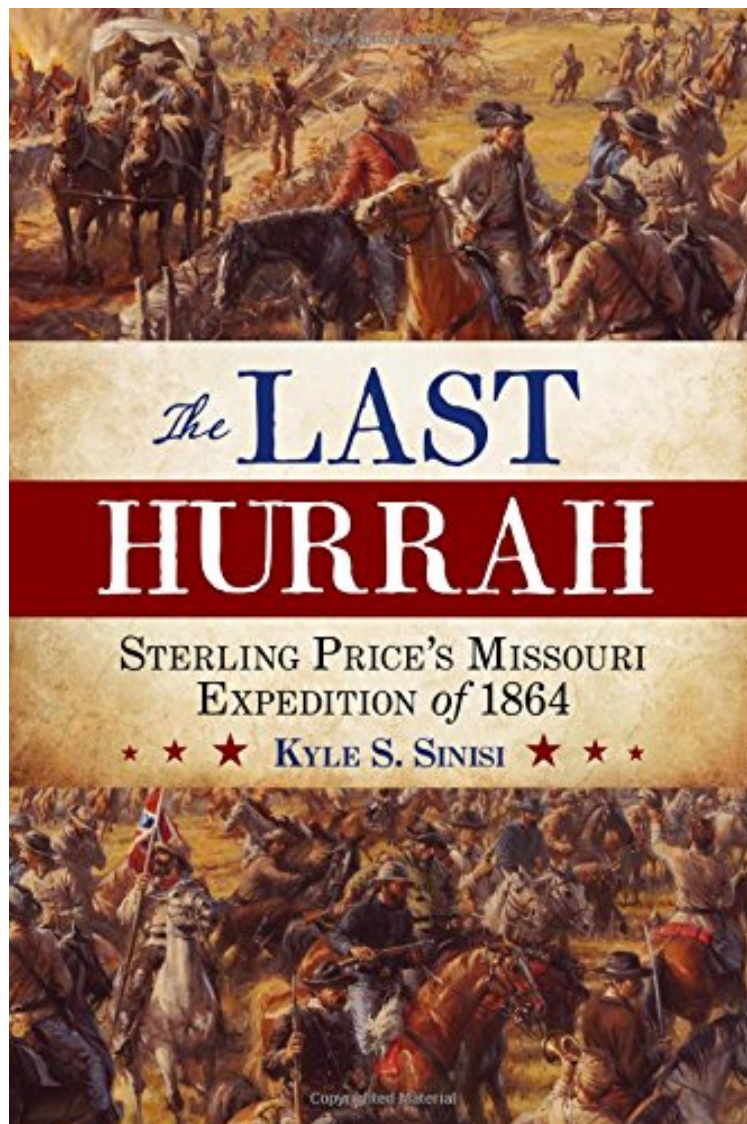


(Library ebook) The Last Hurrah: Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition of 1864 (The American Crisis Series: Books on the Civil War Era)

The Last Hurrah: Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition of 1864 (The American Crisis Series: Books on the Civil War Era)

Kyle S. Sinisi

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Kyle S. Sinisi : The Last Hurrah: Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition of 1864 (The American Crisis Series: Books on the Civil War Era) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Hurrah: Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition of 1864 (The American Crisis Series: Books on the Civil War Era):

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Very Good StudyBy Jeffery StewartThis book fills a great void in the history of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi Theatre. As far as I am aware, Sinisi's work on Price's 1864 Missouri Expedition is the most detailed study of the campaign to date. The book is well-written; the narrative is easy to follow, it is well-edited, and the authors does not wander off topic. One excellent aspect of Sinisi's work is that he provides new and fresh insights and interpretations of the events and information. Sinisi is also quite fair in his analysis; he describes the atrocities each side committed, as well as their heroic acts. Perhaps my only suggestion for improvement would be that some of the maps should have been a little larger. Very nice addition to the literature on the war west of the Mississippi River.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Civil War West of the MississippiBy george s mihalikExcellent account of little known Confederate invasion of Missouri in 1864. Campaign features cavalry battles, fascinating generals and politicians with much lack of cooperation, ambition and rancor hindering military efforts .Had pleasure of being on a tour of this campaign led by Dr. Sinisi this June.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Best Trans-Mississippi book I've readBy Ron BremnerI've read a lot on the Civil War, and specifically on the war in Missouri and Kansas. This is the best book I've ever read on Price's raid. First, it's readable, so you don't feel like your slogging through history. Then, it's well referenced. This is very helpful, as there are a lot of conflicting views on Price's raid, many of those views created by the participants immediately after the raid. Back then, people were opinionated...The book includes insight into personalities of the leaders, the weather, the topography, the impact of specific weapons, or lack of ammunition or supplies, and previous history. This is especially important in the battles in Kansas and Missouri, as the years previous to the Civil War made it a brutal conflict. Some of that carried over into Price's raid.Sinisi also cleared up a lot of 'facts' that I'd heard before, explaining why they were incorrect. The length of Price's train (typically overstated), and in fact the reason it should have been the size it was. He gives good insight into the conflict between Blunt and Curtis (both Union Generals), or Lane, Jennison, and other politicians (all Union). And he delves into similar problems southerners had (Price and Kirby Smith, for instance).For me personally, I've been trying to get more information on the Second Battle of Independence, Missouri. He gave more info on that than I've seen anywhere else. And I visited Independence Missouri specifically to learn about that.All in all, a great book. I started on a Sunday, and finished on Friday. So didn't get a lot done all week, besides working and reading. It was worth it.

In the late summer of 1864, Confederate General Sterling Price led a last ditch attempt to liberate Missouri from Union occupation and brutal guerrilla warfare. Price's invading army was like few others seen during the Civil War. It was an army of cavalry that lacked men, horses, weapons, and discipline. Its success depended entirely upon a native uprising of pro-Confederate Missourians. When that uprising never occurred, Price's rag-tag army marched through the state seeking revenge, supplies and conscripts. It was a march that took too long and ultimately allowed Union forces to converge on Price and badly defeat him in a series of battles that ran from Kansas City to the Arkansas border. Three months and 1,400 miles after it had started, the longest sustained cavalry operation of the war had ended in disaster. The Last Hurrah is the story of Price's invasion from its politically charged planning to its starving retreat. The Last Hurrah is also the story of what happened after the shooting stopped. Even as hundreds of Missourians followed Price out of the state and tried desperately to join his army, elements of the Union army visited retribution upon Confederate sympathizers while still others showed little regard for the lives of the prisoners they had captured. Many more would have to suffer and die long after Sterling Price had fled Missouri.

The Last Hurrah effectively recounts the campaign from inception to end. Near the end of summer 1864, Sterling Price would finally get his grand opportunity to try to wrest control of his home state from federal forces. . . .Covering such a vast campaign in a single volume of reasonable size is a difficult proposition but Sinisi's efforts toward maximizing available space succeed admirably. His description and analysis of the Missouri Expedition in all three major military dimensions — strategic, operational and tactical — are appropriately weighted and balanced. For a work of this scale the amount of tactical detail provided for the many battles and skirmishes fought is more than satisfactory. The roughly one hundred pages devoted to the October 19-23 series of battles fought just east and south of Kansas City comprise the best treatment yet of what one might consider collectively as the Battle of Westport. In support of the narrative is a very useful set of 21 maps created by Larry Hoffman. In general terms, the cartography of the Missouri Expedition is scant and woeful in the collective literature and The Last Hurrah goes a long way toward rectifying this deficiency. The somewhat complex movements and side-movements of Price's army are clearly traced on the book's operational scale maps and the many tactical maps correlate well with the text descriptions of the unit and landscape battlefield tableau associated with each one. . . .For students of the Civil War in Missouri, The Last Hurrah: Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition of 1864 has been well worth the considerable wait. The first thorough military treatment of the campaign, this deeply researched and skillfully composed study also holds the added distinction of ranking among the finer examples of Civil War operational military history regardless of subject. Highly recommended. (Civil War Books and Authors)Save the Red River Campaign of the same year, no other operation conducted west of the Mississippi river in 1864 can match the numbers involved and geographic sweep of Sterling Price's expedition in

Missouri, yet no full-length military treatment of it has been published until now. Kyle S. Sinisi's *The Last Hurrah: Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition of 1864* is noteworthy not only for bridging this long-standing gap in the Trans-Mississippi Civil War historiography but also for being by any estimation a first-rate operational history. The author persuasively rejects or revises a large number of traditional campaign interpretations while advancing fresh ones of his own. (The Civil War Monitor) In *The Last Hurrah*, Kyle S. Sinisi provides the long-needed modern one-volume account of Price's campaign, one that will appeal to anyone interested in the war in Missouri in general and the events of the fall of 1864 in particular. He skillfully describes the various engagements that Price's men fought over the course of the campaign and the fierce fighting that determined their outcome. He is likewise adept at describing the high-command maneuvering that shaped the campaign both on and off the battlefield. In the process, Sinisi provides compelling illustrations of the inextricable relationship between war and politics and how Civil War military operations were influenced as much by the ability of commanders to work together as by their competence as battlefield tacticians. . . . Sinisi also does a fine job describing the experiences of those lower down the chain of command, providing an especially effective account of the ordeal they experienced as Price fled south in the aftermath of his defeat at Westport and the Big Blue with the federals in pursuit. He does all of this in a study whose depth of research, readability, and thoroughness make it a work that readers will find valuable and future students of the campaign will be hard pressed to supersede. (Missouri Historical) Sinisi traces the expedition from its conception to its disastrous results for the Confederacy. He offers a well-written, informative, and complete view that will well serve readers who have little knowledge of these events. The book is so much more than the standard blow-by-blow account that gives military history a bad name among scholars. Sinisi not only show the broader political, social, and military aspects of Price's 1864 operations but also successfully argues that writers who have dealt with the subject before have done it a great disservice. . . . For students and scholars of Arkansas's place in American history, Sinisi's *The Last Hurrah* is essential. (Arkansas Historical Quarterly) Kyle Sinisi has offered a masterful and definitive study . . . Consulting a wide array of military records, memoirs, newspapers and letters, as well as a comprehensive assessment of relevant secondary works, Sinisi has created a more coherent and masterful account of Price's Raid than any other work that precedes it. (Civil War Book) [W]ith Kyle Sinisi's *The Last Hurrah: Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition of 1864*, we have a richly textured narrative that weaves together traditional and new military history to produce what will likely remain the definitive study on a pivotal western campaign for many years to come.... [The book is] recommend ... for students of Kansas history.... Building upon previous studies which are now dated or deal with only isolated parts of the campaign, Sinisi's masterful, book-length treatment is a model of military history and deserves a wide audience. Beyond Fort Davidson, Boonville, Lexington, Newtonia, and the other engagements recounted in vivid detail, readers will find incisive attention paid to the treatment of deserters, prisoners, and civilians; in-fighting among the other officer corps of each side; the environmental challenges faced across a trek of nearly 1,500 miles; the suspected capture of free African Americans; and simmering postwar feuds over which parties most deserved credit or blame for the expedition's failure. It must also be noted that this book includes splendid battlefield maps. Having set out to craft a comprehensive history of Price's expedition and the political and social contexts from which it sprang and ultimately failed, Sinisi fulfills his purpose admirably. (Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains) In *The Last Hurrah: Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition of 1864*, Kyle S. Sinisi provides a valuable and compelling history of a campaign that failed.... Sinisi's narrative is thorough, as he follows the campaign day by day, at times hour by hour and minute by minute. (Journal of Southern History) Cutting through 150 years of myths and misinformation surrounding Price's Raid, Kyle Sinisi provides a compelling study of breadth and depth, demonstrating why the Trans-Mississippi was the most interesting theater of the Civil War. A judicious, balanced, and nuanced account of perhaps the least studied and most misunderstood major campaign of the war. (William Garrett Piston, Missouri State University, co-author of *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War and the Men Who Fought It*) Kyle Sinisi provides a long-needed analysis of the last major military operation west of the Mississippi River. Sinisi challenges long-held assumptions about Sterling Price's disastrous 1864 Missouri invasion while addressing the unique machinations of Kansas and Missouri politics, examining the many battles that marked the raid's progress, and confronting the atrocities committed by both sides on each other and the civilian population. *The Last Hurrah* is essential reading for anyone interested in the Trans-Mississippi Theater of the Civil War. (Mark K. Christ, Arkansas Historic Preservation, author of *Civil War Arkansas 1863: The Battle for a State*) No scholar has explained Sterling Price's desperate attempt to capture Missouri in the fall of 1864 as thoroughly or as thoughtfully as has Kyle S. Sinisi. His engaging and well-researched exploration of this "last hurrah" for Confederates in the Trans-Mississippi reveals the full complexity of Price's ill-fated campaign, from its improbable origins to its messy aftermath. (Daniel E. Sutherland, University of Arkansas, author of *A Savage Conflict: The Decisive Role of Guerrillas in the American Civil War*) As part of the Confederacy's final effort to use war to achieve thwarted political goals, Sterling Price's invasion of Missouri sought to swing the presidential election by invigorating the western dissent movement. For the Confederates, it was an inglorious end to their stubborn dream of independence sounded far from the remaining southern fronts. Kyle S. Sinisi has told this tale better than anyone, combining its military, political, social, and ideological elements into a compelling historical narrative of loss. (Christopher Phillips, University of Cincinnati,

author of *The Civil War in the Border South*) *The Last Hurrah* is a military history of longest, and largest, cavalry operation of the Civil War. The book's narrative perspective covers both Union and Confederate forces and ultimately shows that the conduct of operations could not be detached from the brutality of the guerrilla war that preceded Price's entrance into the state. Atrocities and depredations would be just as much a part of the campaign, and its aftermath, as would be its major battles.

About the Author Kyle S. Sinisi is professor of history at The Citadel. He is author of *Sacred Debts: State Civil War Claims and American Federalism, 1861–1880* and co-editor of *Warm Ashes: Essays in Southern History at the Dawn of the 21st Century*.