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Chapter 1 : Civil War history books and Civil War DVDs. Kearny, NJ

*Writing & Fighting From the Army of Northern Virginia: A Collection of Confederate Soldier Correspondence [William B. Style] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. A collection of letters written by the soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia to their hometown newspapers.*

Although every state in the Confederacy, along with Maryland and Kentucky, contributed units to the Army of Northern Virginia, its soldiers came predominantly from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Early in the war, Confederates banded regiments from different states into brigades as they arrived in Virginia. Nearly half of the men who served in the Army of Northern Virginia resided in either Virginia or North Carolina, and another quarter came from Georgia and South Carolina. The average year of birth for soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia was 1840. The median birth year was 1840. More than half were farmers and nearly all of them 94 percent came from rural areas. One in seven was a student in 1862, and nearly half resided with parents or an older sibling. Because of their youth, only about three of eight soldiers were married. When the war broke out, single men—those least burdened with personal obligations—rushed to serve. In 1862, however, as wartime burdens extended to more families, a majority of those who entered the Army of Northern Virginia were married. During the last two years of the war, as the Confederacy strained to place more men in uniform, the army drew older and younger men into the ranks, and almost half of those were married. Regiment Soldiers tended to come from comfortable backgrounds. Slightly more than one in eight soldiers owned slaves, but 40 percent of the officers did. As a result, these soldiers had an investment in slavery that influenced their decision to fight. An Irish-born private in the 12th Georgia Infantry joked, "A short time ago he bought a negro, he says, to have something to fight for. Almost half of all officers or their parents with whom they resided owned slaves, a figure that contrasted with 36 percent of enlisted men. Yet these distinctions were not as one-sided as they initially appeared. More than five of nine 56 percent soldiers who served in the Army of Northern Virginia enlisted in 1862, and another three in ten 30 percent enlisted the next year. In April 1862, the Confederate Congress passed the Conscription Act, and three of four who enlisted in 1862 did so prior to its enforcement. Most likely, the percentage of conscripts ranged from 6 to 8 percent. Less than 1 percent were hired as a substitute for someone else. McClellan began landing troops on the Peninsula between the York and James rivers for an advance on the Confederate capital at Richmond. Confederate general John B. Magruder, with a small command, bluffed the Union troops into advancing cautiously while Johnston and his forces shifted down from the Rappahannock River area to block the movement. Fearful that the Union navy would push upriver with ground forces and trap the Confederates on the narrow peninsula, Johnston preferred to fall back near Richmond before fighting a major battle. His columns retreated to the outskirts of the capital, covering their movement with a nasty fight at Williamsburg on May 4—5. As McClellan attempted to bring forward siege guns, Johnston felt compelled to act. His poorly planned and badly managed attack at Seven Pines—Fair Oaks on May 31—June 1 resulted in heavy Union and Confederate losses, including Johnston himself, but provided no relief for the beleaguered Confederates. Newly assigned to command by President Davis, Robert E. Lee realized that if he allowed the enemy to employ a conventional siege, Union troops, with their overwhelming military strength, would inevitably capture Richmond. The Army of Northern Virginia had to assume the offensive and knock McClellan back from the area around the capital. Lee implemented changes immediately. He ordered soldiers to dig extensive fortifications and to husband resources for the upcoming attack. He directed officers to devote more attention to the feeding and well-being of their men, so that the troops were rested and ready for a fight, and he gathered vital intelligence from newspapers, prisoners, and a brilliant cavalry ride around the Union army led by J. On June 25, Lee hurled some 65,000 troops on and around the Union right flank while the remaining 25,000 entrenched Confederates blocked the way in case of a Union counterattack toward Richmond. Over the next seven days, the army hammered back the Union forces in poorly coordinated assaults. The fighting culminated in a devastating

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repulse at Malvern Hill on July 1. In these battles, the Army of Northern Virginia sustained more than 20, casualties while inflicting 16, on the Union troops. Some subordinate officers had failed to exhibit aggressiveness in the fight, and poor work among staff officers and complicated coordination taught Lee that he could not directly supervise so many subordinate commands. He removed several division commanders and consolidated divisions into wings later called corps under Generals Jackson and James Longstreet. When Jackson died in the aftermath of the Battle of Chancellorsville, Lee implemented a plan he had been contemplating for some time and divided the army into three corps, with Ambrose Powell Hill and Richard S. Ewell as the new corps commanders. With the Union army safely within the shield of naval guns and then in transit to the Washington, D. First Jackson and then Longstreet maneuvered their commands into Northern Virginia. In slightly more than two months, Lee had removed most Union troops from Virginia soil. Days later, the Army of Northern Virginia pushed northward into Maryland. Davis and Lee hoped to draw foodstuffs from the area, attract recruits to the Confederate banner, and influence upcoming Union congressional elections. To the dismay of many Confederates, their reception in Maryland was rather cool. Moreover, thousands of soldiers straggled. Poorly supplied and clad, many lacked shoes and could not keep up on the march. Others went off to plunder; some refused to leave Confederate territory. Regardless of the motivations or considerations of the soldiers who left ranks, this manpower shortage hurt the army badly in its Maryland raid. Lee divided the army into smaller components to feed on the countryside. While part of the army penetrated well into Maryland, other commands converged on the Union garrison at Harpers Ferry. Jackson captured Harpers Ferry and its 11, men and vast ordnance stores and supplies. It was the single largest capture of troops by any Confederate army in the war. Despite the straggling, the raid seemed to be going well until a copy of the invasion orders fell from the pocket of a staff officer and was discovered by Union soldiers. Lee quickly learned of the "Lost Order" and directed the army to fall back and concentrate near Sharpsburg, Maryland. Rather than retreat across the Potomac River and save his troops, Lee made a costly mistake and remained north of the river in hopes of repulsing a Union attack and then continuing with the raid. Only the arrival of soldiers under A. Hill late that afternoon saved the Confederate right flank from crumbling. In just less than three months of fighting, the Army of Northern Virginia had attained extraordinary success. It had not only driven Union troops from the gates of Richmond but it had also cleared them from nearly all of Virginia and taken the war into Maryland as well. Yet the cost had been severe. Some 50, troops were casualties, and among them officers were killed and 2, more were wounded. In fact, this represented just the beginning for the Army of Northern Virginia. Davis designed a military strategy that punished Union invaders of the Confederacy in hopes that the losses would convince the Northern states that the price of reunion was too high. Davis wanted these fights as close to the border as possible because invaders deprived the Confederacy of vital resources and sparked desertion among soldiers who wanted to look after loved ones in occupied territory. Lee implemented that strategy well, but his army also lost heavily. After two years of fighting under Lee, the officer corps alone suffered 1, killed and 6, wounded. Officers were two-and-a-half times as likely to be killed in action as enlisted men. Ultimately, Lee and others realized that the army did not possess an infinite supply of high-quality officers. In December, Union forces tried to push across the Rappahannock River. Burnside , but wintry conditions prevented Lee from following up on the victory. Over the next few months, the army suffered from terrible shortages. Both soldiers and animals lived on greatly reduced rations. Many soldiers lacked satisfactory clothing; others had wished for the Battle of Fredericksburg to occur because a victory might give Confederates control of the battlefield and access to Union shoes, winter clothing, blankets, and knapsacks, which, in fact, happened. Supplying the army even modestly became a huge chore for the Confederacy. With Longstreet and two divisions in southeastern Virginia collecting supplies and blocking a Union advance, Hooker executed skillful river crossings to the northwest and east of the Confederates. Lee divided his diminished army, blocking the Union penetration near Fredericksburg while the remainder of the army concentrated on the principal Union wing. After testing the eastern flank of this main Union command, Lee divided his force again and sent Jackson with 25, troops on a wide movement westward.

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As Jackson reconnoitered the enemy position, Confederate soldiers assumed he and his party were Union troops and fired on them, wounding the corps commander. In his debilitated state, Jackson died of infection or pneumonia eight days later. With the Army of Northern Virginia now separated into three elements, the vastly superior Union numbers placed it in great jeopardy. Union troops took advantage of the weak Confederate right and hammered it back from the heights around Fredericksburg, but stout Confederate resistance at Salem Church checked the advance and drove back the Union lines. By mid-June, soldiers crossed the Potomac River, and before the end of the month portions of the army extended from York to Carlisle to Chambersburg. Meade and capturing more than 4, prisoners. On July 2, Lee tried to attack the Union right and left flanks. Substandard execution and the stout Union defense resulted in Confederate failure, as both sides lost heavily. On July 3, Lee thought Union efforts to reinforce the flanks had weakened the center, and he determined to threaten the northern flank and attack in the middle. After an enormous bombardment that proved ineffective due to slow burning fuses, Confederates stormed Cemetery Ridge, only to suffer a disastrous repulse. After the army returned to Virginia and rested, two divisions under Longstreet traveled by rail to northern Georgia. At the Battle of Chickamauga on September 20, , they spearheaded an attack that shattered the Union line. In November, those same troops tried to storm the Union command at Knoxville, Tennessee, but were repulsed. The rest of the Army of Northern Virginia remained in Virginia. That fall, it attempted to strike a blow against the Union troops, but A. From the Wilderness to Appomattox Spring brought the Overland Campaign , a major Union offensive directed by the new commander-in-chief Ulysses S. Yet Confederate soldiers knew that this was a presidential election year in the Union.

Chapter 2 : Virginia Soldiers (Confederate) during the Civil War

Writing & Fighting from the Army of Northern Virginia edited by William Styple This book is the third in a series of volumes I began in with the release of *Writing & Fighting the Civil War: Soldier Correspondence to the New York Sunday Mercury*.

David Petruzzi, and Michael F. Petruzzi, and Michael Nugent set out to reassess the performance of many generals during this little-studied section of the campaign, document the numerous small battles which flared during the retreat, and generally challenge many commonly held assumptions. The Gettysburg Campaign was not even close to being over as the two tired and battered Eastern armies licked their wounds and glared at each other across the battlefield on July 4, The Army of the Potomac, nearly as wounded but expecting reinforcements, would follow and make that retreat as difficult as possible. Much has already been said about One Continuous Fight, almost all of it overwhelmingly positive. If you are looking for that trend to be broken here, you will be disappointed. Among the misconceptions which sprang up around these ten days is the belief that there was very little fighting done. The authors ably counteract that belief by penning a detailed tactical narrative which completely lays this fallacy to rest. The book reads like a novel in some places, as there was drama aplenty packed into these eleven days. Wittenberg, Petruzzi, and Nugent obviously spent a lot of time researching this one. The prodigious number of primary sources was especially impressive, and it shows throughout the book. Men who were there are often allowed to offer their own insight into what had happened. This proved especially useful while discussing the job Meade did in pursuing Lee to the Potomac. The authors cover the various camps of thought on that topic thoroughly in the conclusion. Some of their findings definitely go against the commonly held thought that Meade was too passive in trying to cut off Lee. In the end, they believe Meade probably did as much as could be expected with a tired army reinforced by only very green units. This third of the Union cavalry never even fought in any of the engagements along the retreat route. The book could have easily ended as most campaign studies do, with an epilogue and maybe an appendix containing an order of battle. The order of battle is here all right, just as you would expect in a Savas Beatie volume. But the two appendices which really add quite a bit of extra usefulness are the tour guides following the Gettysburg Retreat Appendix A and the Confederate Wagon Train of the Wounded Appendix B. The tours include detailed directions including GPS waypoints at every stop, descriptions of the importance of those stops, and numerous black and white photos of the sights to be seen along the way. An overview map of each drive is included with each tour. In any case, you simply do not see tour guides of this length in a typical campaign study. As Craig pointed out, many publishers would have chosen to print the tour guide portion in its own book simply to make more money. If you have read any book by Eric Wittenberg, you know the man does his research. One Continuous Fight does not disappoint in this regard. The book, containing nearly four hundred pages of text, is solidly backed by fifty-four pages of notes and nearly forty pages of sources! The numerous manuscript sources are located all over the United States, and the sheer number of primary sources used tells the reader that the authors are not content to simply rehash old findings. They prefer, as it ever should be, to find out the answers to their questions by looking back to the original information. The index is serviceable and works well. Eric once remarked he hates doing the indexing on his books, so I always laugh when it comes time to take a look at the index of a Wittenberg-penned tome, wondering if he slaved away at it on his own or simply paid the publisher to take care of the distasteful task for him! As is almost always the case with books published by Ted Savas, the maps in One Continuous Fight are numerous and helpful. Sixteen maps in all cover the area in which the retreat occurred, the various skirmishes and engagements fought during the retreat, and tour maps of the area. I am sure some of the more well-read Civil War bookworms out there are wondering how this book compares to *Retreat from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics, and the Pennsylvania Campaign*. Interestingly, the authors touch on this in the Introduction to the book. It is our humble belief that the combination of these two books gives the reader the full story of the Retreat, with each providing its own

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specialty of purpose. Authors Wittenberg, Petruzzi, and Nugent succeed marvelously in this endeavor. In the process, they also managed to shed some very detailed light on a much-neglected series of little-known battles for the first time. Researched in great detail, well-written, and entertaining, *One Continuous Fight* is a book all Civil War readers will want to have in their collections. This is the type of book you get when you mix dedicated, knowledgeable authors with a dedicated, intelligent publisher. Buy early and buy often from these authors, and make sure you take a look at the many other Savas Beatie offerings available. I mentioned earlier in the review that much has already been said about *One Continuous Fight*.

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Chapter 3 : Slavery Traveled With the Army of Northern Virginia – CIVIL WAR MEMORY

Writing & Fighting from the Army of Northern Virginia has 2 ratings and 0 reviews. A collection of letters written by the soldiers of the Army of Nor.

History[change change source] The army, when first organized was called the Confederate Army of the Potomac. Beauregard was first given command of what was called the "Alexandria Line" on May 31, On the morning of July 21, , Beauregard planned a surprise attack on the Union forces that failed. But Johnson took over command of the two armies which were now merged into one. There was a series of verbal disputes with Beauregard following Johnston taking command. Possibly as a result, Beauregard was sent west in January to serve as second in command in the Army of Mississippi. This is also when the army reached its peak strength of 90, soldiers. But Lee got the idea across. It fought on September 17, and was the bloodiest one-day battle of the Civil War. That way he could threaten the cities of Washington, D. By a series of decisive victories Lee thought that the South could gain recognition from England and France and get them to support the Southern cause. They captured the garrison at the Battle of Harpers Ferry. His soldiers and officers held Lee in the highest regard. They trusted his judgment and believed him to be a military genius. Time and again the Army of Northern Virginia, which had fewer men and far fewer resources, defeated the larger Army of the Potomac. The battle was fought from July 1 to July 3, The battle revealed the Army of Northern Virginia had another agenda. African-Americans , men, women and children were gathered up and taken with the army as they marched north. Others were sold at auction or imprisoned. Once in Pennsylvania he told his troops "no greater disgrace could befall the army," or discredit the Confederate cause, "than the perpetuation of the barbarous outrages upon the unarmed and defenceless [sic] and the wanton destruction of private property that have marked the course of the enemy in our own country. In one case at Mercersburg, Pennsylvania , soldiers threatened to burn "every house which harbored a fugitive slave".

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Chapter 4 : Army of Northern Virginia - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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Similarly, nearly all soldiers shared an antipathy for the discipline necessary to keep the army organized. Historians have made much of the autonomous lives that most Virginia men lived prior to the war and drawn the assumption that they could not be reconciled to the demands of the army. Confederate soldiers may have seen the curtailment of their liberties that came with soldier life more sharply in comparison to the enslaved people among whom they lived, but there is little evidence that they resisted the discipline of the army any more than their Northern peers. What did distinguish Confederate soldiers was a closer initial attachment to their home communities. They visited, frequently exchanged letters, and generally kept open lines of communication with family members, which helped them remain attached to their homes. This changed significantly in 1862, when the siege of Petersburg forced on Confederates a grim and remorseless style of warfare that alienated them from civilian life. Motivation The psychological and physical demands of war and extended separation from family compelled soldiers to carefully evaluate why they were fighting. Studies of Union soldiers have revealed the shift that occurred after U. Although few Northerners, and even fewer Virginians who fought for the North, were abolitionists at the start, many took pride in fighting to end slavery after 1862. Likewise, the attitudes of Confederate Virginians toward the purpose of the war and their role in it changed over time. In 1862, a set of easily identifiable motives compelled high enlistment rates across the state. Most soldiers stressed their defense of Virginia and their homes from what they regarded as an invading army even if that army was only traveling through Virginia to reach South Carolina, which initiated the conflict in April. Seventy percent of the men who served in Virginia units enlisted before April. Many acted out of a sense of honor offended by the election of a Republican president hostile to slavery. Within Virginia, enlistment rates add statistical weight to an analysis long made by scholars of the war: Quantitative evidence reveals that the smaller a community, the higher its enlistment rates; small places, where every eligible man was known to his neighbors by sight, offered no place to hide. Richmond, Petersburg, Alexandria, and other bona fide cities provided more anonymity and thus saw lower rates. Entering the service was only half the battle. A smaller set of motivations emerged within the state over the course of the conflict. The early martial enthusiasm spurred by parades and celebrations as men left in 1862 was replaced with a deeper and more sustaining faith in the Confederate nation. Soldiers were not uncritical of their new nation, but they understood that it promised the best protection of those aspects of their pre-war lives that they most valued. Confederate nationalism has been a topic of intense debate among historians, but recent studies indicate that a broad cross section of the white population identified the Confederacy as their country and perceived it as a viable entity. Studies of North Carolina suggest that in some cases soldiers from that state responded to pleas from their families by deserting and returning home. Instead, soldiers came to identify the army as the most important mechanism for protecting their families, both in the immediate term as Union troops advanced through the state and over the longer term because of the importance of independence from the Union and the preservation of slavery. Virginia soldiers stayed in the army because of their families. The Union policy of attacking Confederate resources had the desired effect of weakening Confederate armies to the point of collapse, but it did little to endear the Union to Virginians or inspire confidence in the U.

Chapter 5 : Order of Battle - Gettysburg

The Paperback of the Writing and Fighting from the Army of Northern Virginia: A Collection of Confederate Soldier Letters by William B. Styple at Get a Free 3-month Pandora Premium Subscription 10% Off Your Order with code GET

The Army originated as the Confederate Army of the Potomac, which was organized on June 20, 1862, from all operational forces in northern Virginia. The Army of the Peninsula was merged into it on April 12, 1862. Freeman, asserts that the army received its final name from Lee when he issued orders assuming command on June 1, 1862. Jefferson Davis and Johnston did not adopt the name, but it is clear that the organization of units as of March 14 was the same organization that Lee received on June 1, and thus it is generally referred to today as the Army of Northern Virginia, even if that is correct only in retrospect. In addition to Virginians, it included regiments from all over the Confederacy, some from as far away as Georgia, Texas and Arkansas. Command under Brigadier General P. Beauregard [edit] Gen. Beauregard under its previous name, the Confederate Army of the Potomac from June 20 to July 20, 1862. His forces consisted of six brigades, with various militia and artillery from the former Department of Alexandria. During his command, Gen. Beauregard is noted for creating the battle flag of the army, which came to be the primary battle flag for all corps and forces under the Army of Northern Virginia. The flag was designed due to confusion during battle between the Confederate "Stars and Bars" flag and the flag of the United States. Beauregard continued commanding these troops as the new First Corps under Gen. Johnston as it was joined by the Army of the Shenandoah on July 20, 1862, when command was relinquished to General J. Johnston. The following day this army fought its first major engagement in the First Battle of Manassas. Command under General J. Johnston [edit] Gen. Johnston With the merging of the Army of the Shenandoah, Gen. Johnston took command from July 20, 1862, until May 31, 1862. Beauregard Second Corps "commanded by Maj. Hill Center Wing" commanded by Maj. James Longstreet Right Wing "commanded by Maj. Magruder Reserve" commanded by Maj. On October 22, 1862, the Department of Northern Virginia was officially created, officially ending the Army of the Potomac. The Department comprised three districts: Johnston was eventually forced into maneuvering the Army southward to the defenses of Richmond during the opening of the Peninsula Campaign, where it conducted delay and defend tactics until Johnston was severely wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines. Beauregard quarreled with Johnston and was transferred to the Western theater over the winter months. Jackson was sent to the Shenandoah Valley in October 1862, initially with his own old Stonewall Brigade and later with two other brigades from Western Virginia. When the Peninsula Campaign began, Johnston took his army down to the Richmond environs where it was merged with several smaller Confederate commands, including a division led by D. Richard Ewell was elevated to division command in the spring of 1862 and sent to join Jackson in the Valley. On May 27, 1862, an additional new division was created and led by A. At Seven Pines, Longstreet and Smith served as temporary wing commanders, and operational control of their divisions went to Brig. Temporary command under Major General G. Smith [edit] Maj. Johnston during the Battle of Seven Pines. With Smith seemingly having a nervous breakdown, President Jefferson Davis drafted orders to place Gen. Lee in command the following day. Command under General R. Lee [edit] General Robert E. Lee, took command after Johnston was wounded, and Smith suffered what may have been a nervous breakdown, at the Battle of Seven Pines. Longstreet served as a wing commander for part of the Seven Days Battles and Anderson had operational command of the division at Glendale. As soon as the Seven Days Battles were over, Lee reorganized his army into two corps commanded by Longstreet and Jackson. He removed several generals who had turned in a less-than-inspiring performance in the Seven Days Battles, including John Magruder and Benjamin Huger. Jackson had five divisions, the commands of A. Jones, and Lafayette McLaws. During the Maryland Campaign, D. Hill rejoined the main army along with Lafayette McLaws. Jones, a more senior, experienced officer, and Kemper reverted to brigade command. Jones, Alexander Lawton, A. The Northern Virginia and Maryland Campaigns still showed numerous defects in the organization and leadership of the Army of Northern Virginia, particularly the high rate of straggling and

desertion during the invasion of Maryland. Lee had fewer than 40,000 men on the field at Antietam, the smallest his army would be until the Appomattox Campaign, and the battle was largely fought on autopilot with minimal involvement by the senior officers in the army. During the Fredericksburg Campaign, Longstreet had the divisions of Anderson, Hood, McLaws, Ransom, and George Pickett, who had just returned to action after months of convalescence from a wound sustained during the Seven Days Battles. Jackson had the divisions of D. Hill, Jubal Early, and Elisha Paxton. Hill also departed after quarreling with Lee. His other two divisions remained with the main army; they were directly commanded by Lee during this time. Robert Rodes took over D. Hill's division. Afterwards, Lee divided the army into three corps with three divisions each. Hill got the divisions of Harry Heth, William D. By the time of the Pennsylvania invasion, Lee had fixed the organizational defects that plagued the army during its early campaigns and the straggling problems of the Maryland Campaign did not repeat themselves. In the first year of his command, Lee had two principal subordinate commanders. The right wing of the army was under the command of Lt. James Longstreet and the left wing under Lt. Ewell, and Lt. A Fourth Corps, under Lt. Anderson, was organized on October 19, 1862; on April 8, 1863, it was merged into the Second Corps. The commanders of the first three corps changed frequently in and The cavalry, organized into a division on August 17, 1862, and into a corps on September 9, 1862, was commanded by Maj. Stuart until May 11, the day he was mortally wounded. The cavalry corps was then temporarily split into divisions, but was merged again on August 11, 1862, under command of Lt. The Reserve Artillery was commanded by Brig. Pendleton for most of the war. However, his aggressiveness to attack the Union led to the loss of many troops especially at the Battle of Antietam, which ended up being a turning point in the war for the Union. Lee then planned to take his troops north into Maryland to destroy a critical railroad bridge across the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg in a letter written to President Davis. Lee even questioned his own plan, as he wrote, "I am aware that the movement is attended with much risk, yet I do not consider success impossible That is, in reality, the major criticism of the Maryland operation: Once Lee arrived in Maryland and was preparing for Antietam, he made another controversial decision. Against the advice from General Longstreet and Jackson, Lee split his troops into four parts to attack the Union from different fronts. Luckily for Lee, the arrival of A.

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Chapter 6 : Army of Northern Virginia

Writing & Fighting From the Army of Northern Virginia: A Collection of Confederate Soldier Correspondence by n/a. Belle Grove Publishing Co. Used - Good. Shows some signs of wear, and may have some markings on the inside.

Comments Confederate artilleryPublic Domain A new book, *The Irish at Gettysburg*, says the real story of the Irish who fought with the Confederate Army is only just starting to be told. Consequently, for people craving something new beyond the standard narrative so often repeated throughout the past, they were sorely disappointed by the new Gettysburg titles released for the 150th anniversary. In fact, this unfortunate situation that has fully revealed the overall sterility of the Gettysburg field of study has resulted in the writing of this book to fill this significant void in the historical record. It tells the story of the Irish and their key roles at the battle of Gettysburg and the overall Civil War. Remembering the Irish men who fought for the CSA during the Civil War This important chapter about the vital contributions of the most uniquely ethnic and obscure fighting men, especially in the ranks of the Army of Northern Virginia, has not been previously revealed in full, even in books about the most written-about and decisive confrontation in Civil War and American history. Therefore, this analysis of the importance of the Irish role at Gettysburg represents one of the final frontiers of Gettysburg historiography. Because of their longtime absence from the historical record, the contributions of these young Irish men and boys at the decisive Battle of Gettysburg will be explored. The Irish on both sides included soldiers who still spoke the Irish language. Ironically, the Irish soldiers were often the butt of jokes and racial stereotypes among the non-Irish, providing a source of soldiery humor across the South. The Irish woman who worked as a nanny for Confederate leader Jefferson Davis Sadly for the historical record, these Irish Confederates have left us with relatively few letters, diaries or memoirs in private collections and archives around the United States, an unfortunate development that has doomed these Sons of Erin and their notable battlefield achievements to obscurity, especially in relation to the Battle of Gettysburg. In fact, no aspect of Gettysburg historiography has been more overlooked than ethnic studies that have revealed new insights into the overall American experience. This has been an ironic development because of the important roles of Irish Confederates during the three days at Gettysburg, providing additional evidence of an especially rich field of study. Contrary to the stereotype that the South consisted of a homogenous Anglo-Saxon society transferred from England, the South was overflowing with hardworking and devout Emerald Isle immigrants. Public Domain By , the South was a multicultural and multiethnic nation that mocked the postwar stereotype of the homogeneous Anglo-Saxon or Aryan population that allegedly represented Anglo-Saxon purity one of the greatest and most enduring Lost Cause myths of the Old South. Fortunately for the Confederacy in terms of its war-waging capabilities in a parallel that had been seen in the thirteen colonies just before the American Revolution the South possessed a vast Irish manpower pool by Tens of thousands of immigrant Irish had flooded into the South, especially major urban areas most of all New Orleans because of the exodus created by the Great Potato Famine of Unlike in major northeastern cities, the much easier assimilation of Irish immigrants into the overall mainstream of a more open and tolerant Southern society the unity of whiteness in a slave society enhanced equality for whites ensured a deep loyalty, including Democratic Party adherence, to their adopted homeland and a widespread wearing of the gray. Most revealing, during the 1840s, ugly anti-Irish riots swept through the ethnic slums and ghettos of New York City, Philadelphia and Boston and even targeted Catholic churches, while the Irish were accepted as full-fledged citizens in Richmond, Mobile and Charleston. The Irish Brigade at Antietam - passing on the stories of the Irish in the Civil War Therefore, the majority of the Irish people found that the South, not the North, was the true land of liberty, offering greater social and economic opportunities and easier access into the overall mainstream of everyday life. In total, an estimated forty thousand Irishmen fought for the Confederacy. The ancestors of many Irish Catholics of the Army of Northern Virginia ironically, like the blue-uniformed men of the Irish Brigade had been liberty-loving rebels who had risen up against English invaders centuries before on the ancient homeland.

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During what was actually only their most recent revolution against the domination of centralized authority now located in Washington, D. In regard to explaining the common motivations of the Irish soldier that were atypical compared to other Southern soldiers, no Confederates at Gettysburg fought in general less for slavery than the Irish. After all, the vast majority of these Irish immigrants in gray and butternut were relatively poor and primarily menial workers of the lower class—the former peasantry of the so-called old country. These tough men had been mostly common laborers who had worked on the docks, railroads, levees and small farms of the South. In fact, by inclination, the Irish, especially Catholics, in general were the least likely to be slave owners, in part because they had hailed from a long-oppressed minority and were more empathetic than Anglo-Saxons, who possessed a long history as conquerors. Wiki In truth, these Irish also fought from a sense of sincere gratitude to a Southern society that had accepted them and treated them more fairly than Northern society. Consequently, they were infused with a vibrant new nationalism of a kind experienced by their Irish ancestors in battling the English invaders over the centuries. Because the South had so thoroughly accepted Irish Catholics and Protestants for generations and given ample economic opportunities for them to advance up the social ladder unlike in northeastern cities, this path of upward mobility helped to open up many leadership positions in Confederate armies.

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Chapter 7 : Writing & Fighting from the Army of Northern Virginia by William B. Styple

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The Last Invasion , is a brief examination of the size of both armies. In looking at the Army of Northern Virginia Guelzo includes a few sources that estimate the number of slaves, who performed various roles as personal servants and impressed workers. One particular account by English-born Confederate artilleryman, Thomas Caffey, published in stood out in particular. The source is available online and includes and incredibly detailed, but self serving picture of the role and motivation of slaves in the Confederate army. Here are a few excerpts, but I encourage you to read the section in its entirety, which runs from pp. In our whole army there must be at least thirty thousand colored servants who do nothing but cook and washâ€”nine tenths of the ditching falls to our shareâ€”yet in all these thousands I have yet to hear of more than one hundred who have run away from their owners! They are roaming in and out of the lines at all times, tramping over every acre of country daily, and I have not heard of more than six instances of runaways in our whole brigade, which has a cooking and washing corps of negroes at least one hundred and fifty strong! Did you ever remark our servants on a march? They make me laugh. After safely stowing away all they can, the cooks shoulder some large bundle of curiosities of their own, and with a saucepan, skillet, or frying pan, all march some fifty yards in front of the band, whistling and singing, forming in regular or irregular files, commanded by some big black rogue who, with a stick and a loud voice, enforces discipline, among his heavy-heeled corps. And thus they proceed far ahead, monopolizing all attention as we pass through towns and villages, grinning and singing as they go, and frequently dressed up in the full regimentals of some unfortunate Yankee or other. Caffey wrote this before the Gettysburg campaign kicked off, but it is not a stretch to imagine such numbers accompanying the Army of Northern Virginia as it moved through the slave state of Maryland and into free Pennsylvania. The Army of Northern Virginia operated, in large part, around the work of slaves. All of them relied on the forced labor of slaves. And for a brief moment in the summer of this system of labor, that was so important to the pre-war South and by extension, the Confederacy, was introduced into free Pennsylvania by the Army of Northern Virginia. About Kevin Levin Thanks so much for taking the time to read this post. Scroll down and leave a comment if you are so inclined. Looking for more Civil War content? Check out my book, Remembering the Battle of the Crater: War as Murder , which is an ideal introduction to the subject of Civil War memory and the battle.

Chapter 8 : Third Arkansas Volunteer Infantry Regiment (CS) - Encyclopedia of Arkansas

The following is an article which provides General Joshua Chamberlain's comments and memories concerning the Army of Northern Virginia's Surrender at Appomattox. The Last Salute Of The Army Of Northern Virginia.

James Longstreet in charge of the Right Wing and Lt. With the authorization of corps later that year, the Right Wing was redesignated as the First Corps. Anderson , George E. Pickett , and John B. Until Lee was convinced, the First Corps did not deeply entrench until a couple of weeks before the actions on December The Confederates started firing at the Union pontoons shortly after 5 a. Barksdale withdrew to the main Confederate positions shortly after 7 p. During the next several months, Longstreet would serve as head of the Department of Southern Virginia and North Carolina. Following the death of Jackson in May, the Army of Northern Virginia was reorganized into three corps. The First Corps started crossing the Potomac River into Maryland on June 25, finishing the following day; the corps then camped for several days near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. As the rest of the Union army came up it joined the two battered corps on the defensive line being constructed along much of Cemetery Ridge. Late on the second day of the battle the two present divisions of the First Corps attacked the Union left flank. Hood himself was wounded and lost an arm. Longstreet, in command of the attacking force, had predicted a negative result and protested; but was ordered to commence the attack nonetheless. After one of the largest, though insufficient, artillery barrages of the war under the command of Col. Alexander a column estimated at 11,, men advanced against the positions of the II Corps and parts of the I Corps - marching nearly a mile over open field; under heavy artillery and musket fire. The attack was an overall failure with Pickett losing over 2, men, all three brigade commanders and all but one regimental commander. The army fell back to Virginia, reaching it after a costly retreat 10 days later. The Tennessee rail hub at Chattanooga was the primary goal of both armies in the West, these being the Army of the Cumberland under Union Maj. Rosecrans and numbering nearly 60, men, and the Army of Tennessee led by Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg and the First Corps along with additional reinforcements would constitute over 65, troops. This round-about route was necessary due to the different gauges of the surviving Southern rail system between the forces, and would take three weeks to complete. Since Longstreet had not yet arrived, Hood assumed command of the corps while Brig. The First Corps would fight in the same formation the next day on the Confederate left. Since McLaws had not yet arrived, the brigades were led by Brig. The troops of the First Corps played an important role in the breakthrough Longstreet achieved on the 20th. This fight is considered the most significant Union defeat in the Western Theater , with total casualties on both sides exceeding 34,

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Chapter 9 : The Army of Northern Virginia | American Experience | Official Site | PBS

By J. Tracy Power. Overview. The Army of Northern Virginia was the best known and most successful of all the Confederate armies in the American Civil War.

The Army of Northern Virginia was led by various generals during its formation, but was most known for its respected leader, General Robert E. General James Longstreet and Lt. During the battle at Chancellorsville in , General Jackson was killed. In April of , General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant following the battle at Appomattox Court House. Although the Army of Northern Virginia was typically smaller than the Union forces battled, the force won several notable battles, including the battles at Fredericksburg, Second Manassas, and Chancellorsville, along with Cold Harbor. Lee camp on the outskirts of Hagerstown, Maryland, in September of Image courtesy of World History Group archive. War seemed far away to the editors of a Maryland weekly newspaperâ€”until the Battle of Antietam rocked their world On September 17, , a new edition of the Herald of Freedom and Torch Light of Hagerstown, Md. Nor had the weekly journal come out as scheduled on September The Torch Light was a Union paper, and the mothers of its editors had raised no fools. Lee crossed the Potomac into Maryland, the editors fled to Pennsylvania, where they stayed at a Chambersburg hotel until the coast was clear. They left behind the half-finished September 10 edition. When they returned after the bloody Battle of Antietam, everything in this agricultural valley in western Maryland had changed. But the editors resumed where they left off. They simply added new copy to existing, half-finished pages. The result, published September 24, was a bizarre compilation of pre-battle editorial bravado juxtaposed against shaky, post-battle prose penned by journalists utterly rattled. This is the story of how the small-town press covered the Battle of Antietam. But it is also the story of how this Maryland community reacted to the coming of war. The news stories, features, advertisements, editorials, police briefs and public notices tell what localsâ€”in a Union-leaning town in a border stateâ€”were doing and thinking before and after the battle. And as the September edition of the newspaper clearly demonstrates, what they were doing and thinking before the battle would be quite different from what they would be doing and thinking afterward. In the middle of September , war tramped barefoot, dirty and disheveled into Washington County in western Maryland. It came in the form of Rebel soldiers whose clothes were muddy and mismatched, and who kept having to run off behind the bushes to flush the effects of unripe corn and green apples. For citizens of this rural county, the war seemed more of a traveling freak show than a threat. Most residents who made their living off the sticky clay soil of the Cumberland Valley knew only what they read in the papers, and the Hagerstown Herald of Freedom and Torch Light disdainfully wrote off the ragtag, hungry-eyed Southern band half marching, half straggling into town: Though determined to fight to the last, they cannot withstand during the coming winter the combined attacks of starvation, cold and our army; and then, if for no other reason, their cause must fail for want of inherent strength to sustain it. The Confederates were also non-threatening for strategic reasons. General Lee, hoping to stir Marylanders to join their cause, had made it clear that soldiers were not to upset the locals. Crossing the Potomac, the Confederates portrayed themselves as liberators, urging residents to take up arms against the forces that had jailed their lawmakers and fought them in the streets of Baltimore. Western Maryland was no hotbed of secession and never had been. Maryland was historically and culturally a Southern state, but slavery was never terribly popular in Washington County. In , 14 percent, or about 3, of its residents were enslaved, about half the state average and far below figures for states in the Deep South. By the time of the war, there were more free blacks in the county than slaves. The German Protestant religions of western Maryland tended to shun slavery, and some free black residents were more popular than the prowling slave catchers who itched to send them into bondage. Slavery was legal, however, and people of Washington County abided by the law. Slave auctions were held in the Hagerstown Public Square. Runaway slaves were jailed. A notice in the Torch Light advised that the slaves including a couple of children of a Hampshire County, Va. This was ho-hum stuffâ€”an

adjoining notice urged readers to be on the lookout for a stray cow, black, with white feet. Numerous fine farmhouses dot the valley in every direction—some standing out plainly and boldly on the hilltops, others half-hidden down the little slopes; and, with the large comfortable barns about them, and their orchards of fruit trees, these hitherto happy and quiet homes greatly enrich the view, at least to the eyes of old campaigners. Nearly every part of the valley is under cultivation, and the scene is thus varied into squares of the light green of nearly ripened corn, the deeper green of clover, and the dull brown of newly ploughed fields. Toward the north, where our right lay, are some dense woods. With harvest time coming, dealers were touting greatly improved reapers, hullers and thrashers in the pages of the Torch Light. On Franklin Street, Samuel Yeakle produced cane-seated chairs of mahogany and walnut. At a stand near the Lutheran church, Emanuel Levy hawked racks of newly arrived clothing, as well as bolts of tweed, linen and velvet. A pair of merchants had just returned from Baltimore with a wagon loaded with household goods such as clocks, mirrors, brooms, brushes, washboards, table settings and Japanese tinwear. Miller was unfortunate enough to sell something the Confederates had a real need of—shoes. Those under the weather could down a swig of Dr. Bushnell would teach you to sing. An advertisement from the Herald of Freedom and Torch Light touts the sale of headstones and monuments. Some ads even played off a battlefield motif, like the one for Bombshell Hats. Citizens spent a few white-knuckled days watching Confederate columns pass by—and pass, and pass. It seemed there was no end to the wagon trains. Quartermasters hungry for goods of any type mobbed stores, only to find many merchants had already packed up and, like the newspaper editors, headed out of town. Some merchants stayed on, hoping all this unpleasantness might at least yield a profit. These hopes were dashed when the Confederates paid for their purchases in worthless Confederate scrip. Some saw the money as a metaphor for the men: The condition and morale of the army is beyond description. They came among us not only badly clothed and unclean in person, but in a half-starving condition. For days, indeed, since the fights at Centreville, they have subsisted on rations of bread, irregularly issued, and green corn and fruits. Hundreds are weakened by diarrhea, and worn out by their long march, but they fight desperately because forced by hunger and want. Many express an ardent desire to lay down their arms, while on the other hand the officers and those better cared for are determined to fight to death rather than submit. Locals hoped the intrusion would be brief, and indeed it was supposed to be. Then a strange thing happened. The massive, northwestern-bound surge suddenly reversed itself and began oozing back. The returning Confederates held the Federals at bay at three mountain passes long enough for Lee to scramble back to some high ground near Sharpsburg on the west bank of a creek called Antietam. He arrived in time to confront a swelling sea of blue spilling down from the mountain heights. In between these two streaming masses of men stood an unadorned white box of a building, a simple church consecrated to the prospects of peace. Nearby lived one of its founders, Samuel Mumma, whose thoughts in any given September would have been on the upcoming harvest. His neighbor, David Miller, might have been thinking about his promising crop of corn. The landmarks that have become historic icons—Bloody Lane, the Cornfield, Burnside Bridge—were, of course, not so-named at the time of the fight. The portrayal instead calls to mind two boxers rooted in the center of the ring, landing one big haymaker after another. Things looked good for the Federals early, then the tide turned and all seemed lost; this would be the pattern for the day. Still our boys pushed onward with magnificent courage and determination, every man, from Hooker down, intent only on victory. Hooker was wounded and carried from the field. General [James] Ricketts at once assumed command of the corps; but our victorious movement had lost its impulse. While our advance rather faltered, the rebels greatly reinforced made a sudden and impetuous onset, and drove our gallant fellows back over a portion of the hard won field. What we had won, however, was not relinquished without a desperate struggle, and here up the hills and down, through the woods and the standing corn, over the ploughed land and the clover, the line of fire swept to and fro as one side or the other gained a temporary advantage. And so it went, back and forth all day, the thrill of victory shattering into the agony of defeat and then back, over and over again. Here, there was no such thing as unbiased coverage. Then he turned and saw it—Maj. For once, the writer curtly noted, the reinforcements did not arrive too late or too exhausted

from their march to join the fight. Once again, the spirits of our correspondent are lifted: But a lesson had been learned. It could fight like hell. It is beyond all wonder how men such as the rebel troops are can fight as they do. That those ragged and filthy wretches, sick, hungry and in all ways miserable, should prove such heroes in fight, is past explanation. Men never fought betterâ€”There was one regiment that stood up before the fire of two or three of our long range batteries and of two regiments of infantry and though the air around them was vocal with the whistle of bullets and the scream of shells, there they stood and delivered their fire in perfect order, and there they continued to stand, until a battery of six light twelves was brought to bear on them and before that they broke. Confident the situation to his right was in hand, the reporter turned his attention to his left, where General Ambrose Burnside was busy being Burnside. That is to say, the course of action alongside an arched, stone bridge over the Antietam Creek was not as purposeful as might have been hoped. It was afternoon before Burnside could get his men across the creek, and once there he advanced until he found himself in a tight spot, raked by artillery. The sun came up the next morning on an appalling scene. What was recognizable on Tuesday, by Thursday was not. The Torch Light tried to wrap its prose around the calamity, but even its own correspondents understood the impossibility of the task. To one who has never seen a battle-field it is impossible to describe intelligently this, or, indeed, any one. Old landmarks are forgotten or effaced, distance loses itself in the mind of the spectator, and space is measured only by the results which its occupancy produces. Thus has it been here. The editors of the Herald of Freedom and Torch Light returned to their posts after the battle, and were mystified to find that while the Rebels had used the presses to print a few handbills, they had not destroyed the office.