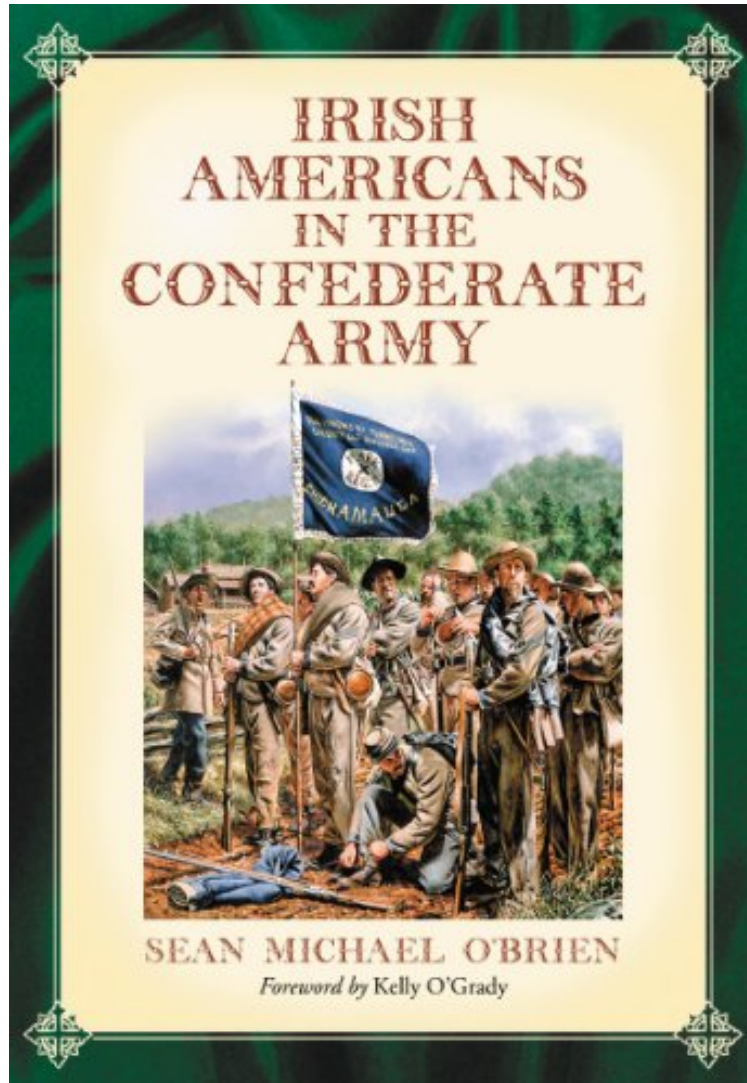


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Irish Americans in the Confederate Army

Sean Michael O'Brien

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Sean Michael O'Brien : Irish Americans in the Confederate Army before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Irish Americans in the Confederate Army:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. IRISH AMERICANS IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY By Robert A. Lynn IRISH AMERICANS IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY SEAN MICHAEL O'BRIEN MCFARLAND COMPANY, INC. PUBLISHERS, 2007 QUALITY SOFTCOVER, \$29.95, 256 PAGES, MAPS, APPENDICES, PHOTOGRAPHS, ILLUSTRATIONS, MAPS, CHAPTER NOTES, INDEX Irish immigrants settled in large numbers in the antebellum South. New Orleans, third largest city in the United States, had the largest Irish population in the Deep South, followed by Memphis, Tennessee; there were also sizeable Irish communities in Charleston, Richmond,

Savannah, and Mobile. The Irish were the largest single immigrant group in the South, and an estimated 40,000 served in the Confederate armies. The Irish thought of themselves as loyal Southerners. Through determination and hard work, they had carved out a niche for themselves in Southern society; Irish Catholics were more accepted here than in the North, were active in the Democratic Party, and participated fully in political and economic life and military affairs. Many of them saw a direct parallel between the South's war of secession and the struggle of Irish nationalists against Britain. Many Irish Catholics in the South claimed that Northern abolitionists were hypocritical to condemn slavery while turning a blind eye to the treatment of Irish immigrant workers in Northern factories. More to the point, working-class Irish feared that an emancipated labor force of blacks would compete with them for the heavy work on the docks, canals, and railroads. Caught up in the euphoria of secession fever, existing Irish volunteer state militia companies quickly stepped forward to offer their services to the Confederacy, and new companies were raised. While the Union fielded entire regiments of Irish-Americans, the organization of Irish units in the South was confined mostly at the company level. They formed distinctive ethnic sub-units, which often performed skirmishing duties or protected the regimental colors. There weren't enough Irishmen in the South to organize a complete brigade like the Union's Irish Brigade but one of the most famous was the 6th Louisiana Volunteer or Louisiana Tigers. It suffered heavy losses at Port Republic as well as at Antietam and Fredericksburg. They also fought at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg in 1863 and the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House in 1864. As a result of their difficult and dedicated service, fewer than 75 of the original 1,000 members of the regiment remained in the ranks when it surrendered with Lee in Appomattox in April, 1865. Other famous Irish Confederate units served throughout the South, representing eight of the eleven Confederate states. These included the 5th and 10th Tennessee Infantry, and Irish companies in the 1st Georgia Volunteers, the 1st Virginia Infantry, the 1st South Carolina Infantry, the 8th Alabama Infantry, and the 1st Missouri Brigade. IRISH AMERICANS IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY is an original and significant contribution to the war's literature, especially to the many different ethnic groups that fought in this country's bloodiest conflict. The Irish that fought for the Union are well known but not much about the Irish that fought for the Confederacy. Author Sean Michael O'Brien's book goes a long way to correct this by introducing many of the Irish personalities and their units that haven't received the publicity they rightfully deserve. In light of the 150th Anniversary of the conflict, this book belongs on any serious student's personal library. Colonel Robert A. Lynn, Florida Guard Orlando, Florida

In 1861, Americans flooded to enlist for what all thought would be a short and glorious war. Anxious to prove their loyalty to their new homeland, thousands of Irish immigrants were among those who hurried to join the fight on both sides. While the efforts of the Union's legendary Irish Brigade are well documented, little has been said regarding the role Irish American soldiers played for the Confederacy. This comprehensive history explores the Irish contribution to the Confederate military effort throughout the four major combat theatres of the Civil War. Beginning with an overview of Irish Americans in the South, the book looks at the Irish immigrant experience and the character of the typical Irish Confederate soldier, detailing the ways in which Irish communities supported the Southern war effort. The main focus is the military actions in which Irish American soldiers were present in significant or influential numbers. With a combat death rate disproportionate to their numbers, the 40,000 Irish who served in the Confederate army played significant roles in the Army of Northern Virginia, the Army of Tennessee, the hotly disputed coastal areas and the Mississippi and Trans-Mississippi campaigns. Most major battles of the war are discussed including Manassas, Sharpsburg, Gettysburg, Shiloh, Murfreesboro and Appomattox. Appendices contain a list of various Irish commands and field commanders in the Confederate Army.

"Wonderful story...an easy read...extensive research...a treasure trove...excellent resource." --Civil War News
"Provides a blow-by-blow account of Irish participation in virtually all of the major Confederate battles...useful battle maps." --The Journal of Southern History
"An important addition to this long-neglected subject, and should be read by anyone interested in Irish or Irish-American history." --Blue Gray Magazine
About the Author
The late Sean Michael O'Brien was a retired educator and free lance writer. He lived in Eufaula, Alabama.