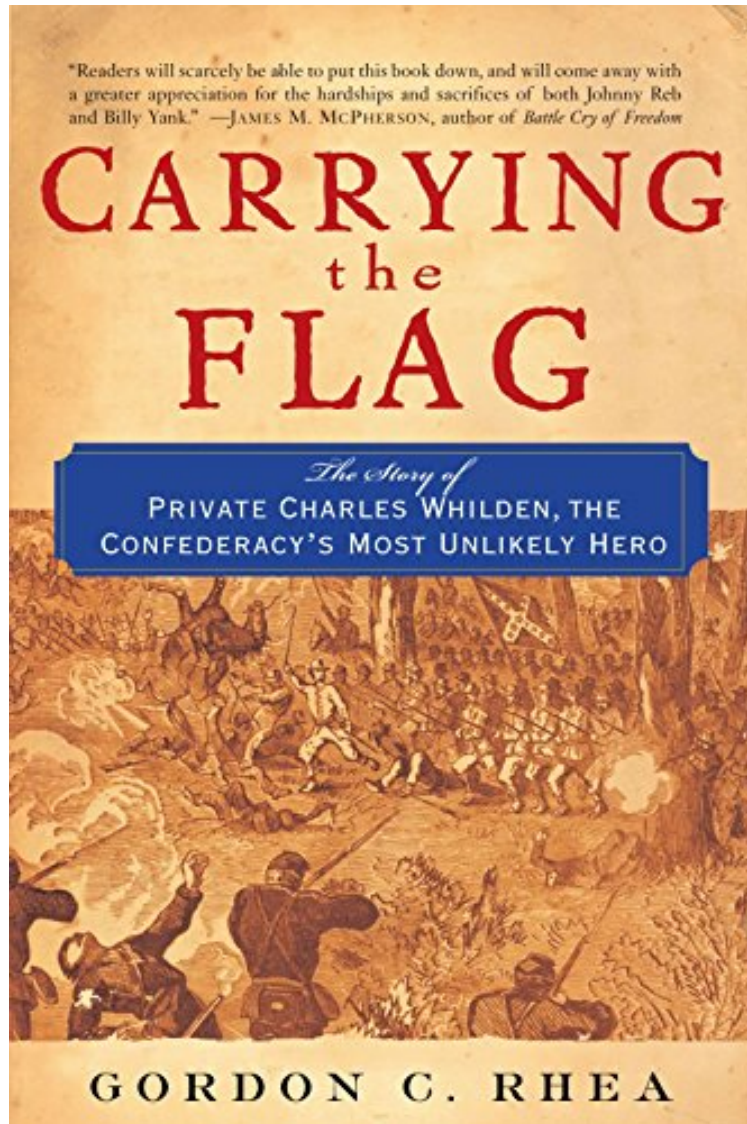


(Ebook pdf) Carrying the Flag: The Story of Private Charles Whilden, the Confederacy's Most Unlikely Hero

## Carrying the Flag: The Story of Private Charles Whilden, the Confederacy's Most Unlikely Hero

Gordon C. Rhea

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#1381284 in Books Gordon C Rhea 2005-03-02 2005-03-01Format: International EditionOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .75 x 5.50l, .82 #File Name: 0465069576288 pagesISBN13: 9780465069576Condition: NewNotes: BRAND NEW FROM PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence! Millions of books sold! | File size: 35.Mb

**Gordon C. Rhea : Carrying the Flag: The Story of Private Charles Whilden, the Confederacy's Most Unlikely Hero** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Carrying the Flag: The Story of Private Charles Whilden, the Confederacy's Most Unlikely Hero:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read  
By Yeolla  
Awesome story a true page burner. Courage and patriotism changes a man way. Watching C-Span History one weekend and the author was featured discussing the important of the Wilderness Campaign in the Civil War. The challenges that faced both sides. This book is written through the eyes of the flag bearer. Well researched with plenty of foot notes. not a conjured up fiction story. Well worth your time. I left the book with a keen feeling I was living in the 1860's and not 2014.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Writing on a par with Michael Shaara  
By Froggythegremlin  
If you like the writings of Michael and Jeff Shaara then you will like this book. The descriptions of the battle for the mule shoe were the best I have ever read. You really got the feeling you were there in the rain, mud and blood. I like Civil War books that don't just concentrate on the Generals but instead tell us how the average Soldier lived, thought and died. The bravery of those common Soldiers, North and South, constantly amazes me. This is a Very good Civil War book that I heartily recommend to any Civil War buff.  
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book, however...  
By J. Dombrowski  
The lack of maps showing the actions Whilden was involved in makes it hard to follow the battles. The only two maps after the contents page are listed as THE WILDERNESS and SPOTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE. They show roads, streams/ rivers, railroads, and well known landmarks like the Widow Tapp's Field and the Mule Shoe among others. Unless you are well versed in these battles and know the area it makes for confusing reading. A few maps showing the positions of both armies at critical moments would have made the situations they were in clearer and easier to visualize. ~G

For forty years, Charles Whilden lived a life most noteworthy for a series of near misses. Repeatedly turned down for service in the Confederate Army, he did not enlist until the desperate days when anyone capable of locomotion was brought in to fill the ranks. He was subsequently plunged into the very regiment destined to see the worst of Grant's brutal spring 1864 campaign. But Whilden would go on to discover a courage within that was prefigured by none of his earlier failures.

From Publishers Weekly  
The battle of Spotsylvania Court House was the Civil War's ghastliest, a day-long, rain-sodden struggle for control of a Confederate trench line so brutal that the dead were "pulverized into mush that resembled jelly instead of men." Rhea (*The Battle of the Wilderness*) finds heroism in this hellish setting in the guise of Charles Whilden, a sickly, 39-year-old regimental flag-bearer, repeatedly rejected for service but finally inducted by a Confederate army desperately short of men, who briefly rallied the Southerners and helped save the day for Lee's army. Rhea styles this tale of an insignificant man rising to the occasion a celebration of the "capacity of the human spirit to shine," but there's little uplift to be gleaned from the story. A feckless ne'er-do-well who died a year after the war when he suffered an epileptic fit and drowned face down in a mud puddle, Whilden could be, with a very slight shift in perspective, an absurdist anti-hero whose moment of glory merely prolonged the death throes of a futile cause. Fortunately, Rhea uses his life mostly as a peg on which to hang an otherwise absorbing account of Spotsylvania and the preceding battle of the Wilderness. His well-paced and vividly detailed narrative moves easily from lucid considerations of Grant and Lee's grand strategies to the common soldiers' view of the chaos and squalor of the fighting, and includes engaging background material on camp life, the social background of Confederate soldiers and race relations in the ante-bellum South. The result is an evocative retelling of a Civil War epic. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Fascinating.... Even though it reads like a small novel, this is pure history."  
About the Author  
Gordon C. Rhea is also the author of *The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern, May 7-12, 1864*; *To the North Anna River: Grant and Lee, May 13-25, 1864*, winner of the Fletcher Pratt Literary Award; and *Cold Harbor: Grant and Lee, May 26-June 3, 1864*, winner of the Austin Civil War Round Table's Laney Prize. He lives in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, and in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, with his wife and two sons.