



## Civil War Slang

**Chief cook and bottle washer:** person capable of doing many things

**Sheet iron crackers:** hardtack

**Sardine box:** a cap box

**Bread basket:** stomach

**Greenbacks:** Union money

**Graybacks:** Southern soldiers

**Arkansas toothpick:** a large knife

**Pepperbox:** a type of pistol

**Fit to be tied:** angry

**Horse sense:** smart; on the ball

**Top rail:** first class; the best

**Hunkey Dorey:** feeling great!

**Greenhorn/Bugger/Skunk:** insults to a bad or inexperienced soldier

**Shoulder boards/Brass:** officers

**Snug as a bug:** comfortable, cozy

**Sawbones:** a surgeon

**Skedaddle:** run away or scatter from battle

**Hornets:** bullets in flight

**Bully:** brave or worth cheering for

**Possum:** a buddy or pal

**Blowhard:** a big shot; someone who brags a lot

**Fit as a fiddle:** in good shape; healthy

**Uppity:** conceited

**Scarce as hen's teeth:** rare

**Grab a root:** have dinner/eat a potato

**Tight/Wallpapered:** drunk

**Bark juice/Tar water/Nokum stiff/Joy juice:** nicknames for liquor, usually whiskey

**Hard case:** a tough or mean person

**Bluff:** a cheater

**Jailbird:** criminal

**Hard knocks:** beaten up

**Been through the mill:** experienced a lot, or had a rough day

**Played out:** exhausted or worn out

**Toeing the mark:** doing the job

**Jonah:** a man who is bad luck

**Goobers:** peanuts

**Sunday soldiers/Kid glove boys/Parlor soldiers:** insults intended for other soldiers

**Fresh fish:** raw recruits or new soldiers

**Whipped:** defeated; tired