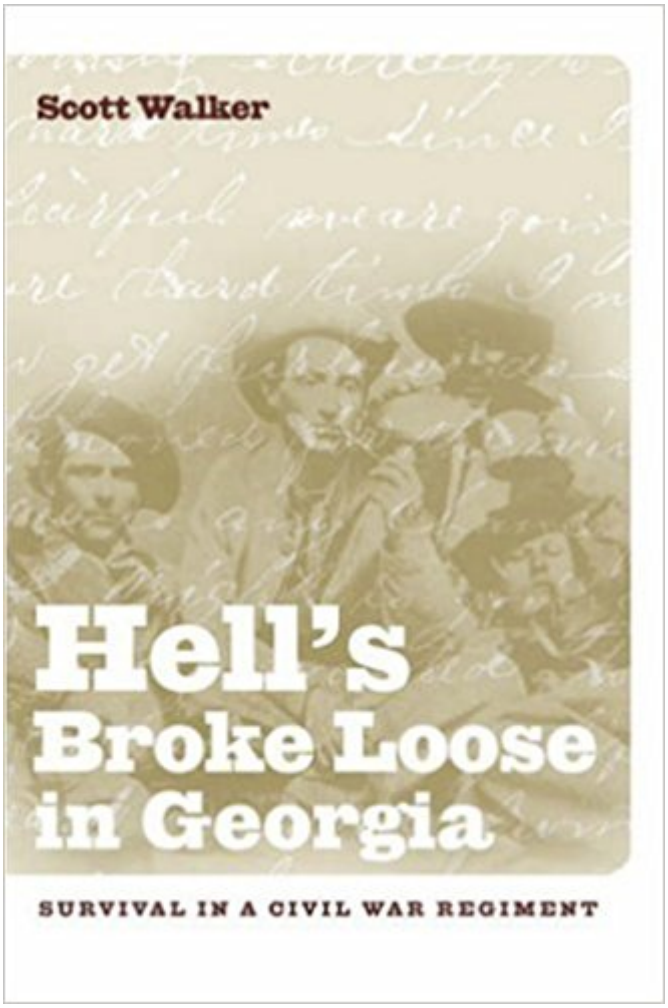
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Hell's Broke Loose In Georgia: Survival In A Civil War Regiment



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Synopsis

Darling, I never wanted to gow home as bad in my life as I doo now and if they donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t give mee a furlow I am going any how. Written in December 1862 by Private Wright Vinson in Tennessee to his wife, Christiana, in Georgia, these lines go to the heart of why Scott Walker wrote this history of the Fifty-seventh Georgia Infantry, a unit of the famed MercerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Brigade.All but a few members of the Fifty-seventh lived within a close radius of eighty miles from each other. More than just an account of their military engagements, this is a collective biography of a close-knit group. Relatives and neighbors served and died side by side in the Fifty-seventh, and Walker excels at showing how family ties, friendships, and other intimate dynamics played out in wartime settings. Humane but not sentimental, the history abounds in episodes of real feeling: a starving soldierÃ¢â ¬â„¢s theft of a pie; anotherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s open confession, in a letter to his wife, that he may desert; a slaveÃ¢â ¬â„¢s travails as a camp orderly.Drawing on memoirs and a trove of unpublished letters and diaries, Walker follows the soldiers of the Fifty-seventh as they push far into Unionist Kentucky, starve at the siege of Vicksburg, guard Union prisoners at the Andersonville stockade, defend Atlanta from Sherman, and more. Hardened fighters who would wish hell on an incompetent superior but break down at the sight of a dying Yankee, these are real people, as rarely seen in other Civil War histories.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The letters, diaries, and other information Scott Walker located and utilized on the soldiers and

families of the 57th Georgia infantry are among the finest I've ever encountered. He has done complete justice to these superb primary sources by writing a narrative that is richly descriptive yet focused and restrained. Walker allows the soldiers and their families to speak for themselves while placing their words and deeds in a clear and meaningful context. (T. Michael Parrish author of Richard Taylor and editor of Brothers In Gray)Civil War regimental histories are thick on the ground now, but Hell's Broke Loose in Georgia is a different sort of creature, a penetrating look at the inner world and lives of men who marched, ate, slept, fought, and died together. Not so much a unit history as a 'family' portrait of men bound by the war, Scott Walker's book offers a glimpse of the personality and inner world of almost all Civil War units, North and South alike. This is the part of regimental history that too many regimental historians overlook. (William C. Davis author of Look Away! and Jefferson Davis)Amidst the fog enveloping the vast array of literature on the American Civil War, much of it mundane and redundant, emerges a real jewel of a book. For in Hell's Broke Loose in Georgia, author Scott Walker breaks free from the usual litany of battles, campaigns, and troop movements and serves up an engaging, tightly woven, account of what the participants felt during the campaigns, rather than how they fought. (Georgia Historical Quarterly)A beautifully written narrative . . . Hell's Broke Loose in Georgia stands as a heartfelt recounting of one regiment's triumphs and traumas. (Journal of American History)WalkerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book is both a labor of love and an excellent insight into the true nature of military life during the Civil War. (North & South)Diligent use of manuscript letters makes this [book] a sturdy soldiersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ chronicle ably set in Western Theater history. (Blue and Gray)Walker uses this disastrous defeat to criticize the Confederate high command, something he does with stylish effectiveness throughout the book as Southern forces in the West stagger from one debacle to another . . . But HellÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Broke Loose in Georgia isn't unique because it points out the shortcomings of Hood, Braxton Bragg and Jefferson Davis. It's Walker's passion for his subject, combined with the remarkable correspondence from Confederates to their families, that gives this unit portrait such bold color. (Savannah Morning News)This book is not about glorious victory or honorable defeat; it is about the struggle of men to hold on to their humanity in warÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fiery furnace of inhumanity. This is a book about hellÃ¢â ¬â ¢hell with a few humorous anecdotes, hell with unexpected acts of kindness, but hell. (Southern Distinction)

Scott Walker is the pastor of First Baptist Church of Waco, Texas, the author of nine books, and an adjunct professor at Baylor University. His great-great-grandfather was a member of the Fifty-seventh Georgia Infantry.

I was first fasinated with this book because of names. There are Braswell's and Samuel's in my Deen Family. My mother was a Smith. Scott Walkers book lists Master Sergeant William (Billy) Braswell, Private Samuel Braswell, and Private Robert Braswell as three central leaders. Then I note General Kirby Smith and Brigadier General James Argyle Smith were in important command post positions.This book follows the Route of The 57th Georgia Regiment which was mostly formed and organized from counties in Central Georgia. The reader is intrigued with moving into the Kentucky Campaign and on to Vicksburg, Savannah, Andersonville, Atlanta, Tennessee and finally The North Carolina Battle and lastly the survivor's returning to their homes.Walker has provided a treasury trove of Georgia History. I will try to reread this book often. Braswell, Samuel and Smith connections were to me a plus. My great grandfather Samuel Lee Deen and another great uncle Samson Altman were killed on St. John's Island, South Carolina, during these days.

Very well written and readable history of Mercer's brigade and the 57th GA regiment which was a part of this brigade. The interwoven personal letters make the narrative come alive from the soldier's view. My great grand uncle was a soldier in the 54th Ga which became a part of this brigade in May 1864 at the beginning of the campaign for Atlanta. Thank you Scott Walker.

I ran across this book while doing research on my ancestors who fought in the 30th GA. Since both units were in The Army of Tennessee and fought many of the same battles in close proximity to each other, and the fact that men in this unit were from rural Georgia as were my ancestors I was looking for insight into the daily lives of the soldiers. I was not disapointed as the book contains many personal letters and diary entries from the common soldier, as regarding their living conditions and daily suffering. Fasinating insight into the period. I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in real people of the time.

An absolutely unforgettable book. What these soldiers endured during the war can be chronicled no better. As a resident of Georgia I am awed by what these men did and this book is by far the best I have read!

This book really gives the feel of the soldier's war. The initial excitement and glory of the beginning of war to the monotony, homesick and dread of battle is shown throughout with well documented sources. The letters and diaries mixed in allow you to feel the emotion even today. My

gggrandfather was a member of the 57th and is mentioned (not by name) in the book. I can now travel with him and see and feel what he saw and felt. Job well done.https://www..com/Battle-Griswoldville-Freeman-Brooks-ebook/dp/B01N2ND365/ref=sr_1_6?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1480480422&sr=1-6&keywords=griswoldville

The book is interesting because it follows the 57th regiment from its formation, through numerous battles and retreats, to the end of the war as the 57th participated. It describes the regiment's battles,the commander's plans' and soldier's personal thoughts. And then he backs up those plans & thoughts with numerous quotes. You can tell that it took 14 years of research to compile the data.The author is likely doing this body of work because of personal interest in this regiment. I am currently working on a similar project which covers Stoneman's raid from Tn. to Salisbury, N.C. while The Army ofthe Tn. was sitting in Goldsboro deciding what comes next in early April, 1865. I sympathize with the author concerning the amount of devotion and time involved in marrying the thoughts and actionsof the war's participants in a well-done effort.

I first want to say that I have just within the last ten minutes finished this book and I wanted my fresh impressions put to print, here goes..."Hell's Broke Loose in Georgia Survival in a Civil War Regiment" by Scott Walker, 2005, University of Georgia Press. 310 pages, illustrated, maps and pictures.I am proud and happy to have a signed hardback copy of this work. It could be best described by the author by how much he felt about the men he was writing about when he wrote on the last page "I promised myself that I would place a copy of this book in a small wooden box and bury it at the foot of Robert Braswell's grave [Private, 57th GA, CSA]. In so doing, I simply want to say that his great-great-grandson has not forgotten the sacifice that he made to help the United States evolve into a great and wonderful nation. And I will wrap the wooden box in an American flag with fifty stars, a symbol of that new nation.""Interest"This is a history of the 57th Ga. told through letters and diaries and a detailed and researched history carefully worded and structured to keep the reader very interested. It was slow reading at first until about page 70 with the start of the Battle of Baker's Creek (Champion's Hill). The following is a list of the war's events that impressed me with it's detail and coverage of military actions.Kentucky CampaignBattle of Champion's Hill*Battle of VicksburgAtlanta CampaignBattle of Peachtree Creek*Battle of AtlantaBattle of Jonesboro*Hood's Tennessee CampaignHood's Retreat from Tennessee*Battle of Bentonville**These had great interest to me in enlightning me on events new or enhanced information."Negatives"Slow. The book didn't seem to be all that different or exciting than any other Civil War history you would find in

magazines or reference material for the first one third of the book. The only real mistake I found was several references to Enterprise, Alabama as the rendevous point for paroled Vicksburg Confederates. My experience has taught me it was Enterprise, Mississippi."Positives"Once you get past the "slow" parts it picks up momentum like Sherman through Georgia. My favorite parts being Chapter #19 Kennesaw Mountain through the last Chapter #30 "Coming Home"."Impression"I came away from this book with a great appreciation for these men and what they suffered and a new knowledge of military events. There is a couple of pages in the last Chapter dedicated to a post war court trail of an ex-Confederate Irishman and the jury of his peers, men who served with him in the war. It is really interesting to read the actual court transcripts of his speech. Great book.

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