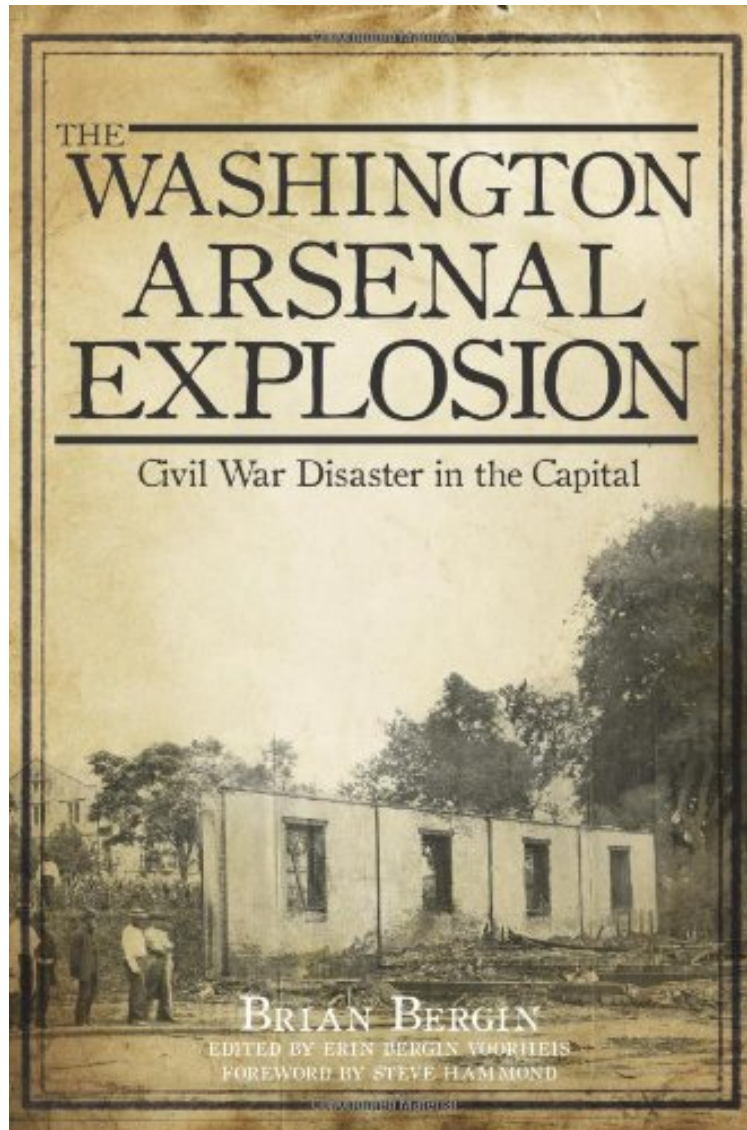


[E-BOOK] The Washington Arsenal Explosion:: Civil War Disaster in the Capital

# The Washington Arsenal Explosion:: Civil War Disaster in the Capital

*Brian Bergin*

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#1905222 in Books Bergin Brian Voorheis 2012-10-09 2012-10-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .31 x 6.00l, .50 #File Name: 1609497937128 pagesThe Washington Arsenal Explosion | File size: 38.Mb

**Brian Bergin : The Washington Arsenal Explosion:: Civil War Disaster in the Capital** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Washington Arsenal Explosion:: Civil War Disaster in the Capital:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Historic Tragedy Touches the HeartBy Ronald M. JohnsonSometimes major tragedies have short lives in public memory. Terrible, inexplicable events occur and, after a

period of mourning, are forgotten. Over time, they almost disappear as historical happenings. One such example is the June 17, 1864 explosion that ripped apart the Washington Arsenal, taking the lives of 21 young women working there. An event lost in time. That was true until Brian Bergin discovered the Lot Flannery monument that honors those women at Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. A man not deterred by those who forget, Bergin dedicated himself to recovering the facts and significance of the Arsenal disaster and publishing a book on the event. The results of that commitment are truly impressive. With a skill that all true historians bring to their task, he has compiled, narrated, and analyzed the deeper meanings of what happened that day and the construction of a monument to memorialize the event. In so doing, he created his own memorial because, sadly, Brian died before the book was published. To her great credit, his daughter Erin Bergin Voorheis brought his work to final form and publication. The words are his, the book her's, a loving tribute to a father. For all readers of Washington history, this is a must. The Arsenal tragedy tells us so much about the city, its neighborhoods, the war effort and toll it took on the city and the nation, Lincoln as both parent and President, and how Washingtonians responded to a tragic event with courage and assistance. And the monument? Still there, recently restored, a site where the hands and heart can touch the past. "A respectful visit to the monument," wrote Bergin, "involving a silent reading of the front and back etched plaques and the flanking tablets listing the twenty-one names, might reasonably conclude with a thoughtful contemplation of the significance of the sculpted survivor atop the monument, perpetually grieving for friends denied the joys of a fully lived life." (p. 108) My suggestion, go there, touch the monument. Remember the moment, the young women, and bring them back to life by remembering a nation and a city at war. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended by The Immigrants' Civil War By Patrick Young Washington Arsenal Explosion: The Civil War Disaster in the Capital by Brian Bergin published by History Press (2012) is a straightforward telling of the forgotten story of the mostly-immigrant women killed in that catastrophe. Brian Bergin passed away before this book was published, but we are lucky his daughter saw the project through to completion. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Needed Information By sparky I ordered this book as research for a Civil War story. The information was staggering. A worthy investment.

In 1864, residents of Washington, D.C., mourned together at the largest funeral the district had ever seen. In the midst of the Civil War, the poor Irish neighborhood of the Island lost twenty-one mothers, sisters and daughters. On June 17, dangerous working conditions and a series of unfortunate events led to the deadly explosion of a Federal arsenal at Fort McNair, where the young women made cartridges to assist the war effort. In the wake of the horrific event, a monument was erected at Congressional Cemetery to honor those who were lost. Author Brian Bergin similarly memorializes these women through his book, detailing the poor working conditions, the investigation into the avoidable events leading to the tragedy and the reaction of a community already battered by the Civil War.

About the Author Erin Bergin Voorheis has a degree in English from Washington State University and in addition to owning her own home-based business, she is a freelance technical writer and editor. She has worked in the past as a Technical Writer at EDS, a Staff Photographer and a Paralegal. Brian Bergin obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration from Western Michigan University, Master in Urban Planning from Wayne State University and studied at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of International and Public Affairs. He worked as an urban planner in Norfolk, VA and at Union Labor Life Insurance Company. In 2008 his essay on the disaster, Tragedy at the City's Arsenal, " was published on the Civil War Page of The Washington Times. Steve Hammond is a historian, Gettysburg native and 38-year resident of Maryland who was the 2008 Docent of the Year for the Historic Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC. He currently gives Civil War tours at the Congressional Cemetery. Michael R. Fritsch, Ph.D. is a Pharmacy Services Manager at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. He studied at Capella University, Central Michigan University, and Wayne State University. His ancestor was among those killed in the Washington Arsenal Explosion."