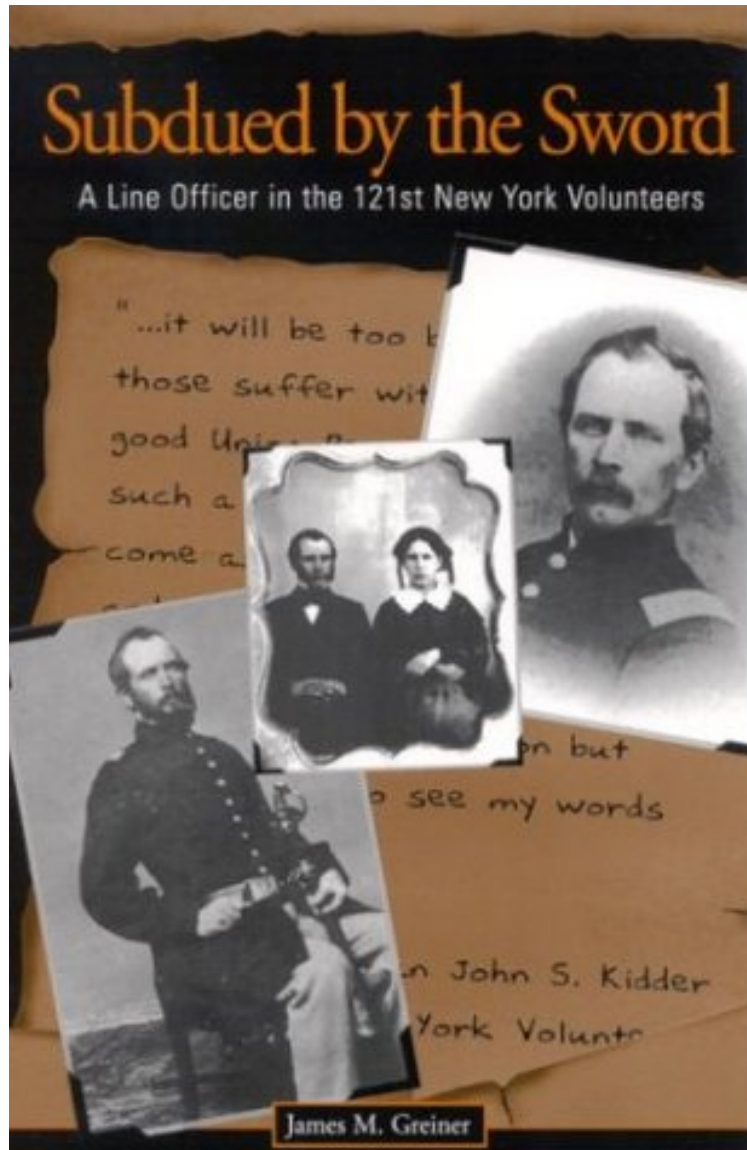


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Subdued by the Sword: A Line Officer in the 121st New York Volunteers

James M. Greiner

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excellent account from a line officer. This and Diary of an enlisted man make a good read. Both from New York regiments.

Drawing on previously unpublished letters written by John S. Kidder to his wife, Harriet, during the Civil War, James M. Greiner recounts the triumphs and tragedies endured by one New York family. Kidder, a carriage maker living in the rural village of Laurens, responded to President Lincoln's call in the summer of 1862 for more troops by personally recruiting over seventy men living nearby. Serving under Emory Upton, considered one of the most talented soldiers produced by the Union, Kidder was captain of Company I of the 121st New York Volunteers. The regiment saw action at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Rappahannock Station, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. Kidder's letters home contain rich details of camp life, the difficulties of commanding men who had only recently been his neighbors, and the highs and lows associated with soldiering during the Civil War. They also reveal Harriet's struggle to maintain the family home and business due to the uncertainties of army pay.

"Greiner has left no stone unturned to provide a complete history of the 121st New York Volunteers. It's a fascinating story, told from the perspective of a field soldier. The insights into the daily life of the Union soldier are remarkable. He also explores life on the home front, showing how desertions and casualties impacted life in a rural New York village." "What is most appealing about this book is the freshness of this new material--the window it opens onto the life of an ordinary family, which made considerable sacrifices to fight for the Union. Civil War aficionados will enjoy the opportunity to watch the war unfold through the eyes of entirely new characters." From the Back Cover Drawing on previously unpublished letters written by John S. Kidder to his wife, Harriet, during the Civil War, James M. Greiner recounts the triumphs and tragedies endured by one New York family. Kidder, a carriage maker living in the rural village of Laurens, responded to President Lincoln's call in the summer of 1862 for more troops by personally recruiting over seventy men living nearby. Serving under Emory Upton, considered one of the most talented soldiers produced by the Union, Kidder was captain of Company I of the 121st New York Volunteers. The regiment saw action at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Rappahannock Station, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. Kidder's letters home contain rich details of camp life, the difficulties of commanding men who had only recently been his neighbors, and the highs and lows associated with soldiering during the Civil War. They also reveal Harriet's struggle to maintain the family home and business due to the uncertainties of army pay. About the Author James M. Greiner is an independent historian and researcher in Herkimer, New York, and the coeditor (with Janet L. Coryell and James R. Smither) of *A Surgeon's Civil War: The Letters and Diary of Daniel M. Holt, M.D.*