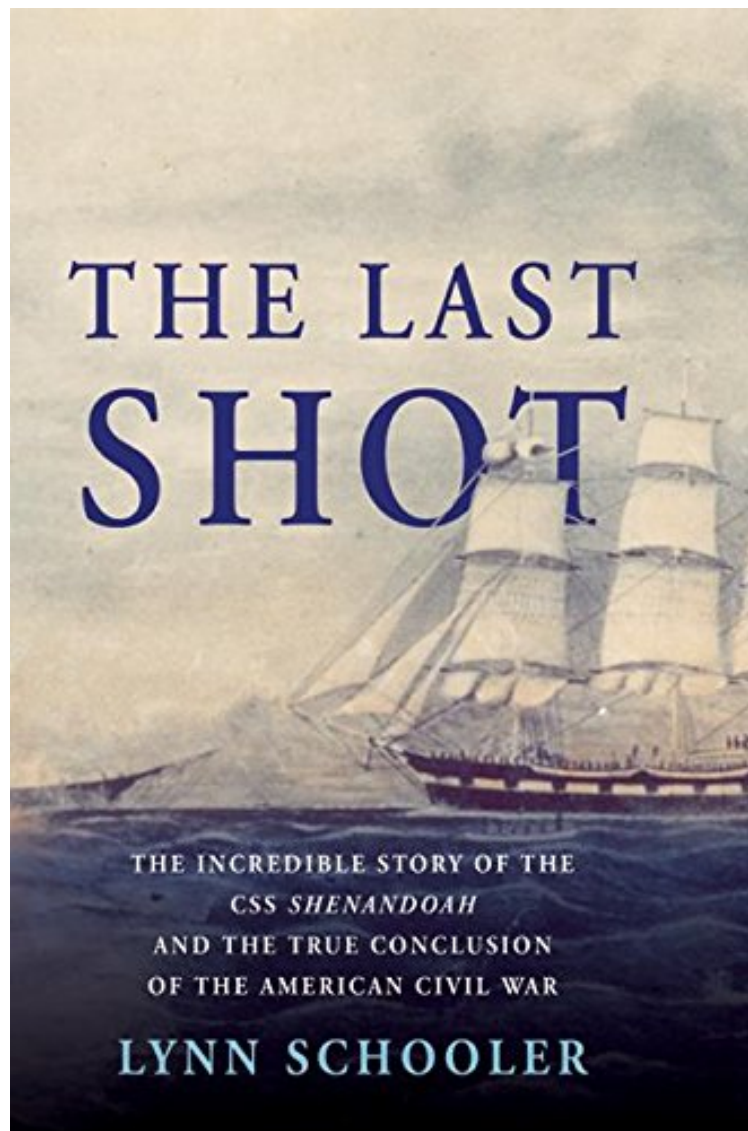


(Free) The Last Shot: The Incredible Story of the C.S.S. Shenandoah and the True Conclusion of the American Civil War

The Last Shot: The Incredible Story of the C.S.S. Shenandoah and the True Conclusion of the American Civil War

Lynn Schooler

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Lynn Schooler : The Last Shot: The Incredible Story of the C.S.S. Shenandoah and the True Conclusion of the American Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Shot: The Incredible Story of the C.S.S. Shenandoah and the True Conclusion of the American Civil War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Last Shot reads like an adventure novel. By Andrew Love I have been told that the only difference between a Fairy Tale and a Sea Story is that a Fairy Tale begins "Once upon a time" while a Sea Story starts off "You ain't gonna believe this s###". Lynn Schooler gives neither of these warnings before telling us of the exploits of a Confederate warship, the CSS Shenandoah. The events described in this book are unbelievable. Schooler even goes as far as refuting the known statement that no foreign powers ever recognized the Confederacy as a state. He tells us that a Pacific King who not only recognized, but allied with the Confederate States of America after negotiations with James Waddell, Captain of the Shenandoah. Well, you know what is said about Fairy Tales and Sea Stories. But, the Federated States of Micronesia commemorates this alliance with a postage stamp, bearing the likeness of the Shenandoah. The description of Fairy Tale does not fit this book. The events noted in The Last Shot are documented in other sources. With its grab and hold, Last Shot reads like an adventure novel. Perhaps, it was started with the idea of an alternate history novel with Jeff Davis escaping to Trans Mississippi and Waddell and the Shenandoah seizing San Francisco with its mint and ransoming for the dying Confederacy. The interesting footnotes explain terms, etc., instead of indicating sources. Sources of comments and disagreements of the officers and crew are indicated by the journals, articles, and books by those present on the Shenandoah in the extensive bibliography. The Last Shot is proof that fact is better than fiction. However, the use as a reference, checking to see Schooler's account of an event, is hindered by lack of an index. Although the book is biased, it looks at all sides. A charge of bias should present evidence, but then memoirs are expected to be biased. Memoirs, no, not Schooler telling of his travels and research in the Prologue and Acknowledgements, but Schooler's memoirs as one of the crew. Schooler reveals himself to be a rare person, not one who hates others for faults or frailties the he himself may have, but admires the good and determination in others. He may be in the 21st century but his heart has signed on with the misfit crew of the CSS Shenandoah. Yes, that same crew that had its boarding party get drunk off of the stocks of liquor aboard the captured Abigail, then also the successive parties sent to get them, drunk too. Through the comments of the officers to various situations and the disagreements of the Latitudes and Longitudes, Schooler is right there putting in his two cents worth. Like some conscripts, he did not dessert in Melbourne. As with many vets, Schooler keeps up with his comrades in arms, following the lives of shipmates in the Epilogue. He is so proud that he tells us of the US Navy christening a ship the USS Waddell in honor of the Shenandoah's commander. His heart is on the rebel pirate, CSS Shenandoah, flag flying in the midst of burning Yankee whalers in the Arctic, and not over with the Last Shot, continuing with an amazing sail to Liverpool avoiding land and a pack of Yankee warships. Many are familiar with the blockade, blockade runners, ironclads, gun boats, and even submarine CSS Hunley of the Civil War. Lesser known are the Confederate commerce raiders. The Last Shot is a detailed account of one of these raiders, the CSS Shenandoah. Lynn Schooler's account is like Mama opening the cookie jar. The Last Shot whets an appetite for more. Although thoroughly written, there are more questions. We are introduced to the HMS Wirvern and Scorpion, two ironclad rams built for the Confederacy to break the Union blockade, but taken by Britain. Did US diplomats and spies in Britain sink a navy? Schooler mentions the rising cost of whale oil and Gisner, a Canadian geologist who developed a way to refine kerosene from Pennsylvania crude, is in a footnote. Did the Shenandoah jump start the petrochemical industry? Several times we are told of difficulties facing the US merchant fleet and its demise. Is it possible that the US Navy, described as the most powerful in the world, failed at one of its major responsibilities, protection of its nation's merchant ships? Did a handful of cruisers, flying the Southern Cross, actually rule the high seas? Most important is Schooler's recording of his research in the Prologue, Epilogue, and Acknowledgments. In 2015 battle flags, monuments, street names, school names, museums, TV shows, movies, and other things related to the Confederacy are being purged in the United States. There are politicians even wanting to dig up the graves of Confederate veterans. At this time books are just mentioned, as many assume about the six to eight million ancestors of Confederate soldiers and sailors, "Rednecks can't read." But there may be a time when library shelves are also cleansed. Schooler's methods of research will be appreciated by those wanting to learn more about this period of history.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Story. By Jeffrey Jones Fascinating story. I never knew about the Confederate raiders. It sure was not taught in high school U.S. history class in the 1960's!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unknown facts from Civil war. By Chuck Kitchka Good read. Subject and facts enlightened me on history that I was totally unaware of. Civil war revisited from new direction.

In the autumn of 1864, at the height of the American Civil War, the Confederate raider Shenandoah received orders to "seek out and utterly destroy" the whaling fleets of New England as part of an effort to bleed the Union of its economic strength -- an undertaking that met its greatest success when the raider fell upon a fleet of whalers working the waters near Alaska's Little Diomed Island and sank more than two dozen ships in a frenzy of destruction. Before the Shenandoah's voyage was over, the raider had captured or sunk thirty-eight ships. She also took more than a thousand prisoners and led the best warships of the Union navy on a twenty-seven-thousand-mile chase that ended with her escape to England, making her the only Confederate vessel to circumnavigate the globe. At the end of her journey -- truly one of the most remarkable in naval history -- the effects of the raider's actions reached far beyond the glow of the flames marking the sky above the Arctic ice. The inferno signaled not only the near-demise of the New

England whaling industry, but also the end of America's growing hegemony over worldwide shipping for the next eighty years. These Civil War clashes also helped precipitate the establishment of international laws that remain in effect today. But more important than the tally of damage was the date the final conflagration began: June 22, the longest day of the year, and almost a full three months after General Lee lay down his sword at Appomattox. Contrary to contemporary belief, it was not on the battlefield in Virginia but high in the Arctic where the last shot of the American Civil War was fired. Blending high-seas adventure and first-rate research, Lynn Schooler's *The Last Shot* is naval history of the very first order, offering a riveting account of the last Southern military force to lay down its arms.

From Publishers Weekly A longtime Alaskan has given us this impressive history of the last Confederate commerce raider, which fired its last shot at a Yankee whaler north of the Aleutian Islands two and a half months after Appomattox. It begins with the ship leaving England under the name *Sea King*, then meeting a chartered cargo ship at Madeira and loading guns and other warlike gear—without more than a fraction of the crew needed to use them. A gifted seaman if more than a little irascible, Capt. James Waddell recruited his crew as he sailed. After an eventful stop in Melbourne, Australia, the ship sailed north to the Arctic whaling grounds, ravaged the whaling fleet and was proceeding to attack the California gold ships when Waddell learned that the war was over—whereupon he set off to deliver his ship and crew to the British by sailing 23,000 storm-tossed miles back to Liverpool without sighting land. Researched heavily from primary sources, filled with vivid personality portraits and almost miraculously accessible to readers without a background in maritime history, this is an absolutely irresistible sea story. The seafaring audience is likely to be as strong as or stronger than the Civil War audience for this book, and the combination may really set it afloat. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist In the autumn of 1864 the Confederate steamer *Shenandoah* received orders to "seek out and utterly destroy" the whaling fleets of New England as part of an effort to bleed the Union of its economic strength—an undertaking that met its greatest success when the raider sank two-dozen whalers near Alaska's Little Diomedede Island in a frenzy of destruction. Before the *Shenandoah's* voyage ended, it had captured or sunk 38 ships total and led some of the federal navy's warships on a 27,000-mile chase that ended with the *Shenandoah's* escape to England, a 122-day voyage. The British government was stuck with the ship, "greatly inconvenienced by the diplomatic complications it created." The crew was free to go ashore; consequently "the last Confederate force was disbanded." A general amnesty granted to all Confederate soldiers specifically exempted the officers of the *Shenandoah*; it would be years before many of them could go home. Schooler offers readers a marvelously detailed account of this little-known episode of the Civil War.

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About the Author Lynn Schooler, author of *The Blue Bear*, has lived in Alaska for more than thirty years. He is a two-time winner of Alaska magazine's grand prize for wildlife photography and winner of the National Wildlife grand prize.