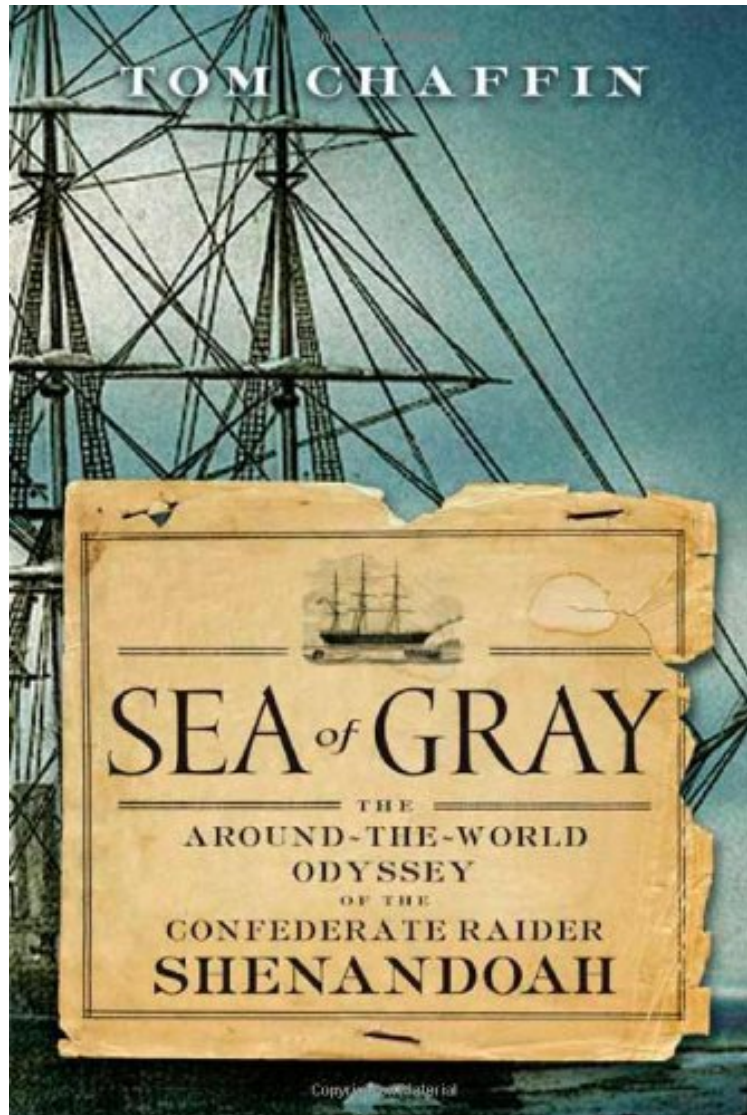


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## Sea of Gray: The Around-the-World Odyssey of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah

*Tom Chaffin*

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**Tom Chaffin : Sea of Gray: The Around-the-World Odyssey of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sea of Gray: The Around-the-World Odyssey of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Solid history of the C.S.S. ShenandoahBy J. G. LewisA reasonably well finished, and superbly researched, history of the last Confederate Flag that flew in Battle. And it flew

understandably at Sea. The investigation for a book of this sort presumably could have taken up a man's life and more, as the records are massive. But Mr. Chaffin was indeed diligent, and did his homework. I merely have a couple of reasonably small points against the book. Firstly, though the maps were good, and I enjoyed the use of the end papers in showing the make up of a Ship of Sail, and of the CSS Shenandoah's interior, I would rather have placed the critical Map of the Voyage as one of the end papers (probably replacing the former), as opposed to existing in the text as a two page map (this is really not a book about sailing, after all). ... The Bering Sea map might have been expanded to two pages, and perhaps introduced in the text at the chapter where the action occurred. Nonetheless, the maps as they exist -- and which are really critical for an appreciation of a voyage as great as this -- were good. Secondly, I thought his use and command of English could, at times, have been stronger. However, on the whole, I do recommend this book by Mr. Chaffin, and not only as a chronicle of the last Confederate raider, but also as a journey of adventure and exploration, which at times it interestingly became. (...) As a final note, I like how the various prizes for the Shenandoah were clearly listed in an Appendix.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Shenandoah Swashbucklers By carol williamson Sea of Gray by Tom Chaffin allowed me to look through the porthole of the Shenandoah's Odyssey from the equatorial homage paid to King Neptune to the deep freeze of the polar ice cap. This ship weathered the bloodiest storm in history, and continued sinking Northern whalers, long after the Treaty at Appomattox ended the War Between the States. Chaffin's writing is an historical narrative with strong journalistic undertones. As soon as I began Sea of Gray, Chaffin's vivid imagery pulled me right into the deep murky waters of the Confederacy. And although my Northern heart somewhat quakes at the thought, I found myself admiring the indomitable spirit and tenacity of Captain James Waddell. Tom Chaffin resurrects the Shenandoah and its ghosts, and brings us with him on a wild ride with the marauder of the seas! 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Sea of Gray: The Around-the-World Odyssey of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah By Late Reader Sea of Gray is simply the most complete and best written account of a Civil War event that I have read. I came away from this book feeling that I knew what day to day life on the Shenandoah was like. Mr. Chaffin's ability to reveal the minutia of the Civil War era sailor's toils and troubles is unsurpassed. It brought back many memories of my days at sea while serving in the U. S. Navy. Indeed, Mr. Chaffin is a master storyteller. I wholeheartedly recommend this book . . . a BIG 5 stars!

#### The 58,000-Mile, Around-the-World Cruise of the Confederacy's Last Ship Afloat

From Publishers Weekly When the Union navy blockaded Southern ports during the Civil War, the Confederates dispatched commercial raiders to prey on private Union ships. One of these raiders was the C.S.S. Shenandoah, a British auxiliary steamer purchased by Confederate agents and refitted as a man-of-war. Chaffin (Pathfinder; Fatal Glory) recounts the Shenandoah's round-the-world journey in a compelling narrative based upon Civil War-era logbooks, journals, letters and memoirs. Commissioned to lay waste to New England's Pacific whaling fleet, the Shenandoah sailed from Liverpool in 1864. Thirteen months and 58,000 miles later, it sailed back. Along the way, the ship survived storms, ice jams and a near mutiny while capturing 40 Union vessels, taking 1,053 prisoners and destroying cargo valued in 1865 at \$1.4 million. En route to the Bering Sea when the war ended in April 1865, the Shenandoah continued to fight until June for lack of "reliable evidence." Thereafter, it dodged capture as it raced for the safety of a British port. Sure to satisfy Civil War and nautical fans, Chaffin's history describes these adventures in gratifying detail. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Chaffin chronicles the remarkable story of the Shenandoah's 58,000-mile voyage around the world during the Civil War. Along the way, it sunk 32 Union merchant and whaling ships heavily laden with cargo, including brandy, rum, and whiskey. After the vessel rounded Africa's Cape of Good Hope, it stopped in Australia and then navigated the ice floes of Siberia's Sea of Okhotsk, the Bering Sea, and the Arctic Ocean--much of it through gales, ice fields, subfreezing temperatures, fog, and rain. The ship's crew hoped to destroy the Yankees' western Arctic whaling fleet, but four months after the war ended, the Shenandoah's captain learned that he had been fighting a war "without cause or state." He had gone from being an enemy combatant to a pirate, an offense that could get him hanged. He camouflaged the vessel, circumnavigated the globe, and attempted to surrender in England. Chaffin drew on hundreds of original documents in researching this riveting narrative of one episode of the Civil War. George Cohen Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "Meticulously researched . . . Chaffin, the author of Pathfinder: John Charles Frémont and the Course of American Empire, has drawn from a rich array of primary sources, including shipboard journals, crew memoirs, and newspaper accounts, to tell the story of the raider's 58,000-mile journey . . . A brisk and engaging read."-- Elizabeth D. Hoover, American Heritage