



THE DRUM & BUGLE
Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table
April 2023, Volume 20, Issue 4

Speaker: Scott Mingus
Topic: “Texans at Chickamauga”
When: Monday April 10, 2023
Location: Brock’s Riverside Grill
Times: Social Time Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm
Our Website: www.rappvalleycivilwar.org
Our Facebook: www.facebook.com/rvcwrt

Scott Mingus “Texans at Chickamauga”

Multiple award-winning author Scott Mingus is a retired scientist and executive in the global specialty paper industry. The Ohio native graduated from Miami University. He was part of the research team that developed the first commercially successful self-adhesive U.S. postage stamps, and he was a pioneer in the early development of bar code labels. He has written more than 30 Civil War and Underground Railroad books and numerous articles for *Gettysburg Magazine* and other historical journals. He has

appeared on C-SPAN, C-SPAN3, PBS, PCN, and several other TV networks. Mingus writes a blog on the Civil War history of York County, PA, where he and his wife Debi live. He also has written six scenario books for miniature wargaming. He received lifetime achievement awards from the York County History Center and the Camp Curtin Historical Society for his many contributions to local history. His books and wargaming scenario books have received or been nominated for numerous national awards.

Scott Mingus's and Joe Owen's *Unceasing Fury: Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga, September 18-20, 1863*, is the first full-length book to examine in detail the role of troops from the Lone Star State. Texans fought in almost every major sector of the sprawling Chickamauga battlefield, from the first attacks on September 18 on the bridges spanning the creek to the final attack on Snodgrass Hill on the third day of fighting. In between, Texas regiments launched attack after attack against Union lines in now famous spots such as the Viniard farm, Poe Field, Kelly Field, and North Dyer Field. Ultimately, Union mistakes led to a tactical Confederate victory, one that was marred by the strategic mistake of not aggressively pursuing the retreating Federals and seizing the vital transportation hub at Chattanooga.

“The XII Corps at Cedar Mountain through the Second Manassas Campaign”

by Chris Bryan

A Review of the March 2023 Program by Greg Mertz

The Federal XII corps of the Army of the Potomac, which lost its commander Joseph Mansfield at Antietam, and fought under Henry Slocum at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, has its origins in the Second corps of the Army of Virginia, formed June 26, 1862. Our speaker, Chris Bryan shared with us some thoughts from the first half of his book, focusing on the role of the corps in the battle of Cedar Mountain, under the leadership of Nathaniel Banks. The corps was one of three departments that had not effectively cooperated with one another in the spring of 1862 that were brought together to form a new army under John Pope.

Of the five brigades that would fight with Banks at Cedar Mountain, only one had achieved prior success on a battlefield. That was the group of Ohio

regiments commanded by John Geary, in Christopher Augur's division – the rest of that division had largely spent the war guarding railroads. The other division in the corps, commanded by Alpheus Williams, contained troops that had seen combat, but their experience was one of being defeated by Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson at First Winchester in May of 1862.

Pope's mission was to disrupt Confederate supply lines passing through Gordonsville and threaten the left flank of Confederate forces to the east. Federal Cavalry officer John Hatch was assigned to take the Gordonsville rail junction and tear up rails, but he failed miserably. One of Pope's greatest contributions to the Federal cause was to replace Hatch with John Buford, who would prove to be a talented horse soldier.

On August 6, 1862 Pope ordered his troops to concentrate at Culpeper. The next day, Jackson moved on the Federals with designs to strike Banks before other blue-clad soldiers get close enough to offer support. After skirmishing with Federal cavalry on the afternoon of August 9, the Confederate position started taking shape with the center forming along the Crittenden farm lane. A tall cornfield grew on the rolling ground between the Confederate line and the Union artillery lined up on a parallel road called the Mitchell Station Road. Stretching between the Crittenden Lane and the Mitchell Station Road, running east-west was the Culpeper Road. The left end of the Confederate line was awkwardly posted along the edge of a tree line overlooking a wheatfield that was north of the Culpeper Road and east of the Crittenden Lane – a protruding salient sticking out ahead of the Confederate center.

About 4:00 pm, an artillery duel erupted, mortally wounding Charles Winder, commanding Jackson's old Stonewall division. William B. Taliaferro succeeded Winder, and set about inspecting the position of the division and trying to learn of the plan for the battle. Greatly concerned about his left flank, Taliaferro sent troops to shore it up, but they did not arrive in time to secure the position.

The artillery bombardment gave way to an infantry assault, with Augur's men marching across the cornfield toward the Crittenden Lane, and Samuel Crawford's brigade of Williams' division advancing through the wheatfield toward the salient along the wood line. The 1st Virginia Battalion fired three ineffective volleys over the heads of the 28th New York in the wheatfield and were put to flight. To the right of the New Yorkers, the 46th Pennsylvania

struck some Confederate units in the woods that were on their way to try to bolster the Confederate left, but were too late. To the left of the 28th New York was the rear of the 21st Virginia, who were firing into the exposed flank of Augur's men in the cornfield, oblivious to Federal troops coming up behind them. An intense hand-to-hand combat ensued in the woods north of the Culpeper Road.

As Crawford's men emerged from the woods into the cornfield, Confederate cannon in front of the Crittenden Lane are in danger and many gun crews are ordered to withdraw – some ordered by Jackson himself -- for fear of being captured. Confederate brigade commander Jubal Early was away from his command, showing another brigade commander Edward Thomas what he felt would be a good position for his troops, when Crawford plowed into his men. Banks' outnumbered troops had managed to breach a large hole in the Confederate line with just three regiments.

Early was able to muster three regiments against Crawford's largely spent attack. Pockets of Garnett's men were rallied by Jackson waving a sword that was rusted into his scabbard from non-use and could not be withdrawn. Reinforcements of A.P. Hill's fresh division were also instrumental in launching counterattacks that turned the tide in favor of the Confederates.

Further to the right of Crawford's brigade, six companies of the 3rd Wisconsin in George H. Gordon's brigade of Williams' division lagged behind Crawford's men. They moved into a field of brush, where they encountered and were grossly outnumbered by most of the "Stonewall" brigade. After driving back the Wisconsin soldiers, the "Stonewall" brigade wheeled to the right heading for Crawford's flank and rear.

The 10th Maine was one of Crawford's regiments, but had not participated in the initial attack of the brigade because it had been held back to support a battery. After the battery moved on, the regiment basically served as a body guard for Banks, until he sent them forward. Portions of three Confederate brigades nearly destroyed this one Maine regiment.

A battalion of some 164 horsemen of the 1st Pennsylvania Cavalry was thrown into the fight in an attempt to slow down the Confederate pursuit, buy some time for Crawford's men to withdraw and for the rest of Gordon's brigade to come up. Confederates wheeled up to the edge of the Culpeper

Road excited at the prospect of being able to shoot their rifles at men lacking any comparable firepower.

The remainder of Gordon's brigade was sent into the fray, not only too late to be of assistance to Crawford, but at a place and time to receive the full fury of the counterattack by Hill's fresh troops. Gordon's men did well for a while, but then William Dorsey Pender's brigade arrived and was sent to the extreme Confederate left where it crushed Gordon's right flank.

Because Banks' corps suffered such heavy casualties at Cedar Mountain, Pope did not use the troops during the subsequent Second Manassas Campaign. The corps guarded trains along the railroad while the rest of the army was engaged in the main battle.

Friends of Central Virginia Battlefield Trust

As you know CVBT is a land trust. We focus on purchasing endangered battlefield properties. We do produce a large three-day annual conference, standalone events and need to interpret and maintain our lands, we need help in all of these. In the past, CVBT has had individuals from organizations assist us, and we are grateful, but now we would like to create an official volunteer group who would enjoy being part of CVBT's volunteer core.

We have created "**The Friends of CVBT.**" The intent is for this all-volunteer group is to be the "On Call" core of CVBT's volunteer group assisting in events and battlefield related needs. Active volunteer members will have the unique opportunity to be involved with events hosted by nationally acclaimed historians, assist in tours, and work on preserved battlefields. Participating volunteers will also be enrolled in the membership ranks of CVBT every year they contribute. CVBT will provide each volunteer with a CVBT volunteer staff shirt and CVBT official hat to wear at events or whenever wanted. We will be limiting this new group to 18 volunteers.

CVBT is now beginning our 27th year of preserving our local battlefields, the very battlefields you study and walk upon. We would be honored to have you join the ranks of CVBT volunteers to help us further our mission of preserving our Nation's history.

If interested please email our Executive Director **Terry Rensel** at executivedirector@cvbt.org .
Office: 540-374-0900

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF FREDERICKSBURG (CWRTF)

CWRTF meets 9 times a year on designated Wednesdays at Mary Washington Jepson Alumni Executive Center, 1119 Hanover Street. They offer a buffet dinner followed by a Civil War-themed presentation. Reservations are required. Speaker/topic schedule can be found on their website at www.cwrftf.org, as well as below. As with our round table, things are subject to change due to the ups and downs of Covid.

CWRTF Schedule

April 26, 2023 - Codie Eash, US SIGNAL CORPS

May 24, 2023 - Stephen Cushman, THE GENERAL'S CIVIL WAR: WHAT THEIR MEMOIRS CAN TEACH US TODAY

June 21, 2023 - Paul Brueske, THE LAST SIEGE - 1865 MOBILE CAMPAIGN

September 27, 2023 - John Vagnetti, THE CIVIL WAR, A POSTAL SYSTEM DIVIDED

October 25, 2023 - Sarah Kay Bierle, THE BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK

November 15, 2023 - Ken Rutherford, AMERICA'S BURIED HISTORY: LANDMINES IN THE CIVIL WAR

March 27, 2024 - Christian Keller, SOUTHERN STRATEGIES

Who We Are

The Drum and Bugle Newsletter is published monthly by the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 7632, Fredericksburg VA 22404. The newsletter is available on our website at www.rappvalleycivilwar.org. Yearly membership dues are \$40 for individuals and \$50 for families. Students are free. Membership is open to anyone interested in the military, political and social history of the American Civil War.

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