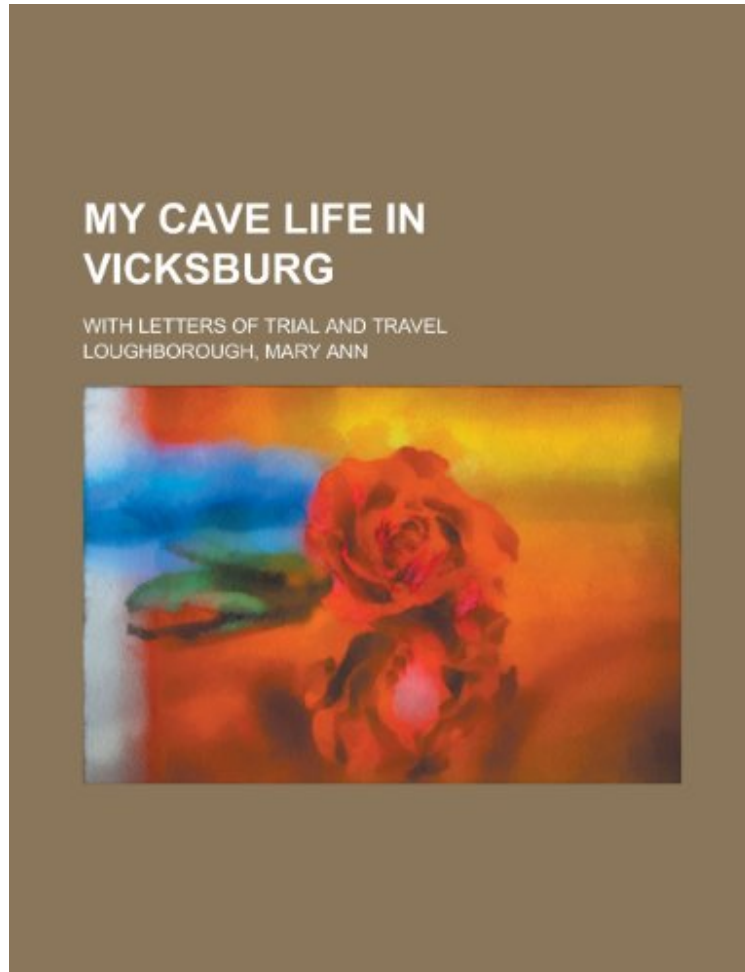


[Library ebook] My Cave Life in Vicksburg; With Letters of Trial and Travel

## My Cave Life in Vicksburg; With Letters of Trial and Travel

Mary Ann Webster Loughborough  
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**Mary Ann Webster Loughborough : My Cave Life in Vicksburg; With Letters of Trial and Travel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Cave Life in Vicksburg; With Letters of Trial and Travel:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Gift For All TimeBy Albert AliotoI have a houseful of books. If I were forced to get rid of all but one, I think this would be the one I would keep. Whatever the privations of the siege of Vicksburg, we should all be thankful that Mary Ann Loughborough had pen and paper. Her story of how she got through it is a gift that will have value for all time. I found most poignant her reaction to the cries of a mother whose child had been killed in the shelling: Still the moans from the bereaved mother came borne on the pleasant air, floating through the silvery moonlit scene -- saddening hearts that had never known sorrow, and awakening chords of sympathy in hearts that before had thrilled and suffered. Yet, "it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." Yes, better the tender memory of a hidden life that glows in our hearts forever; better, all will say who

have known the light and consolation given from on high, when we throw ourselves before His Throne in utter wretchedness, and arise strong -- strong in the strength that never faileth -- the Lord's strength. She was twenty-six years old, a wife and mother, and writing in a cave, she taught lessons that will never lose their meaning. One little side note: Mary Ann's husband was a lawyer who did work for railroads in Arkansas after the war. He was given the right to name two stations and he named them after his and Mary Ann's daughters. One of the stations became the town of Hope, Arkansas, Bill Clinton's hometown. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very Interesting Story and Remarkable Heroine By Nancy W. Petrey This part of the history of the Civil War was completely unknown to me, so I enjoyed reading the book. The writer was quite a heroine, and her many escapes from destruction had to be the result of God's hand. She appeared to be a devout Christian and was amazingly uncomplaining about living in a cave for so long! It was a learning experience. Living in a war zone couldn't be dull but the telling of it was repetitious and not very interesting at times. Nevertheless, I enjoyed it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gives an idea what life could have been like in that time period By dugspur1 Very interesting. Gives an idea what life could have been like in that time period.

Excerpt: ...their dead. I was distressed to hear of a young Federal lieutenant who had been severely wounded and left on the field by his comrades. He had lived in this condition from Saturday until Monday, lying in the burning sun without water or food; and the men on both sides Pg 102 could witness the agony of the life thus prolonged, without the power to assist him in any way. I was glad, indeed, when I heard the poor man had expired on Monday morning. Another soldier left on the field, badly wounded in the leg, had begged most piteously for water; and lying near the Confederate intrenchments, his cries were all directed to the Confederate soldiers. The firing was heaviest where he lay; and it would have been at the risk of a life to have gone to him; yet, a Confederate soldier asked and obtained leave to carry water to him, and stood and fanned him in the midst of the firing, while he eagerly drank from the heroic soldier's canteen. The officer who related this little incident had not yet obtained the name of the noble man. Truly, "the bravest are the tenderest; the loving are the daring." How generous

From the Inside Flap CONTENTS I. Our Party set out for Vicksburg-The Ride and Scenery Scenes during the first Bombardment-View of the City and River-Opening of a Battery-The Enemy, 9 II. At Night the Signal Gun sounds-The Gunboats are coming down-The Town Awake-Shell Music-The Boats near us Rapid-Descent to the Cave-They have passed safely-Why the Confederate Guns do not fire-The Burning Transport, 15 III. Masked Battery on the Opposite Shore-Taking the Cars-Fright of the Negro Porters-Major Watts's Party-Stampede of Ladies, 20 IV. Jackson threatened Colonel Grierson General Pemberton departs-My Mind is made up to go also-Ride on the Cars-Vicksburg again, 25 V. To Vicksburg again-Aspirations-Troops passing to Black River-General Pemberton orders all Non-Combatants to leave the City, 29 VI. Rumors of the Federal Advance on Black River-Gun boats on the River-Cannonading and Fire at Warrenton-General Pemberton's Forces engaged at Black River, 35 VII. Sunday, the 17th-After Church-The Demoralized Army-Soldiers Stories, .... 40 VIII. Fresh Troops from Warrenton for the Intrenchments-"We'll Protect You"-Fears, 46 IX. The Ball in Motion-View from the Court House-Federal Prisoners sent across the River-Movements of Gunboats, 49 X. Groundless Fear of an Attack by Gunboats-Shells fall-The Bombardment begins-Cave Shelter-Garrison Force-Cave and Cave Life, 55 XI. Buried Alive-House Breaking-Appearance of Shell at Night-Under the Root of a Fig Tree, 63 XII. Fire at Night-A Narrow Escape-Moonlight Shells from the Battle Field Employment and Traffic, 69 XIII. Shells from the Rear of the City-Providential Deliverance-Pantomime Pea Meal-Hospital Accident, 73 XIV. Dogs-Horses-Descent of a Shell through a Cave-A Mother's Cries-Deserted Homes-Silence, 78 XV. An Excitement-Sinking of the Cincinnati Sky-Parlor Hill-Moving Prospects, 84 XVI. Fall of a Shell at the Corner of my Cave-Music-Casualties of the Day, 89 XVII. Ride to the Fortifications-Number of Caves along the Road-Appearance of the New Home-Change of Missiles, 94 XVIII. Morning Charge of General Burbridge-Horrors of War-An Important Discovery, 99 XIX. An Acceptable Present-Hunger-Half Rations-In the Rifle Pits, 105 XX. A Rainy Morning-A Waterspout-Dismal Experience-Brighter Prospects-An Unfortunate Sleeper, 109 XXI. Weary-The Couriers from General Johnston-Dangerous Pasturage-Mule Meat-Local Songs-Missed by a Minie Ball, 114 XXII. A Wounded Horse-Shrapnell Shells-Charge on the Intrenchments-Fearful Firing, 122 XXIII. An Unhappy Accident-The Unfortunate Ladies of Vicksburg-Approach of Mortar Shells near the Intrenchments, 128 XXIV. Death of a Faithful Servant-Blowing up of a Fort-Loss of Prominent Officers-Surrender of Vicksburg, 135 XXV. A Fright-George my Protector-A Polite Soldier gets the Tent Fly, 143 LETTERS OF TRIAL AND TRAVEL, 147 From the Back Cover This book is a rare and affecting personal narrative of the Civil War from a Southern woman. At the age of twenty-seven, along with her two-year old daughter and her husband, Confederate Major James M. Loughborough, Mary Ann Webster Loughbrough, arrived in Vicksburg. Shortly thereafter, the Union armies began a month and a half siege against the fortification in order to gain control of the Mississippi River. As she and her daughter took refuge in dugout caves in the hills above Vicksburg, Mary Loughborough recorded her daily life. Her personal account of the events of 1863 vividly documents some of the many extraordinary experiences of ordinary people on American soil during the Civil War. Many consider General U.S. Grant's Siege at Vicksburg (May

25-July 4, 1863), along with Robert E. Lee's defeat at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, the turning point of the Civil War. During the siege, Union gunboats lobbed over 22,000 shells into the town. As the barrages continued, citizens of Vicksburg, Mississippi sought refuge on a ridge located between the main town and the rebel defense line, where over 500 caves were dug into the yellow clay hills of Vicksburg. Whether houses were structurally sound or not, it was deemed safer to occupy these dugouts. People did their best to make them comfortable, with rugs, furniture, and pictures. They tried to time their movements and foraging with the rhythm of the cannonade, sometimes unsuccessfully. Because of these dugouts or caves, the Union soldiers gave the town the nickname of "Prairie Dog Village." Despite the ferocity of the Union fire against the town, fewer than a dozen civilians were known to have been killed during the entire siege. MaryLoughbrough tells the story of the Siege from the citizen's point of view.