

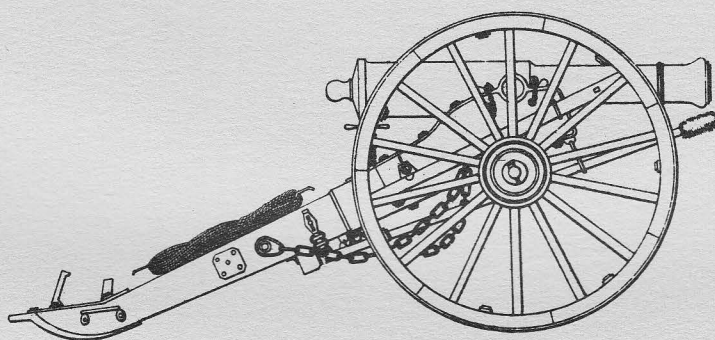
INDIAN CAVALRY
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American Scene Magazine

INDIAN CAVALRY

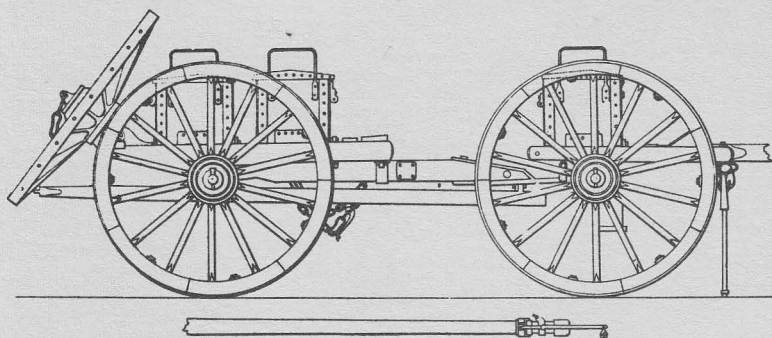
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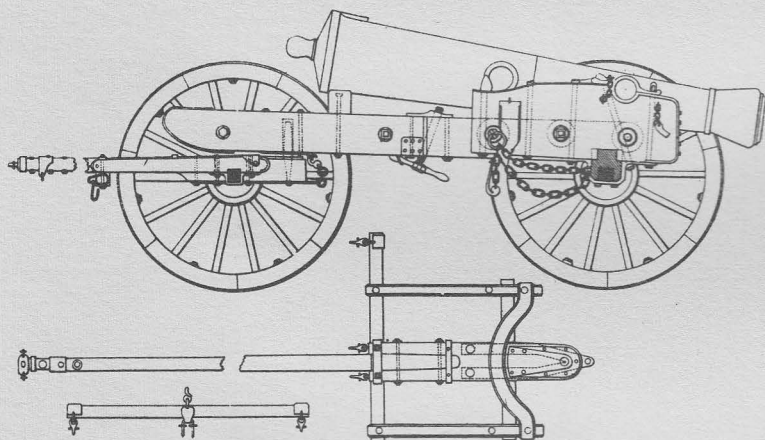
Being a brief account of Confederate organization and operation of Indian troops in Indian Territory, 1861-65, and containing excerpts from the official records of General Albert Pike.



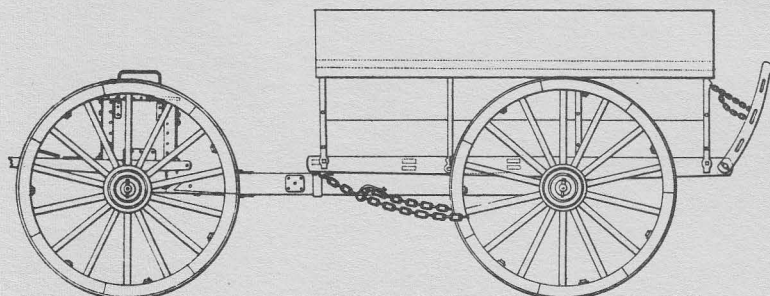
American Scene Magazine



Caisson plate 3 from Atlas accompanying Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies.



Siege Carriage plate 7 from Atlas accompanying Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies.



Battery Wagon plate 5 from Atlas accompanying Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies.

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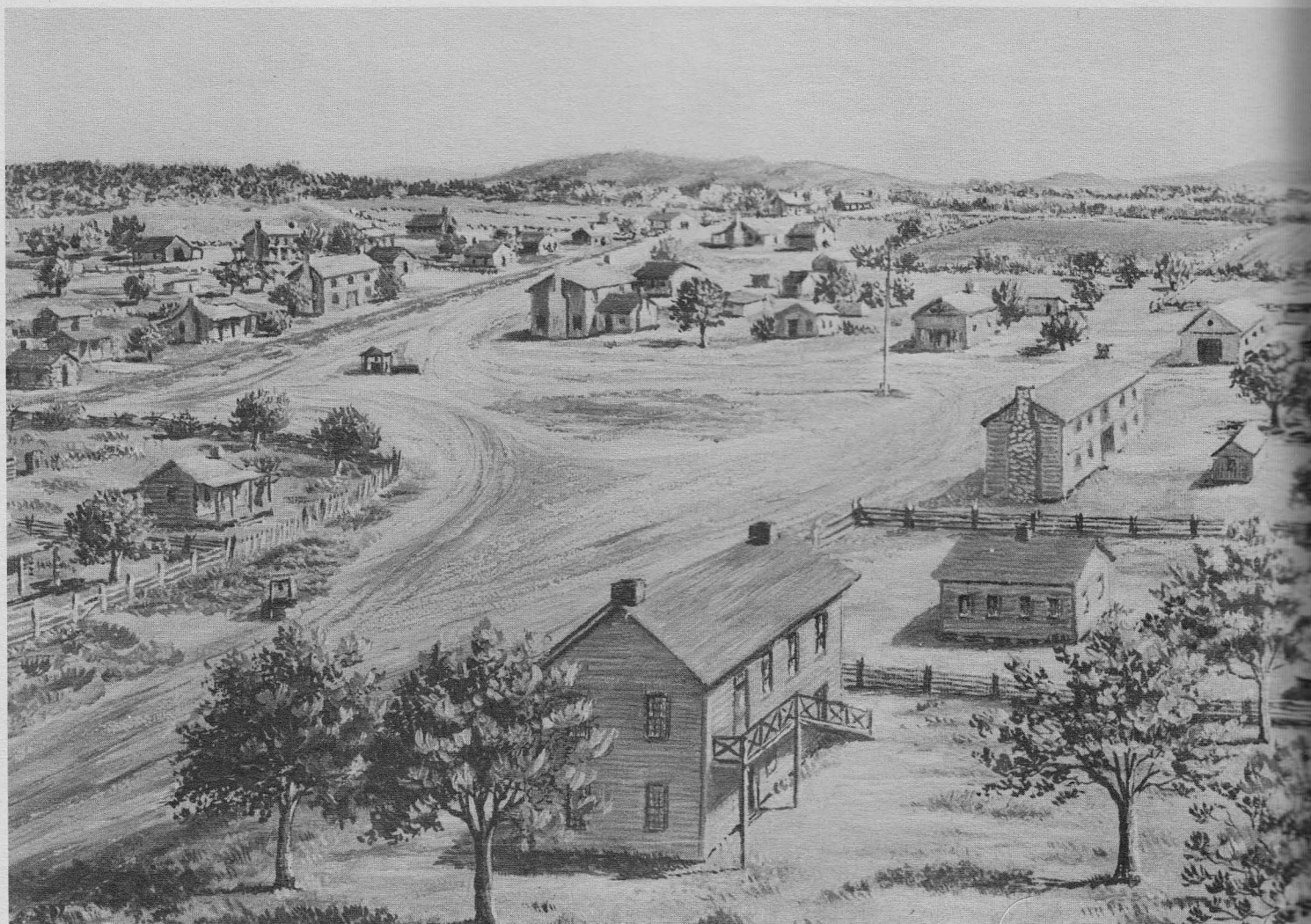
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The editors of American Scene publications believe that the Gilcrease Institute members are entitled to share in the rarer holdings of the institute in a more tangible way than to merely view them on occasion in the temporary exhibits, which lack of space and the vast quantity of such holdings make requisite. In the past, many of the institute's finer works of art have been reproduced in the American Scene magazine, giving you, the owners of these works, a likeness of them which you can enjoy at home and show to others when it is impossible to bring them to the museum.

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The cavalry tactics manual which accompanies this issue is the first reproduction of a printed item to be offered in its entirety. The original was published under what must have been very primitive conditions at Boggy Depot, a Confederate military hospital and cavalry post in what would eventually become southeastern Oklahoma. The manual is bound, expediently, in rather colorful old wall paper and the type face alters between bold and fine. (All misspelled words, whether due to author or typesetter, are left misspelled in the reproduction). Old tactic manuals of any sort are very rarely available today, and one printed at a post about which very little is known, and which was occupied by Confederate Indian troops in a little-remarked area during the American War of Rebellion, is a real collector's item. We know of no other copy. Due to the limited number which will be printed, the reproduction itself will be somewhat of a collector's item.



Above reproduction of *Boggy Depot*, Confederate hospital and cavalry post in Indian Territory during the Civil War, from the oil painting by Vinson Lackey, in the Gilcrease collection.

Virtually all of the great, but not all of the romantic, battles of the American Civil War were fought east of the Mississippi River. Most of the vast area west of the river was a sort of shadowland where the war was concerned. There was a rough boundary starting in southeastern Missouri and running west with many curves and protuberances disappearing somewhere in the deserts of northern New Mexico and Arizona that demarked Federal territory from Confederate territory. This line was subject to frequent and deep dents of an ephemeral nature. It was very well for the Confederates to take Lexington in northern Missouri or Union troops to take Fort Smith and Fort Gibson. Holding them for protracted periods of time proved to be nerve-racking for the Union and impossible for the Confederate troops.

It was in an environment such as this that most of the Indians engaged in the war spent their military careers, and it was in an environment like this that cavalry had more than a nominal advantage over infantry.

There had been a short-lived struggle between the Federal and the new Confederate governments over the allegiance of Indians along the borders — both the border dividing North from South and the north-south border dividing the still unsettled plains to the West from the Anglo-American frontier.

The Confederates were fortunate to have within their territory the bulk of the Five Civilized Tribes, Indians who, largely, had been acculturated to the European ways and customs, were completely sedentary and could understand the issues which brought about the war. Many of them would, by preference, have remained neutral, but having neutral Indians so close to their left flank was a thought the Confederate Government couldn't seem to accommodate. This left the Indians with a choice of, at least overtly, espousing the Confederate cause or leaving their homes.

In March of 1861 the Confederate Government organized a Bureau of Indian Affairs and appointed General Albert Pike of Arkansas to treat with the Indian Tribes south of Kansas and west of Arkansas. He was, for the most part, successful, but disaffection among large portions of the Creek and Seminole Tribes soon brought about the flight of Creek Chief Ho-poe-ith-le Yo-ho-la and several hundred Creeks to Kansas. John Ross of the Cherokees had, at first, urged his people to neutrality, but soon after the outbreak of hostilities urged them to join the Confederate cause.

As of May 1862 Confederate Indian troops from the Indian Territory consisted of 6,435 men in groups as follows:

- Col. Cooper's First Choctaw and Chickasaw Regiment
- Col. Folsom's First Choctaw Regiment
- Major Folsom's First Choctaw Battalion
- Col. McIntosh's First Creek Regiment
- Lt. Col. McIntosh's First Creek Battalion
- Lt. Col. Harris's First Chickasaw Battalion
- Lt. Col. Jumper's First Seminole Battalion
- Col. Stand Watie's First Cherokee Regiment
- Col. Drew's Second Cherokee Regiment
- Capt. McSmith's Independent Company

Not all of these were always present for muster as corn and cotton had to be grown as well as protected.

Most of these troops were either designated cavalry or mounted infantry, or, if not designated, appear to have been mounted, from the accounts of battles and skirmishes in which they took part.

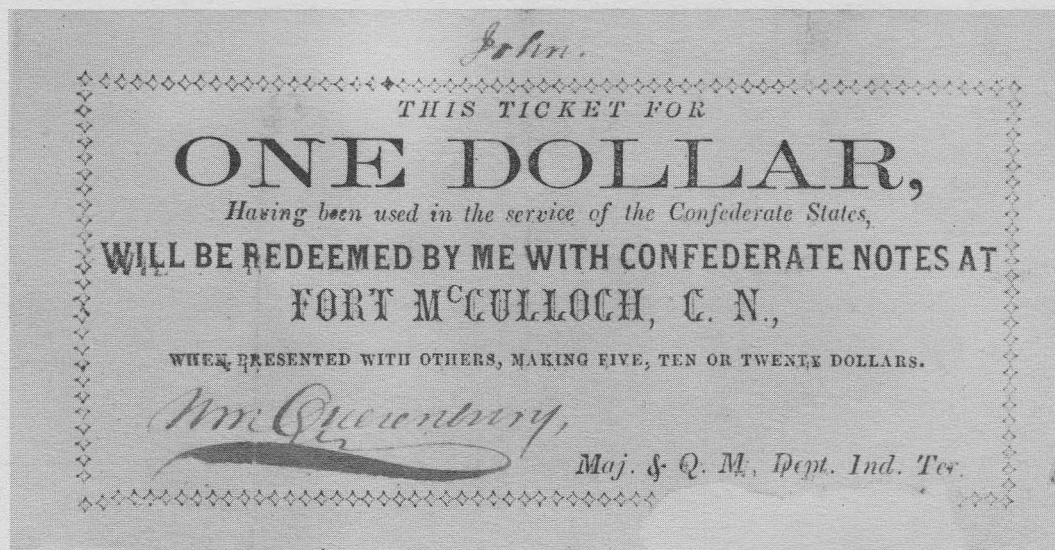
From the first, Brigadier General Albert Pike was assigned as commander of the Department of Indian Territory. Pike was frequently an outspoken critic of his superiors. Despite the fact that he would defend his charges to the last word, he felt that being in charge of Indian troops would not enhance his reputation or chance of promotion in his own country and that the Federals would consider him detestable. In a letter from Ft. McCulloch, May 4, 1862, he says of the Indians:

"The Indian troops are of course entirely undisciplined, mounted chiefly on ponies, and armed indifferently with common rifles and ordinary shot-guns. When they agreed to furnish troops they invariably stipulated that they should be allowed to fight in their own fashion. They will not face artillery and steady infantry on open ground, and are only used to fighting as skirmishers when cover can be obtained.

"All the treaties with the Indians had also stipulated that they should not be taken out of their own country to fight without their consent. They are incredulous people, and those who fought against us under Hopoeithleyohola were chiefly alienated by the belief, induced by that crafty old man, that we would get them to become soldiers, take them out of their own country, first into Arkansas, then into Missouri, then across the Mississippi, and when their young men were thus all gone would take and divide out their lands."

Colonel Douglas H. Cooper, former Choctaw and Chickasaw agent for the Federal Government, was assigned to command most of the Confederate troops in the Indian Territory north of the Canadian River. In his orders dated June 23, 1862, it was implicitly directed that no Indian troops should be utilized outside the Indian country without their consent, and even with their consent only to disperse enemy forces endangering the border of their lands. It was also ordered that they be kept from making unauthorized raids into the Union territory for the purpose of revenge or booty. This latter applied also to whites within Cooper's area of jurisdiction. It was recommended that the Creek troops be placed on duty north of the Arkansas River as they occasionally tended to go home as a group if stationed on their own lands.

Despite the above-mentioned policy regarding use of Indian troops, the shortage of regular troops in Arkansas and Missouri not infrequently resulted in the Indians being ordered to these areas. Pike comments on one of these occasions: "It pleased General Van Dorn in February [1862] to order me to march all the Indian troops into Missouri and then encamp at or near Neosho. I received it [the order] after the enemy, pursuing General Price



Currency ticket reproduced actual size.

had invaded Arkansas, and was thus relieved of the necessity of disobeying it."

Later in the war Anglo-American troops became harder for Confederate commanders to obtain, Indian troops became more proficient, and it was evident that they were as good as most and better than many white units. Their aversion to artillery is merely a reflection of their lack of suicidal zeal for the Confederate cause and also a credit to their taste and intellect.

The Indian troops were at various times utilized over a wide range of country in Arkansas, Missouri, and Indian Territory. The posts where they were more frequently quartered were in the land which, before the war, had been deeded to the Indians themselves.

Boggy Depot was an unfortified post in the Choctaw Nation and had been established in 1837 as a ration distribution point for migrating Chickasaws who had been forced to leave their homes in the East. The Depot survived partly due to its geographic location. It was situated where a number of important roads of the day crossed. It became a stage station and a center for missionary activity. During the war, possibly because it was unprotected by stockades or earth work (it had not been a military post before the war), it was used as a hospital and a convalescent area. It

was too far south and not important enough to be a major objective of Federal troops and remained in Confederate hands throughout the war. Among its other assets, it was probably an ideal place for training troops. One engagement involving troops from the post occurred as noted in the following Federal dispatch:

Hdqs. Third Division
Seventh Army Corps
Fort Smith, Apr. 27, 1865
(Rec'd. 11:15 a. m. 28th)

Twenty rebels going north from Boggy Depot were attacked by my scouts fifty miles south three days since and three rebels killed and a small mail captured. The letters all speak of a combined movement of the rebel army to Missouri, to start about the 1st of May — 33,000 infantry and 7,000 cavalry under Kirby Smith, Price, Parsons, Shelby, and company; at the same time a large force of wild Indians were to move into Kansas from Fort Arbuckle. An order was read to the rebel troops at Boggy announcing that General Lee had assumed command of all the Confederate forces, and that there was no hope of peace, except to fight for it. The letters were written by soldiers, and the reports

are mere camp rumors. A letter from a rebel paymaster states that Stand Watie is coming up to cross the Arkansas River as soon as grass will subsist their horses, and that their horses would arrive at Boggy from forage camps in Texas by the 25th instant. They had no news of the capture of Richmond or Lee's army. I have scouts in that direction. I expect a considerable force will soon be up this way, but have no idea the rebel army will try to go to Missouri. In my opinion the line of the Arkansas should be strengthened by the addition of more troops, if they can be had.

Respectfully, etc.

Cyrus Bussey

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. Gen. John Pope,

Commanding Military Division of the Missouri.

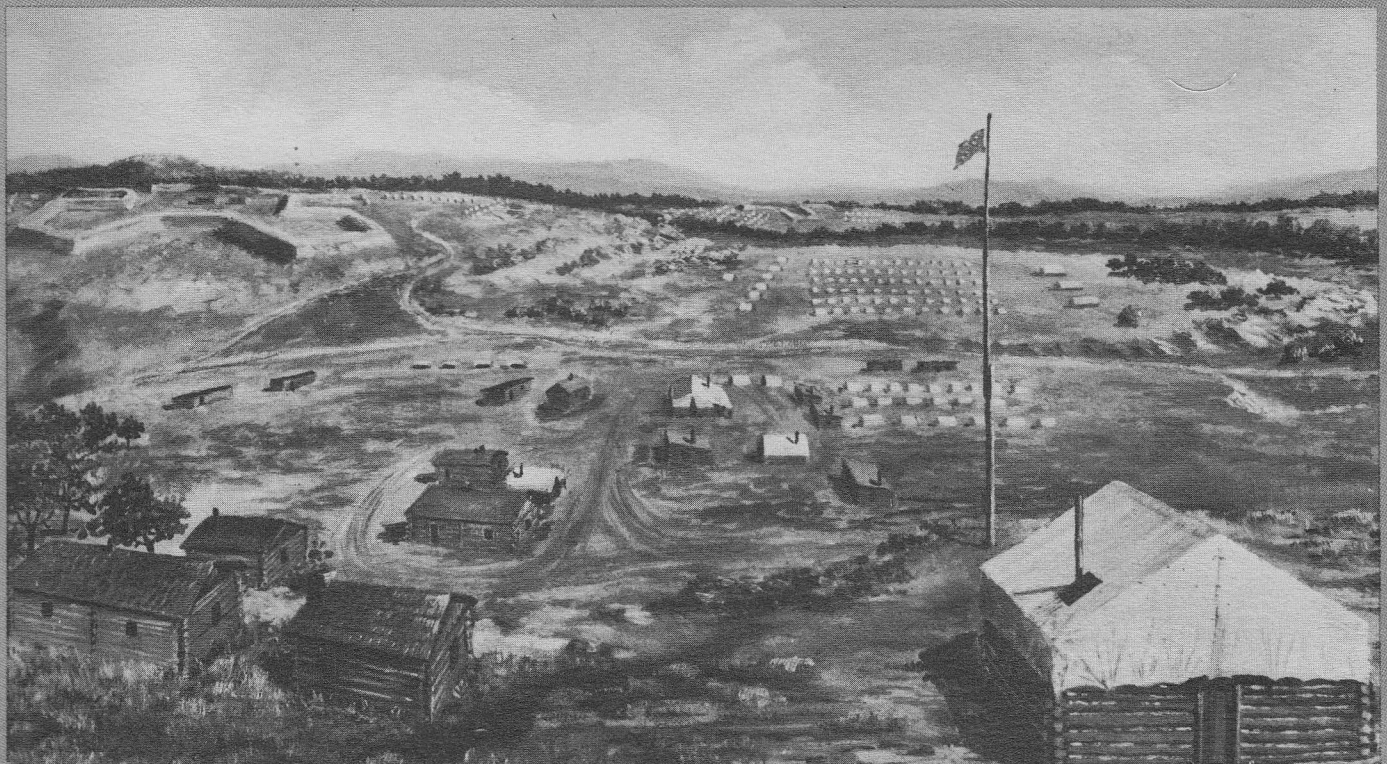
The Confederates established a rather large number of posts in the Indian country. Many of these were posts taken over by the Confederates after their abandonment by Union troops soon after the outbreak of hostilities. Most were too far into enemy territory to be maintained; in fact, some of

the garrisons were lucky to make their way to Kansas before capture.

The Confederates also constructed two posts in Indian Territory, Cantonment Davis across the Arkansas from Fort Gibson, and Fort McCulloch not far south of Boggy Depot. Fort McCulloch was named after a Confederate general killed at Pea Ridge and was never a scene of battle. Though probably the strongest fort in the territory it was far into Confederate occupied land. Fort Davis was destroyed before the Federal reoccupation of Fort Gibson. Virtually all of the other pre-war camps and forts in the territory were utilized by Confederate forces.

Forts Smith and Gibson were left in Confederate hands at the outbreak of the war, but by the end of 1863 were both back in Union hands for the duration despite the distance from Kansas and Missouri. While the Confederates ranged and raided far into Missouri east of these posts, the Arkansas River demarked the rough boundary of the two contestants to the south and to the west. Both before and after these posts were re-taken by Union troops, several skirmishes were fought along Grand River. One of these

Oil painting of *Fort McCulloch*, by Vinson Lackey.



near Locust Grove yielded some unexpected reinforcements for the Union command which already included an Indian Regiment.

Headquarters Indian Expedition
Camp near Grand Saline, July 6, 1862

Captain:

As promised, I send you a more detailed account of the affair of the 3d instant. Its locality I find to be known as Locust Grove, that being the name of a post-office there. It is some 2 miles east of Grand River and about 30 north of Tahlequah. The troops composing the party under myself consisted of a detachment of the First Indian Regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Wattles; one from the Ninth Kansas, under Major Bancroft; one from the Tenth Kansas, in wagons, under Captain Quigg, and a section of Allen's battery, under Lieutenant Baldwin, superintended by Lieutenant Taylor, my chief of artillery. The only troops actively engaged were the detachments from the First Indian and Ninth Kansas. The artillery was, however, planted in battery, defended by the detachment from the Tenth Kansas, and was only prevented from paying its respects to the enemy from fear of destroying our own men, who were engaged with the enemy in the woods in scattered parties. The suddenness of the attack and the bushy nature of the ground caused the fight to be one in which each participant was thrown more or less on his individual resources. The Indians and Ninth Kansas attacked and pursued the enemy with great vigor, while the remainder of the troops were with difficulty restrained from joining in the attack. Our forces were between 200 and 300. The enemy were about the same number. The pursuit was continued nearly all day through the heavy timber.

The Indians now say that the enemy lost in killed some 100. We have some 100 prisoners, including Colonel Clarkson and officers, and a large amount of camp and garrison equipage, transportation, munitions of war, etc., as will be seen from accompanying report of Division Quartermaster Clark. Our loss was 2 privates killed — one from First Indian and one from Ninth Kansas—and Assistant Surgeon Holleday, shot by mistake. The fleeing enemy ran to Tahlequah and there spread the report of their disaster. It caused the immediate disbanding of Drew's regiment of rebel Cherokees, some 1,000 strong. Four hundred of them have already joined Colonel Ritchie's regiment, thus filling it up, at a point some 20 miles north of the scene of the fight, where I had caused the army to encamp. Downing, with 200 more, will reach me this morning, while other parties of Cherokees are advancing to join us. During the same day (the 3d) the Sixth Kansas, whom I had sent from

Cowskin by Maysville, in Arkansas, down the east side of Grand River, came up with Stand Watie's command, killed one of them and put to flight the remainder. The news is that the enemy are concentrating about Fort Smith, and that Pike, with 6,000 Texans, is south of them toward Red River. This command in view of the long line of communication to be kept open, should be re-enforced immediately. Our little victory has had a wonderful effect upon the Cherokees, deciding all the wavering in our favor. I have great difficulty in restraining the Indians with me from exterminating the rebels. A good deal of property has been destroyed in spite of all my efforts. In the absence of instructions I feel at some loss what course to pursue in the treatment of the Indians. I consider the Cherokee country as virtually conquered. Our movements are so rapid and unexpected by the enemy that they are completely bewildered.

I send you the regimental books of the enemy, by which it will be seen that Colonel Clarkson was instructed by General Van Dorn to enter the state of Kansas. As instructed by the commanding general, I will go into camp and await further orders, in the meantime opening communication with the Cherokee authorities. I shall endeavor so to act as not to increase the complication between them and the Government. If thwarted, it will be only on account of the intractability of the enemy and a portion of my own command.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Wm. Weer,

Colonel, Commanding.

Capt. Thomas Moonlight, Assistant Adjutant-General

On September 29th of the same year at Newtonia, Missouri, the First Choctaw and Chickasaw Regiment allayed some of General Pike's fears concerning their worth as noted in Colonel Cooper's report of October 2, 1862:

"Colonel Hawpe at this juncture received orders to charge the enemy's infantry, and at the head of his men at once went gallantly into the charge. Leaping the stone fence, they met the enemy, when a sharp fight took place; but being exposed to the fire of the enemy's artillery, as well as infantry, were compelled, after succeeding in checking his advance, to fall back to their original position, under cover of the stone fence. At this moment the First Choctaw and Chickasaw Regiment, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Walker, entered the town at full gallop, passed through without halting, singing their war-songs and giving the war-whoop, and under my personal direction at once engaged the enemy under a heavy fire from artillery and infantry. Colonel Shelby's Missouri regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Commanding, had in the meantime arrived



An artist's rendering of the general uniform and appearance of Confederate Indian cavalryman, based on contemporary accounts from Civil War period.

on the field and taken position on the right, flanking the enemy. That, with the charge of the Choctaws, soon drove them from the town and put them to flight, followed by Lieutenant-Colonel Walker and his men."

The outstanding battle of the war involving large numbers of Indian troops, and also one of the few major engagements fought west of the Mississippi River, was the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. As is true of any major battle, scores of reports were turned in by the troop commanders involved and the movements and even the outcome are frequently hard to cull from the mass of information. Fortunately the commander of the troops in Indian Territory was one of the report writers. Where the Indian Troops were involved, his report is most informative.

"On February 25 I reached Cantonment Davis, near Fort Gibson, with Colonel Cooper's Choctaw and Chickasaw battalion, which had been encamped near the mouth of the Canadian. The same evening Col. D. N. McIntosh's regiment of Creeks arrived at the same point. I had in charge a large amount of coin and other moneys for the different Indian tribes, and found delegations of the Osages, Comanches, and Reserve Indians awaiting me, and the disposition of the moneys left unexpectedly in my hands, together with the dealings with the Indian tribes, detained me there three days.

"The Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Creeks refused to march until they were paid off, and as by their treaties with us they could not be taken out of the Indian country without their consent, I had no alternative but to submit. The payment of the Choctaws and Chickasaws occupied three days.

"On the morning of the third day I left them behind at Fort Gibson, except O. G. Welch's squadron of Texans, part of the First Choctaw and Chickasaw Regiment, with which, and the Creek regiment, whom I persuaded to move by the promise that they should be paid at the Illinois River, I marched to Park Hill, near that river, remained there one day, and not being overtaken, as I expected to be, by the Choctaw and Chickasaw troops, moved the next day, Monday, March 3, towards Evansville and the next day to Cincinnati, on the Cherokee line, where I overtook Col. Stand Watie's regiment of Cherokees.

"The next day, Wednesday, with Colonel Watie's regiment and Captain Welch's squadron, I reached Freshlag's Mill, and on Thursday overtook Colonel Drew's regiment of Cherokees at Smith's Mill, and came up with the rear of General McCulloch's division late in the afternoon. That night I encamped within 2 miles of Camp Stephens, and at 9:30 o'clock received General Van Dorn's order, to the effect that the army would move at 8 o'clock and that I



Above photograph depicting group of wounded Indians taken from Volume 7 of "A Photographic History of the Civil War," by F. T. Miller; from Gilcrease Library archives.

One of the major encounters of the Civil War west of the Mississippi, the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, involved the use of Indian troops; lithograph of the battle, on following page, from Gilcrease Library archives.

would follow General McCulloch's division. I sent to General McCulloch to ascertain at what hour the road would be clear for me to move, and received his reply that it would be clear at 12 o'clock and that his train would not move until daylight. At 12 o'clock I marched with my command, overtook and passed General McCulloch's train, which was in motion, and had to wait until sunrise a little south of Sugar Creek until his infantry had passed it on a little bridge of rails. We followed closely in his rear until the head of my command has passed the houses on what is called Pea Vine Ridge, where we were halted, and Colonel Sims' Texas regiment, counter-marching, passed us to the rear, an officer informing me that I was to countermarch and follow the other troops. I did so, and we were then marched off the Bentonville road to the south through the woods. Soon after Captain Lomax, of General McCulloch's staff, informed me that the enemy had fortified a little place called Leetown, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the south, which we were marching to attack, and that General McCulloch's orders were that my command, on reaching the spot, should form in line in rear of General McIntosh's brigade, which would itself be in rear of a line of infantry, and that when

the firing should begin all were to dismount and charge together.

"We had marched from the road in a southeasterly direction about a mile from the point where we left it, and were passing along a narrow road, between a piece of woods on our left and a fenced field on our right, when we discovered in front of us, at the distance of about 300 yards a battery of three guns, protected by five companies of regular cavalry. A fence ran from east to west through the woods, and behind this we formed in line, with Colonel Sims' regiment on the right, the squadron of Captain Welch next to him, and the regiments of Colonels Watie and Drew in continuation of the line on the left. The enemy were in a small prairie, about 250 yards across, on the right of which was the fenced field, and on our left it extended to a large prairie field, bounded on the east by a ridge. In rear of the battery was a thicket of underbrush, and on its right, a little to the rear, a body of timber.

"General McIntosh's cavalry had passed on into the large prairie field to our left and the infantry were quite across it, close to the ridge about 600 yards from us. My whole command consisted of about 1,000 men, all Indians, except



one squadron. The enemy opened fire into the woods where we were, the fence in front of us was thrown down, and the Indians (Watie's regiment on foot and Drew's on horseback), with part of Sims' regiment, gallantly led by Lieutenant-Colonel Quayle, charged full in front through the woods and into the open ground with loud yells, routed the cavalry, took the battery, fired upon and pursued the enemy, retreating through the fenced field on our right, and held the battery, which I afterwards had drawn by the Cherokees into the woods. Four of the horses of the battery alone remained on the ground, the others running off with the caissons, and for want of horses and harness we were unable to send the guns to the rear.

"The officers of my staff, Captains Schwarzman and Hewitt and Lieutenant Pike, with Captain Lee, of Acting Brigadier-General Cooper's staff, rode with us in the charge. Our loss was 2 of Colonel Drew's men killed and 1 wounded. Colonel Sims had 1 man killed and 1 wounded. Of the enemy, between 30 and 40 were killed in the field

and around the guns. The charge was made just at noon.

"We remained at the battery for some twenty minutes, when Colonel Watie informed me that another battery was in our front, beyond the skirt of underbrush, protected by a heavy force of infantry. General McIntosh's force was not near us, nor do I know where it then was. The infantry were still in their position near the ridge, across the large field on the left, and did not approach us; indeed, at one time moved farther off along the ridge. Colonel Drew's regiment was in the field on our right, and around the taken battery was a mass of Indians and others in the utmost confusion, all talking, riding this way and that, and listening to no orders from any one. I directed Capt. Roswell W. Lee, of Acting Brigadier-General Cooper's staff, always conspicuous for gallantry and coolness, to have the guns which had been taken faced to our front, that they might be used against the battery just discovered; but he could not induce a single man to assist in doing so.

"At this moment the enemy sent two shells into the

field, and the Indians retreated hurriedly into the woods out of which they had made the charge. Well aware that they would not face shells in the open ground, I directed them to dismount, take their horses to the rear, and each take to a tree, and this was done by both regiments, the men thus awaiting patiently and coolly the expected advance of the enemy, who now and for two hours and a half afterwards, until perhaps twenty minutes before the action ended, continued to fire shot and shell into the woods where the Indians were from their battery in front, but never advanced. This battery also was thus, with its supporting force, by the presence of the Indians, rendered useless to the enemy during the action.

"In the mean time our artillery had come into action some distance to our left and front, beyond a large field, extending from the woods in which we were to a line of woods beyond it, which hid the conflict from our view. Leaving the Indians in the woods, I passed beyond them to the left into the open ground nearer the conflict, and remained some time.

"About 1:30 o'clock there was a very heavy fire of musketry for about ten minutes, and soon after about two regiments of our cavalry came into the field on our left front and formed in line facing the woods on that side.

Colonel Drew then came to me with his regiment, about 500 strong, and I sent him across the field, directing him to form in rear of the line of cavalry, and if they advanced through the woods to follow them, dismount his men near the other edge, and let them join in the flight in their own fashion. They crossed the field and took the position indicated.

"It was just after this that I directed Sergeant-Major West, of Colonel Watie's regiment, to take some of the Cherokees and drag the captured guns into the woods, which was done, the enemy still firing over them into the woods, where he placed a guard of Cherokees over the cannon.

"Soon after the cavalry force crossed to our side of the field and formed in line in front of the woods in which the Indians were and remained there until the enemy threw a shot in that direction, when they also took shelter in the woods. During all this time I received no orders whatever nor any message from any one.

"About 3 o'clock I rode towards the fenced field. I saw nothing of our cavalry, but found a body of our infantry halted on the road running along the fence by which we had originally come. It consisted of the regiments of Colonels Churchill, Hill, and Rector, and Major Whitfield's



Artillery Harness, plate 21 from Atlas accompanying official records of Union and Confederate armies.

battalion. Major Whitfield informed me that Generals McCulloch and McIntosh were both killed, and that 7,000 of the enemy's infantry were marching to gain our left, one body of which, at least 3,000 strong, he had himself seen. Totally ignorant of the country and the roads not knowing the number of the enemy, nor whether the whole or what portion of General McCulloch's command had been detached from the main body for this action, I assumed command and prepared to repel the supposed movement of the enemy.

"To our left, beyond the field where our infantry had first been seen by me in the forenoon, was a wooded ridge of no great height, with a fence running along the foot of it on the west and northwest; between it and the Bentonville road was open and level ground. I marched the infantry, Welch's squadron and Watie's regiment, across the field, dismounted the horsemen, directed all to be posted behind the fences, and sent Major Boudinot, of Watie's regiment, to inform General Van Dorn that I would try to hold the position; but upon riding up and along the ridge to the rear I found the position not tenable, as the enemy could cross it and descend upon our rear by an open road that ran over it.

"At this time the firing on the field had ceased, and I saw coming into the road at the farm house a large body of cavalry and Good's battery. It was evident enough that the field was left to the enemy, and as we were not in sufficient numbers to resist them and the ground afforded no defensive position I determined to withdraw the troops and lead them to General Van Dorn. Indeed, the officers assured me that the men were in such condition that it would be worse than useless to bring them into action again that day.

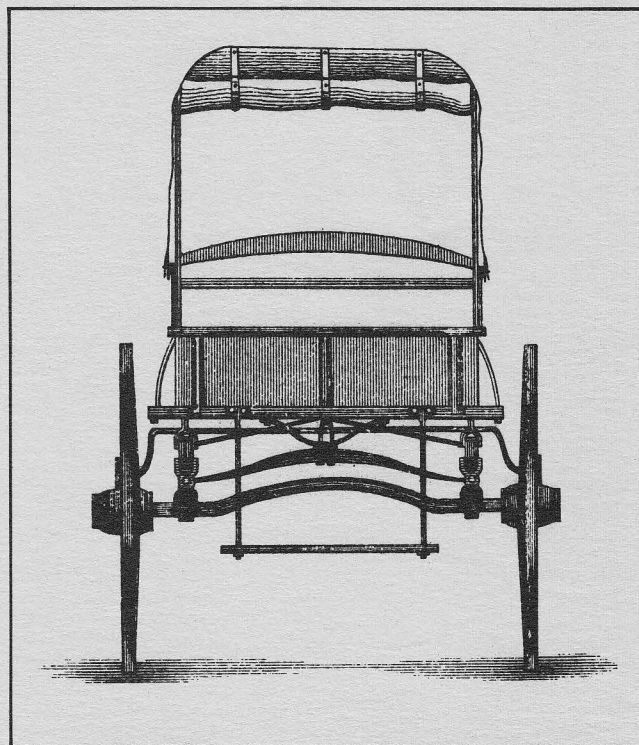
"I accordingly sent orders to the artillery and cavalry to join me. What had become of the other troops engaged no one could inform me. I concluded they had retreated towards Camp Stephens, gaining the road by which we had come in the morning. Colonel Stone and Captain Good came to me, and I informed them of my purpose. Placing the squadron of Captain Welch in front, the infantry marching next, followed by Good's battery, with the Cherokees on the flanks, and as I supposed, Colonel Stone's regiment in the rear, we gained the Bentonville road, and marched on it in perfect order to the Telegraph road.

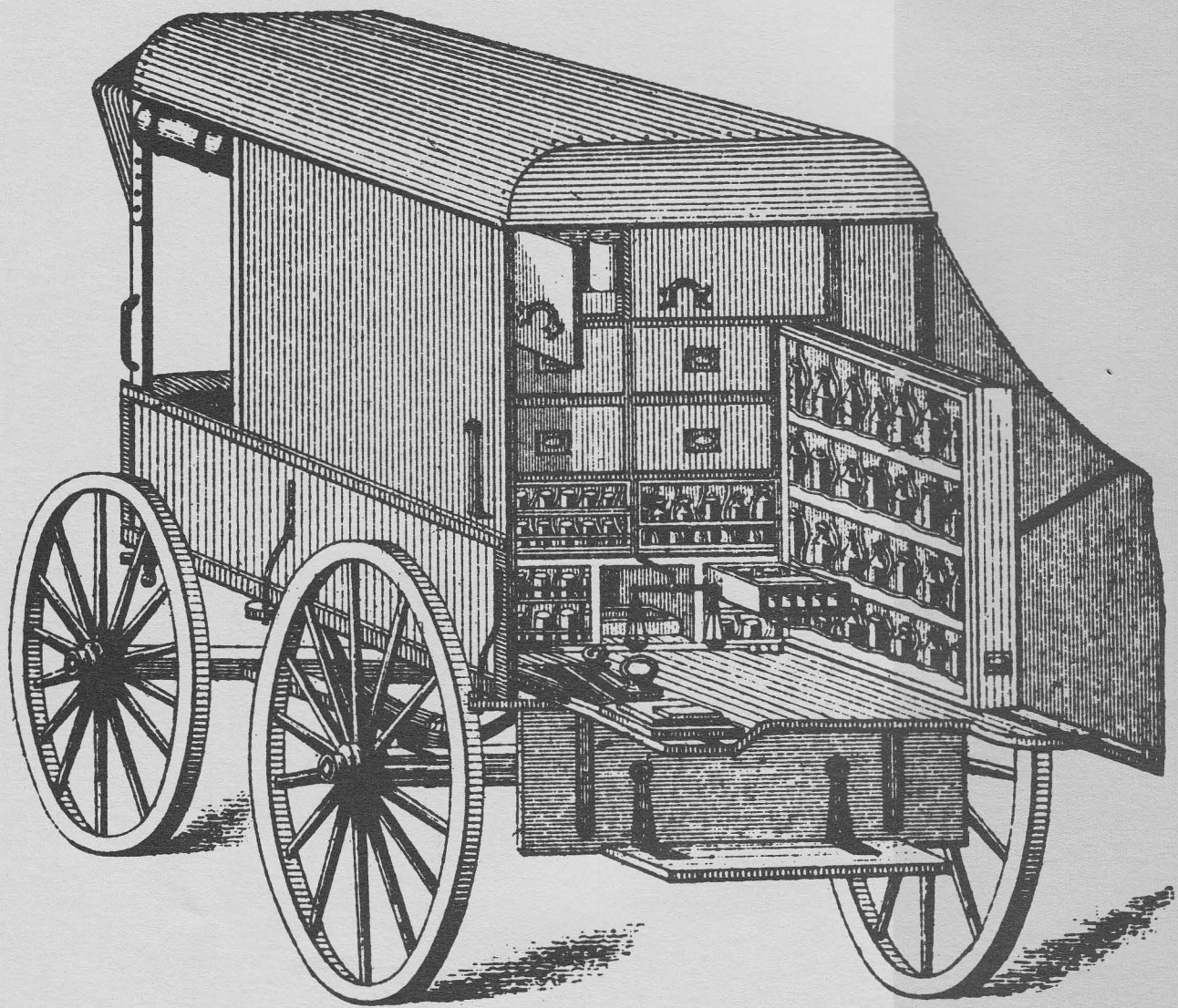
"The order sent to the Cherokees to join us had not, by some accident, reached Colonel Drew, and his regiment remained in the woods, and after a time retreated towards Camp Stephens, where, he informs me, he found Colonel Stone's regiment arrived before him. This regiment understanding, I have learned, that part of the enemy's force was marching to attack the train, took that direction.

"The infantry had in three days marched 60 miles, had been on foot all the preceding night, and fought that day without water, and Colonel Churchill begged me to leave them where they could procure it. When we reached the Telegraph road I was about to conduct them to headquarters; but unable to learn the position of the two armies or how the road came upon the field, and learning that where our forces were there was no water and that there was a running stream on the Pineville road, intending to halt at the water, and letting the men have that at least, as they had nothing to eat, to join the main army early in the morning. Orders from General Van Dorn caused us to retrace our steps and march to his headquarters, which we reached long after dark.

"On Saturday morning I was directed by General Van Dorn to post part of Colonel Watie's men, who were my whole command, except Captain Welch's squadron, on the high ridge to our right and the residue on another ridge on the left, to observe the enemy and give him information if any attempt was made by them in force to turn his left

"Rucher" ambulance wagon, rear view.





"Autenrieth" medical wagon, from diagrams illustrating "Principal Means for Transportation of Sick and Wounded, and Medical Supplies, During the War of the Rebellion" in the Gilcrease Library archives.

flank. I accompanied those sent on the ridge to the right, and sent Capt. Fayette Hewitt, of my staff, to post the others. To Captain Welch I gave permission to join any Texan regiment he chose; and he joined that of Colonel Greer and remained with it until the action ended."

It was not long after this battle that Pike wrote his rather uncomplimentary report on the Indian troops. It would be interesting to note what he would have written had the Confederates won the battle. Not all of the battles they engaged in resulted in defeat despite the ambitions of some of the Indian leaders to such enterprising feats as capturing Kansas or Missouri. The Indian troops were always better at raiding than in pitched battles. After losing the first battle of Cabin Creek in July 1863 and commanding the First and Second Cherokee regiments at the battle of Elk Creek (Honey Springs) where he was also on the losing side, General Stand Watie managed in September, 1864, a completely successful raid (second battle of Cabin Creek) a preliminary report of which follows:

Reports of Brig. Gen. Stand Watie,
C. S. Army, Commanding First Indian Brigade.
Bird Creek, September 21, 1864
General:

On the morning of the 19th we attacked the enemy's post at Cabin Creek. After a fight of six hours drove the enemy away. The train was there, which was captured — over 250 wagons. We have now over 100 wagons with us. Will cross Arkansas at Tulsa Town and fall into your road made 1861, the route I took last winter. Dispatches can be sent to me on that route. Enemy in force was on Pryor's Creek on the evening of the same day of the fight. We have 120 prisoners along.

Our loss is very slight — 2 men killed and few wounded.

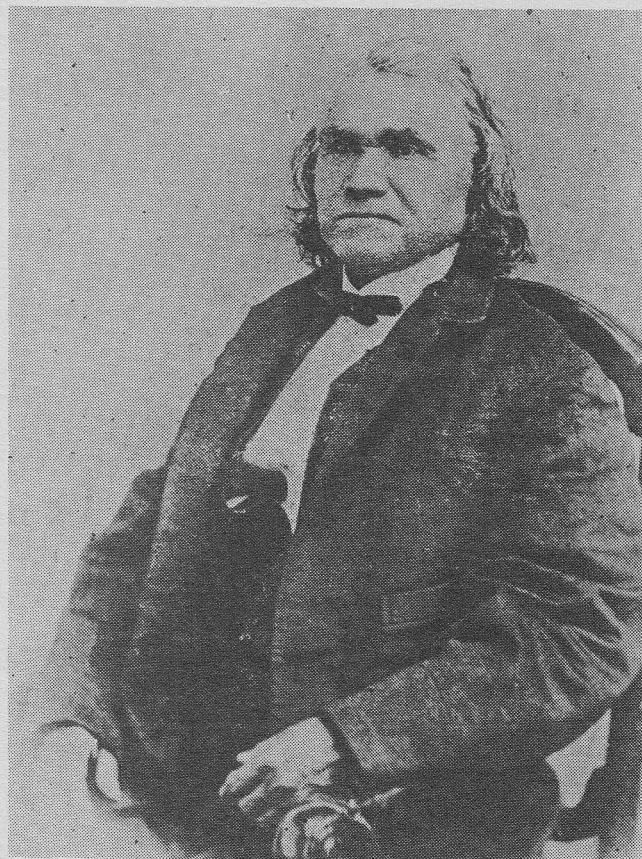
The enemy may attempt to cut us off. Perhaps it would be well to open communication with us on the route. We are short of ammunition. The blow will be severely felt by the enemy. His loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners is over 200.

Stand Watie
Brigadier-General

Brig. Gen. D. H. Cooper
Commanding Division

General Watie was one of the last Confederate commanders to surrender. General Pike resigned his commission and was replaced late in 1862. He was probably more loyal to his Indians than he was to the Confederate cause and to the end insisted that they should not be used except in defense of their own territory. ■

D. M. McPike



Stand Watie, Cherokee Brigadier-General, Commander of the 1st Indian Brigade, and one of the last Confederate commanders to surrender at the end of the Civil War.

All quotations, reports and troop rosters in the above article are from *The War of the Rebellion, A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Prepared under the Direction of the Secretary of War by Lieutenant Colonel Robert N. Scott, Third U. S. Artillery, and Published Pursuant to Act of Congress. Approved June 16, 1880, Washington; Government Printing Office: 1885.

