ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

The Battle of Stones River

By William B. Kurtz, Documents Compass, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Cozzens, Peter	No Better Place to Die: The Battle of Stones
	River. Chicago: University of Illinois Press,
	1990.

Books and Articles

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Bickham, William D.	Rosecrans' Campaign with the Fourteenth
	Army Corps, or, the Army of the
	Cumberland: A Narrative of Personal
	Observations, With an Appendix, Consisting
	of Official Reports of the Battle of Stone
	River. Cincinnati, OH: Moore, Wilstach,
	Keys, 1863.
Daniel, Larry J.	Days of Glory: The Army of the Cumberland
	Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University
	Press, 2004, chap. 11-12, 181-224.
 .	Battle of Stones River: The Forgotten
	Conflict Between the Confederate Army of
	Tennessee and the Union Army of the
	Cumberland. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State
	University Press, 2012.
Hess, Earl J.	Banners to the Breeze: The Kentucky
	Campaign, Corinth, and Stones River,
	Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.

Lamers, William M.	The Edge of Glory: A Biography of General
	William S. Rosecrans, U.S.A. New York:
	Harcourt, Brace & World, 1961, chap. 10-11,
	202-43.
McWhiney, Grady	Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat. 2
	vols. New York: Columbia University Press,
	1969, chapter 25, 1:337-73.
Spruill, Matt	Winter Lightning: A Guide to the Battle of
	Stones River. Knoxville: University of
	Tennessee Press, 2007.
Styles, Sean M.	Stones River National Battlefield: Historic
	Resource Study. Atlanta, GA: National Park
	Service, 2004.
United States War Department	War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the
-	Union and Confederate Armies, 128 vols.
	Washington D.C.: Government Printing
	Office, 1880-1901, Series I, volume 20, part
	1 and 2, reports from the Official Records
	related to Stones River.
Vance, Wilson J.	Stone's River: The Turning-Point of the Civil
	War. New York: Neale Publishing, 1914.

Organizations

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/stones-	This is the Civil War Trust's excellent short
<u>river.html</u>	description of the Battle of Stones River.
http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/stonesr	These are the Civil War Trust's detailed
iver/stones-river-maps/civil-war-trust-	battlefield maps of Stones River.
maps/stones-river-december-31-1-3.html	
http://www.civilwarhome.com/stones.htm	This civilwarhome.com website contains a
	useful collection of official reports about the
	Battle of Stones River.
http://www.civilwarmurfreesboro.com/	This website provides a resource guide to
	Murfreesboro, TN, during the Civil War.

Other Sources

Scholars

Name	Email
William B. Kurtz	wbk2e@virginia.edu
Dr. Earl J. Hess	earl@love-and-learning.info
Peter Cozzens	pecozzens@gmail.com
Larry J. Daniel	hellothere12047@yahoo.com

Google Keywords

After the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky in October 1862, Confederate General Braxton Bragg retreated with his Confederate soldiers back into Tennessee, eventually making his headquarters at the town of Murfreesboro, south of Nashville. The victorious Union commander, General Don Carlos Buell was relieved and replaced by General William Rosecrans who had his Army of the Cumberland advance on Nashville. So slowly did he move that it was not until the day after Christmas that Rosecrans began to advance from Nashville to Murfreesboro. At Stones River on December 31 both commanders planned to hold on their right and advance with their left. The Confederates attacked first and shattered the Union right. Rosecrans rode to and fro, stabilized his lines, and saved the army from near disaster. There was little action on January 1 but on January 2 Bragg attacked the Union left and was repulsed. Rosecrans then counter-attacked and drove the Confederates from the field by nightfall. Rosecrans failed to vigorously pursue Bragg, hampered by weather, severe casualties and inferior cavalry. After the failure at Fredericksburg and Grant's inability to take Vicksburg, Rosecrans' victory was a cause for celebration throughout the North. Bragg was left in command by Jefferson Davis and was outmaneuvered by Rosecrans in the Tullahoma campaign the following summer and then in September, at the Battle of Chickamauga, Bragg defeated Rosecrans.
