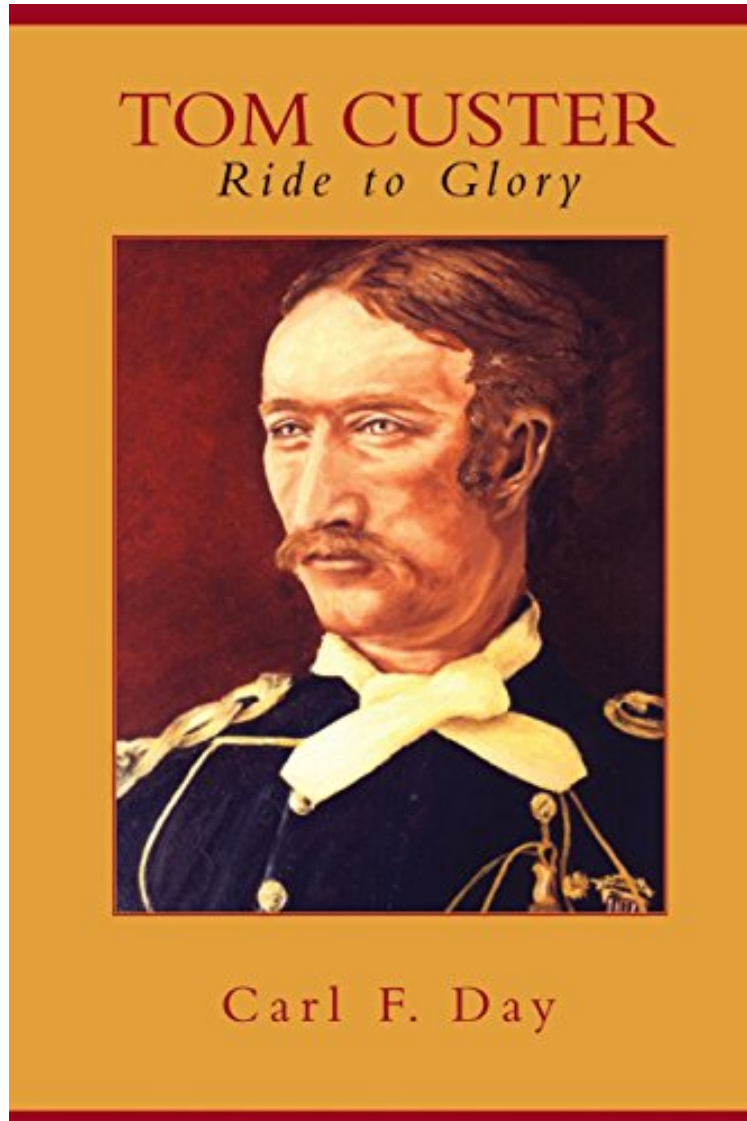


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Tom Custer: Ride to Glory (Frontier Military Series)

Carl F. Day

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Carl F. Day : Tom Custer: Ride to Glory (Frontier Military Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tom Custer: Ride to Glory (Frontier Military Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bigger hero than his more famous brother. Great Civil War soldier, no saint
By Thomas Erickson
Recently I read about George Armstrong Custer and that he had a hero brother who earned two Congressional Medal of Honor medals in the Civil war. Carl F. Day wrote a very good book about George Custer's younger brother Tom Custer. The 301 page book reads well with no boring parts. some nice B/W pictures and

some maps. We see the three brothers (Boston was the youngest) and a sister growing up in a non rich family. George gets to go to West Point with the help of a relative with political connections. Tom the middle brother enlists in the army as a private, makes corporal and with a Colonel with political influence attached to Brevet General big brother George Armstrong Custer gets a commission as second lieutenant. Armstrong gets Tom attached to his command and Tom shows his bravery in the Civil war by attacking the Confederates killing men and capturing a battle flag. A few days later he does it again and captures another battle flag and is gun shot in the mouth/neck area. We are told that in the early days of the US Army, Medal of Honors were given out for lots of non bravery/valor achievements. Later many of these early medal awards after being board searched were disallowed. However, the two Medal of Honors Tom Custer earned were certified as real awards for true heroism and valor. This to me is amazing, Tom being the first person ever to win two Medals of Honor. Tom advances to Brevet Lt. Colonel, is later discharged but comes back with a commission and advances to the rank of Captain. Lt. Colonel Armstrong Custer (earlier Civil War Brevet two star General) was so proud of his younger brother that he said "Tom should be the General and I the Captain". We see that Tom Custer was no saint and battled alcoholism. He did love his dogs but shot and killed many buffalo many times for the fun of it. He had a number of girl friends but never married. His brother Armstrong did and had a loving wife. Both brothers considered Libbie (Armstrong's wife) their friend and did many jokes back and forth. Eventually Tom gets to be attached to the Seventh Cavalry as Lt. Colonel Armstrong Custer's aid. We see the orders the brothers receive to attack and kill Indians. Eventually a large part of the Seventh Cavalry including Armstrong and Tom are massacred at the battle of The Little Big Horn. We see both are terribly mutilated (Tom's remains being almost unrecognizable). Only parts of the regiment survive under Captain Benteen and Major Reno. All directly attached to Armstrong Custer are wiped out. This Frontier Military Series book was a great read and I plan to read others. On the back of the book 21 more books are listed. Anyone interested in the Civil War and the later Indian wars will like this action packed book. The reader will gain deep empathy with both the Custer brothers (both had faults and were not saints) and be saddened by their tragic deaths and horrible mutilations. 4 1/2 stars

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Hero of the Civil War By JEBI thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. This should be made into a movie. We have heard so much about George Custer, but not much about Thomas Ward Custer, two-time Medal of Honor winner of the Civil War. I believe only 19 people hold the honor of receiving two Medal of Honors in the same war time. Tom Custer is not mentioned much at all in the books written about his brother George and the Battle of the Little Big Horn. But he was with his brother George throughout most of his Military Career and he died at the Battle of the Little Big Horn along with his brothers George, Boston, nephew Arthur "Autie" Reed and Brother-in-law James Calhoun. What a terrible tragedy all the way around. This book tells about the human side of Tom and George Custer, and their relationship as brothers and family members. Just a great read. I still say that a movie should be made about Thomas Ward Custer.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Tom Custer: Ride to glory By ked Very interesting book, i learned a lot about him that i did not know. He was a very interesting man. History should not always sugar coat everything.

In this biography—the first to document the life of Tom Custer—Carl F. Day reveals the public and private life of a distinguished American soldier. Although his life has been overshadowed by his more famous, or infamous, older brother, George Armstrong Custer, Tom Custer was a notable figure in his own right. At the end of his service in the Civil War, Tom Custer received the Medal of Honor twice—the first man in American history and the only Federal soldier in the Civil War to do so. He went on to participate in the Battle of the Washita, Stanley's Yellowstone Expedition, the Black Hills expedition, and the final march to the Little Bighorn, where along with his brother George he met his death in 1876.

About the Author Carl F. Day has spent ten years researching this biography. He is a high school teacher with a B.S. in education and M.A. in history. He is the author of previously published articles on the Custer saga.