



Volume 55, No 6  
June, 2015

### 2015 Officers:

**Anne M. Peasley**, President  
(530) 320-5112  
[apeasley22@gmail.com](mailto:apeasley22@gmail.com)

**Robert E. Hanley**, IPP  
(805) 796-5895  
[acivilwar@aol.com](mailto:acivilwar@aol.com)

**Donald J. Hayden**, Vice  
President  
(916) 485-1246  
[djhbooklover@yahoo.com](mailto:djhbooklover@yahoo.com)

**Silver N. Williams**,  
Program Director  
(916) 408-4574  
[snw5678@aol.com](mailto:snw5678@aol.com)

**Paul G. Ruud**, Secretary  
(530) 886-8806  
[paulgruud@gmail.com](mailto:paulgruud@gmail.com)

**George W. Foxworth**,  
Treasurer  
(916) 362-0178  
[gwoffoxworth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwoffoxworth@sbcglobal.net)

**Nina L. Henley**, MAL  
(916) 481-4146  
[whenley@surewest.net](mailto:whenley@surewest.net)

**Wayne J. Henley**, MAL  
(916) 481-4146  
[whenley@surewest.net](mailto:whenley@surewest.net)

VACANT  
Editor

SCWRT Website  
[www.sacramentocwrt.com](http://www.sacramentocwrt.com)

[Kim Knighton, Webmaster  
webmaster@digitalthumbprint.com](mailto:Kim.Knighton@digitalthumbprint.com)

# Battle Cry

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
P.O. BOX 254702  
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702  
<http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



## President's Message

Greetings to our SCWRT members this June!

Who doesn't love baseball? Growing up in New York, I had two teams to cheer, the Mets and the Yankees. While my brothers will always be diehard Mets fans, I have to announce proudly that I am a Yankees girl. Stop groaning. Let's all wear our personal favorite team hats this next meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June in support of **Martin Cain's** presentation "Baseball in the Civil War." Who says we're not re-enactors? We'll be our own boys of summer. Even the girls.

Over the last month, up here in Oregon, we've enjoyed the misty, gloomy, and cool last days of wet weather. Perfect for viewing all those Civil War videos I recorded. Two stood out that I must pass along. The first is Drew Gilpin Faust's *Death and the Civil War*. Catherine Drew Gilpin Faust is an American historian and the first woman President of Harvard University. She was born in New York City, but was raised in Clarke County, Virginia. In 2008, her book *This Republic of Suffering* was published and received wide acclaim and was a National Book Award Finalist. Since we are now marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War, it is appropriate to examine how the unimaginable death toll wrought by the War was managed by a deeply religious culture struggling to reconcile the unprecedented carnage with its belief in a benevolent God. An equivalent proportion of today's population would be six million.

At the start of the War, as we know, there was very little provision for the care of the wounded, let alone the dead. The Federal Government had no system in place to identify the slain, nor to bury them. Thousands upon thousands of soldiers died far from home in both the North and the South behind enemy lines. Whole towns were taken over by the casualties numbering far beyond anyone's comprehension. This documentary of the book thoughtfully explores the aftermath of the War and how it forever changed the military's handling of their dead and the nation's regard for those who gave their last full measure of devotion.

The other documentary is *The Unsung Heroes: The Mules and Horses of the Civil War*. This 2013 video was a finalist for an Oscar in the documentary category. The title is self-explanatory, but the information is poignant, well-produced, and vivid. While watching this, I kept trying to grasp how primitive the use of beasts in a war is, and how mind-bogglingly cumbersome and difficult. With the added component of feeding and dealing with living beings and the attachment one can have for them, I could almost not believe that this was only 150 years ago!

On a lighter note, a week ago I finally settled in with a bowl of popcorn to watch last year's 1864 Conference at Gettysburg. There were fabulous lectures on The Wilderness, the Generalships of both Grant and Lee. When what to my wondering eyes do appear but the smiling face of our own Ron Perisho! He filled up my whole screen. He apparently attended the Conference and was seated immediately behind the question podium. I then looked for him in all the conferences. My version of Where's Waldo.

Don't forget your baseball caps on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. See you there.

**Anne Peasley, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, May 13, 2015**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 34**

**MEMBERS – 25:** Anne M. Peasley, President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Paul Ruud, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, George Beitzel, Joan Beitzel, Marsha Jutovsky Cain, Monica Foxworth, Alan Geiken, Robert E. Hanley, IPP, Jim Harper, James Juanitas, Arnold Kuntz, Barbara Leone, Rick A. Peasley, Horst Penning, John Rice, Ed Rill, Nancy Samuelson, Nick Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, Roxanne E. Spizzirri, Michael Werner, John V. Zasso, Vivian Zasso.

**GUESTS – 9:** Esther Boeck, Seanna Curler, Robert Hubbs, Bret Lonsway, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Ray Valdez, Robert Vanderpool, Don A. Zajic.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Anne Peasley.
2. President Peasley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. President Peasley gave a last call to purchase raffle tickets. John Zasso then read the lucky numbers.
4. President Peasley gave a brief report on Gibson Ranch. The future role of SCWRT members as docents will be reviewed. The availability of high school volunteers and the maturing of our volunteer force suggests a comfortable shift may be implemented for next year.
5. President Peasley announced that Rick Peasley will give a class beginning at 6:30 PM at our next meeting on users' tips for using our new computer as part of the Power Point projection package.
6. President Peasley introduced our speaker, Bob Hubbs. Bob last gave this talk in 2004 but its recent recollection by a friend led to the decision to go there again. Everyone present cheered its resurrection as the evening wore on. "Four Regiments and Four Privates" was the title of the presentation.
7. The four Regiments were all from Illinois where Bob had grown up and were the 28<sup>th</sup>, the 84<sup>th</sup>, the 103<sup>rd</sup>, and the 112<sup>th</sup>. There was one private from each of these regiments whose lives were covered to include their Civil War exploits. Two died during the War and the other two lived into their eighties. Bob displayed a 38 or 41 caliber Civil War period rifle that one of the privates carried during the War. Bob has spent hours learning where each of the privates was laid to rest.
8. In describing the selection process for having chosen these particular four Illinois Regiments (from the total of 195) and then the selection of one private from each Regiment, Bob left the audience thinking it was more or less a random process. However, the final slide in the Bob's presentation revealed that these four privates were all Hubbs family members who we now know thanks to Bob's research.
9. President Peasley thanked Bob with kind words and good wine for a stellar presentation.
10. In closing, President Peasley encouraged members to consider serving on the SCWRT Board of Directors. New ideas, new energy, new everything - all would be good!
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 10 AM, at Brookfield's Restaurant. Come one, come all!

**Paul Ruud, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the May 13, 2015 meeting was \$4,478.53. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$49.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

### **Coming Programs for 2015 and 2016**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
June 10th	Martin Cain	"Baseball in the Civil War"
July 8th	Joe Maxwell	"George Armstrong Custer, Part II"
August 12th	Nancy B. Samuelson	"Nathan Bedford Forrest"
September 9th	Fred Bohmfalk	"A Personal Look at the Lives of Generals Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan"
October 14th	Tom Lubas	"Chicago, That Toddlin' Civil War Town"
November 11th	Tad Smith	"The Failed Struggle to Obtain Recognition of the Confederacy by England and France"
December 9th	Nicholas Scivoletto	"General Joseph E. Johnston"
January 13th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
February 10th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
March 9th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
April 13th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
May 11th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

### **2015 Membership**

The 2015 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2015. The dues are \$20.00 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:gwofforth@sbcglobal.net)

Do not submit scanned files since I need to edit files to combine the **Battle Cry**.

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.

## **“The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies” by William Hanchett**

For the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln’s assassination, Yahoo News published an article listing 10 interesting questions about the assassination and the conspiracy to commit it. It is titled “10 Interesting Facts about the Abraham Lincoln Assassination.”

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/10-interesting-facts-abraham-lincoln-assassination-100206552.html>

I am reading a book about the MANY theories of Lincoln’s assassination, including the controversy surrounding Mary Surratt. The book is titled, *The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies*, written by William Hanchett and published by University of Illinois Press in 1983. From this and other research, my opinion is that Mary Surratt was closely involved with the plans to kidnap and murder the President and as guilty as the other conspirators. (Her son, John, fled, was located, returned to America, and tried 2 years later, but was not convicted. Despite that, I think he was even more complicit than his mother.)

The former Vice President, Andrew Johnson, who became President, made matters worse by later not fully supporting the process and conclusions of the military tribunal that conducted the trials of the conspirators. Johnson left questions standing as to his awareness of a petition to show Mary Surratt clemency. However, no one has ever refuted the testimony against her of one of her boarders, Louis Weichmann. Mr. Weichmann did not recant and strengthened his testimony by stating on his deathbed that his testimony had been true. He was a devout Catholic and very unlikely in the certainty of facing his upcoming judgment to make a false statement of such importance.

After being apprehended and unsuccessfully tried, John Surratt made only one public statement denying having a role in the Lincoln assassination and he did not speak about the hanging of his mother. On that occasion, Surratt contradicted himself: first, he swore that Louis Weichmann was definitely a party to the plan to abduct the President. Two sentences later, he said that he refused to include Weichmann -- because he could neither ride nor shoot. The rest of his commentary smeared Weichmann’s character. In other words, it is all heat and no light. He made no further public comments, and did not write a book.

### **Excerpt of John Surratt, lecture on the Abraham Lincoln conspiracy at Rockville, Maryland (6 December 1870)**

I proclaim it here and before the world that Louis J. Weichmann was a party to the plan to abduct President Lincoln. He had been told all about it, and was constantly importuning me to let him become an active member. I refused, for the simple reason that I told him that he could neither ride a horse nor shoot a pistol, which was a fact.

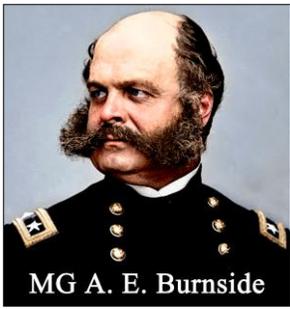
I have very little to say of Louis J. Weichmann. But I do pronounce him a base-born perjurer; a murderer of the meanest hue! Give me a man who can strike his victim dead, but save me from a man who, through perjury, will cause the death of an innocent person. Double murderer!!!! Hell possesses no worse fiend than a character of that kind. Away with such a character. I leave him in the pit of infamy, which he has dug for himself, a prey to the lights of his guilty conscience.

Mary Surratt, in fact, nearly all those executed were also Catholics. An order of monks in Canada gave protection to John Surratt and hid him successfully until he could be smuggled into Europe. He was identified while serving as part of the Papal Guard in Rome, and finally apprehended in Greece.

After the fervor against the conspirators had died down, there was an outcry about hanging a woman (the first in American history) and the speed with which the sentence occurred, but the protests originated primarily with Democrats, Southerners, Catholics, and Dixiecrats, which is understandable.

Some of the theories of the crime are almost as outlandish as the assassination itself! For some, Booth was one of the most charismatic people ever to walk the earth, for others, evil itself. The Big Question, never satisfactorily answered, is whether or not the Confederate leadership was involved in the conspiracy. The answer is significantly swayed by one’s political point of view: anti-slavery and pro-Unionists were strongly convinced that they were. Without any evidence, and none was ever found, it remains an open question.

Reasoning for my opinion rests in research for my presentation on the Southern female courier, Sarah Slater. Mrs. Slater was mentioned by several people during the investigation of the crime (and John Harrison Surratt when he was questioned) and she was searched for thoroughly, but was never found. She disappeared around the time of Lincoln’s assassination and her fate is as yet unknown.



MG A. E. Burnside

## Burnside and Related Matters

Ambrose Everett Burnside was born 23 May 1824, in Liberty Indiana. At 19 he was appointed to West Point graduating a

respectable 18/38 in the Class of 1847. Branch assignment was to Artillery. After short garrison service during the Mexican War, and in the Apache War where he was slightly wounded, he resigned his army commission in 1853 to manufacture in Bristol, RI a breech loading carbine that he had invented. He was also commissioned in the RI Militia which he retained.

His carbines (and a later rifle version) came in four models, the first U.S. versions using 54-cal. metallic cartridges. After the *Spencer* and *Sharps*, the *Burnsides* were sold in large numbers, some 56,000 to the Cavalry and some Infantry units; along with 2.4 million rounds of ammunition. During this period, the extremely honest and likeable Burnside ran into contracting problems with the very corrupt Secretary of War John Floyd, who wanted personal kickbacks, which Burnside refused to pay.

During this general time frame before the Civil War, Burnside served as Treasurer of the Illinois Central RR, while his then good friend and former class mate George McClellan was the RR's Vice President and Chief Engineer. It is probable that it was during this period that they first became acquainted with Abraham Lincoln, then serving as the RR's Attorney.

When the War erupted Burnside rejoined the Army as Colonel of the 1<sup>st</sup> RI Volunteers, one of the early 90-day units to reach the threatened Capitol City. At First Bull Run, he commanded a brigade, and on 6 August 1861 was commissioned BG, USV by an admiring President Lincoln. In early 1862, Burnside showed promise in cooperating with the Navy in North Carolina Coastal campaigns to destroy Rebel war ships in Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds; and in capturing New Bern, Beaufort, and Fort Macon; mainly in the interest of providing convenient coaling and repair stations for the Navy's Atlantic Blockading Squadrons then being formulated. For this good work, he was promoted MG USV on 18 March 1862.

It was on this date that the Peter Principle came into affect for Ambrose E. Burnside and lasted, with minor exception, until he resigned his commission on 15 April 1865, the effective end date of the War. After that period, he was again successful in engineering and management work for several railroads, was elected Governor of Rhode Island three times, and served as U.S Senator of that State from 1874 until his death on 13 September 1881. An additional Burnside Legacy which many may consider a positive aspect was his facial hair style, appropriately named after him, *In Reverse*.

During the last three years of his military service (The Period the Peter Principle was most apparent) were at the Battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg, the Mud March, and the Petersburg Mine/Crater Assault. His next to last military assignment which was in Ohio went some what better. These five items are discussed in some detail, as space allows, in the following paragraphs.

1. The Battle of Antietam At this major Battle near Sharpsburg, Maryland, Burnside commanded McClellan's Army of the Potomac's Left Wing of two corps. His orders were to prevent Longstreet's timely arrival to reinforce Lee via the "Burnside" Bridge. Had he done so the Rebels could have been defeated in detail, thus yielding the Union a total victory rather than a partial one; and some historians believe could have ended the War then and there. But he arrived late, delegated authority to deploy his troops, did not follow up with appropriate orders, did not ford the River at any sites except a mile downstream, and did not prevent the Rebel forces from consolidating; and ultimately leaving the field of battle intact.

2. The Battle of Fredericksburg Lincoln fired McClellan on 7 November 1862, and replaced him with Burnside. Little Mac had provided excellent services as a military organizer, administrator, trainer and strategist. But as a combat commander, he consistently over estimated the size and ability of the Rebels and had developed what Lincoln termed the "Slows." Moreover, he held policy differences with Lincoln over emancipation and the general conduct of the War; plus he had developed personal disloyalties to the Commander in Chief.

Burnside had declined twice saying that he was not qualified for the job. He was encouraged to accept by subordinates, however since the alternative was Hooker, whom none of them liked. Finally Lincoln ordered him so he did so.

The Army of the Potomac had been advancing cautiously south and was in a position to again strike between the separate wings of Lee's Army and defeat them in detail. Burnside, however abandoned this promising plan and shifted his line of operations to the east to attack the Fredericksburg-Richmond line. (Error No. 1)

Burnside had reorganized the Army into three, what he called "Grand Divisions," consisting of two army corps each under Sumner, Hooker, and Franklin.\* Sumner arrived across the Rappahannock River on 17 November, but was not allowed to make a hasty river crossing into town by wading, which could have been easily done at that time. (Error No. 2.)

Burnside's plan depended upon the arrival of a large pontoon train to bridge the 400 ft wide, but shallow, River at 6 locations, one directly opposite the town. The pontoons did not arrive until 25 November at which time Lee had his entire army of 78,500 in position to oppose the Fed's force of 122,000.

Although his strategy had been delayed so long that it lost any merit, it may have originally had,

Burnside proceeded to try to force a crossing. Issuing tardy and confused orders, he started on 11 December to put five bridges across the icy River at three points along a 10,000-yard front. The battle opened 13 December when Franklin crossed with 50,000 men opposite Prospect Heights (See Map) and was repulsed despite vigorous attacks by Meade's and Gibbon's Divisions. Franklin had misread Burnside's poorly written order, thinking that these attacks were to be diversionary only, he had not assigned sufficient forces to maintain and expand the short term break though that did occur. In fact, he had assigned only two divisions, Meade's and Gibbon's, to the task; totaling 9,000 men, out of his available 40,000. (Error No. 3.)

Had the Union been able to achieve the breakthrough on Prospect Heights they could have flanked the Rebels defenders on and below Marye's Heights and probably won the Battle.

To the north, opposite Marye's Heights, Sumner's crossing was initially delayed by sharpshooters in town. A senseless bombardment failed to drive them out. Finally, Infantry got across by wading or in boats to drive them out, and the pontoon bridges were completed, but not until many pontoons had been killed by artillery or rifle fire.

Federal troops under both Sumner and a little later Hooker crossed the River, moved through the town and some 100 yards up the mainly vacant slope to the west and attacked the Rebel infantry along a sunken road behind the stone wall at the base of Marye's Heights, while under artillery fire from the Heights. The defending infantry stood nearly shoulder to shoulder and were four deep behind the wall. The front soldier was the sharpshooter and those behind loaders; thus obtaining a very high rate of fire, perhaps almost like a series of modern day machine guns. Porter Alexander, Longstreet's Artillery Chief, commented at the time that not even a rabbit could survive in the field fronting the stone wall.

On Burnside's orders, a series of six frontal attacks were made against this strong natural defense position. The later attackers could not move forward without stepping on their dead or dying comrades from the earlier attacks. 12,700 were killed or wounded. The attacks were discontinued due to darkness; Burnside had issued orders that they be renewed the next day, and he would lead them; but his commanders talked him into revoking the order. The Federal forces remained in position astride the River 14-15 December. They withdrew the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> across the River to the Stafford Heights area from where they had started some 5 weeks earlier. The tremendous losses and terrible

conduct of the Battle caused a huge uproar in Washington and elsewhere. But that is another story.

*(If Burnside had set out to prove to Lincoln that he was not qualified for an army level command, it is hard to believe that he could have done a better job.)*

3. The Mud March After its terrible defeat the Army of the Potomac was demoralized having lost faith in its commander. In an ill conceived attempt to redeem himself, Burnside decided to march the Army several miles upstream, cross the river, and attack the Rebel rear. On 19 January 1863, he ordered the lead elements to move out, despite strong objections from the corps commanders; some of whom suggested that Burnside was losing his mind. The Army was in no condition to move at that time. The dead had not yet all been buried, nor wounded fully cared for. Actually it was Lee who first suggested a truce to clean up the battlefield not Burnside, a sad story indeed.

No sooner had the movement begun before a major 48-hour storm set in. By the end of the day, the march was completely disorganized and bogged down. An indescribable chaos of pontoons, wagons, and artillery encumbered all roads. It was noted that supply wagons were upset in the roads, guns stalled in the mud, ammunition trains ruined by the water, and hundreds of horses and mules were buried in the liquid mud. It was no longer a question of going forward, but how to get back!

Although an act of God, this additional situation during Burnside's tenure so further damaged the Army's morale that he simply had to be relieved from command; which occurred 26<sup>th</sup> January. The new AOP commander was Joseph Hooker.

During his 78 days as AOP Commander, that Army had a 12% casualty rate, but had failed to properly deploy 25% of its resources at Fredericksburg. If those idle troops had been used to conduct a flanking movement north from Prospect Heights to Marye's Heights casualties would have been drastically reduced and major portions of Lee's army might well have been captured, ending in a victory for the Union. This is an interesting "What If," but there is no evidence to show that Burnside had sufficient talents to conduct complex flanking maneuvers. (No great talent was required for frontal attacks.)

4. The Dept. of Ohio Assignment In March 1863, Burnside reverted back to the command the IX Corps and was sent to Ohio since military protocol, i.e. dates of rank prevented him serving under Hooker. While in Ohio, he presided over the trial of former Congressman Vallandigham for sedition and Rebel cavalryman John Hunt Morgan. That Fall, he acquitted

himself rather well by defending Knoxville against assault by Rebel troops under Longstreet.

5. Back to the IX Corps and the Petersburg Mine/Crater Assault Burnside's IX Corps was returned to Virginia in the spring 1864 again an independent unit, as required by protocol against serving under Meade due to seniority. All was well until the mine event. On 30 July, LTC Henry Pleasants, a former mining engineer, whose regiment consisted largely of coal miners, sold Burnside on the idea of mining under the facing Rebel defense line, setting an explosive charge, and exploding it.

Burnside liked the idea, presented it to Grant, who approved with reservations. The mining started 25 June and was completed 27 July, complete with an 8,000 pound black powder charge. (320 kegs.)

The main shaft was 511 ft. long, 20 ft. below a Rebel battery with two laterals total of 75 ft. under Rebel trenches. Tunnel section was: Top 2' x Height 5' x Base 4.5'. It was a fine engineering works.

IX Corps had four divisions. The best and largest was a USCT unit for which Burnside had given special training to take the lead in the charge against the Rebel line after the explosion. They should first cut passages through the abates and other Union obstructions so that follow-up troops could more easily pass, fan out on both sides of the crater, set up flanking positions on the broken Rebel lines, open up fire on the enemy flanks from the crater's rim and into the crater as necessary, but not enter the crater directly.

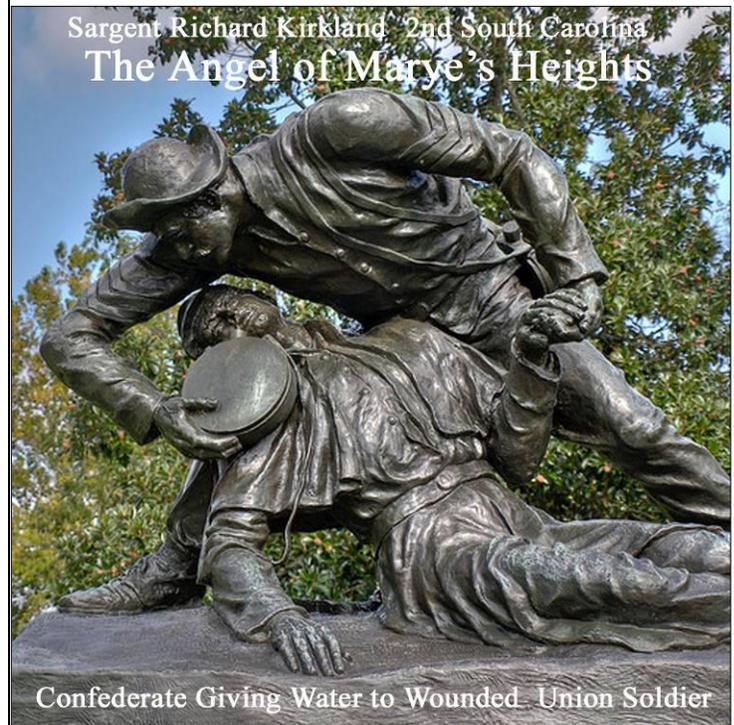
However, Meade informed Burnside that the use of colored troops for such a hazardous operation was fraught with political repercussions and that a white division had to be substituted. Grant agreed. Burnside had his remaining three Divisions draw straws (hell of a bad way to make military decisions) and his weakest one won. The 1<sup>st</sup> Div. commanded by James Ledlie, a drunken, incompetent coward. After a delay due to fusing problems the mine exploded at 4:45 a.m. 31 July, creating a crater 70'x75' and 30' deep. 280 Rebels were killed outright. The following Union attack was a disaster. Burnside had failed to give the new attacking division detailed instructions! Ledlie went into hiding and his soldiers went into the crater, rather than around it, where they were murdered. All federal troops moved forward and the resultant battle was a *stupendous failure*, using Grant's words. Union casualties were 3,798; out of 20,700 engaged; and Rebel casualties were 1,500.

A court of inquiry found Burnside, Ledlie, and two others responsible in varying degrees for the failure. Burnside was relieved as IX Corps Commander on 14

August 1864; and awaited orders until he resigned 15 April 1865.

Although Ambrose Burnside may not have been the Union's worst high level general officer during the Civil War, he was the most inept; if you can detect the slight difference here? But in all my readings I cannot ascertain why? John Bell Hood's similar problems were due to a lack of gray matter plus maybe too much opiates and booze, but Burnside's were entirely different. The only words that come to mind are that he was too *indecisive* and/or *inflexible* to timely react to the rapidly changing conditions that always occur during warfare. Your thoughts would be appreciated. Some people say the Union would have fared much better without him, and that is indeed plausible. Was Burnside the biggest mistake Lincoln made in his overall conduct of the War?

**References:** "Burnside" by William Marvel, 1991; "Battle of Fredericksburg" by James Bryant, 2010; "Simply Murder" by Mackowski & White, 2013; "Battles and Leaders, Vol. 3, Pt. 1," "Civil War Dictionary" by Boatner, 1988.



\*See also SCWRT *Battle Cry* "Franklin" Article, July 2014

**R. A. Williams: 23 March 2015**

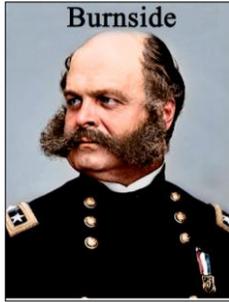
*Notwithstanding that the validity of the action has been questioned, viewing this excellent Memorial on the Fredericksburg Battlefield can bring tears to ones eyes!*



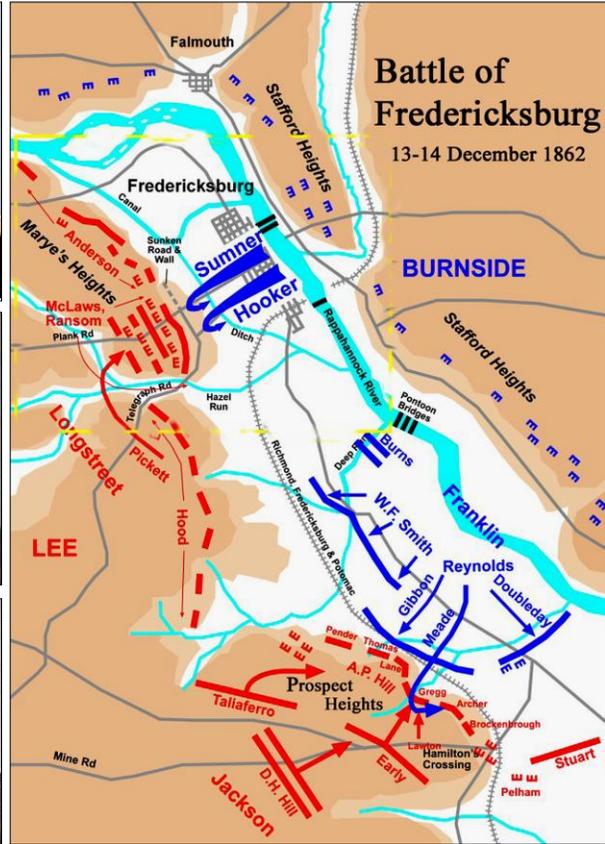
Battle of Fredericksburg  
Painting of 12 Dec 1862  
Upper Bridge Fighting



Chatham Manor-Sumner's Hqds, Burnside's OP



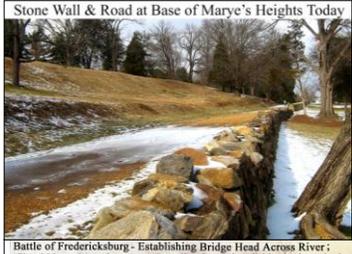
Burnside



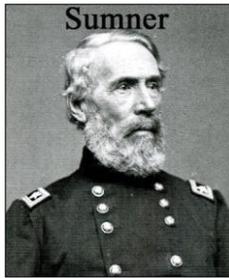
Battle of Fredericksburg  
13-14 December 1862



Fredericksburg Sunken Road Today



Stone Wall & Road at Base of Marye's Heights Today



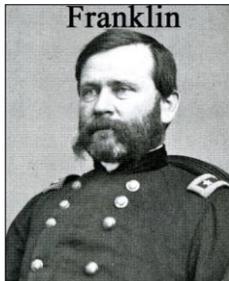
Sumner



Painting of Battle from Marye's Heights



Battle of Fredericksburg- Establishing Bridge Head Across River:  
Should have been done a week earlier due to late bridge train arrival



Franklin



Kirland Memorial

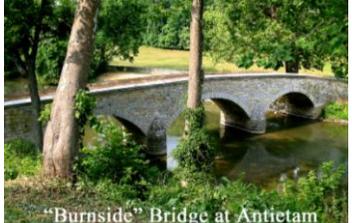
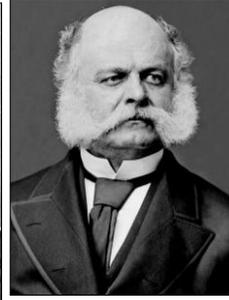


Artillery on Marye's Heights

A. E. Burnside, U.S. Senator 1872



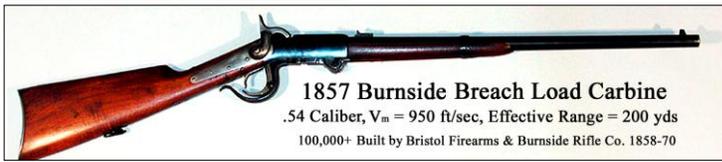
Hooker



"Burnside" Bridge at Antietam



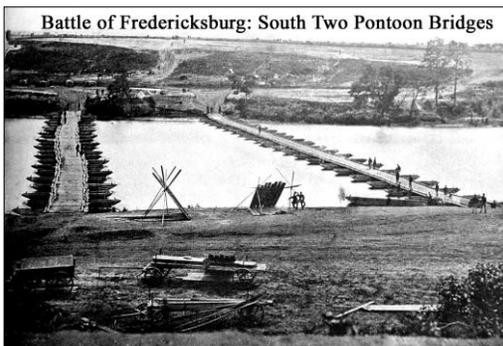
MG Burnside Memorial



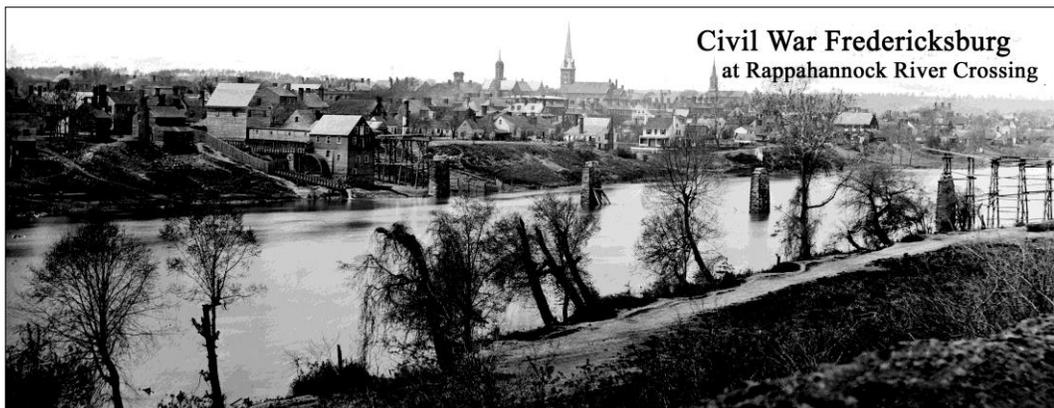
1857 Burnside Breach Load Carbine  
.54 Caliber, V<sub>m</sub> = 950 ft/sec, Effective Range = 200 yds  
100,000+ Built by Bristol Firearms & Burnside Rifle Co. 1858-70



Pontoon Bridge Section



Battle of Fredericksburg: South Two Pontoon Bridges



Civil War Fredericksburg  
at Rappahannock River Crossing

