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Edward L. Ayers University of Richmond, eavers@richmond.edu

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VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

TWO COMMUNITIES IN THE

EDWARD L. AYERS Anne s. Rubin

VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

TWO COMMUNITIES IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Dual-Platform (Mac and Windows) CD with book and available Web site

The Valley of the Shadow employs new technology for a new purpose: to immerse us in time and place in a way not possible before. Through this CD ROM, with its accompanying book and acclaimed site on the World Wide Web, users gain an unmatched ground-level view of the coming of the Civil War.

Two communities in America's Great Valley—Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and Augusta County, Virginia—separated by only a few hundred miles, share much in their politics and ways of life. Yet they emerge on opposing sides of a war in which they zealously send their sons to fight and die. Here we see a Civil War that is not the inevitable conflict of rival societies, but a human drama, immediate, particular, engrossing.

This is history as lived experience, present in the vast archive of letters, diaries, newspaper accounts, military records, maps, images, and music easily accessible here. In their private papers, the people of Staunton, Virginia, react to John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry and to the mundane events of family and town. See how the Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, newspapers address the secession of Southern states. Discover the conditions in which slaves lived and worked. Trace the intersections of power and wealth, north and south. Who made the decisions to fight? Who fought and died? What was the texture of daily life in these places?

(continued on back flap)

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In the *Valley of the Shadow* you can explore these and countless other questions. It is an endlessly rewarding experience. Enter the past and have a look around. . . .



Edward L. Ayers is Hugh P. Kelly Professor of History at the University of Virginia. He is the author or editor of a number of books on the history of the South, including *The Promise of the New South: Life after Reconstruction*, a main selection of the History Book Club, winner of the Owsley Award of the Southern Historical Association and the Rawley Prize of the Organization of American Historians, and a finalist for both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize.

Anne S. Rubin is project manager of the Valley Project and an associate at the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities at the University of Virginia.

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