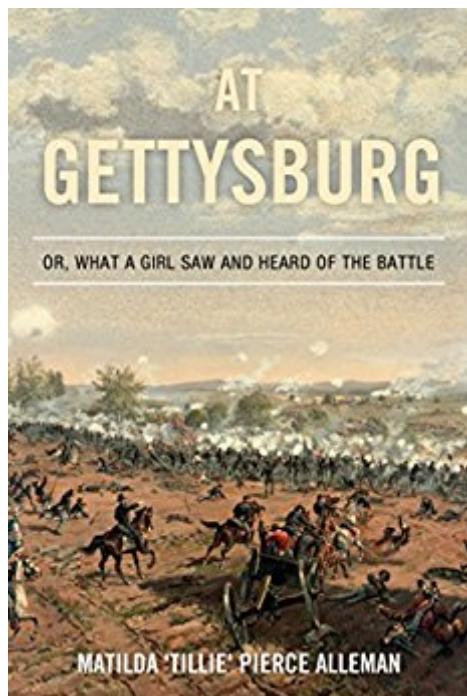


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At Gettysburg, Or, What A Girl Saw And Heard Of The Battle



Synopsis

On June 30th, 1863, fifteen-year-old resident of Gettysburg, Tillie Pierce, saw Union General Buford and his cavalry pass through the town. For the next three days she would be a witness to one of the bloodiest battles on American soil. On the first day, while cannons boomed on Seminary Hill and Cemetery Hill, Tillie was taken away from the heart of Gettysburg to a small farm on Taneytown Road, thinking that she would be safer there, but this did not shield her from the realities of war. It was on this day that she had the horrific experience of seeing a dead soldier for the first time. She would see more in the coming days. As Tillie recounts her experiences of assisting doctors and nurses in tending to wounded soldiers to providing a small tin of water to General Meade, the reader is transported into the heart of the battle from the viewpoint of a young observer. As the veteran who provides the preface states, "The story is told with such marked faithfulness, such honesty of expression, such vividness of portrayal, that those who lived in, and passed through those scenes, or similar ones, will at once recognize the situations, and surroundings, as natural and real." Written a number of years after the event, Tillie provides a day by day analysis of what she saw and heard during that time, before, during and after the battle. After the Civil War Tillie married a lawyer, Horace Alleman, and moved to Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. She recorded her account of Gettysburg in 1885. She died in Philadelphia in 1914.

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Customer Reviews

A 3 day battle that took many lives on both sides of the event that led to Abraham Lincoln Speech at Gettysburg. It was a Northern victory over the south and the hatred on both sides was felt and the lesson learned was the soft felt sorrow on both sides who went through pain and suffering from flying rubber bullets who's family members were pitted against each other. There is no love in war. Only to bring peace to the land does victory goes the spoils. Some very hard lesson learned in the civil war that ended slavery which was the focal point and the institution of slavery was so cruel and evil that it had to be abolished. Which is where the Emancipation proclamation came a cause for the Union.

Having visited Gettysburg on the July 4 Anniversary, the book was like a walking text to what I had seen. This is a young girl's writing about what she truly saw and heard during that historic three days. Overwhelming in the simplicity of the narrative, yet powerful in its width and breadth.

Her memories of a time of American history reveal the highest pursuit of sanity in an uncivilized period. Established faith and respect for mankind combine to be held in Pierce's heart in her writing. Peace is the victory, but the cost bears the sacrifice with scars only to be healed by forgiveness.

This is an interesting perspective of the battle at Gettysburg during the American Civil War, as witnessed by a young girl. Well worth reading.

The story was written in a first person narrative. It was as if the reader was with the author the entire period of her story. The Civil War is one of the most damaging periods of American history. Matilda Pierce Alleman was able to record the events of those bloody days of Gettysburg with detail that captivated the reader's attention from the first to the last word. I would highly recommend this book for students, adults, and teens. Every American should take the time to read this first hand account of the war between Americans.

I selected this book because it was a free Kindle book last week, one of few on the non-fiction list. Matilda's writing style is clear, though her vocabulary and 'turn of phrase' are certainly from an earlier century. It is short and a quick read, but as someone I am interested in the Civil War, it gives fresh insight of what a civilian living in Gettysburg experienced: the bad and the good. I recommend this short book.

I found this to be a fascinating story about the battle at Gettysburg as recalled by a young girl that lived there during the civil war. Told without prejudice for one side of the other; she is simply recalling events as she remembers them which makes it even more realistic for the reader. A short story full of insight into what must've been a terrifying experience.

I've read many books on the Civil War. But this was the first that dealt with the war from the eyes of a child and what she saw and did from the middle of things. It's also the first that dealt with the aftermath of a battle field and the stench of burning 3000 dead horses.

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