

LECTURE Series

Friday, January 22, 2027

7 pm Eastern / 4 pm Pacific

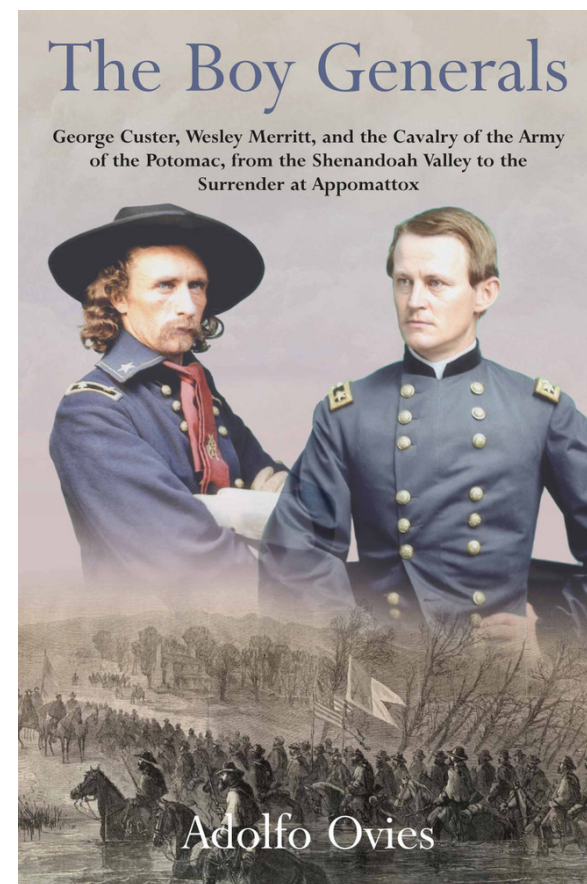
With ADOLFO OVIES



THE BOY GENERALS: Custer, Merritt, and the Cavalry of the AOP, from Shenandoah to Appomattox

The final installment of Adolfo Ovia's groundbreaking *The Boy Generals* trilogy races from the Shenandoah Valley to Appomattox with the rapidity of a headlong cavalry charge. The turbulent events of the closing months of the Civil War serve as a backdrop for the increasingly dysfunctional—and bitter—relationship between George Armstrong Custer and Wesley Merritt.

The flamboyant Custer and the stoic Merritt were bound to clash. Ovia scrutinizes their methods of discipline, their exercise of authority, and their “spirited rivalry.” It was an association that progressed from distaste to acrimony and finally to outright insubordination on Custer’s part. The difference in their tactical philosophies is highlighted by the bloody battles that ensued after Philip H. Sheridan’s ascension to command Union forces in the Valley. Meticulously researched the author used firsthand archival sources outlining the cavalry at Winchester, Tom’s Brook, Cedar Creek, and Waynesboro.



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