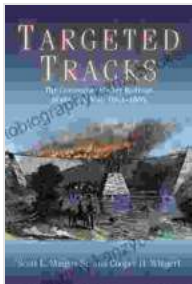


# The Cumberland Valley Railroad In The Civil War 1861 1865: A Comprehensive History

The Cumberland Valley Railroad (CVR) played a pivotal role in the American Civil War, serving as a vital artery for the transportation of troops, supplies, and equipment between the Union and Confederate armies. This comprehensive history explores the railroad's significance during the conflict, from its construction and early operations to its strategic importance in major battles and its eventual destruction.



## Targeted Tracks: The Cumberland Valley Railroad in the Civil War, 1861–1865 by Cooper H. Wingert

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 7584 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 259 pages
Lending	: Enabled



## Construction and Early Operations

The CVR was chartered in 1831 and completed in 1852, connecting Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The railroad traversed the fertile Cumberland Valley, a major agricultural region that became a key battleground during the Civil War. Initially, the CVR primarily

transported agricultural products and passengers, but its importance grew exponentially with the outbreak of hostilities in 1861.

## **Strategic Importance**

The CVR's strategic location made it a critical asset for both the Union and Confederate armies. For the Union, the railroad provided a direct route to the front lines in Virginia and Maryland, allowing for the rapid movement of troops and supplies. For the Confederacy, the CVR represented a vital target, as its destruction would disrupt Union logistics and potentially cut off supplies to the Potomac River crossings.

## **Major Battles and Campaigns**

The CVR played a key role in several major battles and campaigns during the Civil War, including:

- **Antietam (1862):** The CVR transported Union troops to the battlefield, facilitating their victory.
- **Gettysburg (1863):** The destruction of the CVR bridge over the Susquehanna River by Union forces prevented Confederate reinforcements from reaching the battlefield, contributing to their defeat.
- **Shenandoah Valley Campaigns (1862-1865):** The CVR was a major target in the fierce fighting in the Shenandoah Valley, with both sides repeatedly trying to control or destroy it.

## **Destruction and Reconstruction**

As the war progressed, the CVR became a frequent target of Confederate raids and sabotage. In 1864, Confederate forces under General Jubal Early

burned and destroyed much of the railroad, including bridges, tracks, and rolling stock. The Union responded by rebuilding the CVR, and by the end of the war, it was once again operational, playing a vital role in the Union's victory.

## **Legacy**

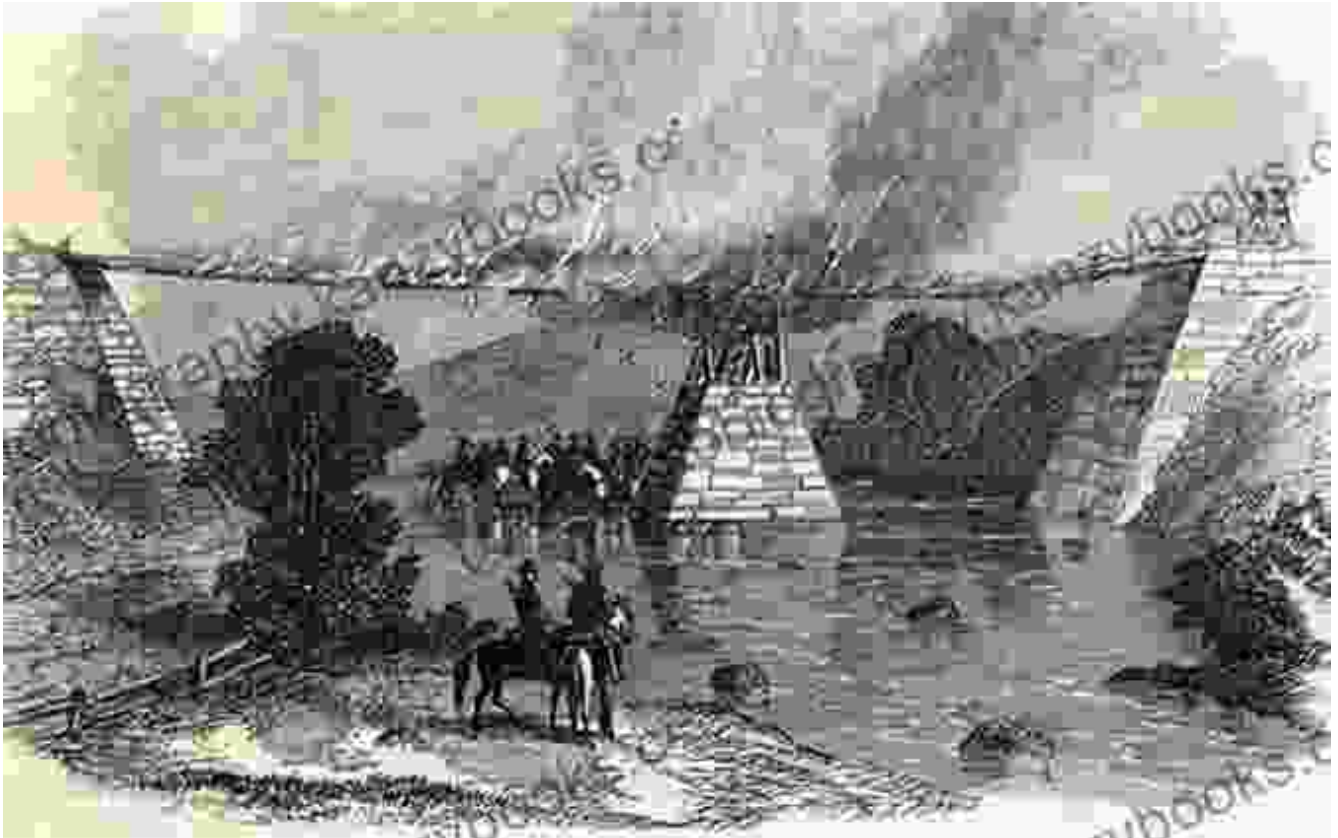
The Cumberland Valley Railroad played a significant role in the Civil War, demonstrating the importance of transportation infrastructure in wartime. Its legacy extends beyond the conflict, as it continued to operate after the war, contributing to the economic development of the Cumberland Valley region.

The Cumberland Valley Railroad In The Civil War 1861 1865 is a comprehensive and engaging history that explores the railroad's vital role in the American Civil War. From its construction and early operations to its strategic importance in major battles and its eventual destruction, the CVR's story is a testament to the transformative impact of transportation on the course of history.



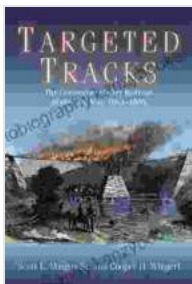


Union troops on the Cumberland Valley Railroad



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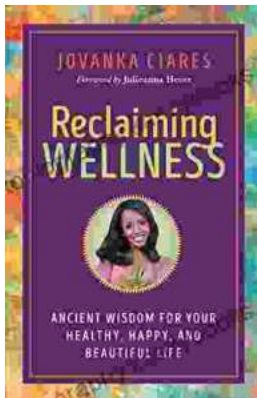


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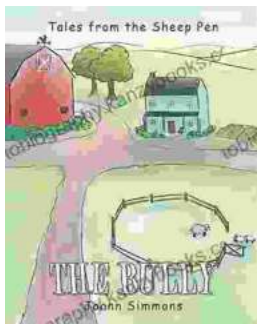
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