

Volume 58, No. 11 November, 2018

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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
P.O. BOX 254702
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702
http://sacramentocwrt.com/



President's Message

At our last meeting, Tad Smith gave an outstanding presentation on the Southern perspective of the firing on Fort Sumter. This event caused a lot of soul searching in a lot of places. I didn't realize how perplexed the State of Virginia was.

For November, Joe Maxwell will speak on "Union Cavalry." Troopers seemed to get all the glory. The infantrymen did most of the fighting.

Currently, I am reading a fascinating book, "CIVIL WAR INFANTRY TACTICS, Training, Combat, and Small-Unit Effectiveness." All units did constant training. They didn't just have military parades. The men learned a lot of maneuvers. They didn't come onto the battlefield as a mob. They arrived in columns, but then they shifted to lines of battle. How far apart the lines were was important. How the maneuvers around obstacles such as houses, creeks, and swamps was critical to maintaining unit cohesiveness.

The two lines of battle would be two hundred to three hundred yards apart. This was to prevent collateral damage to the second line. Remember, black powder guns had a slow muzzle velocity. They could be accurate but knowing the exact range was critical. At long range, being off fifty yards could mean the bullet goes over or hits the ground in front of the target. Imagine how small a person looks at five football fields away.

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES

SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE - 31

<u>MEMBERS – 27:</u> Dennis Kohlmann, President; Don Hayden, Vice President; Barbara Leone, Secretary; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Larry & Silver Marvin (Program Director); Roy Bishop, Arnd Gartner, Ron Grove, Chris Highsmith, Jane Jackson, James Juanitas, Arnold Kunst, Alejandro & Jaime Lizarraga, Grace Long, Joseph & Michelle Matalone, Bernie Quinn, John Rice, Paul Ruud (MAL); Nancy Samuelson, Nicholas Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, (MAL); Dan & Faye Wolfe, John Zasso.

GUESTS - 4: Ralph & Roberta Mattle, Tad Smith, Don A. Zajic.

- 1. Dennis Kohlmann led the Pledge and Nicholas Scivoletto conducted the raffle. Dennis announced that letters sent to save land at Gettysburg for Letterman Hospital were successful.
- 2. Tad Smith (tad1861@wavecable.com) presented "Fort Sumter, the Virginia Perspective." He is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for 25 years. Born in Virginia, he got his Ph. D. from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. He believes being able to connect family history with history in general makes it more relatable.
- 3. The State of Virginia tried to be a go-between the deep South and the Northern States. Governor John Lechter supported states rights but initially would not secede. High tariffs hurt the South but provided major income for the Federal Government. The Southern economy built on cotton and slavery was at great risk, creating fear.
- 4. In January 1861, Citadel cadets fired unauthorized shots hitting the Star of the West trying to supply Fort Sumter. The War could have started then but Virginia's cooler heads prevailed.
- 5. Still in office, President James Buchanan Jr. didn't want to deal with it. The seven states of the deep South seceded when Lincoln was elected. His inaugural said no state could leave the Union and this soured many Virginians.
- 6. The deep South provided the world's cotton with slave labor. Virginia, a slave state with little cotton, used slaves in the home and agriculture. Delaware, Maryland, and Kentucky were trapped between the industrial North and the slavocracy South with regiments on both sides. Lincoln knew if Virginia left the Union, the South would have the infrastructure to wage the War. His main goal was to keep Virginia.
- 7. If the US flag was removed from Fort Sumter, South Carolina's right to secession was recognized. The new Confederate Government would not let the US flag fly over land that was Confederate. Lincoln notified SC Governor Francis W. Pickens that an unarmed fleet with food supplies was headed to the Fort. When US Major Robert Anderson would not surrender, shelling began on April 12, 1861. No one was directly killed when the Fort was attacked. War could still have been avoided. VA seceded on April 15, 1861. The Fort became a propaganda tool. The Star of the West took the garrison and flag to New York City. The flag was "auctioned" as a fund raiser. At the end of the War, it flew over Fort Sumter on April 14, 1865, the same day Lincoln was shot.
- 8. Tad Smith made a possible family connection to William Ballard Preston (family name), a Unionist who was in the VA Secession Convention and part of the delegation sent to meet Lincoln on April 12, 1861.
- 9. North Carolina joined the Confederacy on May 20, 1861, doubling the population, increasing railroads and manufacturing, and making winning a possibility. New technology, such as the telegraph, quickly distributed information to the newspapers but the public didn't know how to cope.
- 10. Tad Smith commented the South should never had fought the War without a standard railroad gauge.
- 11. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 10 AM, at Brookfield's Restaurant.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The bank cash balance following the October 10th meeting was \$6,571.17. Thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$59.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2018 & 2019		
Date	Speaker	Topic
November 14th	Joe Maxwell	"Union Cavalry"
December 12th	Nicholas Scivoletto	"Civil War Quiz"
January 9th	Ted Savas	"The War Outside my Window"
February 13th	Jim Lane	To Be Determined
March 13th	Bernie Quinn	"Engagements of Hiram Berdan's
		Sharpshooters"
April 10th	Nick K. Adams	"Two Sides of One Story as
		Minnesota Governor Alexander
		Ramsey"
May 8th	Chris Highsmith	"The Adventures of the Illinois
	_	34th"

2019 Membership

The 2019 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2019. The dues are \$20.00 and you can renew at a monthly meeting or send to the Treasurer through the mail. For all checks, make them payable to **Sacramento Civil War Round Table** and send them to

George W. Foxworth 9463 Salishan Court Sacramento, CA 95826-5233

Remember, you can also pay at any monthly meeting.

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1st of each month for that month's **Battle Cry**. However, you can submit articles at anytime. Please submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

Do not submit files that I cannot edit.

The **Battle Cry** is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. http://www.sacramentocwrt.org is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

H-NET REVIEWS

in the Humanities & Social Sciences

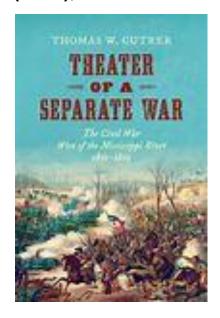
Thomas W. Cutrer.

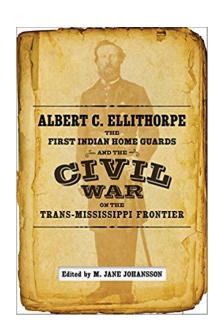
Theater of a Separate War: The Civil War West of the Mississippi

River, 1861-1865.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017. 608 pp. \$40.00

(cloth), ISBN 978-1-4696-3156-1.





M. Jane Johansson, ed.

Albert C. Ellithorpe, the First Indian Home Guards, and the Civil War on the Trans-Mississippi Frontier.

Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University

Press, 2016. 280 pp. \$45.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-8071-6358-0.

Reviewed by Evan Rothera (Penn State University)
Published on H-War (May, 2018)
Commissioned by Margaret Sankey (Air War College)

Thomas W. Cutrer and M. Jane Johansson both argue that of the three Theaters of the US Civil War—Eastern, Western, and Trans-Mississippi—the Trans-Mississippi receives the least attention. Cutrer asserts that the Trans-Mississippi "remains to a remarkable degree unknown and under-appreciated" and that it "languishes in the backwaters of Civil War Historiography" (p. xi). Johansson comments, "more than 150 years after the conflict, there is still a regrettable level of ignorance about the War West of the Mississippi River" (p. xiii).

Although most students of the conflict would agree with these remarks, many see no problem with minimizing or ignoring this Theater. Cutrer and Johansson are part of an evergrowing group of historians who are trying to redirect attention to what has long been considered a peripheral Region.

Cutrer's volume offers an "analytical military narrative" (p. xii) of the War in the Trans-Mississippi. He covers the period 1861–65 and provides an overview of how the War unfolded across a massive geographical region: Kansas, Missouri, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona, Indian Territory, and, to a limited extent, Colorado, California, and the Dakotas. He includes some discussion of social, political, and economic history, but his primary goal is to outline the campaigns in order to "establish the foundation and build the framework for future scholars" (p. xii). He likens his objective to that of another volume in the University of North Carolina Press's Littlefield History of the Civil War Era: Earl J. Hess's The Civil War in the West Johansson, on the other hand, has a narrower focus. She analyzes the First Indian Home Guards, a Regiment of Cherokee, Seminole, and African American soldiers and White commissioned officers. Her focus is their intriguing Commander, Albert Chapman Ellithorpe. Cutrer's overview of the Region and Johansson's more focused analysis of Ellithorpe, demonstrate the richness of the Trans-Mississippi and the potential it has for recasting old questions about the Civil War.

Although many people have found the Trans-Mississippi distant and obscure, Cutrer considers it "an area of tremendous potential significance" (p. 1). That said, the Rebel high command never seemed to have a full appreciation of the Theater's potential. While Union officers coordinated their operations, the Rebel Government's lack of attention and guidance often doomed Rebel armies to defeat. With considerable justice, he labels the Rebel Government's vision myopic. Furthermore, according to Cutrer, the War in this Theater came to a virtual end by Summer 1864. This is a problematic statement, given Sterling Price's invasion of Missouri in late 1864 and the threat Maximilian posed in Mexico. Nevertheless, both sides shifted troops to the East. Perhaps the Trans-Mississippi had, by that point, lost its potential significance. Whatever the case, Cutrer discusses military and logistical operations in a generally chronological fashion. Specialists will likely be familiar with much of this information, but his attention to background and detail will help a non-academic audience.

Cutrer begins with secession and then considers Kansas, Missouri, and Indian Territory. Here he skillfully engages with recent scholarship discussing Native Americans and the Civil War. He makes a forceful argument that "Indian Territory was of strategic military significance" to both sides (p. 69). Union and Rebel sentiment existed among Native Americans, which resulted in bitter intertribal tensions. Warfare, moreover, devastated Indian Territory, as well as other portions of the Trans-Mississippi. In subsequent analysis of the struggle for the Southwest, he draws on work by Don Frazier, Jerry Thompson, and Don Alberts and concludes that the New Mexican Campaign was a "debacle" (p. 115). Although Cutrer devotes a chapter to the War against indigenous people in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and the Dakotas, he could have spent more time on this subject and developed his analysis of the punitive campaigns against Native Americans. Cutrer devotes a substantial amount of attention to Texas. Furthermore, he covers, in extensive detail, the occupation of Louisiana and the campaigns of Nathaniel P. Banks. Sterling Price's 1864

raid serves as the climax of the book. Following Price's defeat, "the War in the Trans-Mississippi came to a virtual halt" (p. 421). As the District became "more of a backwater," both sides shifted troops East (p. 421). He concludes, "the Civil War was neither won nor lost West of the Mississippi River" (p. 443). However, after making this statement, he observes that the Civil War in this Region shaped Westward expansion and conquest in the Postbellum United States.

Cutrer's book reminds readers why the architects of the Lost Cause did not pay any attention to the Trans-Mississippi. While the Rebels achieved several successes, most of the time they failed, often due to incompetence and sometimes to outright idiocy. One of the more idiotic episodes occurred when Lucius Walker and John S. Marmaduke fought a duel (Marmaduke killed Walker) as General Frederick Steele's Army advanced on Little Rock. Furthermore, one cannot help but appreciate Cutrer's pungent assessments of various Rebel generals. Gideon Pillow was "arguably the worst commander in either army" (p. 42). John Selden Roane "proved wholly unfit for military command" (p. 134). The selection of Theophilus H. Holmes as Departmental Commander was a "poor choice" (p. 139). Hamilton P. Bee "was not, perhaps the most propitious of choices to command the Rebel cavalry" (p. 397). This analysis brings to mind the famous assertion by Albert Castel that "by 1863 the Trans-Mississippi had become the junkyard of the Confederate Army." Although scholars have challenged this idea, Cutrer's catalogue of miserable Rebel failures suggests Castel's wry analysis was correct.

Where Cutrer provides a sweeping overview of the Theater, M. Jane Johansson analyzes the First Indian Home Guards and the intriguing Lieutenant Albert Chapman Ellithorpe. In an army composed of White regiments, or Black regiments with White officers, this Regiment, which had White officers, Creek, and Seminole Indian soldiers, and African American soldiers, proved unique because it was a rare example of a tri-racial Regiment. Ellithorpe himself was a fascinating character. Born in Saint Albans, Vermont, the fourteen-year-old Ellithorpe decided to seek his fortune in Chicago. Once there, he became involved in several business ventures, spent time in the West, and worked as a journalist. Ellithorpe contributed time and money to raising a Cavalry Regiment, the Thirteenth Illinois, and expected to receive a commission as Lieutenant Colonel or Major. When this did not happen, Ellithorpe and the Colonel of the Regiment got into a shouting match, and then a brawl, in Chicago's Tremont House. While this is not a new point, Johansson deftly illustrates how the politics of command and promotion could become incredibly nasty very quickly.

Although he did not serve in the Thirteenth Illinois, Ellithorpe became a First Lieutenant in the First Indian Home Guards. Johansson's brief background about the War in Indian Territory meshes nicely with Cutrer's analysis. The organization of the Regiment occurred in the Spring of 1862. Union officers began planning an expedition into Indian Territory and received permission from the Federal Government to organize the First and Second Indian Home Guards. Interestingly, unlike African American soldiers, Native American soldiers received the same pay and benefits as White soldiers. The expedition failed due to challenging environmental conditions such as "drought and hot weather, burned-up grassland, and limited water supplies" (p. 22). Scholars have offered detailed analysis of how White soldiers and officers felt about African American soldiers. Johansson attempts to do the same with Ellithorpe and the Native American soldiers. As she notes, "he never directly wrote of his attitudes toward Indians, but he certainly felt that the more 'civilized'

among them were much like White men, an attitude rather unusual for a White man to hold at that time" (p. xiv). Furthermore, in letters, newspaper articles, and his diary, Ellithorpe praised the soldiers under his command. In other words, in a society that very often supported extermination of Native Americans, Ellithorpe followed a different path.

Some discussion of Johansson's method is in order. Throughout the book, she combines lengthy chapter introductions with transcribed primary sources. She utilizes entries from Ellithrope's diary, correspondence, government reports, and the anonymous articles he authored for newspapers (often signed as "Creek," "Cherokee," or "Seminole"). This approach, which is reminiscent of a life-and-times biography complete with excerpts from letters and speeches, allows readers to see his unfiltered words and provides a chance to witness how his ideas evolved from his diary to his newspaper articles.

Johansson employs Ellithorpe to discuss larger questions. The First Indian Home Guards spent much of their time in Northwestern Arkansas, a Region well-suited to guerrilla warfare. He frequently complained, "bushwhackers are plenty" and decried "this cowardly mode of warfare" (p. 47). As in other locations, Ellithorpe and his men hanged captured guerrillas from trees as a warning to other marauders. Johansson's useful transcription of Ellithorpe's diary also allows the reader to see his scathing, albeit humorous, denunciations of two "Arkansas She Rebels" as "regular snuff-lickers, smokers and tobacco chewers" whose "principal occupation is licking snuff, chewing, smoking, eating hog and hominy, and raising greasy squalling, sallow babies of a very inferior quality" (p. 59).

The Battle of Prairie Grove proved to be an important moment for Ellithorpe and the First Indian Home Guards. To be fair, Johansson might have provided more information about the Battle itself. However, her analysis of the outcome matches Cutrer's, who contends that the Battle "decided the fate of Missouri and Kansas" (p. 150). Ellithorpe himself commented, in his journal, "the future history of this War will give it [the Battle of Prairie Grove] a place upon its pages" (p. 77). He also noted, in an article for the Chicago Evening Journal, "the 'Battle of Prairie Grove' will be long remembered by the people of the West, and it will fill a conspicuous place in the future history of this cruel and unholy War" (p. 86). Nevertheless, many scholars have only grudgingly recognized the significance of the Battle. In many respects, the work of William L. Shea, notwithstanding, it remains unknown.

In the Spring of 1863, Ellithorpe began to recruit for the Fifth Indian Home Guards. However, the new Regiment was never organized and he was discharged on August 29, 1863. Johansson follows Ellithorpe after he returned to Chicago, where he lost a race for alderman, became a real estate agent, tinkered with air brakes for elevators, corresponded with old acquaintances, and died in 1907. Although "his military experience was confined to what traditionally has been thought of as an unimportant backwater of the War," she comments, "Ellithorpe was part of a unit that uniquely and successfully allied three races in the task of defeating the Confederacy" (pp. 183-84).

Cutrer and Johansson demonstrate that the Trans-Mississippi was like any other Theater: there was plenty of backstabbing, venality, and conflicts among people who supposedly fought on the same side. Rebels Ben McCulloch and Sterling Price hated each other and could not cooperate effectively. Earl Van Dorn's appointment, which was supposed to solve this problem, "proved a cure worse than the disease" (p. 447). Edmund Kirby Smith and

Richard Taylor also hated each other. On the Union side, James G. Blunt and John M. Schofield's relationship could best be described as mutual contempt. Schofield downplayed Blunt's accomplishments, intrigued against him, and attempted to relieve him of command. The irascible Blunt sarcastically replied that Schofield, instead of sending a messenger, "had better come and do it himself, and then for the first time during the War, he might see a little 'active service' " (p. 331). As Johansson observes, the politics of regimental command could be as vicious as the politics of army command. Ellithorpe fervently believed a plot led by designing Kansas politicians frustrated his hopes for promotion, although Johansson seems less certain.

The two volumes raise important question about future study of this Region. The Trans-Mississippi—encompassing all the area West of the Mississippi River—is gigantic. Cutrer's book leaves some portions of the Theater unexamined and perhaps this is not a surprise. After all, is it really possible for historians to make sense of such a vast space? For that matter, is it correct to speak of this area as one Theater? Perhaps the answer is that we need more work on the Trans-Mississippi before we can produce an effective synthesis. On another topic, Cutrer and Johansson illustrate how the trans-Mississippi could contribute to developing how scholars understand the US Civil War. Cutrer notes, correctly, that African Americans and Native Americans played very important roles in this Theater. Johansson reveals the existence of tri-racial regiments. Historians could very easily shift to the Trans-Mississippi to complicate ideas about how race operated during and after the Civil War and move away from a Black/White binary to more nuanced analysis.

Although both books deserve a wide readership, there are some problems that merit comment. Problematically, Cutrer stops in 1865. Although this might seem logical to some people, it is hard to sustain the claim that the War ended when Stand Watie surrendered. Many people, including Ulysses S. Grant, believed the War would not end until Maximilian left Mexico. Cutrer might have considered the tens of thousands of US soldiers the Government shifted to Texas, as well as the problems of occupying former Rebel states. In addition, the book contains errors of fact as well as repetition of phrases, sentences, and, occasionally, paragraphs. Finally, given his attention to both well-known and obscure campaigns, more than one map would have been helpful. The main problem with Johansson's book is that her tight focus on Ellithorpe often obscures the men of his command. Thus, readers learn less about the soldiers he commanded than about Ellithorpe himself. The stories of Native American and African American soldiers who fought in the Trans-Mississippi would certainly enrich scholarly understanding of the Region, and the conflict more generally. Problems aside, Cutrer and Johansson have produced important contributions to the scholarly literature of the Trans-Mississippi.

Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.

Please note that Thomas W. Cutrer, Ph.d, is one of the speakers at the 2018 West Coast Civil War Conference in Fresno on November 9 - 11, 2018.

2018 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE Nov. 9 – 11, 2018 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, November 9, 2018

- 4:00 -- REGISTRATION BEGINS
- 5:00 -- 5:45 -- SOCIAL HOUR
- 5:45 -- 6:45 -- DINNER (President's Welcome, Invocation)
- 7:00 -- INTRODUCTION TO THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI THEATER: Ron Vaughan
- 7:30 -- 8:00 -- TRANS-MISSISSIPPI COMMAND OVERVIEW: Dr. Thomas Cutrer
- 8:00 9:00 -- RED RIVER CAMPAIGN: General Parker Hill

SATURDAY, November 10, 2018

- 8:00 -- 8:50 -- SECESSION CRISIS IN THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI: Jim Stanbery
- 9:00 -- 9:50 -- BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK: Richard Hatcher III
- 10:00 -- 10:15 -- BREAK
- 10:15 -- 11:10 -- SIBLEY'S CAMPAIGN: Dr. Thomas Cutrer
- 11:15 -- 11:45 -- CALIFORNIA IN THE CIVIL WAR: Ron Vaughan
- 11:45 -- 1:00 -- LUNCH
- 1:00 -- 1:50 -- BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE: Richard Hatcher III
- 2:00 -- 2:50 -- BATTLE OF PRAIRIE GROVE: Ron Vaughan
- 3:00 -- BREAK
- 4:45 5:45 -- DINNER
- 5:45 -- 6:00 -- JERRY RUSSEL AWARD
- 6:00 -- 6:50 -- PRICE'S 1864 RAID: Dr. Thomas Cutrer
- 7:00 -- 7:50 -- STEEL'S CAMPAIGN: General Parker Hills
- 8:00 -- RAFFLE

SUNDAY, November 11, 2018

- 8:30 -- 9:20 -- NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE CIVIL WAR: Jim Stanbery
- 9:30 -- 10:00 -- MEDICAL CARE IN THE T.M.: Dr. Brian Clague
- 10:00 -- 10:30 -- BATTLEFIELD ARCHEOLOGY: General Parker Hills
- 10:30 -- 10:45 -- SJVCWRT DONATIONS TO RAYMOND BATTLEFIELD: Mike

Green

- 10:45 -- 10:50 -- BREAK
- 10:50 -- 11:45 -- PANEL DISCUSSION
- 11:45 -- RAFFLE

2018 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE November 9 - 11, 2018





WYNDOM GARDEN HOTEL, 5090 East Clinton Way, FRESNO, CA 93727-1506, (1-559-252-3611 or 1-866-238-4218), \$99.00 per night, or wydhamguestreservations.com.

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HOSTED BY THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CWRT AND THE INLAND EMPIRE CWRT. For more information, see Website: SJVCWRT2.com

SPEAKERS:

Thomas Cutrer, Ph.d., Theater of a Separate War Richard Hatcher III, Park Ranger (Retired), Wilson's Creek General Parker Hills, Red River Campaign Tour Guide Jim Stanbery MA., Professor (Retired) Dr. Brian Clague, MD

Address _____

Phone(s) ______

Ron Vaughan, MA (Conference Coordinator: ronvaughan@prodigy.net)

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION: \$200.00 PER PERSON for Weekend, including meals.

Dinner Entrees: ()Beef, ()Chicken, ()Fish, ()Veggie

_____Spouse Friday Dinner \$35.00; _____Spouse Saturday Dinner \$35.00

Name _____

TOPICS: Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Red River, Sibley's Campaign, & others.

Address Check to San Joaquin Valley CWRT.

Send Check and Registration to: Ron Vaughan, 730 East Tulare Avenue, Tulare, CA 93274-4336.