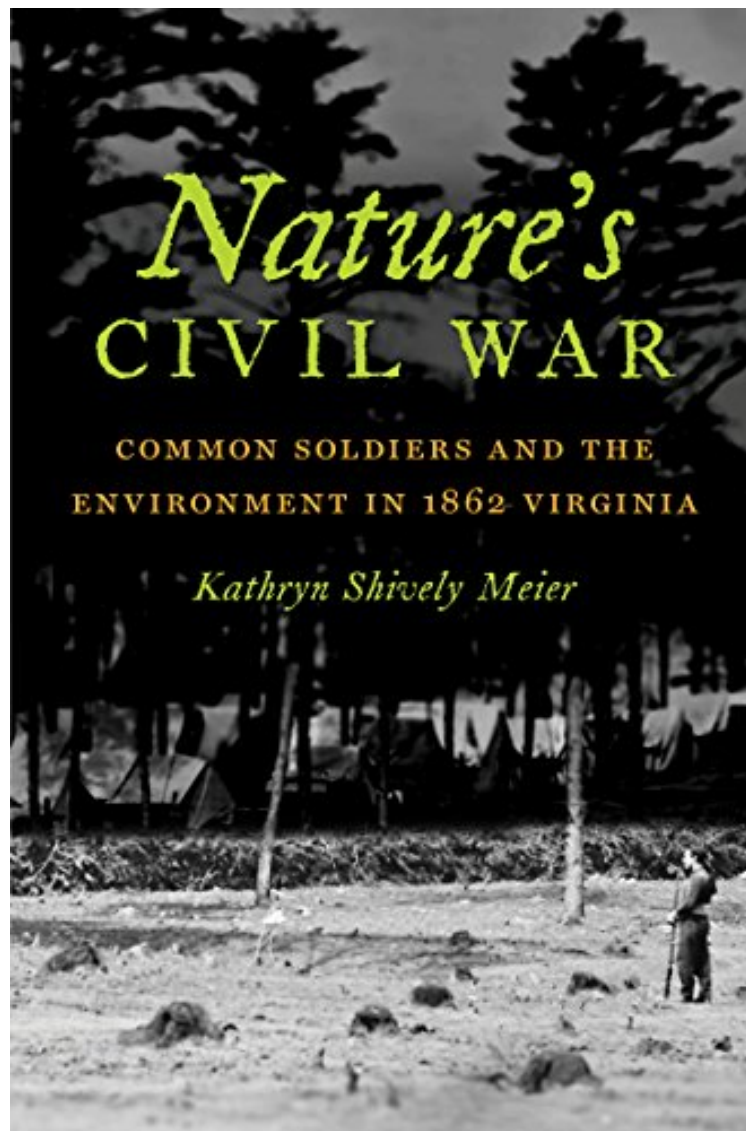


[Download] Nature's Civil War: Common Soldiers and the Environment in 1862 Virginia (Civil War America)

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Kathryn Shively Meier

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#1457863 in Books Kathryn Shively Meier 2015-08-01 2015-08-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x .59 x 6.13l, .0 #File Name: 1469626497240 pages Nature's Civil War Common Soldiers and the Environment in 1862 Virginia Civil War America | File size: 63.Mb

Kathryn Shively Meier : Nature's Civil War: Common Soldiers and the Environment in 1862 Virginia (Civil War America) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nature's Civil War: Common Soldiers and the Environment in 1862 Virginia (Civil War America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great View of the Soldier's LifeBy Christophe S. Cappell was required to read this text for a MA in History course and I must say that I enjoyed the book thoroughly. Meier did a fantastic job linking the Virginia Campaigns to the environment that produce so much sickness in Confederate and Union ranks alike. Although it is not comprehensive by any means, she does not claim the text to be, it gives a great overview of medical practices before and during the war. Self care was a valid concern and practice among the soldiers and deserves to be discussed. What's interesting here is that she seems to be able to link the cases of straggling with the issue of self care and preservation at least minimally. More research will obviously be needed to confirm this however one cannot overlook the correlation. Her research was fantastic, primary and secondary sources used purposefully, and weaved together masterfully. Highly recommend to those Civil War buffs out there who want to go beyond the campaigns and into camp life.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy DocA very good book about the common soldier and their habits.1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Bought for gift and well received!By PJ OaksThis book I bought for my husband's Christmas present. He is a Civil War history buff and has really enjoyed this book. I would recommend!

In the Shenandoah Valley and Peninsula Campaigns of 1862, Union and Confederate soldiers faced unfamiliar and harsh environmental conditions--strange terrain, tainted water, swarms of flies and mosquitoes, interminable rain and snow storms, and oppressive heat--which contributed to escalating disease and diminished morale. Using soldiers' letters, diaries, and memoirs, plus a wealth of additional personal accounts, medical sources, newspapers, and government documents, Kathryn Shively Meier reveals how these soldiers strove to maintain their physical and mental health by combating their deadliest enemy--nature.Meier explores how soldiers forged informal networks of health care based on prewar civilian experience and adopted a universal set of self-care habits, including boiling water, altering camp terrain, eradicating insects, supplementing their diets with fruits and vegetables, constructing protective shelters, and most controversially, straggling. In order to improve their health, soldiers periodically had to adjust their ideas of manliness, class values, and race to the circumstances at hand. While self-care often proved superior to relying upon the inchoate military medical infrastructure, commanders chastised soldiers for testing army discipline, ultimately redrawing the boundaries of informal health care.

Filled with ideas, theories, examples and arguments that are not often found in Civil War writing about the experiences of common soldiers. . . . Highly recommended.--The Journal of America's Military PastA captivating 'ethnographic history of soldier health,' building a strong case for environmental determinism, a phenomenon commonly overshadowed by the 'persistent romanticizing' of the Civil War in popular culture. Recommended to Civil War history buffs and anyone interested in soldiers' adaptation and survival in trying environments.--Library JournalMeier provides remarkable insight into the social and environmental history of common soldiers at war while simultaneously posing provocative directions for further work on Civil War environmental history.--Register of the Kentucky Historical SocietyAn innovative, fine-grained study that blends military, medical, and environmental history in ways that transform understandings in all three fields.--Journal of American HistoryThis well-written and compelling monograph deserves a wide audience and should be required reading for both environmental and Civil War historians.--North Carolina Historical Meier's work is well written and is accessible to the general reader.--Civil War Book Will prove a template for other scholars and could, very likely, inspire an entire genre within Civil War studies.--The HistorianOffers useful insight into the common soldier's difficult task of maintaining personal health amid the dual stressors of a harsh natural environment and a system of official army care which seemed a disorganized, uncaring, and frequently incompetent bureaucracy to those used to the loving attentions of home and family.--Civil War Books and Authors blogAs a commendable scholarly work with emphasis on self-care behavior, it affixes a new and welcomed aspect to the understanding of the common Civil War soldier.--Journal of the Civil War EraBy combing through the letters, diaries, and memoirs of 205 soldiers for daily struggles with fouled water, merciless weather, and lice, Kathryn Meier does the near-impossible: adds detail to Bell Wiley's justly revered Life of Johnny Reb (1943) and Life of Billy Yank (1952).--Virginia MagazineAn argument that adds to our broader understanding of the common soldier and his experiences.--Southern HistorianWell written and accessible to undergraduates. . . . Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.--ChoiceSuccessfully refreshes the common soldier scholarship and launches a worthy discussion of their approaches to health care and the environment.--H-WarFull of clever, and sometimes surprising, observations. . . . [A] mandatory reading for anyone interested in the Civil War or environmental history.--West Virginia HistoryMakes several valuable contributions to our understanding of the common soldier.--H-Net sSucceeds in vividly recreating the common soldier's struggle to adjust to life in a hostile landscape with mainly his comrades and his wits to keep him alive.--Journal of Interdisciplinary History Meier's research is formidable, her writing graceful, and the analysis judicious. She offers a powerful and imaginative argument about the practical strategies of soldier agency that will invigorate scholarly and popular conversation about how Civil War soldiers survived the physical and psychological trauma of military service.--Peter Carmichael, Gettysburg CollegeCivil War soldiers interacted with hostile environments that forced them to learn new ways to cope

with threats to their bodies and minds. Living outdoors in rain, snow, blistering heat, and freezing cold, drinking polluted water, eating bad food and the wrong foods, tormented by insects, mired in mud and filth, most of them learned to surmount these obstacles to survival. Kathryn Shively Meier's astute and penetrating analysis of their ability to adapt and to devise methods of self-care is a welcome addition to the environmental and medical history of the Civil War.--James M. McPherson, author of *Battle Cry of Freedom*Nature's Civil War is an insightful study of common soldiers' physical and mental health. With deep research and stories that leap off the page, this fascinating book will change the way we think about Civil War soldiers' lives in wartime. It will make a mark.--Megan Kate Nelson, Harvard University

From the Inside Flap

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