

THE DRUM & BUGLE

Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2016, Volume 13, Issue 4

Speaker: Robert E. L. Krick
Topic: "Rooney Lee: Too Big to be a Man; Too Small to be a Horse"
When: Monday, April 11, 2016
Location: Brock's Riverside Grill
Times: Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm

Abstract on Robert E. L. Krick, our Scheduled Speaker Monday, April 11, 2016

Our scheduled speaker for April is, Robert E. L. Krick. He has worked and lived on America's Civil War battlefields almost endlessly! As a boy, Robert Krick grew up on the Chancellorsville Battlefield outside of Fredericksburg. In 1972 he graduated with a degree in history from Fredericksburg's Mary Washington College. Krick has worked in different historical capacities at more than a few interesting battlefields, including, the *Custer Battlefield* in Montana, the *Manassas Battlefield* and the *Richmond National Battlefield Park*. Robert Krick has been widely published on various Civil War topics.

His first book was a unit history of The Fortieth Virginia Infantry. The University of North Carolina Press in 2003, published his biographical register of the Army of Northern Virginia's Staff Officers, entitled *Staff Officers in Gray*. Among Krick's many published essays is one examining the importance of the far Confederate left flank at the *Battle of Sharpsburg*. Krick is presently working on a study of General Robert E. Lee's first victory – the *Battle of Gaines's Mill*.

Krick's presentation will be William Henry Fitzhugh Lee, middle son of R. E. Lee:

William Henry Fitzhugh Lee was known to his family and now to posterity as "Rooney." As a youngster he wanted only to be a soldier, like his father, but antebellum experience in the Old Army convinced young Rooney that life as a farmer was more to his liking. However, the National events occurring in 1861 placed him back under arms, and between 1861 and 1865 young Rooney carved out a distinguished war record. He rose from being the captain of a cavalry company to commanding a division with the rank of major general. Personal tragedy was a steady thread through W. H. F. Lee's life, though, and his domestic sorrows are astonishing to contemplate even 150 years later. Mr. Krick will look at the highs and lows of this very interesting man's life.

RVCWRT May Bus Tour

"The Journey to Petersburg Goes Through Cold Harbor"

This tour/trip is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2016

Final price is \$100.00 per person

This tour/trip includes Admission Fees to Cold Harbor NMP and Petersburg NMP along with necessary Bus/Transportation Cost and a Box Lunch

Note: There is a definite need to hurry to lock this trip in, as the number required by the bus company has been met . . .

Mosby's Raids in Northern Virginia
By William Connery
Review of the March 2016 program by Greg Mertz

According to our speaker, William Connery, many Northerners regarded Colonel John S. Mosby and his Rangers as little more than "common thieves and pirates." Connery feels that assessments of their merit have been severely tainted because they have been associated with other cutthroat partisans such as those who rode with William C. Quantrill. Today, his reputation has improved as Mosby's uniform jacket is displayed in the National Museum of American History and Mosby has been inducted into U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

Born in Powhattan County west of Richmond, Mosby was a sickly boy who liked to read, including accounts of Colonel Francis Marion, an American soldier in the American Revolution known for his irregular tactics with the sobriquet of the "Swamp Fox." As a student at the University of Virginia, he was expelled from school because of a heated dispute that included the shooting of his adversary in the neck. Just four years before the Civil War, Mosby married Pauline Clarke. A Unionist at heart, Mosby voted for the Northern Democratic presidential candidate, Stephen Douglas.

With the outbreak of Civil War, Mosby joined the Confederate cavalry, esteeming commander William E. "Grumble" Jones, but despising Fitzhugh Lee so much that he resigned when Lee won election over Jones and took over regimental command. Mosby then became a valued scout of J.E.B. Stuart, contributing to the success of his *Ride Around McClellan* in the spring of 1862.

One of the myths about Mosby, wrapped up in the "Gray Ghost" image, is that he had an uncanny way of seemingly vanishing and that he was never taken prisoner. Mosby was in fact captured at Beaverdam while waiting for a train. He was exchanged ten days later.

Perhaps his most remarkable escape from capture was when Federal soldiers converged on the Hathaway House around midnight during an evening when Mosby was staying there with his wife. A search of the building by the Federals failed to uncover Mosby, who had climbed out of the second story window of the bedroom he was hanging onto a large tree limb, hiding there until the enemy soldiers left.

One of Mosby's archenemies was Colonel Percy Wyndham, who said that Mosby was nothing more than a "common horse thief." Mosby's retort was that he never stole a horse that didn't have a Yankee soldier on it. One of Mosby's many amazing feats occurred when he believed that Wyndham was staying in a particular building in Fairfax Court House. Mosby discovered that Wyndham was not there, but he did learn that Federal General Edwin H. Stoughton was in the village, staying at the Dr. William Gunnell House. Mosby was able to get a Federal soldier to answer the door and take him to Stoughton's bedroom, where the general was fast asleep. Mosby lifted the general's nightshirt and slapped him on the buttocks. The startled and irate Stoughton asked the meaning of the disruption, and Mosby responded by asking the general if he had ever heard of Mosby. Stoughton then got a bit excited, asking whether Mosby had been captured. After giving a negative response to Stoughton's question, he informed the general that Mosby had captured him.

Another humorous event occurred at the Nathaniel Hanna House during Mosby's Herndon Raid on St. Patrick's Day, 1863. Noticing four horses tied up in front of the home, Mosby's men captured two officers when they ran out of the house, but the other two hid in the attic. One of Mosby's men fired a shot into the ceiling, calling for their surrender. Major William Wells was in the attic when he was startled by the shot. Falling through the ceiling to the Rangers below, Wells was taken prisoner along with the other officer.

Several of Mosby's exploits proved to be particularly humiliating to his captors. In the fall of 1863, Mosby planned on capturing the governor of West Virginia, Francis H. Pierpont, from his Alexandria suite. Though that plan was foiled by the governor being away for the night, Mosby had a satisfactory substitute. One of the Rangers, private French Delany, led the party to his home, where his father, Federal Colonel Daniel F. Delany, who was an aide to Governor Pierpont was fast asleep. Colonel Delany was easily apprehended by his own son.

During Mosby's "Greenback Raid" in the fall of 1864, eighty of Mosby's Rangers captured the Federal Army of the Shenandoah Valley's payroll train. They split up the bounty, with each ranger receiving a \$2,100 share.

Mosby and his rangers were despised by the Federal authorities, not only because they were so highly effective, but because they were believed by many to be using unacceptable methods of warfare. Federal Shenandoah Valley army commander General Philip H. Sheridan ordered that any of Mosby's men who were captured should be hanged without the benefit of a trial. In September 1864, six men believed to be Mosby

Rangers were captured and executed. Mosby very quickly retaliated by hanging three Federal soldiers. Mosby further called upon Sheridan to consider the matter settled and to cease the practice of killing prisoners, which indeed ended this horrible chapter of the war.

After Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House, Mosby tried to work out a surrender of his command with General Winfield S. Hancock but, Mosby did not feel that they could work out satisfactory arrangements. Instead, Mosby disbanded his Rangers at Salem, Virginia on April 21, 1865.

Mosby's wife, Pauline, was the daughter of a U.S. Congressman and she had many friends in politics. Even though President Andrew Johnson had been a guest at their wedding when he was a senator, Johnson refused to see her when she sought a pardon for her husband. Mosby would, however, find U.S. Grant to be much more sympathetic, giving Mosby the ability to travel freely and even appointing him as American Consul to Hong Kong. Some of Mosby's other interesting post-war associations, include Mosby riding with young George S. Patton, and a young British officer reading of Mosby's tactics, his name was Winston Churchill.

Remember: Contact Bob Jones to order your Dinner in advance

To Confirm Your Reservations; Telephone 540-399-1702 or e-mail 3dognight@Bigplanet.Com

RVCWRT History Alert Program

by Jim Smithfield

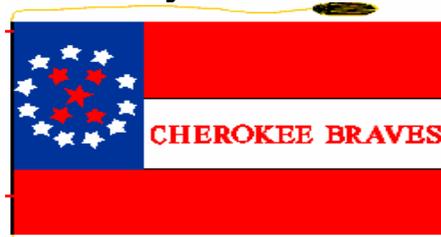
RVCWRT member Alan Zirkle, provides a totally free service, which notifies subscribers about any/all upcoming local history events, i.e., in the Fredericksburg general area. This is done via subscribers recorded e-mail address, it concerns upcoming history-related events. RVCWRT members can receive Alan's important messages. If you do not now, but would like to receive Alan Zirkle's "History Alerts" please send your e-mail address to Alan noting this fact to him at az@azirkle.com.

The Five Civilized Tribes and the Confederacy

(Second of two articles discussing the Five Civilized Tribes and the Civil War)

By Jim Smithfield

Yes, Virginia there really were Confederate Indians . . .



Cherokee Confederate Battle Flag

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When fighting in the "Nations" commenced, Stand Watie organized and commanded the *Cherokee Mounted Rifles*. These men were all rough-hewn Oklahoma horse soldiers. They went on to secure a fearsome reputation, far out of proportion to their original numbers or even to their actual abilities. This reputation was earned for their endeavors in such battles as Wilson's Creek, Missouri and Pea Ridge, Arkansas.

At the beginning of the Civil War the Cherokees attempted, unsuccessfully, to remain neutral, but ultimately they became divided along the same lines as in 1835, when they were forced by Treaty and the United States government to move westward. While the majority of the Cherokees appeared to openly declare

for the Union, what was at first "thought" to be a minority group, under Stand Watie, pledged their allegiance to the Confederacy. Stand Watie was one of the original signees of the treaty to move all of the Cherokee Nation from Georgia westward into the Oklahoma Territories.

Early in 1861, upon entering Confederate service, Stand Watie raised a company and later that same year, he was appointed colonel of the *First Cherokee Mounted Rifles*. In recognition of his actions over the coming years; he was appointed to the rank of Brigadier General on May 6, 1864. Native Americans under Watie engaged in the battles of *Wilson's Creek* and *Elkhorn Tavern*, and as noted in this article they fought in many other raids and engagements. They were principally used in border raids and as skirmishers throughout the Indian Territory. Watie's Indian troops were found to be excellent soldiers when used in sudden offensive actions. Brigadier General Stand Watie fought bravely through to the end of the Civil War. He was the last general officer of the Confederacy to "*strike his colors*" formally surrendering on June 23, 1865, at Doaksville in Choctaw County, OK.

At Pea Ridge, Arkansas, Native Americans fighting in the Confederate service stood up to the withering artillery fire of Federal forces, actually charging the cannon's and breaking the Union line. However, there were other instances where bodies of Federal soldiers had been mutilated. In some Confederate units, Union scalps were seen dangling from Indian belts. Northern papers paid a great deal of attention to the atrocities committed by Confederate Indians.

In the beginning when the first Confederate forces entered Indian Territory they attempted to force Opothleyaholo, the eighty year old Chief of the non-aligned Upper Creek nation to join the Confederacy. This marked the expulsion of non-aligned Creeks from Indian Territory and an overall Indian migration out of Indian Territory. When the Indian survivors of this forced march out of their territory reached Federal Kansas, they counted among their numbers 5,600 Creeks, 1,000 Seminoles, 140 Chickasaws, 315 Quapaws, 197 Delawares and an estimated 300 additional Indians of various other tribes. It was barely a few months later until Opothleyaholo's warriors had been trained and wearing Union uniforms returned to Indian Territory as the First and Second Union Indian Brigades. Now returning as Union Soldiers, these warriors were determined to avenge their previous treatment. However, the Confederate victory at Chustenalah closed out the first phase of the American Civil War in Indian Territory.

The ongoing attempt by Union Indian troops to re-take Indian Territory opened a second phase in the fighting there. The fight among the various elements culminated in the Confederate defeat at Pea Ridge (Elk Tavern). The Federal commanders aware of the weakened condition of the Confederacy west of the Mississippi undertook various initiatives to re-take the territory. An important part of this was to form an expeditionary force, known only as the *Indian Expedition*, comprised of two brigades of cavalry mustered from Wisconsin, Ohio and Kansas, as well as an artillery battery from Indiana, along with two regiments of Indian troops who'd been recruited from Chief Opothleyaholo's followers.

Colonel William Weer of Kansas was placed in command of the *Indian Expedition* on June 1, 1862. Thus began the Union's re-entry into Indian Territory starting from the Union supply depot at Baxter Springs, Kansas. The Union *Indian Expedition* followed the Grand River valley into the heart of the Cherokee Nation.

Throughout the entire march, Cherokee Colonel Stand Watie's cavalry constantly harassed the Union column with hit and run tactics against the entire column and its supply lines. Finally on July 3rd, 1862, the Union expeditionary force pressed a fight with, and defeated Watie's cavalry at the battle of Locust Grove.

The resulting Confederate defeat at Locust Grove opened up the Union approaches to the Cherokee capital of Tahlequah and Fort Gibson. Colonel Weer then divided his forces, capturing Fort Gibson with one force and Tahlequah with the other. However, the *Indian Expedition* ultimately lost its momentum due to concerns about Stand Watie's continuing raids. The fear was that these raids would eventually cut the Union supply lines back to Kansas.

After the fall of Tahlequah, Colonel Weer's command staff met in secret, determining to abort the expedition and to return to Kansas immediately. Upon seeing the withdrawal of Union troops, Watie's Confederate Indian troops re-occupied Fort Gibson, Tahlequah, and many other key points within the Cherokee Nation that had previously been surrendered to the Federals.

In September 1862, Federal General J. M. Schofield directed his field commanders in the Southwest to drive Confederate forces from out of Arkansas and out of Indian Territory as well. Then, in October, a much more-determined and better-organized Union army returned to Indian Territory driving the Confederate forces out of the territory north of the Arkansas River. This was the second Federal invasion into Indian Territory.

In July of 1862, yet another blow had been dealt to the Confederate cause in Indian Territory. This occurred when an attempt was made by Confederate General Douglas Cooper, who had driven his troops north on the Texas Road to Honey Springs.

Honey Springs was approximately twenty-six miles southwest of Fort Gibson. The resulting battle of Honey Springs and the subsequent fall of Fort Smith, coupled with the discontinuance of all logistical support to the territory west of the Mississippi River by the Confederacy, signaled the last significant Civil War engagement in the Indian Territory.

The Cherokee along with the rest of the Confederate aligned Five Civilized Tribes fought on throughout the war, fighting to very bitter end. After the Civil War ended Stand Watie, located and reunited with his wife and family resuming the life of a planter (only now without the benefit of slaves) and he engaged in various local enterprises. Brigadier General Stand Watie died peacefully in his home on Honey Creek, located in what is now Delaware County, OK. Watie died on September 9, 1871, and he's buried in the Old Polson Cemetery near Grove, OK.

The effects of *Reconstruction* were especially hard on the people of the Indian Territory. After the war, the Indian Territory became a dumping ground by the Federal government for Indians from all sections of the United States. These Indian people were sent there to colonize the lands taken from the Five Civilized Tribes under the North's *Reconstruction* policies. After the war and during the *Reconstruction* period, joining the Cherokees, Creeks, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole peoples of the Five Civilized Tribes, were the people of the Caddos, Wichitas, Delawares, Shawnees, Poncas, Kickapoos, Pawnees, Osages, Modocs and other tribes all over the United States.

Did you know . . .
by Jim Smithfield

- . . . that there were nearly 12,000 men (and women) of American Indian heritage who fought for the Confederacy during the American Civil War?
- . . . that Stand Watie was the highest ranking minority being a Confederate Brigadier General? He was also the highest ranking officer of any minority to have served in either the Confederate army or the Union army.
- . . . that Confederate Brigadier General Stand Watie was the last Confederate general officer to surrender his command to Federal forces?
- . . . that although being Native Americans, Stand Watie and his followers were primarily all planters and *Slave Owners*, and everyone felt he stood to profit from the war.
- . . . that, however bad it was for the Indian troops, it was far worse for their families, living alone in an openly hostile homeland? This was especially true for their wives, who while clustered together were still defenseless. They were hated by the non - allied portions of the Five Civilized Tribes. Most of the wives of the Watie's Indian troops were either white or of mixed white and Indian blood.

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. Each month, The Drum and Bugle newsletter is also placed on our web-site, www.RVCWRT.org. Yearly membership dues are still only \$30.00 for individuals, \$40.00 for families, and it's just \$7.50 for students. Membership is open to anyone interested in the study of the Civil War and the ongoing preservation of Civil War sites.

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