

**Chapter 1 : Top shelves for A Virginia Girl in the Civil War**

*This is the essential value of A Virginia Girl in the Civil War: it shows us simply, sincerely, and unconsciously what life meant to an American woman during the vital and formative period of American history.*

An Confederate recruiting poster from Virginia, urging men to join the Confederate cause and fight off the U. Army, which it refers to as the "Abolition foes". Call for secession convention[ edit ] On November 15, Virginia Governor John Letcher called for a special session of the General Assembly to consider, among other issues, the creation of a secession convention. The legislature convened on January 7 and approved the convention on January President John Tyler , to be held in Washington, DC on February 4, the same date that elections were scheduled for delegates to the secession convention. Thirty of these delegates were secessionists, thirty were unionists, and ninety-two were moderates who were not clearly identified with either of the first two groups. Nevertheless, advocates of immediate secession were clearly outnumbered. According to one Virginian teacher, William M. Thompson, who would later become a Confederate cavalryman, the declaring of secession by the slave states was necessary to preserve slavery as well as prevent marriages between freedmen and the white "daughters of the South", saying that civil war would be preferable: Endure all the horrors of civil war than to see the dusky sons of Ham leading the fair daughters of the South to the altar. He stated that he would rather be stricken with illness and starvation than to see African-Americans liberated from slavery and be given equality as citizens: What was the reason that induced Georgia to take the step of secession? This reason may be summed up in one single proposition. It was a conviction, a deep conviction on the part of Georgia, that a separation from the North-was the only thing that could prevent the abolition of her slavery. If things are allowed to go on as they are, it is certain that slavery is to be abolished. By the time the north shall have attained the power, the black race will be in a large majority, and then we will have black governors, black legislatures, black juries, black everything. Is it to be supposed that the white race will stand for that? It is not a supposable case That is the fate which abolition will bring upon the white race. We will be completely exterminated, and the land will be left in the possession of the blacks, and then it will go back to a wilderness and become another Africa Suppose they elevated Charles Sumner to the presidency? Suppose they elevated Fred Douglass , your escaped slave, to the presidency? What would be your position in such an event? I say give me pestilence and famine sooner than that. From March 15 through April 14 the convention debated these proposals one by one. Lewis Edwin Harvie of Amelia County offered a substitute resolution calling for immediate secession. This was voted down by 88 to 45 and the next day the convention continued its debate. Sir, the great question which is now uprooting this Government to its foundation "the great question which underlies all our deliberations here, is the question of African slavery. Goode, speech to the Virginia Secession Convention, March 28, Secretary of State William Seward that it would be abandoned. Baldwin of Augusta County met with the president on April 4. Baldwin explained that the unionists needed the evacuation of Fort Sumter, a national convention to debate the sectional differences, and a commitment by Lincoln to support constitutional protections for southern rights. By some accounts, Lincoln offered to evacuate Fort Sumter if the Virginia convention would adjourn. However, due to bad weather the delegation did not arrive in Washington until April They learned of the attack on Fort Sumter from Lincoln, and the president informed them of his intent to hold the fort and respond to force with force. Reading from a prepared text to prevent any misinterpretations of his intent, Lincoln told them that he had made it clear in his inaugural address that the forts and arsenals in the South were government property and "if Richmond reacted with large public demonstrations in support of the Confederacy on April 13 when it first received the news of the attack. Hardly less than ten thousand persons were on Main street, between 8th and 14th, at one time. Speeches were delivered at the Spottswood House, at the Dispatch corner, in front of the Enquirer office, at the Exchange Hotel, and other places. Bonfires were lighted at nearly every corner of every principal street in the city, and the light of beacon fires could be seen burning on Union and Church Hills. The effect of the illumination was grand and imposing. The triumph of truth and justice over wrong and attempted insult was never more heartily appreciated by a spontaneous uprising of the people. Soon the Southern wind will sweep away with the

resistless force of a tornado, all vestige of sympathy or desire of co-operation with a tyrant who, under false pretences, in the name of a once glorious, but now broken and destroyed Union, attempts to rivet on us the chains of a despicable and ignoble vassalage. To His Excellency the Governor of Virginia: Under the act of Congress for calling forth "militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, repel invasions, etc. Your Excellency will please communicate to me the time, at or about, which your quota will be expected at its rendezvous, as it will be met as soon as practicable by an officer to muster it into the service and pay of the United States. Governor Letcher and the recently reconvened Virginia Secession Convention considered this request from Lincoln "for troops to invade and coerce" [33] lacking in constitutional authority, and out of scope of the Act of Executive Department, Richmond, Va. Simon Cameron, Secretary of War: I have received your telegram of the 15th, the genuineness of which I doubted. Since that time I have received your communications mailed the same day, in which I am requested to detach from the militia of the State of Virginia "the quota assigned in a table," which you append, "to serve as infantry or rifleman for the period of three months, unless sooner discharged. Your object is to subjugate the Southern States, and a requisition made upon me for such an object - an object, in my judgment, not within the purview of the Constitution or the act of - will not be complied with. You have chosen to inaugurate civil war, and, having done so, we will meet it in a spirit as determined as the administration has exhibited toward the South. The decision came from what seemed to many white Virginians the unavoidable logic of the situation: Virginia was a slave state; the Republicans had announced their intention of limiting slavery; slavery was protected by the sovereignty of the state; an attack on that sovereignty by military force was an assault on the freedom of property and political representation that sovereignty embodied. On April 17 in the debate over secession Wise announced to the convention that these events were already in motion. On April 18 the arsenal was captured and most of the machinery was moved to Richmond. At Gosport, the Union Navy, believing that several thousand militia were headed their way, evacuated and abandoned Norfolk, Virginia and the navy yard, burning and torching as many of the ships and facilities as possible. Lee resigned his U. Army commission, turning down an offer of command of the Union army. He would ultimately join the Confederate army instead. The next day, the U. Army moved into northern Virginia. With both armies now in northern Virginia, the stage was set for war. Francis Pierpont was elected governor. The restored government raised troops to defend the Union and appointed two Senators to the United States Senate. During the summer of , parts of the northern, western and eastern Virginia, including the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, were returned to Union control. Norfolk returned to union control in May These areas would be administered by the Restored Government of Virginia, with the northwestern counties later becoming the new state of West Virginia. In , Virginian and former Confederate soldier John S. Its agricultural and industrial capacity, and the means of transporting this production, were major strategic targets for attack by Union forces and defense by Confederate forces throughout the war. It was mainly for this industrial reason that the Confederates fought so hard to defend the city. Richmond was the only large-scale industrial city controlled by the Confederacy during most of the Civil War. The company also manufactured railroad locomotives, boxcars and rails, as well as steam propulsion plants and iron plating for warships. A number of textile plants, flour mills, brick factories, newspapers and book publishers were located in Richmond. Richmond had shipyards too, although they were smaller than the shipyards controlled by the Union in Norfolk, Virginia. With Virginia firmly under Union control, including the industrial centers of Richmond, Petersburg and Norfolk, the mostly rural and agricultural deep south lacked the industry needed to supply the Confederate war effort. Other locations[ edit ] At the outbreak of the war Petersburg, Virginia was second only to Richmond among Virginia cities in terms of population and industrialization. The juncture of five railroads, it provided the only continuous rail link to the Deep South. In the western portion of the state as defined today , the Shenandoah Valley was considered the "Breadbasket of the Confederacy". The Blue Ridge mountains and similar sites had long been mined for iron, and though as the war progressed, shortages in manpower limited their production. In southwest Virginia, the large salt works at Saltville provided a key source of salt to the Confederacy, essential in preserving food for use by the army. It was the target of two battles. The image depicts Confederate leaders packing up their belongings as they prepare to flee Richmond to avoid U. The first and last significant battles of the war were held in Virginia, the first being the First Battle

of Bull Run and the last being the Battle of Appomattox Courthouse. From May to April , Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy. Union forces attempted to take control of the railroad junction at Manassas for use as a supply line, but the Confederate Army had moved its forces by train to meet the Union. The Confederates won the First Battle of Bull Run known as "First Battle of Manassas" in southern naming convention and the year went on without a major fight.

**Chapter 2 : Historic Voices: A Virginia Girl in the Civil War -**

*A Virginia Girl in the Civil War has 15 ratings and 4 reviews. Isidore said: Of all the memoirs by Confederate ladies which I have so far examined, this.*

Political events[ edit ] On April 17, , the Virginia state convention in Richmond declared secession. Nearly all delegates from counties west of the Allegheny Mountains voted against secession, and most people and officials in that area refused any directions from the secessionist state government. Many of the delegates were informally or self-appointed, so the Convention only denounced secession and called for a formal election of delegates. The elected delegates met in the second session on 11 June. On 20 June the Convention declared that by acceding to secession, the officials of the state government in Richmond had forfeited their offices, which were now vacant. The Convention then elected replacements for these state offices, creating the Restored Government of Virginia. Union troops also held the three northernmost counties in the Shenandoah Valley , and despite the pro-secession views of most residents, these counties were also subjected to the "Restored" government. At the Wheeling Convention, some delegates proposed the immediate establishment of a separate state. However, other delegates pointed out that the creation of a new state would require the consent of Virginia, under Article IV of the Constitution. Thus it was necessary to establish the Restored Government of Virginia to give that consent, which was granted 20 August A referendum in October approved statehood; a constitutional convention met, and its work was approved by referendum in April Congress approved statehood that December, with the condition that slavery must gradually abolish in the new state. This condition required a new constitutional convention and referendum, which was approved. On 20 June , the newly proclaimed state of West Virginia was admitted to the Union, including all the western counties and the lower northern Shenandoah "panhandle". All the northern states had free public school systems before the war, but not the border states. West Virginia set up its system in Over bitter opposition it established an almost-equal education for black children, most of whom were ex-slaves. They were not included in West Virginia. With West Virginia statehood, the Restored government relocated to Alexandria. Many localities especially in the southeastern part of the state sent representatives to both the Wheeling and Richmond state legislatures. In House districts where the Confederates could not hold conventional elections, the Confederate Congress accepted the fragmentary Congressional results from army and refugee camps as representative of the majority of residents. While Confederate Congressional elections were ostensibly nonpartisan, especially in Virginian districts under Union occupation the administration of President Jefferson Davis manipulated the electoral process to ensure the election of pro-administration representatives, in large part to counteract the increasing tendency of House districts still under Confederate control to elect anti-administration candidates. Slavery[ edit ] During the Civil War, a Unionist government in Wheeling, Virginia , presented a statehood bill to Congress in order to create a new state from 48 counties in western Virginia. The new state would eventually incorporate 50 counties. The issue of slavery in the new state delayed approval of the bill. In the Senate Charles Sumner objected to the admission of a new slave state, while Benjamin Wade defended statehood as long as a gradual emancipation clause would be included in the new state constitution. Carlile and Waitman T. Senator Carlile objected that Congress had no right to impose emancipation on West Virginia , while Willey proposed a compromise amendment to the state constitution for gradual abolition. Sumner attempted to add his own amendment to the bill, which was defeated, and the statehood bill passed both houses of Congress with the addition of what became known as the Willey Amendment. President Lincoln signed the bill on December 31, Voters in western Virginia approved the Willey Amendment on March 26, Two additional counties were added to West Virginia in late , Berkeley and Jefferson. The slaves in Berkeley were also under exemption but not those in Jefferson County. In April , Virginia troops under Thomas J. In May and June , Confederate forces advanced into western Virginia to impose control by the Richmond government and the Confederacy. They got no further than Philippi , due to bad roads. Then Union troops under McClellan drove them back in July. There was additional campaigning further south, where Greenbrier County was pro-Confederate, enabling Confederate troops to enter Nicholas

County to the west. Thereafter all of the trans-Allegheny region was under firm Union control except for some of the easternmost counties. Greenbrier County was occupied in May Pro-Confederate guerrillas burned and plundered in some sections, and were not entirely suppressed until after the war was ended. There were two minor Confederate expeditions against the northeastern corner of the west later on: Confederate Memorial , Romney. This latter goal proved impossible, due to the poor roads across mountainous terrain. This area was therefore occupied by Union troops for nearly all of the war, and was a scene of frequent combat. Harpers Ferry was the site of a major U. Army arsenal, and was taken by Confederates in the opening days of the war, and again during the Maryland Campaign of During the Maryland Campaign it was a route of invasion and retreat for the Army of Northern Virginia ; the campaign concluded there with the Battle of Shepherdstown. Many soldiers from West Virginia served on both sides in the war. Those in Confederate service were in "Virginia" regiments. Those in Union service were also in "Virginia" regiments until statehood, when several Unionist "Virginia" regiments were redesignated "West Virginia" regiments. On the Confederate side, Albert G. Jenkins , a former U. Representative , recruited a brigade of cavalry in western Virginia, which he led until his death in May Other western Virginians served under Brig. John Imboden and in the Stonewall Brigade under Brig. The men were acquitted, since no actual crime had taken place, but Parkersburg was split over the verdict, and Judge Jackson left to join Col. Local supporters of Richmond were left to their own devices. Many guerrilla units originated in the pre-war militia, and these were designated Virginia State Rangers and starting in June, , these were incorporated into Virginia State Line regiments. By March, , however, many were enlisted in the regular Confederate army. Some were paroled after taking an oath, but many returned to their guerrilla activities. The Union authorities began to organize their own guerrilla bands, the most famous of which was the " Snake Hunters ", headed by Capt. They patrolled Wirt and Calhoun counties through the winter of 1862 and captured scores of Moccasin Rangers , which they sent as prisoners to Wheeling. The fight against the rebel guerrillas took a new turn under Gen. George Crook , who had spent his pre-war career as an "Indian fighter" in the Pacific Northwest. He trained them in guerrilla tactics and adopted a "no prisoners" policy. None were found, but his troops encountered heavy guerrilla resistance and responded by burning houses and towns along the line of march. In this vacuum Gen. A, recaptured the Kanawha valley, Gen. Albert Gallatin Jenkins , C. Loring opening recruitment offices as far north as Ripley. In response to rebel raids, Gen. Milroy issued a command demanding reparations to be paid in cash and proceeded to assess fines against Tucker county citizens, guilty or not, and threatened them with the gallows or house-burning. Jefferson Davis and Confederate authorities lodged formal complaints with Gen. Henry Wager Halleck in Washington, who censured Gen. However, Milroy argued in defense of his policy and was allowed to proceed. By early Union efforts in West Virginia were going badly. Unionists were losing confidence in the Wheeling government to protect them, and with the approaching dismemberment of Virginia into two states guerrilla activity increased in an effort to prevent organization of county governments. By some stability had been achieved in some central counties, but guerrilla activity was never effectively countered. But Federal forces could not afford to ignore any rebel territory, particularly one so close to the Ohio River. Boreman complained of large scale guerrilla activity as far north as Harrison and Marion counties. Kelley from behind Union lines and delivered them as prisoners of war to Richmond. The Confederate surrender at Appomattox finally brought an end to guerrilla war in West Virginia. McClellan in Cincinnati wrote to President Lincoln: He wrote to Gov. Francis Harrison Pierpont of the Restored Government of Virginia in Wheeling that he and his army were anxious to assist the new government, but that eventually they would be needed elsewhere, and that he urged that troops be raised "among the population". On May 14, , Col. Porterfield arrived in Grafton to secure volunteers, and reported slow enlistment. He eventually turned away hundreds of volunteers due to lack of equipment. Thomas Broun of the 3rd Infantry that Gen. Lee bought his famous horse Traveller. In April the Confederate government instituted a military draft, [27] and nearly a year later the U. The Confederate draft was not generally effective in West Virginia due to the breakdown of Virginia state government in the western counties and Union occupation of the northern counties, although conscription did occur in the southern counties. In the southern and eastern counties of West Virginia Confederate recruitment continued at least until the beginning of Boreman struggled to fill. In some counties, ex-Confederates suddenly found

themselves enrolled in the U. The rapid conquest of northern West Virginia had caught a number of Southern sympathizers behind Union lines. A series of letters to Gen. Pierpoint in the Dept.

*The Commonwealth of Virginia became a prominent part of the Confederate States of America when it joined the Confederacy during the American Civil War. As a Southern slave-holding state, Virginia held a state convention to deal with the secession crisis, and voted against secession on April 4,*

In October , a small band of white and black men, led by John Brown , attacked the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry in an attempt to start a slave rebellion. Brown was captured by U. Marines led by Robert E. Lee and his aide, J. Jackson and John A. McCausland , helped provide security. After Brown was sentenced to die for murdering five men four white and one black , Virginia governor Henry A. Wise met with him personally and decided to let the execution go ahead. Brown was hanged on December 2, Brown was a radical abolitionist who opposed slavery and treated African Americans as his equals. Even in the North, where the states had outlawed slavery, his views were uncommon. In Virginia , which had the largest population of African Americans of any state, Brown was especially feared and reviled. Slaves were an integral part of the Virginia economy. Some worked on tobacco farms, some were employed in light industry, and others were rented out to companies building railroads and mines. However, Virginians made much of their money buying and selling slaves, exporting them from the state to the cotton fields of the Deep South. Most Virginians did not question slavery, and some were radical in its defense. So-called fire-eaters, such as Edmund Ruffin , argued that states like Virginia must secede, or leave the Union. Ruffin was a farmer from Prince George County who for much of his life was interested in finding new and scientific ways to grow crops. Although many Northern politicians, including Lincoln, expressed their disapproval of Brown, Ruffin became convinced that Northerners were conspiring to use politics and violence to destroy slavery and with it the Southern economy and culture. While they objected to the power of the federal government, their objections were loudest when they thought slavery was threatened. Fearing such threats, they had used their political power to pass legislation that protected their "peculiar institution. Supreme Court decision in Dred Scott v. Sandford ruled that African Americans could never be citizens. Few Southerners complained about these uses of federal power, but they worried that Republican Party candidate Lincoln, if elected president in , would prevent slavery from expanding into the western territories won during the Mexican War . But the Democratic Party split into Northern and Southern wings, primarily over the issue of slavery, helping Lincoln to win the election in November . Fearing the worst, South Carolina seceded the next month, followed by a number of other Deep South states. Communities like Lynchburg opposed secession, but not because they opposed slavery. The town produced plug, or chewing, tobacco, and its factories used slave labor. But so much money was made selling to the North that residents were concerned that secession would hurt business. The Virginia Convention , called to consider secession, met in Richmond beginning in February . At first, there were more Unionist than secessionist delegates, including Jubal A. Early , the former Whig Party member and future Confederate general. The tide began to turn, however, as Virginians came to believe that Lincoln would attempt to use the military to force the seceded states back into the Union. After Confederates, including Edmund Ruffin, fired on Fort Sumter on April 12, Lincoln called for 75, volunteers from all states, including Virginia, to help put down the rebellion. On April 17, the Virginia Convention voted 88 to 55 to secede. A statewide referendum on May 23 made secession official. Virginia had joined the Confederacy. War . Richmond Howitzers Knapsack Young white men in Virginia rushed to join the new Confederate army, leaving schools like Emory and Henry College virtually empty. They formed units such as the Richmond Howitzers and the Botetourt Artillery , as well as infantry regiments , a few of which joined together into the famed Stonewall Brigade. About , Virginia men served in the Confederate forces during the war, while another 32, served in Union forces. These were recruits from the counties that now form West Virginia, and some of these included men from the neighboring states of Ohio and Pennsylvania. These soldiers had an average age of twenty-six, and more than half of them were the heads of their households. The wealthiest counties sent more men than the poorest ones, and counties with the most slaves sent more soldiers than those with fewer slaves. Soldiers fought for many reasons, but protecting what they considered to be their property

was an important one. Most signed up for twelve months, but, beginning in April , when the Confederate government passed the first draft in American history, they were required to serve for the rest of the war. Young white women , meanwhile, worked at home, in the fields, and even in some factories. Several Richmond women sewed the first Confederate battle flags. Virginia was a significant battleground for both Union and Confederate forces. It contained the Confederate capital, the capture of which would be an important symbolic victory for Union forces. For Confederates, Virginia was critical to defend because it was home to valuable industry, mining, and food production. At the same time, its geographyâ€™”mountains in the west, and rivers that flowed west to eastâ€™”made its defense somewhat easier. Union troops headed south, but were promptly defeated by Confederate generals Joseph E. Johnston and Pierre G. Beauregard at the First Battle of Manassas on July 21, During the Peninsula Campaign , he then marched between the York and James rivers in an attempt to take Richmond from the southeast. McClellan fought Confederates to a standstill at Yorktown and Williamsburg. He was helped by Stonewall Jackson, who quickly marched east after he had defeated Union troops in the Shenandoah Valley. The Last Meeting Lee was not a popular general at first, but his victories against McClellan won over the Confederate public. He defeated Union generals Nathaniel P. The Battle of Shepherdstown helped secure his crossing of the Potomac River. Lee defeated Union general Ambrose E. Although a victory, Chancellorsville was especially costly for Confederates. Lee decided to invade the North a second time. War had been difficult on the land and people of Virginia and he hoped to take the fighting into Maryland and Pennsylvania. He also hoped to encourage the political prospects of those Northerners who wanted peace by bringing the war to their doorsteps. Now, in , that chance was even slimmer. Meade , at the Battle of Gettysburg. The battle lasted for three days, from July 1 to July 3, On the third day, Lee gathered up troops from the commands of A. Hill and James Longstreet and sent approximately 12, of them in a long line across an open field. Pickett , failed, and Lee was forced again to retreat south to Virginia. Pickett survived the famous charge, but two other Virginia generals, Lewis A. Armistead and Richard B. Garnett , did not. Another Confederate soldier who died was young Wesley Culp , a Gettysburg native who had moved to Virginia before the war and joined the Confederate army.

Chapter 4 : NY Daily News - We are currently unavailable in your region

*A Virginia Girl in the Civil War, Being a Record of the Actual Experiences of the Wife of a Confederate Officer* by Myrta Lockett Avery  
*A Comparison of the Ability of Boys and Girls in Secondary School Mathematics* by Jennie Lilly.

To create this fictional Civil War heroine, Margaret Mitchell combed the published and unpublished diaries, letters and memoirs of the women of the Confederacy. Mitchell attempted to provide an authentic background for a very romantic novel. Yet the tools she used -- letters, diaries and memoirs -- are the same used by the historian who attempts to distinguish the private lives from the fictional creations of the nineteenth-century domesticated woman. Through the unique perspective of private papers, women of the past come alive and create a bond with the present that reinforces the universal experiences of all women. For instance, the diary of a young girl during the Civil War contains the same laments of all teenage girls; parents, boys, clothes and social affairs. Thus, by personalizing the past, understanding history follows for as Douglas Southall Freeman wrote, "there is stimulation, perhaps inspiration, in making the intimate acquaintance, through candid memoirs, of men and women unafraid. Living during a period when their proper sphere was considered to be at home, unable to participate in politics or even publicly voice opinions, women found in diaries an outlet for expressing feelings. But certainly a perspective of the period from the writings of middle-class women is an essential part of the complete picture. Most of the Civil War history of women has dealt with the women of the Confederacy, perhaps because most of the war was fought on their home soil. But female diaries from other regions exist and offer a different perspective on the war period. The diaries and writings of five women of the tri-state area, where West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio meet, reveal a broader perspective on the Civil War and women. The women of this region separated only by the Ohio River, shared much in their lives: But the Civil War shattered their commonality. Ohio became a Union state, Kentucky a war-torn border state, and West Virginia a newly created Union state. To what extent did the Civil War intrude upon the lives of women of this region? Did their lives become as diverse as the political paths of their home states? An examination of the diaries and letters of these women should provide answers to these questions. The Women The five tri-state women: One was a widow, one married, and three were single young women during the war years. Two were Southern sympathizers, three were staunch Union supporters. Four of the women had relatives serving with the military -- one with relatives fighting for the Union, two with relatives in the Confederate army, and one woman had relatives fighting on both sides. One woman lived in Kentucky, two in Ohio, and two in West Virginia. Since these five women represent diverse middle-class backgrounds, their feelings and attitudes may reflect those of other middle-class residents of the tri-state in the Civil War period. Frances Dallam Peter of Lexington, Kentucky, kept a very revealing and exciting diary. Nicknamed Frank by her family, she was the daughter of Dr. Peter was originally from Cornwall, England, and later became a naturalized American citizen. A prominent physician and chemist, Dr. Peter served as dean and librarian of the medical school at Transylvania University in Lexington. As the daughter of a wealthy family, she received a good education and associated with the socially prominent of the town. An epileptic, she spent most of her life at home in a protective environment. Although she remained within the shelter of her family much of the time, the talented Peter immersed herself in writing and drawing. She was a sensitive woman and enjoyed life through the experiences of her brothers and sisters. On August 5, , at the age of twenty-one, Peter died of an epileptic seizure. Peter wrote her diary, which covers January to April , on military supply sheets sewn together in eight books. Often the writing bursts into bitterness as Peter discusses friends and family who are now enemies supporting the Southern cause. The intelligence and sensitivity of the writer makes the Frances Peter diary worthwhile reading for the student of Civil War Kentucky. Her father was a successful dry goods merchant and prominent member of the Lebanon community. James Gilchrist became a charter member of the new Republican party and during the Civil War he was active in recruiting men for the Union army. At the age of seventeen, she accompanied her father on an eastern tour of the country which included Washington, D. She also had the added excitement of shaking hands with President James Buchanan during this trip. She then returned home where she lived until her sudden death at the age of twenty-four on November 2, Gilchrist

consist of three diaries covering June to January , August to June , and August to May A journal of her letters was collected by her brother, Robert Wilson Gilchrist, covering June through May An apparently intelligent and inquisitive young woman, she wrote about a variety of topics ranging from the pangs of love to the politics of the war. Much of her writing, done during her school years, supplies a storehouse of information on female education during the early s. Her diaries and letters also reflect her comparatively safe geographic location: Her maternal grandfather was Luther Shepard, an early Gallia County pioneer; her great-grandfather was Enoch Shepard, one of the first settlers of Marietta, Ohio. Reuben Alehsire owned a successful flour-milling business. In he served as president of the city council. The Aleshire family supported the federal government and two brothers served as captains in the Union army. The letters cover the years to Much of her writing deals with her school experiences and inquiries about affairs at home. This absence of discussion about the war would seem to be partly a result of her relatively safe geographic location at school and, because traditionally female thoughts were directd away from the political arena. With the exception of worrying about her brothers; safety, Mary Aleshire appears to have scarcely felt the effects of the Civil War. She was related to the Virginia Fitzhugh family which was granted a charter for land in western Virginia by George Washington. The Fitzhughs left their Virginia plantation in , bringing their slaves with them to their new land. In the family founded Ravenswood. Upon her marriage, Henrietta Barr left her Ravenswood home, but returned to the plantation after the death of her only child, Mollie, in By , Ravenswood, a town of three hundred sixty-two people, had become a divided community. The fitzhughs, with twelve other families, firmly supported the Confederate cause against the majority of their neighbors. The well-written journal is filled with humorous and sensitive comments concerning politics, the military, and daily life. As a slaveholder, Barr often wrote of the effect of the war on blacks. The horrors if war are also vividly refelected in the Barr diary. The daughter of William Clendenin Miller, a prominent merchant, and Eliza Gardner Miller, she was the oldest of seven children. Thackston had graduated from Randolph-Macon College in Petersburg, Virginia, and then moved to the Barboursville area where he served as the principal of Marshall College from to He was teaching school in Barboursville when he and Eugenia married. While there, Benjamin became involved with the governemnt of the Confederacy and the couple remained in Virginia for the duration of the war. When the war was over, the Thackstons returned to Barboursville where Benjamin resumed teaching duties. The Thackstons had seven children and were active in the life of their community. Eugenia Thackston died in Thackston wrote of her concerns for the welfare of her husband and family, of loneliness for them, of the difficulty of finding efficient Negro help, of inflation, and of her baby daughter. The love of a wife for her husband is evident throughout the letters. Most importantly, as these women expressed themselves on diverse topics ranging from war and slavery to love and marriage, their writings shed light on the values of middle-class women living in the mid-nineteenth century and the effect of the Civil War on those values. This article details the day-to-day lives of five women during the Civil War. A second article will focus more specifically on the political and military consequences of the war through the eyes of these women. Personal Relationships During the nineteenth century women heard and read repeatedly that old cliché: To fulfill this role a woman was to remain in the home guiding and protecting her family from the vice inherent in life. A proper woman was thus "hostage in the home. While some women during the Civil War engaged in traditional male roles, they did it out of necessity. If they acted more aggressively, it was in the interests of the survival of their families. Rather than becoming independent during the war years, women and their families became more dependent on each other as they struggled to survive. The lives of women of the predominantly nonurban tri-state reflect the prevailing nineteenth-century views on the proper female place in society. For these women, "life quite naturally centered on family. The women also wrote profusely on their personal friendships. Living in a confined world of domesticity and lacking modern day communication and transportation ties with the broader world, they depended on family and friends for companionship, entertainment, and even for existence. Because family and personal relationships were an integral part of the lives of tri-state women, an examination of those relationships is vital to understanding their psyche during the civil War period. One of the most important influences on the nineteenth-century woman was that of her parents, for she usually lived at home until marriage, or , if she remained single, until her death. This was

evidently true for many women of the tri-state. The letters and diaries of the five area women werewritten from the homes of parents, or in the case of Eugenia Thackston, from the home of her in-laws. Henrietta Barr, a widow, wrote from her childhood home in Ravenswood, having returned there after the death of her only daughter. The only exceptions are the letters and diaries of Gilchrist and Aleshire written while they attended Ohio Female College. The relationship of the women with their parents reveals an important facet of their everyday life. Generally the women tended to respect their fathers, not only as authority figures, but as providers and protectors. Gilchrist was particularly close to her father, James Parks Gilchrist. She enjoyed horseback riding and serious discussions with him, writing copiously to him when he traveled east on buying trips. For example, in a letter to her brother, she wrote, "They say that a man named Cary has returned home from New Orleans a strong Secessionist think of it. What does Pa think? From a position of dependence, women had to ask their fathers for everything from tuition money to a new pair of gloves. Mary Aleshire wrote, "Tell Pa I will only be away at school one year more to spend money," as she gave a careful account of her expenditures.

**Chapter 5 : Civil War - HISTORY**

*The American Civil War continues to be debated in Virginia in arguments over the Lost Cause, slavery, and states' rights; in novels from *The Fathers* () and *Sapphira and the Slave Girl* () to *The Known World* (); and in discussions of how best to remember the era, either during the Civil War Centennial () or, later, the.*

During the Civil War, her father was a soldier in the Stonewall Brigade, and at least three other members of her family were convicted of being Confederate spies. When they let war secrets slip, she coded the information, tucked it inside a watch case and sent it by courier to Stonewall Jackson for his Shenandoah Valley campaign. When they finished at 1 a. Another time, she ran across an open, raging battlefield to warn Jackson of a Yankee plan to surround and trap his army. By the time she reached twenty-one, Boyd had been arrested six or seven times for spying and imprisoned twice. During her stay in Washington, D. She hid the information in rubber balls that she tossed through the bars to a Southern admirer below. Dorothea Dix When the war began, a woman already well known for reforming insane asylums now faced another giant task: Dorothea found military hospitals in horrible condition. For the next four years, she worked without pay every day, even when ill and confined to bed, and often missed meals or slept on warehouse floors. She worked to create more hospitals, paid for an ambulance herself, organized a public drive for dried fruit and preserves for wounded men, and opened her house to tired and sick nurses. She inspected hospitals throughout the North, demanding better diets for the wounded and courts-martial for doctors found drunk on duty. She reported every problem directly to the surgeon general and soon was hated by doctors though loved among the wounded men who took her baskets of fruit and flowers. Dorothea continued working until the war ended, and then returned to her first love, helping the emotionally disturbed. The daughter of abolitionist clergyman Lyman Beecher, she had little firsthand knowledge of slavery. But suddenly she imagined a black man—he would later be known to the world as Uncle Tom—dying from the lashes of a slave whip. Then she imagined two black overseers, made brutal by the cruelty of their white master, being awed and shamed by the gentle forgiveness of the dying man. When the church service ended, Harriet went home and wrote down the imagined scenes. When she ran out of writing paper, she finished the story on heavy wrapping paper. It converted thousands to the anti-slavery cause. Furious Southerners interpreted the book as an attack on their way of life, and booksellers became afraid to sell it in the South. Anyone selling a copy risked being run out of town, and among the many hate letters Harriet received in the mail was a package containing a black human ear. But the controversy also fueled sales. Within the first year, a record , copies sold in the United States alone, and the book would outsell all others of the century. Harriet took no credit. It is said, that when Lincoln met Mrs. After pretending to be a male book salesman, Frank Thompson for two years, she joined the Union army. It required no physical examination, and Sarah Edmonds looked and walked like a boy. Her voice was deep, and could easily slip away to bathe alone in rivers. Like others, she slept in her own tent. Certain that doctors would discover her secret in a hospital, she deserted the army. Many years later, as a wife and mother, she was cleared of her desertion and awarded a pension. Emmeline Piggott Until her Rebel sweetheart died at the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Emmeline Piggott of Beaufort, North Carolina, was content to nurse the sick and wounded Confederate soldiers brought in from the North Carolina coastal battles. For several years, she hid secret messages in large pockets under her full skirts and carried them between Union-occupied New Bern, North Carolina, and the seaports. She was nearly captured many times, and when she finally was caught and arrested in New Bern, Emmeline chewed and swallowed an important message while being searched. The Union soldiers imprisoned her on charges of blockade running, but finally released her without a trial and sent her home. She would meet a small group of slaves at the appointed spot and guide them over mountains and through rivers and forests, north to freedom along a network of sympathizers called the Underground Railroad. Often disguised as an old, hobbling woman, she slipped behind Rebel lines to gather valuable news from slaves about Confederate troop positions, population and supply sources. When given a team of nine scouts and river pilots, she led them on reconnaissance missions through jungles and swamps, penetrating Rebel defenses along river banks and conducting guerrilla raids. She never got caught. If I could

not have one, I would have the other: She gave baskets of towels, handkerchiefs and bandages, and then asked friends to donate food, clothes, and other supplies. She begged everyone she knew for food and clothes and advertised for donations of medical supplies. When her apartment could hold no more, she rented space in a warehouse. She heard about the Battle of Cedar Mountain, Virginia, and arrived two days later with a mule team loaded with supplies, just as the field hospital ran low on dressings. She worked five days and nights with only three hours of sleep, handing out supplies and carrying food and water to men still lying on the field. At Antietam surgeons dressed wounds with corn husks until she appeared with bandages. Later she organized a program for locating men listed missing in action. By the end of the war, she had done most of the tasks later associated with the American Red Cross, an organization she founded in 1864. But a nervous Lincoln soon broke the engagement, sending him into a depression. Against the wishes of the Todd family, the courtship resumed one and a half years later, and the couple was hastily married in November. Mary had grown up in Kentucky and had Confederate relatives, many questioned her loyalty to the Union, But Mary was an very loyal Unionist. She raised money to help the homeless and very poor slaves who escaped as war refugees and fled into Washington. She was also a frequent visitor to the Washington hospitals filled with wounded soldiers. Mary stayed, offering companionship and special food, though many women were unable to tolerate the odor and anguished groans.

**Chapter 6 : A Virginia Girl in the Civil War,**

*The collection, A Virginia Girl in the Civil War, was published in Although Avary attests to the truth of the narrative, A Virginia Girl, and relates the story in the woman's own words, she uses aliases to protect the privacy of the couple.*

Visit Website Did you know? At Chancellorsville, Jackson was shot by one of his own men, who mistook him for Union cavalry. His arm was amputated, and he died from pneumonia eight days later. In , the U. Congress passed the Kansas- Nebraska Act, which essentially opened all new territories to slavery by asserting the rule of popular sovereignty over congressional edict. On April 12, after Lincoln ordered a fleet to resupply Sumter, Confederate artillery fired the first shots of the Civil War. Border slave states like Missouri , Kentucky and Maryland did not secede, but there was much Confederate sympathy among their citizens. Though on the surface the Civil War may have seemed a lopsided conflict, with the 23 states of the Union enjoying an enormous advantage in population, manufacturing including arms production and railroad construction, the Confederates had a strong military tradition, along with some of the best soldiers and commanders in the nation. They also had a cause they believed in: McClellanâ€™who replaced the aging General Winfield Scott as supreme commander of the Union Army after the first months of the warâ€™was beloved by his troops, but his reluctance to advance frustrated Lincoln. The combined forces of Robert E. Lincoln refused, and instead withdrew the Army of the Potomac to Washington. Halleck, though he remained in command of the Army of the Potomac. On the heels of his victory at Manassas, Lee began the first Confederate invasion of the North. Despite contradictory orders from Lincoln and Halleck, McClellan was able to reorganize his army and strike at Lee on September 14 in Maryland, driving the Confederates back to a defensive position along Antietam Creek, near Sharpsburg. Total casualties at Antietam numbered 12, of some 69, troops on the Union side, and 13, of around 52, for the Confederates. The Union victory at Antietam would prove decisive, as it halted the Confederate advance in Maryland and forced Lee to retreat into Virginia. After the Emancipation Proclamation Lincoln had used the occasion of the Union victory at Antietam to issue a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation , which freed all slaves in the rebellious states after January 1, He justified his decision as a wartime measure, and did not go so far as to free the slaves in the border states loyal to the Union. Still, the Emancipation Proclamation deprived the Confederacy of the bulk of its labor forces and put international public opinion strongly on the Union side. Some , black soldiers would join the Union Army by the time the war ended in , and 38, lost their lives. The Confederates gained a costly victory in the battle that followed, suffering 13, casualties around 22 percent of their troops ; the Union lost 17, men 15 percent. Over three days of fierce fighting, the Confederates were unable to push through the Union center, and suffered casualties of close to 60 percent. Also in July , Union forces under Ulysses S. Grant took Vicksburg Mississippi , a victory that would prove to be the turning point of the war in the western theater. Despite heavy Union casualties in the Battle of the Wilderness and at Spotsylvania both May , at Cold Harbor early June and the key rail center of Petersburg June , Grant pursued a strategy of attrition, putting Petersburg under siege for the next nine months. For most of the next week, Grant and Meade pursued the Confederates along the Appomattox River, finally exhausting their possibilities for escape. On the eve of victory, the Union lost its great leader:

**Chapter 7 : A Virginia Girl in the Civil War, - War College Series**

*Get this from a library! A Virginia girl in the Civil War, [Myrta Lockett Avery; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Documenting the American South (Project); University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.*

Each is posed primly on chairs, ringlets cascading past the rouged cheeks of one, the other dressed in a frilly hoop dress. But no one knows the identities of the girls in the photographs, or the stories they might tell. The photograph of one girl was found between the bodies of two soldiers – one Union, one Confederate, at Port Royal, Va. Though photography was in its infancy when the war broke out, its use was widespread. Many soldiers carried photographs of loved ones into battle and for the first time, photographic images of war were available – and the Museum of the Confederacy has its own vast collection of images today, many of them identified. But now museum officials are releasing the unidentified images of the two girls, along with six other enigmatic photographs, on the admittedly remote chance someone might recognize a familial resemblance or make a connection to a battlefield where they were found. KKK group seeks to adopt Georgia highway for litter control There is no writing on the backs of these photographs. No notes tucked inside their wallet-sized frames. For a museum that prides itself on knowing the provenance of its holdings, the photographs offer few clues. But whether they were sons and daughters, fathers and mothers, or siblings, the prospect of identifying each grows dimmer with the passage of time. Typically they were found by another soldier and handed down through generations. Ultimately an attic would be cleared or a trunk would be emptied and the photo would be given to the museum. Even in its infancy, photography was booming during the Civil War. Photographers were assigned to Northern divisions and traveling photographers were the early version of photo booths as they visited encamped troops between battles and photographed them. Photography was evolving from daguerreotype to ambrotypes and other mediums in which images were produced through a wet emulsion on glass and were more accessible to a wider audience. The war just happened to hit at a time when people were very interested in seeing these pictures. Finding a photo on the battlefield without a clear connection to a dead soldier was uncommon and highly evocative. "A History of Civil War Photography," described such photos as the link for many Civil War combatants to "a reality that, for many of them, had just disappeared. Zeller relates the story of a Union soldier who died at Gettysburg, clutching a photograph of his family. Widespread efforts in the North to identify the family ultimately proved successful in tracing his family to upstate New York. Unlike modern soldiers, few Civil War troops had the modern-day version of dog tags and few carried identification. The Civil War also did not have the kinds of mortuary units that now strive to collect all the possessions of the war dead and return them to their families. Each photograph is in a hinged case with a leather or composite exterior. The cases protected the fragile images, which include early photographic processes such as tintypes and daguerreotypes. But the museum official said it would be too costly and time-consuming, she said, for curators to do their own detective work. Timberlake of the 2nd Virginia Infantry found the portrait of the girl with the ringlets and hand-colored pink cheeks on the battlefield of Port Republic between the bodies of the two dead soldiers. James Shields, who lost 67 men. The Union troops hailed from Ohio and Pennsylvania. The other girl, who had short hair parted down the middle, was found by Pvt. There was a lot of thought and effort that went into taking those pictures. Many lack the dates they were found and locations, but Wellford hopes the public at large could help. Lee of Corinth, Miss. The soldier never returned and is presumed to have been killed in battle. The museum identified him as a lieutenant but was unable to determine for which side. It was not unusual for a militia officer from the South to wear a U. Army issue uniform dating from before the nation was divided by the Civil War. Her cheeks were painted a pink blush; her earrings, rings, and necklace were painted gold. A Union soldier known only as Kilmartin found the photograph on the Fredericksburg battlefield. It was later passed on by Mrs. Walter Blunt of Richmond to the museum. Wellford said the photographs show there was more to the war than combat and death. The two girls, they said, still evoke powerful emotions.

**Chapter 8 : Five Tri-state Women During the Civil War: Day-to-Day Life**

## DOWNLOAD PDF VIRGINIA GIRL IN THE CIVIL WAR

*A Virginia Girl in the Civil War, Being a Record of the Actual Experiences of the Wife of a Confederate Officer Civil War Records - An Introduction and Invitation (from Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives - Spring ).*

### Chapter 9 : Civil War in Virginia - Virginia Is For Lovers

*A Virginia girl in the civil war, being a record of the actual experiences of the wife of a confederate officer.*