

## THE IMPACT OF THE CIVIL WAR ON HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

By

Wendy Richter

The small village of Hot Springs nestled in the Ouachita Mountains was desolate and almost totally destroyed during the course of the Civil War. For the few citizens who remained in the area throughout the conflict, fear and apprehension reigned as the major factors in their lives. Following the war, Hot Springs experienced a population boom as well as a great deal of demographic change. The population blossomed as citizens returned to their homes and many new settlers appeared. This settlement was heavily weighted with males of military age, many of whom were born outside of the Confederacy, and many of whom were introduced to the Hot Springs area as a result of their participation in the war. While the war brought almost total destruction and desertion for Hot Springs, in the long run it had positive effects for the town, beginning its development as a health resort known world-wide today.

With the passing of the Louisiana Territory into the hands of the United States in 1803, greater numbers of American citizens began to move west of the Mississippi, but there were few settlers near the springs. By the late 1820s and early 1830s the hot springs had been recognized in various newspapers and journals as being useful for those suffering from rheumatism and paralytic afflictions. Even with this recognition, progress was slow. According to the 1830 census, there were only fifteen heads-of-household and a total of eighty-four persons living in Hot Springs Township of Hot Spring County.<sup>1</sup>

The town was still small by 1860, its population reaching only 201.<sup>2</sup> At this time, there were two main hotels, the Hale House and the Rector House, and a number of smaller boarding places that took care of visitors. There were seven bathhouses and some smaller pavilions on the east side of Hot Springs Creek, each having a narrow bridge extending across the stream.<sup>3</sup> Several doctors practiced in the town, including Dr. J. C. Grafton, who had come in September 1859, and Dr. George Washington Lawrence who arrived in October of that same year.<sup>4</sup> All of these buildings, along with the homes of local residents, were scattered at random along Hot Springs Creek and hillsides surrounding it.<sup>5</sup>

Throughout the entire antebellum period two problems plagued the small town resulting in slow growth and development. Travel to the area was extremely difficult because of the mountains surrounding it. An 1857 visitor from Indiana encountered these difficulties.

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From Little Rock to Hot Springs, the distance is about 60 miles, and has to be traveled in the old-fashioned stage coach over a broken mountainous country. ... You may form an opinion of the comfort we enjoyed on the way when I tell you that twice we came near upsetting, broke down once absolutely, and had sundry other mishaps. ... A ride of 15 hours brought us to the springs.<sup>6</sup>

The other problem was a dispute involving the land surrounding the springs. While several different residents held claim to the area, Congress passed a bill in 1832 reserving four sections of land, with the springs in the middle for future use by the United States Government. Although citizens held prior claims, this reservation supposedly wiped out the possibility of private ownership of land within a mile of the springs. While the government did not do anything toward enforcing this, the land dispute was viewed as a drawback to the area. With the true ownership of land in question, developments and improvements of facilities was slow to take place. N. P. Woods, assistant marshall, explained the situation in 1850:

the Hot Springs are in our midst. They are celebrated from Vermont to Texas for the cure of all kinds of rheumatism and syphilitic complaints and if the Title was settled there would be great improvements made so that more people could be accommodated, which would be a general benefit.<sup>7</sup>

A letter written by Anthony Penney Rodney of Mississippi, an 1852 visitor to Hot Springs, described the town, commenting on its temporary nature. "The Hot Springs somewhat resemble a C.(amp) meeting. The houses are situated about the same & are all little frame or log cabins, situated in a valley between two mountains."<sup>8</sup> Even geologist David Dale Owen, whose purpose in visiting the springs in 1858 was to analyze the waters, mentioned the problem. "In consequence of the ownership of the Hot Springs being still undecided in law, everything about the baths, Hotels and boarding-houses is of the most temporary character."<sup>9</sup>

The primitive and temporary nature of the town made Hot Springs similar to the wild and woolly frontier towns of the Old West. Rodney, in his 1852 letter, mentioned some of the excitement: "The people are still coming in from every quarter & we are now crowded. ... Besides there are many Gamblers and Thieves among them, on arrival here."<sup>10</sup> Another visitor illustrated very well some of the wilder aspects of antebellum Hot Springs.

and here are to be found people from all parts of the country, and all sorts of ills to which flesh is heir to are well represented. There are also hunderds of

persons here afflicted in no way except in lack of the proper sort of brains, but who come to gamble, to drink brandy and to do murder. The day we got here a man was shot, though not dangerously. Nothing was done with either of the parties. ...<sup>11</sup>

While early visitors took home tales of gambling, violence, and poor travelling conditions, they also told of the values of the healing thermal waters. On the eve of the Civil War, the Arkansas Gazette described the resulting success being enjoyed by Hot Springs: "The crowd is greater than ever before, the hotels and boarding houses here and in the surrounding country are full."<sup>12</sup>

The Civil War disrupted the small community in new ways. When the war broke out, the men of Hot Springs and surrounding areas flocked to Hot Springs and Rockport (then the county seat of Hot Spring County), organized companies, and moved to Little Rock to sign up in the Confederate forces.<sup>13</sup> On their way to Little Rock from Hot Springs, the men gathered on the banks of Ten Mile Creek, training for two weeks. Most became a part of the Third Arkansas Cavalry.<sup>14</sup> Some northern Hot Spring County residents enrolled at Mount Ida, in Montgomery County, in July 1861. That organization was mustered into Confederate service in Missouri.<sup>15</sup> Of the hundred men who left Mount Ida with this company, only twelve or fourteen would ever return. Of the area men who joined, the largest portion were farmers. However, among their ranks were mechanics, builders, tradesmen, blacksmiths, and a stagecoach owner. Men came from everywhere and all walks of life--the hills, the farms, the cities.<sup>16</sup>

The memoirs of Captain John Lavender of Mount Ida's Company F illustrate the response, spirit, and make-up of the area's companies:

A merchant by the name of John M. Simpson at Mt. Ida said to me lets make up a Company and go to the war. I was a willing second to the Proposition.... So we began to talk and agitate the matter and soon called a meeting and got up quite an Excitement and set a time on the 4 of July which was but a few days off to call for Volunteers. ... So we met on the 4th and Succeeded in getting almost a full Company Enlisted.<sup>17</sup>

After enlisting, the company prepared to go to war. Lavender described their supplies as consisting of "made Bed Quilts, Pots, Skillets, Coffee Pots - Pans & our Transportation was Two (wagons) Drawn by a large yoke of oxen to each wagon."<sup>18</sup> The make-up of the Mount Ida Company was consistent with that of the area as a whole, and reflected the lack of

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military experience typical of most such organizations. They were "hardy stout determined men nearly all Farmers and used to a Frontier rifle though not a man in the Company knew anything about Military tactics."<sup>19</sup>

Contributions from citizens played an important role in the beginning of these companies, and the citizens who made contributions recognized the seriousness of the state's commitment to the Confederate cause. Hot Springs resident Hiram Whittington promised to give the Hot Springs Cavalry Company one hundred dollars, and asked his friend William E. Woodruff of Little Rock for the money. In his letter, Whittington testified to his commitment:

All that are able to fight should go to the war, and all that are able should give freely for the support of the Government. We must wear out old clothes and use the most rigid economy--make everything we possibly can--and buy nothing we can possibly do without--and let the soldiers and the Government have every spare dollar.<sup>20</sup>

Mount Ida's Company F also received support from the citizens of their area, and Captain Lavender confirmed this. He stated that "The People contributed Provisions Enouf (for) the Company to Fort Smith where we would (get) Government Rations."<sup>21</sup>

As the Civil War grew more intense and began to move westward, Arkansas was placed in a precarious position, bringing about a change in the location of the center of state government. In the spring of 1862 the Union army, headed by General Samuel Curtis, invaded the northern part of the state and occupied Batesville, less than one hundred miles from Little Rock. Governor Henry Rector feared that these Federal troops were planning an attempt to seize Little Rock, and decided to move the capital of the state to Hot Springs. Not waiting for authority from the legislature, he ordered the most important state records loaded onto a steamboat on the Arkansas River. The Arkansas Gazette described the movement of these records to Hot Springs:

At Dardanelle the records and archives of various offices were taken off and, after much difficulty, a train of wagons was procured, in which the boxes, weighing in all some fifteen or eithteen thousand pounds, were sent over the mountains. Hastily packed, in rough boxes, and carried in wagons without covers. ...<sup>22</sup>

The movement of the government to Hot Springs was the highlight of Hot Springs' role in the Civil War. The temporary capital was set up on property owned by Governor Rector in a two-story home on the site of the present day park opposite

the Arlington Hotel. Some of the state records were stored in a log kitchen which was separate from the house itself.<sup>23</sup> Movement of the capital drew criticism, particularly from Little Rock's True Democrat:

We would be glad if some patriotic gentleman would relieve us the anxiety of the public by informing it of the locality of the state government. The last that was heard of it here was aboard the steamer "Little Rock" about two weeks ago, stemming the current of the Arkansas River.<sup>24</sup>

In the latter part of July, when the danger to Little Rock had passed, the governor and his officers, along with the state's papers, returned to their proper locations.

Hot Springs was never occupied by either Union or Confederate troops during the war, but both sides were almost constantly present in and around the area by the end of 1863. Skirmishing took place and numerous scouting parties were sent out by both sides. While the official records do not give much significance to the disturbances in the area from 1863 to 1865, there was substantial activity taking place. Officially recognized activity in the surrounding countryside included events at Arkadelphia, Benton, Benton Road, Caddo Gap, Caddo Mill, Cedar Glades, Little Rock, Mountain Fork, Mount Ida, Rockport, Scott's Farm, as well as assorted operations in central Arkansas.<sup>25</sup>

Activities involving the regular armies in the Hot Springs vicinity after the fall of Little Rock included several skirmishes. When the Federal army occupied Little Rock in September 1863, the forces of General Sterling Price, the Confederate commander, moved back by way of Hot Springs. Frederick Steele, commanding the Union forces in Little Rock, reported that "General Cabell, with about 4,000 troops from Fort Smith, had joined Price on his retreat. . . ."<sup>26</sup> A member of Cabell's Brigade, Charles T. Anderson, reminisced several years later about what took place in Hot Springs at that time.

After the Yanks occupied Little Rock, our books and papers of the different departments of state were carried to Hot Springs. The Yanks and Jayhawkers got into Hot Springs and were destroying everything. Our regiment was ordered to the Springs to get what books and papers we could find. We went by way of Caddo Gap through the mountains and arrived at the Springs late one evening. We gathered up what papers we could find, and traveled all night with the Yanks after us. We brought the papers to Washington.<sup>27</sup>



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In late October 1863 Lieutenant Colonel H. C. Caldwell left Benton for Mount Ida and Caddo Gap via Hot Springs and Murfreesboro.<sup>28</sup> A five-day battle was fought at Caddo Gap in November, and skirmishes continued in and around that area during early December.<sup>29</sup> Upon leaving Mount Ida, Caldwell marched back to Benton. Ten miles east of Cedar Glades his advance guard encountered a small band of Confederates and charged them. Two Confederates were killed and twenty horses captured, as well as twenty small arms.<sup>30</sup> This occurred on what was then the main road from Fort Smith to Little Rock. The road came through Cedar Glades (now under Lake Ouachita) and Burnt Grocery (near Jessieville) and by-passed Hot Springs. Also in late 1863, General Sterling Price ordered Confederate soldiers to Rockport to hold the line along the Ouachita River. Their camp was on the west side of town.<sup>31</sup> In January 1864, a Union patrol was sent to Hot Springs from Little Rock. Union soldier Wade Beach was a member of that patrol.

My first visit was in January, following the (David O.) Dodd execution. It was cold, I tell you. There were just a few ram-shackle places, and a stream of water with steam and vapor rising from it, and ran down what is now Central Avenue. All of the hot springs were exposed. We arrested everyone we found and those who would not take the oath of allegiance we sent to the penitentiary in Little Rock. ...<sup>32</sup>

Also, there was an engagement north of Chalybeate Springs, where a group of Union soldiers had camped. A cemetery there includes several unmarked tombstones belonging to those killed in the small skirmish.<sup>33</sup>

Worse though than regular army activity for citizens in the area was the presence of lawless bands of men who joined neither army, but roamed the area robbing, burning, and even murdering. These bushwhackers and Jayhawkers plunged what had been a normal society into one of fear and conflict. The irregular forces killed each other and harrassed the civil population miles behind the recognized battlefronts. "Vicious guerrilla activity directed against the civil population created such fear and disorganization that in many areas normal society collapsed entirely."<sup>34</sup> In fact, this is what happened in Hot Springs. The overwhelming fears of bushwhackers and Jayhawkers, and regular army activities brought about the desertion that took place in the town by the fall of 1863.

Only a few persons remained in Hot Springs throughout the course of the war. Among those were Mrs. Hammond, the widow of Dr. William Hammond, and their daughters. The home was where the DeSoto Hotel stands today. Louise Burnham, sister-in-law of Hiram Whittington, conducted school so the younger generation in town would not lack for an education during the war.<sup>35</sup> Others who stayed were Lawson Runyon and Mrs. William Chase. Louisa "Grandma" Chase sat on her front porch, shot-gun

across her lap, and defied all who threatened to come near. Her home was located in the vicinity of the Majestic Hotel, at the Park-Whittington-Central Avenue junction.<sup>36</sup> Many sources have also placed Anson J. Sabin in Hot Springs throughout the war. But, George Hunnicutt of Alum in Saline County, a veteran of Hot Springs' Company F, later recalled "Anson Sabine" as being a part of their outfit.<sup>37</sup> A Hiram Whittington letter also described Sabin as being "the orderly" of Jester's company" that left Hot Springs on July 11, 1861.<sup>38</sup>

Like Sabin, many area men who had served in the army returned home only to die at the hands of bushwhackers or Jayhawkers. To the south of Hot Springs, Jessie Moore came home for a short stay with his family. In the early morning hours he was kidnapped by bushwhackers. They murdered him, dug a hole, buried the body in it, then rode horses over it. His wife, two of his sons, and a neighbor went to the area in an ox wagon to recover the body. Later he was buried in Burnett Cemetery, June 11, 1863.<sup>40</sup> In the northern part of the county, John D. Ritter was killed by bushwhackers on Little Blakely Creek.<sup>41</sup> Also, near Blakely Creek, Moses Gray, Sr. was hanged and killed. Three Confederate soldiers were killed near Oakwood. Three men were also killed on North Fork: William Caldwell, only sixteen, helped bury them. Two members of the Dozier family of Mountain Township were killed. During this time, George Blocker, a Union officer, returned home to visit his family. At the same time, his half-brother, William Gray came home on leave from the Confederate army. Blocker was busy making a pair of shoes and Gray was outside in the yard when he saw a band of Jayhawkers approaching. The two dashed to the woods in hopes of standing them off and drawing the fire away from the rest of the family. In running across the open field, Blocker was hit in the leg and called to Gray for assistance. Gray came to his aid, but was fatally shot. As the Jayhawkers closed in, Blocker drew his sword and attempted to fight. They hacked and cut Blocker about the head. After killing him, they took his boots and threw his body into a creek. All of this was witnessed by Blocker's wife, children, mother, and some neighbor women who were staying in the house at the time. A double walnut casket was constructed. The brothers, one in blue, and the other in gray, were placed side by side in the casket and buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, near Mountain Valley.<sup>42</sup>

In addition to protecting their lives, citizens were forced to protect their possessions from the marauders. Women often banded together, three or four families staying together in the same house for protection. Hiding food in logs, caves, and other assorted shelters to save them from being taken was a common practice. Tink Blocker once even masqueraded as a girl so he could be taken to Little Rock, yet kept out of the hands of the outlaws.<sup>43</sup> William Blocker served in the Union army and was imprisoned in Little Rock by Confederate forces. His wife worked the farm and cared for the children and an invalid mother. In order to keep their blankets



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from being stolen, they hid them by having the invalid mother sit on them.<sup>44</sup> The Riley family of Blue Mountain, north of Hot Springs, cordially received both the blue and the gray at their home. However, caves were opened on the slopes of Blue Mountain to be used as vaults for storing food and valuables and to also serve as a hide-out for the family when the Jayhawkers were roaming the countryside.<sup>45</sup> One of the young Hammonds who remained in Hot Springs during the war, Fanny Hammond Blocker, later told of some of her experiences. After almost everyone had left town, her mother gathered up chickens from throughout the city and allowed them to run loose around their home. The chickens could be caught for eating by family members by putting out chicken feed, then waiting for the birds to come to feed. However, hungry, impatient Yankees or unfriendly irregulars were unable to catch the frightened birds running up the steep mountain behind their house. This clever, protective action allowed the family to maintain a supply of meat throughout the war. To the south, on Watermelon Island in the Ouachita River, over one hundred bales of cotton, great quantities of corn, cured meat, and other supplies were burned to keep these items out of the wrong hands. The women of the island, however, hid the choice hams and silverware in the loft of the house. The island suffered a great deal from fire and plunder carried out by Union troops.<sup>46</sup> East of Hot Springs, a member of the Tate family often stood all day by the well drawing water to fill canteens for soldiers. This same woman once walked eighteen miles to help bury some friends that had been killed by Jayhawkers.<sup>47</sup> In Marble Township, a company of soldiers camped near the Talley home. They stole the family mule from the stable after nightfall and took it to their camp. Asa Talley's father visited the camp the next day, found the mule in their possession, and asked for it to be returned to him. The captain declined but agreed to give Talley an old crippled horse.<sup>48</sup> Soldiers were also leery of irregulars as evidenced by the journal of Montgomery Owen Campbell, a Hot Spring County resident, who was a veteran of both armies. Campbell stated: "While we were lying out in the woods, some men from Texas who were deserting the Confederate Army and on their way home from Missouri came on us scaring us badly until we found that they were not bushwhackers."<sup>49</sup> Nancy Brown lived to the east of the city with an aunt during the war. Bushwhackers burned their home and everything they owned except two homespun dresses. The irregulars tortured her aunt by burning her feet. They took a small boy to the river where they made him believe they would drown him. About this time a small skirmish took place near the old Saline bridge and several Confederates were left wounded or dead. Nancy went to the scene, drove off marauding hogs, gave assistance to the wounded, and supplied them with food and drink.<sup>50</sup> While some of these occurrences have been recalled by family members of those involved, and many of the details are undocumented, their importance must not be underestimated. The fact that these



stories have survived through generations illustrates the tremendous impact the events of the war had on the people of the time. Fear and apprehension were the overriding factors that caused citizens to leave their Hot Springs homes for safer locations.

If the previously-mentioned problems were not enough to cause residents to leave the area, other difficulties also existed. Scarcity of food and clothing were crucial problems, as they are in any war region. Some aspects of this have already been described, such as the deceptive practices used to hide food and clothing. As early as 1862 "the civilian population was feeling the scarcity of clothing."<sup>51</sup> Hiram Whittington mentioned the food problem in several letters to William Woodruff of Little Rock. In October 1862 he asked Woodruff for salt: "I am entirely out of salt. ... I have some hogs up in the pen and have no corn to feed them (and I cannot get any). ..."<sup>52</sup> In December 1862 he reported that "Some people in this neighborhood will nearly starve this winter. There is no corn to be had nearer than the Arkansas River."<sup>53</sup> In March 1863, even though he felt the wheat crop in the field would be a good one, Whittington told Woodruff that "Everything to eat is very scarce out here."<sup>54</sup> By the end of 1864, the area around the Ouachita River was "practically stripped of supplies" and the armies were forced "to construct depots and bring in provisions."<sup>55</sup>

At the conclusion of the war, the entire South was devastated and impoverished, and the most "immediate problem during the summer of 1865 was to make some kind of a crop and get a roof over the family's head. ..." For most towns, including Hot Springs, the first need was to rebuild.<sup>56</sup> The full destructive effort of the war had fallen upon the lands and homes of Hot Springs. Economically, the people of the town had to start all over again. During the war the buildings of the village were nearly all consumed by fire. All that remained were the Akin house, the Gaines cottage, and residences belonging to Hiram Whittington and J. W. Parker. As many of the former residents returned from Texas and Louisiana, they immediately went to work to rebuild their lives. Jacob Kempner, George Belding, and M. C. O'Brien were among the first to reopen their businesses. John Hale opened the first bathhouse. Akins and Stidham opened a hotel and bathhouse, and former governor Henry Rector also began a bathhouse. William and John Sumpter built a small house and began to keep boarders.<sup>57</sup> Hiram Whittington had rooms for rent and Dr. Lawrence resumed his medical practice.<sup>58</sup> Soon thereafter, immigrants from the North and East began to settle, and visitors from all parts of the country came once again to drink and bathe in the waters.

Despite the devastation and desolation Hot Spring had experienced, the war had, in the long run, positive effects

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on the town. During the course of the war, the area was exposed to many soldiers from both the North and South and many viewed it as an excellent place to settle. As a result, there was almost an instant influx of settlers following the Civil War.<sup>59</sup> One of these settlers was Angus D. Littler, a Union army sergeant from Ohio who was at Little Rock at the end of the war. He moved to Hot Springs and operated a general store and bathhouse.<sup>60</sup> Joe Ross of Alabama served in the Confederate forces. During his tour of duty, he visited and fell in love with the valley of the Glazier Peau Creek area and vowed to return. Following the war, he married and brought his new bride, widowed mother, and younger brothers and sisters to Arkansas in early 1867. He built their first home on the west bank of Glazier Peau Creek.<sup>61</sup> Captain Charles Birnbaum visited the area while serving in the Union army, and decided he would someday return to make his home there. He did eventually settle in Hot Springs.<sup>62</sup> Dr. Prosper Ellsworth, who would later become one of Hot Springs' leading citizens, was so impressed with the resources of the area that he too decided he would return after the war. He first moved to Pine Bluff, then to Hot Springs in 1866.<sup>63</sup>

These men are representative of the many who came to Hot Springs to settle following the war. The fact that the war increased exposure to the town is attested to by the Reverend William J. Miller, writing in the 1880s about Hot Springs in 1866: "During this year the place was more populous, many people having come to the springs after the war, among whom were many Northerners. In fact, it was the war that first introduced Hot Springs to the notice of the general public."<sup>64</sup>

The Arkansas Gazette reported August 5, 1865, that "A great many visitors, all things considered, are going to the Hot Springs. Next season, when the accommodations shall be increased, they will have a greater number out there."<sup>65</sup> One of those who visited the town after the war was Lugania Hicks, just a young girl at the time. She described Hot Spring as having only two stores and being "practically a wilderness." Hicks added that "most of the inhabitants had fled to Texas during the Civil War and had not as yet returned to start rebuilding the town."<sup>66</sup> By the middle of 1866 advertisements could be found in area newspapers concerning transportation to Hot Springs.<sup>67</sup>

As for the 1867 season, the May 14 Arkansas Gazette described what was happening.

The season at Hot Springs this year promises to be a good one. The number of visitors there at present is about two hundred and fifty; and every day brings accessions to it. The travel through our city to this famous watering place is quite heavy. On day before yesterday, as many as thirty-eight persons passed

through our city on their route thither. The travel overtakes the regular tri-weekly stage line, and employs a large number of extras. ... 68

A letter from a May 1867 visitor attests to the ambitious rebuilding effort taking place. "No less than sixty thousand dollars have been expended by parties in the erection of these various and indispensable establishments, since the surrender, which impact to the village a newness and neatness of appearance I do not remember that it possessed before the war."<sup>69</sup> An August Arkansas Gazette reported that "The daily stage to this famous resort is crowded with passengers both ways. ..." <sup>70</sup>

While improvements were being made, the lands surrounding the springs remained in dispute and continued to hinder development. Many of the new buildings were only of a temporary nature. Reflecting this, the town was described in this way in 1868:

The village of Hot Springs--as the long string of wooden buildings extending up and down the valley for more than a half mile, may be called--is much altered in appearance from what it was before the war. Though not yet aspiring to the dignity of an incorporated city, its few buildings accidentally spared by the flames have swelled their number until but little vacant space is left in the valley.<sup>71</sup>

Along with the new growth and development came a great deal of demographic change, and the changes that took place were apparently rooted in the Civil War. Between 1860 and 1870 the population of the state as a whole increased by just over 11 percent. In contrast, the population of Hot Springs Township grew from 702 residents in 1860 to 1,604 in 1870, an increase of almost 230 percent. Within Hot Springs itself however, an even more dramatic change took place during the decade. The population of the city blossomed from 201 to 1,276.<sup>72</sup> In determining the impact of exposure on the later settlement of Hot Springs, the critical portion of the age distribution is that part of the population which might have visited the area during the Civil War, or the males of military age. Census records show that 527 males of military age, age eighteen through forty-five, resided in Hot Springs Township in 1870.<sup>73</sup> This age represents 33 percent of the total population. In 1860, 131 of the total population belonged to this group, comprising only 23 percent of the population as a whole.<sup>74</sup> The population boom was led by men of military age, suggesting that their exposure to the area during the Civil War played an important role in the growth that took place by 1870. The significance of this can also be seen in the difference between Hot Springs Township and the state as a whole. Arkansas's entire population numbered 484,471 in



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1870, and the state's military-aged males totaled 94,873, just under 20 percent of the total, or one of every five persons.<sup>75</sup> However, Hot Springs Township's population was much more heavily weighted with persons in this age group. Thirty-three percent, or one in every three persons, was a male between eighteen and forty-five years of age.

Also indicative of the unique changes that took place was the increase in the number of citizens not born in states within the Confederacy. In 1870, 372 Hot Springs Township residents were born outside the Confederacy, including foreign-born.<sup>76</sup> This number represents a 361 percent increase over the 103 present in 1860.<sup>77</sup> Upon an even closer examination of this group, an increase also took place in the percentage of males of military age that were not born in the South. These men expanded their numbers from 47 in 1860 to 184 in 1870, or 389 percent.<sup>78</sup> Again, the exposure to a large variety of men during the Civil War from both the North and South appears to have played an important role in later settlement of the area.

Prior to the Civil War, Hot Springs was a small, slowly-growing village amidst the wilderness of the Ouachita Mountains. Travel to it was difficult and its land was in dispute. During the war it was virtually deserted and almost totally destroyed. For those who did remain, times were hard and fear played an important role in their daily lives. When the war was finally over, many returned to their former homes, while many new, additional settlers appeared on the scene. This resettlement was led by males of military age, and there were also large increases in the number of those born outside of the Confederacy. These people immediately began to build and rebuild with a new vigor. This resulted in improvements in facilities, which in turn further enticed visitors to come to Hot Springs. Much of the large increase in population by 1870 and renewed interest in the area leading to its reputation as a world-renowned health resort must be attributed to the great deal of exposure received by the area during the Civil War.

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1. Manuscript Census Returns, Fifth Census of the United States, 1830, Clark County, Arkansas, Population Schedule, National Archives Microfilm, Roll 5, pp.159-60. All manuscript census returns were seen at the Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock. Hot Spring County was created November 2, 1829, by an "Act for the division of Clark County." The village of Hot Springs was a part of Hot Spring County until Garland County was created in 1873, whereupon it became the county seat of Garland. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas (Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis: Goodspeed Publishing Co. 1889), 323, 526-27; cited hereinafter as Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski. ...
2. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Vol. I: The Statistics of the Population of the United States (Washington, D.C. 1872), Table III, p. 85; cited hereinafter as Ninth Census 1870: Population.
3. Francis J. Scully, Hot Springs, Arkansas and Hot Springs National Park (Little Rock, 1966), 36.
4. Ibid., 45.
5. Ibid., 47.
6. James Burgess to Danville (Ind.) Butcher Knife, June 20, 1857, in Hot Springs (Ark.) Sentinel-Record, July 5, 1959.
7. Manuscript Census Returns, Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Arkansas, Schedule 3, Mortality Schedules, p. 355.
8. Anthony Penney Rodney to Mrs. Rodney, July 2, 1852, personal collection of Mrs. Fred Jueuneman, great-granddaughter, in Bobbie Jones McLane, "Hot Springs, Arkansas of 1852," Garland County Historical Society Record, I, No. 6 (1965), 52, cited hereinafter as GCHS Record.
9. David Dale Owen to Robert Peter, May 29, 1858, in Walter B. Hendrickson, "David Dale Owen Visits the Hot Springs," Arkansas Historical Quarterly, I (June 1942), 144.
10. Anthony Penney Rodney to Mrs. Rodney, July 15, 1852, in McLane, "Hot Springs, Arkansas of 1852," 56.
11. Burgess to Butcher Knife, June 20, 1857 in Sentinel-Record, July 5, 1959.
12. Little Rock Arkansas Gazette, June 18, 1859.
13. Bonnie Stanley, ed., "The History of Hot Spring County," Hot Spring County Historical Society Heritage, VI (1977), 3; cited hereinafter as HSCHS Heritage.
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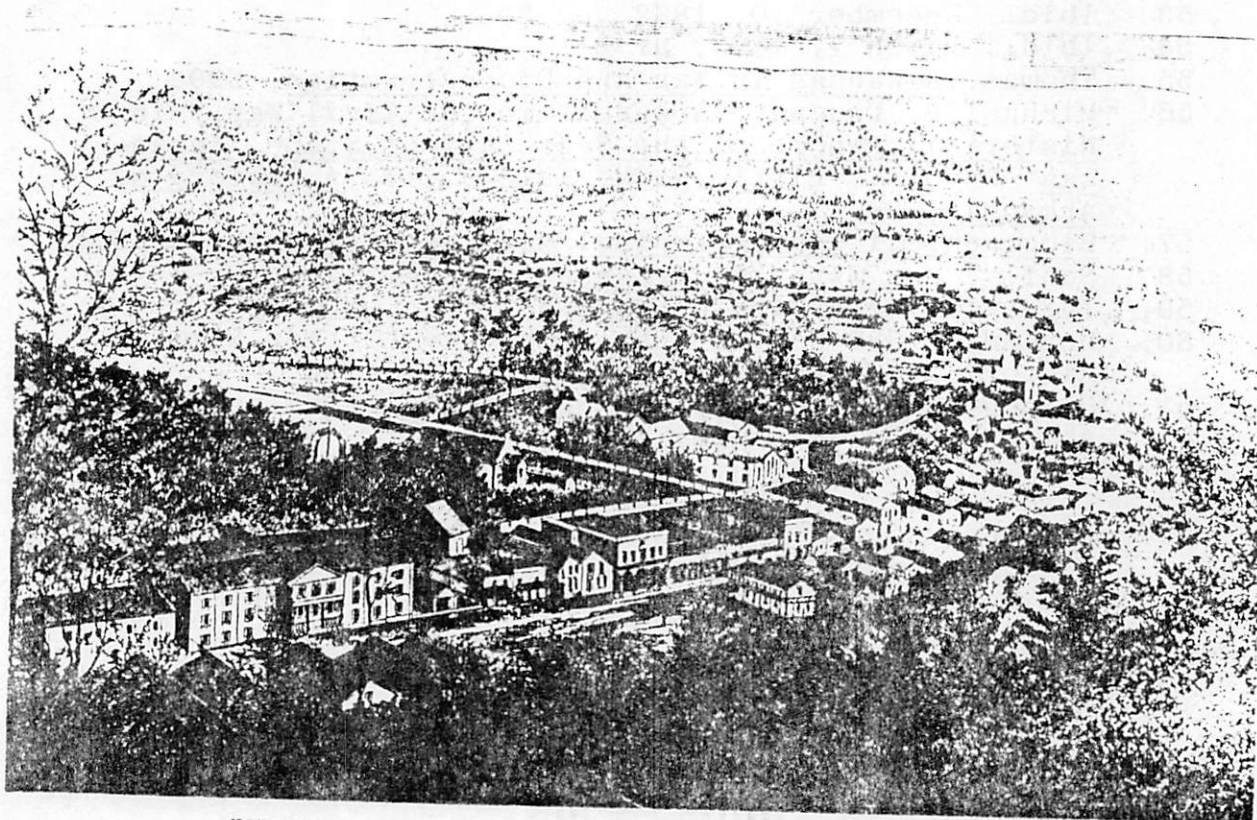
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HOT SPRINGS FROM WEST MOUNTAIN, [LOOKING SOUTH-EAST.] From Photograph by Kennedy.

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