# AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
## 1861 - 1865

The southern states tired of having policy dictated by the richer northern states took the ultimate step and withdrew from the Union which resulted in the declaration of Civil War. It was the most difficult time in American history and nearly divided the nation permanently. The Union of 23 states had greater manpower and was far better equipped than the assembled confederate troops of the south, many of whom went into battle with flint-lock muskets or sabres and lances until they captured enough arms from the enemy to replace those that were inferior.

It has been estimated that over 120,000 men were killed in action during the American Civil War. A further 64,500 died from their wounds. However, the greatest danger facing soldiers during the war was not bullets but disease. It is believed that 186,000 soldiers died from a variety of illnesses during the conflict. Large numbers of troops on both sides deserted. It was also a difficult time for those on the home front with a crippled economy and all but the very basic of living conditions.

The Homesteaders are a group who travel around Country Music festivals and Charity Events showing the public how life used to be in America during the 1860s. The group live and dress as a true life reflection of the era during and just after the American Civil War.

The cabins and the covered wagon were hand built by the group and are typical of the period. The ladies spend many hours making clothes worn by the group. These are made from copies of original patterns imported from the USA. A lot of time is spent hunting for the correct items adding to the authenticity of the display.

The group were awarded the prize for '**Best Living History Display**' at the Military Odyssey 2001 show. Pay the Homesteaders a visit and take a step back in time. The group are more than happy to show you around their dwellings and talk to you about how life used to be. You will be made very welcome.