

# Tracing the Civil War

## The American Civil War along the Natchez Trace: Mississippi



### The Confederate Cemetery

#### Some Student Activities and Ideas for Teachers

A field trip to the Confederate Cemetery can very educational and worthwhile. The visit can be enhanced if the students have structured activities prepared ahead of time. Two examples are included here for consideration.

Before the trip, call the Okolona Carnegie Library (662-447-2401) or the Okolona Chamber of Commerce (662 447-5913) and ask for a copy of the list of the soldiers buried and a map of the cemetery plots. Do this a few days ahead of time to allow time for copies to be made for the students. Remind students that, while the trip should be enjoyed, cemeteries are places of dignity and should be treated with respect. Vandalism of any nature should not be tolerated and could result in prosecution. Once at the cemetery, use the map to orient students to the layout and help them understand how to find the individual gravesites.

#### **Activity 1: Make a Headstone Rubbing**

Materials needed: Several sheets of newsprint cut to poster size, large crayons, masking tape

Have the students find a headstone that is fairly clean and solid. Tape the newsprint to the headstone. Holding the crayon flat on the newsprint, gently rub the headstone in broad strokes. Gradually increase pressure until the details of the headstone are clear.

#### **Activity 2: Complete a Cemetery Scavenger Hunt**

Materials needed: A list of items to look for such as: find soldiers from as many different states as possible, soldiers from as many different units, find 3 soldiers from certain states or units.

Students could work in pairs or teams depending on the size of the class and the scope of the search.