

Chapter 1 : The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion

No serious study of the American Civil War is complete without consulting the Official Records. Affectionately known as the "OR", the volumes of the Official Records provide the most comprehensive, authoritative, and voluminous reference on Civil War operations.

War of the Rebellion Official Records: Series I Series I: Fort Pulaski, New Orleans. Mill Springs, Forts Henry and Donelson. New Madrid, Island No. Hampton Roads, Roanoke Island. Volume 10, Part I: Volume 10, Part II: Kentucky, Tennessee, March 4-June 10, Volume 11, Part I: Virginia, March September 2, Volume 11, Part II: Virginia, March September 2, Volume 11, Part III: Volume 12, Part I: Volume 12, Part II: Cedar Mountain, 2d Bull Run. Volume 12, Part II Supplement: The Fitz John Porter Court-martial. Volume 12, Part III: Volume 16, Part I: Volume 16, Part II: Volume 17, Part I: Volume 17, Part II: Volume 19, Part I: Volume 19, Part II: Volume 20, Part I: Volume 20, Part II: Volume 22, Part I: Volume 23, Part I: Volume 23, Part II: Volume 24, Part I: Volume 24, Part II: Volume 24, Part III: Volume 25, Part I: Volume 25, Part II: Volume 26, Part I: Volume 26, Part II: Volume 27, Part I: Volume 27, Part II: Volume 27, Part III: Volume 28, Part I: Volume 28, Part II: Volume 29, Part I: Volume 30, Part II: Chickamunga Campaign, East Tennessee Campaign. Volume 30, Part III: Volume 30, Part IV: Volume 31, Part I: Volume 31, Part II: Volume 31, Part III: Volume 32, Part I: Meridian Expedition, Forrests Expedition. Volume 32, Part II: Volume 32, Part III: Volume 34, Part I: Volume 34, Part II: Volume 34, Part III: Volume 34, Part IV: Volume 35, Part I: Charleston Harbor etc, Oustee, Fla. Volume 35, Part II: The Southern Coasts, January 1, November 13, Volume 36, Part I: Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold harbor. Volume 36, Part II: Volume 36, Part III: Volume 37, Part I: Volume 37, Part II: Volume 38, Part I: Volume 38, Part II: Volume 38, Part III: Volume 38, Part IV: Volume 38, Part V: Volume 39, Part I: Tupelo, Mobile Bay, Allatoona, etc. Volume 39, Part II: Volume 39, Part III: Volume 40, Part I: Volume 40, Part II: Volume 40, Part III: Southeastern Virginia and North Carolina, July , Volume 41, Part I: Volume 41, Part II: Volume 41, Part III: Volume 41, Part IV: Volume 42, Part I: Richmond Campaign, Fort Fisher, N. Volume 42, Part II: Volume 42, Part III: Volume 43, Part I: Shenandoan Valley Campaign, etc. Volume 43, Part II: Volume 45, Part I: Volume 45, Part II: Volume 46, Part I: Volume 46, Part II: Volume 46, Part III: Richmond Campaign, Appomattox Campaign, etc.

Chapter 2 : The "War of the Rebellion Atlas"™

The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Author: United States. War Dept. Title: The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.

Halleck began the task of collecting and preserving such archives of the Confederacy as had survived the war. In a joint resolution of Congress authorized the compilation and publication under auspices of the War Department. Eventually, seventeen Secretaries of War were involved in the process. In , Army Captain Robert N. As finally published, the records consist of , pages with 1, maps and diagrams assembled in books, [3] organized as 70 volumes grouped in four series, published between and Each of the four series of books in the compilation is divided into "volumes" numbered from the beginning of the series with Roman numerals. In series I, however, it was found to be usually impracticable, beginning with volume X, to confine "volumes," as units of content, within single books. Volume X and most subsequent volumes in series I were therefore issued in "parts" distinguished by subsidiary Roman numerals, each occupying a separate book. Beginning with volume XXIV, Arabic "serial numbers" were also printed on the backs of the books issued, although these numbers were not included on the title pages, and are therefore not universally used in citations. It includes the annual and special reports of the Secretary of War, of the General-in-Chief, and of the chiefs of the several staff corps and departments; the calls for troops and the correspondence between the National and the several State authorities Serial Nos. It included maps of military operations plates , a topographic map of the area of operations 26 plates , and some drawings of weapons, uniforms, insignia, and flags. National Archives began publication of a five-volume set that comprised an arguably superior index to the Army ORs, Military Operations of the Civil War: Introductory material to the guide-index offers guidance to readers of the ORs: Documents printed in Official Records, Armies, were copied, for the most part, directly into type from the originals by printers of the War Department printing establishment. They may not have been sophisticated about scholarly requirements for the reproduction of historical documents in print, but they were aware of the sort of problems involved and dealt with them according to shop practice, rich experience, and commonsense. A large part of the content of the compilation had already been printed as "preliminary prints" before the publication project received any proper editorial direction. The sheer bulk of the material involved prevented any meticulous wholesale review of the copying process by the editors responsible for the eventual publication. There were, of course, errors made during the copying process that did not get corrected or noticed in lists of errata. Since the documents were printed a second time from the preliminary prints, at the Government Printing Office, it is a wonder that there are not more mistakes of transcription. Editorial tinkering with the texts of documents is a possibility that must be kept in mind, particularly if the subject matter suggests it. There cannot have been much such tinkering, however, for the editors had their hands full organizing the material to go into successive books. The numerous appendixes of material that did not get into its proper place, and the extent of the five supplemental volumes can give us some idea of how demanding and distracting this task must have been. The point is that anyone using the army-records compilation should watch more intently for faults of editorship than for faults of transcription. Some editorial mistakes are inconsequential but others are egregious, the total of such mistakes is very large. The editorship was not rigorous in any scholarly or scientific sense; it was empirical and relatively uncritical. Historians have argued that some of the modifications made years after the events have decreased the accuracy of the records and were made simply to enhance personal reputations or to denigrate the reputations of rivals. An additional volumes of previously unpublished reports and correspondence were published by the Broadfoot Publishing Company of Wilmington, North Carolina , from to , entitled Supplement to the Official Records Of the Union and Confederate Armies. Soley to collect and publish. Intending to partially replace missing reports, many personal narratives were collected and included, often gaining Navy researchers incidental access to draft copies of original reports once thought lost. Series I Records of all naval operations including all inland waterways Series II Records relating to statistics and condition of both forces at the outset of conflict, returns

of captured materials, and records of naval prisoners of war. Also included as Part I in Volume 1, is a complete ships listing for both navies with basic statistics on type, dimensions, armaments and propulsion, in many cases addended with notes and some contemporary illustrations. Information on Confederate vessels were for the most part sparse in many instances having to rely on eyewitness accounts , due to missing records as well as vessels being lost over the course of the war, but were more detailed for those records and vessels that had fallen into the hands of the Union Army and Navy. Several captured vessels pressed into either service have actually received listings in both navies, either under their original name or renamed. A proposed third series was deemed unnecessary; the final volume of series two was published in 1867. The Navy Department did not publish a comprehensive index to these volumes. Other historical sources[edit] While the Official Records are probably the most-used of all primary sources for historical research on the Civil War, there are other contemporary published works that provide well-sourced insights not constrained by the types of sources compiled by government: Wikisource has original text related to this article: Southern Historical Society Papers Southern Historical Society Papers Published in 52 volumes from 1897 to the 1930s by the Southern Historical Society , includes reminiscences and analyses of war experiences by Confederate veterans. Familiarity with the historiography is important when referring to articles in the SHSP, which was a major organ in the creation, dissemination and perpetuation of Lost Cause mythology. Thus, not all material contained in these papers can be regarded as reliable or historically accurate. Grant down to company officers. In the 1860s, additional related material was compiled into two more volumes. Accounts are usually first-hand and often written by an officer actually in command in a subject engagement or campaign. Although the volumes are numbered as high as 100, volume numbers 91-100 were reserved for a more extensive index of Series I that was never published. References[edit] Aimone, Alan C.

Chapter 3 : Official Records of the War of the Rebellion - Wikipedia

The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion or often more simply the Official Records or ORs, constitute the most extensive collection of primary sources of the history of the American Civil War.

The War of the Rebellion is a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate Armies that were published by order of Congress by the Government Printing Office between and . In addition to Army Records, a separate set of volumes containing the records of the Union and Confederate Navies were collected and published between and as the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion. The War of the Rebellion volumes are primary source materials; they contain records that were written at the time the events described were taking place. The volumes contain reports of battles, military operations, correspondence, orders, reports and "returns" responses of both the Union and Confederate Armies and Navies. The records of the Armies were divided into four series: Series I - Contains reports dealing with Union and Confederate Military Operations in addition to correspondence, orders and returns related to those operations. Series II - Contains correspondence, orders, reports and returns related to prisoners of war, State and political prisoners. Series III - Contains correspondence, orders, reports and returns of Union authorities that are not related to military operations and prisoners. Series IV - Contains correspondence, orders, reports and returns of Confederate authorities that are not included in the previous series. An index to the volumes was published in . The National Archives published a more comprehensive index in multiple volumes from to . This index, *Military Operations of the Civil War: All of the indexes to the Army and Navy record that have been digitized have been linked to a separate page titled Indexes.* Organization of this Site The site is divided into four parts: The Army records are divided into separate pages for each Series; Series I is subdivided into two separate pages for Volumes 1 - 29 Serials 1 - 49 and Volumes 30 - 53 Serials 50 - , respectively. Each page contains a list of the volumes from each set or series by volume and title. Volume information is transcribed directly from the title page of the volume; individual titles are transcribed from the first page of text in the digitized volume. Entries are followed by links to volume s available in the Internet Archive, which has a user-friendly interface allowing volumes to be browsed and searched. Volumes in the Internet Archive can also be downloaded in a variety of formats. When more than one digital edition for a volume exists, links to each volume are given after the entry. All of the volumes in this guide were digitized from collections at other libraries, including Cornell University, the University of California, Stanford University, the University of Michigan, Harvard University and others. In addition to this site, which is a linked bibliography of volumes available in the Internet Archive, two university libraries have developed web sites related to the collection:

Chapter 4 : War of the Rebellion - Libraries - Western Illinois University

Previous to that time, of the total number of volumes of the Rebellion records, volumes, that is, serial numbers 1 to , had been published by the War Records Office. The remaining 11 volumes and the general index were issued by the Record and Pension Office.

Edit Collection of the records began in ; no special attention was paid to Confederate records until just after the capture of Richmond, Virginia, in , when with the help of Confederate Gen. Halleck began the task of collecting and preserving such archives of the Confederacy as had survived the war. In a joint resolution of Congress authorized the compilation and publication under auspices of the War Department. Eventually, seventeen Secretaries of War were involved in the process. In , Army Captain Robert N. As finally published, the records consist of , pages with 1, maps and diagrams assembled in books, [3] organized as 70 volumes grouped in four series, published between and Each of the four series of books in the compilation is divided into "volumes" numbered from the beginning of the series with Roman numerals. In series I, however, it was found to be usually impracticable, beginning with volume X, to confine "volumes," as units of content, within single books. Volume X and most subsequent volumes in series I were therefore issued in "parts" distinguished by subsidiary Roman numerals, each occupying a separate book. Beginning with volume XXIV, Arabic "serial numbers" were also printed on the backs of the books issued, although these numbers were not included on the title pages, and are therefore not universally used in citations. It includes the annual and special reports of the Secretary of War, of the General-in-Chief, and of the chiefs of the several staff corps and departments; the calls for troops and the correspondence between the National and the several State authorities Serial Nos. It included maps of military operations plates , a topographic map of the area of operations 26 plates , and some drawings of weapons, uniforms, insignia, and flags. National Archives began publication of a five-volume set that comprised an arguably superior index to the Army ORs, *Military Operations of the Civil War: Introductory material to the guide-index offers guidance to readers of the ORs: Documents printed in Official Records, Armies, were copied, for the most part, directly into type from the originals by printers of the War Department printing establishment. They may not have been sophisticated about scholarly requirements for the reproduction of historical documents in print, but they were aware of the sort of problems involved and dealt with them according to shop practice, rich experience, and commonsense. A large part of the content of the compilation had already been printed as "preliminary prints" before the publication project received any proper editorial direction. The sheer bulk of the material involved prevented any meticulous wholesale review of the copying process by the editors responsible for the eventual publication. There were, of course, errors made during the copying process that did not get corrected or noticed in lists of errata. Since the documents were printed a second time from the preliminary prints, at the Government Printing Office, it is a wonder that there are not more mistakes of transcription. Editorial tinkering with the texts of documents is a possibility that must be kept in mind, particularly if the subject matter suggests it. There cannot have been much such tinkering, however, for the editors had their hands full organizing the material to go into successive books. The numerous appendixes of material that did not get into its proper place, and the extent of the five supplemental volumes can give us some idea of how demanding and distracting this task must have been. The point is that anyone using the army-records compilation should watch more intently for faults of editorship than for faults of transcription. Some editorial mistakes are inconsequential but others are egregious, the total of such mistakes is very large. The editorship was not rigorous in any scholarly or scientific sense; it was empirical and relatively uncritical. Historians have argued that some of the modifications made years after the events have decreased the accuracy of the records and were made simply to enhance personal reputations or to denigrate the reputations of rivals. An additional volumes of previously unpublished reports and correspondence were published by the Broadfoot Publishing Company of Wilmington, North Carolina, from to , entitled *Supplement to the Official Records Of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Soley to collect and publish. Intending to partially replace missing reports, many personal narratives were collected and included, often gaining Navy researchers incidental access to draft copies of original reports once thought lost. Series I*

Records of all naval operations including all inland waterways Series II Records relating to statistics and condition of both forces at the outset of conflict, returns of captured materials, and records of naval prisoners of war A proposed third series was deemed unnecessary; the final volume of series two was published in The Navy Department did not publish a comprehensive index to these volumes. Other historical sources While the Official Records are probably the most-used of all primary sources for historical research on the Civil War, there are other contemporary published works that provide well-sourced insights not constrained by the types of sources compiled by government: Wikisource has original text related to this article: Southern Historical Society Papers Southern Historical Society Papers Published in 52 volumes from to the s by the Southern Historical Society , includes reminiscences and analyses of war experiences by Confederate veterans. Familiarity with the historiography is important when referring to articles in the SHSP, which was a major organ in the creation, dissemination and perpetuation of Lost Cause mythology. Thus, not all material contained in these papers can be regarded as reliable or historically accurate. Grant down to company officers. In the s, additional related material was compiled into two more volumes. Accounts are usually first-hand and often written by an officer actually in command in a subject engagement or campaign. Although the volumes are numbered as high as , volume numbers and were reserved for a more extensive index of Series I that was never published. References Edit Aimone, Alan C.

The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies.

Official Records of the War of the Rebellion From CivilWarWiki Share The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, commonly called the Official Records or the OR, is the primary-source work originally published in by the United States Department of War to serve as the most complete record ever brought together of the American Civil War , and contains first-hand accounts, reports, orders, correspondence, maps, diagrams, and other material of the War and Navy Departments of both the Union and Confederacy. Subsequent additions and revisions brought the total number of pages to ,, bound in volumes. Structure The idea for publishing a complete record of the Civil War came from Union General-in-Chief Henry Wager Halleck in , when he suggested to the Committee on Military Affairs the collection and publication of all official documents and reports related to military operations. The chairman of the committee, Republican Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts, introduced a Joint Resolution "to provide for the printing of the official reports of the armies of the United States," which was adopted on May 19, President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill into law the following day. Under the editorship of Colonel Robert N. Scott, the work was systematized and the plan finally adopted which has been carried on throughout the entire set known as the Official Records. According to this plan, 4 series were issued as follows: Series I, 53 volumes books Formal reports, both Union and Confederate, of all military operations in the field, with the correspondence, orders, and returns relating especially to them. They are arranged chronologically - Union followed by Confederate - with the intent of portraying a history of the event in question within the same volume, i. Series II, 8 volumes 8 books: Correspondence, orders, reports and returns, Union and Confederate, relating to prisoners of war and, so far as the military authorities were concerned, to state or political prisoners. Series III, 5 volumes 5 books: Correspondence, orders, reports and returns of the Union authorities, embracing their correspondence with the Confederate officials, not relating especially to the subjects of the 1st and 2d series. It embraces the annual and special reports of the Secretary of War, of the General-in-Chief, and of the chiefs of the several staff corps and departments; the calls for troops and the correspondence between the national and the several State authorities. Series IV, 3 volumes 3 books: Correspondence, orders, reports and returns of the Confederate authorities, similar to that indicated for the Union officials, as of the 3d series, but excluding the correspondence between the Union and Confederate authorities given in that series. Soley of the Navy Department. Series I Records of all naval operations at sea, during the Blockade, and on all inland waterways. As above, they too were arranged chronologically. Series II Records relating to statistics and condition of both sides during and after the conflict, including the return of captured material, records of naval prisoners of war, and other correspondence. After the death of Colonel Scott, Col. Lazelle was placed in charge, and later a Board of Publication carried on the work under direction of the Secretary of War. The name most closely associated with the work from its inception to its completion is that of Joseph W. Kirkley, the compiler under whose personal examination each volume passed. In , a revised edition of the additions and corrections, already printed with the general index W The War Records Office W Previous to that time, of the total number of volumes of the Rebellion records, volumes, that is, serial numbers 1 to , had been published by the War Records Office. The remaining 11 volumes and the general index were issued by the Record and Pension Office. It has seemed wise not to divide the few last volumes from the remainder of the set, hence, they are all entered under W The serial numbers as given below are the numbers assigned to the set by the issuing office as found in circular issued July 1, , and also in preceding circulars. Most of the sets issued were bound in black cloth and, after series 1, v. The series related to the Navies was bound in gray. The third major addition to the work was a companion volume, Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, which was published in Consisting of over plates, the over-size volume contains maps of military operations, topographical maps of areas of operations, and plates consisting of sketches of forts, weapons, uniforms and uniform insignia, and flags.

Chapter 6 : Navy Records - Libraries - Western Illinois University

The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, commonly called the Official Records or the OR, is the primary-source work originally published in by the United States Department of War to serve as the most complete record ever brought together of the American Civil War, and contains first-hand accounts, reports, orders, correspondence.

Chapter 7 : Browse | Cornell University Library Making of America Collection

Book/Printed Material The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies. Official records of the Union and Confederate armies Enlarge View images in sequence.

Chapter 8 : Catalog Record: The war of the rebellion: a compilation of | Hathi Trust Digital Library

No serious study of the American Civil War is complete without consulting the Official Records (OR). The volumes of the "OR" provide the most comprehensive, authoritative reference on Civil War operations than any other record documenting this war.

Chapter 9 : Official Records of the War of the Rebellion - CivilWarWiki

The Official Records of the War Between the States (also known as The Official Records of the War of Rebellion) were published by the US Army between and This Volumes set is considered the most complete reference set on the Civil War.