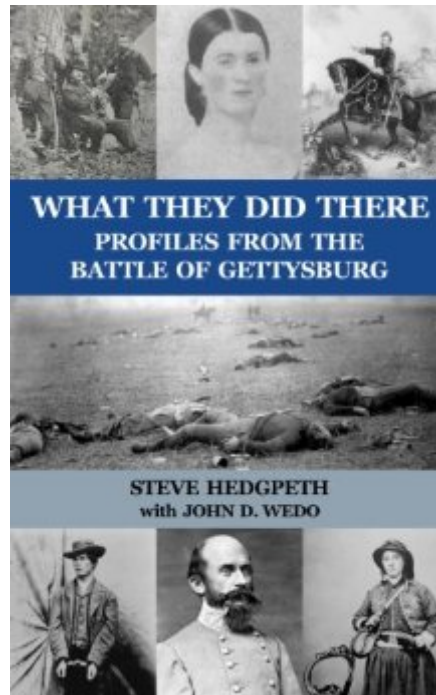


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What They Did There: Profiles From The Battle Of Gettysburg



Synopsis

"What They Did There: Profiles From the Battle of Gettysburg" offers a unique view of its subject, telling the story of the battle not through conventional narrative but via some 130 mini-bios of not only combatants blue and gray, but of civilians, doctors, nurses, artists, photographers, Samaritans; saints, sinners and the moral terrain in-between.

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Customer Reviews

Fair warning; many many years ago the author taught literature in my school and I have good memories of him leading a busload of us youngsters around the Gettysburg battlefield. Well, you can't hide passion and many years later Steve's passion for this story remains strong. Perhaps I should say stories, because "What They Did There" is many stories. As promised, we get profiles from the battle- many names, and, well, what they did. Contemporary historical accounts are often told from a variety of perspectives (Mark Baker's "Nam" sticks in my mind as one of the first); we do not see this technique so often with events a century and a half gone by. It works well when employed by a writer with a passion for language, and for the story being told. Read this book- it will put not just one but many faces on those distant July days.

Another Civil War book? Yes. But finally, a book that focuses not on the major players in politics or military strategy. This book is dedicated to celebrating the sacrifices of the average soldier, citizen and resident of the surrounding region during the three day Battle of Gettysburg. It gives the reader a palpable sense of the size and scale of the battle; and of the immense swath of the different participants in the battle on both sides. For anyone that loves history - and in particular the Civil War - this book is a great read and a necessary companion to any collection of books about the Civil War.

This is not like so many books written about the Civil War, or the Battle of Gettysburg. It's factual, yes, but it contains interesting historical facts, some little known up until now. It's the kind of book that you can pick up and read, put down and pick up again later, and not have to review, before you remember where you left off. It would be a great beach or vacation read. It's a wonderful collection of stories of various personalities involved in some way with the Battle of Gettysburg--some well known, some practically unheard of until now. That is what sets this book apart from so many other Battle of Gettysburg books--it profiles the lesser known personalities and the role that they played in the battle...and sometimes after the war. It's not a text book type thing, but greatly entertaining with the writing style of Steve Hedgpeth.

I have read many books on the Civil War, but this is the first one which told the stories of so many ordinary people. The "big names" are mentioned, but the men who fought under the well-known leaders are covered as in no other book I've read. Mr. Hedley throws out some very sly humor, and despite the solemnity of the subject, you'll find yourself chuckling and occasionally laughing out loud. I was totally engrossed by this book. Each section covers each day of the battles at Gettysburg, and the women who cared for the wounded. There are also accounts of some Gettysburg residents who, although none of whom fought, were directly affected by the three days of fighting. For many, the end of the shooting was just the beginning of what they would endure. The one problem I now have, is to try and find some of the books and papers noted in the "SOURCES" section! Cannot recommend this book more highly. Would love to see it on school reading list when studying the Civil War.

This book is mostly good and interesting trivia about the soldiers and others who were a part of the Battle of Gettysburg. If you are looking for in depth detail of the battle this book is not for you. But if

you want to know more about the common soldier and why he was there and what became of them after the war then this is a very interesting book. I like that type of history and found this book very good for that. Also had a lot about the various women who came to the aid of the fallen during and after the battle. Many, many fine people are brought to light in that part of the book. This book is well worth your time and is very inexpensive.

This is a very enjoyable read. A collection of short stories written in a style that is very easy to read especially for those who have studied the Civil War. A little irreverent at times, of which the author acknowledges. The point of view and information presented in the book is very fresh. I believe the stories and anecdotes will have greater meaning for those who have a general understanding of military aspects, organization, key events, and order of battle associated with the Battle of Gettysburg, although, I think it would be an equally enjoyable read for the novice or casual reader as well.

A unique, witty collection of profiles -- some of famous people, who the reader has heard of -- but mostly of the usual suspects: people on the periphery of a major event, but without whose contributions(s) to that event, the event would be rendered a non-event, unimportant and unworthy of notice. Deftly handled, conversationally-written accounts that shed a different light on the Battle of Gettysburg from perspectives on all sides of it: military, civilian, political, North, South, even geographical. And personal (diary entries, letters, etc.). A nice addition to your Gettysburg collection.

It's the stories within the stories that are captivating and this book is all that. At times it's confusing, but the details fill a gap that other books don't have time or space to include. I enjoyed reading g about actors who played some of these people in movies about the war.

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