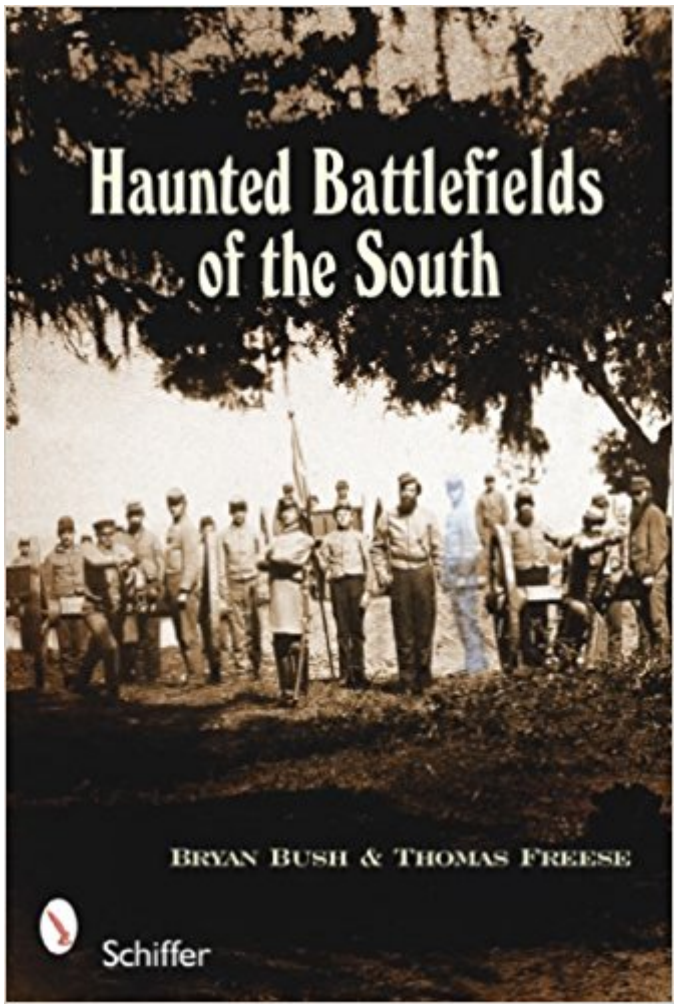
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Haunted Battlefields Of The South



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Synopsis

These true tales include chilling firsthand accounts of encounters with Civil War ghosts. The spirits of dead soldiers from both Union and Confederate armies walk into re-enactor camps, march in a ghostly night fog, call us to the line, and ask for help.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bryan Bush is a veteran re-enactor and Civil War historian who has written numerous books on Civil War history. Thomas Freese is a storyteller and ghost book author.

I was so captivated by Thomas Freese's later book,Ã Â Shaker Spirits, Shaker Ghosts, I just had to buy "Haunted Battlefields of the South" to see what it had to offer. Ghost hunter Freese teams with expert historian Bryan Bush to bring us an interesting blend of true history and haunts that will make you think twice about the sounds of ghostly cannon fire and rifle volleys that have been encountered by many witnesses. Disembodied voices shout commands from the depth of an eerie fog, and phantasmic battalions grace the sweeping hills of the battlefields. With the maggots, buzzards and surgeries lacking any type of anesthesia -- often not even whiskey -- Stephen King couldn't write fictional horror this gruesome. These poor souls still entreat us from their unmarked graves to, in one specter's words, "Never let this happen again." However, I was not nearly as taken with this earlier offering as I was with "Shakers."Bryan Bush sets the stage for the situations that most likely created the need for troubled spirits to return to the location of their suffering, both as a warning to

modern-day people as well as an entreaty for remembrance. Nevertheless, the history here is very long, dry and extremely detailed, and I fear that an appreciation for the intricacies of battle will be lost on the casual reader, such as myself, and would be better absorbed by a Civil War enthusiast. The historical accounts also make up the bulk of the book. The comprehensive introduction provided at the beginning of the book would have been adequate for me. I found it impossible to keep track of the many players who were involved. The generals, battalions and regiments go on forever, and I just couldn't keep up.Thomas Freese picks up where Bush leaves off. He investigates spirit encounters involved with the battlefields that Bush has examined. However, these sections weren't quite as complete as I had hoped. Many tales start with, "A re-enactor said ...." Is the author speaking directly to a re-enactor who was a first-hand witness, or is this a tale that's been tossed around for years? Not that there's anything wrong with folklore -- I just like to know up front which I am reading. I found this uncertainty a bit disappointing.Yet, we do have some interesting first-hand accounts in which it is clear that Freese interviewed the eye-witnesses himself. There are some intriguing encounters with phantom cavalries and vanishing cannon crews, as well as lots of soldier sightings, even one Confederate soldier who stole an apple from a group of re-enactors. Unfortunately, however, some of these tales that do not directly involve a battlefield are a bit mundane, ranging in scope from footsteps upstairs to a door bell that rings itself. I would have thought these areas would have been teeming with people who would love to share their fascinating tales, but apparently a lot of these people were in hiding when the author was there.Although this tome was a little too laden with detailed history and a little too light on the ghost stories for me, the authors did accomplish what they set out to do. "Haunted Battlefields of the South" gives us an appreciation for the sacrifice made and horror encountered by these Civil War soldiers, the depth of which can only be imagined. The Civil War was a horrible tragedy, causing unnecessary death, misery and hardship to countless soldiers and their families. It's sad, really, that these echoes in time still ring out after one hundred fifty years, and that these restless spirits are unable to sleep. These battles and their respective ghosts are to be remembered with the respect, humility, and reverence they deserve.

I loved the book, "Haunted Battlefields of the South." I would highly recommend reading this book. I found this book to be very well written, informative, organized, and the book kept my interest. Although, I am very knowledgeable about the civil war and have read dozens of books about the civil war throughout my life I still learned things about he war that were new to me. This book is not just about ghosts but this book gives the historical events surrounding the ghost stories which I

found fascinating. I would highly recommend reading this book.

I am actually still reading this book. I chose the rating because the diagrams are hard to read and some places it is hard to follow. Again this maybe because of the type of reading. Anyone interested in the Civil War would be interested in this book..

I thought the book was good but different. I have never seen a battlefield let alone walk one but believed it would be an eerie experience. This book has truly confirmed my beliefs.

This book came on time,but it wasn't a good a read as I expected,more history than ghost stories

This is another wonderful book by Thomas Freese. It is well written with interesting ghosts stories. He did a wonderful job compiling the many stories from many sources. It is a must have for any ghost enthusiast. I highly recommend it!

If you live in the South, the Civil War seems to be everywhere. I live 5 miles from Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park. And of course where you have battlefields, you always seem to have ghosts. Bush and Freese have done something a little different with their book. The have included some detailed battle history with their ghost tales. They also go into detail about what it was like to be a soldier in that horrific conflict along with the appalling state of medicine at the time. High combat casualties and disease are key reasons, they speculate, for the souls of those soldiers to hang around and warn us to never again make war on each other. Along with the many stories of "civilian" sightings, there are many sightings by re-enactors. Seems like besides phantom soldiers, there have been sightings of, well, I won't spoil it. Just let me tell you that there are things that people have seen on some of these battlefields that may surprise you. Most of the battles and battlefields in the book are around the authors' homes in Kentucky. Its also loaded with photos from the war, as well as ones recently taken of haunted spots and re-enactors. One of the battles in the book, Shiloh, was were many on my father's side of the family died on the Confederate's side. Maybe one of the ghost stories in this book describes an ancestor of mine! Anyway, its a great read and you can't go wrong especially if you are a history and/or ghost buff.

This is a very interesting book about Civil War battles and how the sites remain haunted to this day. Having been to some of the battlefields I have to concur that they do have a "special" feeling, even if

one doesn’t feel the presence of a ghost.The illustrations of the actual battlefields with the re-enactors are wonderful. I think, though, that it would have helped to have maps of some kind for each of the battles, especially the description of Perryville, Kentucky, because keeping track of the various units’ movements was a bit difficult.Overall, though, I am anxious to go to more of the battlefields to see if I, too, see some of the spirits that remain there.

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