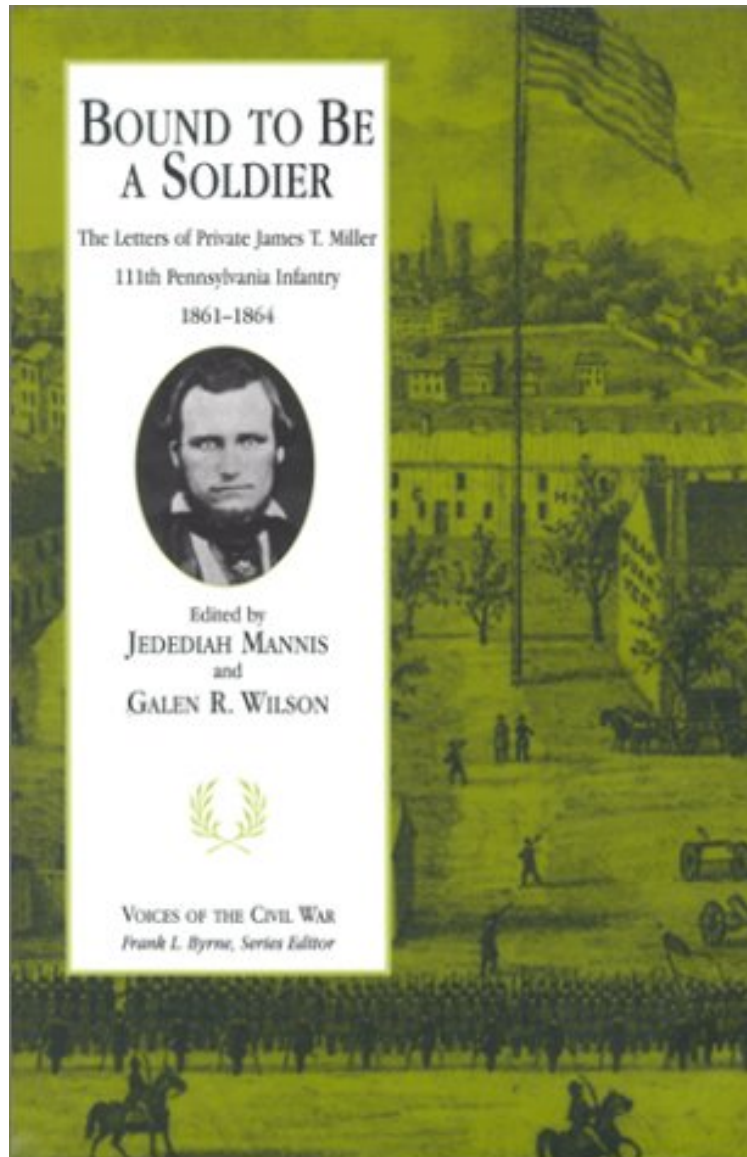


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Bound To Be A Soldier: Letters Of Private James T. Miller (Voices of the Civil War)

Jedediah Mannis

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Jedediah Mannis : Bound To Be A Soldier: Letters Of Private James T. Miller (Voices of the Civil War) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bound To Be A Soldier: Letters Of Private James T. Miller (Voices of the Civil War):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Letters of a Union soldier during the American Civil WarBy Jerome

P. Hartweg This amazing book puts you right into the thick of the Civil War from the standpoint of real letters written by a 31-year old Pennsylvania Union Army soldier named James T. Miller. His thoughts and strong feelings come alive as you read these letters, and you get the feeling that you are with him, listening to him tell you personally what he is experiencing and thinking. He not only tells of his personal war experiences but also of how he felt about being away from his family and how other young men from his home town found ways to avoid serving in the Union cause. Do keep your fingers located at the footnote explanations for each chapter, for the footnotes are almost a book in themselves. They add tremendously to the information in each letter and give the reader a complete picture of what was going on in the context of the letter. Other Civil War books discuss strategies, tactics, weaponry, etc., but this book is about how one Union soldier gets through each day and what he is thinking about. This is a must-read for anyone who is looking for the personal side of the Civil War. I suggest that you read this book slowly as you would read a personal letter out loud to members of your family. You won't be able to put it down. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *A Civil War Soldier's Tale* By Eric D. Thuma In this era of media hype and historical revisionism for political correctness it is a relief to review original sources for an insight to history. Our understanding of events like the Civil War is sharpened by the observations of participants. Though lacking in formal education James T. Miller of Pennsylvania joined the Union Army and through his letters the reader is thrust into the Civil War from the vantage point not of generals but the ordinary soldier caught up in the events of his time offering honest reflections of his fellow soldiers, officers, and the members of his own family. His opinions expressed in the rough hewn and stilted language of the period gives the reader an authentic taste of a time in our history often blurred in romanticism. Those who seek to understand the why and significance of events should begin with the words of its participants and there is no better place to begin this civil war journey than with the words of Private James Miller augmented by the excellent footnoting of the editors.

An untutored Pennsylvania farmer, James T. Miller was thirty-one years old when he left his wife and three children to serve in the Union Army at the outbreak of the Civil War. Although his writing was far from polished, he was nevertheless blessed with descriptive and evocative powers that shine through the letters he wrote home. After joining the 111th Pennsylvania Infantry, Miller saw action at Gettysburg, Cedar Mountain, and Chancellorsville. He died in 1864 at the battle of Peachtree Creek, just before the fall of Atlanta. Drawing us close to Miller's heart and mind, these letters present a powerful sense of an ordinary soldier's experience in its entirety. His descriptions of his fellow soldiers before, during, and after battle are particularly striking. Equally compelling are his thoughts about home—including his anxiety over his separation from his family as well as his fury at his brothers, who had bought their way out of military service. Bringing that view of the home front full circle, a concluding chapter by editors Jedediah Mannis and Galen Wilson describes the difficulties that Miller's widow, Susan, encountered after the war, especially in her dealings with the Pension Office. *Bound to Be a Soldier* presents a common man's critique of military policy and civilian society during wartime in a rough-hewn style that breathes life into historic events. The Editors: Jedediah Mannis is a Massachusetts attorney who serves as executive director of the Shelter Island Fund, a non-profit environmental organization. Galen R. Wilson is assistant director of the Great Lakes Region office of the National Archives and Records Administration.

About the Author Jedediah Mannis is a Massachusetts attorney who serves as executive director of the Shelter Island Fund, a non-profit environmental organization. Galen R. Wilson is assistant director of the Great Lakes Region office of the National Archives and Records Administration.