

## A Nation at War Fact Sheet<sup>1</sup>

### The Civil War: Under Attack, The Raid Continues

- Many **Scottsville** residents supported the **Confederate Army**.
  - Young men from Scottsville fought as **Confederate soldiers**.
  - Older men **volunteered** for **Home Guard duty** and...
    - **gathered information** about the Union Army's movements.
    - **reported** people who they suspected of helping the **Union**.
    - **found** Confederate soldiers who had run away (**deserters**).
    - **defended Scottsville** against Union soldiers.
  - **Women** rolled bandages, spun wool and made army uniforms.
- **Scottsville** had a **general hospital** where Confederate soldiers were treated. The hospital was split up in four different buildings:
  - Eagle Hotel (today it's Barnett Real Estate at 300 Valley Street)
  - A two-story building that used to be a factory (no longer exists)
  - Scottsville Baptist Church (on Harrison Street)
  - A small frame house – only used for smallpox patients
- **Union Generals Wesley Merritt** and **Thomas C. Devin** arrived in Scottsville with 5000 men and planned to destroy the JR&K Canal on March 6, 1865.
  - **Many residents** escaped on foot or took the **ferry** to Buckingham.
  - **Union soldiers** raided supplies and **burned** any buildings that they thought could help the **Confederates**. They also **burned boats** and **damaged the canal** by blowing up locks and berms along the river.
- Devin's and Merritt's army left Scottsville on March 7, but **General Philip Sheridan** brought all of his 10,000 Union troops back to Scottsville on March 9, only three days after the first raid.
  - **General Sheridan's** army was tired and hungry when they arrived. They **stole food and supplies** from homes, barns, and other buildings in Scottsville. They also burned a carriage house and barn.

The "Eagle Hotel" had 130 beds for injured soldiers and was the main hospital building in Scottsville during the Civil War.

Image © 2001 by Scottsville Museum



<sup>1</sup> Information on this sheet is adapted from the exhibit text developed by Lauren Turek and Julie Schiff.

## Reconstruction: The Road to Recovery, Life Rolls On

- Although the *Civil War ended on April 9, 1865*, it took Scottsville more than 40 years to recover from the damage.
  - Farms, businesses, and the JR&K Canal were badly damaged.
  - There weren't enough men to work in Scottsville because many had been killed during the war.
  - Slaves were freed at the end of the war. Many left their masters' homes and farms in Scottsville to start new lives as free men.
- The South, who had supported the *Confederates* during the Civil War, was destroyed after the conflict. Most of the war had been fought on Southern soil, which resulted in loss of life and destruction of property. The South's economy was devastated, and its citizens experienced hard times.
- Many people had to *barter*, or trade, to buy food and other goods because they did not have money and businesses were not making money either.
- Scottsville slowly began to recover after the war ended. In 1871, the *first free public school in Albemarle County* opened in *Scottsville*.
- People looked for activities to take their minds off of their troubles. *Popular activities* in the late 1800s included horse races, dancing, and circus and theater performances.
  - Scottsville residents also spent a lot of time on the *James River* fishing and canoeing in warm months, and ice skating in the winter.

## Esmont

- *Esmont* was an African-American community about seven miles away from Scottsville; its population grew after the Civil War ended.
  - Many African-Americans were *freed slaves* who moved to Esmont after the Civil War ended and purchased land.
  - Other Esmont residents were *free African-Americans* who were never slaves.
- Many Esmont residents grew and raised their own food, but also had jobs outside of the home. *Popular jobs* included: farm hands, domestic workers, teachers, nurses, and railroad workers.
- The *Baptist Church* in Esmont was an important spiritual and social center of the community. People gathered there to worship and also to meet with other members of the community.
- Esmont still exists as a small unincorporated community in Albemarle County, Virginia.

**Game Questions**  
**Station 5: A Nation at War**

**What side did most Scottsville residents support during the Civil War?**

**List two tasks that Home Guard soldiers were in charge of.**

**Why do you think men who were too old to fight volunteered to serve in the Home Guard when they were not paid and weren't given many supplies?**

**How did women help support the war effort?**

**Why did many wounded Confederate soldiers come to Scottsville?**

**Name two ways that Union soldiers damaged the buildings, transportation, and economy of Scottsville in March 1865.**

**Why did it take so long for Scottsville to recover from the Civil War?**

**What building that opened in 1871 showed that Scottsville was starting to recover from the Civil War?**

**Why did Esmont's population grow after the Civil War ended?**

**What building served as the center of Esmont's small, but thriving community?**

**A**

## What would you do?

**Many people contributed to the war effort.**

**A) Imagine you were a white child, man, or woman living in Scottsville during the Civil War. Think about the job you would have or want. Would you have been a:**

- Confederate soldier
- Home Guard volunteer
- seamstress
- doctor or nurse

I would like to be a \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of job)

because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B) Imagine you were an African-American child, man, or woman during the Civil War. Think about the job you would have or want.**

I would like to be a \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of job)

because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read about the lives of three different people who lived in Scottsville and contributed to the Civil War effort.

## Thomas H. Childress



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Source: "The Great Task Before Us",  
Gettysburg Foundation  
<http://www.friendsofgettysburg.org>

**Scottsville Guard Volunteer**  
**May 4, 1840-July 19, 1928**

- Born in Esmont, Virginia
- Enlisted in the Scottsville Guard, led by Captain Albert Gantt, on April 17, 1861 at age 20
- Was present and may have fought in the battle of First Manassas, the first major battle of the Civil War
- Also fought as part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Virginia Calvary (rode horses)
- Left the army on May 21, 1865
- Married Mary Amanda Clark and had eight children
- Became a justice of the peace in Albemarle County

### Interesting fact:

In 1864, Thomas had to walk about 20 miles home from the Gordonsville hospital after a hip injury because a friend had already taken his horse home.

# Henry G. Harris

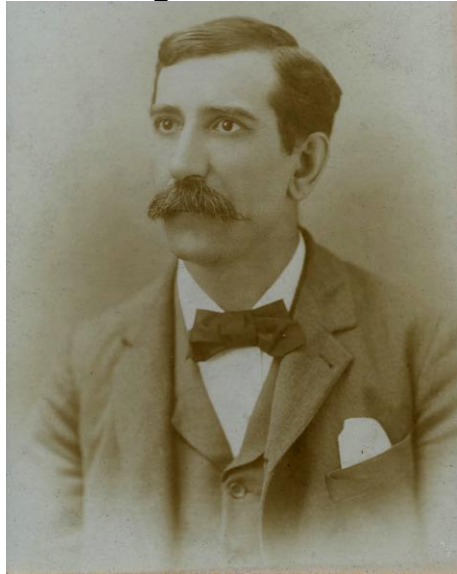


Image © 2001 by Scottsville Museum

Information Source: Captain Bruce Boynton "A Scottsville Teen in Mosby's Rangers: Henry G. Harris"  
<http://scottvillemuseum.com>

**young Confederate Soldier, Mosby's Rangers  
July 2, 1847-February 23, 1916**

- The fourth of fifth children; born in Scottsville, Virginia
- Enlisted in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Calvary (Mosby's Rangers) at age 16
  - Mosby's Rangers was an adventurous group of soldiers who were skilled horsemen and often raided the countryside at night and did not have uniforms to avoid being caught.
  - Because Henry was not old enough to enlist without parental permission, he snuck out of the house after everyone had already gone to sleep.
- Served with four other boys from Scottsville in Company D of Mosby's Rangers, but was the youngest of them all
- Captured in October 1864 and sent to prison in Washington, D.C. Moved to prison in Boston in February 1865
- Returned home in June 1865 after the Civil War had ended and ran the Scottsville Post Office

### **Make a connection:**

Henry joined the army at age 16 and was the youngest soldier in his battalion. Think about a time that you were the youngest person in a group. How did you feel? How do you think Henry may have felt?

# Dr. Oriana (Orie) Moon Andrews



Image © 2001 by Scottsville Museum

Information Source: "Dr. Oriana Moon, A Confederate Doctor"  
<http://scottsvillemuseum.com>

## Confederate Doctor

August 11, 1834-December 24, 1883

- Born to a wealthy Albemarle County family; lived at Viewmont Estate
- Attended the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, 1854-1857
- Spent 14 months abroad, mostly in Jerusalem and Egypt, with her uncle Dr. James Turner Barclay and his family
- Worked at Charlottesville General Hospital during the Civil War
- Met her future husband, Dr. John Andrews, while tending to his brother who was injured at the Battle of Bull Run
- Worked with husband as a doctor and surgeon in many different places, often for poor people who could not pay
- Died of pneumonia and buried at Scottsville Presbyterian Cemetery

### Make a connection:

At the time, some people thought that Dr. Orie should not be a doctor because she was a woman. Have you ever been in a similar situation? What did you do to prove to others that you could do something they didn't think you could?