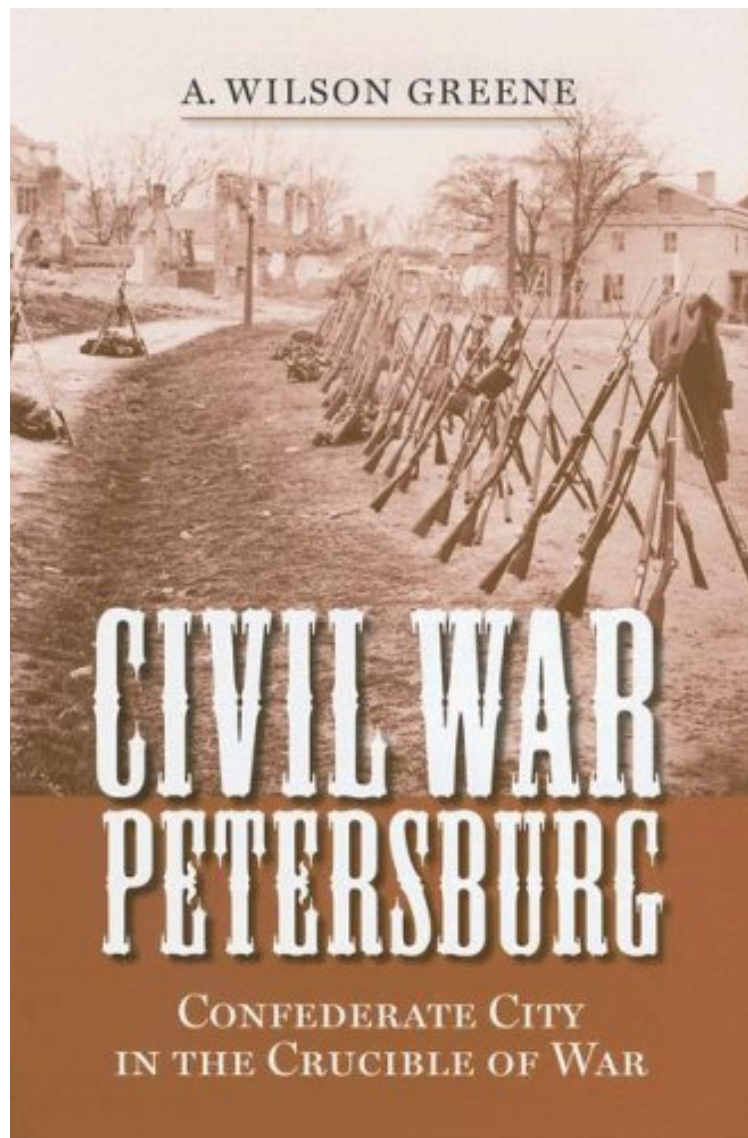


(Mobile library) Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War (A Nation Divided: Studies in the Civil War Era)

## Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War (A Nation Divided: Studies in the Civil War Era)

*A. Wilson Greene*

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**A. Wilson Greene : Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War (A Nation Divided: Studies in the Civil War Era)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War (A Nation Divided: Studies in the Civil War Era):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Civil War PetersburgBy macRelates some of my great grandfather's

thoughts during the battle. The book does a fine job of documenting personal histories from all levels -- from the trench soldier up to the generals.<sup>9</sup> of 9 people found the following review helpful. Great Inside View of The Last Citadel Before, During and after the War By Daniel Hurley Will Greene, longtime National Parks historian in Virginia and currently the CEO and Chief Historian of the Pamplin Civil War Park at the scene of the Petersburg breakthrough, writes a very well researched history of Petersburg giving the personal view. Through Greene's book you see the residents and the city before the war leading up to the political evolution of session. Petersburg, as noted by Greene, was an international City and as the war unfolds you see the excitement of the town folk even among the different classes with direct quotes from the people themselves as they prepare for war by drilling militias and companies that go forward to war. The book picks up military steam as the war progresses and the vulnerability of this vital link to Richmond and Lee's army slowly become apparent. From a military perspective you see Jefferson Davis' severe and complex nature of his many departments that result in overlapping commands particularly in Petersburg where there are numerous command changes even as Kautz and Butler arrive at City Point and the Bermuda 100. Pickett, Beauregard and then Lee finally take control. The book includes fascinating and little known details such as the economic fall out of the war on the population, the City Council's consideration in providing relief for families and AP Hill's parading of captured soldiers black and white from the crater intermingled to the derision of the populace. The limited troop dispositions by the Confederacy are almost the down fall as they resist enormous odds by the virtually unsuspecting or tentative union commanders. The final days of the war of course end with the draining siege that Greene provides an excellent and fast moving summary style detail and the gloom of the population is evident as the defense finally collapses. Heartening to know that the occupation was civil, respectful and charitable to the population, Of course race relations are traumatized by the sudden freedman and black units that occupy the City. But that is part of the uniqueness of the book, Greene addresses all the residents and soldiers along with race relations of the City such as the pre-war free blacks who work in the City and within the war effort maintaining their freedom but enduring more hardship due to the severity of war economics. This is a unique book that provides the civilian and military experience within the tragedy of war.<sup>14</sup> of 14 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Book - Well Written And Documented By David H. Jones When you think of any aspect of the Petersburg campaign, A. Wilson Greene is clearly the expert historian in this venue. The importance of Petersburg during the Civil War was greatly illuminated and better understood by me from reading this book. In conjunction with his previous book on the Petersburg Breakthrough Battle, this book adds dimension and texture to the battles fought, the people who lived there, and the culture and industry of Petersburg as the war progressed. The author's keen perspective brings those times to life in an entertaining and educational manner. I fully enjoyed the hours spent reading this book. For those of us who carefully read footnotes in history books, there is a wealth of information in this meticulously researched account. I highly recommend it.

Few wartime cities in Virginia held more importance than Petersburg. Nonetheless, the city has, until now, lacked an adequate military history, let alone a history of the civilian home front. The noted Civil War historian A. Wilson Greene now provides an expertly researched, eloquently written study of the city that was second only to Richmond in size and strategic significance. Industrial, commercial, and extremely prosperous, Petersburg was also home to a large African American community, including the state's highest percentage of free blacks. On the eve of the Civil War, the city elected a conservative, pro-Union approach to the sectional crisis. Little more than a month before Virginia's secession did Petersburg finally express pro-Confederate sentiments, at which point the city threw itself wholeheartedly into the effort, with large numbers of both white and black men serving. Over the next four years, Petersburg's citizens watched their once-beautiful city become first a conduit for transient soldiers from the Deep South, then an armed camp, and finally the focus of one of the Civil War's most protracted and damaging campaigns. (The fall of Richmond and collapse of the Confederate war effort in Virginia followed close on Grant's ultimate success in Petersburg.) At war's end, Petersburg's antebellum prosperity evaporated under pressures from inflation, chronic shortages, and the extensive damage done by Union artillery shells. Greene's book tracks both Petersburg's civilian experience and the city's place in Confederate military strategy and administration. Employing scores of unpublished sources, the book weaves a uniquely personal story of thousands of citizens--free blacks, slaves and their holders, factory owners, merchants--all of whom shared a singular experience in Civil War Virginia.

"This is an important contribution to the growing genre of community and home-front studies of the Civil War. The author has thoroughly accomplished his goal of presenting the story of Petersburg, one of the most important Confederate cities.... The scholarship is thoroughly sound and detailed." James McPherson, Princeton University, author of *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* "This manuscript rests on a prodigious achievement: it surveys, to an impressive and exhaustive degree, the unpublished stories that touch on the story of Petersburg.... [combined] with the best current scholarship of the period. The result is an original work that should stand as the history of Civil War Petersburg for many years to come. (Nelson D. Lankford Virginia Historical Society, author of *Richmond Burning: The Last Days of the Confederate Capital*) About the Author A. Wilson Greene, Executive Director of Pamplin

Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, is the author of *Breaking the Backbone of Rebellion* and *Whatever You Resolve to Be: Essays on Stonewall Jackson*.