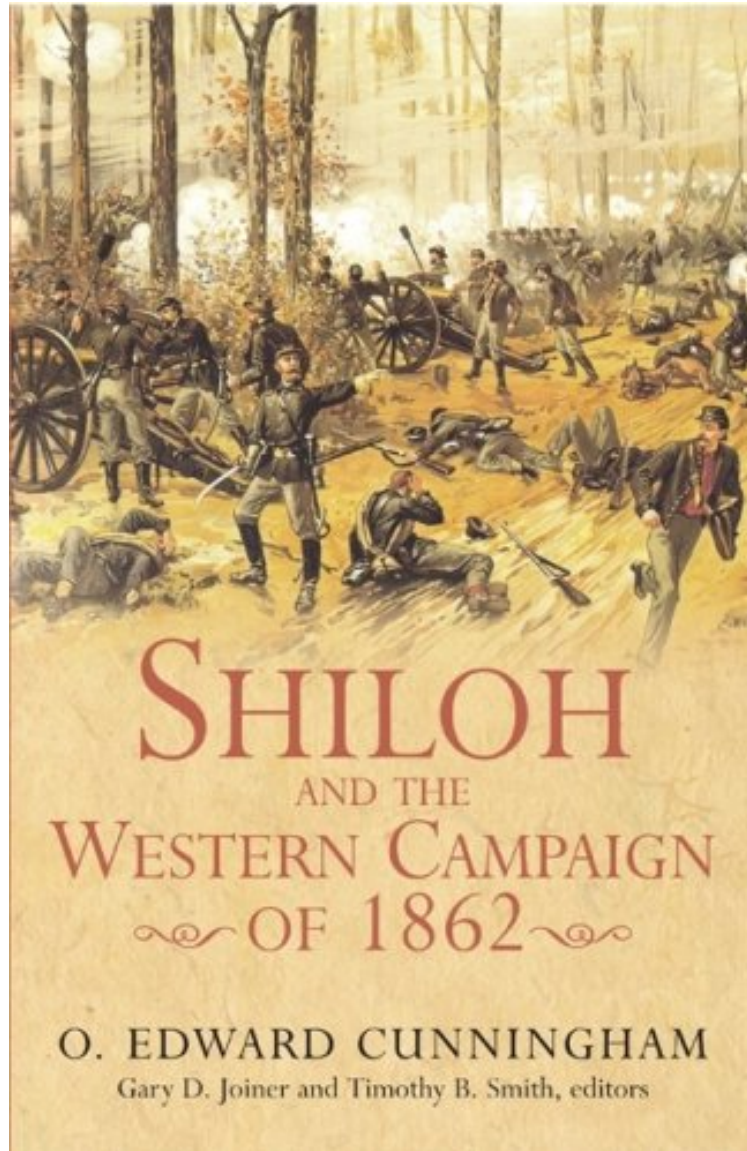


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O. Edward Cunningham : Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A fine well-detailed telling of the battle of ShilohBy Steven PetersonShiloh was the first really monster battle of the Civil War. To be sure, other battles of substance had occurred earlier--from Wilson's Creek in the West to First Manassas in the East. But none was as vicious, nasty, and deadly as Shiloh. This book, by O. Edward Cunningham, represents his doctoral dissertation. Somehow, it did not get published

in book form, although it was used by National Park Service personnel. However, all to the good, his dissertation has been recently published, annotated by Gary Joiner and Timothy B. Smith, who provide updates and comments on the original document--as well as some minor changes to address inaccuracies. The end result is a solid contribution to understanding Shiloh and the context in which that battle took place. The book does not begin with Shiloh, but with events that led to this battle. Here, we see the development of Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston's position, the development of the Union forces opposing Johnston. Key here are early battles that unhinged the Confederate line and forced a retreat where disparate forces united. We get a sense of the importance of conflicts at Mill Springs and Forts Henry and Donelson. The Confederate forces gathered at Corinth, as Grant's army camped on the grounds above the Tennessee River at Pittsburg Landing. The Hero of Fort Sumter, P. G. T. Beauregard took operational command, developing the plan of attack to surprise Union forces. And Cunningham then goes on to explain in great detail (one can almost get lost in the minutiae) the actual progression of events at Shiloh. Cunningham does a fine job of getting the available information together to make sense of a confusing battle. The editors credit him with paying less attention to the Hornet's Nest and more to the Crossroads than quite a few others did in prior volumes on the battle. This book, despite its age, is still one of the best volumes on the subject (I think Daniel's book is the gold standard, but this volume holds up pretty well in comparison). If interested in an in depth analysis of Shiloh, this is a very good resource. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Truly Good Read By Dar or RPLI gave this book the highest mark because of the incredible effort that the author put in to make this book as accurate and concise and detailed as humanly possible, and because the book with some additions and modifications was originally Cunningham's thesis for his doctorate. Few have gone to such an effort to be as detailed as to write a thesis of this magnitude. This book a true study in the love of the subject matter, and gives true honor to the men North or South who fought at Shiloh who after all, right or wrong, were and will remain American soldier's. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Definitive One-Volume Work on Shiloh By David M. Dougherty Although I guess I am rather late in discovering this book, I would like to add a few comments. First I agree with essentially all of what James Durney wrote in his very fine review. Secondly, the authors and publisher deserve a vote of thanks for rescuing this academic PhD dissertation from the dust bins of academia and making it available to the public with updates and corrections. For those that believe there's nothing of value produced before the Presidency of John Kennedy, this work from 1966 proves the opposite. In fact, the modern propensity to add journalistic edge to writing or to interpret history through the author's opinions to "guide" the public, often renders historical works almost useless in recent years. This work has none of that. It is very even-handed, does not affix blame, and is true scholarship. The writing may be excessively detailed in some places for those who wish to be entertained on every page, but such is the nature of history. There are many trees in the Shiloh forest, and if the reader doesn't want to read about all of them he could read Shelby Foote's treatment of Shiloh in the first volume of "The Civil War." Foote tells an interesting story in 18 pages for popular consumption, and he never allows facts or scholarship to slow him down. He resolutely states concerning the casualties at Shiloh; "Shiloh's totaled 23,741, and most of them were Grant's." Contrast that to Cunningham's discussion of the casualties in this work and one can see the difference between scholarship and journalism (or historical fiction, for that matter.) My only criticism concerns the maps. They are many and detailed, but often landmarks mentioned in the text cannot be found on the maps. In addition, the maps lack the detail of the narrative, and I, for one, would like to see maps showing regimental positions where possible. I assume the maps were created not by the original author but by illustrators retained by the publisher. Although Savas Beatie is the premier publisher of Civil War and Revolutionary War history books today, this is one areas where they can still improve. As an example, see some of the maps in "The Battle of Bentonville" by Mark Bradley, published by Savas Woodbury in 1996, and another book I have recommended to Civil War readers. I recommend this book without reservation. It is scholarly, even-handed and comprehensive. What more can a reader ask?

The bloody and decisive two-day battle of Shiloh (April 6-7, 1862) changed the entire course of the American Civil War. The stunning Northern victory thrust Union commander Ulysses S. Grant into the national spotlight, claimed the life of Confederate commander Albert S. Johnston, and forever buried the notion that the Civil War would be a short conflict. The conflagration at Shiloh had its roots in the strong Union advance during the winter of 1861-1862 that resulted in the capture of Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee. The offensive collapsed General Albert S. Johnston's advanced line in Kentucky and forced him to withdraw all the way to northern Mississippi. Anxious to attack the enemy, Johnston began concentrating Southern forces at Corinth, a major railroad center just below the Tennessee border. His bold plan called for his Army of the Mississippi to march north and destroy General Grant's Army of the Tennessee before it could link up with another Union army on the way to join him. On the morning of April 6, Johnston boasted to his subordinates, "Tonight we will water our horses in the Tennessee!" They nearly did so. Johnston's sweeping attack hit the unsuspecting Federal camps at Pittsburg Landing and routed the enemy from position after position as they fell back toward the Tennessee River. Johnston's sudden death in the Peach Orchard, however, coupled with stubborn Federal resistance, widespread confusion, and Grant's dogged determination to hold the field, saved the Union army from destruction. The arrival of General Don C. Buell's reinforcements that night

turned the tide of battle. The next day, Grant seized the initiative and attacked the Confederates, driving them from the field. Shiloh was one of the bloodiest battles of the entire war, with nearly 24,000 men killed, wounded, and missing. Edward Cunningham, a young Ph.D. candidate studying under the legendary T. Harry Williams at Louisiana State University, researched and wrote *Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862* in 1966. Although it remained unpublished, many Shiloh experts and park rangers consider it to be the best overall examination of the battle ever written. Indeed, Shiloh historiography is just now catching up with Cunningham, who was decades ahead of modern scholarship. Western Civil War historians Gary D. Joiner and Timothy B. Smith have resurrected Cunningham's beautifully written and deeply researched manuscript from its undeserved obscurity. Fully edited and richly annotated with updated citations and observations, original maps, and a complete order of battle and table of losses, *Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862* will be welcomed by everyone who enjoys battle history at its finest. Edward Cunningham, Ph.D., studied under T. Harry Williams at Louisiana State University. He was the author of *The Port Hudson Campaign: 1862-1863* (LSU, 1963). Dr. Cunningham died in 1997. Gary D. Joiner, Ph.D. is the author of *One Damn Blunder from Beginning to End: The Red River Campaign of 1864*, winner of the 2004 Albert Castel Award and the 2005 A. M. Pate, Jr., Award, and *Through the Howling Wilderness: The 1864 Red River Campaign and Union Failure in the West*. He lives in Shreveport, Louisiana. Timothy B. Smith, Ph.D., is author of *Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg* (winner of the 2004 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Non-fiction Award), *The Untold Story of Shiloh: The Battle and the Battlefield*, and *This Great Battlefield of Shiloh: History, Memory, and the Establishment of a Civil War National Military Park*. A former ranger at Shiloh, Tim teaches history at the University of Tennessee.

With their sparkling introductory essay, editors Gary Joiner and Timothy Smith give readers ample reason to want to read O. Edward Sullivan's 1966 dissertation.... Anyone with a serious interest in the early Western theater campaigns and the Battle of Shiloh will find this book essential reading. Casual readers will likely enjoy it as well (not something you can often say about a dissertation). (Civil War Books and Authors)... it may well be the best, most perceptive and authoritative account of the Battle of Shiloh .." (The Weekly Standard)... an excellent scholarly work about the pivotal Shiloh Campaign. (Collecting Miscellany)... the best history of the most important battle in the West and is required reading. This is the best book on the battle. (Civil War Courier) deeply researched... puts into perspective the unexpected Northern victory at Shiloh" (The Midwest Book) About the Author Edward Cunningham, Ph.D., studied under T. Harry Williams at Louisiana State University. He was the author of *The Port Hudson Campaign: 1862-1863* (LSU, 1963). Dr. Cunningham died in 1997.