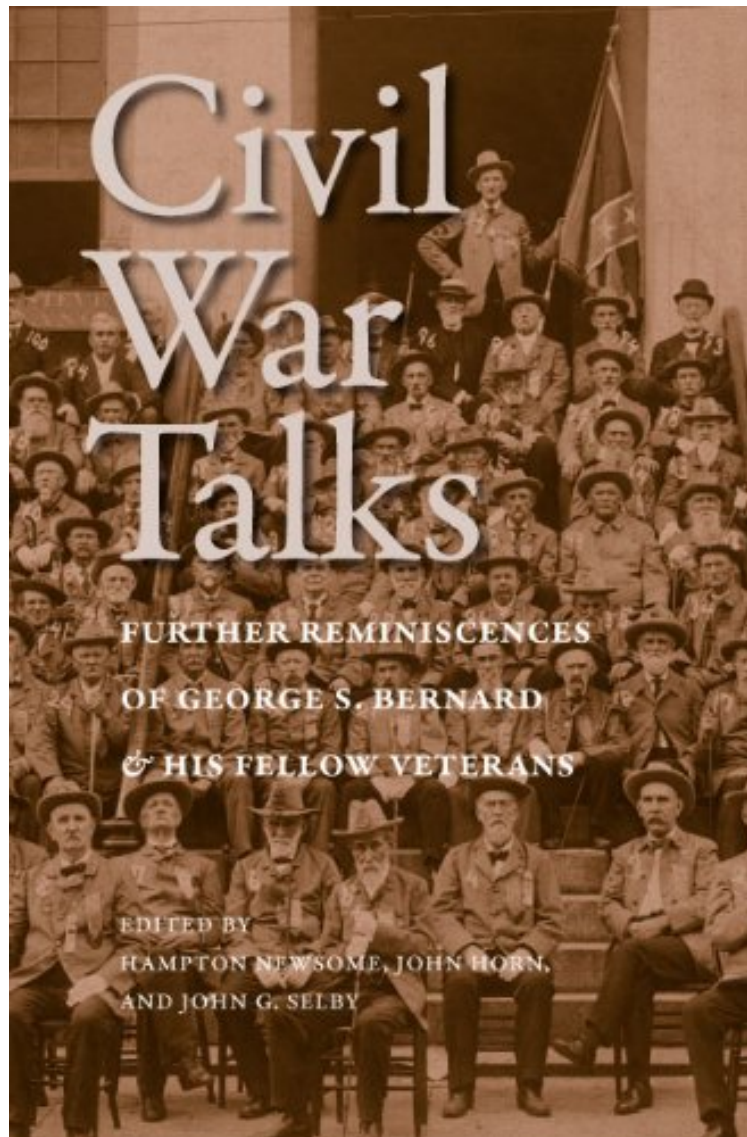


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## **Civil War Talks: Further Reminiscences of George S. Bernard and His Fellow Veterans (A Nation Divided: Studies in the Civil War Era)**

*George S. Bernard*

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#2469318 in Books University of Virginia Press 2012-06-20 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.51 x 1.47 x 6.70l, 1.96 #File Name: 0813931754512 pages | File size: 43.Mb

**George S. Bernard : Civil War Talks: Further Reminiscences of George S. Bernard and His Fellow Veterans (A Nation Divided: Studies in the Civil War Era)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Civil War Talks: Further Reminiscences of George S. Bernard and His Fellow Veterans

(A Nation Divided: Studies in the Civil War Era):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An Indispensable Set of First Person Accounts, Mainly from the 12th Virginia By Brett R. Schulte George S. Bernard was a lifelong resident of Petersburg Virginia, and joined what became the 12th Virginia Infantry during the Civil War. In the 1890s, he released a collection of his own and other first person accounts entitled War Talks of Confederate Veterans. The book is freely available online and I encourage anyone reading this to go seek it out. What many do not know is that Bernard intended to publish a second volume of War Talks, but for unknown reasons was unable to do so in his lifetime. Enter editors Selby, Newsome, and Horn. They were separately working on two books based off of Bernard's papers, and fortunately were brought together and combined their work. They were able to find two proposed table of contents for "War Talks II" among Bernard's papers. Roughly basing this book on a combination of those proposed TOCs, the editors did for Bernard posthumously what he was unable to do himself while alive, release what is essentially War Talks II. The first War Talks focused heavily on the Siege of Petersburg, especially the Crater, because Bernard was especially interested in the Siege as a resident of Petersburg. This second volume is not as heavily focused on the Siege of Petersburg, though it does contain five full chapters on this often overlooked operation which covered most of the last nine months of the war in the east. The rest of the book covers other campaigns in the east in which Bernard was involved. Many of the reminiscences come from Bernard himself or from his comrades in the 12th Virginia. General William Mahone, who came into his own at the Siege of Petersburg, makes some appearances. The editors gleaned most of the items from Bernard's personal papers or via Richmond and Petersburg newspapers of the 1890's and 1900's, which published many of Bernard's "War Talks" at the Petersburg A. P. Hill Camp of Confederate veterans in the days following each talk. The end notes used on each page are fantastic, giving background information on the people, places, and events mentioned by Bernard and others in their first person reminiscences. This is a treasure trove of Confederate first person accounts rescued from the obscurity of late 19th Century newspapers and the personal papers of Bernard. Those interested in the Army of Northern Virginia, especially its fighting at the Siege of Petersburg, will find this to be a very useful and interesting book. The editors also deserve praise for their annotation, editing, and detective skills. Buy this book. You will not regret it.

George S. Bernard was a Petersburg lawyer and member of the 12th Virginia Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. Over the course of his life, Bernard wrote extensively about his wartime experiences and collected accounts from other veterans. In 1892, he published War Talks of Confederate Veterans, a collection of firsthand accounts focusing on the battles and campaigns of the 12th Virginia that is widely read to this day. Bernard prepared a second volume but was never able to publish it. After his death in 1912, his papers became scattered or simply lost. But a series of finds, culminating with the discovery of a cache of papers in Roanoke in 2004, have made it possible to reconstruct a complete manuscript of the unpublished second volume. The resulting book, Civil War Talks, contains speeches, letters, Bernard's wartime diary, and other firsthand accounts of the war not only by veterans of the Confederacy, such as General William Mahone, but by Union veterans as well. Their personal stories cover the major military campaigns in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania--Seven Pines, Malvern Hill, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Petersburg, and Appomattox. For the general reader, this volume offers evocative testimonies focusing on the experiences of individual soldiers. For scholars, it provides convenient access to many accounts that, until now, have not been widely available or have been simply unknown.

" . . . this thoroughly documented and superbly edited volume belongs on every serious Civil War student's shelf. Bernard's collections of primary sources about Petersburg, the Weldon Railroad and Burgess' Mill are proverbial gold mines of personal accounts of those battles from both sides." - Civil War News "The result is a rich collection of primary sources on the military history of the Civil War that, at times, also speaks to issues of historical memory . . . . The editors do an excellent job of clearly but unobtrusively guiding the reader through the documents . . . . The working historian will certainly appreciate the richness of the collection . . . . Military historians will find the collection particularly useful." - Andre M. Fleche, The Journal of Southern History About the Author Hampton Newsome is an attorney practicing in Washington, D.C. John Horn is an attorney practicing in Illinois. John G. Selby is John R. Turbyfill Professor of History at Roanoke College and the author of Virginians at War: The Civil War Experiences of Seven Young Confederates.