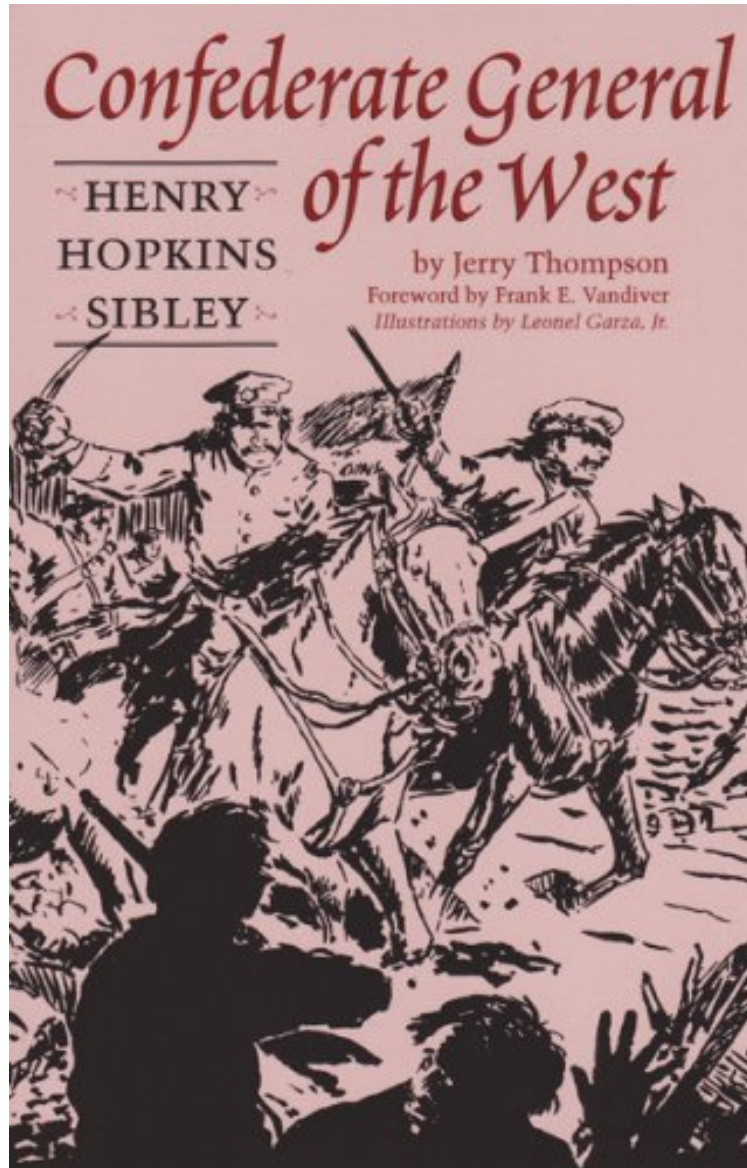


[FREE] Confederate General of the West: Henry Hopkins Sibley

## Confederate General of the West: Henry Hopkins Sibley

*Jerry Thompson*

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**Jerry Thompson : Confederate General of the West: Henry Hopkins Sibley** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Confederate General of the West: Henry Hopkins Sibley:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Tragic HeroBy Jason CoffeyI originally purchased the book to add to my collection on the American Civil War in the Southwest US. Of the various characters in the Campaign, Sibley is the most tragic, as a mediocre Federal Officer that gets a big oppurtunity with the Confederate Army. I feel it

is important to understand the person behind the decisions, to cut past their defects and see why certain things were done. I appreciate that in this biography they do not try to sugar coat Sibley's drinking. I grew up in New Mexico before the topic had again become popular again, and was taught in school. This book is an easy read, and gives some depth to the character of Sibley, who is often dismissed as just a drunk and another mediocre officer. I really liked how the book took the time to explore his early life, his pre-civil war career, and his post civil war career in Egypt. It focused on more than just his time conceiving the New Mexico Campaign for a change, and even discusses his further command in Louisiana during the civil war. All in all I felt the book was good, and worth my time. Like some of the other reviewers have mentioned; there are a few typos, and further into the book there are also some unanswered questions. But those are not really things that played into the life of Sibley while he was alive so are easy enough to overlook. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Greek Tragedy in Gray By Steven E. Courtney I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the Civil War in the Southwest. Understanding Sibley is the key to understanding the successes and failures of the invasion of New Mexico. This book provides a great deal of detail on the invasion, the centerpiece of Sibley's career and the high point of a mediocre military career. There are a number of typos and poorly worded passages that lead me to believe this book was never thoroughly edited, but they are minor and the reader can overlook them. The narrative flows easily and the book is organized mostly in chronological fashion. I found myself wanting to know more when I was finished. The author was very thorough in most respects but some small questions were left unanswered - why it took 70 years for his grave to get a headstone - what was the resolution of his lawsuit against the government for residuals on the sale of the Sibley tent and whether his family ever got any money from such a settlement - why Sherman was so involved in helping Sibley later in life (it was never made clear if they were close before the Civil War or if they served together for any significant period). But these unanswered questions do not detract from the excellent job the author did in portraying Sibley. I feel a greater sense of sympathy for him now because I understand more about him - the author brought him to life. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Good The Bad and The Ugly was based on this Campaign By gobirds2 General Sibley was in charge of the Confederate Army that invaded New Mexico in 1862. He drank a bit! This bit of Civil War history never makes it into the books. This book is very informative and is very good reading. In "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" this is the Civil War campaign that the film is based around.

Had Henry Hopkins Sibley and his Confederate army troops succeeded in capturing New Mexico from the Federals, author Jerry Thompson argues, "the entire history of the Southern Confederacy might have been radically altered." In Confederate General of the West, Thompson portrays the life and career of a soldier whose character flaws and leadership weaknesses stood in stark contrast to his sometime military successes and mechanical ingenuity. A veteran of the Mexican-American War, Sibley served in Texas from 1850 to 1855, moving west with his regiment to Kansas and then joining the 1857 Utah Expedition. By the end of 1859 he had moved on to the New Mexico Territory. When the Civil War broke out, Jefferson Davis appointed him to lead an expeditionary force from Texas to seize New Mexico, Colorado, and California. He won a controversial Confederate victory at the Battle of Valverde in 1862—controversial because of his own disreputable performance. In the spring of that year, after defeat at Glorieta Pass, he retreated in disgrace from New Mexico into west Texas and later faced court-martial for his inadequate and often drunken leadership. A later mercenary stint in the Egyptian army also ended for similar reasons. Civil War scholars, students, and enthusiasts will welcome this new paperback edition.

"I strongly recommend Thompson's highly readable biography. It furnishes valuable views on New Mexico in the middle 19th century."--Marc Simmons