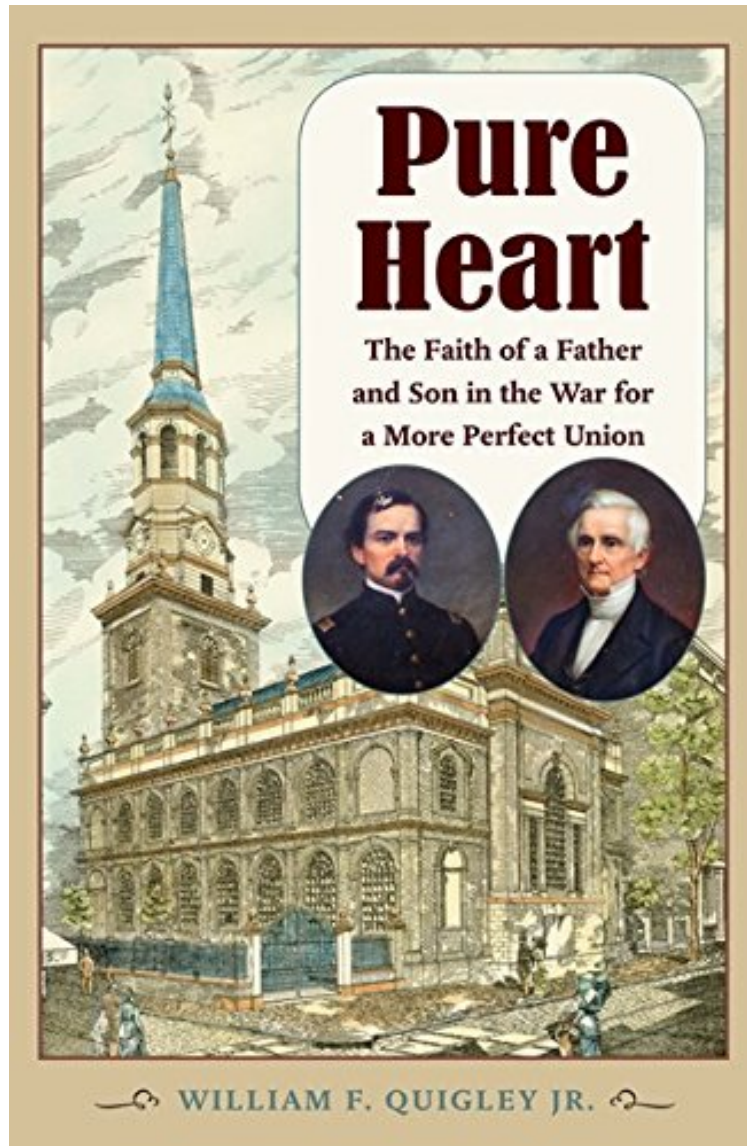


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Pure Heart: The Faith of a Father and Son in the War for a More Perfect Union (Civil War in the North)

William F. Quigley

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William F. Quigley : Pure Heart: The Faith of a Father and Son in the War for a More Perfect Union (Civil War in the North) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pure Heart: The Faith of a Father and Son in the War for a More Perfect Union (Civil War in the North):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Pure heart is Micro History at its best. Told with empathyBy Neil W. RonkPure heart is Micro History at its best. Told with empathy, it presents the complex political history of many Northern cities in the Civil War era, not just Philadelphia. Well researched, it tells the story of Civil War Philadelphia seen through the eyes of the Rector of Christ Church Philadelphia Benjamin Dorr and his son, a Union Army officer. Christ Church is best known for its role in the American Revolution. But as William Quigley demonstrates, its Civil War history is just as compelling. It is political history and military history that illuminates. A great and informative read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is one of the best books I have ever readBy CustomerThis is one of the best books I have ever read. It speaks of the relationship of a father and son, in a moving way. I felt as though I knew both of them by the time I was finished reading. In addition, it gives a good description of the tensions in the church and the city of Philadelphia. This book touched my heart and gave me an idea of what happened in Philadelphia and the country during the war. This is a very thought provoking book.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. excellent reading. its obvious the author spent many hours ...By MEL METERexcellent reading. its obvious the author spent many hours doing careful research prior to publishing and was also gracious enough to acknowledge those who provided assistance and information along the way. this hardback book is a welcome addition to my library. to the author i say 'well done sir'.

In the summer of 1862, as Union morale ebbed low with home front division over war costs, coming emancipation, and demoralizing battlefield losses, 24-year-old William White Dorr enlisted as a lieutenant in the 121st Pennsylvania Volunteers, a new Union regiment organizing in Philadelphia. His father, the Reverend Benjamin Dorr, rector of Christ Church, Philadelphia, strived to prevent divisions in his congregation from sundering that Episcopal church historically tied to the nation's founding. William F. Quigley Jr. presents a narrative that remarkably encapsulates much of the North's experience of the war. Reverend Benjamin Dorr was one of the most important clergymen of the era, who strived to hold his warring parishioners intact. His efforts paralleled Lincoln's far greater but comparable challenge to preserve the Union. The Nation's Church was torn apart from within between a faction of Pennsylvania's leading anti-emancipation Democrats and a faction of the city's and state's leading Republicans. Like Lincoln, Dorr invoked a temperate faith apart from the civil religion with which most Americans crusaded against each other. Dorr prayed that war might be avoided. But, when war came, he stood faithfully in support of the Union and of the war as Lincoln waged it, emancipation included, even unto the most grievous of losses. William White Dorr was a young officer in a storied Union infantry regiment whose brave stand at Gettysburg was pivotal in the Union's preservation. Ten months later, wearing the second bar of an army captain, the rector's son would lead his company once more into the Wilderness, one of the most brutal and bloody campaigns of the war. By war's end, many Philadelphians came to praise the spirit of charity and forgiveness exemplified by Reverend Dorr. He was their shepherd through that political, constitutional, economic, and religious crisis, and to honor his memory they erected stone monuments in The Nation's Church to him and to Captain Dorr, A Christian and a Patriot, Faithful unto death. Clearly and engagingly written, Pure Heart is unique in its narrative synthesis of home front political divisions and frontline infantry experiences. The emotional heart of the story lies in Reverend Dorr's relationship with his soldier son, poignantly revealed in a recently discovered collection of his son's wartime letters.

In Pure Heart, William F. Quigley Jr. examines how the Reverend Benjamin Dorr, rector of Philadelphia's historically famous Christ Church, strove to hold his politically divided congregation together amidst ... often racially-charged debates. ... Quigley's narrative serves as a microcosm of the larger conflicts both within the Northern home front and across Southern battlefields. ... a superb scholarly work ... that should find a home within any Civil War home front library. --Paul Taylor, Civil War NewsAbout the AuthorWilliam F. Quigley Jr. teaches history at The Governor's Academy, the nation's oldest nonsectarian independent boarding school. He and his family make their home in Cape Porpoise, Maine.