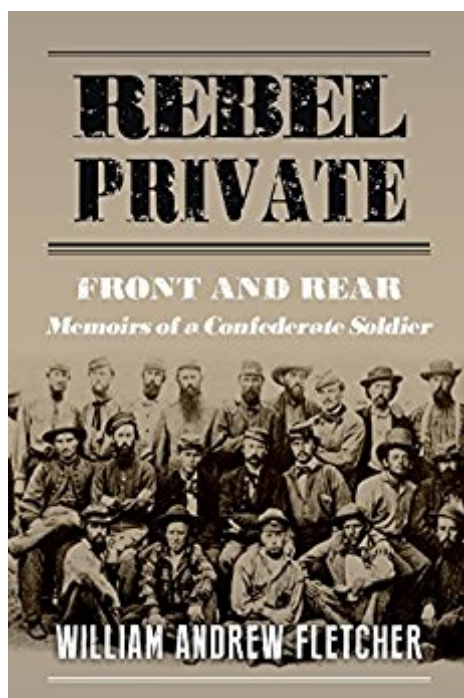


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Rebel Private: Front And Rear: Memoirs Of A Confederate Soldier



Synopsis

In April 1861 war was declared between the Union and the Confederacy. When the news came it made Fletcher nervous, as he was working but didn't want to miss his chance to enlist; reaching an agreement, he began his journey the following day. Two years later, on the third day at Gettysburg, Fletcher recalls how he became temporarily afflicted with a "bad case of cowardly horror" following the order to prepare to charge. But Fletcher could also be a restless man and was brave to a fault, frequently seeking permission for dangerous raids or patrols in the lulls between battles. Wounded on numerous occasions, Fletcher became incapacitated for further infantry service and was transferred to the cavalry, where he would serve for the rest of the war. It was during this time that he was taken prisoner by Union troops, and Fletcher's account of his capture, and the formation and execution of his escape plan is worthy of a classic thriller. With its combination of straightforward prose and unexpected philosophising, *Rebel Private* is an arresting account of one line soldier's experience. William Andrew Fletcher (1839-1915) was a lumberman, scout and soldier from Louisiana. In 1856 the family moved to Texas, and five years later he enlisted in the Confederate Army. Serving throughout the Civil War, he survived and returned to Texas, where he later married and raised a family. Praise for William A. Fletcher "A neat tale of suspense | an admirable piece of Americana." • *Atlantic Monthly* "Gives the best account I know of. | This Confederate Soldier shows his devotion to the truth by limiting his narrative to what he saw with his own eyes." • Shelby Foote "He was the G.I. Joe of the confederate army. | He wrote so honestly, casually, and dramatically that no one who pretends to understand the Irresponsible Conflict can neglect reading this book." • *Houston Post* Albion Press is an imprint of Endeavour Press, the UK's leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at www.endeavourpress.com. Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

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Customer Reviews

It is not the best writing/editing ever in that it gets very disjointed. It is very much a personal viewpoint of the war, without a lot of day to day details of a soldier's life. I did find it very interesting. The author had, I think, a different "take", and probably gives a more honest view of the war and the fighting than did most of his contemporary authors. I personally really enjoyed his discussion of the attack by Hood's Brigade on the second day at Gettysburg at Little Round Top. He said that when they got to the base of the hill, it was so steep that a mountain goat would have had difficulty climbing it! When I visited the Gettysburg Battlefield and walked to that spot, I completely agreed with him.

Historians MUST read private, first person accounts and letters of wartime experiences, especially of the American Civil War. This one goes on the top shelf of these personal accounts of the men who did the suffering, killing, and dying of that war. Grant's Memoirs are dry accounts of his part; he speaks little of the human side of the war, but men like Fletcher do that for him. These MUST be read to understand the texture and humanity of the war.

Very good book, easy to read and that catches your interest from the first page and keeps it almost to the end of the book. It shows the honest feelings of a rebel soldier who fought for his country and loved it as much as the soldiers who gave their lives for the other side. The author participated in many battles through the whole war and gives careful description of the places and the action he

saw. I consider the book a testimony of history and bravery. It is not a five stars for me because it comes to an abrupt end and the last chapter has not much to do with the rest of the book. Overall, a must read it for everyone interested in this part of the American history and in war subjects.

The story really holds your interest. It is told from the first day he joins the army of the South. It is told in first person which makes it more interesting. After reading this story it is easy to understand how the enlisted men on both sides suffered from lack of food and shelter in this terrible war.

Excellent description of the Civil War from the view of a Confederate soldier. The personal experiences and his viewpoint provide a poignant story about the war. I also find it interesting that the author, William A. Fletcher, went on to a successful life as a family man and lumberman following his harrowing experiences in the war.

I've always had an interest in the Civil War however it seemed most books dealt with the generals views and battles fought by company's or regiments not the every day life of the troops in the trenches. This books does, it is printed just as it was written, no corrections for grammar usages which only adds the authenticity. I would advice any one who buys it t have the dictionary and google search on their phone, I did and used it very often. The book has only 110 pages but be prepared for it to take the time as if it had well over 200 pages. I enjoyed it from beginning to end. I also purchased the "The story of a common soldier of army life in the civil war", North private version also but haven't started it yet.

A good read. One thing is clear in this account: William Fletcher was no writer. Grammar, structure, a mastery of the language -- none are displayed here. Copy-written in 1909, it means one of two things: either it was written immediately after the war by a young man with a fresh memory of his experiences as a confederate soldier, and wasn't printed for 40+ years, or it was written by a confederate soldier some 40+ years after he came home from the war. It is up to the reader to decide. Example: in the narrative, Fletcher never mentions the names of the battles he's describing, as we know them today (exception: Gettysburg). Yet his descriptions are sharp and are obviously written by someone who was there. For the true Civil War enthusiast, it's a must read, written by someone who was there when the musket balls were flying -- and who lived to tell the tale. If you're looking for literature, pass on it. Read Hemingway or Fitzgerald instead.

Excellent first person account of being a private in Hood's 3rd Texas Brigade under Longstreet for most of the war until being captured and escaping. Memorable chapters included disobeying his father and going to war; learning how to steal food from Richmond vendors and chickens from farmers; waiting to be ordered into a final twilight assault (that was rescinded) on Little Round Top at Gettysburg and knowing he would die. His escape included weeks on the run learning to trust some farmers and avoid others in Tennessee. He ends with his return to Texas, trying to make a living and how he could be friends with Union troops and his friends could not. If you liked the book, *Company Aytch* you will like this.

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