

Co. Aytch

Sam R. Watkins

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CO. AYTCH



A CIVIL WAR NARRATIVE

SAM R. WATKINS

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Sam R. Watkins : Co. Aytch before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Co. Aytch:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He has enjoyed it very muchBy Elysant de La ValletteI bought this as a Christmas gift that my son requested. He has enjoyed it very much. It is full of first hand information and the book is frequently referred by leading authors of the Civil War, especially, I believe my son said, Shelby Foote. He was also surprised and enjoyed the author's sense of humor.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A View from the Front LineBy Daniel BooneFor those who want a first hand account of life of a common soldier during the Civil War,

Co. Aytch fills the bill nicely. Very little in honor and glory, and much in hardships, deprivations, and death. It is a very realistic view of the times. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... and survived the Civil War and Company Aytch was perfect. I love history and this book is now ...By CustomerI had been looking for a book about a real person that fought and survived the Civil War and Company Aytch was perfect. I love history and this book is now one of my favorites.

Of the 120 men who enlisted in "Company H" (Or Co. Aytch as he calls it) 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 on April, 1865. Of the 1,200 men who fought in the First Tennessee, only 65 were left to be paroled on that day. "Co. Aytch: A Confederate Memoir of the Civil War" is heralded by many historians as one of the best war memoirs written by a common soldier of the field. Sam R. Watkin's writing style in "Co Aytch" is quite engaging and skillfully captures the pride, misery, glory, and horror experienced by the common foot soldier.

About the AuthorSamuel "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.