



Battle Cry

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

Here are a few words about how the Sacramento Civil War Round Table performed in 2013. We selected a new slate of officers for our club, and voted electing all of our selections. We continued to perform community service by being involved in the Civil War activities at Gibson Ranch in May. We also provided support to a High School Class at the request of the History Teacher, Erin Arthur, at El Dorado Hills High School. Erin did a Google search to see what information was available on our Civil War and found our Web site. This gave her a list of names of people who might help.

It actually takes more effort to keep us running efficiently than you might guess. An example is our newsletter which Brent ten Pas, our Editor does for us each month. He makes sure we don't leave anything out, and queries us from time to time. Brent is retiring at the end of 2013 and requires a replacement. Our immediate Past President is Don Hayden. Don has done a wonderful job for lots of years, and in fact was something of a mentor for me. He was President the entire time I have been a member of this club. He is clearly my fallback guy should I need anything.

Our two Members at Large are Nina and Wayne Henley who have helped us in recent years with our efforts at Gibson ranch among other things and continue to help us with their feedback on ideas for future tasks.

We also have a web-master who takes care of all of our on-line needs, and not a month goes by that we don't have something that we need her help with. Kim maintains our web-site which includes making changes to our speaker schedule when she is notified by our Program Director. Maxine Wollen is our Secretary taking care of all required tasks for the club including interfacing with our Treasurer. Maxine replaced our former Secretary who died earlier in the year.

I believe everyone is aware that the November 2013 West Coast Conference is being hosted by the San Joaquin Valley CWRT located in Clovis. We can expect more information from them as 2013 unfolds.

Bob Hanley, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, October 8, 2013
Hof Brau Restaurant, 2500 Watt Ave., Sacramento
Attendance – 35

Members – 25

Jim Armstrong, George Beitzel, Joan Beitzel, Roy Bishop, George Foxworth (Treas), Monica Foxworth, Bob Hanley, Don Hayden (IPP), Scottie Hayden, Nina Henley (MAL), Wayne Henley (MAL), James Juanitas, Dennis Kohlmann, Lowell Lardie, Vivian Miller, Anne Peasley (VP), Rick Peasley, Patty Ruud, Paul Ruud, Nancy Samuelson, Roxanne Spizzirri, Silver Williams (Program Director) , Susan Williams, Maxine Wollen (Sec), John Zasso

Guests – 10 Jim Harper, Ray Valdez, Mike Werner, Chris Osborn, Esther Boeck, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Harvey Cain, Marsha Cain, Wade Chandler

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Hanley.
2. President Hanley led the Pledge.
3. Following that, there was a discussion of whether or not to start the meeting at 6:30, due to the shortened hours of the restaurant. It was voted on to keep the hours of 7-8:30.
4. Next Paul Ruud announced the candidates for the 2014 officers. They are Anne Peasley, Pres, Don Hayden, VP, Paul Ruud, Sec., George Foxworth, Treas.
5. Paul was the speaker for the evening; the topic was the fall of New Orleans. Louisiana was the 6th state to secede, on 1-26-61. Governor Moore, governor of the state at that time, and an ardent secessionist, who ordered the takeover of all the Federal forts. There are 3 passes coming in to the port, and 2,000,000 bales of cotton went thru there. New Orleans was the 6th largest city in the US at the time; port receipts were \$185 million.
6. The Union appointed David Farragut to plan the Federal defense. He was put in charge of the West Gulf defense. The Confederates felt that if the North invaded, they would come from the north, down the Mississippi river, and planned accordingly. They did not pay much attention to any threat from the south. They had sent everything up river to stop the Union and left the City of New Orleans lightly defended.
7. The Union ships were steam powered and much faster. The Confederates had based the defense plan on wood sailing ships. Farragut & Co came in from the south and took the city. The Mayor surrendered, in order to preserve the city, and New Orleans was occupied by the Union, with General Butler in charge. He had a bad reputation, but did a great deal of good. He is noted for General Order 28, put in place as the women of the city harassed the northern soldiers. Butler proclaimed these were women plying their trade and were to be treated as such. However, the harassment went away when the order became effective.
8. Farragut went on up the Mississippi, and got as far as Vicksburg. This venture had a great impact on the outcome of the War.

Maxine Wollen, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

The cash balance at the end of the meeting was \$3,676.55. Thanks to John Zasso, members & guests, the raffle brought in \$48.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Chancellorsville's Forgotten Front: The Battles of Second Fredericksburg and Salem Church, May 3, 1863. By Chris Mackowski and Kristopher D. White. Illustrated, photos, maps, appendices, note, bibliography, index, 432 pp., 2013, Savas Beatie, www.savasbeatie.com, \$32.95.

The Battle of Chancellorsville is one of the war's best-known engagements. It is often described as Robert E. Lee's greatest victory because he was outnumbered two to one and successfully took huge risks.

Even casual students of the war know of Stonewall Jackson's legendary march on May 2 around the Federal army, which was followed by his devastating rout of the Union's ill-prepared right flank. Many are also aware of how later that night Jackson was accidentally shot and mortally wounded by his own men.

Often overlooked, however, are two May 3 large-scale and pivotal actions of the Chancellorsville campaign that took place well to the east of the famous battlefield, one 10 miles away on the same ground as the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg.

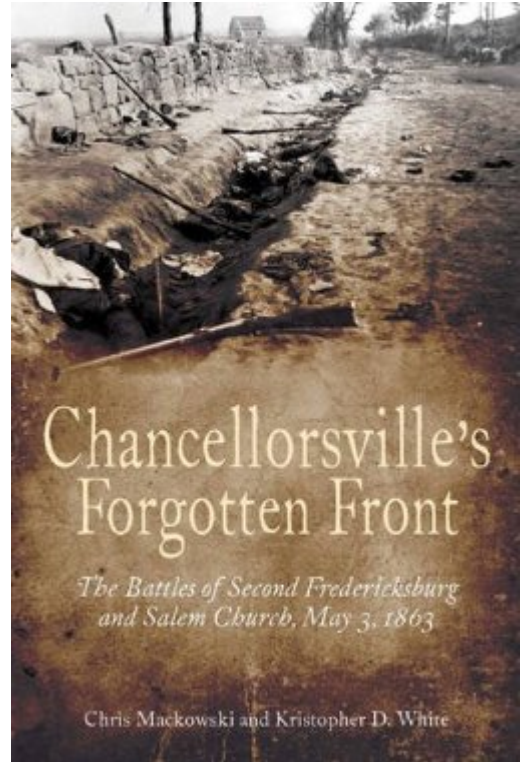
Now, in the first-ever book-length study of this "forgotten front," authors Chris Mackowski and Kristopher D. White explain in great detail just how the battles known as Second Fredericksburg and Salem Church complemented the larger and more famous Battle at Chancellorsville.

The primary Union actors in this particular drama were Gen. John Sedgwick and his large 6th Corps, which had been positioned across the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg as a means of holding the Confederates' attention.

Meanwhile, commanding Union General Joseph Hooker and three corps marched to the west, crossed the fords on April 30, and placed themselves on the Confederates' left flank. As part of Hooker's plan, Sedgwick's command had crossed the Rappahannock

on April 29 and established a bridgehead on the south bank.

In spite of Jackson's successful surprise assault against the Union's right flank on May 2, Hooker realized that his smaller foe was now dangerously divided.



With most of his army heavily engaged at Chancellorsville, Hooker sent orders that night for Sedgwick's men to assault the famous Marye's Heights in Fredericksburg and then move into the enemy's rear, thereby placing the Confederates in position to be crushed between Sedgwick's hammer and Hooker's anvil.

Unlike five months earlier, the May 3 assault against the lightly defended heights was successful. The bluecoats drove westward until they were ultimately stalled by stubborn Rebel resistance that evening at Salem Church.

Mackowski and White's splendid new work gives the reader an hour-by-hour insight into the command logic, communication foibles and troop movements that led to that intense fighting, coupled with a thorough analysis of these two battles' impact on the Chancellorsville campaign.

Typical of a Savas Beatie book, this one has quality features that augment the text. Seventy images coupled with 11 maps enhance the reading experience. The use of footnotes rather than the more common endnotes is particularly refreshing since they allow the reader to easily glance down to discover a source.

As the authors point out, 21,357 men fell on May 3 in the combined fighting at Second Fredericksburg, Salem Church and Chancellorsville, more than on any other day of the war with the exception of the one-day Battle of Antietam.

Yet those men who made the ultimate sacrifice on that grisly day have always been overshadowed by the mortal wounding of one man the night before.

This excellent and much-needed work fills a huge gap in our understanding of the Chancellorsville campaign and will help to correct that historical oversight.

Paul Taylor

Paul Taylor is an award-winning author of six books pertaining to the Civil War era. His newest work, "Old Slow Town": Detroit during the Civil War, was published by Wayne State University Press. His website is www.paultaylor.com.

Source:

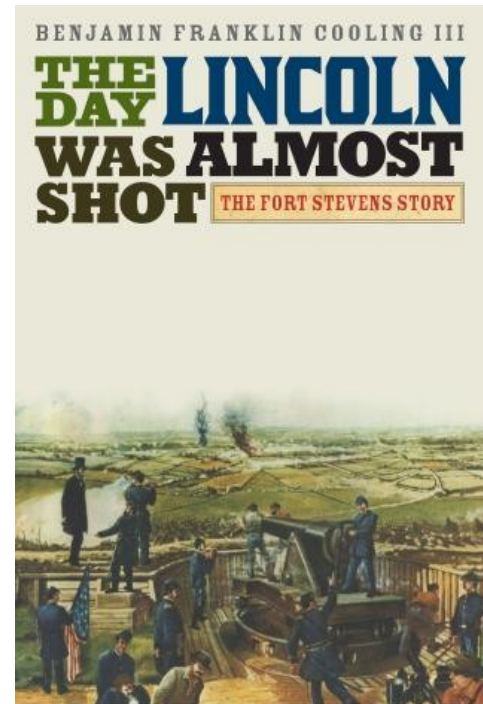
<http://www.civilwarnews.com/reviews/2013br/nov/chancellorsville-white-br111301.html>



The Day Lincoln Was Almost Shot: The Fort Stevens Story. By Benjamin Franklin Cooling III. Illustrated, photos, notes, bibliography, index, 322 pp., 2013, Scarecrow Press, www.scarecrowpress.com, \$45.

The summer of 1864 was perhaps the darkest period of Abraham Lincoln's presidency. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Virginia campaign stalled outside of Petersburg while casualties mounted at a staggering rate. Farther South, Gen. William T. Sherman's advance on Atlanta slowed to a standstill on the outskirts of the city.

Meanwhile, Lincoln's reelection prospects grew dim in the face of military stalemate and endless criticism from Peace Democrats and Republican Radicals.



Then in mid-July 15,000 Confederate troops, under the command of Gen. Jubal Early, suddenly appeared within striking distance of Washington, sending shockwaves of disbelief and fear through the nation's capital.

Standing between Early's army and Washington was a series of forts, including Fort Stevens, defended by a force, depleted by Grant's need for men in Virginia and comprised of militia, convalescents, and a smattering of troops from various units.

How Early came to pose such a serious threat to Washington, how Union forces met that threat, and what role Lincoln played at Fort Stevens are covered in extensive detail in Benjamin Franklin Cooling's study.

The basic facts of the battle at Fort Stevens are well known. Pleas from the War Department convinced Grant to send Gen. Horatio Wright's 6th Corps to Washington to reinforce the inexperienced defending troops. Wright's men arrived in time to dissuade Early from ordering an assault on Fort Stevens and other fortifications.

On July 12, the second day of the battle, Lincoln visited Fort Stevens to witness the fighting first hand. When he stood unprotected on a parapet he was allegedly called a "damn fool" by Capt. Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. for nearly getting shot by a sharpshooter. The battle, however, tends to receive only passing notice in many histories of the Civil War.

Despite the fact that Early chose not to assault Fort Stevens and attempt to capture Washington, Cooling believes the Fort Stevens battle deserves much more attention that it has received because of what might have happened if Lincoln had been killed or Early had captured the capital.

Because of the significant impact that either or both these events would have had on the course of the war and on postwar history, Cooling offers a detailed account of the battle.

In telling the Fort Stevens story, the outcome of which "was arguably so decisive," Cooling pursues two overlapping agendas. One is to prove his contention that the battle was a critical moment in the war, Lincoln's presidency, and the future of the United States.

His second agenda concerns remembrance and commemoration. Because the battle was so decisive, the site of Fort Stevens and the national parkland on which the fort stands deserve National Park Service presence and a suitable memorial that many less-important Civil War sites have attained.

Cooling presents an exhaustive history of pre-battle events, Lincoln's activities at the fort, and Union troops' courageous actions defending the capital. While occasionally offering too much information, Cooling has written what should stand as the definitive treatment of the Fort Stevens story for years to come.

He touches upon counterfactual history by speculating how history might have changed if Lincoln had been killed or Early had captured Washington. Fortunately, Cooling resists the urge to dive in. The "what if" questions raised by Cooling deserve attention, however, and are critical to his argument concerning the battle's significance.

Cooling ends with a chapter on the battle of Fort Stevens as remembered by participants on both sides. In doing so, he provides strong evidence that contradicts Oliver Wendell Holmes' later claim that he was the one who called Lincoln a damn fool for almost getting shot. The question of exactly who admonished the president and ordered him off the parapet remains unresolved to this day.

Thomas A. Horrocks

Thomas A. Horrocks is Director of the John Hay Library at Brown University. He has written and co-edited several books on Abraham Lincoln and James Buchanan.

Source:

<http://www.civilwarnews.com/reviews/2013br/nov/fts-tevens-cooling-br111312.html>

MEET PRESIDENT LINCOLN!



THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS-150TH ANNIVERSARY!

REMEMBRANCE DAY
2013

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FOR ALL
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10 O'CLOCK A.M.

**SPONSORED BY
GEN. GEO. WRIGHT CAMP 22,
SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR
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FREE PARKING IS LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE 10TH STREET GATE.

THE EVENT IS FREE, HOWEVER, DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED AND GO TOWARD THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE CEMETERY AND TO SUPPORT THE EVENT.

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