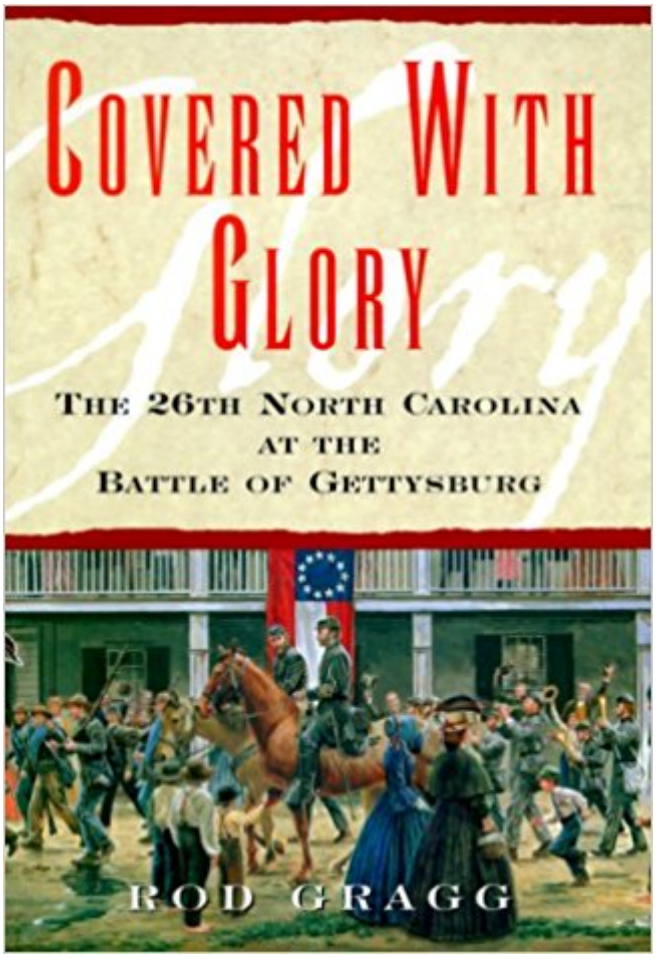
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Covered With Glory: The 26th North Carolina Infantry At Gettysburg



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Synopsis

Here, fully told for the first time, is the unforgettable story of the 26th North Carolina Infantry at the Battle of Gettysburg. In July 1863 the regiment’s eight-hundred-plus troops--young men from North Carolina’s mountains, farmlands, and hamlets--were thrust into the firestorm of Gettysburg, the greatest battle ever fought in North America. By the time the fighting ended, the 26th North Carolina had suffered what some authorities would calculate to be the highest casualties of any regiment in the Civil War.Following a bone-wearying march into Pennsylvania with the rest of General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, the soldiers of the 26th found themselves in ferocious, almost face-to-face combat with some of the hardest-fighting troops in the Federal army--the heralded Iron Brigade. The bloody contest on McPherson’s Ridge produced some of Gettysburg’s fiercest fighting, and the troops involved--men from North Carolina, Michigan, and Indiana--established an enduring legacy of American fortitude and will.On Gettysburg’s third day of battle, the 26th North Carolina was placed in the front ranks of Pickett’s Charge. Following a massive artillery barrage, the tattered regiment was commanded to go the distance in what would prove to be the most famous assault of the war. At one point, as he watched the men of the 26th in battle, Brigadier General James J. Pettigrew dispatched a message to the regiment’s commander: "Tell him his regiment haas covered itself with glory today."The story of the 26th North Carolina at Gettysburg is an American saga of duty performed in the worst of warfare. It unfolds through the lives of key characters--the regiment’s twenty-one year old commander, Colonel Henry K. Burgwyn, Jr.; its second-in-command, twenty-six-year-old farmer-turned-lieutenant colonel John R. Lane; twenty-two-year-old Major John Jones, who had abandoned his college studies to join the army; and common soldiers like Private Jimmie Moore, a North Carolina mountain boy who had gone to war at the age of fifteen.Covered In Glory is an intensely personal narrative based on exhaustive research into the diaries, letters, memoirs, and official records of the men who struggled on the bloody field at Gettysburg. It is a powerful, moving account of American courage and sacrifice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

On July 1, 1863, the 26th North Carolina Infantry marched toward Gettysburg with a strength of 843 officers and troops. Two days later, the regiment could muster only 156 soldiersAa staggering loss of 81.5%, perhaps the highest casualty rate of any Civil War regiment, North or South. Gettysburg is one of the most written-about battles in history, but Gragg (Confederate Goliath, etc.) has mined a host of primary sources for this engrossing study and paints a detailed, vivid picture of the destruction of one of Robert E. Lee's largest units. Following a brief history of the 26th, Gragg follows the Tarheels north from Fredericksburg into Pennsylvania, then moves with the regiment to Herr's Ridge west of Gettysburg. From this vantage point, 21-year-old Colonel Henry K. Burgwyn Jr. led his superbly trained unit into the teeth of enemy fire from two Union Iron Brigade regiments. Although the 26th forced the Yankees back, Burgwyn was killed and the regiment was decimated as bearer after bearer of the unit's flag went down like chaff. After resting on July 2, the regiment took part in Pickett's Charge. Gragg's prose is at its best as he describes the time it took for the gray-clad battle line to cross the mile from Seminary Ridge to the Federal line on Cemetery Ridge, suffering casualties all the while. This exemplary book puts a human face on the 26th North Carolina's tragic loss at Gettysburg and is one of the most original titles on the battle to appear in the past few years. Maps not seen by PW. (Aug.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Award-winning historian Gragg offers yet another Civil War title (see, e.g., The Civil War, 1861-1865). The 26th North Carolina saw action early in the war at New Bern and Malvern Hill. On the first day at Gettysburg, it fought against the 24th Michigan in McPherson's Woods. On the third and final day, it participated in the infamous Pickett's Charge and suffered an 85 percent casualty rate, the highest of any regiment in the Civil War. Besides recounting the enormous loss of life and the heroic deeds of many men, Gragg reveals the human side of battle. Family diaries and letters describe the difficulties most soldiers faced in coping with military life. The author uses an impressive list of other books and historical sources. What emerges is a detailed but readable

history of a regiment whose sacrifices and exploits merit studying. Recommended for its scholarship and depth of coverage to all academic and large public libraries and to special collections.DDavid Alperstein, Queens Borough P.L., Jamaica, NY Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Phenomenal book It reads like a novel, but is based on thousands of hours of research and uses a wide variety of books, letters and other personal accounts. If you're interested at all in the civil war, this is a great read. If you're from North Carolina and interested at all in the civil war, it's a must read.

Yes it is a great book of the Officers and Men of the 26th N.C. Portrays where the Homes were located in mostley in the WesternArea. Ashe Ct. to Orange. The Battles are related in the terrible manner they were fought,charging Cannons and hand to fighting. The Book Cain at Gettysburg used this Book for his accounts of the Battle, the Book would have most appeal toNC Natives.William W.FarleyRaleigh,N.C.Picketts Charge is usally condsidered as all Virginia Troops. Actually the 26th NC was at their side underCommand of Col.Pettigrew so should be called Pickett-Pettigrew Charge.

This is an excellent book that tells the life stories of many that were in the 26th NC during the war for Southern independence. What is unique about this book is that it shows their family history, education, abilities, thoughts on self determination, fighting for their homes, their loved ones, their country and the principles of what our founding fathers fought and died for.

An excellent study of a very interesting North Carolina regiment, whose performance at Gettysburg drove the creation of two, rare late 20th-century monuments on the battlefield. The text flows very well, and shows the mastery of many quite diverse primary sources. An exemplary study!

This is an excellent book about a unit that, unless you are a student of the civil war, you probably have never heard of. But it is a unit that did exactly what the title says, it covered itself with glory. It is a definite must have for any serious student of the war and a great book for anyone planning on touring Gettysburg, to be able to see a part of the field that isn't as highly traveled as some others, but so worth experiencing!

This, now out of print, regimental history was well researched and written. The 26th North Carolina

fought valiantly on the first day at Gettysburg against the "Iron Brigade" where it took substaintial casualties. The regimant was thrown into action on the thirds day as part of Longstreet's Assault (Pickett's Charge).

Fortunately I've read many Civil War books and I could gather the flow of events as I went through this book. However, even then, it was very choppy, nothing in detail and missed the opportunity of a good story.

great book, well documented and interesting, especially for interest in the 26th NC infantry.. I was disappointed in the lack of information on the roll of Anson County, NC involvement... which was extensive and many Ansonians were in Johnston Pettigrew's brigade that 'crossed the stone wall'.

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