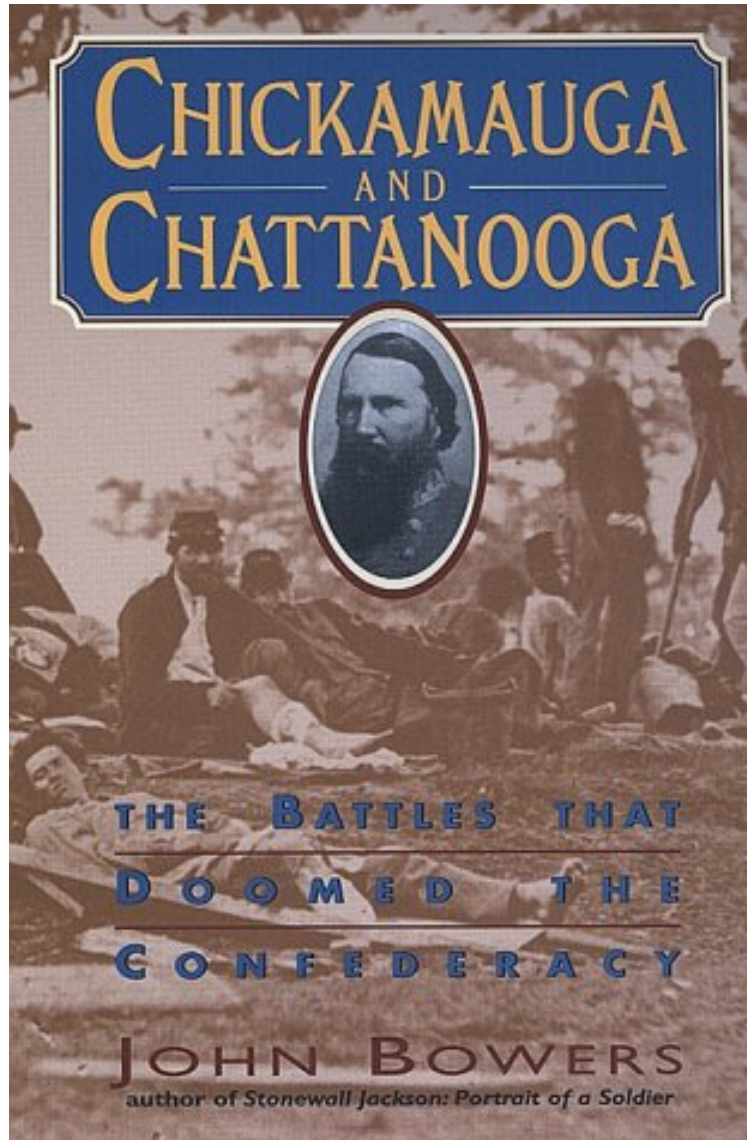



(Download ebook) Chickamauga and Chattanooga: The Battles That Doomed the Confederacy


Chickamauga and Chattanooga: The Battles That Doomed the Confederacy

John Bowers

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#1492788 in Books 2001-01-01 2001-01-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .72 x 5.251, #File Name: 0380725096288 pagesIn this slim book, Tennessee-born novelist and historian Bowers returns to the source of boyhood memories and family lore to make big claims about the sites of two Tennessee battles in the Civil War. Bowers writes drums-and-powder history, with overmuch attention to generals and tactics and little on men and the meaning of combat. Despite Bowers's assertion that Confederate defeat in Tennessee sealed the South's doom and his absurd speculation that a more favorable result there might have led to a negotiated peace, he provides little context to show how or why the battles might have mattered in the larger strategy and psychology of the war. A few deftly executed vignettes of generals (with Braxton Bragg again getting his comeuppance) redeem an otherwise flat narrative that offers neither sufficient new information nor insight to justify its purchase by any but the most assiduous collector. | File size: 77.Mb

John Bowers : Chickamauga and Chattanooga: The Battles That Doomed the Confederacy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chickamauga and Chattanooga: The Battles That Doomed the Confederacy:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One of the BestBy Lost in ThawtIn this book,"Chickamauga and

Chattanooga" John Bowers has written one of the best Civil War battle books I've ever read, easily comparable with the works of Steven Woodworth, William C. Davis, and the almost incomparable late Bruce Catton. One of the things I liked best about the book was Bowers' completely democratic treatment of the personalities he discussed. R.E. Lee was not presented as a junior god, nor was Grant a bumbling drunk. Braxton Bragg got his nose punched a few times, and deservedly so, but prior to that Mr. Bowers extolled what virtues he was able to find in the man. Bowers' narrative is conversational, sprinkled with a bit of humor here and there and eminently easy to read. His descriptions of the two battles that are the subject of his story makes them live again. This one goes on my "read again" shelves. 12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. This is a Hoot! By Sherman Peabody No one will ever accuse John Bowers of letting historical facts get in the way of telling a good story. Hyperbole? Lively? This is a good overview of the campaign, especially for beginners, but Bowers is really interested in telling dramatic stories about the major figures. But he needs to check his facts. For example, on page 101 he introduces Ambrose Bierce, a lieutenant in the 9th Indiana Infantry, and uses an excerpt from Bierce's post-war short story "Chickamauga" to illustrate the fighting. But on page 146 Bowers calls him Captain Bierce, an officer in an Ohio battery and chronicler of the battle. Although a serious student of the battle will do much better to read Steven Woodworth and Peter Cozzens, many will find Bowers very entertaining. Bowers is from East Tennessee and is the grandson of a Confederate cavalryman who fought in the battle. Bowers' best story in this book is in the Acknowledgements and concerns a Virginia patrician historian at the New York City Civil War Round Table. This alone is worth the cover price! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By markgreat book

In the Autumn of 1863, a pair of remarkable military engagements took place on opposite sides of the Georgia-Tennessee border -- two battles marked by ferocity, genius, courage, astonishing ineptitude, and outrageous fortune that changed the course of the War Between the States. John Bowers, the man who brought one of the Confederacy's most capable and eccentric commanders to life in Stonewall Jackson, now tells the riveting story of two brutal months in the life of a young nation at war with itself. From the opening volleys at Chickamauga Creek to the final, shocking outcome several miles north at Chattanooga, Bowers brilliantly recreates the fire and fury of the decisive battles of America's Civil War. More than a dramatic account of stunning master strokes and fatal missed opportunities, it is also the unforgettable story of real people: Grant, Longstreet, Sherman, the fiery gambler Nathan Bedford Forrest, George H. Thomas, the tormented Union officer despised and disowned by his Virginia family, and the tragic, tenacious General Braxton Bragg, who, through incompetence, miscalculation, and blind folly, almost singlehandedly doomed the Confederate cause. At Chickamauga, the South won a battle. At Chattanooga, they lost the war. In the Autumn of 1863, a pair of remarkable military engagements took place on opposite sides of the Georgia-Tennessee border -- two battles marked by ferocity, genius, courage, astonishing ineptitude, and outrageous fortune that changed the course of the War Between the States. John Bowers, the man who brought one of the Confederacy's most capable and eccentric commanders to life in Stonewall Jackson, now tells the riveting story of two brutal months in the life of a young nation at war with itself. From the opening volleys at Chickamauga Creek to the final, shocking outcome several miles north at Chattanooga, Bowers brilliantly recreates the fire and fury of the decisive battles of America's Civil War. More than a dramatic account of stunning master strokes and fatal missed opportunities, it is also the unforgettable story of real people: Grant, Longstreet, Sherman, the fiery gambler Nathan Bedford Forrest, George H. Thomas, the tormented Union officer despised and disowned by his Virginia family, and the tragic, tenacious General Braxton Bragg, who, through incompetence, miscalculation, and blind folly, almost single-handedly doomed the Confederate cause.

From Library Journal In this slim book, Tennessee-born novelist and historian Bowers returns to the source of boyhood memories and family lore to make big claims about the sites of two Tennessee battles in the Civil War. Bowers writes drums-and-powder history, with overmuch attention to generals and tactics and little on men and the meaning of combat. Despite Bowers's assertion that Confederate defeat in Tennessee sealed the South's doom and his absurd speculation that a more favorable result there might have led to a negotiated peace, he provides little context to show how or why the battles might have mattered in the larger strategy and psychology of the war. A few deftly executed vignettes of generals (with Braxton Bragg again getting his comeuppance) redeem an otherwise flat narrative that offers neither sufficient new information nor insight to justify its purchase by any but the most assiduous collector. Randall M. Miller, St. Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This slim, eminently readable book by an established novelist and historian covers the two major battles of the Tennessee campaign in the fall of 1863. The Confederacy then had its last clear chance to reverse the course of the war. But its army proceeded to throw away what might have been a decisive victory at Chickamauga and was then driven from Tennessee at Chattanooga (the best-known episode of which is the Battle of Missionary Ridge). Bowers gives us almost straight narrative history, providing little background and less analysis but many memorable pen portraits of specific units and commanders (he adds notably to the well-deserved scorn heaped on Braxton Bragg). Although it may not adhere to the strictest academic canons for Civil War historiography, this volume is far too much fun not to recommend warmly. Roland Green From Kirkus sA flawed chronicle of the two 1863 Tennessee battles in

the Civil War that fell on the heels of Gettysburg and Vicksburg. The War between the States, the true American epic, warrants a Homer to tell the tale, but Bowers is not in the least Homeric. The author, who also wrote *Stonewall Jackson* (1989), places far too much emphasis on the historical importance of these two battles. A native Tennessean, he has a natural interest in them, but the fact remains that Gettysburg and Vicksburg, not these later engagements, sounded the death knell for the Confederacy. Bowers does a decent job of profiling such generals as the Rebel eccentric Braxton Bragg, known for the fiery flatulence of both his temper and his digestive system (he had caught chronic Montezuma's Revenge during the Mexican War). He also paints good portraits of Union general William Starke Rosecrans (known by the sobriquet "Old Rosey") and the Confederate hotspur Nathan Bedford Forrest. Bowers's best writing is his description of General Grant's arrival at Chattanooga. Grant was the "people's general" whose plain, unassuming manner made him a hero as much as his victories on the battlefield. Bowers spends too much time on Chickamauga and too little on Chattanooga, which is a far more compelling story. He also does not serve the account well by inserting dubious dialogue by the major participants in the course of the narrative. Bowers's writing is stilted, repetitive, and cliché-ridden. Despite such limitations, *Civil War* buffs north and south of the Mason-Dixon Line will still find enough in this book not to be entirely disappointed. -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.