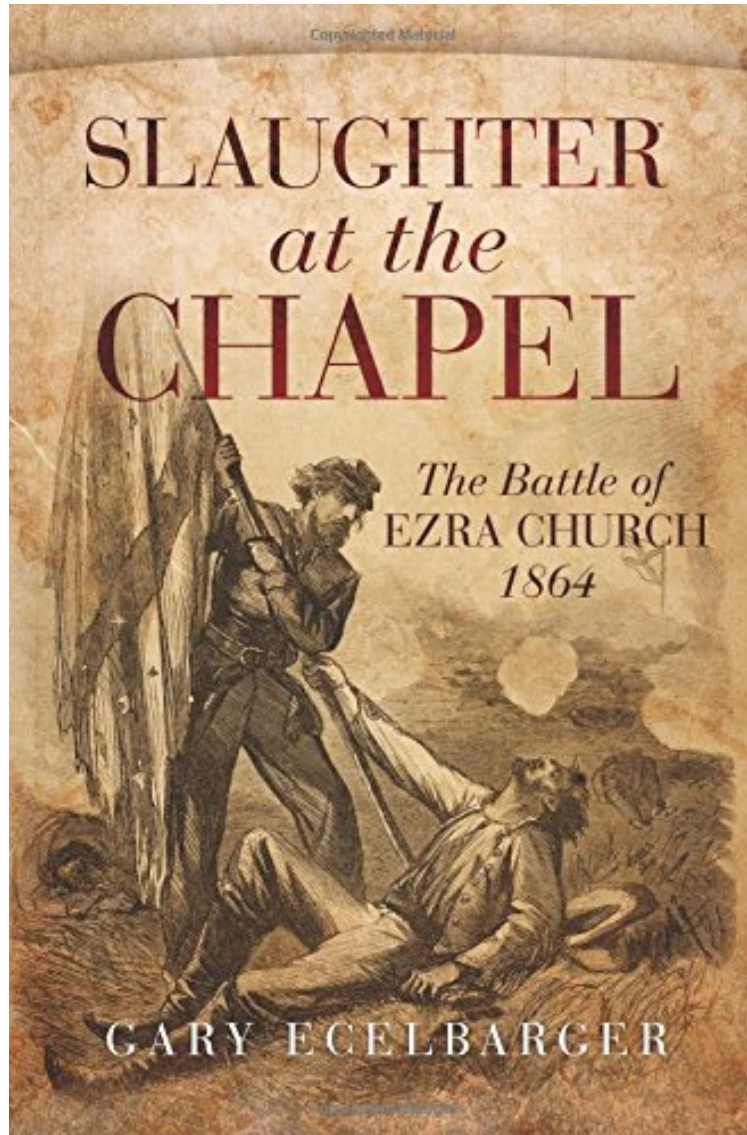


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Slaughter at the Chapel: The Battle of Ezra Church, 1864

Gary Ecelbarger

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#1026605 in Books Gary L Ecelbarger 2016-10-05 Original language: English 9.00 x .95 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 0806154993288 pages Slaughter at the Chapel The Battle of Ezra Church 1864 | File size: 30.Mb

Gary Ecelbarger : Slaughter at the Chapel: The Battle of Ezra Church, 1864 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slaughter at the Chapel: The Battle of Ezra Church, 1864:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Ezra Church--A bloody conflict for Atlanta By Steven Peterson This is a very well constructed analysis of a battle at Atlanta that is less well considered than other fights. Lengthy volumes on other battles at Atlanta--between the Union General William T. Sherman and Confederate Commander John Bell

Hood--have appeared. I am less familiar with the battle at Ezra Church. General Hood wanted to consider applying pressure against Union forces. The order of battle (Appendix A) shows that this was a smaller scale conflict than some prior Atlanta engagements. Nonetheless the battle was very hard fought. Elements of three Union corps were engaged (Logan's, Dodge's, and Blair's). Southern forces included new corps commander's Stephen Lee (he improved in such command later--not so much here), Stewart's corps, and Wheeler's cavalry corps. The book tells the tale of southern forces trying to score a victory at Ezra Church. They suffered heavy casualties, attacking Union forces on higher ground and so on. Confederates ended up losing the engagement--at heavy cost. One more fight that presaged the Union forces taking Atlanta. . . .3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A great history of a forgotten battle during the Atlanta Campaign. I only wish the maps were bigger.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Battle on Holy Ground. By Amanda Warren. Gary Ecelbarger's study approaches the Battle of Ezra Church in a manner much appreciated by readers of Civil War history: a thorough, engaging treatment while offering a fresh viewpoint. Rather than echo past condemnation of Stephen Dill Lee, for example, he examines WHY Lee attacked in a piecemeal fashion. Without denying the terrible outcome, one now understands the general's reasoning on the ground under limited time and options in a highly fluid battle situation. As a reader I was thoroughly edified by Ecelbarger's nuanced and multi-sided analysis of the army leaders' decisions and actions: a great improvement over his book on the Battle of Atlanta in which (I felt) he accepted General Hood's version with insufficient criticism. Here, he does not let Hood off the hook, but again he does it in a measured way. If anyone could be said to be unquestionably lauded in this book, it is General Logan, but this comes off as well deserved. Slaughter at the Chapel delves into the intense, heartbreaking experiences of the soldiers who endured this battle, of whom many attested it to have been the hardest and hottest of the war. It is particularly moving to read how Federals in the works admired the Confederates for their extraordinary bravery and marveled at their self-sacrifice, particularly the Louisianans described as having "died in heaps." Even General Logan praised the Southerners' "desperate gallantry" at Ezra Church. This book is a beautifully written, worthy tribute to the supreme effort and sacrifice of life and limb that took place on a battlefield surrounding a church, making it doubly hallowed ground. The reader will be surely and deeply moved by the stories herein.

The Battle of Ezra Church was one of the deadliest engagements in the Atlanta Campaign of the Civil War and continues to be one of the least understood. Both official and unofficial reports failed to illuminate the true bloodshed of the conflict: one of every three engaged Confederates was killed or wounded, including four generals. Nor do those reports acknowledge the flaws—let alone the ultimate failure—of Confederate commander John Bell Hood's plan to thwart Union general William Tecumseh Sherman's southward advance. In an account that refutes and improves upon all other interpretations of the Battle of Ezra Church, noted battle historian Gary Ecelbarger consults extensive records, reports, and personal accounts to deliver a nuanced hour-by-hour overview of how the battle actually unfolded. His narrative fills in significant facts and facets of the battle that have long gone unexamined, correcting numerous conclusions that historians have reached about key officers' intentions and actions before, during, and after this critical contest. Eleven troop movement maps by leading Civil War cartographer Hal Jespersen complement Ecelbarger's analysis, detailing terrain and battle maneuvers to give the reader an on-the-ground perspective of the conflict. With new revelations based on solid primary-source documentation, Slaughter at the Chapel is the most comprehensive treatment of the Battle of Ezra Church yet written, as powerful in its implications as it is compelling in its moment-to-moment details.

“In this most insightful and judicious account of Ezra Church, Gary Ecelbarger leavens his detailed operational analysis with characterizations of numerous participants—Union and Confederate—and emphasizes the human element too often lacking in Civil War battle and campaign studies.” —Edward G. Longacre, author of *The Early Morning of War: Bull Run, 1861*