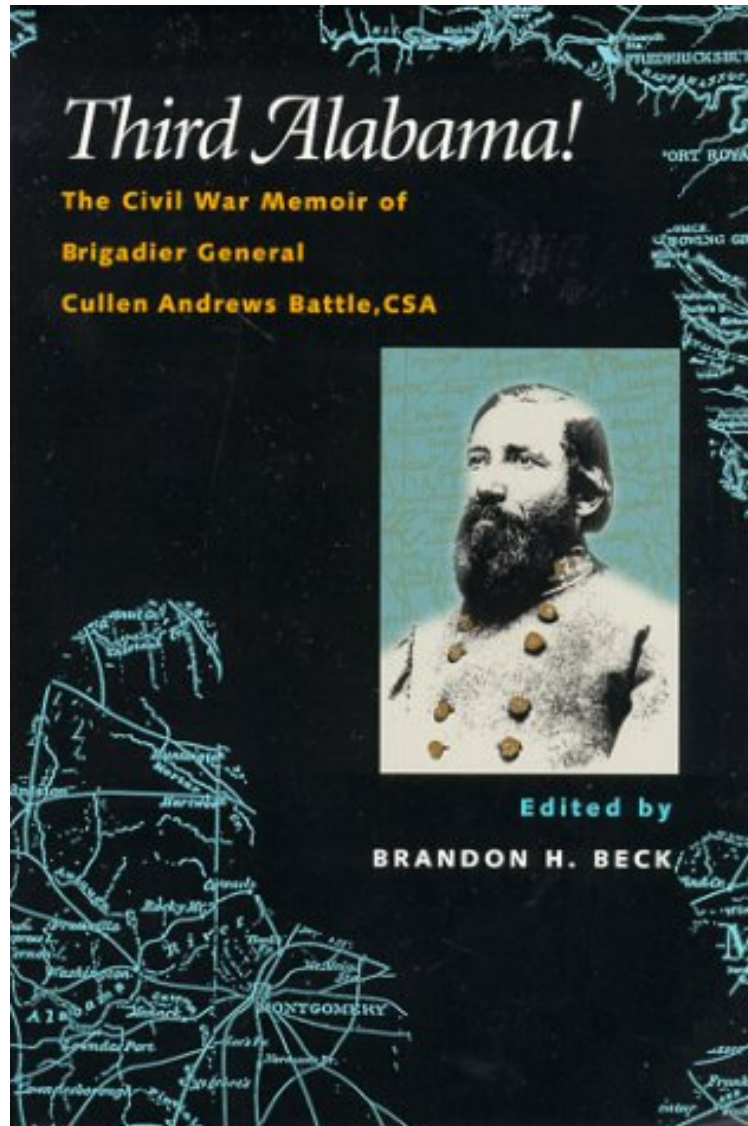


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Brandon H. Beck is in my opinion one of the most valuable resources for studying the American Civil War. Cullen A. Battle the author, Col. of the 3rd Alabama and then a brigade commander fought in all of the major engagements of the Army of Northern Virginia from Seven Pines to Appomattox. This book does not only go into detail about the campaigns in which Battle was involved but it also puts them into a proper historical context. With the use of context you are able to learn not only about the role of the 3rd Alabama and Cullen A. Battle, but you are also able to learn the fates of both sides during any of the campaigns covered in the memoir. The book includes six excellently detailed maps of the positions of the 3rd Alabama in various engagements. The maps also depict surrounding brigades and the Federal opponents that they faced off with. These maps are a very crucial part to this book for they give a visual aid of Battle's memoir. I think that Beck and his cartographer should be given a great deal of credit for making this memoir available to the Civil War community. It is definitely a must for everyone to have on their bookshelves! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. cant wait By Joseph So getting this book my great great great grandfather fought in the 3rd Alabama southern rifles

This memoir is a dramatic, intelligent first-person account of an Alabama regiment central to the Confederate campaign, written by its commander. From Seven Pines to Sharpsburg and Chancellorsville to Spotsylvania, the Third Alabama Regiment played a key role in the Civil War. One of the first infantry units from the Deep South to make the journey to Virginia in 1861, the Third Alabama was the first to cross the Potomac into Maryland and to enter the streets of Gettysburg in 1863. As the regiment's leader and one of General Robert E. Lee's brigade commanders, General Cullen Andrews Battle witnessed the extent of the many triumphs and sufferings of the Army of Northern Virginia. Trained as a journalist and lawyer, he records these events honestly and with compassion. Battle captures the courage of citizen soldiers fighting without prior military training, always paying tribute to the heroism of those under his command, while providing vivid accounts of some of the war's bloodiest fights. He assesses Confederate mistakes particularly at Seven Pines—and sheds light on the third Battle of Winchester, the only decisive defeat in which the regiment was involved. Brandon Beck's introductory notes provide a thorough review of Battle's life and valuable biographical information on soldiers under his command as well as on other officers in the Army of Northern Virginia. A worthwhile addition to all Civil War libraries public or private Third Alabama! offers an informative, dramatic reading of the wartime activities of one of the Confederacy's bravest fighting units.

"A fine biographical sketch . . . Combined with expert yet unobtrusive chapter introductions and annotations throughout."