



# BIVOUAC

KENT CIVIL WAR SOCIETY \* P.O. BOX 3671 KENT, OH 44240

<https://www.kentcivilwar.org/>

Meeting Hotline (330) 474-9362

## **“THE BATTLE OF SCARY CREEK”**

**A TALK BY MARK PERKINS**

**SHELTER HOUSE, FRED FULLER PARK, KENT**

**TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024, AT 7:30 P.M.**

Before the shock of Manassas and the carnage of Shiloh, the Civil War warmed up with a series of engagements between Union and Confederate forces in western Virginia. The area was important for transportation and resources, but also for hearts, minds and manpower. Loyalty to the Union verses the Southern Way of Life divided the populace. And in neighboring Ohio, there was a distinct sense of being on the front line of the coming strife.

In June and July 1861, Union troops under General George McClellan fought several times against Confederate forces in the northwestern part of the state. To the south, General Jacob Cox assembled forces representing Ohio and Kentucky and led an expedition up the Kanawha River, destination Charleston. Before he got there, he was met by Virginia troops at Scary Creek. Mark Perkins will present The Battle of Scary Creek, the story of this small battle with no shortage of courage, hard fighting, confusion and recriminations that brought the cost of war home to Portage County.

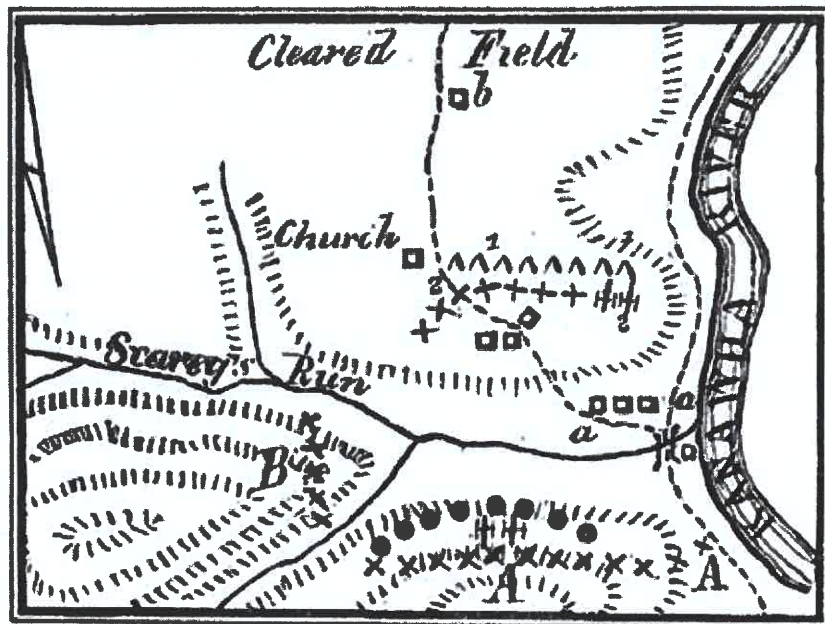
Mark grew up in Stow, Ohio, where he developed a life-long interest in history. After earning degrees in psychology and library science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a degree in computer science from the University of Akron, he worked for 33 years as a programmer/analyst with Wolff Bros. Supply. His long-time interest in the Civil War included four years reenacting with the Fifth Texas Infantry, Company A out of Akron, Ohio, and co-editing, with George Skoch, the book *Lone Star Confederate: A Gallant and Good Soldier of the Fifth Texas Infantry*. Published by Texas A&M University Press, the book won the 2004 “Best Book on Texas in the Confederacy” award presented by the Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Mark is a member of the Kent Civil War Society, for whom he is a frequent speaker. He lives in Copley, Ohio with his wife, Frances, and cat, Cassie.

Our optional pre-meeting dinner will be at Eddy’s Deli & Restaurant, 4581 Kent Road in Stow, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

# Battle of Scary Creek

By David Sibray

Excerpted from <https://wvexplorer.com/2023/12/12/battle-of-scary-creek-near-st-albans-one-of-first-in-civil-war/>



- A A.—Rebel line of infantry, two guns and rifle pits.
- 1 1.—Col. Lowe's first position with the guns.
- 2 2.—Col. Lowe's second position with the guns.
- a a.—Houses, mill and bridge captured by Col. Norton.
- b.—Barn where the Rebel pickets were met.
- B.—Major Hinds' position.

*Map of the Battle of Scary Creek: "War Memoranda: Cheat River to the Tennessee, 1861-1862"*  
by Charles Whittlesey, 1884.

SCARY, W.Va. — Though nothing remains on the battlefield along the Kanawha River today, the Battle of Scary Creek was one of the most significant engagements in what's now West Virginia during the Civil War.

Fought in 1861 near Saint Albans, West Virginia, it was also one of the first battles in the war and one of its first Confederate victories, erupting three months after the beginning of the war and only days before the first major battle at Manassas (Bull Run). According to historian Terry Lowry, nothing about the battle went as planned.

"The battle, which began at about three in the afternoon, was a comedy of errors, as both armies experienced their baptism of fire, and each repeatedly and temporarily relinquished the battlefield and then returned," Lowry said. "Although the Confederate force won the affair, military affairs in other portions of the state compelled General Wise to lead a 'retrograde movement' out of the valley, making it possible for the Union forces to take control until a brief period in September of 1862."