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### Flanagin serves on military board

Wendy Richter

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# Flanagin serves on military board



By Wendy Richter  
For the Siftings

At a critical point in the Civil War in Arkansas, major troop movements occurred in Arkansas after the United States army occupied Arkansas's capital city on September 10, 1863.

Union General Frederick Steele led the U.S. Army into Little Rock, and the Confederates withdrew to the southwest.

Governor Harris Flanagin traveled through Arkadelphia on the way to Washington (Hempstead County) where state government continued until the end of the war. Among the government entities that operated there was the Arkansas Military Board. As Governor, Arkadelphia's Harris Flanagin served on that Board.

Confederate soldiers left Little Rock and travelled along the Military Road, passing through Hot Spring and Clark counties as they

headed southwest toward Washington. One man, Captain Henry Brockman, kept a diary about his journey. Brockman served as the captain of Company K, 10th Infantry Regiment, second Missouri Brigade, also known as "Parson's Brigade." He told of the Confederates' departure from Little Rock, and how they traveled to Rockport (Hot Spring County), arriving there on September 13.

On September 14, the unit traveled another twelve miles, and the men took a swim in the Ouachita River. By September 15, Brockman and the troops had made it to "Archadelphia" and camped on the south side of the river there, "about one mile below town."

The fall of Little Rock was a major blow to the Confederates, and prompted additional action. The Military Board issued the following from Washington on October 15, 1863, affirming Governor Flanagin's response to the Union Army's advances:

"Whereas, during the necessary absence of the members of the Military Board from the capital of the State a short time prior to its occupation by the military forces of the federal government, His Excellency Gov. H. Flanagin deemed it necessary to call out a portion of the state

*Whereas during the necessary absence of the members of the Military Board from the Capital of the State a short time prior to its occupation by the military forces of the federal government His Excellency Gov. H. Flanagin deemed it necessary to call out a portion of the State Militia and accordingly on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August 1863 issued his proclamation and now calling out the militia of the Counties of Pulaski Jefferson Saline Hot Spring Clark and Dallas; and afterwards by his proclamation dated at Arkadelphia on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. 1863 called out the militia of Clark Hempstead Spring Pike Polk Montgomery Lafayette Ouachita Union and Columbia Counties and the Military Board*

Excerpt from Arkansas Military Board Records (original records are preserved by the Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock). SUBMITTED PHOTOS FOR THE SIFTINGS

militia and accordingly on the 31st day of August 1863 issued his proclamation and order calling out the militia of the counties of Pulaski, Jefferson, Saline, Hot Spring, Clark, and Dallas; and afterwards by his proclamation dated at Arkadelphia on the 16th day of Sept. 1863, called out the militia of Clark, Hemp-

stead, Sevier, Pike, Polk, Montgomery, Lafayette, Ouachita, Union, and Columbia counties and the Military Board being fully advised of the circumstances under which the calls were made and the necessity for the same, do hereby approve and confirm in all things the action of the Governor."

To learn more about Clark County history, visit or contact the Clark County Historical Museum ([www.clarkcountyhistory.org](http://www.clarkcountyhistory.org)) or (870) 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 (870) 245-5332.