



THE DRUM & BUGLE

Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter

March 2016, Volume 13, Issue 3

Speaker: William S. Connery
Topic: "Mosby's Raids in Civil War/Northern Virginia"
When: Monday, March 14, 2016
Location: Brock's Riverside Grill
Times: Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm

Abstract on William S. Connery, our Scheduled Speaker for Monday March 14, 2016

By Jim Smithfield

Our speaker for the March 14, 2016, dinner meeting will be William S. Connery. Mr. Connery grew up in Baltimore, MD, and he has a degree in history from the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. Mr. Connery is a contributor to the *Civil War Courier*, the *Washington Times Civil War Page* and other noted publications. In 2012, he was awarded the prestigious "Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal" for his previous History Press book, "Civil War Northern Virginia 1861." Mr. Connery is also a member of the "Company of Military Historians," the *Capitol Hill Civil War Round Table*, and the *E. A. Poe Society of Baltimore*. Mr. Connery can be reached at william.connery@verizon.net or telephone him at 703-719-6639.

Mosby's Raids in Civil War/Northern Virginia

One of the most famous names in Civil War Northern Virginia, other than General Robert E. Lee, was Colonel John S. Mosby, known as the Gray Ghost. Mosby stands out among nearly 1,000 generals, both North and South who served in the Civil War. He is celebrated for his raid that captured Union General Edwin Stoughton in his quarters at Fairfax Court House and also Colonel Daniel French Dulany at Rose Hill, near Alexandria, VA. By 1864, Mosby had become the most feared partisan guerrilla in the North and he was a nightmare to Union troops assigned to protect Washington City.

After the Civil War, John S. Mosby's open support for presidential candidate, Ulysses S. Grant forced him to leave his native Virginia and to go to Hong Kong as the U.S. Consul. He was a personal mentor to young George S. Patton, thus Mosby's military legacy extended into World War II. William S. Connery brings alive the many dimensions of this most famous American hero. Connery will have books available for purchase after his presentation.

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 MEMBERS" YOUR 2016, MEMBERSHIP IS PAST DUE

Individual membership is still \$30.00, family \$45.00 and student membership remains \$7.50 . . .

Effects of Continual Activity During the 1864, Overland Campaign

"God grant a speedy end to the war is the prayer of everyone here . . . "

Morale, Command and the Army of the Potomac during the *Battles of the Wilderness/Spotsylvania Court House*

Presented by Eric Mink

Review of Eric Mink's February 2016, program by Greg Mertz"

The staff of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park likely became more familiar with the Battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania as they prepared for the multiple programs they conducted during the 150th anniversary than at any other point in their careers. As Eric delved into these battles for his 150th tours, he recognized the inordinately high number of Union soldiers who wrote letters or diary entries about the stress and strain of the campaign and their feelings of despair. It seemed to Eric that the men in blue experienced this level of despondency more frequently than in the many other battles and campaigns that he had studied.

Recently Civil War scholarship has begun to explore the "dark history" of the war examining psychological trauma. Much of our current comprehension of the effect of mental stress on soldiers focuses on trying to understand what they experienced when they return home – the issues they face after they depart the battlefield, called "post-traumatic stress syndrome." But soldiers often struggle to cope while still in the field, a state called "combat stress reaction." Among the conditions contributing to combat stress reaction are physical (including lack of sleep), cognitive (including inability to understand), emotional (including sadness from loss of a friend or relative), social (including unit identity), and spiritual (including challenging previously held beliefs).

The Wilderness and Spotsylvania battles were part of the 1864 Overland Campaign – a 42-day period in which the opposing forces were in constant contact with each other. The men were continually marching, fighting, or digging trenches. The stakes were high – the men felt that the outcome of the upcoming election and conclusion of the war rested upon their shoulders. Even though the Union army was composed of veterans, they had never experienced a campaign that affected them like the *Overland Campaign*.

The first battle of the campaign was the *Battle of the Wilderness*, May 5 - 6. Even though the campaign was young and the men rested, the environment of the Wilderness added to the stress. Though the troops had fought just a few miles east in similar vegetation one year earlier at Chancellorsville, the conditions and the tactics they employed in the Wilderness seemed to conflict even worse. William Swinton declared the Wilderness to be "a battle which no man could see." One soldier declared that an officer could observe only ten of his men in either direction. At times, the muzzle flash of enemy gunfire was the only way to determine where the enemy was located. Division commander Charles Griffin experienced cognitive stress by being ordered to attack without enough information about the enemy position or enough confirmation that support was on his flanks. When his division was repulsed, Griffin exploded, complaining to army commander George G. Meade about the manner in which his command was hung out to dry. The single most recognizable unique feature of the horrors of the Wilderness were the fires that swept over areas that had been fought over, burning or suffocating the wounded who could not move out of harm's way.

Once the horrific *Battle of the Wilderness* had ended, the men could not take a break. The armies would not pause to regroup. The men were on the march to the next battlefield for more of the same, only at another location – this time at Spotsylvania Court House. Adding to the fatigue was that the hike of the night of May 7 - 8 was a night maneuver and the second march through the darkness that week, having spent the night of May 4 - 5 marching into the Wilderness. The men fell asleep while walking. They were on edge and were startled by the slightest noise.

Contact was made between the opposing forces early on the morning of May 8. Federal general-in-chief U.S. Grant ordered coordinated attacks against the Confederate line, but the sleepless night was not conducive to a synchronized effort. Gouverneur K. Warren swore at army commander Meade declaring he would be damned if he would cooperate with fellow corps commander John Sedgwick. Meade complained to a staff officer about three of the corps commanders: Ambrose Burnside was late, Sedgwick was slow, and Warren had "lost his nerve."

Several brigade commanders were relieved of command for being drunk. Men wept – a Vermont colonel after initially breaking through the Confederate line in Upton's Attack of May 10, only to be repulsed by counterattacks, admitted that when he was alone he broke down and “cried like a whipped spaniel.” The 20 hours of intense hand to hand combat on May 12, at the Bloody Angle were filled with multiple examples of what we now understand to be combat stress reaction.

As the men of the Union II Corps, who spearheaded the dawn attack, reached the field hospitals, army medical director, Thomas McParlin, noted the “amount of shock and depression of vital power” in his patients to be much greater than in other battles. In displaying an incredible lack of recognition that he was observing the effects of fatigue, Dr. McParlin concluded that the reason was because the men waiting in the early morning darkness to launch a surprise attack had not been permitted to have a morning cup of coffee. However, McParlin would make some other observations leading to disturbing but logical conclusions. During the May 8 and 19 fights, he noted the large number of slightly wounded men who were able to walk to the hospitals. He deduced that 100 of the wounds from May 8 were self-inflicted, and that blackened skin from powder burns from May 19, injuries were also evidence of the men shooting themselves.

The numbers of desertions were also large. John Gibbon recommended that 1 out of every 100 deserters should be executed to send a clear message that running away will not be tolerated. Court-martials were held during the May 19, battle with shells falling near where the proceedings were taking place.

Robert S. Robertson, who would be the recipient of the Medal of Honor for deeds performed on May 8, would begin to express frustration with the war. Just days after displaying exemplary heroism, he wrote, “God grant a speedy end to the war is the prayer of everyone here. I have had all I want of it and am ready to quit as soon as I can.”

August Kautz, a cavalry officer in the Army of the James, which operated in conjunction with the Army of the Potomac from Cold Harbor to Appomattox, revised the “customs of service” for officers in 1866. This was the first time that the United States Army acknowledged the need for officers to support the morale of the troops and to consider the emotional welfare of their men.

Though we cannot diagnose soldiers 150 years later, we can take some of what we have learned about the psychological trauma of modern soldiers to gain a better understanding of what the Civil War soldiers went through during the Overland Campaign.

**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 determined as \$100.00 per person

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

Note: There is a definite need to hurry on locking in this one, as the number required to meet the bus company minimum is only fifteen persons and the tour is now open to other Round Tables in Virginia and DC.

**The 25th Annual
CIVIL WAR WEEKEND
March 18 – 20, 2016**

**The Inn at Virginia Tech and The Skelton Conference Center
Blacksburg, Virginia**

*Scheduled speakers during the 25th Annual Civil War Weekend will include Bud Robertson,
Jack Davis, Paul Quigley, Kenneth Noe, Jonathon Noyalas, and others.*

For more details www.cpe.vt.edu/cww

RVCWRT History Alert Program

By Jim Smithfield

RVCWRT member Alan Zirkle, provides a totally free service to all RVCWRT members notifying his subscribers about upcoming local history events in the Fredericksburg area. This is done via his subscribers recorded e-mail address, concerning upcoming history-related events. To receive Alan's important messages just send an e-mail to Alan Zirkle @ az@azirkle.com.

The Five Civilized Tribes and the Confederacy

(The first of several articles discussing the Five Civilized Tribes and the Civil War)

By Jim Smithfield



Period Photo of Confederate Indian Cavalryman

Although, the Civil War came to Virginia in July of 1861, first blood was not spilled in the Indian Territory until the month of November 1861. Yet, by the end of December 1861, the Confederacy's Trans-Mississippi Department had recruited and equipped forty-one separate cavalry regiments, totaling 28,693 men. It's interesting to also note, that included in this initial total were 5,145 Indian troops. These Indian troops made up five regiments and five battalions of Indian cavalry, recruited from the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole and Creek Indian Nations, referred to the Five Civilized Tribes.

The sectionalism that existed in the first half of the nineteenth century had opened many wounds throughout America, and it is with undeniable certainty that three of the above noted southern tribes were no exception. These tribes were the Cherokee, Seminole and Creek Indian Nations and much of the conflict within these tribes dated back to America's removal era. Some members of these tribes, such as Stand Watie, had favored Western emigration, while others within their tribe insisted upon remaining on their ancestral lands. In removing these tribes to the West, some compulsory force was used by the United States government. The well documented Cherokee *Trail of Tears* is just one example.

However, with the coming American Civil War, many individuals within these tribes wanted nothing to do with the American states. They felt that it was the states alone that were responsible for their removal to the West. Accordingly, they also did not want to follow the lead of other tribal members who were promoting alignment with the new Confederate government. Thus, heated antagonisms erupted between factions within these tribes. The actual roots of this general antagonism were traceable to ancient and complex, economic, political and cultural tensions. Ultimately, the result of these antagonisms split the various tribes into factions that took opposite sides during the America's Civil War.

How the Indian Regiments were to be raised, and for which side they would fight was only one aspect of this equation. However, before this could be addressed effectively, Indian

Territory had to be officially incorporated into the Confederate States of America. To this end, the Richmond government determined to use the same treaty process that the United States government had used in its dealing with the Indians on the frontier.

To achieve this end, Albert Pike, a well-known writer, teacher and lawyer was selected and designated to be sent into Indian Territory to negotiate a treaty with each of the various five tribes. Within each treaty, the Confederate States government was to be obligated to assume the obvious role of protector of the Indian Territory. This was to be so, even though each separate tribe would continue to maintain title to its current traditional lands in perpetuity.

The obvious benefits conferred by these treaties to the Confederacy, included their right to construct military forts, build roads and to establish a postal system within Indian Territory. Additionally, a right of way for telegraph lines and for railroads was also granted under these same treaties. Yet, these same issues and infringements on Indian lands were what led to the *Plains Indian Wars* of the 1870's.

Note: Details of the individual Indian treaties can be examined in the Official Report of Commissioner Albert Pike, they are maintained in manuscript form and each bears Albert Pike's signature. They are located in the Adjutant general's office and are on file in the U.S. War Department Office.

In their signing of each treaty, the Confederacy had imposed obligations on the various tribes, as well as, granting benefits upon each of the tribes. One very important obligation which was immediately imposed on each of the tribes was that of supplying an initial quota of Indian troops to be raised, and to fight for the Confederate States. This began with one regiment from the Cherokee tribe, one regiment from the Creeks and Seminoles, and one regiment from the Choctaws and Chickasaws. In addition, the Confederacy pledged to arm, equip and to pay all Indian troops. Moreover, the Confederacy agreed that any and all Indian troops would NEVER be required to fight outside of the borders of their traditional lands without the consent of their respective tribal governments. Also, the reciprocal handling of any and all fugitive slaves was agreed upon, and slavery was proclaimed legal in all of the Indian Territory. In return, the Confederate government promised to protect the Indian Territory from any invasion, and they further agreed to assume all annuity payments still owed to the various tribes by the United States government. It is interesting to note that the five tribes responded very quickly in their required raising of troops.

By the month of August 1861, a full regiment of Chickasaw and Choctaw tribesmen had been raised as Mounted Rifle's, also, a regiment of Creek and Seminoles was raised with the help of Lieutenant Colonel Chilly McIntosh and Major John Jumper. It wasn't long after this that the Cherokee Chief John Ross, called upon his Cherokee tribe to honor the obligations set up in their treaty. This call made by Chief John Ross resulted in the raising of a regiment of Cherokee full bloods.

The internal social and economic conditions as previously noted, affected many tribal leaders who were still reeling from the harsh reality of their removal just thirty years earlier. However, many tribal members along with their popular leaders were by this time, already slaveholders and thus, they found more political and economic commonality with the Confederate States, i.e., than declaring loyalty with the United States.

Then, in November of 1861, Confederates forces entered Indian Territory and attempted to force Opothleyaholo, the 80 year-old Chief of the nonaligned Upper Creek tribe to join the Confederacy. Instead their actions resulted in bloodshed, marking the expulsion of the nonaligned Creeks from Indian Territory. These actions are described in detail by former NPS Historian Edwin Bearss' in his article; *The Civil War Comes to Indian Territory: The Flight of Opotheyohoho*.

Next month's article chronicles the Oklahoma Indian migration from the Indian Territory!

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 just \$30.00 for individuals, \$40.00 for families, and it's still only \$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.

The 2016 RVCWRT Executive Committee:

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