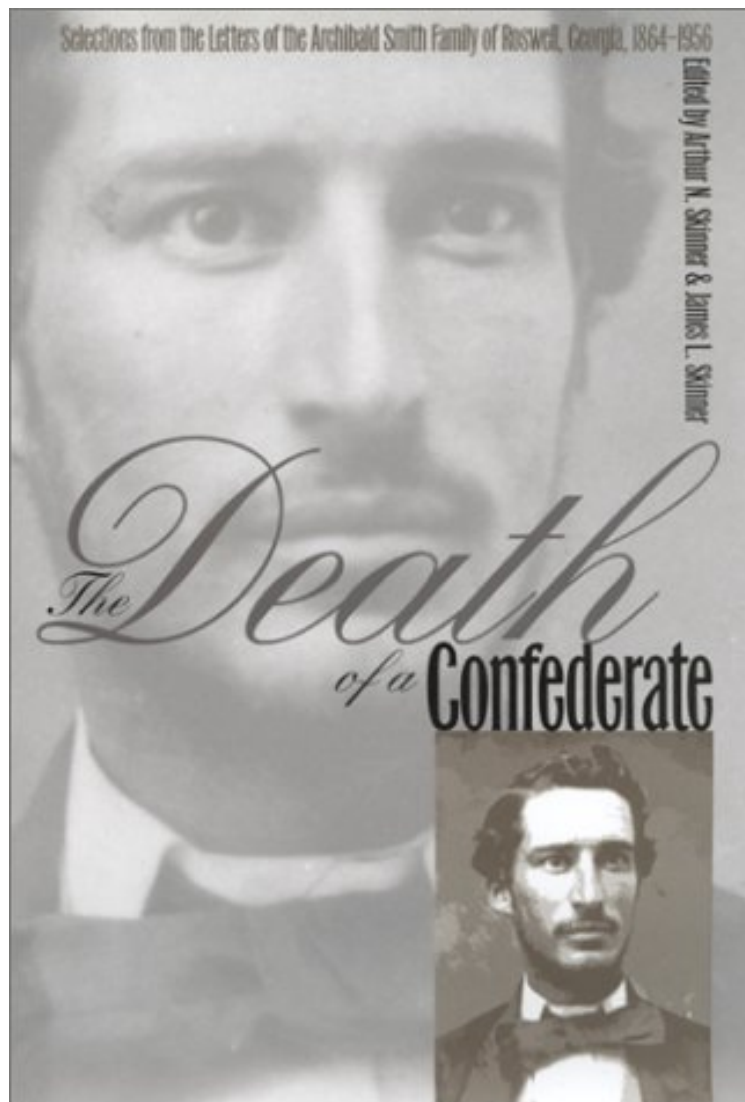


[Mobile ebook] The Death of a Confederate: Selections from the Letters of the Archibald Smith Family of Roswell, Georgia, 1864-1956

The Death of a Confederate: Selections from the Letters of the Archibald Smith Family of Roswell, Georgia, 1864-1956

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From Brand: University of Georgia Press : The Death of a Confederate: Selections from the Letters of the Archibald Smith Family of Roswell, Georgia, 1864-1956 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Death of a Confederate: Selections from the Letters of the Archibald Smith Family of Roswell, Georgia, 1864-1956:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Amazing insight into the minds of a Confederate family during the

Civil WarBy CustomerI bought this book because I live in Roswell GA and I'm interested in the history of the town. The letters of this family really shows a level of closeness (even with distance between them) as they plowed through the harshness of the war. You feel terrible for poor William. If medicine had been better, he would have lived. You feel terrible for his family because they could not be there when he died. The letters are tedious to read, but full of so much information of the times. The fact that they collected and were interested in various flowers is amusing. Makes you wonder what we would be interested in if we didn't have television, internet, etc. to occupy our minds.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Death of a ConfederateBy Karen C. FleckAny one that is interested in the Cival War needs to get this book.Gives details of the happening during Willies time serving for our counry. I liked the book very much.

Spanning nearly a century, the letters in this collection revolve around a central event in the history of a southern family: the death of the eldest son owing to sickness contracted during service in the Confederate Army. The letters reveal a slaveowning family with keen interests in art, music, and nature and an unshakable belief in their religion and in the Confederate cause. William Seagrove Smith was a private in the signal corps of the Eighteenth Battalion, Georgia Infantry. Smith was part of the force defending Savannah until it fell in late 1864, and then marched with General William J. Hardee in his famous retreat out of the city and through the Carolinas. Like so many other soldiers on both sides of the conflict, William Smith fell not at the hands of an enemy but from disease. He died in Raleigh, North Carolina, on July 7, 1865. A parallel and complementary story about William's younger brother, Archibald, also emerges in the letters. As a cadet at Georgia Military Institute, Archibald was (as his parents fervently wished) exempt from service; however, he ultimately saw--and survived--action before the war's end. Scattered among the many lines in the letters that are devoted to the two brothers are a wealth of particulars about agricultural, industrial, and social life in the family's north Georgia community of Roswell, the Smith family's flight from Sherman's invasion force, their lives as refugees in south Georgia, and a final reunion of the Smith brothers outside of Savannah just after the city's fall. Also included are a number of moving exchanges between the Smiths and the family that cared for William in his final days. A brief history of the Smith family through 1863 begins the correspondence, while the letters following the war reveal their fortitude in the face of William's death and the hardships of Reconstruction. The volume concludes with selected letters from the subsequent generation of Smiths, who conjure images of the Old South and revive the memory of William. Like the most distinguished Civil War-era letter collections, *The Death of a Confederate* introduces a personal dimension to its story that is often lost in histories of this sweeping event.

From Library JournalEditors Arthur Skinner (visual arts, Eckerd Coll.) and James L. Skinner (English, Presbyterian Coll.) offer a series of letters from two Confederate soldiers, who were brothers, and their family mainly during the period of Sherman's march through Georgia. The letters vividly describe the living conditions of a family uprooted by the forces of war and effectively reveal their feelings toward the Union troops and the way the civilian population was treated. The reader gets a clear picture of the deep faith that sustained this family during the trials of war and through the death of their older son, who died from disease as the war ended. Later letters help bring the family home up to the 1950s. This book will be of particular import to anyone interested in the effects of the Civil War on the civilian population of the South.?W. Walter Wicker, Louisiana Tech Univ., RustonCopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A moving account of one family's late war struggles and heartaches. Arthur Skinner and James Skinner have done an excellent job editing and explaining the documents they have collected together. The book is enhanced by photographs of the family, maps, and pictures of the original letters. Scholars and general audiences will benefit from learning about another fairly typical family and how that family suffered and survived Federal invasion, death and Confederate defeat."--Georgia Historical Quarterly