American Indian Confederates participated in many battles, skirmishes, and reconnoiters; but some actions were not battle related. During The War Between the States American Indian Confederate situations included,

- Engaging in warfare– Battle of Honey Springs, with nearly 8000 American Indians, was the largest battle in Indian Territory.
- Performing search and rescue– After a disastrous train wreck occurred that was a few miles east of Newton Station, Mississippi; a detail of Choctaw Confederates risked their lives by jumping into a flooded river to save the lives of their Confederate brethren.
- Being prisoners of war– Not long after the formation of Major J. W. Pierce’s Mississippi Choctaw Battalion the unit was immediately dispersed, and a few Confederates were taken captive.
- The American Indian Confederate prisoners of war were sent to New York where they were paraded in the streets for the entertainment of onlookers.

Not all American Indians were concerned with The War Between the States. American Indians beyond the frontier usually had relations with Union forces. Battles did ensue but not because of North-South ideologies. One of the most disturbing events was committed during The War. In November of 1864 troops, who were led by Union Colonel John M. Chivington, attacked a band of inoffensive Cheyenne and Arapaho camping near Sand Creek, Colorado Territory. Most of the victims were women and children. The Colonel was later brought before a U. S. Congressional hearing. Chivington, a former minister, once wrote: “I am fully satisfied that to kill the red rebels is the only way to have peace and quiet.”

Positive remarks were also said. Colonel Richard M. Gano remarked that “not the least of the glorious results of this achievement is the increased goodwill of the Indian and white troops toward each other.” Albert Pike, at the time a Brigadier General, once said: “It is important that our Indians should have our troops by their side that they may not conclude that they are fighting for us only and not equally for themselves.” During the surrender at Appomattox General Robert E. Lee quoted: “I’m glad to see one real American is here.” A compliment to Ely S. Parker after Lee noticed Parker was an American Indian. All these positive remarks were said by Confederate officers.

After the War ended, the once divided nations reunited and a new era of treaty making began. For alloying themselves with the Confederates, harsh reparative terms were put into effect such as the reduction of Indian Territory land. All in all approximately 12,000 American Indians served in the Confederate military during The War Between the States. Years later during Confederate reunions American Indians were praised and honored for deeds done while serving in the mighty forces of the Confederates States of America.

* * *

**The War**

The muster rolls had hundreds of enlistees with interesting names: John Bear Meat, Samuel Cat, Thomas Chubby, Frog, Hogshooter, Konshattoutzette (or Flying Cloud), and George Washington. On April 9, 1865 a pro-Union Seneca at Appomattox Court House copied an order issued by General Ulysses S. Grant, Donehogawa, also known as Ely S. Parker, was made a Brigadier General the last day of The War.
William C. Davis, Rebels & Yankees, The Fighting Men of the Civil War, (New York, New York: Gallery Books, 1989), 22. Davis wrote that Native Americans were: "Ill-treated and ignored even by their own superiors ..."

Malone, 407. Numerous treaty provisions were favorable to Native Americans in Indian Territory. Malone noted: "they ... one of the Confederate States, upon equal terms in all respects,' ... the rights of Indians in a fairer and better manner

Ibid. Wheeler's documentary also stated that it "was in their best interest to join the confederacy." How the West was Lost, Five Tribes, As Long as the Grass shall Grow. Directed by Chris Wheeler. 50 minutes. Discovery ... 1993. Wheeler's documentary stated: … many people of the five nations (were) still torn. Thousands favor the Union

James I. Robertson Jr., George Constable, ed., The Civil War, Tenting Tonight, The Soldier's Life, (U.S.A.: Time-Life ... reported: "The muster rolls of American Indians. Perhaps 12,000 served the Confederacy, most of them members of the Five

Josephy, 156.

Capps, 192.

Ashley Dunbar, "Native Americans: A Study Of Their Civil War Experience," Journal of Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research 3 (2013): 9-10. Durbin explains: "The Sand Creek Massacre was one of the most devastating events of the Civil War for Native Americans."