



**Volume 60, No. 1
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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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President's Message

There are times when history repeats itself. This is one of those times, so I decided to write about the Impeachment of President Andrew Johnson in 1868.

Andrew Johnson was elected Vice President along with Abraham Lincoln. Basically, Johnson was a Democrat who agreed with Lincoln's policy for readmitting the Southern States to the Union.

With the assassination of Lincoln, Congressional Members wanted a harsher policy. Congress passed the Tenure of Office Act. This law said the President could not fire a cabinet member without Congressional approval. President Johnson fired Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. This caused a showdown between Congress and the President.

Eleven Articles of Impeachment passed the House of Representatives. Three days later, the Articles went to the Senate. At the time, there were twenty seven states in the Union and ten out. Three Articles were brought before the Senate. All were voted thirty five for and nineteen against. Thirty five were Republicans yea. All nine Democrats and ten Republicans voted nay.

One result was that President Johnson was less confrontational with Congress for the rest of his term.

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, December 11, 2019
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 26:

MEMBERS – 18: Dennis Kohlmann, President; Donald Hayden, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Roy Bishop, Mark Carlson, Arnd Garnter, Allen Geiken, James Juanitas, Arnold Kunst, Bernie Quinn, Program Director; Paul Ruud, (MAL); Kris Scivoletto, Nicholas Scivoletto, Richard Sickert (MAL), Roxanne Spizzirri, Peggy Tveden, Michael Werner, John Zasso.

GUESTS – 8: John Barclay, Esther Boeck, Sally Draper, Antonio Magana, Emily Scivoletto, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Don A. Zajic.

1. President Dennis Kohlmann led the Pledge. President Kohlmann recognized new members and guests. He gave a short report on the Board of Directors' proposal to increase annual dues from \$20.00 to \$30.00. The members present were asked to vote yea or nay on the proposal. All said yea with no nays. However, the \$30.00 will apply starting on January 1, 2020. The raffle was conducted by Nicholas Scivoletto.
2. President Kohlmann introduced the speaker, Nicholas Scivoletto. Nicholas's topic was "**General Order 100**," also known as the "**Lieber Code**" of April 24, 1863. It was signed by President Abraham Lincoln to the Union Forces of the United States during the American Civil War that dictated how soldiers should conduct themselves in wartime. Its name reflects its author, the German–American legal scholar and political philosopher, Franz Lieber.
3. Lieber had fought for Prussia in the Napoleonic Wars and had been wounded at the Battle of Waterloo. He had lived and taught for two decades in South Carolina, where he was exposed to the horrors of slavery. Beginning in October 1861, as Professor of History and Political Science at what became Columbia University, Lieber delivered a series of lectures at the new Law School entitled "*The Laws and Usages of War.*" He believed the methods used in war needed to align with the goals and that the ends must justify the means.
4. During the American Civil War, soldiers were faced with a number of ethical dilemmas. Lieber knew about some from his own European wartime experiences, as well as through his sons (two of whom fought for the Union, and another died fighting for the Confederacy near Williamsburg). While in Saint Louis searching for one of his sons, who had been wounded at Fort Donelson, Lieber met Union General Henry Halleck, who had been a lawyer in civilian life and had published "*International Law, or, Rules Regulating the Intercourse of States in Peace and War*" in early 1861.
5. As the War dragged on, the treatment of spies, guerillas, and civilian sympathizers became troublesome. So too was the treatment of escaped slaves, who were forbidden to return to their owners by an order of March 13, 1862.
6. By the end of 1862, Halleck and Stanton invited Lieber to Washington to revise the *1806 Articles of War*. Other members of the Revision Committee included Major Generals Ethan Allen Hitchcock, George Cadwalader, George L. Hartsuff, and Brigadier General John Henry Martindale, but essentially Lieber was left to draft instructions for Union soldiers facing these situations. Halleck edited them to ensure nothing conflicted with Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Then Lincoln issued them in April, 1863. The main sections concerned martial law, military jurisdiction, and the treatment of spies, deserters, and prisoners of war.
7. Both the Lieber Code and the Hague Convention of 1907, which took much of the Lieber Code and wrote it into the international treaty law, included practices that would be considered illegal or extremely questionable by today's standards. An abridged version of the Lieber Code was published in 1899 in *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*.
8. In 2015, the United States Department of Defense published its *Law of War Manual*. It was updated and revised in May 2016. The *Manual* explicitly refers to the Lieber Code.
9. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 10 AM, at Brookfield's Restaurant.

George W. Foxworth for Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on December 11th was \$4,928.53. The raffle brought in \$18.00. Many thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto, members, and guests.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2020

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 8th	Robert Bundy	"Rebel Hunters of the Cumberland – in the Footsteps of the 15th Ohio Volunteer Infantry?"
February 12th	Robert Orr	"Civil War Music"
March 11th	Abigail Eller	"Benjamin Judah: The Brains of the Confederacy"
April 8th	Joe Maxwell & Jack Tucker	"What Happened After the War? Flights of the Confederates"
May 13th	Carl Guarneri	"Lincoln's Informer"
June 10th	John Scales	"The Campaigns & Battles of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest"

2020 Membership

The 2020 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2020. The dues are \$30.00 and you can renew at a monthly meeting or send to the Treasurer through the mail. For all checks, make them payable to **Sacramento Civil War Round Table** and send them to

George W. Foxworth
 9463 Salishan Court
 Sacramento, CA 95826-5233

Remember, you can also pay at any monthly meeting.

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1st of each month for that month's **Battle Cry**. However, you can submit articles at anytime. Please submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

gwofforth@sbcglobal.net

The **Battle Cry** is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

NORTH & SOUTH IS BACK!

Re-Launched in July, three issues have already appeared. Each 100-page issue is packed with 7 - 8 articles plus the familiar Departments--Knapsack, Crossfire, and Briefings-- and a new one, *Civil Warriors*, that looks at little known participants in the War.

Lead article in Issue 4 is a detailed examination of whether Meade could have - and should have - trapped and destroyed the Army of Northern Virginia. (Editor says yes, 98%.) There will be a follow-up discussion article.

To subscribe go to northandsouthmag.com or call Keith on (559) 260 3852 (Pacific time).

Major General Richard Stoddert Ewell and Mrs. Brown

Richard Ewell was born on February 8, 1817 in the District of Columbia and grew up in Virginia. His mother, Elizabeth, was a school teacher. His father, Thomas, was a Navy doctor and scientist. After struggling for many years with depression and alcoholism, Thomas died in 1826 when Richard was nine years old. His death plunged the family into poverty.



Richard managed the family farm after one brother left to attend West Point and another died of liver disease. Richard's maternal grandfather had served as Secretary of the Navy under President John Adams. His mother, never forgetting the earlier prominence of her family, worked tirelessly to get Richard admitted to West Point. Richard entered the Academy in 1836. He graduated thirteenth out of a class of forty two and was commissioned into the Dragoons.

Richard was considered to possess the "...*practical mind of his grandfather, Benjamin Stoddert, and, negatively, the cynicism and sharp tongue of his mother, Elizabeth.*" The similarities to his deceased father were more pronounced. Richard possessed Thomas Ewell's violent temper, high intellect, nervous energy, and love of alcohol."

Richard Ewell was an oddball. He had been known as "*Old Bald Head*" since his West Point days. He spoke with a pronounced lisp and often carried on whole conversations with himself out loud. It was said his language was so profane, it could "*scalp an Apache.*" Chronically ill, Ewell only ate hulled wheat boiled in milk and sweetened with sugar (known as frumenty.) He found sleeping on a bed unbearable and slept on the floor. Douglas Freeman said Ewell was "...*pop-eyed and long beaked, with a piping voice that seems to fit his appearance as a strange, unlovely bird.*" Allegedly, he would sit in his tent softly chirping to himself for hours. Ewell was considered to be the "*reigning eccentric*" of the Army of Northern Virginia. Though his behavior was considered bizarre, no one ever doubted his courage or ability.

As a teenager, Richard fell deeply in love with his first cousin, Lizinka Campbell. She did not return his ardor. Unable to win the heart of his ideal woman, Richard determined to remain a bachelor. Lizinka's father was a United States Senator from Tennessee. He also served as Minister to Russia. While he was stationed there, Lizinka had been born in Saint Petersburg on February 24, 1820, and named for the Czarina.

On April 25, 1839, Lizinka married James Percy Brown of Natchez, Mississippi. James' father was a well-known physician. James was a lawyer, well-educated, and well-traveled. He owned land in Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. His grandfather, Charles Brown (a roué known as Don Carlos), had committed suicide in 1794, by tying a bell around his neck, walking into deep water, and drowning himself. Nevertheless, James' wealth and status in the Southern elite allowed Lizinka's family to overlook this crack in his family tree. At the time of their engagement, James was serving as an attaché in the American Embassy in Paris. The young couple lived a cosmopolitan life, mingling within the highest circles in Europe. They had three children, George Campbell Brown (1840), Percy Brown (1843), and Harriet Stoddert Brown (1844).

James grew up with a melancholy disposition. His mother had died in childbirth when he was three years old. Adding to his despondency, his son, Percy, died at ten years old after falling and impaling himself on a picket fence. James told Lizinka on their wedding night that he did not love her. He never tried to hide his extramarital affairs. In May 1844, while serving as a Representative for the State of Mississippi, James put a pistol to his head and blew his brains out. (His son, George, followed in the family's footsteps by committing suicide in 1893.) In his will, Brown directed that all his slaves be sold. All his land and money were then to be divided among his children. Lizinka was left nothing. She contested the will and won her share.

Lizinka returned to her father's home in Nashville. After his death, she inherited over \$79,000 and thousands of acres of land. Adding this to James' estate made her an extremely wealthy widow. She very ably set out to manage her considerable inheritance.

While serving in the Mexican War, Richard developed malaria. His older brother and cousin were mortally wounded there. After the War, Ewell served on the Western frontier and became known as a noted Indian fighter. While he was out West, his mother converted to Catholicism and entered a nunnery. Richard had turned his back on religion, explaining that the missionaries he had seen were involved in "*wife beating, fornication, theft, and adultery.*" He was disgusted by the way they treated the Indians.

While Ewell was on leave recovering from yet another fever that he believed would kill him, the Civil War began. After Virginia seceded, Richard resigned his U.S. Commission, admitting that doing so "*was like death to me.*" He was Commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel of Cavalry in the new Confederate Army. He served admirably as a Division Commander under General Stonewall Jackson. In August, during the Battle of Second Manassas, his kneecap was shattered by a minie ball. Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire amputated his left leg the next day. Lizinka was informed of the amputation by her son who was Ewell's aide. She rushed to be at Ewell's side to nurse him. Whether it was for pity or love, the couple married on May 26, 1863. Lizinka took charge of Richard the same way she had done with her own affairs. He was forced into being baptized and had to give up cursing. Lizinka was universally disliked by everyone on the post which kept the couple from any social life they might have had. However it was conceded that under her influence, Ewell seemed to become "*almost normal.*" Oddly enough, Ewell continued to address Lizinka as "*Mrs. Brown.*" Fellow officers complained that Mrs. Brown was domineering, controlling everything "*...from the General's affairs down to the courier's, who carry his dispatches. All say they are under the petticoat government.*" Ewell had served for less than a month under Robert E. Lee when Stonewall Jackson was killed. Lee had been told "*that on his deathbed Jackson expressed a preference for Ewell as his successor.*" Lee did not know Ewell well. Ewell was good at taking specific orders but had become fearful and overly cautious after his amputation. Ewell had even written "*I don't feel up to a separate command.*" On May 23, 1863, when Lee appointed Ewell to take command of the 2nd Corps, he was unaware of how greatly the trauma of having his leg amputated had affected

Ewell. Douglas Freeman wrote “...the loss of his leg, headaches, indigestion, and sleeplessness drained both his energy and effectiveness.”

Later, Ewell was honest about the part he had played at Gettysburg admitting that “it took a dozen blunders to lose Gettysburg he (sic) committed a good many of them.”

At Gettysburg, because of his wooden leg, Ewell needed to be lifted and strapped onto his horse. He laughed it off when he was shot in his wooden leg. In November, he was injured at Kelly’s Ford in Virginia. In January 1864, he was badly hurt when his horse slipped and fell in the snow. At Spotsylvania, his horse was shot and tossed Ewell to the ground. After this last fall, he was considered unsuitable for field service.

In April 1865, during the retreat to Appomattox Court House, Ewell was captured by Union forces at Sailor’s Creek. For Major General Richard Stoddert Ewell, the War was over.

Lizinka and Richard Ewell retired to her farm in Spring Hill, Tennessee. In January 1872, Richard fell ill with typhoid. Lizinka nursed him but within a few days, she fell ill. Lizinka Campbell Brown Ewell died on January 22, 1872. Her husband was not told of her death until the day of her burial. He died three days later. They are buried side by side in the Old City Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee.



Richard Ewell insisted that “...nothing disrespectful to the United States Government be inscribed on his tomb.”

Submitted by Judith Breitstein



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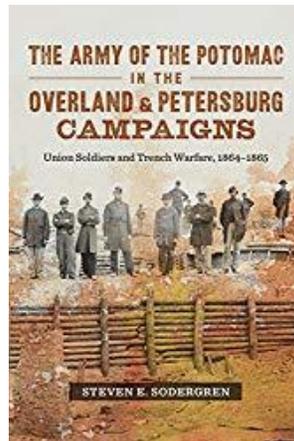
Review by Andrew J. Roscoe, US Navy

The Army of the Potomac in the Overland and Petersburg Campaigns: Union Soldiers and Trench Warfare, 1864 - 1865

By Steven E Sodergren

Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Univ. Press, 2017. Pp. xiii, 315. ISBN 978-0-8071-6556-0.

The grueling Overland Campaign of 1864—from the Wilderness to the start of the Siege of Petersburg—witnessed dramatically changed tactics by the Federal Army of the Potomac (or "Army"), specifically, costly assaults on strong defensive positions. In his new (first) book, historian Steven Sodergren (Norwich University) investigates the severe effects of that change on the morale of the Army in the last year of the Civil War. Only through a concerted effort to rebuild its support mechanisms did it recover its morale and capacity for effective offensive operations.



The Overland and Petersburg Campaigns are often slighted in the historiography of the Civil War, which has stressed earlier operations and battles in the Eastern Theater. Myriad studies have been devoted to the Seven Days, Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. This is true in part because of the sudden shift from discrete, sporadic battles to the constant high-intensity combat during the Overland Campaign; there were fewer of the clean breaks in the fighting that typically define the beginning and end of a given battle. The Overland Campaign extended through a much longer time-frame and wider operational area than was previously the rule.

Although Gordon Rhea covers all of the battles leading up to the Siege of Petersburg in his five-volume series and Noah Andre Trudeau has focused on the siege itself, Sodergren points out that "despite the changing circumstances of the War, authors rarely mention how a variation in *the actual methods of war fighting* may have had corresponding effects on the men charged with the prosecution of such warfare" (7; my emphasis).

Sodergren frames his work specifically as a social history of the Army in his target period. In this regard, his book is a fine counterpart to J. Tracy Power's *Lee's Miserables*, which describes the slow disintegration of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia down to the hard core of men who hung on until Appomattox. Sodergren concentrates on the personal experiences of enlisted men and regimental officers rather than operational or tactical matters. His succinct battle descriptions are included to convey

their impact on the troops and the (decreasing) efficacy of the Army. His easy prose style and emphasis on the human condition of the soldiers will appeal to a broad audience.

Sodergren begins by discussing the relative enthusiasm of the mostly veteran soldiers as the War entered its fourth year. He proceeds chronologically through the campaign to demonstrate the growing disillusionment of the men with the commanders who ordered them to make repeated attacks against fixed Confederate positions. The fruitless battles of May–June 1864 left the Army a shell of its former self:

While Grant's soldiers increasingly transformed into fatalistic automatons who kept moving on out of habit and the faint hope that tomorrow would bring some sort of finish to the endless marches and horrific combat, they began to turn on those above them whom they held responsible for their suffering. Both the ability and desire of Union soldiers to continue the fight was [*sic*] waning rapidly, as evidenced by the lackluster assaults in the opening days of the Petersburg operations and the growing talk of units and men refusing orders from their commanders. Together with the examples of individual insubordination and the growing desertion problem within the Army, these developments revealed the Army of the Potomac itself to be a truly damaged organization by the Summer of 1864. (87)

The author writes that only when the Army entered into the trench warfare of the Petersburg Siege could it reflect on the grim realities of the past campaign and begin to repair itself. At Petersburg, the Army enjoyed the stability and protection it had lacked in the Overland Campaign as well as the robust support structure the North had at its disposal. Regular mail, plentiful supplies, and the cessation of suicidal assaults on nearly impregnable positions went far to restore its spirits. Sodergren argues that the troops realized the siege was a means to the end of the War. They could strangle the Army of Northern Virginia from the comparative safety of their trenches. The men that emerged from those trenches in 1865 had been tempered by the previous year's combat and imbued with the will to see their job through to the end.

Sodergren draws on a diverse set of pertinent primary sources, including the testimony of some 170 men in the Army itself. Indeed, a great strength of his book is its consistent privileging of the voices of the men themselves, ensuring a sense of authenticity. But the volume's strictly ground-level social perspective comes at the expense of identifying other factors that affected the Army in 1864–65. For example, the turnover of officers of all ranks in the period eliminated less aggressive officers who had wasted many of opportunities during the Overland Campaign and the early stages of the Siege of Petersburg. Sodergren also ignores the effect on the Army of the departure of many veteran units in 1864 and of the heavy artillery and newly-raised infantrymen that replaced them. Wholesale organizational changes in Summer and Fall 1864 saw the consolidation or elimination of some of the Army's oldest brigades and divisions.

The book has other flaws. There are distracting discrepancies and errors throughout in the designation of ranks of individual soldiers, even on the same page. More seriously, the frequent use of sources from the Army of the James to support his argument is problematic as well. While elements of that Army fought alongside the Army of the Potomac at Cold Harbor and elsewhere for the remainder of the War, Sodergren uses many of the sources for those Armies indiscriminately, taking too little account of their different experiences during the Overland Campaign.

Steven Sodergren vividly evokes the experiences of the average soldier confronting the visceral horrors of a new manner of combat. His discerning examination of the logistics network that underlay the rally in morale in Fall 1864 goes beyond the purview of traditional "battle piece" histories. While it could have benefited from a broader perspective on its subject, the book will engage and enlighten readers interested in the forces that molded the Army of the Potomac into the force that finally ended War in Virginia in 1865.

Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.