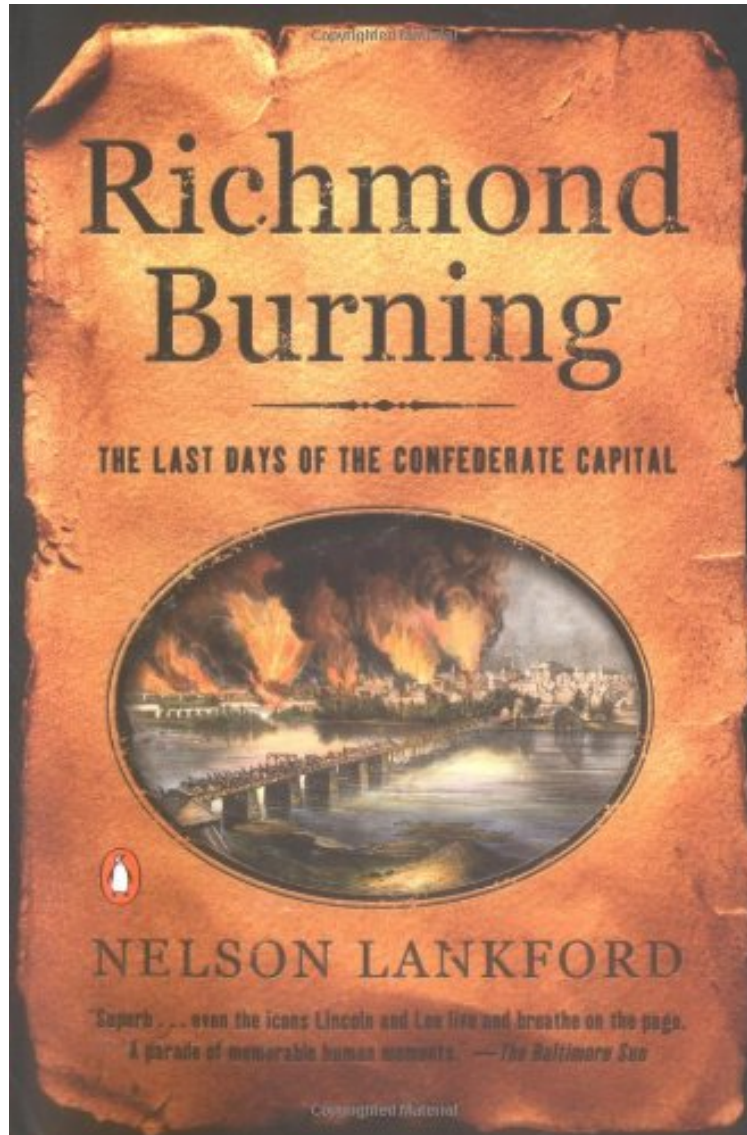


(Read free) Richmond Burning: The Last Days of the Confederate Capital

Richmond Burning: The Last Days of the Confederate Capital

Nelson Lankford

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#1415196 in Books Nelson D Lankford 2003-07-29 2003-07-29Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.20l, .64 #File Name: 0142003107336 pagesRichmond Burning The Last Days of the Confederate Capital | File size: 26.Mb

Nelson Lankford : Richmond Burning: The Last Days of the Confederate Capital before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Richmond Burning: The Last Days of the Confederate Capital:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well writtenBy Glenn D. RobinsonPure chaos for all involved in Richmond the last week of the life of the city during the Civil War. Imagine a city surrounded by battles that held the

national government, the state government and the city government all of which were trying to flee to different points and each had different priorities. When General Lee began the retreat, the dominoes fell and fell fast. The national government fled under the thought of regrouping and fighting. The State government fled to save itself from the North and rule from Lynchburg. The City government, well, they had meetings and did not really decide what to do until the Union troops had arrived. The citizens tired to flee and a slave trader even tried to take 50 slaves with him (he was turned back from the retreat route and had to bring his group back to the holding cell until they were freed 6 hours later). Secretary of War, John Breckenridge (the VP of the US under James Buchanan) had ordered that three tobacco warehouses be burned so that the North could not get the tobacco. People pleaded to not let this happen, but officers fulfilled the order and as a result over 1000 buildings were burned. A crazy week that started with the fall of Richmond and ended with the death of Lincoln. I greatly appreciated this book. Well written, well researched. Many views were covered--Northern sympathizers, Southerners, Blacks, foreigners. Many new ideas of the war that I had not thought of before or had learned. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Fast-paced Read Of Richmond's Fall By John D. Mackintosh A fast-paced read, that, excuse me for using it, fulfills that trite phrase of "reads like a novel" which many writers seek to achieve. That said, the author is a responsible writer in that the book includes both footnotes and an extensive bibliography. There are some drawbacks that I would like to point out--Mr. Lankford breezes through the events of Five Forks, providing bare-bones detail, despite the fact that what happened there sealed the fate of Richmond. Now, I know Five Forks isn't IN Richmond, so he must limit his time to peripheral places but the drama that unfolded there needed to be expanded greatly since this book obviously strives for literary merit as well as historical merit. Including a detailed treatment of Five Forks would only add to the reader's appreciation of the direct cause of Richmond's fall. Conversely, he wastes far too much time on the failed Campbell initiative that amounted to nothing. Also, one must question his interpretation of certain sources. He quotes from a Southern officer who wrote over the loss of many of his men at Saylor's Creek, the officer states that his emotions mingled "pride with grief" and cites such sentiments as the basis of future long-standing enmity towards Northerners. No such sentiments are expressed in the quote though, just something akin to fatherly pride mingled with great sadness over the loss of lives he held dear. Beyond that, I don't feel that he treats Robert E. Lee fairly, especially when he calls him "delusional" for a message he dispatched that harbored some optimism over being able to continue the fight after Richmond. Mr. Lankford is practicing hindsight bias here. By this criteria, the last months of the war were all "delusional" for Lee as we can clearly see, with our wonderful 21st century eyes, that the South had no hope of winning and could thus question why he simply didn't surrender following Lincoln's 1864 reelection. First and foremost, General Lee was always a soldier doing his duty and that duty included trying to struggle on as best he could, providing some optimism when possible, against mountains of adversity. Despite all this, this book is well-worth reading and is a good companion to the various books on Appomattox. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Robert A. Parker Good purchase

Nelson Lankford draws upon Civil War-era diaries, letters, memoirs, and newspaper reports to vividly recapture the experiences of the men and women, both black and white, who witnessed the tumultuous fall of Richmond. In April 1865 General Robert E. Lee realized that his army must retreat from the Confederate capital and that Jefferson Davis's government must flee. As the Southern soldiers moved out they set the city on fire, leaving a blazing ruin to greet the entering Union troops. The city's fall ushered in the birth of the modern United States. Lankford's exploration of this pivotal event is at once an authoritative work of history and a stunning piece of dramatic prose.

.com When conquering Union soldiers entered Richmond, Virginia, in the first days of April, 1865, they found a city afire, reduced to desperation, but still defiant. Virginia historian Nelson Lankford reconstructs the final hours of the Confederacy's heart in this vivid narrative, which draws on contemporary letters, diaries, and official reports that share both immediacy and a sense of awe at the terrible destruction. Just why the capital burned has long been a subject of speculation; by Lankford's account, much of the damage was due to the defenders' last-minute efforts to destroy war materiel, setting fires that soon spread. Lankford attends to other legends as well, including a reported call on Confederate general George Pickett's home by none other than Abraham Lincoln, while offering verifiable vignettes of such moments as Robert E. Lee's return to the capital and the celebrations of newly liberated slaves and Union prisoners. Lankford's narrative offers a view much different from what he calls "the warm sepia glow cast over our great national trauma by popular books and documentary films." It is a fine effort, and one that students of the Civil War should welcome. --Gregory McNamee From Publishers Weekly Lankford continues his investigation of the Civil War's human dimensions with this narrative of Richmond's fall in 1865. As the war progressed it was increasingly clear that the fall of its capital meant the end of the Confederacy and by spring 1865 it was equally clear that fall was inevitable. Lankford uses a judicious combination of published and archival primary sources to demonstrate the increasing confusion that gripped the city as the government fled and the Union troops approached. He is equally successful presenting the tentative triumphalism with which the Northerners, many of them serving in segregated black regiments, entered the city. The fire that began with Confederate efforts to destroy military stores laid a large

part of the city in ashes by the time of Abraham Lincoln's visit on April 4, an event that brought home to Richmond's citizens their new reality as an occupied city. The particular strength of Lankford's book is its demonstration of the rage with which most of the white population accepted that situation. Lankford is at pains to challenge myths of reconciliation between North and South, such as Lincoln's alleged visit to Confederate General George Pickett. Instead he offers comprehensive evidence that Richmond's citizens clung unrepentantly to their bitterness and sense of victimization, and denied the role of slavery in precipitating the war. The result for decades was their own enslavement to a past whose realities, as shown here, were a long way from the popular mythology of "gunpowder and magnolias." Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal

In the first days of April 1865, Union military advances compelled Confederate forces protecting Richmond to abandon their positions, opening the capital city to capture, causing the government to flee, and throwing the citizenry into unprecedented chaos. Lankford, editor of Virginia Magazine of History and Biography and author of *The Last American Aristocrat: The Biography of David K.E. Bruce, 1898-1977*, explores the fall of an important city, which portended the loss of the war. Drawing from a rich selection of diaries and letters, newspaper reports, and other primary and secondary resources, he tells the story of this pivotal event from the viewpoints of the varied actors who played a part, from military and political leaders to invading soldiers and civilian inhabitants. This well-researched, beautifully written work provides a useful update to Rembert W. Patrick's classic *Fall of Richmond* and is recommended for larger public libraries. Theresa R. McDevitt, Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania Lib. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.