

American Indians and the Civil War

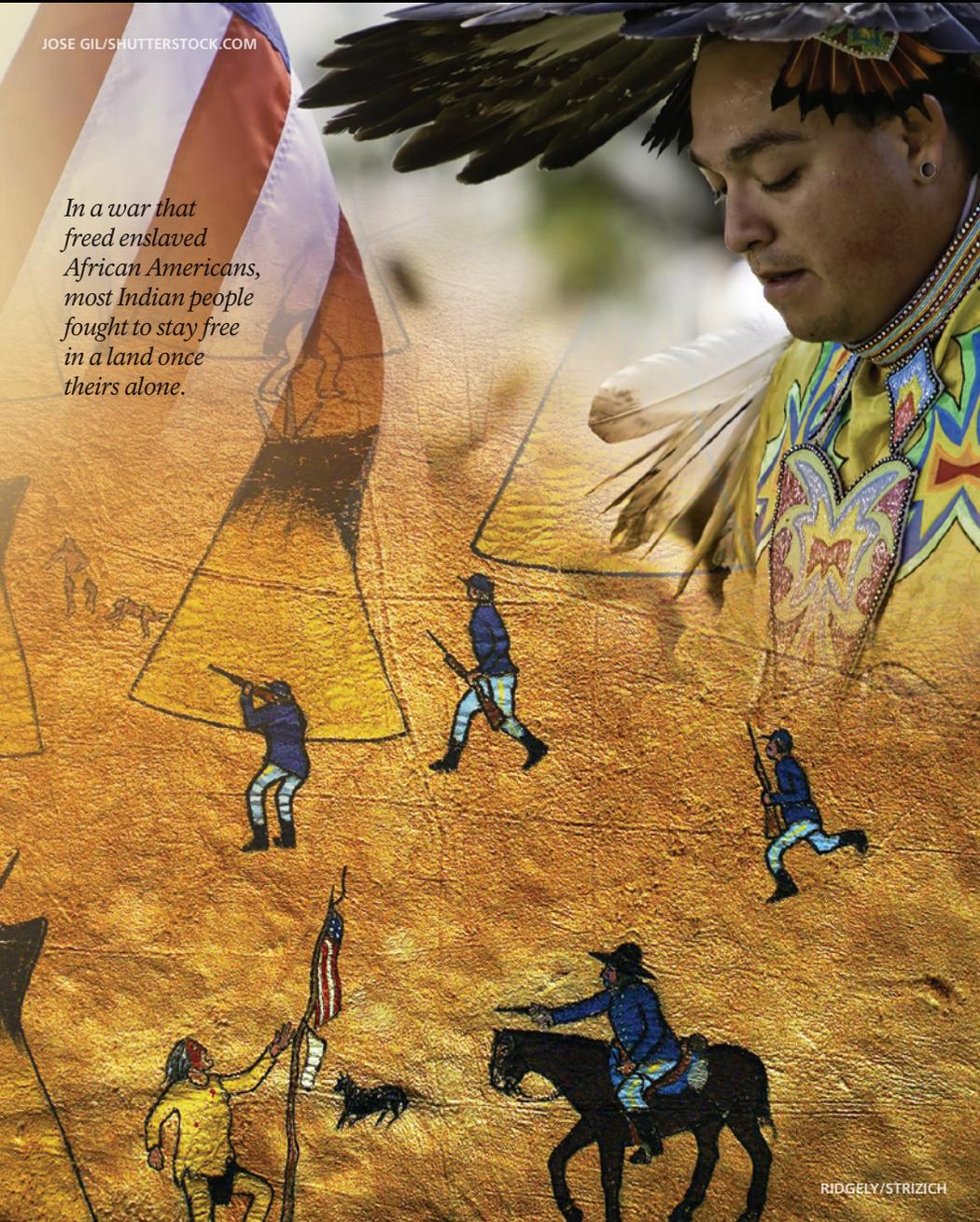


American Indians and the Civil War



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In a war that freed enslaved African Americans, most Indian people fought to stay free in a land once theirs alone.



RIDGELY/STRIZICH

More than 20,000 American Indians fought in the Civil War. Thousands of Indian civilians were swept into the conflict on their homelands.



NPS/HUBBELL TRADING POST

COURTESY, DONNA HOGERHAUS

Available this summer at www.eParks.com

New book coming soon – Summer 2013



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Places to Learn More



History is a powerful tool for the future. American Indian tribes understand the value of passing knowledge through an oral tradition and the responsibility of being present and respectful when receiving the honor of that knowledge. I am thankful that we are able to support the inclusion of tribes in the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and the documentation of tribal history through this publication.



Many people come to the United States to visit and learn about the history of this land and the people who first inhabited it. American Indians are often referenced in a historical context without relevance to the present or as part of the overall thread of the American story. It is important to note that the “American story” was not written by indigenous peoples and therefore the dominant perspective and content have not represented their voices. We learned through tribal participation in the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial that there was a whole new point of view about the Lewis and Clark story that could only be delivered by the tribes.

This publication is adding tribal voices to another chapter of American history, documenting oral tradition for generations to come while validating generations past. Through this effort we are able to understand the context and significance of tribal history to the story of America and to provide our children with a better understanding of the influences that have shaped our present. Although it is impossible to document every American Indian story of the Civil War in one small volume, I do hope this book is a catalyst to encourage people to embrace the inclusion of authentic American Indian interpretation into the context of this country’s past, present, and future.

*Edward H. Hall III, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Arikara-Hidatsa*



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The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) has generously volunteered to provide copies of this book to Tribal Colleges and Universities and Indian primary and secondary schools across America.

One of America's greatest stories is the courage and adaptive brilliance of American Indian people. For American Indians, even those who staked their hopes and dreams on serving in the Civil War, the conflict accelerated the tragic history that began with the European conquest.



*Hopi woman,
Lori Piestewa, US soldier
killed in combat,
Iraq, 2003*

NEETA LIND

*Indian woman,
imprisoned after
the US war
against the Dakota
people, 1862*

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Despite the perils of war against them, removal from their traditional homelands, and their placement on reservations, American Indians have volunteered to defend this country at one of the highest rates of all ethnic groups.

Partnering Together to Tell all Americans' Stories



National Park Service

www.nps.gov

The mission of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) is to conserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects, and the wildlife in United States' national parks, and to provide for the public's enjoyment of these features in a manner that will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.



Bureau of Indian Affairs

www.bia.gov

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' mission is to enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.



AIANTA
American Indian Alaska Native
Tourism Association

American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association

www.aianta.org

AIANTA's mission is to define, introduce, grow and sustain American Indian and Alaska Native tourism that honors and sustains tribal traditions and values.



Eastern National

www.eParks.com

Eastern National provides quality educational products and services to the visitors to America's national parks and other public trusts.



Bureau of Indian Education

www.bie.edu

BIE's mission is to provide quality education opportunities from early childhood through life in accordance with a tribe's needs for cultural and economic well-being, in keeping with the wide diversity of Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages as distinct cultural and governmental entities.