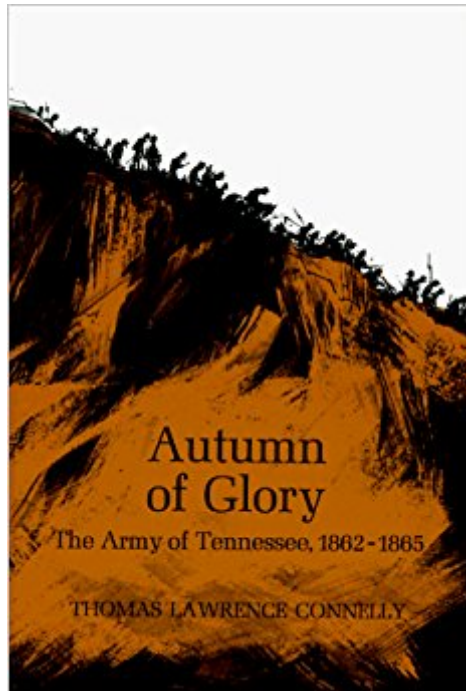




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Autumn Of Glory: The Army Of Tennessee, 1862-1865



Synopsis

This text follows the reoffensive of General Braxton Bragg in Tennessee in 1862, through to the Southern retreat in 1865. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Connelly's volumes, published in 1967 and 1970, respectively, are standards in chronicling Tennessee's role in the Civil War. Both titles offer fresh perspectives on well-covered episodes as well as a firm grasp of the personalities of the officers who led the campaigns and directed the war. These first-ever paperback presentations are solid choices for both academic and public library collections. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Thomas Lawrence Connelly, professor of history at the University of South Carolina for many years, was the author or coauthor of numerous books on the Civil War, including *The Politics of Command: Factions and Ideas in Confederate Strategy*; *The Marble Man: Robert E. Lee and His Image in American Society*; and *God and General Longstreet: The Lost Cause and the Southern Mind*. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

"Autumn of Glory", by Thomas Connelly. This is the second volume of Connelly's two-volume treatise on the Confederate Army of Tennessee and covers from late 1862 to the end of the Civil

War. It is primarily an extensively researched examination of the Confederate high command in the West including Jeff Davis and the assorted members of his "War Cabinet". This volume picks up with the War in progress and is about twice the length of the first volume ("The Army of Tennessee"). Readers who enjoy watching soap operas with their myriad convolutions of plots, intrigues, small dramas and story line twists will enjoy this book. The overall picture this presents is that the South defeated itself with its' internal politics and incompetence. HOWEVER... Connelly is something of a "myth-buster" and makes many very credible assertions that seem to debunk a host of the long-held ideas about the Confederates and the Civil War in general. That alone makes this an interesting read. Also very much to his credit, it's clear that he is trying hard to be as fair as he can. Connelly also provides plenty of analyses of characters, situations and events and, of course, such analyses are always subjective to no small degree. Thus the reader can have the additional fun of debating Connelly's sometimes gratuitous or contradictory positions. HOWEVER... Readers are again alerted that Connelly (in this volume) drives some of his points into the ground several dozen times more than necessary and on a few occasions repeats entire passages almost verbatim for no particularly obvious reason. I suspect this 540-page volume could have been presented just as well with 50 fewer pages.

This was a great read

Classic. A must read.

Connelly was one of the best western Civil War historians and the expert on the Army of Tennessee. This Army with so much promise in the heady days of Perryville and near success at Stone's River experiences a costly but hard won victory at Chickamauga only to have the master of personal conflict General Bragg throw the lost opportunity away by having volitile arguments with his Generals. Bragg was a very good organizer but had conflicts with his leadership that caused a cabal to build asking for his ouster. Connelly captured all the conflicts that finally require Davis to hold a council with all the generals. Amazing that Davis asked all the leaders of the army to express their feelings about Bragg with him present and then keep Bragg on causing a rupture of command. Several generals are reassigned, Longstreet and Bragg don't get along causing a serious coordination loss while the seige of Chattanooga is in process. As a result Longstreet and 1/3 of the army is sent to east Tennessee while Grant's swollen forces wash away the Army of Tennessee and taking Bragg's command away. Connelly not only covers the poor condition of the confederate

soldiers, great detail on the campaigns but also the political maneuvering. Joe Johnston replaces Bragg but in turn he is undermined by Hood's letters to Davis. The cautious Johnson is replaced by Hood outside of Atlanta resulting in frontal assaults that weaken the army severely losing Atlanta in the process. Hood tries to lure Sherman on a wild goose chase which Sherman gives up but then Hood oddly leaves Sherman in Georgia while he marches back to Tennessee. As Connelly vividly writes, after a lost opportunity at Spring Hill, Hood retaliates against his command by ordering the destructive frontal assaults at Franklin. Connelly covers the weak attempt to capture Nashville, the army's virtual destruction and the story of the sad remnants moving to North Carolina in a valiant but pathetic attempt to stop Sherman. The all star command is made up of many of the lost generals of the Confederacy, Johnson, McLaws and even Bragg. Connelly gives you the full monty, the story of the Army and politics within. What would have been had Davis not been so hung up on Bragg and if Hardee had stepped forward to command.

The Lost Cause Tradition revolves around Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. Most of books written on Civil War history are about battles that occur in the Eastern Theater. This was the case during the war and has not improved in the years since. If the Confederacy had a chance to win, if they had heroic figures they were in the battles and leaders of the AoNV. From 1861 to the end of the war, a second army fought and died for the South. These men gave as much as the men in the East without inspiring leadership. Time after time, they saw victory taken from them. Often they endured forced marches to save themselves only to repeat the cycle of defeat. Their story is largely ignored or told as the "other army" in histories of Union armies. There was the Confederate States of America's Army of Tennessee, brave men badly led who saw the war through. *Army of the Heartland*, first published in 1967, is the history of the building the army. Isham Harris, the CSA governor of Tennessee delivers an army to hold his state. Jefferson Davis sent Albert Sidney Johnston, his best general, to lead it. However, the army was not much more than an unarmed semi drilled mob. Johnston was unequal to the task and Leonidas Polk demonstrated a willingness to do his own thing. Facing them was an unknown Union General named U.S. Grant. This is the story of Grant's move to Corinth Mississippi as seen by the army he defeated. After Johnston's death, Braxton Bragg assumes command. Bragg is a close personal friend of Jeff Davis, who has great confidence in him. However, Davis is even closer to Leonidas Polk and has great confidence in William J. Hardee. Add in an endemic of "Kentucky Fever" and we have the Perryville Campaign. *Autumn of Glory*, published in 1971, takes us from Perryville to Nashville. While the AoT still existed after Nashville, it was no longer an army. The author covers this time but rightly

considers the survivors to be more a collection of veteran units than an army. This is the years when they fight and lose central Tennessee under Bragg. The Georgia campaign under Joe Johnston and the return home under Hood. 1862 to 1865 are the years of the big battles and the political infighting that paralyze this army. No American army was ever as poorly lead or suffered government indifference on this scale. Richmond was paralyzed unable to choose between pro and anti Bragg factions. Unable to consider removing either faction, Davis dithered, as Tennessee was lost. This is a hard book to read as the army is doubly damned for not winning and for losing its' supply base. In the end, John Bell Hood leads this army to death in the largest charge of the war at Franklin and destruction at Nashville. Connelly wrote these books years ago. The maps are not great and they are not highly detailed. They are one of the most readable army histories ever written. Classic is a very over used word and one we see often. This is one of the few times that it applies and should be used. On publication, these were seen to be special and needed books. That has not changed and shows no sign of changing. The only improvement would be to publish them as one book. You can do that with a single purchase and reading one after the other. Enjoy them; they are a great and informative read.

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