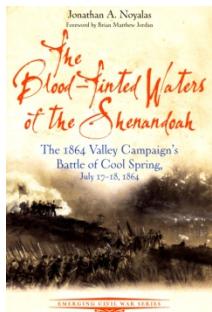


The Blood-Tinted Waters of the Shenandoah, the 1864 Valley Campaign's Battle of Cool Spring, July 17-18, 1864, by Jonathan A. Noyalas, a Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table review by Arley McCormick



This is another installment of the Savas Beatie Emerging Civil War Series and it follows a familiar format with solid maps, photos, and descriptions of the leaders and operations that determined the victory. It includes a driving/walking tour of the battlefield in Clark County, Virginia.

For most, the Battle of Cool Spring, may be forgotten or recalled as a footnote to the Confederate Army's challenges during 1864. It was the result of a Union column led by Col. Joseph Thoburn, with elements of the VI and XIX Corps, pursuing Maj. Gen. Jubal Early's army through the Shenandoah Valley after the Confederate withdrawal from disturbing the tranquility of Washington, DC earlier in July.

The narrative describes, with accompanying photos and maps profiles of the men who fought the battle - both officers and troops. It is an example of mass dominating even when the terrain aided the Union defense but complicated their safe withdrawal. It was a rare decisive win in 1864 for the Confederacy.

This is a quick read and is an interesting analysis of how terrain can both aid and complicate tactical decision making.