The Civil War divided Missouri, but in Callaway County most soldiers served with the pro-Southern Missouri State Guard (MSG), the Confederate Army or irregular partisans. The MSG was a state-sanctioned force, organized in May 1861 to defend Missouri against potential aggressive action by Union military authorities in St. Louis. This followed President Lincoln's order for volunteers after the firing on Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

Callaway County quickly raised several companies for the MSG. First were the Callaway Guards, led by Capt. Daniel H. McIntyre, a Westminster College senior. They and other local companies fought under General Sterling Price in 1861 battles at Carthage, Wilson's Creek (Oak Hills) and Lexington.

Beginning in June 1861, Union troops advancing from St. Louis elsewhere forced Missouri Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson and his administration into southwest Missouri. There, in October 1861, a remnant of the elected legislature declared Missouri seceded. Missouri soon began enrolling Confederate troops, and was represented in both the Union and Confederate Congresses.

Many MSG soldiers entered some accepted amnesty from the Union and returned home; others retained their MSG status. After the March 1862 Confederate defeat at Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern), Ark., new Confederate General Price led thousands of his troops to fight east of the Mississippi. Many, including Callaway County men in the 1st Missouri Cavalry (Dismounted) and 2nd Missouri Infantry Regiments, served in the hard-fighting “Missouri Brigade” under General Francis M. Cockrell (a five-term U.S. senator from Missouri after the war). Fighting bravely in battles across the South, many never saw home again.

Other volunteers took part — for example — in cavalry raids into Missouri under generals like “Jo” Shelby or in General Price’s long, ill-fated fall 1864 expedition routing in his final defeat at Westport, Missouri.

Union men in Callaway County joined several volunteer units, like Colonel (later Brigadier General) Edon Guitier’s 9th Missouri State Militia (M.S.M.) Cavalry, whom he trained into effective, disciplined guerrilla hunters. Guitier won a decisive victory in Callaway County July 28, 1862, against Colonel Joe Porter’s rebel cavalry at Moore’s Mill (Cubwood). Some joined units of the Missouri Enrolled Militia (E.M.M.) — like the Callaway County E.M.M. — facilitated by Union Brig. Gen. John M. Schofield’s July 22, 1862, order that all able-bodied Union men enroll and report for duty. Schofield later admitted his measure also drove into the “brush” thousands avoiding service; many became Confederate soldiers or guerrillas.

At least 133 local Union soldiers were slaves who joined the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) from November 1863 onward. Some enlisted voluntarily; others were employed by Unionist slave owners who were compensated. All were emancipated, serving honorably during the war and early Reconstruction. About 10 percent died in battle; overall they suffered a very high 35 percent casualty rate from all causes.

Union Occupation of Fulton (Continued)

Horrors. Lt. Col. ArnoldGOOD's St. Louis-area German-American cavalry battalion, serving here in late 1861, was derided as "Rozell's Dutch," guilty of numerous depredations, including summary executions of William and David Green and Unionist Charles Hill, at Prairie Chapel, Sept. 4, 1862, during a Federal "search-and-destroy" mission for Confederate guerrillas.

The Union hold on Fulton was broken briefly when 180 partisan cavalry under surrendering guerrilla Capt. Alvin Cobb galloped through Fulton on Aug. 19, 1863, leaving troops and briefly deerring Union men as well as confiscating their horses. Afterward, Fulton enjoyed an unusual peace, mostly undisturbed by the sporadic violence in rural Callaway.