

Synopsis

All students of the Civil War are indebted to Frank Haskell for his classic description of the battle of Gettysburg. A lieutenant on the staff of John Gibbon, Haskell stood at the focus of the Confederate assault on July 3, 1863. He wrote of the battle in a letter to his brother. When it came to light after the war it became and remains probably the most read and repeated account of Civil War combat written by a participant. It captures wholly the terrible fascination that the Civil War and Gettysburg holds for all Americans. Haskell wrote other letters (thirty-one in this collection) and attained the rank of colonel before he was killed at Cold Harbor on June 3, 1864. This 1989 paperback reprinting of the 1970 edition contains a new preface by Frank L. Byrne.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This will make the battle of Gettysburg come alive with insight into the goings on both in front and behind the lines.

received in timely manner & good condition. We have not had time to digest yet--but appreciate the book. Gettysburg is a special place for us & many others--love visits when able to go.

As Bruce Catton says in an introduction to an earlier printing, "Haskell's prose is a little too purple for modern tastes"--or something like that, but he makes the point. This "letter" written by a witness, the ONLY mounted union officer at the point of attack of Pickett's charge is a compelling read. His

passion for the cause shows through. He does not speak poorly of his "misguided foes who would rob half the stars from their country's flag", but he clearly is fighting on behalf of the Union forces. I like to sit near the copse of trees and read his account as the Confederate forces emerge from the woods, a mile wide, an irresistible force. No one has to say "the enemy approaches" He writes well and this as good of an eye-witness as you will find. You also get to appreciate the irony.....he finally gets to command a brigade...at Cold Harbor..where the positions are reversed, and he is leading troops against a determined and entrenched foe.....and is instantly killed. You feel the loss.

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