**Sunshine Church (Stoneman’s Raid) Research Module**

***Definition****:* Culminating battle of a Union cavalry raid associated with the Atlanta campaign in 1864.

**NOTE**: The references below provide information re Stoneman’s Raid. The electronic files include a mix of primary source materials and more elusive published items, including unit histories written in the 19th century.

**HINT:** Your analysis should include coverage of the purpose and commander’s concept of the raid, key events during the raid, and related command decisions by both Union and Confederate leaders that ultimately result in the engagement at Sunshine Church. Remember that the raid was not supposed to culminate in this battle, but it did. Why? To resolve differences among the primary sources, make use of the secondary sources focused on cavalry operations and the raid.

***Electronic References listed by file name****:*

11th KY CAV US

* History of the 11th Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry. Chapter 7 (pdf pp. 32-36) addresses the unit’s actions during Stoneman’s Raid

Battle of Dunlap Farm

* Short article with details re Stoneman’s Raid and the abortive attack upon Macon

Battle of Dunlap Hill

* Article outlining Confederate defense of Macon against Stoneman’s column

Butler Failure of the Stoneman Raid

* 5th Indiana Cavalry commander’s account of the raid

Civil War Times article re Stoneman Raid

* Overview and analysis of Stoneman’s Raid, including coverage of key decisions of Stoneman and Confederate leaders

History of the 14th Illinois Cavalry

* Unit history of the 14th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry. Chapter XI (pdf pp. 219-252) details unit’s role in Stoneman’s Raid. Digital version of W.L. Sanford’s *History of the Fourteenth Illinois and the Brigades to Which it Belonged*, first published in 1898.

1st KY CAV US

* Unit history of the 1st Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry. Chapter XXXVII (pdf pp. 357-380) chronicles the unit’s experience during the Stoneman Raid. This source originally published in 1894 as *The Wild Riders of the First Kentucky Cavalry: A History of the Regiment, in the Great War of the Rebellion 1861-1865*.

Union Media Coverage of Stoneman’s Raid

* Newspaper articles that include early report of failure of the Stoneman Raid and a letter regarding the raid from LTC R.W. Smith.

MG Cobb Report

* Short, official report compiled by the Confederate general in charge of Macon’s defense.

MG Sherman Atlanta campaign report

* Official report of Sherman’s Atlanta campaign that identifies the context and commander’s intent for Stoneman’s Raid (pdf pp. 16-18)

US Cavalry in the Atlanta Campaign

* Master’s thesis by Command and General Staff College student focused on the effectiveness of Union cavalry during the Atlanta campaign, including the planning, preparation, and execution of Stoneman’s Raid, which is addressed in chapter 4.

US Reports

* A collection of several reports submitted by officers serving under Stoneman’s command during the raid. These reports are part of *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*.

***Suggested secondary sources:***

Castel, Albert E., *Decision in the West: The Atlanta Campaign of 1864* (Lawrence, KS:

University Press of Kansas, 1992). Available in the Donovan Research

Library. E467.7.C28 1992.

Evans, David, *Sherman’s Horsemen* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1996).

Available in the Donovan Research Library. E476.7.E93 1996. See Chapters

XVI-XIX.

Matthews, Byron H., *The McCook-Stoneman Raid* (Philadelphia, PA: Dorrance, 1976).

Available in the Donovan Research Library. E476.7.M32 1976.

Starr, Stephen Z., The Union Cavalry in the Civil War, Volume 3: The War in the West

1861-1865 (Batan Rouge, Louisiana: Louisiana State University Press, 1985).

Available in the Donovan Research Library. E492.5.S7 1985 v.3. See Chapter

XVIII.

Wheeler, Joseph, Campaigns of Wheeler and his Cavalry, 1862-1865 (Camden, SC:

J.J. Fox, 1997). Available in the Donovan Research Library. E547. W5D4 1997.

***Further research subjects:***

Stoneman’s Raid to Macon

Battle of Macon 30 July 1864

Battle of Sunshine Church

MG George Stoneman

COL James Biddle

COL Silas Adams

COL Horace Capron

BG Alfred Iverson

COL W.C.P. Breckinridge

BG William W. Allen

MG Howell Cobb