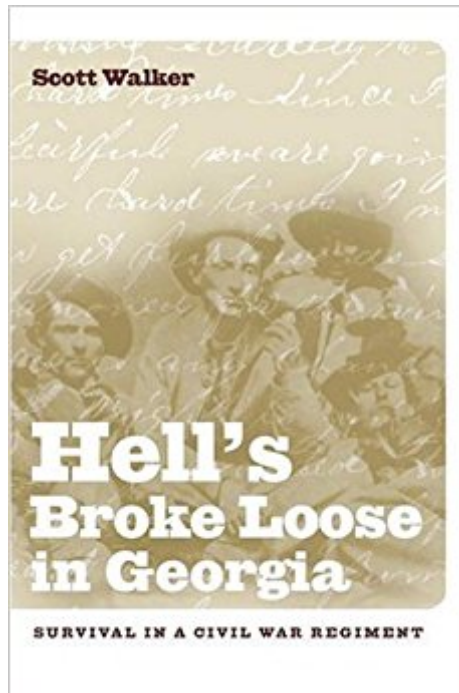


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Hell's Broke Loose In Georgia: Survival In A Civil War Regiment



Synopsis

Darling, I never wanted to go home as bad in my life as I do now and if they don't give me a furlow I am going any how. Written in December 1862 by Private Wright Vinson in Tennessee to his wife, Christiana, in Georgia, these lines go to the heart of why Scott Walker wrote this history of the Fifty-seventh Georgia Infantry, a unit of the famed Mercer's Brigade. All but a few members of the Fifty-seventh lived within a close radius of eighty miles from each other. More than just an account of their military engagements, this is a collective biography of a close-knit group. Relatives and neighbors served and died side by side in the Fifty-seventh, and Walker excels at showing how family ties, friendships, and other intimate dynamics played out in wartime settings. Humane but not sentimental, the history abounds in episodes of real feeling: a starving soldier's theft of a pie; another's open confession, in a letter to his wife, that he may desert; a slave's travails as a camp orderly. Drawing on memoirs and a trove of unpublished letters and diaries, Walker follows the soldiers of the Fifty-seventh as they push far into Unionist Kentucky, starve at the siege of Vicksburg, guard Union prisoners at the Andersonville stockade, defend Atlanta from Sherman, and more. Hardened fighters who would wish hell on an incompetent superior but break down at the sight of a dying Yankee, these are real people, as rarely seen in other Civil War histories.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I first want to say that I have just within the last ten minutes finished this book and I wanted my fresh impressions put to print, here goes..."Hell's Broke Loose in Georgia Survival in a Civil War

Regiment" by Scott Walker, 2005, University of Georgia Press. 310 pages, illustrated, maps and pictures. I am proud and happy to have a signed hardback copy of this work. It could be best described by the author by how much he felt about the men he was writing about when he wrote on the last page "I promised myself that I would place a copy of this book in a small wooden box and bury it at the foot of Robert Braswell's grave [Private, 57th GA, CSA]. In so doing, I simply want to say that his great-great-grandson has not forgotten the sacrifice that he made to help the United States evolve into a great and wonderful nation. And I will wrap the wooden box in an American flag with fifty stars, a symbol of that new nation." "Interest" This is a history of the 57th Ga. told through letters and diaries and a detailed and researched history carefully worded and structured to keep the reader very interested. It was slow reading at first until about page 70 with the start of the Battle of Baker's Creek (Champion's Hill). The following is a list of the war's events that impressed me with its detail and coverage of military actions. Kentucky Campaign Battle of Champion's Hill* Battle of Vicksburg Atlanta Campaign Battle of Peachtree Creek* Battle of Atlanta Battle of Jonesboro* Hood's Tennessee Campaign Hood's Retreat from Tennessee* Battle of Bentonville** These had great interest to me in enlightening me on events new or enhanced information.

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