



The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was the largest, most influential, and longest-lived Civil War veteran organizations. The Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Women's Relief Corps were auxiliary organizations for veteran spouses, daughters, and other interested women. (Courtesy Kenneth L. Alford)



## APPENDIX C

Kenneth L. Alford

# IDENTIFYING LATTER-DAY SAINT CIVIL WAR VETERANS

Soon after this project began, I was surprised to learn that no thorough search for Latter-day Saint Civil War veterans had been undertaken and published. Over a century and a half has passed since the beginning of the Civil War, and we felt it was past time to identify and celebrate Latter-day Saints who served both the North and the South during the Civil War. The results of our efforts are found in Appendix E. The purpose of this appendix is to briefly explain how we found and attempted to document both membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Civil War veteran status.

### DEFINING A “LATTER-DAY SAINT”

To identify someone as both a Latter-day Saint and Civil War veteran required us to define both terms. For the purpose of this research, a Latter-day Saint is defined as an individual who was baptized as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints during his or her lifetime. This

definition defines as a “Latter-day Saint” individuals who were baptized prior to the Civil War, during the war, as well as after the war. It also includes individuals who were excommunicated during the course of their lifetime. (It does not, of course, include individuals who have been baptized vicariously.)

### DEFINING A “CIVIL WAR VETERAN”

Identifying someone as a “Civil War veteran” required slightly different definitions for Union and Confederate soldiers. In order to be included in this study, Union soldiers, sailors, and marines must have served on active federal service between January 9, 1861 (when Confederate artillery opened first on the *Star of the West* in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina), and June 23, 1865 (the date that General Stand Watie surrendered the last Confederate soldiers). Active federal service is defined as service that qualified for federal pension benefits—a definition similar to that used by the Grand Army of the Republic to



qualify applicants for membership. Applying that definition to soldiers who served in Utah Territory during the Civil War means that soldiers who served in the Utah Cavalry under Lot Smith's command are considered Civil War veterans; their ninety-day active-duty service was valid for pension and Grand Army of the Republic membership purposes. However, teamsters who served with the Lot Smith Utah Cavalry were not on active duty military service, did not receive federal pension credit, and are not considered Civil War veterans. Likewise, members of the Nauvoo Legion in Utah who served with Colonel Robert T. Burton are also not considered Civil War veterans as their service did not qualify them for federal pension benefits. The Confederate States of America did not employ the same service definitions as their Union counterparts. Any soldier or sailor who fought for the Confederacy is considered a Civil War veteran for the purpose of this research. There was no active duty versus militia distinction for wartime military service in the Confederate States of America.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Part of the reason that no thorough Latter-day Saint Civil War veterans list has been published previously is because the tools to find and document both Church membership and veteran status have been largely unavailable or difficult to obtain. The recent proliferation of Internet databases related to both LDS Church membership and Civil War veterans has made the accompanying LDS Civil War veterans list in Appendix E possible. The resulting list was made possible through the efforts of numerous people who assisted in its preparation—from student research assistants to independent historians and history

buffs. (Please see Acknowledgments for the names of those who directly contributed to this effort.) While there are certainly exceptions, here is the basic process used to add individuals to the Latter-day Saint Civil War veterans list:

- Find the name of a possible LDS Civil War veteran
- Confirm that the individual was a baptized Latter-day Saint
- Confirm that the individual qualified as a Union or Confederate veteran
- Double-check that the LDS member and the veteran identified were the same individual

The first step—finding the name of a possible LDS Civil War veteran—proved to be the most challenging and difficult step in the process. Federal service as a member of the Lot Smith Utah Cavalry provided almost one hundred individuals who were added to the final list. The second most fruitful source for LDS Civil War veterans was the veteran schedule that was prepared as part of the 1890 U.S. Census. Census, cemetery, and other records from the San Luis Valley in Colorado proved to be an excellent source for finding almost three dozen LDS Civil War veterans (most of whom served in the Confederate armed forces.) Additional names for potential veterans came from a variety of sources, most notably Margaret Fisher's 1929 *Utah and the Civil War*, Frank Eschom's 1913 *Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah*, newspaper obituary articles found in the online database *Utah Digital Newspapers*, lists from amateur historians and genealogists, federal pension and service records, records obtained through the Church History Library in Salt Lake City, other books,



*How many Latter-day Saints served in the Union and Confederate military forces during the American Civil War, and who were they? Student research assistants at Brigham Young University, some of whom are pictured here (left to right: Joseph R. Stuart, Dr. Kenneth L. Alford, Mary E. Moberly, and Ian S. Lindsay), have worked for several years in an effort to answer those questions. Assistance was also provided by several independent researchers and historians. Appendices D-H share the results of their hard work.*

*(Courtesy of Brent R. Nordgren)*

tips from friends and acquaintances, and even *Improvement Era* articles from the early part of the twentieth century.

The second step—confirming that the individual was baptized as a Latter-day Saint during his lifetime—was often frustrating but was generally a straightforward process. The available databases were a great help, but they are not complete. To confirm soldiers as Latter-day Saints, we used the LDS Church family history website <http://new.familysearch.org>, public records, newspaper obituaries, journals, biographical encyclopedias, and occasionally information obtained through Internet searches. In a few instances (which are noted in the list) where it can be reasonably inferred that a person was LDS

(for instance, records that note the individual was an elder or a bishop), their name has been included in the list (with an explanatory note). When LDS membership has been confirmed through New Family Search, the accompanying individual identification number is included to enable readers to check our work. If baptismal information was unavailable in New Family Search, we checked Susan Easton Black's *Membership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1830–1848*. In a few instances, LDS membership could not be confirmed through New Family Search or early membership records, but was accepted based on published accounts that mentioned the individual's LDS Church membership.

The third step—confirming veteran status—required a variety of research skills. At this time, there is no complete online database of everyone who gave Civil War service, but the *Civil War Soldiers and Sailor System* database (sponsored by the National Park Service, <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>) and the *Veterans with Federal Service Buried in Utah, Territorial to 1966* database (available online from Family Search) proved to be the most helpful. Obituaries obtained from Utah Digital Newspapers were also an additional resource for identifying Civil War veterans. Diaries and journals were also consulted, if available. Where that was not possible, a newspaper reference to that person's Civil War veteran status was accepted on good faith. Biographical encyclopedias, *Improvement Era* articles, and other sources were researched in a similar manner. Ancestry.com's *U.S. Civil War Collection*, Civil War records collections available online at FamilySearch.org, and <http://findagrave.org> were also helpful.

The fourth step—double-checking (and in many cases, triple-checking) the accuracy of the previous steps—engendered both confidence and frustration. The easiest way to confirm that an LDS member and a soldier of the same name were the same person was through pension records. If biographical data obtained through New Family Search, obituaries, findagrave.com and other sources identified the name of the soldier's wife, we could frequently locate the veteran in Ancestry.com's *Civil War Pension Index* which often listed the soldier's wife, the regiment he served in, and sometimes additional identifying information which could be compared against the New Family Search records. In the absence of pension files, we relied on biographical information found in sources such as obituaries

and biographical histories. We are grateful to have so many wonderful resources available but, at the same time, have frequently been frustrated that they are not more complete.

One of the chief difficulties discovered during this process is that federal military records from the Civil War do not always contain vital records information such as birth, marriage, or death dates. In many instances, there were no overlapping data fields that could confirm, without any doubt, that the "John Q. Doe" who was baptized as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 18xx was the same individual as the "John Q. Doe" who served during the Civil War in the Xth Regiment from the great state of Y. We have made every effort to verify that the individuals who appear on our list were Latter-day Saint Civil War veterans. For every person who appears on the final list, we screened and eliminated over fifty other individuals during the course of this research. Sometimes, quite honestly, we just had to make a best guess and assume the Church member and the soldier with the same name were the same person. We have made every effort to so identify those veterans.

During the course of our research, we discovered several individuals who, while failing to meet both criteria to be included in Appendix E, deserve to be mentioned on their own account. They are listed in Appendix F as "Special Interest" veterans. This list includes soldiers in the Lot Smith Utah Cavalry whose LDS membership could not be confirmed (but there is a high probability that they were baptized Latter-day Saints), the teamsters who served with them, and a few other Civil War veterans who had a special or unique relationship with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, such as Levi

Lamoni Wight, son of the excommunicated LDS apostle Lyman Wight, who fought for the Confederacy.

We are pleased to recognize the military contributions of these individuals and have included source information with each individual's listing so that readers can, if desired, check and confirm or correct our work. We are not under the illusion, though, that our list as published is complete nor, unfortunately, even completely accurate. It is, though, a multiyear first effort to create a reproducible

list of Latter-day Saint Civil War veterans. We invite readers to submit additions, suggestions, and corrections to improve upon our initial work. Please send list-related information (including as much documentation and source information as possible) to:

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