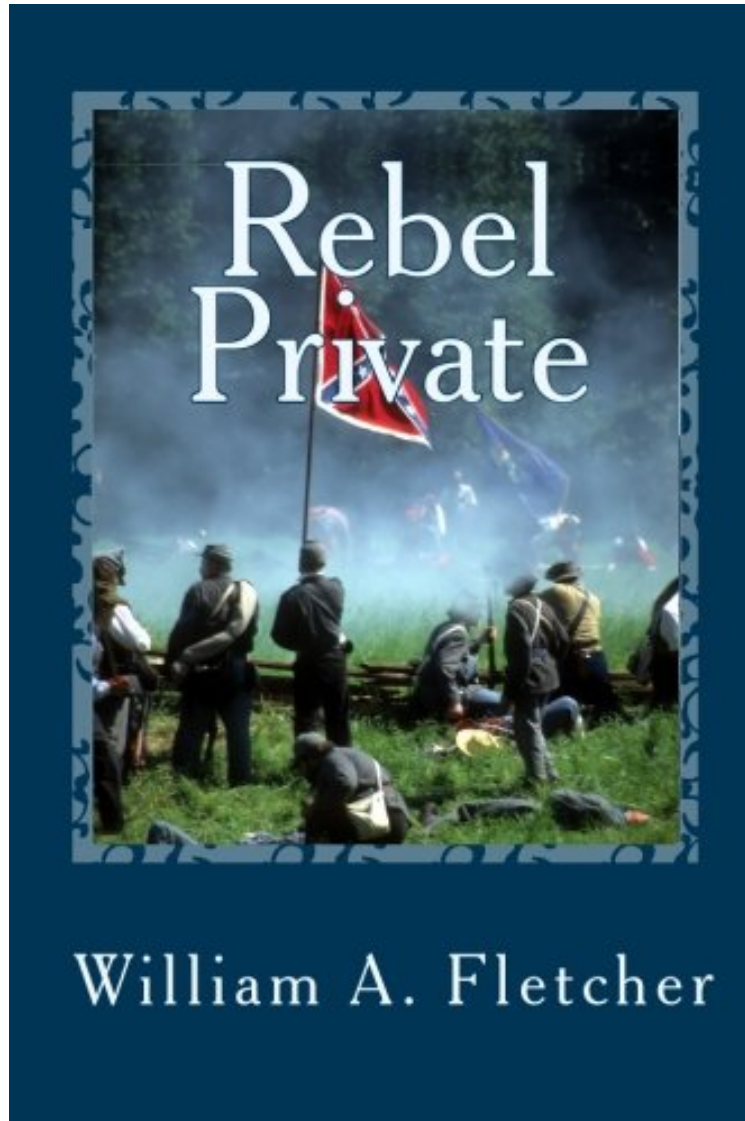


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Rebel Private

William A. Fletcher

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William A. Fletcher : Rebel Private before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rebel Private:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It is not the best writing/editing ever in that it gets very disjointedBy stev703It is not the best writing/editing ever in that it gets very disjointed. It is very much a personal viewpoint of the war,without a lot of day to day details of a soldier's life. I did find it very interesting. The author had, I think, a different"take", and probably gives a more honest view of the war and the fighting than did most of his contemporary

authors. I personally really enjoyed his discussion of the attack by Hood's Brigade on the second day at Gettysburg at Little Round Top. He said that when they got to the base of the hill, it was so steep that a mountain goat would have had difficulty climbing it! When I visited the Gettysburg Battlefield and walked to that spot, I completely agreed with him. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *personal memoirs* By Girard Hedereaux Historians MUST read private, first person accounts and letters of wartime experiences, especially of the American Civil War. This one goes on the top shelf of these personal accounts of the men who did the suffering, killing, and dying of that war. Grant's *Memoirs* are dry accounts of his part; he speaks little of the human side of the war, but men like Fletcher do that for him. These MUST be read to understand the texture and humanity of the war. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *A Southern Honest Point of View* By Customer Very good book, easy to read and that catches your interest from the first page and keeps it almost to the end of the book. It shows the honest feelings of a rebel soldier who fought for his country and loved it as much as the soldiers who gave their lives for the other side. The author participated in many battles through the whole war and gives careful description of the places and the action he saw. I consider the book a testimony of history and bravery. It is not a five stars for me because it comes to an abrupt end and the last chapter has not much to do with the rest of the book. Overall, a must read it for everyone interested in this part of the American history and in war subjects.

"Rebel Private," William A. Fletcher's account of service in all the major theaters of the Civil War, is one of the most compelling books written about service in the War Between the States. William Fletcher's recollection of life as a Confederate soldier are vivid, and his so great is his ability to command the imagination and give the reader a real you-are-there experience. Fletcher was a very practical soldier, and "Rebel Private" reflects this, exposing readers to the everyday concerns of a Confederate soldier, from the plight of the wounded to taking food from women and children in Union territory and scavenging the dying. William Fletcher even expresses regret that he had refrained from shooting an enemy soldier because he appeared very young and he wonders if it hurt his nation's cause. "Rebel Private" also contains exciting stories about being captured and escaping from a moving prison train. After the war, he heard a North Carolina soldier ask Fletcher's Texas cavalry unit if they had any bacon. When one answered yes, the man said "Grease and slide back into the Union." After thinking about it a while, Fletcher saw the wisdom in that advice and did just that. He became a very successful lumber entrepreneur as well as the author of "Rebel Private," which is highly recommend for students of military or Southern history or anyone who likes true adventure.

From Publishers Weekly William Fletcher joined the Confederate Army in 1861. He served with the Army of Northern Virginia's elite Texas Brigade until the Battle of Chickamauga. Unable to march because of wounds, he transferred to the cavalry and finished the war with the Texas Rangers, then wrote his memoirs 40 years later. Most of the original copies were destroyed in a fire. The current edition presents unvarnished images of hard marches, short rations and battles in which being wounded could prove worse than being killed. Fletcher describes the horrors of being a Civil War casualty as vividly as any firsthand account from either side. The author emerges from these pages as fighting less for a cause than for his own pride in being a good soldier. His narrative does more than many learned monographs to explain the Confederacy's long endurance against overwhelming odds. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A neat tale of suspense an admirable piece of Americana." *Atlantic Monthly* "Gives the best account I know of. This Confederate Soldier shows his devotion to the truth by limiting his narrative to what he saw with his own eyes." Shelby Foote "He was the G.I. Joe of the confederate army. He wrote so honestly, casually, and dramatically that no one who pretends to understand the Irresponsible Conflict can neglect reading this book." *Houston Post* About the Author William Fletcher isn't different from other soldiers be it outstanding or horrible, but he is the average Confederate soldier from Texas involved in many conflicts. When it comes to soldiering, he is brave and daring but not afraid to admit being scared as he is very honest in his chosen words. The best part of this book isn't the fighting as much as it is the daily life. For the person looking to gain further knowledge, Fletcher writes about his experiences firsthand. Coming up from Texas Fletcher is involved in the Seven Days Battle, 2nd Manassas, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and Chickamauga campaigns. It was interesting to read about fighting in the 5th Texas, Company F and the thoughts that ran through Fletcher's mind at Gettysburg. The uncertainty, the horrors and the patriotism all wrapped into one was very rewarding to read about. His escape from Union hands was inspiring as he did what he could do to get back to Texas.