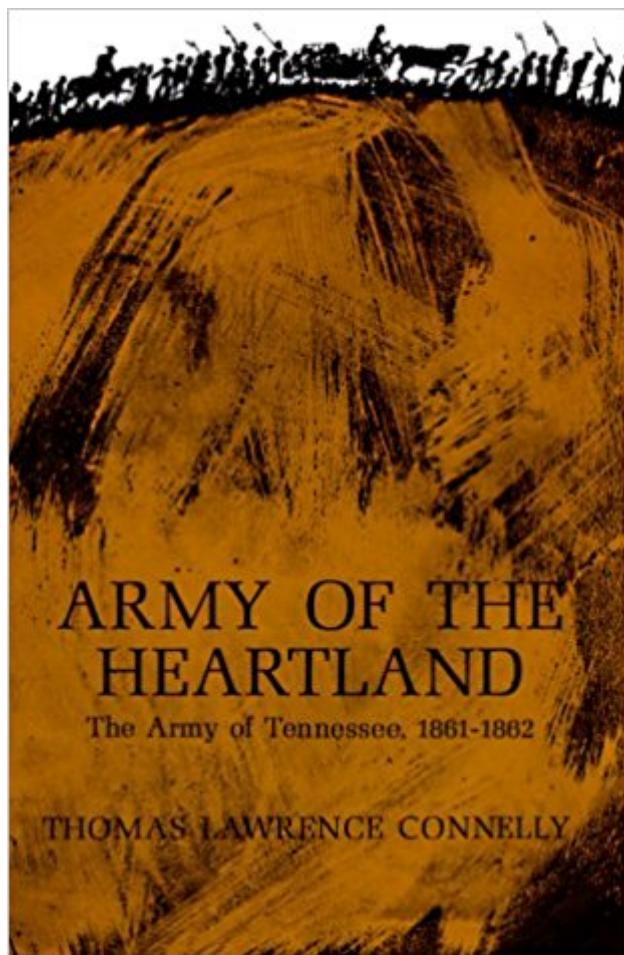


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# Army Of The Heartland: The Army Of Tennessee, 1861-1862



## **Synopsis**

Most of the Civil War was fought on Southern soil. The responsibility for defending the Confederacy rested with two great military forces. One of these armies defended the heartland of the Confederacy - a vital area that included the state of Tennessee and large portions of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Kentucky. Army of the Heartland is the story of that army. It details obstacles this army faced, including ineffective leadership and conflicts between leaders. Connelly also analyzes the impact of each successive commander of the army. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Connelly's volumes, published in 1967 and 1970, respectively, are standards in chronicling Tennessee's role in the Civil War. Both titles offer fresh perspectives on well-covered episodes as well as a firm grasp of the personalities of the officers who led the campaigns and directed the war. These first-ever paperback presentations are solid choices for both academic and public library collections. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Thomas Lawrence Connelly, professor of history at the University of South Carolina for many years, was the author or coauthor of numerous books on the Civil War, including *The Politics of Command: Factions and Ideas in Confederate Strategy*; *The Marble Man: Robert E. Lee and His Image* in

American Society; and God and General Longstreet: The Lost Cause and the Southern Mind. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

"Army of the Heartland: The Army of Tennessee 1861-1862", by Thomas L. Connelly. This is a very thoroughly researched examination of the Confederate Army in the Western Theater from the beginnings of Secession to the Confederate retreat from Kentucky at the end of 1862. It is the first of a two-volume set by Connelly about this army - the other volume being titled "Autumn of Glory" and about twice as long. Of the two volumes, I enjoyed this one more because it displays how a group of everyday peacetime people managed to evolve into an organized (more or less) machine of resistance and War. A very interesting part of Connelly's effort is to debunk many of the long-standing (and cherished) myths about the Civil War, its' leaders and its' armies - and many of his assessments are quite convincing. This volume and its' sequel are an engrossing treatment of an important and long-neglected element of the Civil War.

The Army of Tennessee has been pretty well overlooked by historians. I suppose it's consistent bad luck from one end of the war to the other has just made it easy to overlook. Think about it- The Army of the Potomac had no consistent luck on its' battlefields either, until the last 10 months of the war. In comparison, the AT can't even say that. Sad, really, since the sacrifices made by the rank and file of the AT were just as significant as those made by every other unit in both theaters. That's what makes this book important: It provides crucial insight into the first 2 years of service of the Confederacy's main army in the western theater. Author Connelly is to be commended for his efforts in rectifying this oversight. The only reason why I didn't give it a 5 star rating is that I found Connelly's narrative to be slightly dry: despite the richness of his subject there was never a part of the book where his writing style pulled me into the events being related. He wasn't able to get me emotionally involved the same way a Foote, Tuchman, or Catton would have. I found that to be a little disappointing, considering the subject matter. Even when he was discussing the missed opportunities of battles like Shiloh- a fertile area for emotional prose- Connelly avoided doing so. He obviously had his reasons for doing so, which I can't really fault him for, but it seems to me that such tragic, and ultimately futile, sacrifice should garner SOME emotion from the author relating it. Especially since his scholarship and research are of a very high caliber. All in all, I'd recommend getting the book since it covers what has been, until now anyway, a sadly overlooked player in the Civil War. The information is both important and well presented. You just may not be moved by it.

Fantastic book and a classic. Connelly does a great job and very in depth. For those with an interest in the Army of Tennessee you have to read this.

The Lost Cause Tradition revolves around Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. Most of books written on Civil War history are about battles that occur in the Eastern Theater. This was the case during the war and has not improved in the years since. If the Confederacy had a chance to win, if they had heroic figures they were in the battles and leaders of the AoNV. From 1861 to the end of the war, a second army fought and died for the South. These men gave as much as the men in the East without inspiring leadership. Time after time, they saw victory taken from them. Often they endured forced marches to save themselves only to repeat the cycle of defeat. Their story is largely ignored or told as the "other army" in histories of Union armies. The was the Confederate States of America's Army of Tennessee, brave men badly lead who saw the war through. Army of the Heartland, first published in 1967, is the history of the building the army. Isham Harris, the CSA governor of Tennessee delivers an army to hold his state. Jefferson Davis sent Albert Sidney Johnston, his best general, to lead it. However, the army was not much more than an unarmed semi drilled mob. Johnston was unequal to the task and Leonidas Polk demonstrated a willingness to do his own thing. Facing them was an unknown Union General named U.S. Grant. This is the story of Grant's move to Corinth Mississippi as seen by the army he defeated. After Johnston's death, Braxton Bragg assumes command. Bragg is a close personal friend of Jeff Davis, who has great confidence in him. However, Davis is even closer to Leonidas Polk and has great confidence in William J. Hardee. Add in an endemic of "Kentucky Fever" and we have the Perryville Campaign. Autumn of Glory, published in 1971, takes us from Perryville to Nashville. While the AoT still existed after Nashville, it was no longer an army. The author covers this time but rightly considers the survivors to be more a collection of veteran units than an army. This is the years when they fight and lose central Tennessee under Bragg. The Georgia campaign under Joe Johnston and the return home under Hood. 1862 to 1865 are the years of the big battles and the political infighting that paralyze this army. No American army was ever as poorly lead or suffered government indifference on this scale. Richmond was paralyzed unable to choose between pro and anti Bragg factions. Unable to consider removing either faction, Davis dithered, as Tennessee was lost. This is a hard book to read as the army is doubly damned for not winning and for losing its' supply base. In the end, John Bell Hood leads this army to death in the largest charge of the war at Franklin and destruction at Nashville. Connelly wrote these books years ago. The maps are not great and they are not highly detailed. They are one of the most readable army histories ever written. Classic is a

very over used word and one we see often. This is one of the few times that it applies and should be used. On publication, these were seen to be special and needed books. That has not changed and shows no sign of changing. The only improvement would be to publish them as one book. You can do that with a single purchase and reading one after the other. Enjoy them; they are a great and informative read.

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