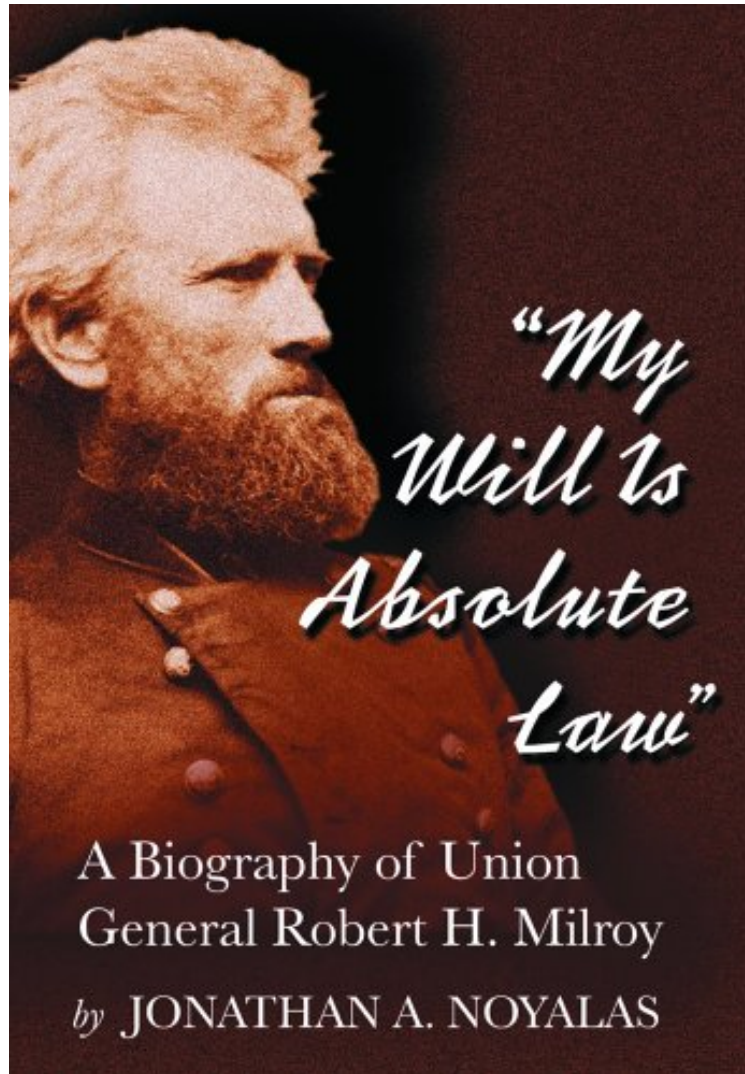


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## My Will Is Absolute Law

*Jonathan A. Noyalas*

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**Jonathan A. Noyalas : My Will Is Absolute Law** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Will Is Absolute Law:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Biography of a Lesser-Known General By Rex Robert Milroy is probably not one of the most famous Civil War Generals, but I believe he is one of the most interesting. This rare biography by Jonathan Noyalas, who is a history professor at a college in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, where Milroy served, is very thorough and very readable. Milroy was quite a character and very intense in his hatred of slavery. He commanded with an iron fist and fought throughout his career for the recognition he felt he deserved, but was always bestowed up the "West Pointers" in the Federal Army. I wish the book had more maps and illustrations, but that's my

main criticism of almost all history books and biographies of the era. I found myself consulting other books in my collection to better trace Milroy's path and campaigns. If you are a student of the Civil War at all, I highly recommend this book.

When the South fired the first shot of the Civil War in April 1861, hundreds of volunteers flocked to answer President Lincoln's call to arms, anxious to defend their country and uphold the sanctity of the Union. Among these first volunteers was Robert H. Milroy. Determined to obtain a military education and denied his wish to attend West Point, Milroy had at last secured a position to attend Captain Partridge's Military Academy at Norwich University in Vermont. After graduating, however, he was thwarted time and again in his desire for a military career, quickly discovering that military appointments tended to favor West Point graduates. A fervent abolitionist and dedicated patriot, Milroy craved military action and viewed the Civil War as his long-awaited opportunity to achieve the glorious reputation he so ardently desired. Compiled from primary sources such as Milroy's correspondence and the letters of those who knew him, this biography details the life and times of General Robert H. Milroy. Although perhaps not one of the major players on the stage of Civil War drama, Milroy was one of the staunchest defenders not only of the Union but of the Emancipation Proclamation as well. Focusing primarily on Milroy's Civil War career, this work serves to provide information about lesser known operations in western Virginia during 1861 and 1862 as well as illustrate the bonds that formed between commanders and their men. It also provides a case study of how an abolitionist general enforced his will in various regions throughout the Confederacy. Appendices contain a portion of Milroy's unfinished autobiography and a list of troops commanded by Milroy in combat.

"belongs in your library"--The Civil War News; "valuable and well-researched"--America's Civil War. About the Author Jonathan A. Noyalas is a history professor at Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown, Virginia and is director of the College's Center for Civil War History and Institute of Culture and History. He is the author of *Plagued by War: Winchester, Virginia, During the Civil War* (Gauley, 2003) and resides in Martinsburg, West Virginia.