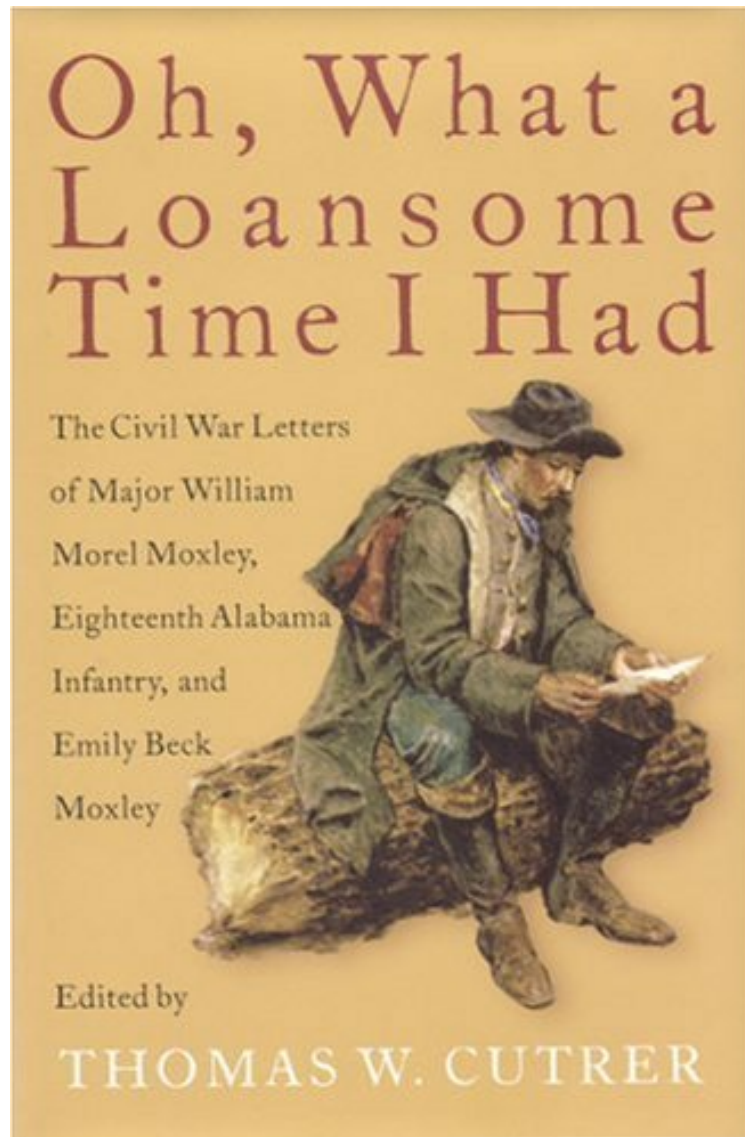


[Download] Oh, What a Loansome Time I Had: The Civil War Letters of Major William Morel Moxley, Eighteenth Alabama Infantry, and Emily Beck Moxley

Oh, What a Loansome Time I Had: The Civil War Letters of Major William Morel Moxley, Eighteenth Alabama Infantry, and Emily Beck Moxley

Emily Moxley, William Morel Moxley
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Emily Moxley, William Morel Moxley : Oh, What a Loansome Time I Had: The Civil War Letters of Major William Morel Moxley, Eighteenth Alabama Infantry, and Emily Beck Moxley before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oh, What a Loansome Time I Had: The Civil War

Letters of Major William Morel Moxley, Eighteenth Alabama Infantry, and Emily Beck Moxley:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Heartbreaking, Haunting Letters that will Touch You to the Core
By DDSCThis is the best Southern collection of letters written between a husband and wife that I have read. They never give first hand descriptions of great battles, but instead describe the great daily battles that Emily, a 25 year old pregnant mother of five must endure to survive on her own in the absence of her husband. In terms of popular literature think "Cold Mountain", not "Gone With the Wind." The Moxley's came from the yeoman class and had neither slaves nor large landholdings. The letters between Emily and her husband, Captain William Moxley, begin on August 22, 1861 and end a brief six months later in February, 1862. Though the Confederacy was largely successful in 1861 and the area that the Moxley's lived in, southeast Alabama, was far from any action, food and money had already become scarce by September. Emily struggled to get food without money, to collect debts and to take care of their home. She finds that there are few men around to work and most weren't dependable. On September 3rd she wrote that she could not sleep because the door to the house was broken saying "I was afraid to lie down at night with the door open." She had to beg and borrow to get meat and on December 23 wrote her husband "you don't know how I feel to start out to get meat and not one cent to get it with. . ." When her oldest child, George, needed pants there was no money to buy any. Nine year old George had to become a man before his time. When school started, Emily sent her oldest daughter, but kept George at home because "I cannot do without him yet, for I want him to attend to little Davis and cut wood and make fires." Captain Moxley's letters give interesting descriptions of the 18th Alabama Infantry's camp life in the winter of 1861-62 when sickness was epidemic. They provide valuable glimpses into discipline, training and morale in the early days of the Confederate army. During the winter of 1861-62 the 18th Alabama was stationed in Alabama. There is a lot of tenderness in Emily and William's letters. When Emily and William parted in the summer of 1861, he wrote that "I looked after you as long as I could see the carriage." My favorite was in Emily's September 3, 1861 letter to William. She wrote, "Dear Husband, . . . You told me to comb my hair ever time I thought of you. That is out of my power, for I would do nothing but comb it, for there is not one minute in the day but what I think of you." The editors have done a good job in providing notes and good maps to accompany these letters which also include many other letters to other family members. Other Alabama regiments are mentioned besides the 18th Alabama most prominently the 25th Alabama Infantry. With over 200 published Civil War diaries, reminiscences, and collections of letters in my personal library, I would put this work as one of my favorites. It made me see this tragic event in our history at the most basic, personal level.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Read on Civil War by a normal family. No politics.
By cmox-okGreat book. I enjoyed reading it more since it's my 3rd Great grandfather, but it's a good look into the lives of a regular family and how they are affected by the civil war.

Most surviving correspondence of the Civil War period was written by members of a literate, elite class; few collections exist in which the woman's letters to her soldier husband have been preserved. Here, in the exchange between William and Emily Moxley, a working-class farm couple from Coffee County, Alabama, we see vividly an often-neglected aspect of the Civil War experience: the hardships of civilian life on the home front.

“ Well, my Dear, I am home by my lone self to night except the children, and they are all a sleep and know not what trouble is. You cant imagine how I feel. It is so lonsome. If you could be with me to night, how diferent I would feel but that can not be. I have been at work on the door to night, trying to fix it so I could bar it up, and I got it fixt so I could fasten it. I have been propping it up until I got tired of it, and I was afraid to lie down at night with the door open.” —Excerpt from a letter written by Emily Beck Moxley