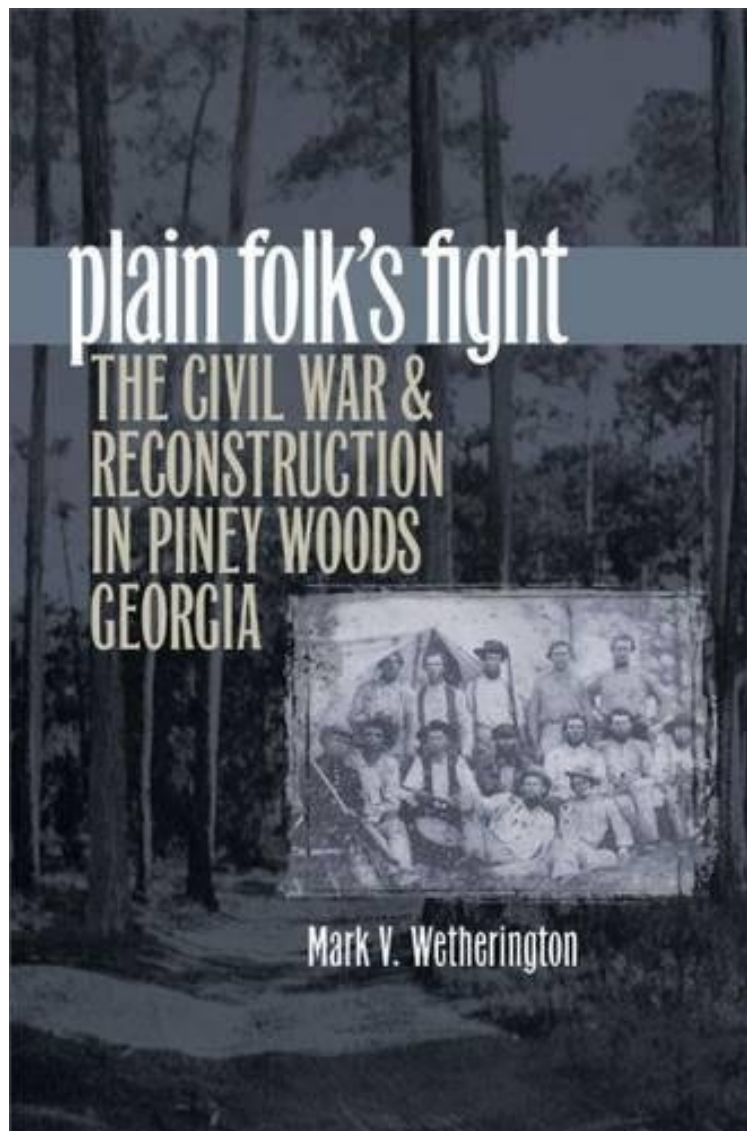


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Plain Folk's Fight: The Civil War and Reconstruction in Piney Woods Georgia (Civil War America)

Mark V. Wetherington

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Mark V. Wetherington : Plain Folk's Fight: The Civil War and Reconstruction in Piney Woods Georgia (Civil War America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Plain Folk's Fight: The Civil War and Reconstruction in Piney Woods Georgia (Civil War America):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Civil War from a different perspective. By ptp This is a well researched and well written piece on a little known chapter of the history of the War Between the States. The author thoughtfully analyzes the role of the yeoman farmers and poor whites in the South's bid for independence. The war was fought largely to defend the political and economic interests of Southern elites while the burden of blood and suffering was shouldered by the common people. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An in-depth examination of the efforts to the Civil War on the rural South By Midwest Book Review The Civil War's reconstruction process in Piney Woods Georgia is the narrowed focus of Plain Folk's Fight, an in-depth examination of the efforts to the Civil War on the rural South. Race consciousness was at the forefront of a fight by rural whites to defend their way of life in their neighborhood. These rural folk helped tip Georgia toward secession in 1861, supplied troops during the war, and found themselves divided in loyalty to the Confederate nation and their neighbors. Chapters focus on volunteer units, family organization, stories of hardship and independence, and black/white relationships affected by terrorism. Not for the casual Civil War student, but a 'must' for any serious discussion or collection. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent research and prose style By Eastmanite Mark Wetherington spent many years researching the Ocmulgee River region in south Georgia. His two books, including this one and his other, The New South Comes to Wiregrass Georgia, give the reader much insight into the culture of the area. For Civil War enthusiasts and lovers of history, this book is a sure bet.

In an examination of the effects of the Civil War on the rural Southern home front, Mark V. Wetherington looks closely at the experiences of white "plain folk"--mostly yeoman farmers and craftspeople--in the wiregrass region of southern Georgia before, during, and after the war. Although previous scholars have argued that common people in the South fought the battles of the region's elites, Wetherington contends that the plain folk in this Georgia region fought for their own self-interest. Plain folk, whose communities were outside areas in which slaves were the majority of the population, feared black emancipation would allow former slaves to move from cotton plantations to subsistence areas like their piney woods communities. Thus, they favored secession, defended their way of life by fighting in the Confederate army, and kept the antebellum patriarchy intact in their home communities. Unable by late 1864 to sustain a two-front war in Virginia and at home, surviving veterans took their fight to the local political arena, where they used paramilitary tactics and ritual violence to defeat freedpeople and their white Republican allies, preserving a white patriarchy that relied on ex-Confederate officers for a new generation of leadership.

"Impressive research supports Wetherington's refreshing reconsideration of common southerners' perceptions of the war and Reconstruction. His book is certain to attract attention from Civil War scholars and will prove entertaining for the interested public. . . . Highly Recommended." -- "Choice" [Plain Folk's Fight] remains a well-crafted monograph and appears even more impressive in light of Wetherington's ability to reconstruct the often elusive voice of the plain folk. . . . Its focus on a neglected region . . . marks it as a worthwhile endeavor into the larger historiography of antebellum and postbellum study.--Southern Historian A gracefully written, scholarly work that will appeal to specialists as well as casual readers of southern or Civil War history. . . . It is insightful work that deserves close attention.--H-South Wetherington's analysis is nuanced, and his scope is wide, ranging from politics and economics to religion and the cultural effects of battle casualties. . . . A necessary addition to Civil War historians' libraries.--Journal of American History In Plain Folk's Fight, Mark Wetherington demonstrates the importance of giving agency to rural Americans whose voice has, until recently, been often overlooked. . . . For those scholars and general readers more interested in the intricacies of the Confederate home front than in the dryness of battle tactics, Plain Folk's Plight is a must-read.--H-Civil War Enriches knowledge of the Confederate South.--Journal of Southern History Impressive research supports Wetherington's refreshing reconsideration of common southerners' perceptions of the war and Reconstruction. His book is certain to attract attention from Civil War scholars and will prove entertaining for the interested public. . . . Highly Recommended.--Choice An authoritative analysis of one remote section of rural Georgia. . . . For those scholars and general readers more interested in the intricacies of the Confederate home front than in the dryness of battlefield tactics, Plain Folk's Fight is a must-read.--H-CivWar From the Inside Flap Wetherington examines the local effects of the Civil War on a section of southern Georgia, in part of the region known as Wiregrass Country. The author looks closely at the experiences of white "plain folk"--mostly yeoman farmers and craftspeople--who feared that emancipation would encourage freed slaves to move from cotton plantations into the piney woods communities they had claimed for themselves.