

The Civil War in Words and Deeds

First-person accounts bring fresh perspective to a subject of perpetual fascination

Date Range: 1860-1865

Content: 144,069 pages

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The Civil War was the defining experience in the development of the United States. No event directly affected a greater proportion of the nation's population: about 10% of Americans fought in the war and more than 700,000 sacrificed their lives. The country continues to struggle with the issues of race, civil rights, the politics of federalism and the heritage that are legacies of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Thousands of regimental histories and personal narratives about the war have been published – often by private presses or state governments – but most were never widely distributed. Fragile, un-indexed and scattered, these records have remained difficult for historians and genealogists to find and use.

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Genealogists and students of military history, Southern history, literature and American studies will find an unmatched depth of personal insight: the reasons individuals volunteered, the wonderment of leaving home, the excitement of initially going to the front, the clash of arms, the drudgery of camp life, the boredom of garrison duty and the anguish of imprisonment are expounded in these accounts. Attitudes toward officers and fellow soldiers, the enemy and the political questions of the war are recorded with a richness that brings new credibility and perspective to scholarly research.

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The Civil War in Words and Deeds

Individually and collectively, original Civil War monographs constitute a source of great historical value. This collection of histories and personal narratives, compiled primarily between the end of the war and 1920, chronicles the highs and lows of army life from 1861 through 1865.

Monographs include:

- Reminiscences of the Nineteenth Massachusetts regiment
- War diary of Rodney W. Torrey, 1862-1863
- History of the 99th Indiana Infantry : containing a diary of marches, incidents, biography of officers and complete rolls
- A Texan in search of a fight: the diary and letters of a private soldier in Hood's Texas brigade
- From a New England woman's diary in Dixie in 1865
- Guide to Richmond and the battlefields
- The South: a tour of its battlefields and ruined cities, a journey through the desolated states, and talks with the people
- Dedicating in Dixie: a series of articles descriptive of the tour of Governor Albert B. Cummins and staff, the members of the Vicksburg, Andersonville, Chattanooga and Shiloh monument commissions and invited guests, through the South for the purpose of dedicating Iowa memorials on southern battlefields and cemeteries, November 12th to November 25th, 1906
- The campaigns of Walker's Texas Division: containing a complete record of the campaigns in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas, including the Federal's report of the battles, names of the officers of the division, diary of marches, camp scenery, anecdotes
- History of Kershaw's brigade: with complete roll of companies, biographical sketches, incidents, anecdotes, etc
- Our regiment: a history of the 102d Illinois infantry volunteers: with sketches of the Atlanta campaign, the Georgia raid, and the campaign of the Carolinas



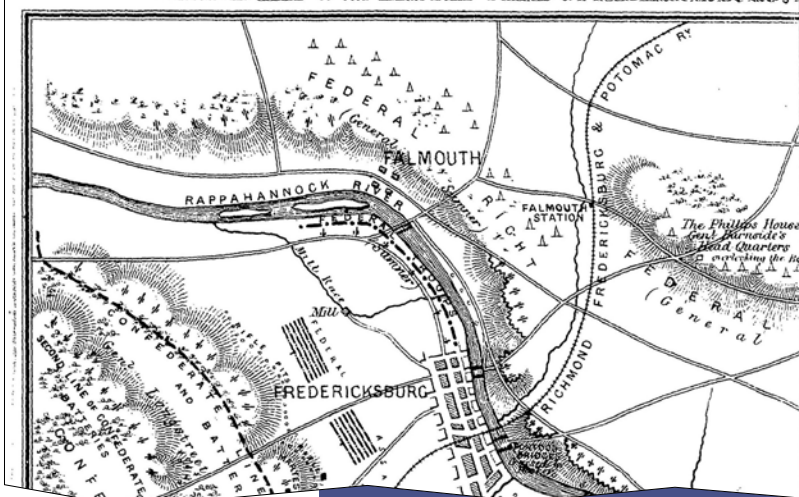
CHAPTER IV.

A DAY IN THE PRIVATES' PRISON.

(From the Diary of Sergeant A. P. SCHURTZ, Col. Baker's Cal. Reg.)

November 10, 1861.—Having no bed but the hard floor, and no covering but our wearing-apparel, the cold air this morning was all-sufficient to arouse us early and cause an extra promenade of the floor to warm up the blood. Taking an early start, I deemed it

SKETCH MAP OF THE BATTLE FIELD OF FREDERICKSBURG.



Our regiment in advancing from the road was partially shielded by a peach orchard, and a few small buildings, but the 2nd Maine had to advance across an open field and their loss in killed and wounded was very heavy. While lying in the ditch, which we did for half an hour or more, I had a chance to see what was going on in another part of the field. I saw the celebrated black horse cavalry have a fight with the 62nd New York regiment (Zouaves) and the 62nd came out best. After this we fell back to the ravine and remained there for an hour or more. While lying there a surgeon came along and wanted to know if we were the 7th Virginia regiment? we told him no and took him prisoner, he had lost his regiment and came to us through mistake. We were marched back to the school house, we expected we were going into another part of the field and attack the enemy again as we could not see anything that looked like def