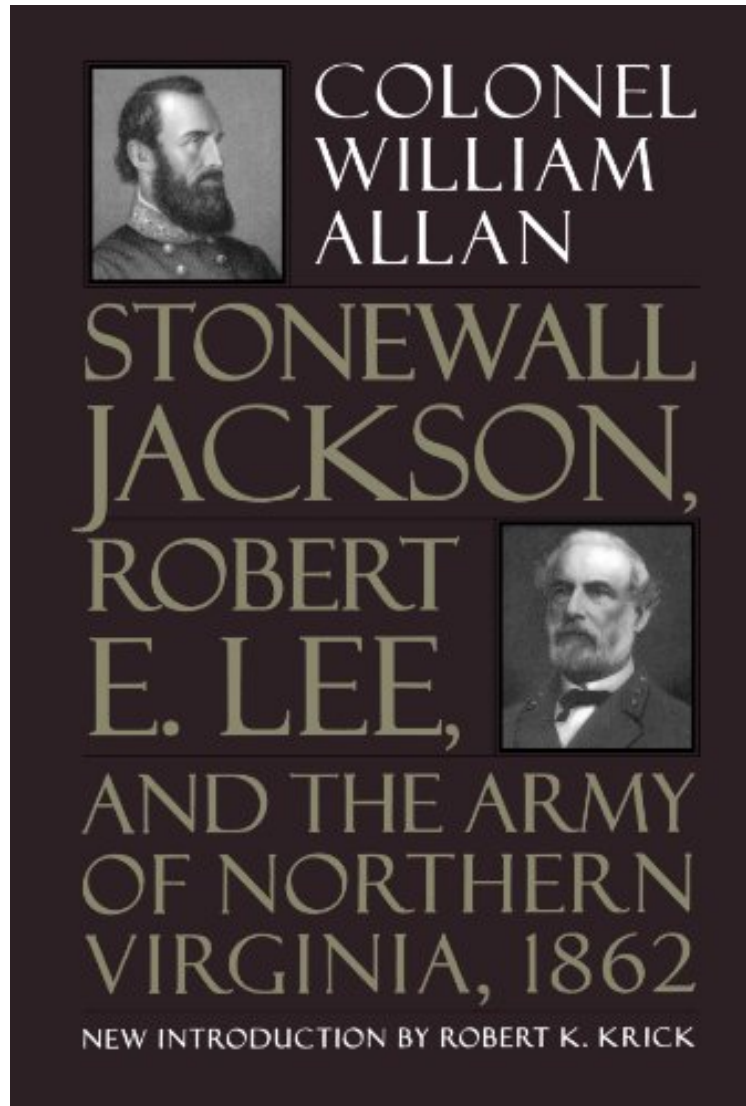


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Colonel William Allan : Stonewall Jackson, Robert E. Lee, And The Army Of Northern Virginia, 1862 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stonewall Jackson, Robert E. Lee, And The Army Of Northern Virginia, 1862:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An honest and straightforward account of Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign by a former staff officer
By SEHCol William Allan's account of Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign is a must read for every serious student of the Sectional War. (This book is a compilation of two books written by Allan: the first regards the operations of Jackson's Valley Campaign; the second is an account of all actions of the A.N.V. in 1862. This review concerns the former.) As the scenes open, Allan was serving on the staff of the Valley District's Quartermaster Department and was part of every movement from November 1861 thru June 1862 (he would later go on to serve as Jackson's chief ordinance officer). Having first driven the federal army out of Northwestern Virginia (present-day West Virginia) Jackson then returned to Winchester where he was thereafter driven up the Valley and placed in a defensive position while he explored his options. After the defeat at Kernstown, and being told there were no reinforcements to be sent to him, Jackson studied out in his mind how to best marshal the resources around him. On a forced march to McDowell to retrieve Gen. Edward Johnson's small, independent command, and summoning General Richard Ewell (then at Culpepper) to the Valley to link their divisions, Jackson hurled his Valley Army upon the unsuspecting Federals. With his numbers now doubled, Jackson subsequently beat four separate armies in detail as he marched down the Valley: Milroy - McDowell: Banks - Front Royal Winchester; Fremont- Cross Keys, and Shields - Port Republic. Each one of these Federal armies contained massive troop strengths that could have annihilated Jackson, especially if they had cooperated with one another. But Jackson's sagacity and celerity, and the fear he inspired by his conclusive movements (and the Federal generals' jealousy of each other) prevented this from happening. After the Battle of Port Republic, Jackson allowed his men a full week to recuperate, rest, and recover; then on June 17th, 1862, Jackson moved his little Army to the support of Lee in the defense of Richmond. Written with the help of Jedediah Hotchkiss (Jackson's topographical engineer) and the memoirs of former staff officers (which were willingly loaned to him upon the conclusion of the war), Allan's account is honest and straightforward, but at times I felt like I was plodding through the text to get to the author's point. Without any prior military background before he enlisted, Allan nevertheless has the ability to describe each battle and each march with remarkable precision but does not drag you down into the laborious minutia of every engagement (in this way, sometimes the accounts are too brief). The only reason I didn't give it all 5 Stars was because I felt it lacking in the personal nuances that help the reader (and avid student of the Civil War) identify more intensely with the principal characters. I would have liked to have seen him interweave more of the staff personalities into the story because their contributions helped mark Jackson's success. This, however, was not the objective of Allan's manuscript. Nevertheless, you do feel the admiration he has for his commander, and the desire through his writing to define for all time the significant historical contribution Jackson's Valley Campaign had in immobilizing tens of thousands of Federal troops, who didn't know whether to rush to McClellan on the Peninsula, or to hold the defensive line against Washington. North or South, one's veneration for this distinguished and brilliant General Stonewall Jackson admits that his life was cut too short.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional
By Hugh Burgess This is an exceptional piece of work: precise, documented, fair minded, with the obvious regional bias and hero worship of Jackson and Lee kept in check, and an overlay of admiration for sheer grit, sharp thinking, and gallantry. The awesome business of maneuvering large bodies of men, often exhausted, together with stores and prisoners through difficult terrain and into battle lines is sharply depicted, as is--on the other side of gallantry--the murderous effect of pitched battle. This work was written some twenty-plus years after the Civil War, at a time when Allan could well expect his readers to identify the various leaders whose names specified a military unit. Most readers today however probably do not have that immediate knowledge and may have difficulty knowing whether a given unit--say, Mahone's brigade--is Union or Confederate. Some note taking and some research can clear up up this difficulty.
.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By david L. petry very nice

This volume unites two classic Civil War campaign studies by the foremost southern historian of the immediate postwar era: *History of the Campaign of Gen. T. J. (Stonewall) Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and The Army of Northern Virginia in 1862*. Together they comprise a brilliant, breathtaking chronicle of the high tide of the Confederacy in 1862: Jackson's dazzling generalship in the Valley Campaign; Lee's bold offensive during the Seven Days Battle; the stunning Confederate victory at Second Manassas; Lee's decision to carry the war to enemy territory; the capture of Harper's Ferry; the bitterly fought Battle of Sharpsburg; and the bloody, humiliating Federal defeat at Fredericksburg.

About the Author William Allan (1837-1889) participated in many actions and earned the respect of both Jackson and Lee, causing the former to refuse Lee's request to transfer Allan to his own staff on the grounds that Jackson could not spare the young colonel. Allan's histories draw on scrupulous research; on his firsthand observation of Jackson, Ewell, Johnston, Longstreet, and Early; and on several postwar discussions with Lee himself. With the addition of sixteen specially commissioned maps, this edition makes available two benchmarks in Confederate military literature that illuminate, provoke, and endure.