

**THE SHENANDOAH
VALLEY AND
VIRGINIA, 1861 TO
1865; A WAR STUDY**

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The Shenandoah Valley and Virginia, 1861 to 1865; a war study by Sanford C. Kellogg

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SANFORD C. KELLOGG

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VALLEY AND VIRGINIA

— 1861 TO 1865 —

A WAR STUDY

BY
SANFORD C. KELLOGG, U. S. A.

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PREFACE

No section of the United States furnishes a fuller picture of the extraordinary operations of two American armies, pitted against each other for four long years, than does the beautiful "Valley of Virginia," from Harper's Ferry south to Staunton. Its most important city, Winchester, in the lower valley, was occupied or abandoned sixty-eight times by the troops of both armies, as has been said by men of the period of 1861 to 1865, still living there. Indeed, that city changed commanders so frequently and so suddenly that it became customary for the inhabitants to ascertain each morning, before leaving their dwellings, which flag was flying—the Stars and Stripes or the Stars and Bars.

Aside from its superb location, framed in by the Blue Ridge on the east and the Alleghenies on the west, the bottom lands watered by the two branches of the Shenandoah on either side of the main valley, it produced wonderful crops of grain and droves of horses, cattle and swine, proving a bountiful granary to either army that occupied it.

With such attributes and its peculiarly advantageous strategical location, it became a military thoroughfare of the greatest impor-

tance to control, being subjected in consequence to all the ravages that war, even in its mildest mood, is capable of inflicting.

Much as it suffered then, that same valley is to-day once more the garden spot of Virginia; its wounds of forty years ago were rapidly healed as soon as peace was allowed to stand vigil over the thousands of dead, in gray and blue, that dotted the banks of its rivers, and the honest population that now live there train their sons to honor the flag against which the fathers fought, maintaining all the sturdy fortitude that has made the American soldier a world-wide wonder.

The operations of the war in the Valley were naturally connected with the movements east of the Blue Ridge and west of the Alleghenies, as access to the Shenandoah was readily had by numerous mountain passes from either direction, causing collateral or co-operative expeditions beyond the limits of the Valley proper. The writer has made a very exhaustive study of the War of the Rebellion records and maps; he relies on them mainly for the accuracy of this compilation, together with such other books as Sheridan's "Memoirs," Allan's "History of the Army of Northern Virginia," Henderson's "Stonewall Jackson," Spark's "Washington," etc.

SANFORD C. KELLOGG,
U. S. Army.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 1903.

CHAPTER I

THE SEIZURE OF HARPER'S FERRY AND THE PATTERSON CAMPAIGN

Virginia (which then included what is now West Virginia) seceded from the Union on the 17th of April, 1861. The State authorities proceeded to seize all United States property within Virginia, particularly the Arsenal at Harper's Ferry, which with its contents—15,000 arms and machinery for their manufacture—was partially destroyed by Lieutenant Roger Jones, U. S. Army, on the night of April 18th, Lieutenant Jones then withdrawing his small party to Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

The Virginia State troops occupied the Arsenal during the night of the 18th, extinguishing the fires. By the 21st of April Maj.-Gen. Kenton Harper, of the Virginia State forces, reported his strength at Harper's Ferry to be "about two thousand." General Harper arranged with the Maryland State authorities for the occupation of Maryland Heights and started to Winchester all the machinery and arms he could recover from the ruins of the Arsenal. He mentioned "the absence of all written in-

structions" and that he had "had to assume heavy responsibility."

This little town of Harper's Ferry, picturesquely located at the point where the Shenandoah River enters the Potomac and where Thomas Jefferson loved to come and gaze upon the superb mountain scenery, had already, only a year and a half before, been the theater of the celebrated John Brown raid, when the Arsenal had also been seized by an irresponsible zealot as part of a wild project "to free the slaves." For this Brown and his small party paid the penalty of their lives, but the intense commotion caused by their attempt had not been allayed when this second seizure of the United States Armory by the Virginia State authorities fanned into blaze again the dormant excitement of a thoroughly aroused country.

To suppress the John Brown raid in October, 1859, Virginia and Maryland had recourse to their military forces, of whom many thousand were sent to the scene. Of the Virginia troops, one company of artillery, composed of cadets from the Virginia Military Institute, went from Lexington under command of the afterwards celebrated Thomas J. Jackson, who was then Professor of Applied Mathematics, Artillery Tactics, etc., at Lexington, he having resigned from the United States Army only a short while before.

The United States authorities, to repossess the Arsenal which Brown had seized and which