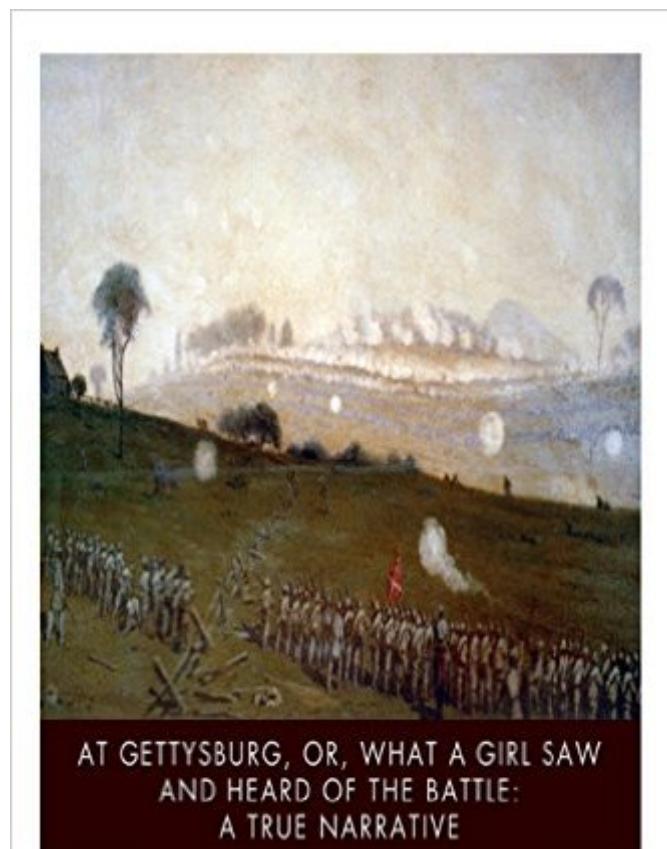


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At Gettysburg, Or, What A Girl Saw And Heard Of The Battle: A True Narrative.



MATILDA PIERCE ALLEMAN



Synopsis

Matilda Alleman was a young resident of Gettysburg during the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. At Gettysburg is an amazing first hand account of what she saw. Without question, the most famous battle of the American Civil War took place outside of the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which happened to be a transportation hub, serving as the center of a wheel with several roads leading out to other Pennsylvanian towns. From July 1-3, Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia tried everything in its power to decisively defeat George Meade's Union Army of the Potomac, unleashing ferocious assaults that inflicted nearly 50,000 casualties in all. Day 1 of the battle would have been one of the 25 biggest battles of the Civil War itself, and it ended with a tactical Confederate victory. But over the next two days, Lee would try and fail to dislodge the Union army with attacks on both of its flanks during the second day and Pickett's Charge on the third and final day. Meade's stout defense held, barely, repulsing each attempted assault, handing the Union a desperately needed victory that ended up being one of the Civil War's turning points. After the South had lost the war, the importance of Gettysburg as one of the "high tide" marks of the Confederacy became apparent to everyone, making the battle all the more important in the years after it had been fought. While former Confederate generals cast about for scapegoats, with various officers pointing fingers at Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet, and James Stuart, historians and avid Civil War fans became obsessed with studying and analyzing all the command decisions and army movements during the entire campaign. Despite the saturation of coverage, Americans refuse to grow tired of visiting the battlefield and reliving the biggest battle fought in North America.

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Customer Reviews

Tillie Pierce was a teenager when the Civil War came to her hometown of Gettysburg, PA. At the invitation of her next-door neighbor, Henrietta S(c)hriver (whose husband George was a Union soldier fighting elsewhere), Tillie accompanied her and her two young daughters out of the borough to the Weikert House, home of Henrietta's parents, to sit out the battle. Unfortunately, by doing so they went from the frying pan into the fire, because the Weikert House was located behind the two Round Tops, Big and Little, scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the three-day battle. Tillie describes everything she sees and experiences in great detail, including marching soldiers, shells bursting overhead, the pitiful cries of the wounded and dying, and a pile of amputated arms and legs as high as the garden wall outside the house. She later describes the aftermath, the dead bodies, and the terrible stench. She also relates some things told to her by her father that happened while she was away, such as Confederate soldiers capturing the Shriver House and one sharpshooter being shot dead in its garret (attic). Tillie Pierce was an eyewitness to the horrors of war, and many years later, as an adult, she wrote down that which was forever burned into her memory during those terrifying days; the result is this very revealing little book, a fabulous and very readable look at the Battle of Gettysburg from a (then) youthful civilian's perspective. Since this review is now attached to other editions than the one for which it was originally intended, I would recommend downloading a sample before you buy. Look for one that is free or low-priced, handsomely formatted, and contains all the original maps and illustrations from the first (1889) edition.

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