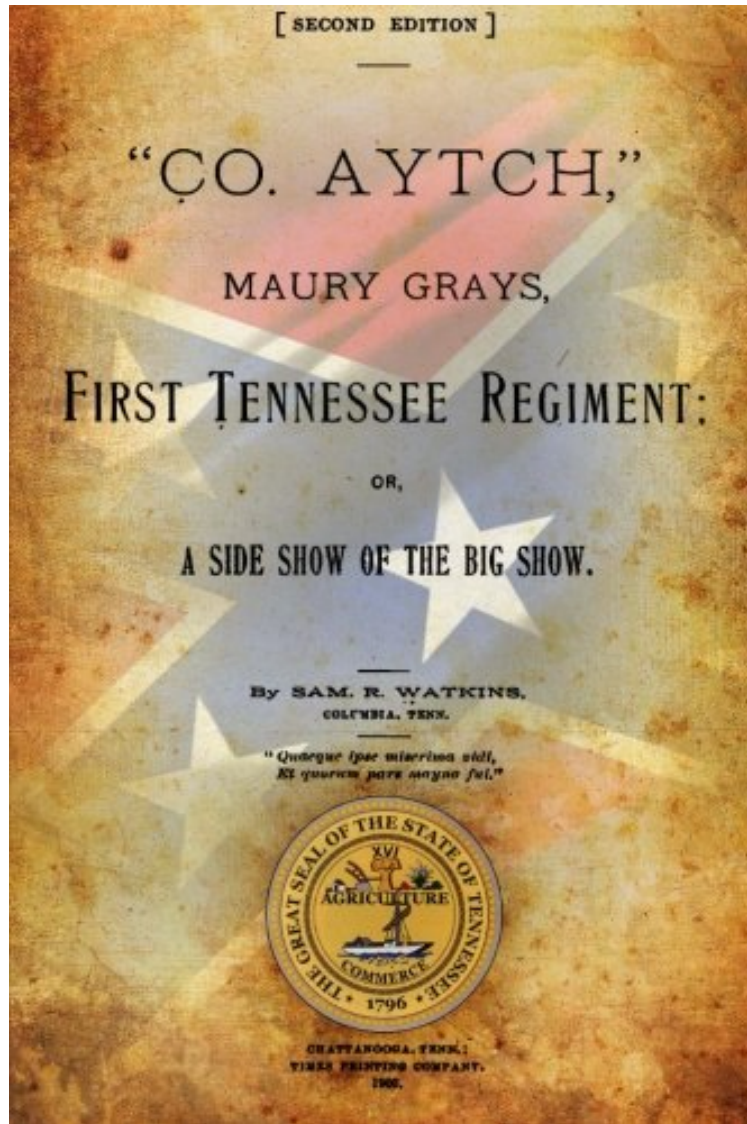


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"Co. Aytch," Maury Grays, First Tennessee Regiment: Or, A Side Show Of The Big Show.

Sam R. Watkins

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised "Co. Aytch," Maury
Grays, First Tennessee Regiment: Or, A Side Show Of The Big Show.:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read...I can't say anymore.By Charles WilliamsAn excellent

day to day account of a Confederate soldier (probably the same for a Union soldier as well) My great great grandfather was a Confederate soldier with Company A of the 5th Georgia Infantry ("Clinch Rifles") until his death at the siege of Vicksburg. When I read the life events put to pen so well by Sam Watkins, it gives me a real insight on my great great grandfather's life and death during this time. I highly recommend reading this to maybe grasp and understand a little better what this war was really about to the common Southern man/soldier and his relationship to his Country/cause. It might surprise you 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding read of a civil war soldier's life. *****By J D WI become a civil war buff in the last 4 years, and having a large amount of family history intertwined in the civil war, I wanted a true picture into the daily life of a soldier in the confederacy. This book was recommended by a historian as a great civil war read. This is filled with actual experiences of a Southern soldier during the civil war. From the first days of enlistment, battle by battle, and through the bloodiest conflicts that brought an end to this horrific war. Sam Watkins does an incredible delivery through this book. A first hand, day to day, battle by battle, must read of the American Civil War.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Must READ...this is from the heart and in the voice of those timesBy Kenneth Smith, IIAs a student of the "War Between the States," this is a must read and have in your library. The recollections and reflections of this actual participant is an "IDEAL," primary source for information and the feelings of this war. With his children at his feet as he writes and reflects, Sam Watkins tells his story as a the soldier on the front lines. His words, his heart and his view are throughout this work, more especially his diction with all of his imagery make the historian visitor to those National Battlefields of our turbulent time of war in his area of service come alive again. Well worth the time for a sit-down book with reflections and history written in a common man/soldier's tone.

First published in 1882, this is the 1900 edition of Sam Watkins' memoirs of his time serving in Company H, 1st Tennessee Regiment, C.S.A. during the War Between the States. Includes, Chattanooga, Atlanta, Corinth, Shiloh and more.

About the Author Samuel "Sam" Rush Watkins (June 26, 1839 - July 20, 1901) was a noted Confederate soldier during the American Civil War. He is known today for his memoir *Company Aytch: Or, a Side Show of the Big Show*, often heralded as one of the best primary sources about the common soldier's Civil War experience. Watkins was born on June 26, 1839 near Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee, and received his formal education at Jackson College in Columbia. He originally enlisted in the "Bigby Greys" of the 3rd Tennessee Infantry in Mount Pleasant, Tennessee, but transferred shortly thereafter to the First Tennessee Infantry, Company H (the "Maury Greys") in the spring of 1861. Watkins faithfully served throughout the duration of the War, participating in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Perryville, Murfreesboro (Stones River), Shelbyville, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Resaca, Adairsville, Kennesaw Mountain (Cheatham Hill), New Hope Church, Zion Church, Kingston, Cassville, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Franklin, and Nashville. Of the 120 men who enlisted in "Company H" in 1861, Sam Watkins was one of only seven alive when General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee surrendered to General William Tecumseh Sherman in North Carolina April, 1865. Of the 1,200 men who fought in the First Tennessee, only 65 were left to be paroled on that day. Soon after the war ended, Watkins began writing his memoir, entitled "Company Aytch: Or, a Side Show of the Big Show". It was originally serialized in the Columbia, Tennessee Herald newspaper. "Co. Aytch" was published in a first edition of 2,000 in book form in 1882. "Co. Aytch" is heralded by many historians as one of the best war memoirs written by a common soldier of the field. Sam's writing style is quite engaging and skillfully captures the pride, misery, glory, and horror experienced by the common foot soldier. Watkins is often featured and quoted in Ken Burns' 1990 documentary titled *The Civil War*. Watkins died on July 20, 1901 at the age of sixty-two in his home in the Ashwood Community. He was buried with full military honors by the members of the Leonidas Polk Bivouac, United Confederate Veterans, in the cemetery of the Zion Presbyterian Church near Mount Pleasant, Tennessee.