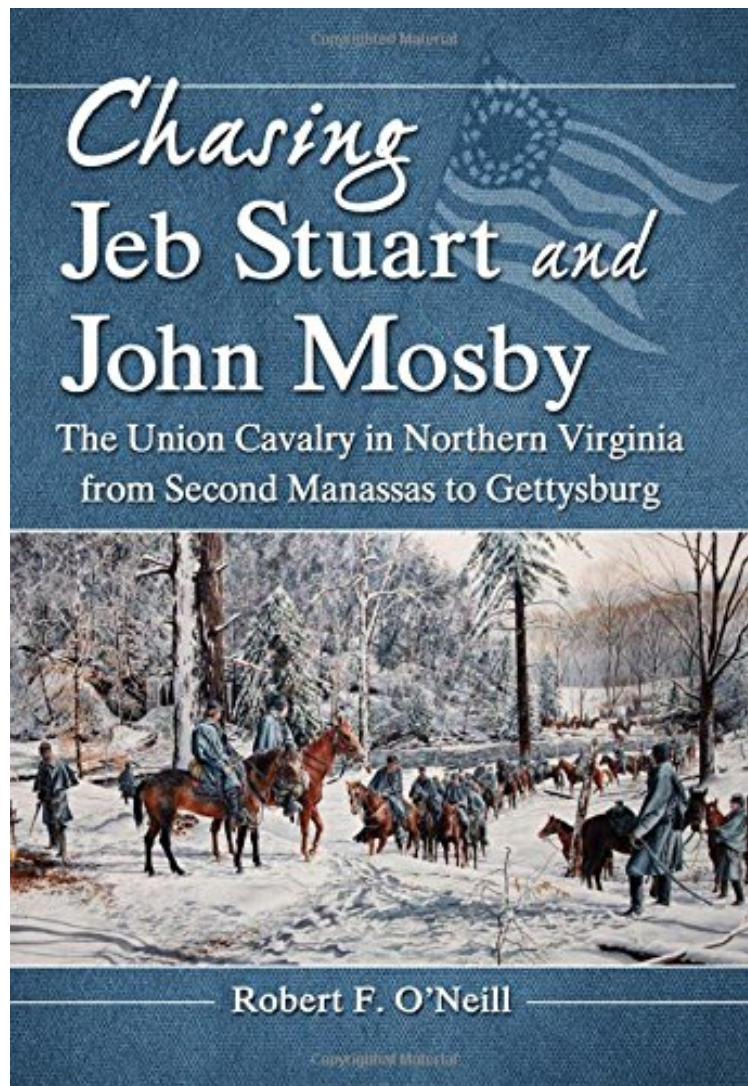


(Ebook pdf) Chasing Jeb Stuart and John Mosby: The Union Cavalry in Northern Virginia from Second Manassas to Gettysburg

## Chasing Jeb Stuart and John Mosby: The Union Cavalry in Northern Virginia from Second Manassas to Gettysburg

*Robert F. O'Neill*

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**Robert F. O'Neill : Chasing Jeb Stuart and John Mosby: The Union Cavalry in Northern Virginia from Second Manassas to Gettysburg** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chasing Jeb Stuart and John Mosby: The Union Cavalry in Northern Virginia from Second Manassas to Gettysburg:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Gem By J. G. Acken This book is a gem. I am researching Union

cavalry operations in the East/Northern Virginia area, and this volume is chock full of detail the author has meticulously assembled and portrays in a pleasing, easily readable style. Highly recommended. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Great Read By John Buford In Chasing Jeb Stuart and John Mosby, Robert F. O'Neill introduces the reader to the classroom where the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac learned on the job training prior to the Gettysburg Campaign. It was in Virginia, between John Pope's failure at Second Manassas and Gettysburg, that ambushes, bushwacking, and numerous small unit actions, although mostly not successful for Union forces, that the Union cavalry arm gradually gained in stature. The reader learns of the formation and evolution of the Michigan cavalry brigade prior to Custer assuming command. Little known, or neglected encounters, such as Stuart's 1862 Christmas raid or the role played by Union general Julius Stahl's cavalry division along with the formation of Mosby's partisan rangers are chronicled in detail. O'Neill's text is a blend of previously unpublished records and a variety of other sources. The author relied upon the National Archives, a source often not used by other historians. This is why his study excels. O'Neill's accounts are engrossing and insightful. O'Neill skillfully displays a first hand knowledge of the areas of Virginia about which he writes so well. His description of terrain and his over ten maps makes his book very compelling. Although Eric Wittenburg's *Union Cavalry Comes of Age* (2003) covers the six month period between Hartwood Church and Brandy Station, however O'Neill explores a longer time frame from Pope at Second Manassas to Gettysburg in greater detail. O'Neill's book is a fine companion to Robert Trout's recent publication on the Union cavalry in *After Gettysburg*. *Chasing Jeb Stuart and John Mosby* will long remain the definitive study of the Army of the Potomac cavalry from the fall of 1862 to July 1863. In great detail O'Neill chronicles the myriad of clashes between the Union and Confederate horsemen along with an overview of notable leaders of the mounted arm. O'Neill, a retired law enforcement officer, previously published *The Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville* (1993) in the HE Howard series. *Chasing Jeb Stuart and John Mosby* is a must read for all interested in Civil War history. O'Neill provides a penetrating perspective into a part of history often ignored. It will long be the best treatment of this subject. John Buford 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding Research and Writing Focusing on Lesser-Known Battles and Skirmishes! By Clark B. Hall There is not a finer, more meticulous Union cavalry historian than Robert O'Neill, and the world's ranking authority on the cavalry battles of "Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville" has now again demonstrated his impeccable research skills to produce a badly-needed book that covers major gaps in Eastern Theatre Cavalry and Partisan warfare. This marvelous study takes the reader from the fall of 1862 to late June 1863 and covers the almost-inevitable rise of Col. John Mosby and his Partisan Rangers. Why inevitable? Most of the war in the East during this central period was of course being fought in Virginia-- and much of it by Virginians.. And, it was Mosby's parochial (?) idea to launch a behind-the-scenes command that would take advantage of Confederate home-front contacts to gather intelligence, and then wage intelligently-planned operations against Northern invaders. But even though the Gray Ghost conceived the command concept, it took the insightful leadership acumen of Jeb Stuart to anoint the plan, and to help task its worthy mission. But on the other side, the smarting (and smart) Federals saw (and experienced) this painful, dagger-in-the-heart for what it was, and their aggressively terrific response to this Partisan threat nicely sums up the larger purpose of this meritoriously successful work. I would also stress a point Mr. O'Neill eloquently offers in his "Preface:" Bob hopes his book will uncover the "trail of the men who pursued (Mosby) and who, unfortunately, have been forgotten." To his everlasting credit, Bob has accomplished that noble goal in this fine book. They all now ride again, Yankee and Rebel horsemen! So, if you care about Civil War Cavalry and Partisan operations, this is a book for you. Highly recommended!

This book is an operational and tactical study of cavalry operations in Northern Virginia from September 1862 to July 1863. It examines in detail John Mosby's first six months as a partisan, within the context of the larger threat to the Union capital posed by Jeb Stuart. Previous studies of Mosby's career are largely based on postwar memoirs. This narrative balances those accounts with previously unpublished official contemporary records left by the Union soldiers assigned to the defense of Washington, D.C. The formation of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade is fully documented, along with the exploits of the brigade in the months before George Custer took command. Largely forgotten events, such as Jeb Stuart's Christmas Raid, the fight at Fairfax Station during Stuart's ride to Gettysburg, as well as the vital role played by Union general Julius Stahl's cavalry division in the critical month of June 1863, are examined at length.

"highly recommended...excellent"--Civil War Books and Authors; "O'Neill excels in accurately describing not only the men who raised and/or commanded the combat units, but the military formations themselves. Meticulously researched...well written in a crisp, clear and straightforward manner... definitive...for those interested in Civil War cavalry operations this study is a must-have"--Blue Gray Magazine. From the Inside Flap This book is an operational and tactical study of cavalry operations in Northern Virginia from September 1862 to July 1863. It examines in detail John Mosby's first six months as a partisan, within the context of the larger threat to the Union capital posed by Jeb Stuart. Previous studies of Mosby's career are largely based on postwar memoirs. This narrative balances those accounts with previously unpublished official contemporary records left by the Union soldiers assigned to the defense of Washington, D.C. The formation of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade is fully documented, along with the exploits of

the brigade in the months before George Custer took command. Largely forgotten events, such as Jeb Stuart's Christmas Raid, the fight at Fairfax Station during Stuart's ride to Gettysburg, as well as the vital role played by Union general Julius Stahel's cavalry division in the critical month of June 1863, are examined at length. About the Author A former patrol officer and detective with the Fairfax County Police Department, in Northern Virginia, Robert F. O'Neill has published numerous articles on the cavalry in the Civil War. He lives in Eureka, Montana.