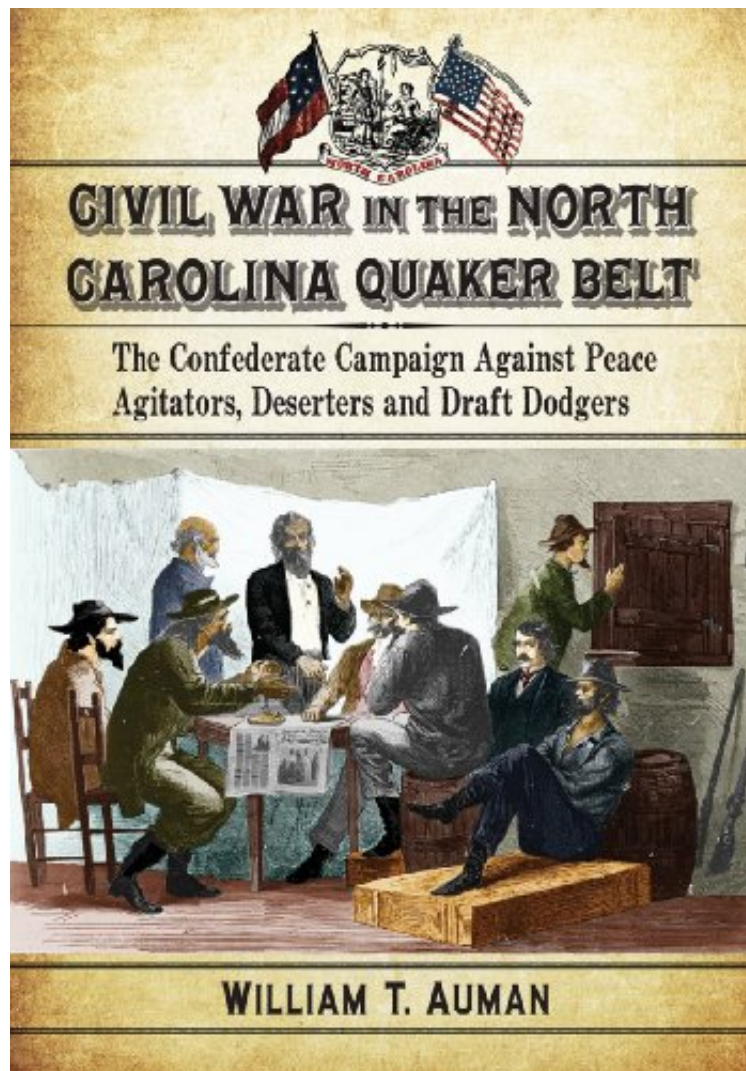


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Civil War in the North Carolina Quaker Belt: The Confederate Campaign Against Peace Agitators, Deserters and Draft Dodgers

William T. Auman

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This is an account of the seven military operations conducted by the Confederacy against deserters and disloyalists and the concomitant internal war between secessionists and those who opposed secession in the Quaker Belt of central North Carolina. It explains how the "outliers" (deserters and draft-dodgers) managed to elude capture and survive despite extensive efforts by Confederate authorities to hunt them down and return them to the army. The author discusses the development of the secret underground pro-Union organization the Heroes of America, and how its members utilized the Underground Railroad, dug-out caves, and an elaborate system of secret signals and communications to elude the "hunters." Numerous instances of murder, rape, torture and other brutal acts and many skirmishes between gangs of deserters and Confederate and state troops are recounted. In a revisionist interpretation of the Tar Heel wartime peace movement, the author argues that William Holden's peace crusade was in fact a Copperhead insurgency in which peace agitators strove for a return of North Carolina and the South to the Union on the Copperhead basis--that is, with the institution of slavery protected by the Constitution in the returning states.

"significant...recommended"--Choice; "offers rich and vital information...meticulously researched...valuable"--The Journal of Southern History; "meticulous research...a powerful argument for a dramatic reappraisal of the inner civil war in the Piedmont and of the peace movement throughout the state. Auman compels us to reexamine what we thought we knew about the Civil War in North Carolina"--The North Carolina Historical .
About the Author
The late William T. Auman taught history in several universities, published three articles on the Civil War in North Carolina in The North Carolina Historical , and was a contributor to The Encyclopedia of the Confederacy. Two of his articles won the R.D.W. Connor Award for best article of the year.