

Red River Campaign Round Up - Bibliography

Note: The commentary following each suggested book is from professional Civil War Book Reviews. Additionally, some personal editorializing has been used.

Campaign Overview

A Signature aspect of the Red River Campaign Literature to date is the wealth of overall campaign studies but a decided lack of book length studies of the Battles of the Campaign including Mansfield and Pleasant Hill – with some very limited exceptions.

The Civil War in Louisiana. Winters, John D. (Louisiana State Press 1991 originally published 1963.) Single-Volume history survey of the Civil War in Louisiana.

Red River Campaign: Politics and Cotton in the Civil War. Johnson, Ludwell H. (Kent State University Press – March 23, 1993 – originally published 1958. The “grand-daddy” Campaign Study on the Red River Campaign. Seminal Work remaining the favorite among scholars and general readers alike.

Through the Howling Wilderness: The 1864 Red River Campaign and Union Failure in the West. Joiner, Gary D. (University of Tennessee Press 2006) – *Campaign Overview with in-depth focus on geography of Red River Valley and Confederate Fortifications and engineering projects designed for its defense. Probably the best modern overall treatment of the Red River Campaign since Johnson’s 1958 work.*

“One Damn Blunder From Beginning to End”: The Red River Campaign of 1864. Joiner, Gary D. (University of Tennessee Press 2006) – *Particularly fascinating original research on hydrological aspects of campaign and discovery of Confederates diversion of Red River to lower river level and trap Union Naval fleet.*

The Red River Campaign: The Union’s Final Attempt to Invade Texas (Civil War Campaigns and Commanders Series) Joiner, Gary D. (State House Press June 2014) – *Best “Reader’s Digest” version of the Red River Campaign.*

The Red River Campaign and Its Toll: 69 Bloody Days in Louisiana, March – May 1864. Robertson, Henry O. (McFarland 2016) – *Campaign Overview with a social history focus with a focus on Red River Valley – Slave Economy and Local Politics before and during Civil War*

War Along the Bayous: The 1864 Red River Campaign in Louisiana. Brooksher, William Riley. (Potomac Books 2000). Mix of Personal Stories and Tactical Overviews – Mansfield, Pleasant Hill and Yellow Bayou and race to get the Union Navy out of the receding Red River.

The Red River Campaign of 1864 and the Loss by the Confederacy of the Civil War. Forsyth, Michael J. (McFarland & Co. 2010). *Richard Taylor contended and not without merit that he could have recaptured New Orleans after the Battle of Pleasant Hill if Kirby Smith had not stripped his Army to the bone and transferred a majority of Taylor’s force to Arkansas to deal with the Camden Expedition thrust of the Red River Campaign. Another Campaign overview with a focus on an analytical treatise on the question of whether the Confederate could have achieved a victory decisive enough to alter the course of the war had different command decisions been made in the aftermath of the April 9, 1864 Battle of Pleasant Hill.*

Military Actions

Battle of Fort DeRussy – March 14, 1864

Earthen Walls, Iron Men: Fort DeRussy, Louisiana and the Defense of the Red River Mayeux, Steven M. (University of Tennessee Press 2007) – *Astutely Analyzed, exhaustively researched, well written and beautifully illustrated case study of Confederacy's use of fortified batteries and obstructions to counteract U.S. Naval Supremacy. Focuses on construction, civil war experiences of fort, defenders and nearby civilian population, Battle between Mower's Division during opening stages of campaign and preservation efforts.*

Faces of Fort DeRussy: Confederate citizens and soldiers. Decuir, Randy (Createaspace Independent Publishing – Jan 2014)

Battle of Wilson's Farm and Battle of Carroll's Mill – April 7, 1864

Fighting for Time. Milbourn, Curtis. – North & South Magazine Vol 5 # 4 May 2002 pgs. 68-76

Battle of Mansfield – April 8, 1864

Dark and Bloody Ground: The Battle of Mansfield and The Forgotten Civil War in Louisiana Ayres, Thomas (Taylor Trade Publishing – Feb 2001) – *General Hills personal recommendation for an overview of the Campaign and Battle of Mansfield from a Southern point of view. I personally think it is an excellent overview of the Civil War in Louisiana with enough information for casual readers and hard-core Red River Campaign students. Three "phases" being – (1) CW in Louisiana to Capture of New Orleans (2) Fall of New Orleans to Fall of Port Hudson and (3) Fall of Port Hudson to Conclusion of Red River Campaign*

Dead-End at the Crossroads: The Battles of Mansfield (Sabine Crossroads) and Pleasant Hill, Louisiana 8 and 9 April 1864. Kiper, Richard Leslie. Rice University Master's Thesis May, 1976

Mouton's Charge at the Battle of Mansfield: Victory in Confederate Louisiana. Jones, Michael Dan (Createaspace Independent Publishing – July 2014)

The Battle of Mansfield. Bounds, Steve & Milbourn, Curtis. – North & South Magazine Vol 6 # 2 February 2003 pgs. 26-40

Battle of Pleasant Hill – April 9, 1864

Civil War Battle of Pleasant Hill. Benson, Solon F. (Briner Publishing Co. – January 1972)

The Battle of Pleasant Hill. Bounds, Steve & Milbourn, Curtis. – North & South Magazine Vol 8 # 6 November 2005 pgs. 70-89

Battle of Blair's Landing – April 12, 1864

The Battle of Blair's Landing. Joiner, Gary & Milbourn, Curtis. – North & South Magazine Vol 9 # 7 February 2007 pgs. 12-21

Curious Clash at Blair's Landing. Allardice, Bruce. – America's Civil War Magazine July 1997 pgs. 60

The Battle of Blair's Landing. Barr, Alwyn – Louisiana Studies 2 1963 pgs., 206

Battle of Monett's Ferry – April 23, 1864

“May God have Mercy on Us”: The Twenty Days of the Cane River Campaign in Louisiana. Nash Jr., Weldon, Taylor, John & Whittington (23 House Publishing 2019) – *Focuses on “Escape” phase of Nathaniel Bank’s Army from its isolated position within inland island formed by Red and Cane Rivers from April 10-27, 1864. Covers land and naval military actions for 3-week period on day-by day basis with primary focus on Battle of Monett’s Ferry.*

Bailey’s Dam

Gunboats, Low Water, and Yankee Ingenuity: A History of Bailey’s Dam. Robinson, Michael C. (F P H C Publishing – Baton Rouge, LA 1994)

A Dam Fine Solution. Soodalter, Ron. – America’s Civil War September 2019 pgs. 28-35

Colonel Bailey’s Red River Dams. Cron, Frederick W. - The Military Engineer. Vol 29, No 168 (November-December 1937) pgs. 421-424**

Political, Economic & Social Aspects of Campaign

The Red River Campaign more so than many other Campaigns of the Civil War had major political, economic and social dimensions among its objectives. Lincoln and Stanton were greatly concerned with “Planting the Flag in Texas” to thwart any attempts by foreign powers – particularly the French who inserted themselves in Mexico’s Civil War - from interfering in the conflict between North & South. So much so that they overrode the tactical advice of Maj General U.S. Grant and Banks himself who would have preferred to make the port of Mobile, AL the Gulf thrust portion of the overall 1864 Strategic Campaign.

The Red River Campaign was the fourth (or fifth) and final attempt to take Texas for the Union. The North never succeeded in this objective. Besides planting the flag in Texas another objective of the campaign (and all previous attempts to take Texas for the Union) was to stop the cross-border trade between the Confederacy and Mexico. Mexican ports such as Bagdad, Mexico were international ports for shipment of Southern Cotton to European markets. Shutting down the cross-border trade would have limited the South’s access to European markets from a natural, relatively accessible outlet – Mexican ports. Additionally; the cotton and sugar crop of Louisiana and Texas itself was increasingly itself targeted as other cotton production areas of the South were captured and confiscated to eliminate the South’s primary natural resource and for confiscation to be shipped North for textile production. Lastly a goal of the campaign was to establish a Unionist State Government.

Planting the Union Flag in Texas: The Campaigns of Major General Nathaniel P. Banks in the West Dupree, Stephen A. (Texas A&M University Press 2008) *Excellent synthesis that places The Red River Campaign in context as the fourth or fifth expedition by Banks as part of single campaign to capture Texas. (The 5 campaigns being (1) Galveston January Oct ’62-Jan ’63 (2) Sabine Pass Oct 62 & Sep ’63 (3) Rio Grande Expedition Oct ’63 (4) Oct ’63 – Texas Overland Expedition and (5) Red River Campaign March 64-May 64.*

Among the Cotton Thieves. Bacon, Edward S. (Big Byte Books October 2014) *Originally published in 1867 by Colonel Edward S Bacon of the 6th Michigan Vol Inf. Among Civil War Memoirs this is considered to be in the top flight. A stand out of unique military despotism and ineptitude by a highly educated and articulate officer in an easy-to-read prose style. Gen Banks had a \$5 million dollar account which he was authorized to spend to buy cotton from areas under northern control. He never spent a dollar of it, because his troops were able to steal enough cotton to meet requirements, primarily sent to Democratic power broker friends in New England to satisfy textile mill demands and to further his hope for election to the White House in 1864. Banks and the Navy were in competition to plunder and steal as much cotton from areas of Louisiana under Federal Control so much so that the Navy failed at some critical junctures to support Banks because they were too busy plundering. The book along with Ludwell Johnson's Classic is as its best in describing the campaign's shady and rather disgraceful economic and political origins and how they trumped purely military issues. No one looks good here, from Lincoln on down.*

Conduct of Federal Troops in Louisiana During the Invasions of 1863 and 1864. Allen, Henry W. & Edmonds, David C. (Acadiana Press.) Nov 1998

Louisiana Sugar Plantations During the Civil War. Wilson, Walter E. (McFarland Press.) 2020

Civil War Scoundrels and the Texas Cotton Trade. Roland, Charles P. (Louisiana State University Press.) 1957

"For Love of Cotton": Nathaniel P. Banks, Union Strategy and the Red River Campaign Smith, Michael Thomas – Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association. Winter 2010 Pgs. 5-26**

Civilian Reaction to the Red River Campaign, 1864, Natchitoches to Mansfield Louisiana. Betts, Vicki – Military History of the West Vol 34. (2004) Pgs. 29-50**

"Gorillas" and White Glove Gents: Union Soldiers in the Red River Campaign Cuccia, Phillip – Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association. Vol 36, No 4 – Article on the Culture Clash of 19th Corps "paper collar" easterners and 13th plus 16th "gorilla" Westerners. (Autumn, 1995) Pgs. 413-430**

The Red River Campaign, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana: A Case of Equal Opportunity Destruction Dollar, Susan E – Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association. Vol 43, No 4 (Autumn, 2002) Pgs. 411-432**

Command Overviews

Pretense of Glory: The Life of General Nathaniel P. Banks. Hollandsworth Jr., James G. (Louisiana State University Press Nov 1998). Modern biography of Nathaniel P Banks, Jr.

A Crisis in Command: Edmund Kirby Smith, Richard Taylor, And the Army of the Trans-Mississippi. Prushankin, Jeffery S. (Louisiana State University Press 2005). In a war rife with discord at the command level, the degree of acrimony between Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department commander Edmund Kirby Smith and district commander Richard Taylor rises to the very top. Their contentious relationship throughout the 1863 Bayou Teche Campaign, the disagreements over the attempts to relieve Vicksburg boiled over to the top by the Red River Campaign. Their relationship was often marred by

misunderstanding, deliberate distortions, and breaches of faith both petty and serious. Many of the problems arose from their diametrically opposed strategic views. Smith fixated on Arkansas and Missouri and favored trading large areas of space for time to effect concentration of forces. Taylor, on the other hand a native son of Louisiana was firmly committed to aggressively defend the borders of his District command – Louisiana. His constant desire to occupy the LaFourche area and threaten New Orleans was seldom if ever shared by Smith.

Richard Taylor and the Red River Campaign of 1864. Mitcham, Jr. Samuel W. (Pelican 2012) *Reviews considered book to be another Campaign overview of Red River Campaign without any original archival research.*

General Richard Taylor as a Military Commander. Bergeron Jr, Arthur W. – Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association. Winter 1982 Pgs. 35-47**

“To This Fatal Blunder. Prushankin, Jeffrey W. – North & South Magazine Volume 5 Number 6 September 2002. Pgs Essentially a summary of his book – see above. 76-91

Command Personalities

From First to Last: The Life of Major General William B. Franklin. Snell, Mark A. Fordham University Press 2002

Memoir of Commodore David Porter, of the United States Navy. Porter, David D. Munsell Publishing – Albany, NY 1875

Civil War High Commands. Eicher, John H. & Eicher David J. Stanford University Press 2001 – Magisterial Work – 3,396 Presidents, Governors, Cabinet Members and Union & High Command officers. (See for biography on A.J. Smith, Joseph Mower, Frederick J. Steele

Hamilton P. Bee in the Red River Campaign of 1864. Meiners, Fredericka. – The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol 78, No 1, July 1974. Pgs. 21-44** (Bee’s Cavalry

Mosby Monroe Parsons: Missouri’s Forgotten Brigadier. Gurley, Bill editors -Hewitt, Lawrence L., Bergeron, Arthur W., Schott, Thomas E. – University of Tennessee Press – **Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi Vol 1 & 2** 2013 Pgs. 91-134 & 2015 pgs 191-220

“Not Fortunate in War”: Major General Thomas J. Churchill. Christ, Mark editors Hewitt, Lawrence L., Bergeron, Arthur W., Schott, Thomas E. – University of Tennessee Press – **Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi Vol 1** 2013 Pgs. 167-196

Three Days in April: Tom Greene’s Contributions at Carroll’s Mill, Mansfield and Pleasant Hill During the Red River Campaign. Milbourn, Curtis editors Hewitt, Lawrence L., Bergeron, Arthur W., Schott, Thomas E. – University of Tennessee Press – **Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi Vol 1** 2013 Pgs. 197-232

Gallant, Unselfish, and Patriotic: Alfre Mouton Jeffrey Prushankin editors Hewitt, Lawrence L., Bergeron, Arthur W., Schott, Thomas E. – University of Tennessee Press – **Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi Vol 2** 2015 Pgs. 101-128

Camille Armand Jules Marie, Prince de Polignac Jeff Kinard editors Hewitt, Lawrence L., Bergeron, Arthur W., Schott, Thomas E. – University of Tennessee Press – **Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi Vol 2** 2015 Pgs. 126-166

John A Wharton Paul Scott editors Hewitt, Lawrence L., Bergeron, Arthur W., Schott, Thomas E. – University of Tennessee Press – **Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi Vol 3** 2019. (*Appointed by Taylor to command Confederate Cavalry after the death of Tom Green at Blair's Landing Wharton lead the CSA Cavalry during the rest of the campaign. Personal dispute with Baylor at the Battle of Yellow Bayou lead to his death by murder in closing days of war at hands of John R. Baylor*)

Essay & Anthology Collections

The Red River Campaign: Union and Confederate Leadership and the War in Louisiana. Savas, Theodore P. Woodbury, David A. Joiner, Gary D. (editor). (Parabellum Press. 2003) Excellent Anthology on specialist essay of the campaign.

Primary Sources & First-Hand Accounts

Little to Eat and Thin Mud to Drink: Letter, Diaries and Memoirs from the Red River Campaigns 1863-1864. Joiner, Gary D. (editor) (University of Tennessee Press 2007) – *Superbly edited compilation of the individual experience of the fighting men of the Red River Campaign*

Traveled through a Fine Country – The Journal of Captain Henry K Brockman, Company K, 10th Missouri Volunteer Infantry. Brockman, Henry K. Arkansas History Commission 2011.

Destruction and Reconstruction: Personal Experiences of the Late War. Taylor, Richard (Time-Life Books – Collectors Library of the Civil War)

Unit Studies with Significant Involvement and Impact on the Red River Campaign

USA

History of the 19th Army Corps of the Union Army During the Civil War. Irwin, Richard B. (Leonaor Publishing November 2009 – originally published 1892). History of the 19th Army Corps of the Union Army – comprising Federal troops allocated to the Department of the Gulf.

A Yankee Regiment in Confederate Louisiana: The 31st Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry in the Gulf South. Lowenthal, Larry. (Louisiana State University Press 2019). Excellent Modern history of a Massachusetts whose entire military service record during the Civil War occurred in the State of Louisiana.

Not Till Then Can the World Know Replacement Companies of the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry in the Trans Mississippi. Busch L Spencer. (Laurel Busch Publishing March 28, 2020)

The Indiana Jackass Regiment in the Civil War A History of the 21st Infantry/1st Heavy Artillery Regiment Faller, Phillip E. (McFarland Publishing 2013)

The 2nd Maine Cavalry in the Civil War. Smith, Ned (McFarland Publishing) 2014

Civil War History of the 47th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers Schmidt, Lewis (privately published) 1986. My personal interest in Red River Campaign. Only PA Regiment in the campaign. Played a pivotal role at the Battle of Pleasant Hill. PA Dutchmen in Louisiana – must have seemed like Mars to these foreigners.

CSA

Walker's Texas Division, CSA Greyhounds of the Trans-Mississippi. Lowe, Richard W. (Louisiana State University Press) 2004.

Between the Enemy and Texas: Parsons' Cavalry in the Civil War. Bailey, Anne J. (Texas Christian University Press) 1989

Polignac's Texas Brigade. Barr, Alwyn (Texas A&M University Press) 1964. French Foreign Prince – Colonel Camille de Polignac. Colonel "Polecat" to his men. Engaged in stand up, no quarter fight at Yellow Bayou.

Daniel's Battery the Ninth Texas Field Battery. Perkins, John D. (Hill College Press) 1998

Confederate Guards Response Battalion A History of the 16th Battalion Louisiana Infantry. Jones, Michael D. CreateSpace Independent Publishing (March 2016)

General Mouton's Regiment – The 18th Louisiana Infantry. Jones, Michael D. CreateSpace Independent Publishing (2016)

Confederate Artillery in Western Louisiana, 1864 Barr, Alwyn. (Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association, Winter 1964, pgs. 53-73**

Miscellaneous

Fort Buhlow and Fort Randolph: Confederate Defenses on Red River. Bergeron, Arthur W. (Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association, Vol No. 32 No. 1 (Winter 1991) pp.77-86 2 Forts constructed below Alexandria, LA on the Red River to prevent a third possible invasion of Red River Valley**

The Defense of Shreveport- The Confederacy's Last Redoubt. Moore, Waldo W. Military Affairs, Vol No. 17 No. 2 (Summer 1953) pp.72-82 Interesting article on the defenses of Shreveport whose capture and occupation was the goal of both the Red River Campaign and the Steele's Camden Expedition pincers movement from Arkansas**

For the Cause. Holloway, Richard H. (America's Civil War, (May 2020) pp.77-86 Interesting article on Daniel Boyd – captured Louisiana Tiger – Taylor's Chief Engineer who "spied" on Federal activity on a while on board a Prison Ship – The Polar Star and managed to make detailed note on Federal troops movements and activities while imprisoned on the Red River and return to Taylor in time to use the information during the campaign.

The Wartime Administration of Governor Henry W. Allen Simpson, Amos E – Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association, Vol 5, No 3 (Summer 1964) pgs. 257-269**. Final popular wartime Louisiana Governor of Louisiana and ex-Confederate officer seriously wounded at Shiloh and Baton Rouge who Governed from Shreveport during the Red River Campaign

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