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### Confederate Governor Harris Flanagin from Arkadelphia

Wendy Richter

*Arkansas State Library*

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# Confederate Governor Harris Flanagin from Arkadelphia

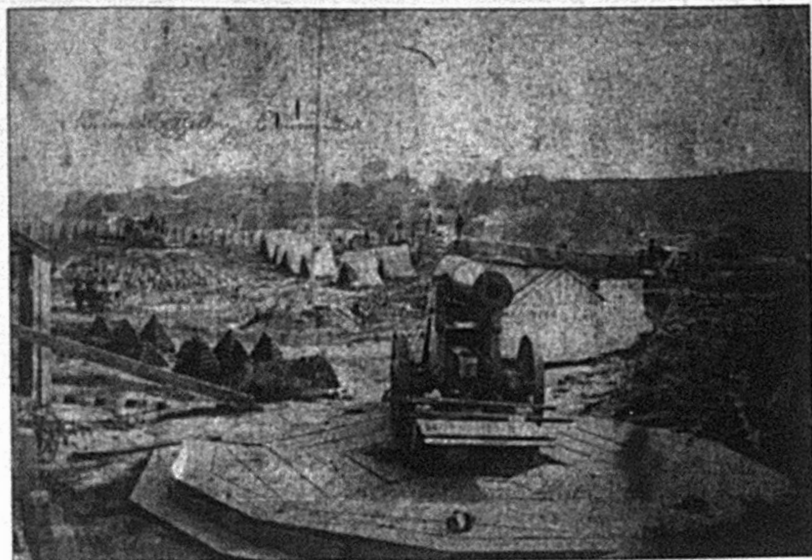


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION

This photo was taken at Helena during the Civil War. It is one of dozens of images in the "Fought in earnest" exhibit.

By Wendy Richter  
For the Siftings

Many Clark Countians may not be aware that Arkansas's "Confederate" Governor was from Arkadelphia. Attorney Harris Flanagin served from 1862 to 1865, for most of the Civil War.

When the Civil War began in 1861, a new state constitution was implemented, establishing a two-year term for the governor. This meant that an election would be held in 1862. Flanagin joined the military early in the war, serving with the Second

Regiment, Arkansas Mounted Rifles, at Wilson's Creek and Pea Ridge. In 1862, at the time of the election, he found himself still on active duty with the Confederate Army in Tennessee. Flanagin never campaigned for the office of governor, but defeated incumbent Henry Rector of Hot Springs anyway. A telegram sent to Knoxville, Tennessee, carried the news of the vote to Flanagin. Following the election, an embittered Rector resigned before his term ended. Thomas Fletcher became acting governor of Arkansas dur-

ing the early part of November 1862, until Flanagin could take office. Flanagin served until the end of the Civil War in the spring of 1865. He died in 1874 and is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Arkadelphia.

"Fought in earnest: Civil War Arkansas," a traveling exhibit chronicling major historical events in Arkansas between 1861 and 1865, will be displayed in the main floor lobby of Riley-Hickingbotham Library on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University from Sept. 21 through Oct. 13 during the library's

regular hours of operation. The exhibit includes numerous items pertaining to Harris Flanagin's service as Arkansas's governor during the tumultuous years of the Civil War.

Fought in earnest showcases images from Arkansas's State Archives, the Arkansas History Commission. Original documents, photographs, maps, drawings, paintings and artifacts illustrate the story of the Civil War in Arkansas. These primary source materials offer a first-hand look at the lives of Confederate and Union soldiers, government officials, and civilians from 1861 to 1865. In addition to the exhibit panels, numerous Civil War documents, artifacts, and books from the holdings of OBU's Archives and Special Collections will also be displayed. The public is invited to view the exhibit. For directions or further information, call 870.245.5332.

For additional information about Clark County history, visit or contact the Clark County Historical Museum at the train depot ([www.clarkcountyhistory.org](http://www.clarkcountyhistory.org) or 230-1360) or the Clark County Historical Association's Archives at the Ouachita Baptist University Library ([www.obu.edu/archives](http://www.obu.edu/archives) or 245-5332).