CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Memoirs of General W. T. Sherman (Volume I)

William T. Sherman · *1886 revision (Volume I) · English original, Project Gutenberg #2616 (Volume I)*

Nearly ten years have passed since the close of the civil war in America, and yet no satisfactory history thereof is accessible to the public. So the preface begins. Sherman adds that what is now offered is not designed as a history of the war, but merely his recollection of events. Project Gutenberg #2616 is Volume I of the 1886 revision, from his family and boyhood through the Meridian campaign of February 1864; not the complete two-volume memoirs. For grades 9–12. War: no gore spectacle. Quote Sherman.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this file as Sherman's own Volume I, a recollection offered in place of a finished history, rather than as the complete two-volume memoirs or as a later history of the whole war?

"Nearly ten years have passed since the close of the civil war in America, and yet no satisfactory history thereof is accessible to the public; nor should any be attempted until the"

Preface

William T. Sherman's Memoirs, Project Gutenberg #2616: Volume I of the 1886 revision, from family and boyhood through the Meridian campaign of February 1864. Not the complete two-volume work. The preface says: Nearly ten years have passed since the close of the civil war in America, and yet no satisfactory history thereof is accessible to the public. What is now offered is not designed as a history of the war, but merely his recollection of events. For grades 9–12. Name Volume I. War: no gore spectacle. Quote Sherman.

KEY CHARACTERS

William T. Sherman
Who offers a recollection of events, not a finished history of the war, and who writes of Volume I as far as Meridian, 1864

The boy who was picked up
Sherman himself, whose time was not yet, and whose scars remain

HOW TO BEGIN SHERMAN'S VOLUME I

"Nearly ten years have passed since the close of the civil war in America, and yet no satisfactory history thereof is accessible to the public; nor should any be attempted until the"

Preface

"What is now offered is not designed as a history of the war, or even as a complete account of all the incidents in which the writer bore a part, but merely his recollection of events, corrected by a"

Preface

Grades 11–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

No Satisfactory History Yet

PREFACE

Nearly ten years have passed since the close of the civil war in America, and yet no satisfactory history thereof is accessible to the public. The memoirs begin by refusing to be that history.

- Keep "no satisfactory history thereof is accessible."
- 9–12.
- A preface, not a battle.
- Quote Sherman.

> *"Nearly ten years have passed since the close of the civil war in America, and yet no satisfactory history thereof is accessible to the public; nor should any be attempted until the"*
>
> Preface

02

Merely His Recollection of Events

PREFACE

What is now offered is not designed as a history of the war, or even as a complete account of all the incidents in which the writer bore a part, but merely his recollection of events. He names the limit of his own book.

- Keep "not designed as a history of the war" and "merely his recollection of events."
- 9–12.
- Name this as his design, not a later historian's.
- Quote this wording.

> *"What is now offered is not designed as a history of the war, or even as a complete account of all the incidents in which the writer bore a part, but merely his recollection of events, corrected by a"*
>
> Preface

03

My Time Was Not Yet

BOYHOOD

I was picked up apparently a dead boy; but my time was not yet, and I recovered, though the scars remain to this day. A childhood accident is told as a mercy, and as a scar.

- Keep "my time was not yet" and "the scars remain."
- 9–12. Gravity, not spectacle.
- Early life, in Volume I.
- Quote Sherman.

> *"I was picked up apparently a dead boy; but my time was not yet, and I recovered, though the scars remain to this day. The year"*
>
> Boyhood

04

Graduating in June, 1840

WEST POINT

I therefore merely state that I went through the regular course of four years, graduating in June, 1840, number six in a class of forty-three. He will not make a display of the Academy; he states a fact.

- Keep "merely state" and "number six in a class of forty-three."
- 9–12.
- West Point, in Volume I, not the later war entire.
- Quote this wording.

> *"I therefore merely state that I went through the regular course of four years, graduating in June, 1840, number six in a class of forty-three. These forty-three"*
>
> West Point

05

Volume I Only, through Meridian, 1864

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #2616 is Volume I of the 1886 revision, from family and boyhood through the Meridian campaign of February 1864; not the complete two-volume memoirs. For grades 9–12. Name the limit. War: no gore spectacle. Quote Sherman, not a later film or a later complete history. One map cannot teach even this volume entire.

- Name Volume I only, through Meridian, 1864.
- 9–12. No gore spectacle.
- A preface that refuses to be a finished history.
- Quote this English.

> *"Nearly ten years have passed since the close of the civil war in America, and yet no satisfactory history thereof is accessible to the public; nor should any be attempted until the"*
>
> Preface

A history not yet written

A recollection, not a complete account

A boy whose time was not yet

West Point, merely stated

Volume I, through Meridian

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 11–12

1. The preface begins: "Nearly ten years have passed since the close of the civil war in America, and yet no satisfactory history thereof is accessible to the public."
2. This is Volume I of the 1886 revision, Project Gutenberg #2616, through the Meridian campaign of February 1864 — not the complete two-volume memoirs. Name the limit.
3. Sherman says what is offered is "not designed as a history of the war … but merely his recollection of events."
4. For grades 9–12. War: no gore spectacle. Quote Sherman, not a later film. One map cannot teach even this volume entire.

Quotations are verbatim from the English original, Project Gutenberg #2616 (Volume I), Project Gutenberg #2616, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/shermans-memoirs/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.