

0. CAMP LIFE - Story Preface

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Conrad Wise Chapman, a Confederate soldier (Ordnance Sergeant, 59th Virginia Regiment, Wise's Brigade) and artist (who lived between 1842-1910), created a series of Civil-War paintings. He collaborated with his father, John Gadsby Chapman, on some of his work. This image, maintained at the Library of Congress, depicts a chromolithograph which is based on a C.W. Chapman painting, entitled "'Confederate Camp' during the late American war." Louis Zimmer published the lithograph in London, circa 1871. The Library of Congress [describes the work](#): "Print shows encampment of Confederate soldiers, including three slaves(?)." Click on the image for an excellent view.

Civil War soldiers, from both North and South, endured more than deadly battles. Following the [fall of Ft. Sumter](#), camp life produced its own measure of difficulties as these links to American records reveal. (Exact locations, where provided by the Archives, are also identified here.)

- During the war, soldiers lived in [tents](#) while civilians in the South often lived in damaged buildings.
- [Officers' quarters](#) were usually more spacious than those of their men.
- The men could always identify the [company's kitchen](#) or the [cooks' tents](#).
- [Commissary](#) headquarters at Rocky Face Ridge, Georgia provided cooks with supplies.
- Without their wives around to help, soldiers had to [wash](#) and [dry](#) their own clothes.
- Camp sites, like the one guarding a trestle bridge at Whiteside, Virginia, were sometimes [picturesque](#).
- Soldiers, who took a break from fighting, [relaxed](#) at their camp.
- During bad weather, efforts were made to build winter [quarters](#) with "[corduroy](#)" roads.
- Many soldiers, however, had to live in [tents](#) during the winter months.
- [Officer](#) winter quarters were usually better than those of their men.
- When the army moved on, camps were often [abandoned](#).
- Sometimes wounded soldiers remained behind in [deserted camps](#).

The "top brass," for both sides, fared little better than their men (when they were in the field).

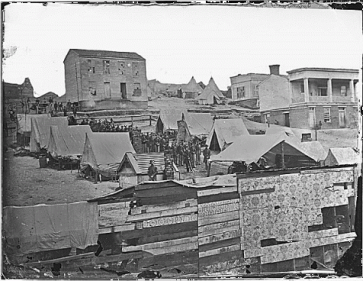
See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CAMP-LIFE-Civil-War-U.S.-Unforgettable-Sights>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/CAMP-LIFE-Civil-War-U.S.-Unforgettable-Sights>

Media Stream



Civil War Soldiers Lived in Tents

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Civil-War-Soldiers-Lived-in-Tents>



Officers' Quarters

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Officers-Quarters>



Field Kitchen

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Field-Kitchen>



Field Cooks

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Field-Cooks>



Cook Tents during the Civil War

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cook-Tents-during-the-Civil-War>



Commissary at Rocky Face Ridge, Georgia

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Commissary-at-Rocky-Face-Ridge-Georgia>



Soldiers Washing Clothes in the Field

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Soldiers-Washing-Clothes-in-the-Field>



Soldier's Hanging Laundry

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Soldier-s-Hanging-Laundry>



Guarding a Trestle Bridge at Whiteside, Virginia

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

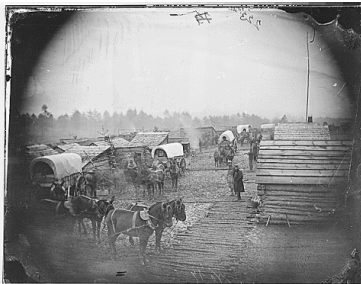
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Guarding-a-Trestle-Bridge-at-Whiteside-Virginia>



Civil War Soldiers in Camp

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Civil-War-Soldiers-in-Camp>



Civil War Soldiers Winter Quarters

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Civil-War-Soldiers-Winter-Quarters>



Civil War Tent Encampment in Winter

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Civil-War-Tent-Encampment-in-Winter>



Officer Quarters in Winter

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Officer-Quarters-in-Winter>



Abandoned Military Encampment

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Abandoned-Military-Encampment>



Wounded Soldiers in a Deserted Camp

Image, Courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Wounded-Soldiers-in-a-Deserted-Camp>



CAMP LIFE

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