képi had a light-colored band and gold braid on top and sides. The Crockett Rifles – Co H, named after their original commander Capt Robert H. Crockett – left home without uniforms or arms; company member Wiley A. Washburn recalled: "We immediately proceed to Va. Stopped at Lynchburg recd our uniforms and guns. The cloth was bouht by funds recd from the State [sic]."

Clothing for much of the remaining Arkansas volunteer forces formed in 1861 was improvised and mostly homemade. The bulk of Arkansas volunteers arrived at musters in their everyday working and hunting clothes, and attempted to adopt a martial appearance by pinning up the brims of their civilian hats with military buttons.

Many men wore individually styled shirts trimmed with various facing colors at the pockets, collar, cuffs and shoulders. According to a Federal report in the *Rock Island Register* of Illinois on September 11, 1861, Arkansas state troops serving with Gens Sterling Price and Ben McCulloch in Missouri could be identified by a piece of yellow flannel stitched to their left shoulder.

The companies recruited in more highly populated areas tended to appear more uniform, in gray coats or jackets and pants faced in colors such as black, red or green. Pleated "hunting shirts" and plainer fatigue shirts were often adopted for service wear. Local merchant Robert F. Kellam, of Camden in Ouachita County, noted in his diary on April 29, 1861, that the Camden City Guards – who enlisted as Co H, 6th Arkansas Infantry (Lyon's) – wore "Grey Sattinet Pants & Roundabout [jackets], trimed [sic] with Red Flannel, Stripe down the Pants – Coats Stripped [sic] Shoulder & cuff with same." William Shores, who was appointed a drummer in this company, was photographed shortly after his enlistment on July 26, 1861 wearing a M1839 forage cap with dark top and light-colored band, and a single-breasted nine-button jacket or coat with facing color on the collar.

Kellam also described the uniform of the Camden Knights – Co C, 1st Arkansas Infantry (Fagan's) – as consisting of a "Gray Coat Roundabout, Black Cap [and] Pants, Leather Belts." Later that year he listed both the original Camden Knights, and the Camden Knights No. 2 or Company B – who enlisted as Co G, 11th Arkansas Infantry (Smith's) – as wearing "Red Shirts – black pants."

Also enlisted in Ouachita County were the Ouachita Grays, who wore a uniform of Georgia "wool plains," or non-dyed wool, described as "Grey... trimed [sic] with Green Flannel." This unit became Co K, 6th Arkansas Infantry. The Ouachita Voltisquires – Co D, 6th Arkansas – wore "Black Tweed"; the Ouachita Cavalry – Co G, 3rd Arkansas Cavalry

(Borland's) – and a cavalry company raised by Capt James M.Gee both adopted a uniform of “Blue Denims.” The Sevier County Stars – Co F, 19th Arkansas Infantry – wore a “light blue suit.”

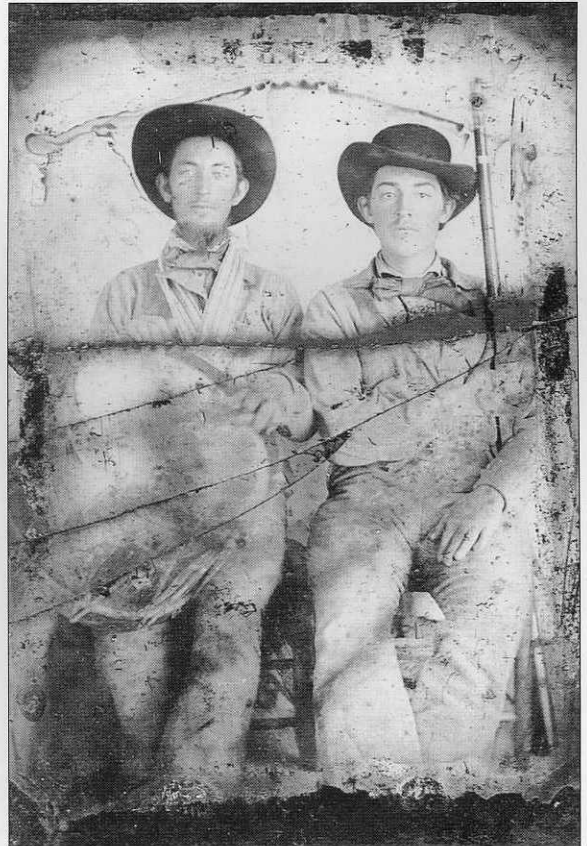
### The winter clothing appeal

With their original uniforms wearing out and the prospect of winter service on the horizon, Arkansas troops began to write home for warmer clothing towards the end of August 1861. While encamped at Pond Springs, MO, on August 21, following their loss of “tents, blankets and clothing” at Wilson's Creek 11 days before, Capt Morton G.Galloway, Pulaski Rangers – Co F, 1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles – wrote requesting that his men be provided with a “blouse or sack coat made of some gray color,” adding “could get along without the pants if we can't get them.” The Hot Springs Rifle Company – Co E, 12th Arkansas Infantry – requested from their “friends and relatives” on September 26, 1861: “Two pair of pants, of heavy brown or gray mixed jeans, lined if though[t] proper, with domestic. One roundabout or jacket of the same material, lined throughout, with side and vest pockets, it should be long enough to come some four inches below the waistband of the pants and large enough to be worn over the vest or outside shirt. One heavy vest of jeans, linsey or kersey, one overshirt of woolen or mixed goods; one or two pair of drawers, as the case may require, two pair of socks, one good blanket is advisable, one overcoat or a loose sack coat, or a hunting shirt with a belt.”

### Military Board clothing, 1861-62

Following the transfer of Arkansas commands to the Confederacy on July 15, 1861, the Military Board agreed to furnish volunteers with uniforms against recompense by the War Department at CS clothing commutation rates. The state possessed only a few cotton mills, including the Van Buren Steam Cotton Mill, a mill at Cane Hill, and a small clothing factory at Nashville in its far southwest corner, of which little is known. Hence, the Board employed workshops already established in the State Penitentiary, located atop a hill just outside the western edge of Little Rock, where about 120 convicts under the tutelage of Superintendent A.J.Ward spun and wove uniform cloth and made soldiers' shoes. During the summer of 1861 this institution was reported in the local press to have produced “a large lot of army clothing” and “a great many shoes for soldiers,” despite difficulties experienced getting a sufficient supply of leather. By November 18, 1861, the Military Board was able to inform the state legislature that the Penitentiary had fabricated for the army 3,000 uniforms, 8,000 pairs of shoes, 500 drums and 200 tents, plus wagons, harness and accoutrements. Uniforms continued to be produced intermittently at the

While badly degraded, this double portrait of cousins James G. & L.Ewing Hagood gains poignancy from its subject. They served in Co H, 15th Arkansas Infantry (McRae's/ Hobbs'/ Boone's), which was also known as the Northwest Regiment. Musician James G. holds a drum, while L.Ewing attempts to hold a musket at “support arms.” An inscription in the case containing this image reads “Died in the service of their country in the year 1862. There is no war there” [i.e., in the afterlife.] (William Elswick Collection)

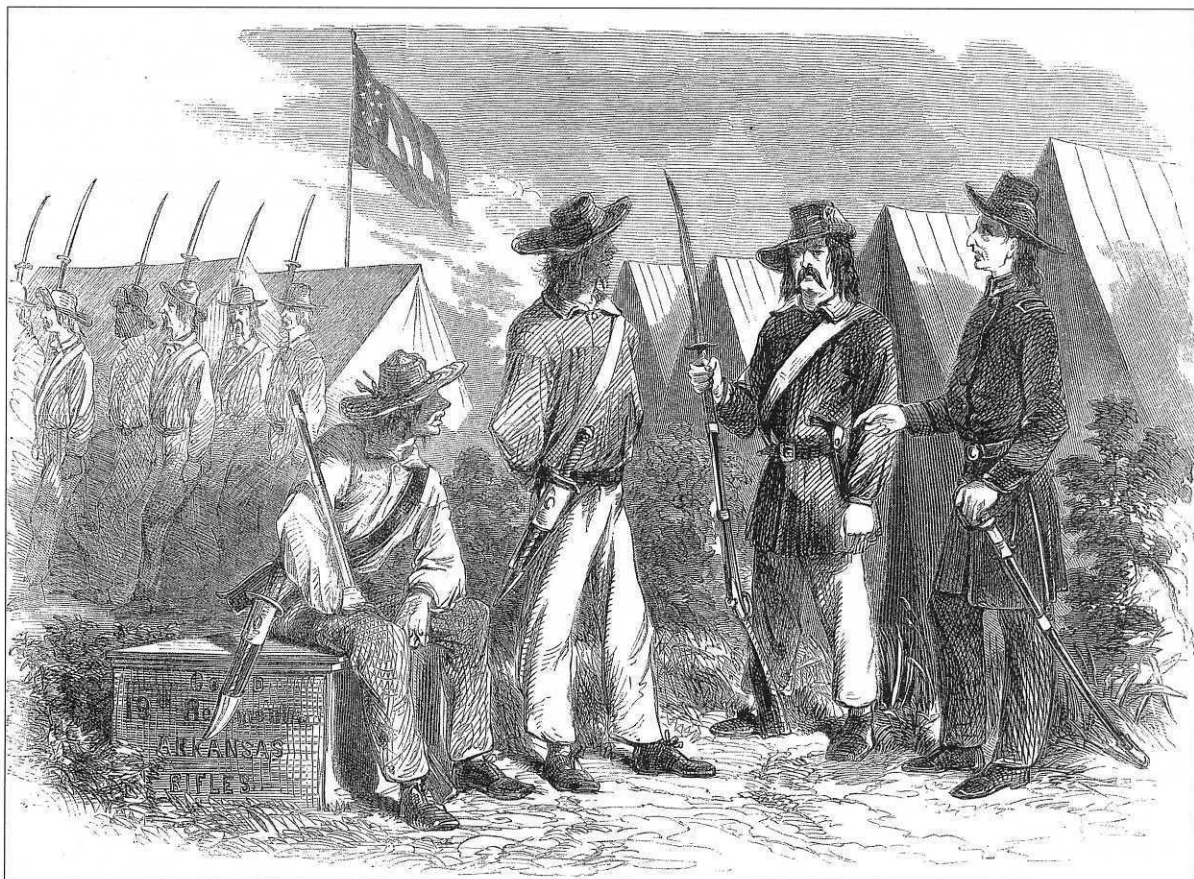


Penitentiary workshops until September 10, 1863, when Little Rock was finally occupied by Federal troops under Gen Frederick Steele.

The clothing produced at the Penitentiary was patterned after the pre-war US Army uniform. Made from gray woolen jeans material often faced with dark blue or black on collar and cuffs, it consisted of a M1851 frock coat and matching trousers. Headgear were forage caps or slouch hats. Issues of this uniform probably went first to the regiments ordered to Virginia and the Mississippi River valley. The 1st Arkansas Infantry (Fagan's) reported getting "a new uniform, coarse but serviceable" by November 1861, while encamped at Brooke's Station near Fredericksburg, VA. The units in the Mississippi valley were similarly supplied between October and December 1861.

Private Phillip Dangerfield Stephenson, of St Louis, MO, described the issue of his uniform on enlistment in Co K, 13th Arkansas Infantry near Belmont during mid-September 1861: "I was about the last recruit for the regiment, at least for a season. When they fitted me out in soldier clothes, it was rare work. All the uniform shoes, hats, etc, had been picked over and only odds and ends were left. Lieutenant [Thomas W] Bartlett roared as I tried on one thing after another. I finally emerged – and was a sight! I had on a long frock coat of coarse brown cloth, butternut color, very tight, buttoned up to the chin on my long rail-like body. My pants, of the same stuff, were a mile too big, baggy as sacks, legs rolled up at the bottom. Our uniforms were mostly the same dirt color,

**Incorrectly captioned "Arkansas Troops now under Beauregard, in Virginia" when originally published in *Harper's Weekly* on November 9, 1861, this engraving shows members of Co D, 19th Arkansas Infantry in camp at Nashville, AR. The officer at right wears Federal-style shoulder straps, while the men are uniformed in pleated "hunting shirts" and have large knives frogged to their waist belts. (Author's collection)**



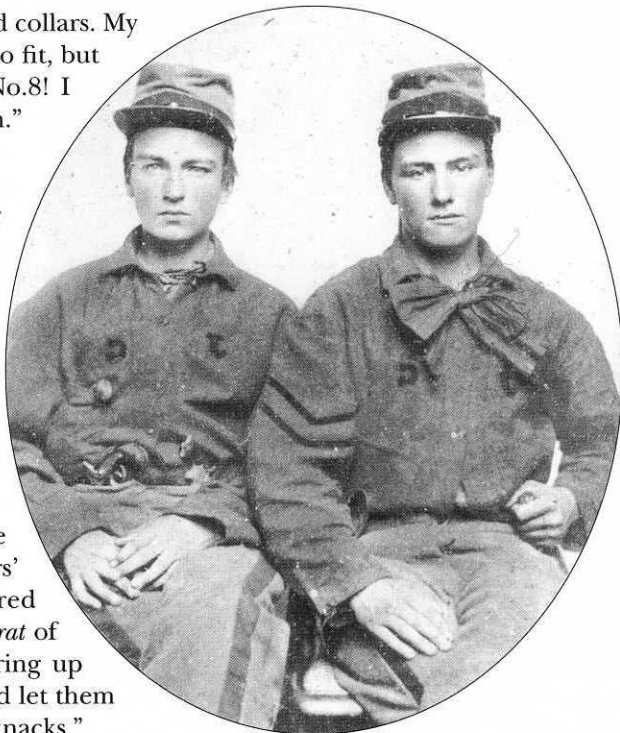
the coats having brass buttons and black cuffs and collars. My hat, a common light colored wool, was passable to fit, but my shoes, coarse brogans, were a No.9 and a No.8! I laughed it off and was proud of being in uniform.”

### **Soldiers' aid societies**

In conjunction with the efforts at the Penitentiary and the few cotton mills throughout the state, on August 20, 1861 the Military Board appointed a central committee in every county consisting of the county clerk, the sheriff or in his absence the deputy sheriff, to supervise the collection of uniforms. Depots were established at central points where everything in “the clothing line suitable for the army” was gathered, and paid for in Arkansas or Confederate Bonds. Most importantly, if they had not already done so, the ladies in each county were invited to form “soldiers' aid societies” in order to make the required uniforms. An appeal in the *Arkansas True Democrat* of Little Rock declared: “Let our lady friends... bring up the thick winter flannels in comfortable styles and let them not waste time in fancy uniforms and other knickknacks.”

On September 12, 1861 a list of the clothing required was published, which included “One good country jeans coat or jacket. Two pairs of pants, same material. Two good cotton shirts, heavy. Two good linsey shirts, heavy. Two pairs of good linsey drawers, (or other heavy goods.) Two pairs of good woolen socks. One pair of first rate shoes.” As a result, organizations such as the Soldiers' Aid Society of Little Rock, and the Central Committee of Randolph County, raised funds and provided uniforms which were sent to central depots such as Jacob Hawkins' store in Little Rock. Monticello was chosen as the location for the central depot for Union, Ashley, Drew and Desha counties. Clothing procured in Hot Springs and Dallas was forwarded directly to the CS quartermaster at Memphis, TN, for distribution to Arkansas troops.

As part of this process, individuals were permitted to designate which particular company or unit the clothing was intended for, and central committees had them packed in specially labeled boxes. The “patriotic ladies of Little Rock” converted the Theatre Hall into a workshop and made 200 “round jackets and over seventy-five pairs of pants” for the volunteers of Fagan's 1st Arkansas. The same ladies provided an “entire suit of uniform clothes and other articles of good material, neat and appropriate in style” for the Capitol Guards – Co A, 6th Arkansas Infantry – by September 12, 1861. This group also provided for the mounted volunteers of Co D, 3rd Arkansas Cavalry, under Capt Benjamin F. Danley, by the beginning of October. The Union County Central Committee purchased “provisions, clothing, [and] arms” specifically for the Lisbon Invincibles – Co I, 6th Arkansas Infantry. The Daughters of the South at Van Buren made a “complete uniform” of gray jeans for each member of the Crawford Artillery. The citizens of Hempstead supplied the Southern Defenders, a Home Guard company, with “one coat; two pairs of pants; two pairs of socks; and two pairs of drawers.”



**John M.W. Baird and Henry Clements wear the service uniform adopted in 1861 by the Jackson Guards – Co G, 1st Arkansas Infantry (Fagan's), which was the first regiment from the state to volunteer for Confederate service. Note the black cloth letters “J” and “G” attached to their fatigue shirts (see Plate F2). Baird has a Philadelphia-type Derringer and a pepperbox pistol tucked into his belt. (Courtesy Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, AR)**



**2nd Lt David Alexander of the Napoleon Rifles – Co G, 1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles; see Plate G3. In this reversed portrait he wears a checked or “hickory” shirt over a fancy pleated dress shirt, and his hat is adorned with a secession cockade and feathers. He carries a holstered revolver and a knife at his belt; Alexander was cashiered in August 1861 for stabbing to death a member of his own company. (Courtesy Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield)**

The citizens of Cadron and Welborn townships took only ten days to produce “some 300 garments” for the 1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles, which they set out to take to Missouri in three horse-drawn wagons on August 30, 1861. Gold medals were awarded to encourage the state’s womenfolk to make cloth. During a period of four months Mrs Sallie Bangs, a widow of Sulphur Springs, wove “a hundred and eight yards of jeans and seventy-eight yards of plain cloth... also she made cloth for her son who was in the army.”

A list of clothing supplied by October 28, 1861 to Co D, 12th Arkansas Infantry, commanded by Capt E.P.Chandler, was published in the *Arkansas True Democrat* of Little Rock: “8 overcoats, 66 jean coats, 86 pairs jeans pants, 35 pairs linsey drawers, 44 pairs cotton drawers, 42 jeans vests, 12 knit shirts, 56 linsey and flannel shirts, 59 hickory shirts, 34 home knit comfort[er]s for the neck, 159 pairs socks, 42 pairs gloves, knit by the ladies, 44 blankets, mostly home made, and 12 coverlets.”

### **State issue, 1862-63**

During the second year of the war locally made clothing of various styles from volunteer aid societies and the State Penitentiary continued to supplement hard-to-procure Confederate quartermaster-issue uniforms. For example, on November 7, 1862, LtCol James H.Fletcher, commanding the 20th Arkansas Infantry stationed at Camp Rodgers No.2 near Holly Springs, MO, detailed Capt William S.Haven, Co H, to return to Arkansas to obtain new uniforms, his regiment having lost much of their clothing during the retreat from Corinth during the previous month.

Earlier that year, some time after his enlistment in the 19th Arkansas Infantry on March 1, 1862, Private Francis Warford was issued a gray sack coat with four bone buttons, and an open pocket on the left breast. Private Steven K.Porter enlisted in Co C, 1st Arkansas Cavalry, raised and commanded by Col Archibald S.Dobbin in July 1863, wearing a light gray pullover shirt.

Clothing records of the 34th Arkansas Infantry (Brook’s), of Hindman’s 1st Corps, Army of the Trans-Mississippi, show the issue of “coats,” jackets and caps during November 1862, and these items appear to have been from the stocks of the Military Board. Some Arkansas state uniform issue continued until at least mid-1863. The brigade commanded by Gen St John R.Liddell (Cleburne’s division of Hardee’s corps, Army of Tennessee), which consisted of the 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Arkansas Infantry regiments, was described in June 1863 as being “well clothed, though without any attempt at uniformity in color or cut,



but nearly all were dressed either in gray or brown coats and felt hats... many of the soldiers had taken off their coats and marched past the general in their shirt sleeves."

### **Military suppliers**

A native of Pennsylvania, merchant tailor William H. Hart of Little Rock made uniforms for the Capitol Guards in 1860. Other tailors of the same city included German immigrants Leopold Houser and Konrad Hird. Taylor & Company, at Des Arc, opened a new store in November of the same year selling "Kerseys, Woolseys, Home-Made Jeans, Kentucky Jeans, Satinets, Linseys, and Georgia Plaids."

Besides uniform cloth, the 120-strong convict work force at the state penitentiary produced "cartridge boxes, belts, [and] knapsacks" throughout the summer of 1861. Military buttons bearing the state seal of Arkansas were provided by Hyde & Goodrich of New Orleans, and Horstmann and Allien of New York, prior to the Civil War. Fancy goods dealer Philip Schuckmann of 239 King Street, Charleston, SC, supplied similar buttons during the war. The 2nd Arkansas Infantry acquired from an unknown local source buttons bearing the inscription "CSA 2d ARK. Rgt." encircling a five-point star. Based at Rockport in Hot Springs County, H.C. Ward advertised as a "Manufacturer of Bass and Tenor Drums" in August 1862, and announced that he would be "ready at all times to fill all orders for the various sizes of Drums in general use."

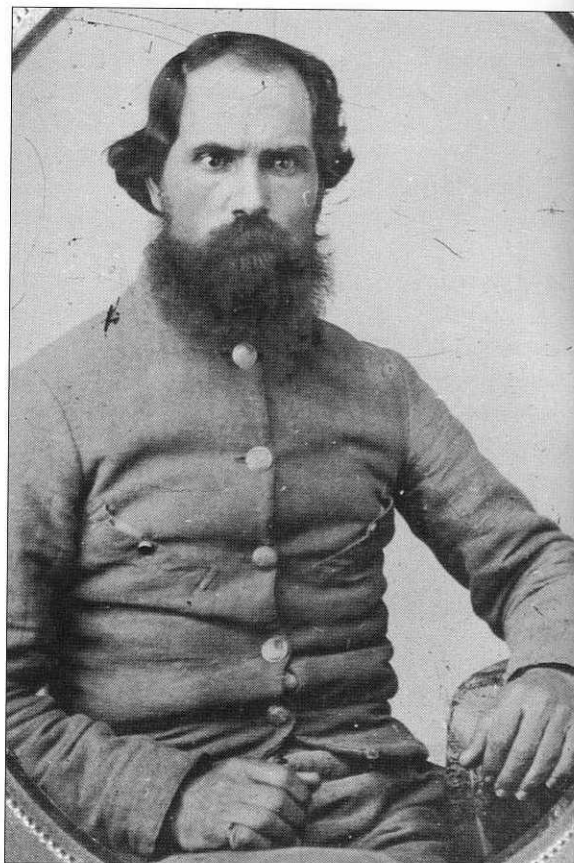
### **Arms and equipage**

The task of arming Arkansas troops was difficult throughout the war. During December 1860 a number of volunteer militia companies, including the Belle Point Guards, were issued with arms from the Little Rock Arsenal in accordance with an act passed in the state legislature. About 10,000 weapons were seized from the US Arsenal at Little Rock on February 8, 1861; these included 5,625 US flintlock muskets, 53 M1822 flintlock muskets altered to percussion, 357 M1842 percussion muskets, 900 M1855 rifle-muskets, 125 M1817 "common" rifles, 54 M1841 "Mississippi" rifles, two musketoons (probably M1847), 231 flintlock pistols, 52 M1836 flintlock pistols altered to percussion, 267 Hall's carbines, and 2,684 Hall's rifles.

About 7,500 of these arms were issued to the five six-month state regiments and 12-month volunteer regiments organized following secession. According to Clem McCulloch, the Van Buren Frontier Guard procured "minnie rifles" from the Little Rock Arsenal on this occasion. Many of these weapons were also distributed among the force



**Pte C.F. Wrenfrey, 1st Arkansas State Cavalry, enlisted in May 1861. Here he wears a nine-button "roundabout" or shell jacket with shoulder straps. He holds a Smith & Wesson revolver; in 1859 that company produced the first rimfire metallic cartridge system in .22cal, and their seven-shot revolver was greatly sought-after by men of both sides during the war. (Courtesy Wilson's Creek National Battlefield)**



ABOVE John Harrison Raleigh, a private in the 11th Arkansas Infantry, was captured at Island No.10. He wears a homespun fatigue shirt with trim on the low standing collar and down each side of the front; a small heart-shaped patch sewn on the breast was probably a personal touch from the fair hands that made the shirt for him. He has a M1851 Colt revolver and a knife tucked in his locally made waist belt. (Courtesy Wilson's Creek National Battlefield)

ABOVE RIGHT Thomas Bolding served in the ranks of the 24th Arkansas Infantry (Portlock's), and we reconstruct his unusual shell jacket in Plate H2. Fastened by five large gilt buttons, it has slanting button-through pockets on each breast – a feature reminiscent of jackets issued to some Georgia troops. (Courtesy Wilson's Creek National Battlefield)

assembling under BrigGen Ben McCulloch in northwestern Arkansas.

The 1st Arkansas Battalion (Marmaduke's) and 2nd Arkansas Infantry (Hindman's) were issued the "common flintlock musket" in early June 1861. Upon activation in August 1861, the 4th Arkansas Infantry (McNair's) – also called the South Arkansas Regiment – carried a wide variety of arms. Two companies had double-barreled shotguns; four were armed mostly with squirrel rifles; one had old flintlock muskets, while another had Hall's breech-loading percussion rifles (Huff, p.92). According to inspection reports of January 1862, the 6th, 7th and 8th Arkansas Infantry, and probably the 5th, were also mostly armed with flintlock muskets. Due to the shortage of rifles the right-flank company, 6th Arkansas Infantry – the Capitol Guards, Co A – acquired a combination of M1841 "Mississippi rifles" and .69cal smoothbores.

At least four companies of the 9th Arkansas Battalion (Kelly's) were armed with Hall's rifles. The 9th and 10th Arkansas Infantry regiments, plus the 1st Arkansas Mounted Infantry – afterwards called the 3rd Arkansas Cavalry – were also armed in part with Hall's rifles. When they reached Memphis in September 1861, each member of the Camden Knights – Co B, 11th Arkansas Infantry – was described as carrying "a minnie musket, a navy repeater, and a ponderous 'toothpick,' which they have learned to use in a very expert manner." The Sevier County Stars – Co F, 19th Arkansas Infantry (Dawson's) – were also armed with "the Minnie Muskets that were sent to this county in accordance with an

act of the last legislature.” The Des Arc Rangers – Co B, 1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles – rode off to war carrying Colt’s Navy revolvers and US dragoon sabers. The Pulaski Rangers – Co F of the same regiment – were close to mutiny when required to exchange their pistols and sabers for flintlock muskets.

Some arms were privately purchased from the Little Rock Arsenal during the summer of 1860. On June 23 of that year, dealer John Collins offered for sale in the *Weekly Arkansas Gazette* “One hundred and fifty US Muskets, just purchased at a recent sale at the Arsenal. They are true as steel, and will kill a Cuban, Mexican, or a black Republican, three hundred yards, if well primed and loaded sure.” On December 26, 1861 the staff of the *Arkansas True Democrat* announced that they had been shown “a splendid six-shooter, manufactured *in toto* by Mr H.H.Carter, of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, which will send a shot to the distance of a quarter of a mile. It is an excellent pistol... and the finish compares favorably with any work of the kind we ever saw.”

Due to the shortage of percussion muskets, rifles and carbines by the end of August 1861, John A.Jordan, the agent at the Little Rock Arsenal, was authorized by the Confederate government to advertise in the press for “all the good Guns in the country,” including “regulation arms, such as Muskets and Rifles, both Flint and Percussion made for the army, but also Double Barrelled Shot Guns and Country Rifles, Percussion Locks.” By April 1862 the 7th Arkansas (Shaver’s), 9th Arkansas (Bradley’s) and 10th Arkansas (Merrick’s) were issued captured Enfield rifle muskets and accouterments, while by September of the same year, the 4th Arkansas Infantry were issued captured M1855 rifles. Other Arkansas regiments also received improved small arms as the war went on.

The Arkansas infantryman was especially fond of carrying a “Bowie” knife at his hip. Some knives carried during the early stages of the war could be as much as 3ft in length and should properly be called cutlasses. Soldiers carrying firearms of civilian origin were dependent upon such knives in lieu of bayonets. During October 1861, the *Arkansas True Democrat* reported that a company from South Arkansas passed through Little Rock armed with homemade swords fashioned from “scythes or bars of steel.” Describing them as “strong, well tempered, and serviceably mounted,” the newspaper advised those readers having “old rasps and files about the house... to gather them up and take them to the blacksmiths to be made into ‘tooth picks.’”



**Enlisted in the Camden Knights – Co C, 1st Arkansas Infantry (Fagan’s) – in May 1861, Christopher C.Scott and Christopher Thrower both wear the dark caps and pants and red “hunting shirts” acquired by their unit for service dress. Note the letters “C” and “K” embroidered on the cap worn by Scott – see Plate F1. (Courtesy The Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, VA)**

In this image taken in Mobile, AL, in 1862, Joseph V. Bogy of the 5th Battery, Arkansas Light Artillery – aka the Appeal Battery – wore a long gray frock coat with two rows of seven wooden buttons, plain gray pants, and a gray forage cap with a dark, possibly red band and gilt crossed cannon on the front. Another image of an unidentified soldier of this battery shows a short, thin, five button jacket with large, open breast pockets, and trousers with a broad dark seam-stripe. (Courtesy Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, AR)



James M. May (left) was photographed on enlistment in the 23rd Arkansas Infantry in March 1862. His brother Pinkie (right) originally enlisted in the 2nd Regiment of Arkansas Mounted Rifles in 1861, but appears to have re-enlisted in 1862. Both men wear the gray woollen jeans uniform with dark-colored facings issued by the Arkansas Military Board. (Courtesy Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives)



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**When Pte L.Yates was mustered into the Young Guard – Co B, 18th Arkansas Infantry – on March 12, 1862, his Military Board-issue uniform included an eight-button frock coat with dark-colored facings on collar and cuffs. (Civil War Photograph Album, Mss 2572, Louisiana & Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA)**

## PLATES COMMENTARIES

### **A: VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER MILITIA, 1860-61**

The **NCO, Continental Morgan Guards – Co A, 31st Virginia Militia (A1)** – wears a version of the “Continental”-style uniform popular among so-called “Native American” (as opposed to recent immigrant) groups throughout the country in the mid-19th century. This consists of a tricorne hat with a fountain plume and a gold-braided fan cockade with the brass numerals “76,” above which is a gilt die-struck British-style buglehorn ornament. His dark blue tailcoat is faced with a buff plastron front/lapels, and has six brass buttons on either side attached to gold braid false buttonholes; the collar and cuffs are also embellished with buttons and false buttonholes. Small gold lace straps or bridles on each shoulder secured full dress epaulettes when worn. Rank is indicated by a single point-up gold braid chevron on each upper arm. His buff pantaloons are tucked into “Napoleon”-style boots. He holds a M1841 musket and has a black leather waist belt supporting his cap pouch and bayonet scabbard, while his cartridge box is suspended from a white buff leather shoulder belt.

Composed mainly of the Irish citizens of Richmond, the **Montgomery Guard – Co C, 1st Virginia Volunteers (A2)** – wore a M1851 green cloth cap with buff band, the brass letters “MG” in front encircled by a shamrock wreath. Above this are attached an 1851 pattern “eagle” plate and a round wool pompon. His single-breasted green tailcoat has three rows of ten buttons, connected by narrow gold braid “blind buttonholes.” His buff standing collar has two gold lace buttonholes either side, and there are three on each cuff. His epaulettes have green worsted straps with buff worsted fringe and cord, and his sky-blue pantaloons have buff seam stripes. His accouterments consist of a white patent leather belt fastened with a rectangular plate bearing “MG;” a white buff leather bayonet scabbard holding a triangular-section socket bayonet; and a white patent leather cartridge box and cap pouch. He is armed with a M1855 rifle-musket with a white patent leather sling.

Based on a photograph of Charles Randolph Maximilian von Pohle, the **Drum Major, 1st Virginia Volunteers (A3)**

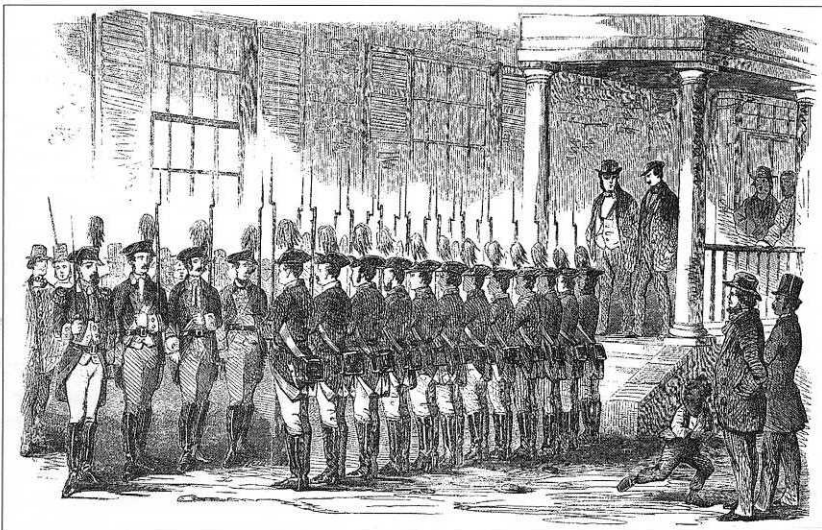
wears a bearskin cap with tall plume, red bag, and two gold tassels at the front. His cadet-gray frock coat has three rows of nine brass “state seal” buttons on its black plastron front, connected by bars of gold braid, which also edges the plastron, collar and cuffs. His dress epaulettes have gold lace straps and solid gilded brass crescents with a “dead-and-bright” gold bullion fringe. His gray trousers have gold seam stripes. Rank is indicated by a gold sergeant-major’s chevrons on black cloth with gold embroidered crossed drum-sticks in the center. Around his waist is a red worsted sash as per US Army regulations for a Principal Musician. His sword belt has a two-piece clasp bearing the Virginia state seal, and supports an NCO’s short sword suspended from a leather frog. His gold-bordered red baldric has a stamped brass “eagle,” and a brass shield to which is attached two ebony drum-stick tips.

The Bell House in Capitol Square, Richmond, is seen in the background.

### **B: VIRGINIA VOLUNTEERS, 1861**

The enlisted man of the **Richmond Howitzers – Co H, 1st Virginia Volunteers (B1)** – wears the fatigue uniform acquired by his unit by April 1861. His gray forage cap with red band displays the brass company letter “H,” and his cadet-gray shell jacket has a single row of nine buttons, plus two smaller buttons on each plain cuff. His lighter gray pants have red seam stripes. His black leather waist belt is fastened with a two-piece gilt clasp bearing the Virginia state seal. He is armed with a M1840 Light Artillery saber in an iron scabbard. He has a white neck stock and white cotton dress gloves.

The officer of the **Richmond Zouaves – Co E, 44th Virginia Infantry (B2)** – wears a chasseur-pattern forage cap with dark blue band and yellow tape quartering. His dark blue jacket is edged with yellow twisted braid, and a yellow braid quatrefoil knot above the cuffs is filled with white cloth. Six small ball buttons are attached at each yellow-braided cuff vent. His red pantaloons have gold braid seam stripes, and his blue merino wool sash has a scarlet fringe. White canvas gaiters are fastened with ten small bone buttons. His black leather sword belt has a two-piece gilt clasp and



Published in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* on November 26, 1859, this engraving depicts the Morgan Continental Guard (Plate A1) wearing their 18th-century style uniform on duty outside the courtroom at Charlestown, VA, following the trial of John E. Cook and Edwin Coppeck, accomplices of John Brown during the raid on Harper's Ferry in October of that year. (Frederick P. Todd Collection)

supports a M1850 Foot Officer's sword. The 44th Virginia fought at Rich Mountain and in Lee's Cheat Mountain campaign, before assignment to the Army of Northern Virginia, where they served from the Seven Days' Battles (with Jubal Early's brigade of Ewell's division, in Jackson's Valley army) to Cold Harbor.

The enlisted man of the **Alexandria Riflemen – Co A, 17th Virginia Infantry (B3)** – wears a plain dark green forage cap and a frock coat with three rows of nine gilt state seal buttons. His collar is edged with yellow braid top and bottom and has a blind buttonhole on each side. Yellow bridle straps are sewn to each shoulder to hold full dress epaulettes in place. His cuff flaps show three small buttons and narrow yellow cord edging. His trousers are plain gray. His black leather waist belt fastens with a rectangular state seal plate, and supports a cap pouch and bayonet scabbard. He holds a M1842 musket with fixed socket bayonet. The 17th Virginia campaigned with the Army of Northern Virginia until Fredericksburg (Corse's brigade of Pickett's division with Longstreet's I Corps), then participated in Longstreet's Suffolk expedition. Following service in Tennessee and North Carolina, they returned to Virginia to fight at Drewry's Bluff and Cold Harbor, and saw action in the Petersburg trenches, ending the war at Appomattox.

The Capitol building at Richmond is seen in the background.

### **C: VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, 1861–62**

These enlisted men of the **Warrenton Rifles – Co K, 17th Virginia Infantry (C1 & 2)** – wear M1851 gray dress caps with black bands, brass letters "WR" at the front, and stiffened black wool pompons in brass sockets. The gray tailcoat has three rows of nine gilt buttons connected by black tape trim; the black standing collar has yellow tape false buttonholes terminating in single small buttons; and three small buttons are framed by yellow braid on the black cuff patches. On each shoulder is a bridle strap of yellow braid on black cloth to retain full dress epaulettes when worn. The matching gray trousers have black seam stripes. The accouterments are of black leather, including the scabbard for the socket bayonet of the M1842 Springfield musket. The 17th Virginia fought with Kemper's brigade of the Army of Northern Virginia in 1862–63, in the Seven Days' Battles, at Fredericksburg and Gettysburg.

The **Lynchburg Home Guard – Co G, 11th Virginia Infantry (C3)** – adopted a service uniform consisting of a plain dark blue cap and trousers and a blue-gray flannel shirt. The shirt had a red plastron front and red facings on the collar and cuffs. The plastron had sky-blue trim and seven small white metal buttons either side. The collar was also trimmed with sky-blue, and bore "H" and "G" on the right and left respectively. The pointed red cuffs were untrimmed. He too is armed with a M1842 Springfield musket; his equipment includes a militia-style rigid wooden frame knapsack with shoulder and chest straps. The 11th Virginia fought at First Manassas and Dranesville; assigned to Hill's, later Kemper's brigade of the Army of Northern Virginia, it served from Williamsburg to Gettysburg. After further action in North Carolina it returned to Virginia, where it defended Petersburg and surrendered at Appomattox.

The **Beauregard Rifles, aka "The Zouaves" (C4)**, were later reorganized as Capt Marcellus N. Moorman's



**In this reversed carte de visite an unidentified member of the Lynchburg Home Guard (Plate C3) wears a blue-gray flannel "hunting shirt" with red breast and collar facings trimmed with light blue; this was adopted for fatigue wear in January 1860. Note the letters "H" and "G" sewn to either side of his collar. (Lynchburg Museum System)**

Company, Virginia Horse Artillery, serving with Stuart's cavalry division of the Army of Northern Virginia. They originally wore red zouave caps, and gray flannel "hunting shirts" with a green plastron front trimmed with black, and green-trimmed collar and cuffs. Their gray pantaloons had green seam stripes. They were armed with M1842 Springfield muskets, and had militia-style wooden frame knapsacks and tin drum canteens.

### **D: VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER CAVALRY, 1861–62**

The enlisted man of the **Appomattox Rangers – Co H, 2nd Virginia Cavalry (D1)** – wears a black felt hat with a metal, six-pointed star badge at the front. His blue-gray flannel "hunting shirt" has a mid-blue plastron fastened with seven or eight buttons; a plain mid-blue falling collar with blue-gray edging; shoulder straps sewn down all around, and plain mid-blue cuffs with blue-gray edging. His gray trousers have dark blue seam stripes. He is armed with a M1860 .44cal Colt Army revolver in a M1860 holster, and a M1840 Heavy Cavalry (Dragoon) saber.

The full dress adopted by the **Loudon Cavalry – Co K, 6th Virginia Cavalry (D2)** – included a brass-trimmed black patent leather M1813 dragoon "trooper's helmet" with yellow horsehair plume, and gilt metal scales covering a leather chin strap; the front displayed an oval M1812 Light Dragoon plate bearing "a dragoon in the act of charging." Their blue-gray nine-button frock coats had yellow tape trim around the collar and cuff tops, and attached brass shoulder scales; matching

trousers had yellow seam stripes. The figure illustrated holds a locally-made saber, and has a holstered .36cal Massachusetts Adams revolver. The service dress of the **Loudon Cavalry (D3)** consisted of a dark blue cap with M1858 gold-embroidered crossed sabers and gilt metal letters "LC" on the crown and front. The figure wears a gray, almost collarless "hunting shirt" with yellow neck trim, a placket front fastened by a single row of five small white bone buttons, and an extra button offset at the neck. He wears full dress trousers. A .36cal Whitney Navy revolver is holstered on his saber belt. The 6th Virginia Cavalry served with the Army of Northern Virginia, and took part in Early's Shenandoah Valley operations and the Appomattox campaign in 1865.

The enlisted man of the **Valley Rangers - Co E, 1st Virginia Cavalry (D4)** - wears the 1858 Virginia state uniform prescribed for cavalry. The "Hardee" hat has brass crossed sabers at the front and a black ostrich feather plume on the left. The dark blue M1851 frock coat has a single row of nine buttons, yellow-trimmed collar and cuffs, and attached brass shoulder scales. His matching trousers have narrow yellow seam stripes. He holds a M1840 Heavy Cavalry (Dragoon) saber. Elements of the 1st Virginia Cavalry wore this uniform at First Manassas in July 1861.

#### **E: ARKANSAS MILITIA, 1861**

Based on a contemporary photograph of Paul Richard Krone, the **Color Sergeant, Belle Point Guards, 5th State Infantry (Dockery's) (E1)** wears a M1851 dark blue cloth dress cap with fountain plume, gilt eagle plate and brass letters "BPG." His frock coat has a single row of nine gilt Arkansas "state seal" buttons, and rank is indicated by three sky-blue chevrons points-up. He wears sergeant's sky-blue worsted epaulettes on each shoulder, with double twist sky-blue cord crescents and 1/4in sky-blue twist fringe. He carries a non-regulation militia officer's sword in a metal scabbard, and a rectangular "eagle" plate fastens his sword belt over its red wool sash.

The **Sergeant, Davis Blues - Co F, 5th State Infantry (E2)** - wears a light drab hat with gray silk band. His cadet-gray M1851 frock coat has three rows of nine Arkansas state seal buttons, linked by dark blue tape trim terminating in small trefoil loops; the plain standing collar and cuffs are edged with dark blue trim. Rank is indicated by three widely spaced dark blue chevrons, points-down, on each lower sleeve. His cadet-gray trousers have dark blue seam stripes. He holds a M1816 flintlock musket and has a Bowie knife tucked under his belt; his accouterments include a slung leather ball bag and powder horn.

The **Musician, Saline Guards - Co E, 1st Arkansas Infantry (Fagan's) (E3)** - wears a plain dark blue forage cap. His single-breasted gray shell jacket fastens with a single row of seven small bone buttons; dark blue facing appears on the standing collar, slanted three-point pocket tops with three small buttons, and two-button cuffs. A photo clearly shows home-made officer-style shoulder straps in a lighter shade. His matching gray trousers have dark blue seam stripes. His waist belt is fastened with an oval state seal plate; and a cloth cross belt supports a brass fife case. Serving in Virginia and Tennessee, the 1st Arkansas lost 45 percent of the 430 men engaged at Chickamauga in 1863, when the regiment fought with Polk's brigade of Cleburne's division in D.H.Hill's corps.

#### **F: ARKANSAS VOLUNTEERS, 1861**

These three figures all wear service dress. Based on a contemporary photograph of Christopher C.Scott, the enlisted man of the **Camden Knights - Co C, 1st Arkansas Infantry (Fagan's) (F1)** - wears a dark blue cap and pants, and a pleated red "hunting shirt" with sky-blue trim and six small white bone front buttons; note also those on the pocket and cuffs. The letters "CK" are embroidered on his cap front. He carries a M1842 musket with socket bayonet; his waist belt is fastened with a bevelled-edge frame buckle, and supports a cap pouch, cartridge box and bayonet scabbard.

The **Corporal, Jackson Guards - Co G, 1st Arkansas Infantry (Fagan's) (F2)** - wears a gray cap with a black band rising to a low point in front. His blue-gray "hunting shirt" fastens by five small white bone buttons, and displays black cloth letters "J" and "G" sewn on the breast; rank is indicated by two narrow black cloth chevrons, points-down on both upper sleeves. His gray trousers have dark blue seam stripes; he carries a M1816 musket converted to percussion, and has a Derringer pistol tucked into his waist belt.

The **Musician, Co H, 3rd Arkansas Infantry (F3)** wears a single-breasted gray flannel "hunting shirt" fastened by five small white bone buttons, with dark blue collar, cuffs, placket front and sewn-down shoulder straps. His blue jeans cloth pants have wide turn-ups. His drum is decorated with metal rivets and is suspended from a cloth sling. The 3rd Arkansas would also fight in the Army of Tennessee at Chickamauga, in Robertson's brigade of John Bell Hood's division.

#### **G: ARKANSAS MOUNTED TROOPS & ARTILLERY, 1861-62**

The **Jefferson County Troop - Co D, 2nd Arkansas Cavalry Battalion (Phifer's) (G1)** - wore black hats looped up on the left with black plumes in gilt sockets, and yellow cord and acorns. This figure wears a ten-button gray frock coat with solid black standing collar and plain cuffs, with a pair of plain sky-blue trousers. He is armed with a M1860 Light Cavalry saber with white leather sword knot; his white leather sword belt is fastened with an oval state seal plate, and the weight of the scabbarded saber is supported by a shoulder belt. This unit served in the Army of the West and Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana. Participating in Price's Missouri Expedition, it was captured at Mine Creek in October 1864.

The **Pulaski Artillery, aka Pulaski Light Battery (Wadruff's) (G2)**, fought at Wilson's Creek and Elkhorn Tavern, and was later assigned to McRae's brigade, Trans-Mississippi Department, seeing further action at Prairie Grove, Helena and Bayou Fourche. At the beginning of the war this unit wore a red cap with a gray band, and small gilded die-struck brass crossed cannons flanked by small brass letters "P" and "A." Their cadet-gray shell jacket had a single row of five plain gutta percha buttons, with narrow horizontal bands of red trim, which also appeared at the top and bottom of the standing collar and narrow cuffs. Trousers were gray with red seam stripes. A gunner's pouch is attached to his waist belt.

The **Officer, Napoleon Cavalry - Co G, 1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles (G3)** - wears a brown felt hat decorated



with a secession cockade; a “hickory” or checked fatigue shirt fastened with five small bone buttons; and gray trousers with yellow seam stripes. He is armed with a M1840 officer’s saber with buff leather knot; a tin drum canteen and haversack are suspended from his shoulder by leather and cloth slings respectively. This unit also fought at Chickamauga, with Armstrong’s division of Nathan Bedford Forrest’s cavalry corps. Forrest praised highly the division’s conduct when fighting dismounted to hold the bridgehead over Chickamauga Creek against Brannan’s Union division on the first morning of the battle.

**H: ARKANSAS INFANTRY & ARTILLERY,  
1862-63**

The enlisted man of **Co H, 23rd Arkansas Infantry (Lyles’ (H1))** wears a nine-button gray frock coat with dark blue standing collar and cuffs, of the type manufactured at the Little Rock Penitentiary in 1862. His wide-brimmed black hat is also of local manufacture, and his trousers have dark blue seam stripes. He is armed with a M1842 Springfield musket with fixed socket bayonet; his accouterments include a waist belt fastened with a bevelled-edge frame buckle supporting a cap pouch and bayonet scabbard. The cover of his clam-shell canteen (officially, this shape is an oblate spheroid) has been personalized with a miniature painting of the “First National” flag. Like most troops serving in the Trans-Mississippi Department, he has dispensed with his knapsack and carries his belongings in a blanket roll.

Based on a photograph of Private Thomas Bolding of **Co G, 24th Arkansas Infantry (Portlock’s), (H2)** wears an unusual five-button shell jacket with slanting button-through pockets on each breast and a plain standing collar and cuffs. He fires a .50cal Hawken percussion rifle, and his equipage includes a wooden drum canteen with a tin spout. This unit also served in the Army of Tennessee, fighting at Chickamauga in Deshler’s brigade of Cleburne’s division; the division took 1,300 casualties during the right wing assaults on the second day. The regiment ended the war in North Carolina.

According to a photograph of Private Joseph V. Bogy, the **5th Battery, Arkansas Light Artillery, aka the Appeal Battery (Bryan’s) (H3)**, wore gray frock coats with two rows of seven large gutta percha buttons, gray caps with M1858 embroidered gold bullion crossed cannons on a black velvet oval patch, and plain gray trousers. He holds a sponge-and-rammer staff at the ready. The Appeal Battery was captured at Vicksburg in 1863 and, after exchange and reorganization, served out the rest of the war in the Trans-Mississippi Department.

**Acquired by Federal troops when they occupied Little Rock in September 1863, this unissued light gray jeans cloth frock coat is believed to have been made at the State Penitentiary. It has a mid-blue standing collar, and is fastened with nine brass “eagle” enlisted men’s general service buttons. It appears to have been entirely hand-sewn; note that the quality of the tailoring is reasonably high. (Private collection)**



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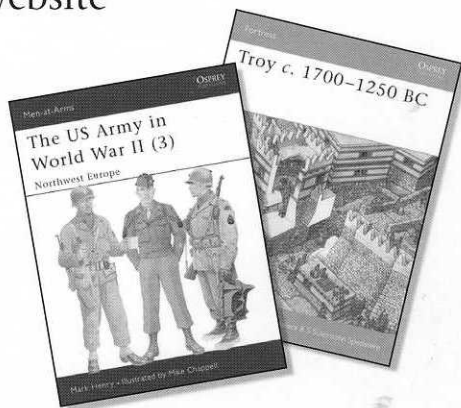
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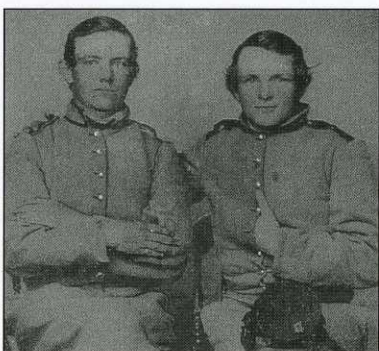
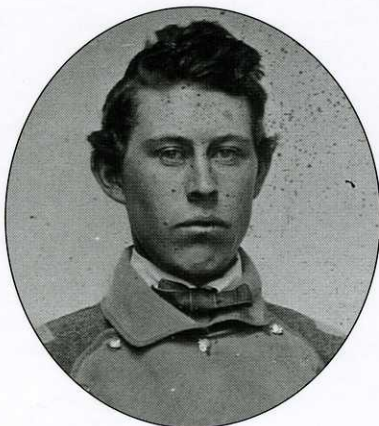
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