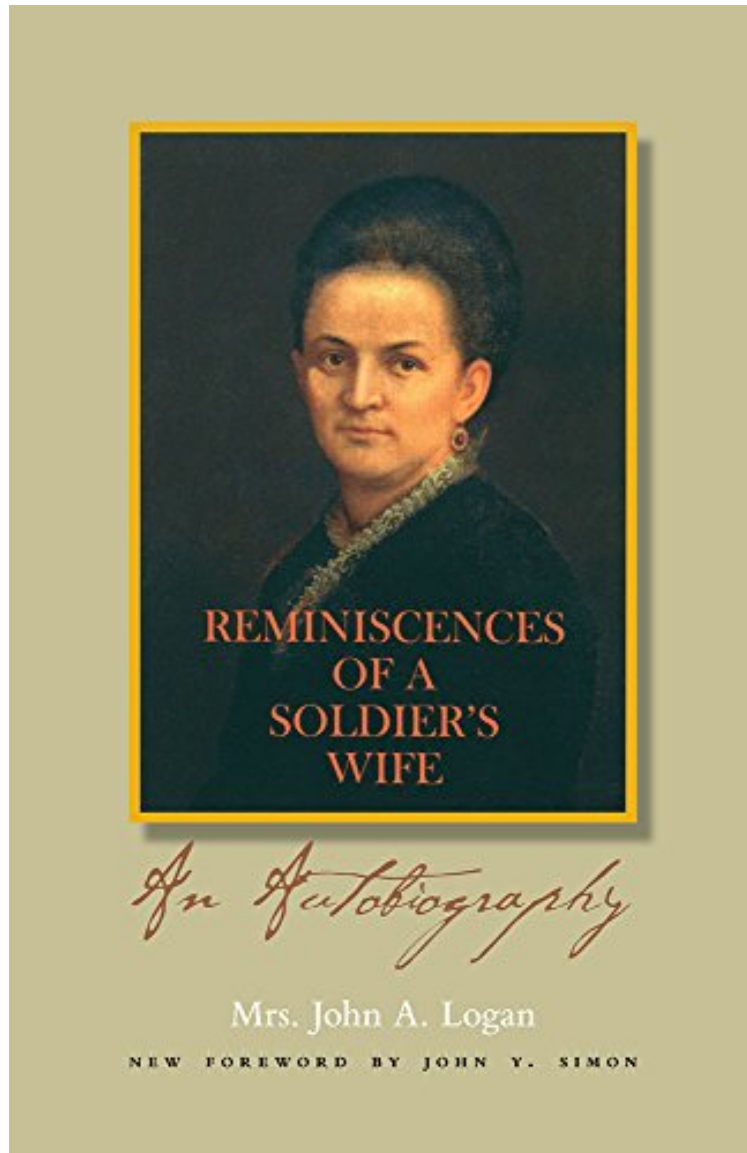


[PDF] Reminiscences of a Soldier's Wife: An Autobiography (Shawnee Classics)

## Reminiscences of a Soldier's Wife: An Autobiography (Shawnee Classics)

*Mrs. John A. Logan*

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#2594088 in Books Southern Illinois University Press 1997-11-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x 1.40 x 5.50l, 1.57 #File Name: 0809321572526 pages | File size: 48.Mb

**Mrs. John A. Logan : Reminiscences of a Soldier's Wife: An Autobiography (Shawnee Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reminiscences of a Soldier's Wife: An Autobiography (Shawnee Classics):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Numerous Historical Errors in New Introduction by CozzensBy

Herodotus<sup>12</sup>The Stackpole Books edition containing a new introduction by Peter Cozzens is riddled with errors. For example, there is a discussion of the father of Ellen McGowan Biddle, the author of "Reminiscences of a Soldier's Wife." The brief biography of John McGowan, Biddle's father, appears in Cozzens' introduction at pages x-xi. There, McGowan is incorrectly described as having entered the U.S. Navy; in fact, he entered the U.S. Revenue Marine (a forerunner of the Coast Guard). He was said to still be on duty in the navy at the outbreak of the Civil War; he had actually resigned his federal commission in 1852, and was a merchant sea captain at the time. Cozzens writes that President Lincoln attempted to resupply Fort Sumter at the turn of the year (1860/1861); it was lame-duck President Buchanan who made the attempt, Lincoln not even having taken office until March 1861, two months after the mission. Cozzens writes that Captain McGowan made the attempt to resupply Sumter with the *Star of the West* on June 9, 1861; it was January 9, 1861. Cozzens incorrectly writes that McGowan -- "too old for extended service at sea" -- thereafter returned to New York, where he "remained, passing the war in relative comfort" as commander of the steamer *Cuyahoga*. In fact, McGowan, who later rejoined the Revenue Marine, held three different sea commands during the Civil War, ranging all along the eastern coast between New England and southern Florida. Among much other wartime service, Captain John McGowan organized and directly supervised the blockade of Chesapeake Bay, preventing the flow of contraband goods and traffic into and out of the northern Confederacy.<sup>0</sup> of 0 people found the following review helpful. western military historyBy J. Thillmannfantastic period account of post CW military family life1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hilariously worshipful unobjective in every senseBy ChefdevergueIf any historical researcher needed an example of a primary source that is manifestly unreliable, then he/she could cite this memoir, which cannot be trusted in any sense.If the reader is not familiar with the career of "Black Jack" Logan, one would quickly assume from Mrs. General Logan's gushy, worshipful prose that General Logan was due to be canonized any time now.Mrs. General Logan conveniently glosses over most of Logan's career as a political boss, which had more than a few squalid moments. She would also have the reader believe that her husband's military career was more distinguished than in fact it was. While Logan was one of the better "political generals" in the Union Army (not a rank incompetent such as Banks or Butler), he was nonetheless removed from command by Sherman's request because he was believed to be prioritizing politics over military affairs.If the reader picks this book up believing it contains a gripping account of the tough life in the field --- well, at times it does, but it also contains in equal parts accounts of being received at the Imperial German court, and rubbing elbows with all the famous people that General Logan knew over the years. Mrs. General Logan clearly enjoys life as the wife of a Very Important Person, and enjoys recounting details of moving in selected circles.All of this riveting information is presented in typically gaudy 19th-century prose, which is made even more hilarious by Mrs. General Logan's starry-eyed regard for her saintly, model of perfection husband. The book can get pretty funny at time, because it is simply so over-the-top, but as a historical resource, it should be considered almost worthless.

"To tell my own story is to tell that of my famous husband, General John A. Logan," explains Mary S. Logan in the preface to her autobiography. Married to John A. Logan for thirty-one years, Mary Logan shared in her distinguished husband's career as a prosecutor in southern Illinois, as a Civil War general, and as a senator from Illinois. She observed firsthand the extraordinary events before, during, and after the Civil War, and she knew personally those world leaders who held the power to shape history. After the death of her husband, she maintained her influence in Washington, D.C. "Under the brightest and darkest skies," she explains, "I have passed than a half-century at the national capital." Born in 1838, Logan writes of her early days growing up in southern Illinois through 1913, when this book was first published. A skillful observer, she recounts events that are personal, regional, and national in scope. In charming detail, she shares her courtship and subsequent marriage to a young prosecutor from Jackson County and the births of their children. She writes proudly of the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858 and her husband's election to the Thirty-seventh Congress that same year. Logan tells of the coming of the Civil War and of her husband—formerly a Democrat and an enemy of Lincoln—casting his fate with the Union and raising a regiment in southern Illinois. She poignantly describes her brother's defection to the Confederate Army, her life in war-torn Cairo, Illinois, and her horror at her husband's severe war wounds. She recounts the battles, the political campaigns, and Lincoln's reelection and subsequent assassination from her point of view—and, as the wife of a politician and general, hers is a decidedly privileged perspective. In a position to observe and to participate in events ranging from momentous to minute throughout the latter half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, she reports the essential episodes of history with the flair of journalism, a career she in fact embraced after the death of her husband. She writes movingly of a wounded captain on the road to recovery who suddenly died when the minié shifted next to his lung, amusingly of the excuses soldiers invented to wrangle a pass to town, and elegantly of her trips to Europe and of the pomp and circumstance of the parties attended by the great men and women of the time. Drawing on events grand and small, she re-creates history as only a skillful writer who was in the right place at the right time could.