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# This Cruel War: The Civil War Letters of Grant and Malinda Taylor

*Grant Taylor, Malinda J Slaughter Taylor*  
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**Grant Taylor, Malinda J Slaughter Taylor : This Cruel War: The Civil War Letters of Grant and Malinda Taylor** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Cruel War: The Civil War Letters of Grant and Malinda Taylor:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excellent window into day to day lifeBy Elmer B. Fuddledi bought this book for 2 purposes:1. learn more about the 40th alabama infantry in which one of my ancestors served and was mortally wounded at vicksburg, and2. gain insight into the daily issues and struggles of that time.this book, although in

a somewhat redundant fashion accomplished both those goals. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By DRH This is my great great grandfather and grandmother! How exciting!  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great letters but lackluster editing  
By R. D. Carlson The letters included in this collection are noteworthy for their content and relative completeness. Rarely does one get to read both sides of a Civil War correspondence. Usually letters from home were lost or destroyed during troop movements and only the soldier's letters remain. Grant Taylor, however, managed to hold on to many of his wife's letters and the perspective this gives on the dynamics between husband and wife is fascinating. Anyone who doubts the impact of homefront hardships on the frontline soldier need only follow Grant Taylor's growing frustration as he slips from uneasy acceptance of his military service in 1862 to depressed introspection and resignation toward his own death in 1865. Editorially, this book suffers from a military slant that avoids discussing the very things that make these letters important: the soldier's concern for family and home and the impact that concern had on his mental and emotional condition. Footnoting is haphazard at best and wavers between military history and endlessly repetitive genealogy. I can appreciate the work that went into identifying each person mentioned either by given or nicknames, but by page 30 we are already familiar with who the cousins and brothers are and don't need to be reminded. Read the book for its appeal as a primary source but skip the notes.

This Cruel War: The Civil War Letters of Grant and Malinda Taylor  
xiv, [8], 348 pp. The correspondence of Private Grant Taylor of the 40th Alabama Infantry with his wife during the American Civil War, comprising about 160 letters. He paints a grim picture of service for the South, with stories of men injuring themselves to avoid military service. He fought bravely despite lack of any personal stake in the debate that sparked the war.  
Keywords: MILITARY HISTORY AMERICAN CIVIL WAR CORRESPONDENCE LETTERS GRANT TAYLOR MALINDA 40TH ALABAMA INFANTRY

About the Author  
Taylor is a Linux consultant a key member of the LDP  
Blomquist is a descendant of Grant and Malinda Taylor. She is a high school mathematics teacher who has researched family history and genealogy for 25 years. Taylor teaches history at the Florida Institute of Technology and at Indian River Community College. He holds the Ph.D. in 19th Century U.S. history from the Florida State University.