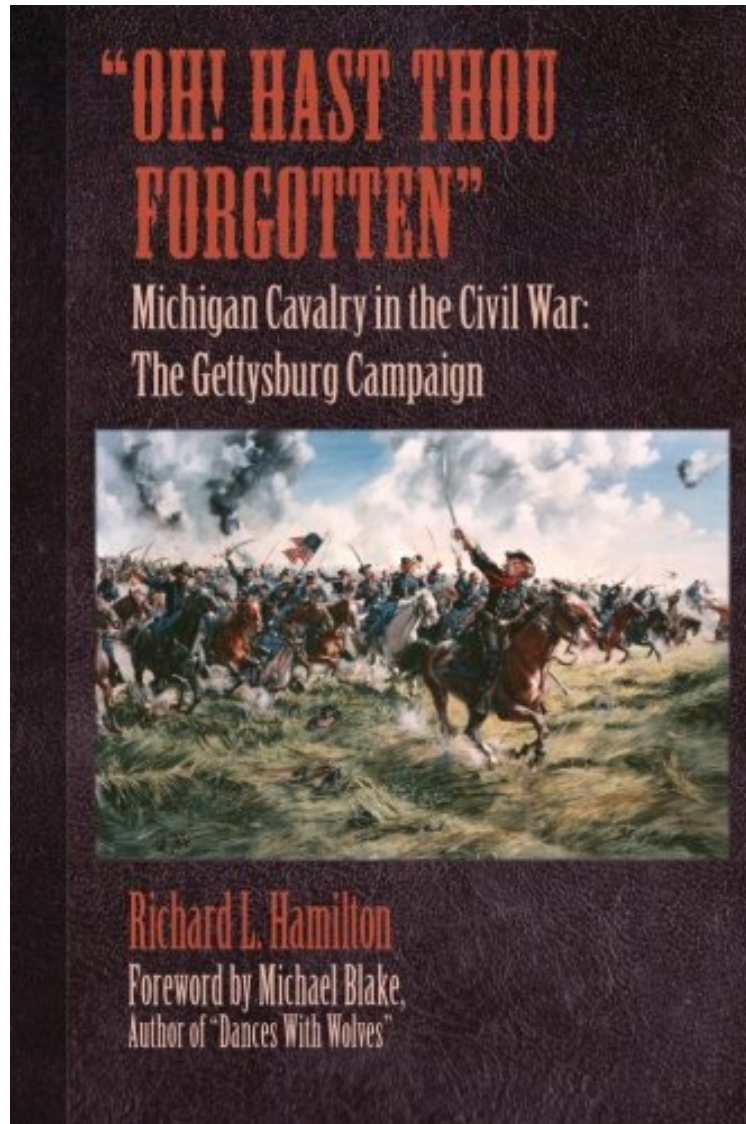


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## "Oh! Hast Thou Forgotten": Michigan Cavalry in the Civil War: The Gettysburg Campaign

*Richard Hamilton*

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**Richard Hamilton : "Oh! Hast Thou Forgotten": Michigan Cavalry in the Civil War: The Gettysburg Campaign** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised "Oh! Hast Thou Forgotten": Michigan Cavalry in the Civil War: The Gettysburg Campaign:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderfully vivid recollection of a Michigan cavalry sergeantBy Tom BetzThis is a wonderfully vivid recollection of a 6th Michigan Cavalryman's journey from Grand Rapids, Mich.,

to his untimely death at Falling Waters, W. Va., in 1863. The story is written by the descendant of George Thomas Patten using his journal and historical records from many sources. The story brings a human element into the stark reality of the Civil War and the fighting in the Gettysburg Campaign in the summer of 1863. The author did a wonderful job of weaving the recollections of his relative into the thread of the history of the events surrounding the Union cavalry actions that have been much overlooked as an important part of the three-day battle at Gettysburg, Pa., July 1-3, 1863. As one who has been researching the cavalry actions of the Civil War this book was a great reminder of the changing world of the mounted soldier and how the Confederacy and the Union forces evolved throughout the war to find themselves facing each other many times and on many battlefields. My family has a personal connection with my mother's family coming from Grandville, Mich., a suburb of Grand Rapids. It was with that in mind I read the deeds of those who came from Kent County and rode into history with their young general George A. Custer. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Could've been more about Michigan Cavalry and more about a family member who was an officer; not about the story of the everyday patriot privates who were fighting in order to have money to send to their families who were starving on their land grant farms ceded back to the government after the logging industry spoiled the lands by leaving huge tree trunks, rendering them very difficult to plow and plant. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Oh! Needs An Editor By Lowell White I bought this book directly from the author. He had set up a booth at the 2009 Jackson MI Civil War reenactment. I chatted with the author who seemed nice enough. He had written a book based on letters written by his ancestor Sgt. George T Patten who served in the 6th Michigan Cavalry. As Michigan in the Civil War is one of my main interests, I bought the book and I eagerly started reading as soon as I arrived home. The book turned out to be a confusing mixture of historical fiction and an account of the Gettysburg Campaign. Neither approach works. The imagined conversations do not ring true. The historical account bounces around and contains information not related to Michigan Cavalry Brigade. (Such as an account of Joshua Chamberlain and the 20th Maine on Little Round Top.) Mr. Hamilton states more than once that 51,000 were killed on both sides at Gettysburg. Total CASUALTIES of killed, wounded and captured were about 51,000. The number of killed at Gettysburg will never be known but estimates range between 6,000 and 8,000. The maps are OK and were obtained from the National Park Service. The photos are a mixed bag. I liked the photos of the flags carried by the Michigan Brigade. However, the same photo of Sgt. Patten is placed on four different pages. There are also four photos of Gen. Custer, three of Gen. Kilpatrick, three of Maj. Weber, and multiple photos of others as well. I have never seen this in a book before. Toward the back of the book there is a list of the officers of the 6th MI Cavalry totaling 71 pages. It appears this was added simply to lengthen the book. With proper editing and a complete rewrite, this could be an adequate article for a magazine such as Civil War Times. This is a disappointment as a book. I would only buy this if it was in the bargain bin.

The story of "Oh! Hast Thou Forgotten" begins in the summer of 1862 in Kent County, Michigan, and it ends with the close of the Gettysburg Campaign in mid July 1863. It is the story George Thomas Patten, a young husband and father who wrests with his conscious over what could, and will be his part in defense of the Union in the Civil War. Over the objections of his father, who has grown weary of burying many young West Michigan men under the sod in local cemeteries, and who fears for the life of his only son, George Thomas Patten enlists in the 6th Michigan Cavalry Regiment. The regiment is mustered into the United States Cavalry, and departs Grand Rapids, Michigan on a cold blustery winter day for Washington City on December 10, 1862. In April 1863 Sgt. Patten, while posted on the defense perimeter of the Capitol, learns of the death of his wife, leaving behind a young son. His regiment is dispatched to the Gettysburg Campaign, under the command of Brigadier General George Armstrong Custer. The campaign culminates at the Battle of Falling Waters, where Sgt. George Thomas Patten pays the ultimate price of liberty.

About the Author Richard L. Hamilton, the author of "Oh! Hast Thou Forgotten" (2008), Michigan Cavalry in the Civil War: The Gettysburg Campaign, "The Plant: Oh Quality Where Art Thou" (2009), and "Shiloh to Durham Station" (2011) is a retired General Motors Corporation manufacturing engineering manager who holds a BS degree in mechanical engineering from Kettering University [GMI], and MS in industrial supervision from Western Michigan University. He is a former professor of engineering technology at Western Michigan University, and Director of Technology at Ferris State University. He has authored a tennis sports page for the SaddleBrooke [Arizona] community monthly newspapers, as well as a special Civil War Memoir series that ran twelve months in 2007-2008. He has held public office in his former home state of Michigan, serving as chair of the Thornapple Kellogg District school board, Middleville village government, and former trustee and elder of his local church. He has written three unpublished books concerning genealogy and biographies of his Hamilton-Patten family. He has given special Civil War program presentations to historical societies and clubs about the service of his maternal ancestor [1st Sgt. Geo. T. Patten] who fought with Brig. General George A. Custer in the Michigan Cavalry Brigade, and his paternal ancestor [Pvt. Samuel M. Hamilton] who fought with General John Buford of the 1st Division U.S. Cavalry. Richard is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution [SAR] with maternal and paternal ancestors who served in the

Continental army and navy, and member of the Sons of Union Veterans-Michigan Camp #17. He is also a candidate for the Mayflower Society through his ancestors John Alden and Priscilla Mullins.