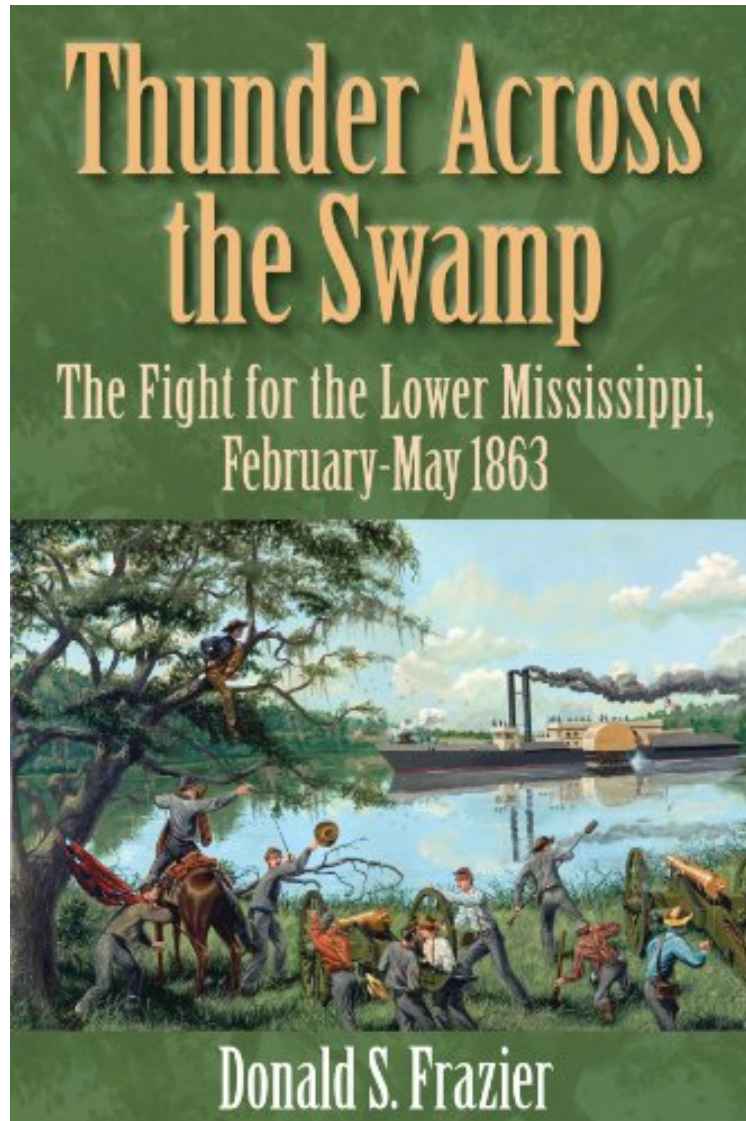


[Download pdf] Thunder Across the Swamp: The Fight for the Lower Mississippi, February-May 1863

## Thunder Across the Swamp: The Fight for the Lower Mississippi, February-May 1863

*Dr. Donald S. Frazier*

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**Dr. Donald S. Frazier : Thunder Across the Swamp: The Fight for the Lower Mississippi, February-May 1863** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thunder Across the Swamp: The Fight for the Lower Mississippi, February-May 1863:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent!By Iggity7Very informative, we'll documented, and written in a personal and engaging manner. Many photographs, most of which I had never seen in other works on the

same area of interest. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the Civil War in Louisiana.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good ReadBy Evan M. EllisEXCELLENT Book dealing with little known Trans-Miss campaigns in 1863. A good read.6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy NedBThis is his second book on the Civil War in Louisiana and covers just a four-month time frame from February to May 1863. I suspect that most who are interested in the Civil War know little about the action in southern Louisiana during early 1863. This book is an excellent narrative of that time. Frazier's writing has a nice pace to it and he is descriptive enough so the reader understands the action without getting bogged down in the detail. His description of the naval actions and the battles of Fort Bisland and Irish Bend are engaging and exciting. In addition to describing the fighting and command decisions, Frazier fits in observations about the destructive nature of war, such as the plundering of the countryside by US troops and the impact of enlisting former slaves into the US army. He skillfully balances the micro-narrative with the big picture. Obscure cavalry actions are described in action-packed detail while at the same time the regional strategic situation is clearly explained. Likewise, the maps are simple, clear but with enough key information to help the reader. I highly recommend this book and I look forward to Frazier's next work.

Echoes from the Battle of Galveston had barely faded before a new Federal offensive began rolling down the banks of the Mississippi River. General Ulysses S. Grant, intent on reducing the Confederate citadel at Vicksburg, began looking for ways to reduce the fortress and return control of the mightiest of American rivers to northern control. Downstream in New Orleans, General Nathaniel P. Banks received orders to cooperate however he could in this effort, but faced challenges of his own, blocked by the Confederate bastion at Port Hudson. The problem facing Union war planners seemed nearly intractable. Both of these Confederate positions had key vulnerabilities. Both garrisons depended heavily on supplies thrown across the Mississippi from sources in Louisiana and Texas, and the task fell to the United States Navy to cut off this stream of cattle and corn. The ensuing campaign to interdict these rations turned into one of the most massive raids in Civil War history, involving tens of thousands of Union foot soldiers and cavalry and scores of warships and transports, plunging Louisiana into the pit of a destructive war that wrecked everything in its path. When General Banks launched his campaign up Bayou Teche and the Atchafalaya River in Louisiana, Confederates in the region faced the greatest challenge yet to their claims of independence and experienced for the first time the true devastation of war and the consequences of rebellion. *Thunder Across the Swamp: The Fight for the Lower Mississippi, February–May 1863* is the second of the four books in Donald S. Frazier's highly acclaimed *Louisiana Quadrille*. In this fast-paced narrative, readers ride along with gunboat skippers in duels along the Mississippi, trot along with cavalymen as they slash their way through enemy lines, experience the dust and confusion of infantry assaults, and mourn with Louisiana, Texas, and New England families that watch their property and families destroyed by civil war. Most students of this national calamity may believe they know well the campaigns on the Mississippi; *Thunder Across the Swamp* promises to fill in the less well-known story of the fight to control the west bank during the crucial campaigns of 1863.

"Don writes well and has done a tremendous amount of research in primary and secondary sources. This work fills a large void in the literature of the Civil War and describes events that either have not received adequate coverage in the past or have not appeared before in print." Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr., Ph.D.