

## Black Confederate Civil War Accounts

Among the various accounts of Blacks actually fighting for the Confederacy are the following:

### Dr. Lewis Steiner Account

“Dr. Lewis Steiner of the U.S. Sanitary Commission observed that while the Confederate army marched through Maryland during the 1862 Sharpsburg (Antietam) campaign, ‘over 3,000 negroes had arms, rifles, muskets, sabers, bowie knives, dirks, etc. And were manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederate Army. ’”  
Quoted in “Blacks, Jews fight on side of the South,” by Thomas C. Mandes in The Washington Times, June 15, 2002.

### Union Officer’s Account

The following is a Union officer’s account from War of the Rebellion, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series 1, Vol. XVI, Part 1, Reports, page 805. “The forces attacking my camp were the First Regiment Texas Rangers, Colonel Wharton, and a battalion of the First Georgia Rangers, Colonel Morrison, and a large number of citizens of Rutherford County, many of whom had recently taken the oath of allegiance to the United States Government. There were also quite a number of negroes attached to the Texas and Georgia troops, who were armed and equipped and took part in the several engagements with my forces during the day.”

### Account of Holt Colier

In “Crazy for Bears” by Wendy Mitman Clarke, Smithsonian magazine, October 2001, pages 87-94, she mentions Holt Colier, a former slave helping Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt hunt bears, who “...had served as a sharpshooter for the Confederacy during the Civil War.”

### San Angelo Standard-Times Online

From The San Angelo Standard-Times Online, “Out Yonder: Many blacks fought for the Confederacy during Civil War,” by Ross McSwain, February 8, 1999: “The Confederate Congress did not approve officially enlisting black soldiers, except as musicians, until late in the war. However, Confederate officer did not obey the mandate of the politicians. They enlisted blacks into their units with the simple question, ‘Will you fight?’”

Frederick Douglass/Horace Greeley/General Forrest Accounts

From <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/>, “Black Confederates”—“During our war of 1861, ex-slave Frederick Douglass observed, ‘There are at the present moment, many colored men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants and laborers, but as real soldiers, having muskets on their shoulders and bullets in their pockets ready to shoot down...and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal government.’” Also reported by this source: “Horace Greeley, in pointing out some differences between the two warring armies said, ‘For more than two years, Negroes have been extensively employed in belligerent operations by the Confederacy. They have been embodied and drilled as rebel soldiers and had paraded with white troops at a time when this would not have been tolerated in the armies of the Union.’ General Nathan Bedford Forrest had both slaves and freeman serving in units under his command. After the war, General Forrest said of the black men who served under him ‘(T)hese [sic] boys stayed with me...and better Confederates did not live.’”