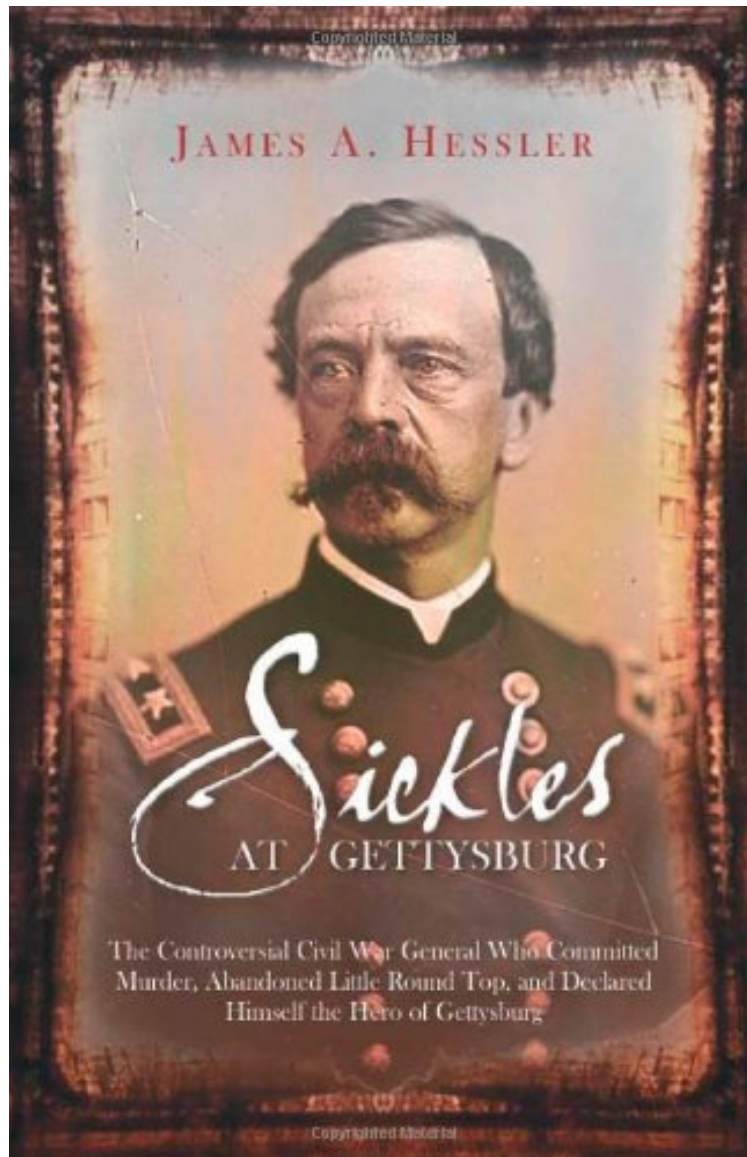


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Sickles at Gettysburg: The Controversial Civil War General Who Committed Murder, Abandoned Little Round Top, and Declared Himself the Hero of Gettysburg

James A. Hessler

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James A. Hessler : Sickles at Gettysburg: The Controversial Civil War General Who Committed Murder, Abandoned Little Round Top, and Declared Himself the Hero of Gettysburg before purchasing it in order to gage

whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sickles at Gettysburg: The Controversial Civil War General Who Committed Murder, Abandoned Little Round Top, and Declared Himself the Hero of Gettysburg:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What was Dan Sickles? By John A. Ryan This book is a summary of the adult life of Dan Sickles. The book is a study of a very complex man. Was he a brilliant political operative, a decent hearted General who sincerely cared for his men, an opportunist who drained every person he could or a devil in a man's body? All this and more are contained in this book. Although Major General Dan Sickles has been presented as the reason the Union Army did not crush Lee, Longstreet and the Confederate forces massed in Gettysburg on July 2nd (the second day of three that made up the Battle of Gettysburg). The author provides plenty of plenty of evidence both ways explaining why the 3rd Corps, Sickles Corps was stretched too thinly to prevent a surprise attack by Longstreet and his Confederate Corps on the Union's left flank. It is an interesting study in which, I believe Sickles became the scapegoat because he was not a United States Military Academy graduate. He was a "amateur soldier". Dan Sickles certainly was no saint, in fact he was as crooked a politician as Tammany Hall politics produced but I do feel that when in command of soldiers in battle, he was the type of commander that men will follow. Did he make mistakes, yes but he seemed to correct them as best he could on to the fly. This book is a very involved study, I found myself confused at times with all of the conflicting data. For a student of a more in-depth look or especially for a student of Gettysburg, I believe this is a must read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great book on a scoundrel indeed. By D. This is a great biographical sketch of a dastardly man. Hessler, in my opinion, remains unbiased as he presents the most unorthodox way that Dan Sickles rises in popularity in spite of murdering a man in cold blood. From professional politician to general and commander of the Third Corps, Sickles seemed destined to go against authority. Perhaps it was his victory over the courts that gave him the "invincibility" he might have felt. Whatever the case, here was a man who suffered a significant injury (loss of leg) on the field of battle, caused by the choosing of his corps' position. Even in the midst of suffering an amputation, he sought to further his own legacy, again told brilliantly by Hessler. Sickles' fantasy of how others viewed him played a major part in how he lived out the remainder of his life, with the biggest story being the war of words between himself and Meade. Hessler gives a significant portion of the last quarter of the book to the ongoing debate of whether Meade's orders were clear and Sickles deliberately disobeyed, or whether Meade's orders were confusing and Sickles translated them to his own benefit. Hessler dissects the issue and presents all major angles to this endless argument. Well worth the time to read this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good Read, but somewhat repetitious! By D'Ivanhoe "Sickles at Gettysburg" was a very interesting study by Hessler of an American villain. The author's account was a fair portrayal of this controversial character, Major-General Dan Sickles. However common themes of Sickles actions at Gettysburg are repeated ad nauseum. This includes his orders or lack of orders from Meade before and during the battle and Sickles' contention that his advance to the peach orchard salient forced the Confederates to attack on the second day, therefore forcing Meade to stay and fight it out. Since Sickles continued to fight the battle for 50 years after the fact, Hessler probably had to include his repeated rants at reunions and as *Historicus* in newspaper accounts. I enjoyed the book from the standpoint of learning valuable information about the infamous life of Sickles outside the realm of Gettysburg, including his family, politics, and scandals. I don't believe Hessler adds much to the volume of information by other authors about Sickles at Gettysburg. I do appreciate that Hessler does include some comparisons of Sickles at Gettysburg of some well known Gettysburg authors (Sears, Trudeau, Coddington, Tucker and Pfanz) on his actions at Gettysburg.

Sickles at Gettysburg: The Controversial Civil War General Who Committed Murder, Abandoned Little Round Top, and Declared Himself the Hero of Gettysburg, by licensed battlefield guide James Hessler, is the most deeply-researched, full-length biography to appear on this remarkable American icon. And it is long overdue. No individual who fought at Gettysburg was more controversial, both personally and professionally, than Major General Daniel E. Sickles. By 1863, Sickles was notorious as a disgraced former Congressman who murdered his wife's lover on the streets of Washington and used America's first temporary insanity defense to escape justice. With his political career in ruins, Sickles used his connections with President Lincoln to obtain a prominent command in the Army of the Potomac's Third Corps—despite having no military experience. At Gettysburg, he openly disobeyed orders in one of the most controversial decisions in military history. No single action dictated the battlefield strategies of George Meade and Robert E. Lee more than Sickles' unauthorized advance to the Peach Orchard, and the mythic defense of Little Round Top might have occurred quite differently were it not for General Sickles. Fighting heroically, Sickles lost his leg on the field and thereafter worked to remove General Meade from command of the army. Sickles spent the remainder of his checkered life declaring himself the true hero of Gettysburg. Although he nearly lost the battle, Sickles was one of the earliest guardians of the battlefield when he returned to Congress, created Gettysburg National Military Park, and helped preserve the field for future generations. But Dan Sickles was never far from scandal. He was eventually removed from the New York Monument Commission and nearly went to jail for misappropriation of funds. Hessler's book is a balanced and entertaining account of Sickles' colorful life. Civil War enthusiasts who want

to understand General Sickles' scandalous life, Gettysburg's battlefield strategies, the in-fighting within the Army of the Potomac, and the development of today's National Park will find Sickles at Gettysburg a must-read. About the Author: James A. Hessler works in the financial services industry and is a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park. He has taught Sickles and Gettysburg-related courses for Harrisburg Area Community College and the Gettysburg Foundation. In addition to writing articles for publication, Hessler speaks regularly at Civil War Round Tables. A native of Buffalo, NY, he resides in Gettysburg with his wife and children. FINALIST, 2009, ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD WINNER, 2009, THE BACHELDER-CODDINGTON LITERARY AWARD, GIVEN BY THE ROBERT E. LEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY WINNER, 2009, GETTYSBURG ROUND TABLE'S DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD

"...solidly researched and well presented...clear and easy to follow...highly recommended...for those who appreciate the combination of top-notch biography and military history." (Journal of America's Military Past) About the Author: James A. Hessler works in the financial services industry and is a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park. He has taught Sickles and Gettysburg-related courses for Harrisburg Area Community College and the Gettysburg Foundation. In addition to writing articles for publication, Hessler speaks regularly at Civil War Round Tables. A native of Buffalo, NY, he resides in Gettysburg with his wife and children.