

### ***Brotherhood in Conflict - Freemasonry and the American Civil War***

The American Civil War, 1861-1865, proved to be the last quasi-mediaeval war and the first great conflict of modern times, and is one of the most significant events in the shaping of contemporary America.

In both North and South, Freemasons rushed to join their fellow-citizens in taking arms, and over 10% of each army were Freemasons, but this produced some strange Masonic consequences.

In one battle, a WM's army defeated that of his SW, while another general collapsed at the news that his Masonic brother and close friend – and enemy, whom he had just finished attacking - had fallen wounded.

Masonic enemies extended the hand of friendship and support to each other, often in unusual and trying circumstances.

By 1865, the whole of the United States had been altered in a way that no-one could have foreseen.