



Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

This month, there is no President's Message due to personal circumstances.

In anticipation of Ted Savas' presentation entitled "*Mine Run Campaign & The Battle of Payne's Farm*" for July's meeting, this issue includes a book review on the subject. Hopefully, it will serve to further inform us of a conflict that receives little attention. We are fortunate then to have Mr. Savas share with us his knowledge and perspectives. This issue also includes May's meetings minutes that were omitted from last month's issue.

I would like to also take this opportunity to welcome any SCWRT members or readers of the Battle Cry who have suggestions to improve the newsletter and its content, to please submit their ideas. As well, anyone who would like to contribute book reviews, essays, or information about upcoming Civil War related events is strongly encouraged to do so. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Brent ten Pas, Editor

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, June 12, 2013
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 39

MEMBERS – 24

Robert E. Hanley, President
George W. Foxworth, Treasurer
Steve Andrews
Roy Bishop
Gordon Coleman
Alice C. Corley
James P. Cress
Jerry C. Cress
Monica S. Foxworth
Alan Geiken
John W. Greer
Irene M. Grenier

Donald J. Hayden, IPP
Scottie Hayden
James Juanitas
Lowell L. Lardie
Horst Penning
Richard Sickert
Roxanne E. Spizzirri
James F. Taff
Robert A. Williams
Silver N. Williams, PD
Don A. Zajic
John V. Zasso

GUESTS – 15

Axel Ahrens
Corey Allred
Don Andrews
Esther Boeck
George Costenbader
Luke Frazier
Mark Frazier
Aaron Harris
Carmen Harris
Chris Highsmith
Ginny Karlberg
Tim Karlberg
Sean Keister
Mitzi Konevich
Larry Spizzirri

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Robert Hanley.
2. President Hanley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. President Hanley introduced four recently graduates from California State University, Sacramento: Axel Ahrens, Corey Allred, and Luke and Mark Frazier. They were brought to the meeting by Sean Keister, the son of our late and long-time Secretary, Edith Keister. The students are trying to make a Civil War movie during the 2013 summer in Mississippi. They are requesting donations to fund their movie. For additional information and/or to make a donation, login to www.kickstarter.com and type in "Angels of our Nature." In addition, you can post a donation to Johnathan Frazier, 6730 4th Avenue, Apt #214, Sacramento, CA 95817.
4. President Hanley then introduced the speakers, Tim and Ginny Karlberg. Their topic was the "CSS Ironclad Albemarle."
5. CSS Albemarle was a steam-powered ironclad ram of the Confederate Navy (named for a town and a sound in North Carolina. The locations were named for General George Monck, the first Duke of Albemarle and one of the original Carolina Lords Proprietors.
 - A. Construction of the ironclad began in January 1863 and continued on during the next year. Word of the gunboat reached the Union naval officers stationed in the region, raising an alarm. However, no actions were taken.
 - B. In April 1864 the newly commissioned Confederate States Steamer Albemarle, under the command of Captain James W. Cooke, got underway down-river toward Plymouth, North Carolina. Albemarle successfully dominated the Roanoke River and the approaches to Plymouth through the summer of 1864.
 - C. In October 1864, a Lieutenant William B. Cushing and crew sank the Albemarle with a torpedo. The explosion threw Cushing and his men overboard into the water. Cushing then stripped off most of his uniform and swam to shore, where he hid undercover until daylight. Cushing escaped down river but most of his crew was captured.
 - D. Lieutenant Cushing's successful effort to neutralize CSS *Albemarle* was honored by the U.S. Navy with a battle star during the Civil War.
6. President Hanley thanked the Karlbergs for their presentation and presented them with a bottle of wine.
7. John Zasso sold additional raffle tickets and read the numbers.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.
9. There was no Board Meeting. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, June 26, 2013.

George W. Foxworth, Acting for Secretary Maxine Wollen

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the June 12, 2013 meeting was \$3,463.09. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$46.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, May 8, 2013
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 37

MEMBERS – 28

Roy Bishop
Harvey Cain
Marsha Cain
James Cress
Jerry Cress
Alice Corley
Monica Foxworth
John Greer
Don Hayden (IPP)
Nina Henley (MAL)
Wayne Henley (MAL)
Dennis Kohlmann
Anne Peasley (VP)

Rick Peasley
Horst Penning
Mark Penning
John Rice
Paul Ruud
Nancy Samuelson
Nicholas Scivoletto
Richard Sickert
Roxanne Spizzirri
Robert Williams
Silver Williams (PD)
Maxine Wollen (Sec)
John Zasso

Guests-9

Tim Barrow
Sherri Patton
Jane Jackson
Bill Jackson
Dillion Gideon
Larry Spizzirri
Richard Spizzirri
Esther Boeck
Isabel Whitney-Patton

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Bob Hanley
2. President Hanley led the Pledge, and then welcomed guests
3. President Hanley then introduced the Speaker, Sherri Patton, who spoke on Soldiers And Survivors. The topic was on Native Americans in the Civil War. Although California was admitted to the Union as a free state, a law was passed that provided for indenturing of Native Americans. The CA law was similar to the Black Codes in the South. Native Americans served on both sides of the War, contributing at least 20,000 men. The presentation was divided into 3 segments: 1. The Great Sioux Uprising resulted in mass hangings. They ceded some of their territory, but the terms of the treaty were not honored by the U.S. Gov't. 2. The Cherokee were divided into 2 factions; some for the South, and others for the North. They were not wanderers and some had slaves, consisting of African-Americans and Native Americans. 3. The Lumby Indians from North Carolina were conscripted as laborers to maintain Forts and such, and were faced with discrimination
4. John Zasso conducted the raffle.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.
6. There was no Board meeting.

Maxine Wollen, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance at the end of the meeting was \$3,159.95. Thanks to John Zasso, members & guests, the raffle brought in \$58.00

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

BOOK REVIEW

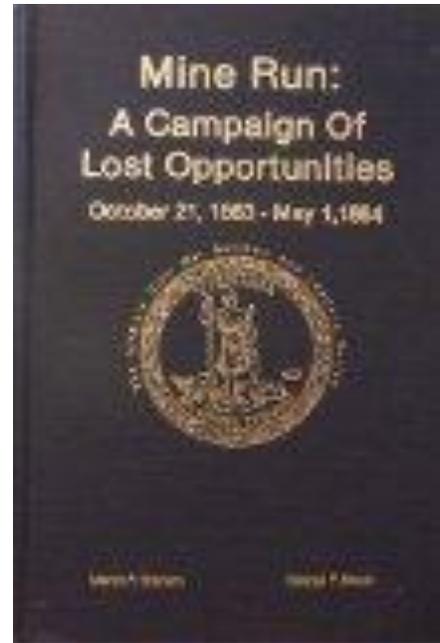
Mine Run: A Campaign of Lost Opportunities
October 21, 1863-May 1, 1864. Martin F. Graham &
George Skoch. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc.,
June 1987.

130 pp. 6 maps, including 1 large fold-out map.

The post-Gettysburg campaigns of 1863 have always received scant attention in Civil War literature. The twin attractions of Gettysburg as the “turning point” of the war (a view I vehemently disagree with) and “Grant vs. Lee” serve to distract the Civil War buff from the maneuvering and small fights taking place in the fall of 1863 in the East. Meade had detached his XI and XII Corps and sent them west to Chattanooga. Earlier, Lee had sent Longstreet and his I Corps to augment Braxton Bragg’s attack at Chickamauga. This is a period that needs further study, as [Brooks Simpson recently pointed out](#). Although no major fights occurred, the game of cat and mouse between Meade and Lee was no less real or full of consequences. A.P. Hill’s III corps of the ANV received a bloody nose at the hands of Gouverneur Warren and the Union II Corps at Bristoe Station on October 14, 1863, and after several more days of contact, Lee aborted this offensive and retired south behind the Rappahannock, destroying the railroad along the way to discourage a Union offensive.

It is at this point where Graham and Skoch step in and start their book *Mine Run: A Campaign of Lost Opportunities*. Meade would have been happy to occupy Warrenton and head into winter camp, according to the authors, but Lincoln and his government, frustrated by what they perceived to be Meade’s lack of killer instinct, pressured him to advance. They wouldn’t even allow Meade to shift the advance to the left, using Fredericksburg as a base. Realizing that a failure to move forward might mean the loss of his command, Meade decided to act. Repairing the railroad to Warrenton, Meade moved south to cautiously probe Lee’s forces on the south bank of the Rappahannock. Lee left a bridgehead at Rappahannock Station, thus forcing Meade to worry about a flank attack if he crossed some or all of his army to the south side of the river. The problem lay in the strength of the bridgehead. Lee believed it to be

impregnable, but it turned out to be nothing of the sort.



On November 7, 1863, Meade’s troops launched attacks at Kelly’s Ford to the east and Rappahannock Station to the west. Kelly’s Ford was weakly defended because artillery deployed on the north bank would dominate any defenders trying to directly hold the ford. Instead, Lee had his main line farther south, with only a regiment and some artillery holding the ford proper. Naturally enough, the Northern III Corps, led by the 1st and 2nd U.S.S.S. and aided by Union artillery on the high ground, were able to cross the river rather easily. Lee decided to strike this force and wipe it out the next day. As he was making those plans, however, he received word that the Rappahannock Station position had fallen. Late in the day, the Yankees at that point, also backed by artillery, were able to break the Confederate line, capturing over 1600 men of Harry Hays’ Louisiana Brigade and Robert Hoke’s North Carolina Brigade, two of the better brigades in the entire Army of Northern Virginia. Needless to say, this made Lee’s line vulnerable to flanking, and he decided to retreat.

Over a two-day span, Lee made the march south and crossed the Rapidan River, creating a new line. Meade’s army cautiously followed, and many in the Army of the Potomac believed they had wasted an opportunity to catch Lee’s army out in the open in a

vulnerable position, their backs to the Rapidan. In any event, Meade was now between the rivers, with Lee to his south and west covering a new river line from Morton's Ford southwest to Liberty Mills. However, Lee had left unguarded several fords to the east.

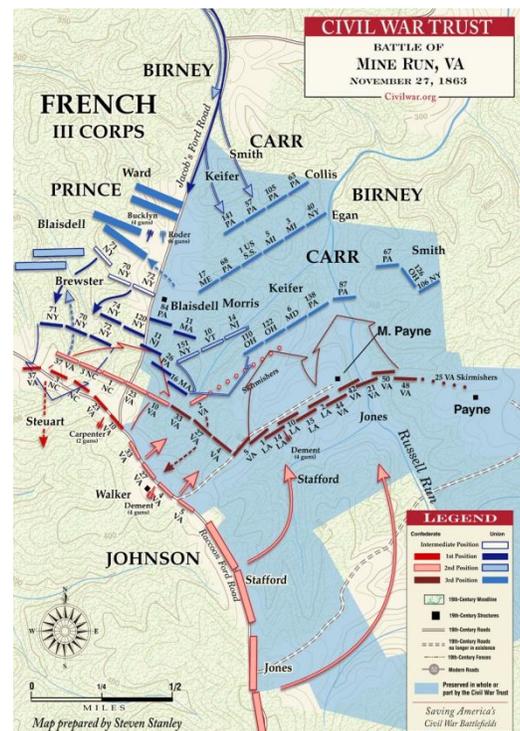
Meade formulated a plan calling for his troops to cross the Rapidan to the east using these three fords, then move quickly west along the Orange Turnpike and the Orange Plank Road. Meade believed he could quickly be on Lee's right flank and rear to the west of Mine Run before the Confederate general had time to react. Plans do not always work out in practice, and numerous delays involving less than enough pontoon boats at two fords, confusion on the march, and dallying generals meant that Lee was able to act in plenty of time. The lines actually settled to the east of Mine Run, not too far west of the future Wilderness battlefield.

There was a sharp action between French's Union III Corps (Meade's right flank) and Edward Johnson's Confederate Division (Lee's left flank) at Payne's Farm on November 27, 1863, not too far south of the Rapidan. Johnson not only prevented French from reaching Meade's center at Robertson's Tavern farther south. He also stopped Sedgwick's large VI Corps, trailing behind III Corps on narrow forest roads. Lee, after reviewing the situation, decided to retreat west across Mine Run, and created a formidable line following the north-south flow of that stream. Over the next few days, Meade searched in vain for ways to get at Lee. Finally, on November 30, Warren's II Corps was to attack Lee's right. Warren, with the coming light, saw that Lee had vastly strengthened the position and called off the attack. The Union soldiers who had been drawn up in line of battle were delighted, but Meade was embarrassed. He now had no choice but to withdraw and go into winter quarters without a victory. Lee, ever aggressive, had planned a flank attack of his own for December 2, but Meade had already gone. The Mine Run Campaign had ended without a major battle, but neither side knew it would happen that way at the time.

I was very pleasantly surprised with this particular entry in the Virginia Civil War Battles and Leaders Series, published by H.E. Howard. Graham and Skoch laid out an easy, informative read on the campaign,

and allowed someone new to the situation such as myself to quickly grasp what was going on. The maps, happily created by George Skoch, go down to regimental level detail in many places. In addition, there is a large fold-out map of the Mine Run area at the back of the book. The only thing I would have liked to have seen was a map covering the area around Rappahannock Station and Kelly's Ford as a whole. The book was pretty short at only 100 pages of text, but I thought it to be a solid introduction to the campaign. As with most H.E. Howard books, it can in no way be considered "definitive". The authors relied mainly on unit histories from the looks of the bibliography, though they also looked at around 10 manuscript collections as well. An appendix containing the Orders of Battle was a welcome addition for wargamers such as myself, though there were no unit strengths listed. I would recommend this book to any fan of the war in the east, especially those tired of Gettysburg. More happened in 1863 in the east than your typical short history of the war will tell. As this is the only book on the Mine Run Campaign, and since it was pretty well done for this series of books, I consider this a must-own.

Brett Schulte has reviewed numerous books on the Civil War and his contributions can be found at TOCWOC, <http://www.brettschulte.net/CWBlog/>, a group Civil War blog formed in 2007. This review was originally posted on October 30, 2007.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know it was Samuel Clemens who said Sir Walter Scott was the cause of the Civil War? Although a Southerner himself, Samuel Clemens reviled the chauvinist attitude held by many Southerners as originated and perpetuated by the popular novels of Sir Walter Scott.

In Life on the Mississippi, Clemens say, "Then comes Sir Walter Scott with his enchantments...It was Sir Walter that made every gentleman in the South a Major or a Colonel, or a General or a Judge, before the war; and it was he, also, that made these gentlemen value these bogus decorations...Sir Walter had so large a hand in making southern character, as it existed before the war, that he is in great measure responsible for the war."

Source: <http://civilwarstudies.org/trivia.shtm#07>

UPCOMING SCWRT EVENTS

Meeting location for 2013 is Plaza Hof Brau,
2500 Watt Ave., Sacramento, CA.

July 10: "The Mine Run Campaign & The Battle of Payne's Farm" -- Ted Savas

Aug 14: "The Gettysburg of the West: The 1862 Confederate Invasion of New Mexico" -- Don Hayden

September: "George Custer" -- Joe Maxwell

October: "California Railroads and the Civil War" -- William Burg

November: "The Capture of New Orleans" -- Paul Ruud

December: "TBA" -- Anne Peasley

