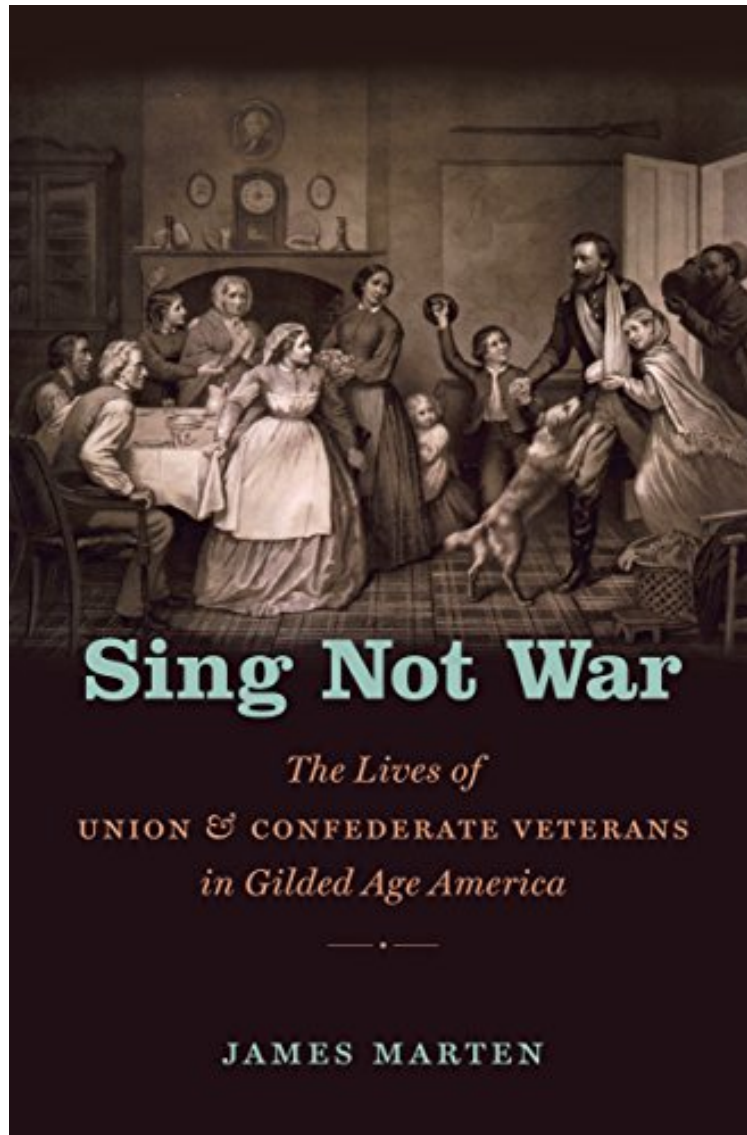


[Download] Sing Not War: The Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America (Civil War America)

## Sing Not War: The Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America (Civil War America)

*James Marten*

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#1280211 in Books James Marten 2014-12-01 2014-12-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.13 x .88 x 6.06l, .0 #File Name: 1469622025352 pages Sing Not War The Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America Civil War America | File size: 34.Mb

**James Marten : Sing Not War: The Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America (Civil War America)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sing Not War: The Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America (Civil War America):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting  
By Rick D. Huff  
treatment of our veterans after they returned home at the conclusion of the Civil War. There are many parallels to what is going on today with our returning veterans.  
16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Being a Civil War Vet  
By James W. Durney  
American mythology states that veterans of "good wars" reenter society with almost no problems. These veterans ennobled by their service and loved by a grateful nation live out their lives as a national treasure. The American Civil War is one of America's "good wars" and the veterans enjoyed the benefits of such.  
History is full of soldiers but silent on veterans. Very very few books look at their experiences after the war, how active service affected them and societies reaction to them. This book looks at veterans of the Civil War, how they readjusted, how society saw them and how they saw themselves. The majority of the book is devoted to Union Veterans. They are the ones that have "saved" their country and a government that is the beneficiary of their service. This government has the ability to compensate and care for them.  
For about 70 years, the care and compensation of Union veterans is the major item in the Federal budget. Becoming a major expense creates political and social problems. Much of the book is devoted to these problems and their impact on society. In effect, Union veterans became the beneficiary of America's first old age pension system. Society's gratitude for "saving the country" became uncertain as expenses increase. This is not new history but the author presents multiple views resulting in a fresh approach.  
During Reconstruction, disabled Confederate veterans depend on local charity to survive. As the South rebuilds, the states provide small pensions and homes for their needy veterans. While never as generous as the Union system, these were welcome supplements. The Southern veteran occupies a unique position as the embodiment of "The Lost Cause", a living monument. This feeling coupled with the lack of a pension system excused many of their problems. The book is very successful in showing the contrast between public perceptions of veterans in the years following the war.  
The author is careful to state that the majority of veterans readjust with minimal problems and lead productive lives. This is as true today as it was 145 years ago. However, most men have some problems and a few have serious ones. The men with serious problems are most likely to be noticed and recorded. The Civil War is no exception and the book looks at multiple serious problems during the Gilded Age. Hard statistics do not exist but derogatory references abound. Good scholarship allows us to draw a realistic picture of maimed men grinding street organs or begging in doorways. Drunks in old blue coats or addicts are common enough to become stock characters.  
Old age creates a new set of disabilities and swindlers with the expansion of the pension system. The two periods when "agents" abound are right after the war and when the majority enter old age. Things have changed less than we like to think. Money tends to bring out the worst in people. This is as true then as now.  
This is an excellent book, well written and very readable. What could be a dry subject takes on a life of its' own. The author keeps the story moving, marshals his facts and never becomes judgmental.

After the Civil War, white Confederate and Union army veterans reentered--or struggled to reenter--the lives and communities they had left behind. In *Sing Not War*, James Marten explores how the nineteenth century's "Greatest Generation" attempted to blend back into society and how their experiences were treated by nonveterans. Many soldiers, Marten reveals, had a much harder time reintegrating into their communities and returning to their civilian lives than has been previously understood. Although Civil War veterans were generally well taken care of during the Gilded Age, Marten argues that veterans lost control of their legacies, becoming best remembered as others wanted to remember them--for their service in the war and their postwar political activities. Marten finds that while southern veterans were venerated for their service to the Confederacy, Union veterans often encountered resentment and even outright hostility as they aged and made greater demands on the public purse. Drawing on letters, diaries, journals, memoirs, newspapers, and other sources, *Sing Not War* illustrates that during the Gilded Age "veteran" conjured up several conflicting images and invoked contradicting reactions. Deeply researched and vividly narrated, Marten's book counters the romanticized vision of the lives of Civil War veterans, bringing forth new information about how white veterans were treated and how they lived out their lives.

Marten's book is powerful in its presentation and is a must read for those historians who want to proceed further into the postwar era of the conflict.--*The Journal of the North Carolina Association of Historians*[Marten's] scholarship is wide ranging, and his prose is excellent . . . For anyone interested in the postwar lives of Civil War soldiers, *Sing Not War* is highly recommended.--*The Annals of Iowa*A first rate study. . . Well-written with well-placed illustrations and photographs, this will become a definitive work on the subject.--*American Nineteenth Century History*Adds much to a growing literature on the Civil War soldier as veteran.--*Journal of Illinois History*A remarkable book with significance far beyond the post-Civil War era.--*Kansas History*A rich narrative. . . Marten's well-researched study draws together a deep analysis of competing themes.--*West Virginia History*[An] insightful work. . . Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.--*Choice**Sing Not War* is a first-rate scholarly model of historical research and elegant writing that is sure to reshape studies of veteran culture, social welfare, Civil War memory, and the Gilded Age.--*Journal of the Civil War Era*This volume is profoundly moving.--*The Historian*A splendid synthesis in the emerging field of postwar studies.--*Journal of Social History*Marten's own engaging and pithy prose makes this work highly readable. . . [This book] should appeal to a wide readership.--*Alabama* Engaging, well written, and exhaustive.

. . . A timely and relevant account of the consequences of war on soldiers and civilians alike.--Southwestern Historical QuarterlyElegantly written . . . Sing Not War has given admirable shape and definition to an anemic subfield of Civil War history.--Civil War MonitorA strong contribution in exploring the mental impact of the war on veterans.--Arkansas Historical QuarterlyDeeply researched and vividly narrated, Marten's book counters the romanticized vision of the lives of Civil War veterans, bringing forth new information about how white veterans were treated and how they lived out their lives.--McCormick MessengerA worthy addition to the growing body of scholarship on Civil War veterans. For readers new to the topic, it represents a well-written introduction to the world of the men that served in and survived the Civil War. For scholars knowledgeable on this topic, Marten's study pulls together many familiar threads and adds some new ones, thoughtfully weaving both.--Civil War Book No other book combines the cultural and social history of Civil War veterans, North and South, like Marten's Sing Not War. Beautifully written and deeply researched, this book captures a fresh perspective of veterans' lives, revealing their personal and distinctive experiences as they returned home after the war. A vivid, compelling, and original study that provides surprising new information about 'Johnny Reb' and 'Billy Yank.'--Joan Waugh, author of U. S. Grant: American Hero, American MythCivil War soldiers returned home to a world that was transformed by their efforts. Many bore the physical marks of their service; many more carried hidden emotional scars. In this deeply researched and wonderfully written volume, James Marten presents the veterans' story in all its complexity. Marten mines novels, memoirs, newspapers, institutional records, and the private writings of scores of anonymous veterans to uncover how they navigated their postwar lives. The result is not only a powerful history of Civil War veterans, but also an important analysis of the forces that shaped Gilded Age America.--J. Matthew Gallman, author of Northerners at War: Reflections on the Civil War Home FrontAbout the AuthorJames Marten is professor of history at Marquette University and author or editor of more than a dozen books, including The Children's Civil War, Texas Divided: Loyalty and Dissent in the Lone Star State, 1856-1874, and Civil War America: Voices from the Homefront.