

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Civil War Regimental Histories

By **Timothy J. Orr**, Old Dominion University

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Lester, Robert and Blair Hydrick	<i>Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narratives</i> , 4 parts. Bethesda, MD: University Publications of America, 1993.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Adams, John Gregory Bishop	<i>Reminiscences of the Nineteenth Massachusetts Regiment</i> . Boston, MA: Wright and Potter Printing Company, 1899.
Allen, E. Jay et. al.	<i>Under the Maltese Cross: Antietam to Appomattox, the Loyal Uprising in Western Pennsylvania, 1861-1865; Campaigns 155th Pennsylvania Regiment, Narrated by the Rank and File</i> . Pittsburg, PA: The 155 th Regimental Association, 1910.
Bartlett, Asa W.	<i>History of the Twelfth Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers in the War of the Rebellion</i> . Concord, NH: Ira C. Evans, Printer, 1897.
Bruce, George Anson	<i>The Twentieth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1865</i> . Boston, MA: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company, 1906.
Casler, John Overton	<i>Four Years in the Stonewall Brigade</i> .

	Girard, KS: Appeal Publishing Company, 1906.
Croom, Wendell D.	<i>The War-History of Company "C" (Beauregard Volunteers), Sixth Georgia Regiment with a Graphic Account of Each Member.</i> Fort Valley, GA: Fort Valley Advertiser Office, 1879.
Dickert, D. Augustus	<i>History of Kershaw's Brigade with Complete Roll of Companies, Biographical Sketches, Incidents, Anecdotes, Etc.</i> Newberry, SC: Elbert H. Aull Company, 1899.
Eddy, Richard	<i>History of the Sixtieth Regiment, New York State Volunteers.</i> Philadelphia, PA: Published by the Author, 1864.
Gordon, Leslie J.	<i>A Broken Regiment: The 16th Connecticut's Civil War.</i> Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2014.
Hagerty, Edward J.	<i>Collis' Zouaves: The 114th Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War.</i> Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997.
Hardy, Michael C.	<i>The Fifty-Eighth North Carolina Troops: Tar Heels in the Army of Tennessee.</i> Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company, 2010.
Head, Thomas A.	<i>Campaigns and Battles of the Sixteenth Regiment, Tennessee Volunteers, in the War Between the States, With Incidental Sketches of the Part Performed by Other Tennessee Troops in the Same War, 1861-1865.</i> Nashville, TN: Cumberland Presbyterian Printing House, 1885.
Howard, Osmund Rhodes and William H. Rauch	<i>History of the "Bucktails," Kane Rifle Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps (13th Pennsylvania Reserves, 42nd of the Line).</i> Philadelphia, PA: Electric Printing Company, 1906.
Jackman, Lyman	<i>History of the Sixth New Hampshire Regiment in the War for the Union.</i> Concord, NH: Republican Press Association, 1891.
Lloyd, William P.	<i>History of the First Reg't. Pennsylvania</i>

	<i>Reserve Cavalry from its Organization, August, 1861, to September, 1864, with List of Names of all Officers and Enlisted Men Who Have Ever Belonged to the Regiment, and Remarks Attached to Each Name, Noting Change, &c.</i> Philadelphia, PA: King and Baird Printers, 1864.
Marvin, E. E.	<i>The Fifth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers: A History Compiled from Diaries and Official Records.</i> Hartford, CT: Wiley, Waterman, and Eaton, 1889.
Maxson, William P.	<i>Camp Fires of the Twenty-Third: Sketches of the Camp Life, Marches and Battles of the Twenty-Third Regiment, N. Y. V., During the Term of Two Years in the Service of the United States.</i> New York: Davies & Kent, Printers, 1863.
Morgan, William H.	<i>Personal Reminiscences of the War of 1861-1865, In Camp—En Bivouac—On the March—On Picket—On the Skirmish Line—On the Battlefield—and in Prison.</i> Lynchburg, VA: J. P. Bell and Company, 1911.
Rutan, Edwin P.	<i>“If I Have Got To Go and Fight, I Am Willing.”: A Union Regiment Forged in the Petersburg Campaign: The 179th New York Volunteer Infantry 1864-1865.</i> Park City, UT: RTD Publications, 2015.
Smith, John Day	<i>History of the Nineteenth Maine Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1865.</i> Minneapolis, MN: Great Western Printing Company, 1909.
Smith, John L.	<i>History of the Corn Exchange Regiment, 118th Pennsylvania Volunteers, From their First Engagement at Antietam to Appomattox.</i> Philadelphia, PA: J. L. Smith, Publisher, 1888.
Stevens, Charles A.	<i>Berdan’s United States Sharpshooters in the Army of the Potomac, 1861-1865.</i> St. Paul, MN: Price-McGill Co., 1892.
Thomas, Henry Walter	<i>History of the Doles-Cook Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia, C.S.A.</i> Atlanta, GA: Franklin Printing and Publishing Company, 1903.
Thompson, S. Millett	<i>The Thirteenth Regiment of New</i>

	<i>Hampshire Volunteer Infantry in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865.</i> Boston, MA: Houghton-Mifflin and Company, 1888.
Walker, C. I.	<i>Rolls and Historical Sketch of Tenth Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, in the Army of the Confederate States.</i> Charleston, SC: Walker, Evans, and Cogswell, 1881.
Woodward, Evan Morrison	<i>Our Campaigns: The Second Regiment Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteers, or, the Marches, Bivouacs, Battles, Incidents of Camp Life and History of Our Regiment During its Three Years Term of Service Together With a Sketch of the Army of the Potomac, Under Generals McClellan, Burnside, Hooker, Meade, and Grant.</i> Philadelphia, PA: J. E. Potter, 1865.
Worsham, John	<i>One of Jackson's Foot Cavalry: His Experience and What He Saw During the War, 1861-1865.</i> New York: Neale Publishing Company, 1912.

Organizations

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
https://www.loc.gov/rr/main/uscivilwar/	U.S. Civil War Regimental Histories in the Library of Congress contains lists of regimental histories. However, the interface for finding them has been superseded so that users need to first identify a unit from the LOC listing, then use the LOC main search function to find copies accessible online or in libraries.
http://www.civilwararchive.com/regim.htm	Dyer's Compendium of the War of the Rebellion is a list of regiments organized by state with summary descriptions of each regiment and its service. The listing is comprehensive for Union regiments and incomplete for Confederate regiments.

<p>Part 1. The Confederate States of America and Border States. http://cisupa.proquest.com/ksc_assets/catalog/2494.pdf</p> <p>Part 2. The Union—New England. http://cisupa.proquest.com/ksc_assets/catalog/2510.pdf</p> <p>Part 3. The Union—Mid-Atlantic. http://cisupa.proquest.com/ksc_assets/catalog/2519.pdf</p> <p>Part 4. The Union—Midwest and West. http://cisupa.proquest.com/ksc_assets/catalog/2529.pdf</p>	<p>Lester, Robert and Blair Hydrick, <i>Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narratives</i>, 4 parts. Bethesda, MD: University Publications of America, 1993 is available online in microfiche.</p>
<p>https://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/</p>	<p>This New York State Archives website contains regimental histories of all Civil War New York regiments and military units.</p>

Other Sources

Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
<p>Obtaining Inexpensive Copies of Regimental Histories</p>	<p>Inexpensive reprints of regimental histories can be purchased from two sources: Higginson Book Company LLC. https://higginsonbooks.com/collections/civil-war</p> <p>Butternut and Blue http://www.butternutandblue.com/index.html</p>
<p>C. Clayton Thompson Bookseller</p>	<p>C. Clayton Thompson Bookseller specializes in Civil War regimental histories and offers a very long list of titles sorted by state. Their address is: C. Clayton Thompson - Bookseller 584 Briarwood Lane Boone NC 28607 And their website is: http://www.civilwarmall.com/bookseller/files/regiment.htm</p>

Regimental Histories published online	This may seem obvious but there are several sources available where regimental histories have been digitized and can be read online. The best are: Internet Archive at https://archive.org/ And WorldCat at http://www.worldcat.org/advancedsearch
---------------------------------------	--

Scholars

Name	Email
Timothy J. Orr	torr@odu.edu

Topic Précis

Regimental histories were—and still are—a popular subgenre of Civil War history. They catalog a regiment’s campaigns by describing its organization, personnel, training, battle action, and casualties. Although each author’s style differs, regimental histories usually follow a lengthy, sentimentalist narrative. Not every regiment created its own history, but thousands did so, and together, they forged the first major attempt by veterans to control the commemoration of the war. Confederate historians, especially, did their best to reshape the memory of the war, adding to the Confederate myth known as the "Lost Cause." Although the last confirmed Civil War veteran died in 1956, unit histories continued to be published in the twentieth- and twenty-first centuries. By that point, they belonged to the realm of professional historians, and they remain so to this day. Modern regimental histories are more analytical than their nineteenth century counterparts and attempt to incorporate social history into their narratives. Currently, the publication of Civil War regimental histories shows no sign of stopping. Overall, regimental histories are troublesome sources, but they cannot be avoided by dedicated students of the war. They constituted some of the first histories of the war, and arguably the most important. If war is—at its simplest—the terrible tragedy of killing and dying, it is necessary to discuss the day-to-day lives of the men who killed and died between 1861 and 1865.
