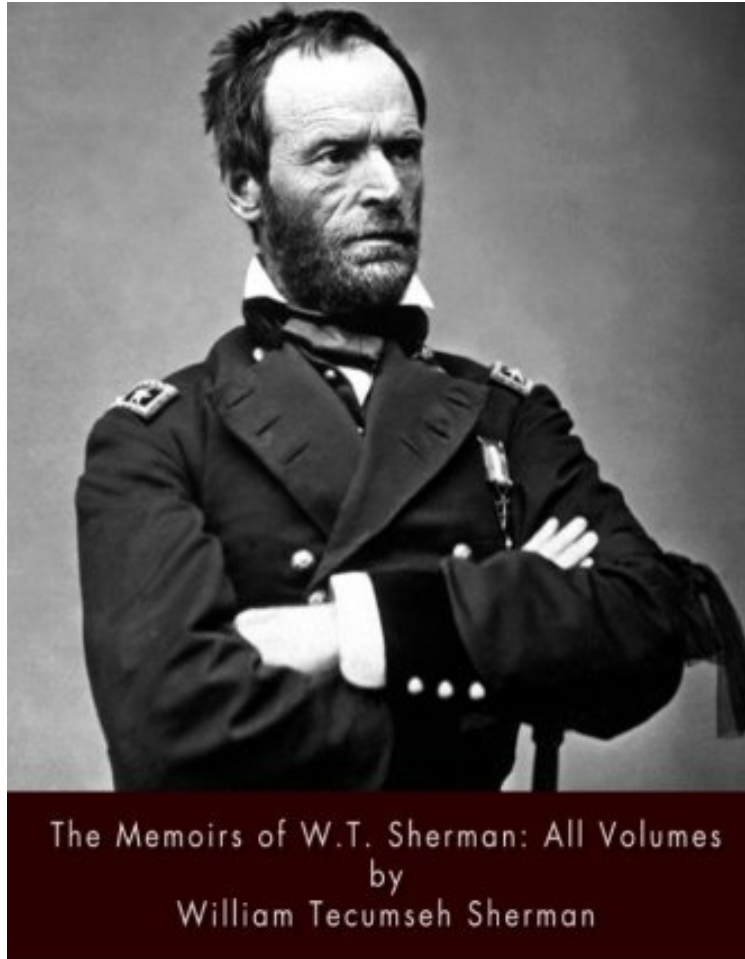


The Memoirs of W.T. Sherman: All Volumes

William Tecumseh Sherman
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factsBy Ron SwisherThe writing was clear and direct. There was no "glory" writing or amped up egotism in Sherman's memoir just straight facts. All of his statements on different battles line up with the actual histories of the battles. Excellent incites on Grant, Sheridan, and other Union leaders. I would recommend this volume to any civil war buff or history major.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Review of General W. T. Sherman MemoirsBy CustomerI have read the memoirs of Generals Sherman, Grant, and Longstreet. I found Longstreet the least enjoyable and Sherman the most interesting. I highly recommend this work to all readers. My personal interest was in his Civil War years and later.General Sherman includes the best description of the myriad details for which a general was responsible including planning for battles, supplies, transportation, communication, coordination with the Navy and subordinate and superior generals, and Washington D. C. They also managed and fed civilians and newly freed slaves and settled property disputes in recently conquered territory.This memoir is made more interesting by Shermans inclusion of his personal beliefs about many controversial measures such slavery, reconstruction, and capabilities of other generals even if they were not favorably viewed.One thing common to all three is that if you want a clear picture of whether they won or lost a battle you are better off checking with the reports of historians than with reading the memoirs. While they all three report losses and gains as accurately as possible, victories are more easily admitted to than are losses. Sometimes they will indicate heavy personnel losses but then point out that more enemy prisoners, cannon, guns, stores, etc. were captured. Also they indicate that by fighting in this area they kept the opposing army from concentrating on other friendly forces. For example, Lee had to split his forces to counter the combined strength of both Grant and Sherman. A setback in one area may have permitted gains in another.The reader may be interested in his genealogy and early years as a soldier. At a time when other West Point graduates were earning their stripes in the war with Mexico Sherman was, unfortunately for him, sent to California during the gold rush years where in his private time he speculated in land, that is, single lot units in developing settlements. After his early military career he led a successful life being involved banking, superintendence of a military academy in Louisiana (which later was moved and became LSU), and the president of a streetcar company in Saint Louis. After secession he volunteered for service in the U.S. Army. He was commissioned as a colonel of the13th U.S. Infantry Regiment effective May 14, 1861, a new regiment yet to be raised. He was active in the First Battle of Bull Run. I mention this as I recommend skipping or skimming the first 6 or 7 chapters for those wishing to focus on this Civil War years. The remainder of the book is superb.

William Tecumseh Sherman is one of the most important and controversial generals in American history. Just about the only thing everyone would agree on is his effectiveness. While he's lauded as a Union war hero during the Civil War and a forerunner of modern warfare, the South despised him for his heavy-handed tactics, particularly the burning of Columbia and his March to the Sea. The hard-hitting Sherman was just as tough in his memoirs, a candid look at his experiences in the war and his analysis of the generalship of others in every theater. His memoirs are considered one of the most important post-war works by a general on either side of the Civil War.