

# The Civil War

## Resisting the War

In 1861, the people of Izard County did not want war. Their State Representative Alexander Adams was one of the last four **holdouts** against secession in the legislature. Arkansas did secede on May 6, 1861.

On May 18, the Confederate Congress called on Arkansas to make provisions for arms and munitions. **Saltpeter** was requested from Izard County.

Pro-Union Izard County citizens organized the **Mill Creek Peace Society** to discourage men from joining either army. Governor Rector sent the Izard County Militia to arrest the Society's members for **treason**. The prisoners were forced to go to prison or join the Confederate Army.



In June, men from Izard County joined the **7th and 14th Arkansas Infantries**.

A year later, a skirmish between Union and Confederate forces broke out at Calico Rock Landing on **May 26, 1862**.

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## The Trials of War



Within weeks of the war's outbreak, **salt** jumped in price from \$2 a barrel to \$20 a barrel.

In April 1862, the **Confederate Conscription Act** passed and began the draft.

In 1863, war cripples and deserters began trickling home. To make matters worse, it was an extremely dry season and crops didn't make. There were no fall rains, either. The river was low and temperatures that winter were below freezing. A bad situation got **unbearably worse**.

Bushwhackers began making more frequent raids. Life was becoming desperate.

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## Bushwhackers and Jayhawkers

During the War, gangs of bushwhackers and jayhawkers did much greater damage than Union troops. Raiders from outside the area were called **Jayhawkers**. Locals were called **Bushwhackers**. They were out to steal everything they could and killed anyone who stood in the way.



They raided homes and businesses. They **stole** what they could carry off. They **tortured** adults and children to find food, supplies, or coins they'd hidden.

They **burned** the buildings and crops in the fields, leaving families to starve. Some farmers cut gashes in the sides of their horses and mules to render them worthless and save them from the terrorists.

**Captain Robert C. Matthews** of Pineville was a decorated officer. Returning home in 1863, Captain Matthews found his store burned and home ransacked. For months, he hid in caves because Federals ordered him killed. Bushwhackers hung his son Frank from a tree by his thumbs, demanding to know where his father was hiding.

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## The End of Cochran's Gang

Cochran's gang was the worst of the Bushwhackers. He led a raid in April 1864 cleaning out everything that was left off farms. People had nothing left and this latest raid broke the final straw.

A **posse** of local men was formed to put an end to the gang once and for all. The posse camped three days lying in wait, sending out two women as spies during the day. Cochran's gang had 12 men, the posse had 15.

They learned the gang was heading out, so the posse sent word for volunteers. Seventeen men joined the effort. They set off behind Cochran's gang and along the way men joined. By the time they caught up with them, the posse numbered **75 men**.

The posse ambushed the gang at **Shipp's Ferry**. A gun fight began and Cochran died in the crossfire. A man in the posse removed Cochran's boots so it could not be said that he "died with his boots on."

The gang had **63 cattle** and **17 horses and mules** in this last raid. Cochran's day book recorded **55 men** he had killed in his raids. With his death, the terror ended in Calico Rock.

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## War's End

When the Confederacy surrendered, soldiers weren't forced to **give up their gun**, but they did have to declare their loyalty to the Union. Many couldn't read or write, so they simply stated their names and "**signed their X**" on the loyalty oath.

Some former Union soldiers were given the task of obtaining loyalty oath signatures, some of them at **gunpoint**.

Many former Confederate soldiers didn't regain their American **citizenship** until 1870. That year, William McCagle Gentry from north of Pineville was bayoneted to death when he refused to sign the loyalty oath.

RELEASE.

(IN DUPLICATE)

Office of Military Prisons,  
Camp Chase, O., March 27<sup>th</sup> 1865.

By virtue of an Order received from Genl. Guilford A. Spencer  
dated at Washington, D.C. March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1865.  
L. A. Farver, resident of Boyd county,  
and State of Ohio, Prisoner at this Post; after  
having complied with the requirements of, and subscribed the following Oath  
and Declaration, is hereby released from confinement:

DESCRIPTION:

Complexion	Hair	Height	Eyes	Age
Light	Light	5-8	Hazel	27

The United States of America, ss.

"I, L. A. Farver do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforward faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of States thereunder, and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not yet repealed, modified or held void by Congress or by decision of the Supreme Court, and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all Proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion, having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court, so help me God."

This Oath is taken, and Pass accepted, with the full understanding that if the party receiving it be found hereafter in arms against the Government of the United States, or aiding or abetting its enemies, the penalty will be death.

L. A. Farver

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1865.

Wm. R. ...  
Capt. &c.