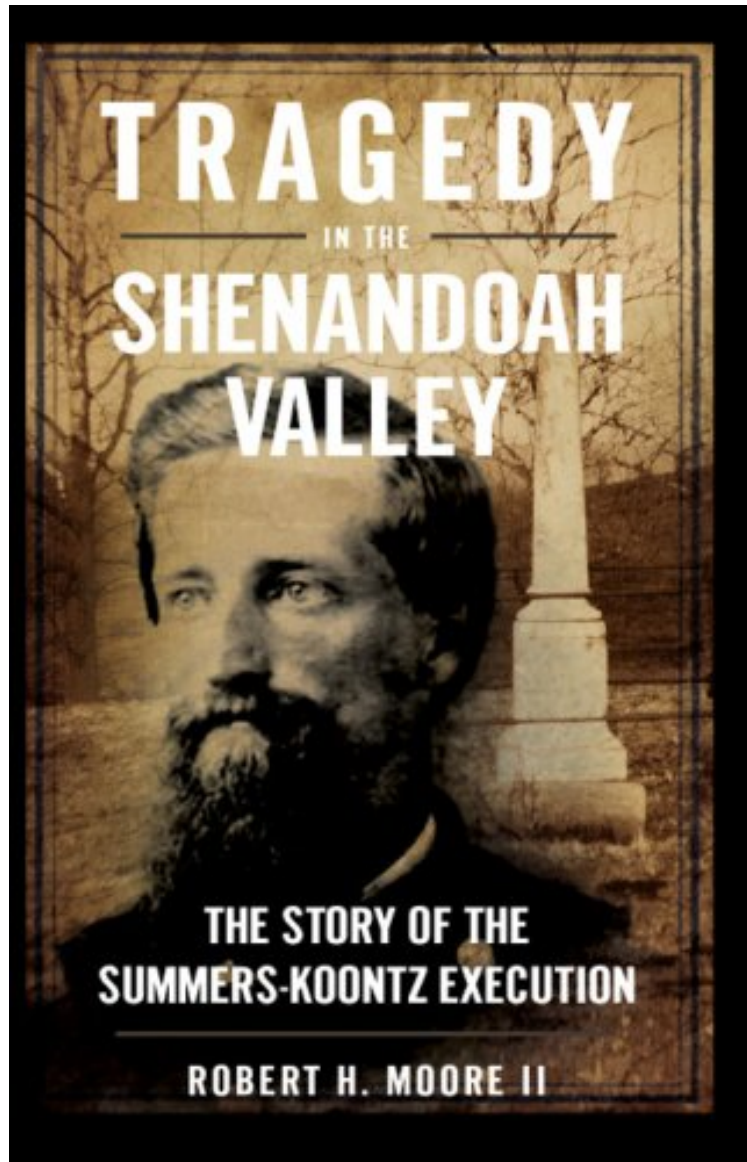


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Robert H. Moore II

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#2716425 in Books History Press 2006-09-01 2006-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.38 x .31 x 6.251, .47 #File Name: 1596291656128 pages | File size: 53.Mb

Robert H. Moore II : Tragedy in the Shenandoah Valley: The Story of the Summers-Koontz Execution (Civil War Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tragedy in the Shenandoah Valley: The Story of the Summers-Koontz Execution (Civil War Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A book that taught me much more about the war and the depths that some men will sink to, even in the presence of kind souls. By RLA shocking true story that occurred in my families neighborhood. With many ancestors in the Shenandoah Valley and six that served in the Confederate Army I was shocked and intrigued by this book and even angered by the actions of some. I gave my copy to a friend by the name of Koontz as he had not heard of the event either. A great informative read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By Laura Shawboosevery interesting. 1 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Maybe it's hindsight but. By senior. The true tragedy was the war continued long after the shooting stopped. Without knowledge of the conversation between the small group of Confederates, and a Union patrol, there is no way of knowing if the actions of Koonce and Summers was at all justified. Even after voluntary reconciling the incident, Koonce and Summers probably should have put some space between themselves and that part of Virginia.

Try to meet me in Heaven where I hope to go. These poignant words were written in the summer of 1865 by twenty-year-old Confederate Sergeant Isaac Newton Koontz, in a letter he penned for his fiancée just hours before his death at the hands of Union firing squad in the heart of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. The execution of Koontz and Captain George Summers came after the surrender at Appomattox Court House, and remains one of the most tragic yet little-known events of the Civil War. One month prior to kneeling on the hard ground to face their deaths, Koontz and Summers, along with four other Confederate soldiers, stole horses from a Union troop stationed near their home. Soon after the theft, the young men—remorseful and goaded by their fathers to uphold their honor—returned the horses and were offered a pardon by Union Colonel Francis Butterfield. The rebels returned home, free of mind and clean of conscience. All had been forgiven. Or so they thought. As the sun crept over the horizon on June 27, 1865, Union soldiers—under new command—swarmed the family homes of Summers and Koontz in a swift raid and arrested the two bewildered men. They were told that their pardons were no longer valid, and later that same day they were tied to a stake and shot with Union muskets—no trial, no judge, no jury. Before their deaths, Summers and Koontz were allowed to write farewell letters to their loved ones, and these heartrending documents serve as the basis for Robert Moore's insightful recounting of the Summers-Koontz execution. An experienced Civil War writer and a direct descendent of Koontz's fiancée, Moore brings this shocking story to life with a clarity that will appeal to Civil War experts and enthusiasts alike. Exhaustively researched and well written, *Tragedy in the Shenandoah Valley* tells one of the great and largely untold stories of the Civil War.

About the Author. Historian Robert H. Moore II is the development director for the Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia. He focuses on Civil War studies and has published 11 books on Virginia and Civil War history since 1989. He also writes frequently for *Blue Gray* magazine.