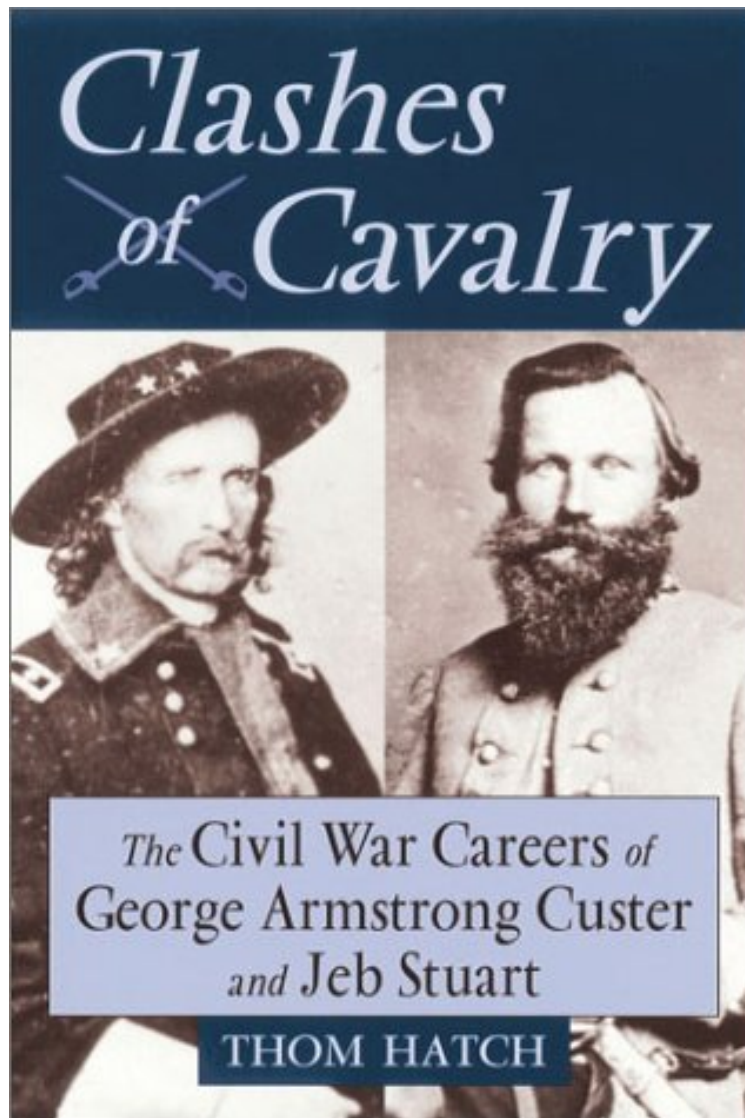


Clashes of Cavalry

Thom Hatch

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Thom Hatch : Clashes of Cavalry before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Clashes of Cavalry:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Alex PinaGreat !9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Whoa! Author is mixing apples with orangesBy pmdjnIt is strange for this book to compare the career of Jeb Stuart, Lee's chief-of-cavalry until 1864, with George Custer. Phil Sheridan was Grant's cavalry chief and Custer's commander. Therefore, comparing Stuart to Sheridan is more correct. It then follows that, although Sheridan did favor Custer among his lieutenants, it is monstrously wrong to state 1 man (Custer), and not his commander

(Sheridan), drove the Confederates out of the Shenandoah Valley and stopped Lee at Appomattox. (In fact, it is almost legend how Sheridan, by personally leading a counter-charge at the last Valley battle at Cedar Creek, was himself most responsible for ending the Valley campaign.) It is incredible that the book reviews above repeat such inaccuracies. There are much better books of both generals. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A brilliant book! By A Customer How could anyone call this book anything but brilliant? Wow! What a tremendous read! The author has masterfully intertwined the lives of these two famous cavalymen to offer the reader a swashbuckling, breathtaking ride through the Civil War. Fascinating episodes in Custer's early career - that are not found in Gregory Urwin's book - shed new light on how he came to be a general at age 23, and the portrayal of his battles are spine-chilling reading. Stuart also enjoys the benefits of the author's in-depth research, with speculation and opinion that fill in blanks found in the unsatisfying Emory Thomas biography. The final chapter compares the two cavalymen in a most unique and creative manner. Although this book is two biographies in one, anyone who wants to KNOW these two men - with myths and legends debunked - will find no better volume than this, for nothing has been left out and the only drawback is that you will want the story to continue once the author has written "The End."

Clashes of Cavalry [Jul 01, 2001] Hatch, Thom ... 0811703568

From Library Journal Hatch (Custer and the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1997) acquaints readers with the well-known lives and military accomplishments of his colorful protagonists: Custer, the fun-loving West Point cadet who graduated at the bottom of his class with 726 demerits; and Stuart, a fellow classmate and self-styled Virginia aristocrat who shunned the "hireling professions" of law and commerce for the battlefield. The author skillfully interweaves the extraordinary wartime exploits of both men from First Manassas until Stuart's death at Yellow Tavern on May 11, 1864. He offers Stuart as a foppish master showman whose meteoric rise as the "Beau Sabreur" declines after Brandy Station and Gettysburg, largely owing to his willfulness and bad judgment. By comparison, the late-blooming Custer is seen to eclipse Stuart's reputation through his daring generalship, ability to survive lackluster superiors, and substantial contribution to Lincoln's 1864 reelection by driving Confederate troops from the Shenandoah Valley. Hatch's concluding chapter summarizes the strengths and weaknesses of both cavalry commanders, and, surprisingly enough, he disappoints by declining to choose the better man, although his entire study argues for Custer. The scholarship is sound, and maps of the subjects' raids and engagements are helpful. Recommended for Civil War collections at most libraries. John Carver Edwards, Univ. of Georgia Libs., Athens Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Despite falling short of General Lee's expectations during the Gettysburg campaign, Stuart had a sterling reputation when he died in 1864. Perhaps warriors who die young have a better chance of departing with their glory intact. Of course, George Armstrong Custer was not so lucky. Had he avoided the unpleasantness on the Little Big Horn 11 years after the Civil War ended, he might have been hailed, based on his Civil War exploits, as a brave, gallant, wise hero. Hatch, a writer and historian, has traced the Civil War careers of these charismatic but flawed cavalry commanders, and he points out striking similarities. Both were personally courageous, flamboyant, and aggressive; unfortunately, both had a disturbing (and in Custer's case, fatal) tendency to freelance in the pursuit of personal accolades. Hatch is clearly enamored with both of his subjects, and he occasionally ignores or glosses over some of their personal shortcomings and poor military decisions. Still, he has provided a well-written, engrossing, and generally accurate dual portrait of two of our more compelling Civil War icons. Jay Freeman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved