

## USS and CSS SHENANDOAH

The name SHENANDOAH is derived from an Indian word meaning "Daughter of the Stars"

### 1. USS Shenandoah -- Wooden Hull Sloop

The first USS Shenandoah was a wooden hull sloop, propelled by a single screw. She was launched at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on 8 December 1862 and commissioned on 20 June 1863. Displacing 1,375 tons and 225 feet long, she spent the next 18 months cruising off the East Coast searching and engaging Confederate raiders and reinforcing the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron. In December, she moved just off Fort Fisher, which was the protecting fort for Wilmington, North Carolina. She distinguished herself in the ensuing bombardment of the fort, which lasted for the next three weeks until the fort fell to the largest amphibious operation prior to those mounted in WW II. After the war's end (1865-1869), she saw service with the South American Squadron and the Asiatic Squadron (forerunner of today's Seventh Fleet) and surveyed several Japanese and Chinese ports which were opened to trade. From 1870-1874, Shenandoah served with the European forces spreading goodwill for America throughout the Mediterranean. On Christmas day 1872, Shenandoah served as host to the King and Queen of Greece. On her return voyage from Europe, she visited Caribbean ports. Shenandoah was assigned duty with the South Atlantic Squadron from 1879-1882 and the South Pacific Squadron from 1883-1886. Her presence in South American waters greatly aided the security and protection for United States interest and citizens. She was decommissioned at Mare Island 23 October 1886 and sold to a shipping firm in California.

## **2. CSS Shenandoah**

The Confederate Navy also had a ship named CSS SHENANDOAH during the Civil War. The Confederates purchased a ship from Scotland, "Sea King" in 1864 and commissioned CSS Shenandoah. She was sailed surreptitiously from a British port and outfitted as a steam sloop at sea under LT J.I. Waddell, CSN. During her career as a Confederate Cruiser, she sailed the Atlantic capturing or destroying thirty-eight Union vessels, more than any other Confederate ship except the CSS Alabama. CSS Shenandoah's mission was to destroy Northern commerce in areas still not being disrupted. She headed for the Cape of Good Hope to prey on merchantmen and whalers. She took six prizes, most of which were scuttled due to the small number of crewmembers to man the captured ships. Melbourne, Australia, was among her ports of call and in January 1865, after provisioning, she took more prizes off the Kuriles. Sailing north into the Bering Sea on 23 June, the crew learned of Lee's surrender from a captured 21 more whalers before heading south. On 2 August, nearly six months after the war's end, a British barque confirmed the war's end. Lt Waddell surrendered to the British Government in Liverpool on 6 November, ending the ship's career.