Vicksburg Besieged
Edited by Steven E. Woodworth and Charles D. Grear

“This collection of essays includes some of the best recent history written about the events during the siege of Vicksburg. It illuminates the importance of Vicksburg and how its surrender was a blow from which the Confederacy could not recover. The loss of Vicksburg was a turning point in the Civil War, because it effectively isolated the Trans-Mississippi from the rest of the Confederate states, and this excellent book provides a new look at various activities during the siege.” — Anne J. Bailey, author of The Chessboard of War: Sherman and Hood in the Autumn Campaigns of 1864

A detailed analysis of the end of the Vicksburg Campaign and the forty-day siege

In the first anthology to examine the Vicksburg Campaign’s final phase, nine prominent historians and emerging scholars provide in-depth analysis of previously unexamined aspects of the historic siege.

Ranging in scope from military to social history, the contributors’ invitingly written essays examine the role of Grant’s staff, the critical contributions of African American troops to the Union Army of the Tennessee, both sides’ use of sharpshooters and soldiers’ opinions about them, unusual nighttime activities between the Union siege lines and Confederate defensive positions, the use of West Point siege theory and the ingenuity of Midwestern soldiers in mining tunnels under the city’s defenses, the horrific experiences of civilians trapped in Vicksburg, the failure of Louisiana soldiers’ defense at the subsequent siege of Jackson, and the effect of the campaign on Confederate soldiers from the Trans-Mississippi region.

The contributors explore how the Confederate Army of Mississippi and residents of Vicksburg faced food and supply shortages as well as constant danger from Union cannons and sharpshooters. Rebel troops under the leadership of General John C. Pemberton sought to stave off the Union soldiers, and though their morale plummeted, the besieged soldiers held their ground until starvation set in. Their surrender meant that Grant’s forces succeeded in splitting in half the Confederate States of America.

Editors Steven E. Woodworth and Charles D. Grear, along with their contributors—Andrew S. Bledsoe, John J. Gaines, Martin J. Hershock, Richard H. Holloway, Justin S. Solonick, Scott L. Stabler, and Jonathan M. Steplyk—give a rare glimpse into the often overlooked operations at the end of the most important campaign of the Civil War.

To order Online: www.siupress.com · Phone: 1-800-621-2736 Also available at bookstores and online retailers

Cloth: 978-0-8093-3783-5
$29.50, 200 pages, 16 illus.

Civil War Campaigns in the West

Steven E. Woodworth, a professor of history at Texas Christian University, has authored, coauthored, or edited more than thirty books on the Civil War era, including Nothing but Victory: The Army of the Tennessee, 1861–1865, and Jefferson Davis and His Generals: The Failure of Confederate Command in the West. He is a coeditor of the Civil War Campaigns in the West series.

Charles D. Grear, a professor of history at Central Texas College, has written extensively on Texas and the Civil War, including Why Texans Fought in the Civil War. In addition, he has edited several books, among them The Tennessee Campaign of 1864 and The Vicksburg Assaults, May 19–22, 1863. He is a coeditor of the Civil War Campaigns in the West series.

To request a review copy, schedule an author for an interview or a signing, or obtain information about course adoption, contact siupresspublicity@siu.edu
For rights and permissions inquiries, contact rights@siu.edu
List of Illustrations
Acknowledgments

Introduction
Charles D. Grear

1. “By Hazard and by Spasms”: Grant and His Staff at the Siege of Vicksburg
   Andrew S. Bledsoe

2. “Standing on the Banks”: African American Troops in the Vicksburg Campaign
   Scott L. Stabler and Martin J. Hershock

3. Plying the Deadly Trade: The Sharpshooters’ War at the Siege of Vicksburg
   Jonathan M. Steplyk.

4. Nights at Vicksburg
   Steven E. Woodworth

5. Andrew Hickenlooper and the Vicksburg Mines
   Justin S. Solonick

6. A Community Besieged: Civilians of the Vicksburg Campaign
   John J. Gaines

7. Mournful Melodies: Louisianans Played the Swan Song of the Army of Relief
   Richard H. Holloway

8. “West of the Mississippi to Us Nearly a Sealed Book”: Trans-Mississippians
   and the Fall of Vicksburg
   Charles D. Grear

Contributors
Index

MORE FROM CIVIL WAR CAMPAIGNS IN THE WEST