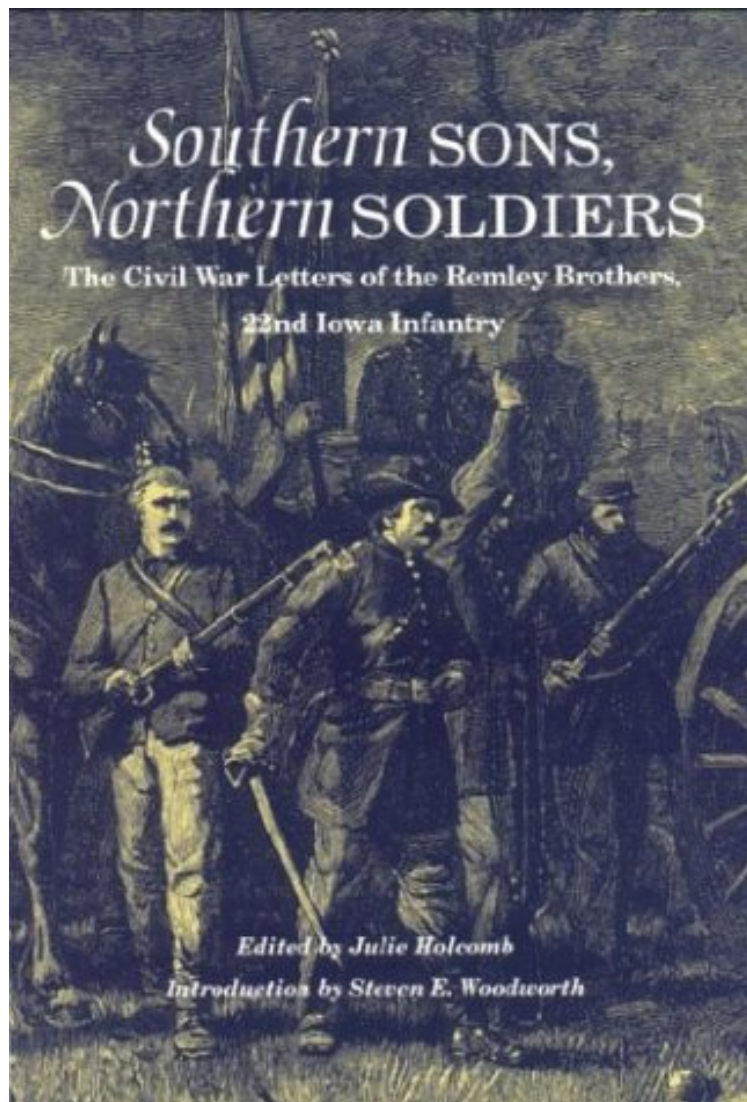


[Free download] Southern Sons, Northern Soldiers: The Civil War Letters of the Remley Brothers, 22nd Iowa Infantry

## Southern Sons, Northern Soldiers: The Civil War Letters of the Remley Brothers, 22nd Iowa Infantry

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**From Brand: Northern Illinois University Press : Southern Sons, Northern Soldiers: The Civil War Letters of the Remley Brothers, 22nd Iowa Infantry** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Southern Sons, Northern Soldiers: The Civil War Letters of the Remley Brothers, 22nd Iowa Infantry:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books I have read this year and one of ...By

babs\_houston One of the best books I have read this year and one of my lifetime favorites! The brothers bring such life to their walk through the Civil War military days. Their narrative is so clear and detailed I felt one with their adventure. Highly recommend. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fervent Christian Union Soldiers' Letters By William Bozic These letters were taken from the Pearce Civil War Letters Collection at Navarro College, Texas. The peculiar title was chosen because this family originated in Lewisburg Virginia (the South) and moved to Iowa where two of the sons became Northern soldiers. Their extremist opinions based on evangelical Christian doctrine angered even their Christian friends in Western Virginia so the family fled to rural Iowa in order to escape retribution. The brothers fervently believed it was their God-given duty to punish, in the most extreme sense of the word, every man, woman, and child in the South due to the sin of slaveholding. Brothers, George and Lycurgus Remley, often made references in their letters based on their interpretations of biblical passages. For example, the justification of barbarity rather than kindness toward helpless civilians due to this being "a time of war, not a time of peace", according to their interpretation of a biblical Ecclesiastes verse. These brothers served in Co. "F" 22nd Iowa. Lycurgus perished relatively early but George survived till near the end war and rose to the rank of Master Sgt. George was appalled by the behavior of fellow soldiers in the 22nd Iowa and quickly only associated with only a few soldiers who held similar Christian beliefs. Both brothers were university educated and this is evidenced by their word choice and style. Due to his advanced education George was often assigned the clerical duties where he excelled, and also became privy to some of the classified information, as well as many rumors circulating amongst the officers. The editor carefully notes what stories were myth from fact. George also gives keen and biting personal insight into the officers under which he served who did not live up to his exacting standards. The 22nd Iowa saw service in the Missouri, Vicksburg, Bayou Teche, and Texas Gulf Coast campaigns, prior to heading to Virginia to serve under Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign. The Bayou Teche Louisiana and Texas Gulf Coast campaigns are the most interesting because these campaigns have been poorly documented, thus revealing new facets of almost unknown campaigns.

When Abraham Lincoln called for 300,000 volunteers to fortify Union forces in July 1862, George and Lycurgus Remley enlisted to serve God and country—and for them, this phrase had real meaning. When their native Virginia had become a hostile environment for men speaking out against the evils of slavery, the Remley family had taken refuge in the Midwest. Answering the call of their president and their consciences, the two brothers joined the 22nd Iowa Infantry. This poignant collection of their letters to and from home sharply portrays the human costs of the Civil War. The Remley brothers saw action in an unusually wide geographic area, from Missouri to Louisiana, as their regiment fought the battles of Port Gibson and Champion Hill, laid siege to Vicksburg and Jackson, and took part in Major General Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Along the way, George and Lycurgus witnessed battle scenes, border warfare, bushwhacking, and guerrilla encounters—all of which they graphically described in letters home. Physical hardships were matched, the brothers felt, by spiritual hardships. Even before the Civil War began, they knew that their abolitionist convictions would require personal sacrifice. When the family moved from Virginia to the free soil of Iowa, Lycurgus remained behind to finish school. He was soon expelled, however, for asserting his own abolitionist views and was forced to follow his family north. Ready to fight for their beliefs, he and George proudly joined the Union ranks with Bibles in hand. As they traveled throughout the country, Lycurgus, still outspoken, distributed New Testaments among his comrades. A close fraternal bond carried the Remleys through the tedium of camp life and the intensity of battle. George and Lycurgus wrote as distinct individuals; and this fascinating collection of their letters offers dueling impressions of the same events. But when sudden illness and death left one brother alone, he courageously continued to fight not only for God and country but also for his fallen brother and comrade.

"Historians who understand the value of seeing the war through the eyes of the participants will find no better opportunity to do so than in this wonderful collection of correspondence."—The Journal of Military History "The beauty of such a volume is the reader is brought close to the history being made by the men who fought the battles. It is the ultimate oral history and personal recollections that are so important in the understanding of what war really is and how ordinary human beings suffer through each moment of their making of that history."—The Civil War Courier "Superbly edited ... makes a vital contribution to Civil War studies. The brothers' literacy and knack for language greatly aid the effects of this book."—H-Net