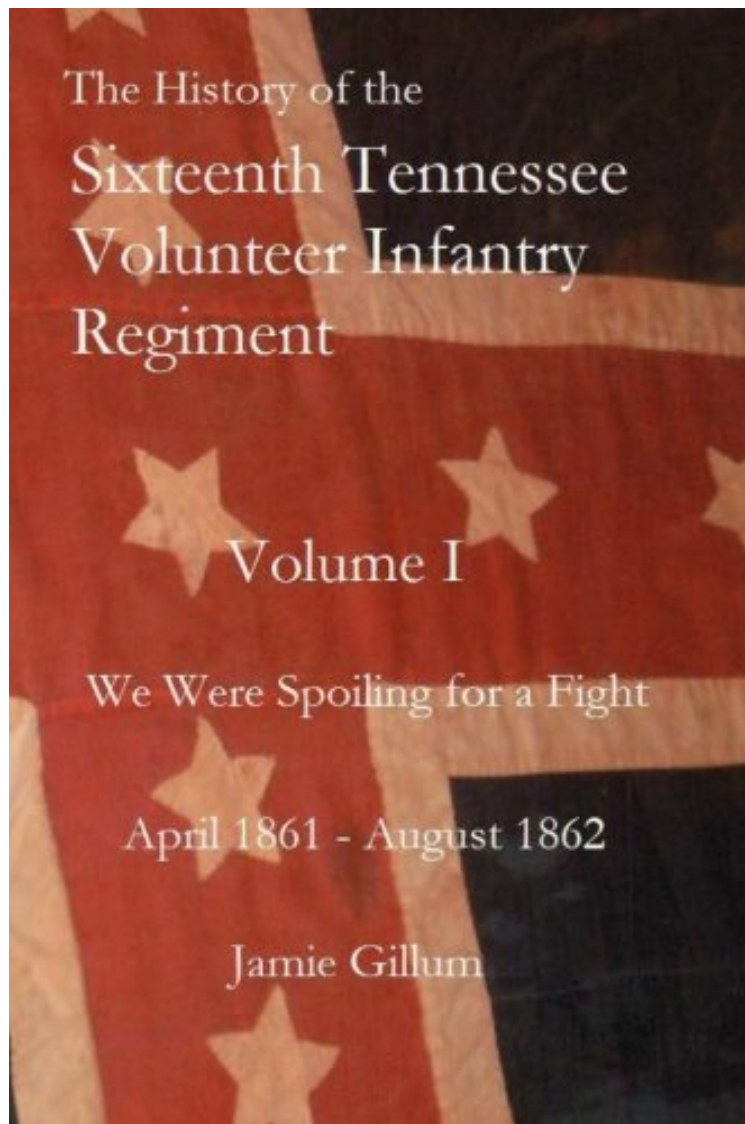


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The History of the Sixteenth Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment: We Were Spoiling for a Fight

Jamie Gillum

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Jamie Gillum : The History of the Sixteenth Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment: We Were Spoiling for a Fight before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The History of the Sixteenth Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment: We Were Spoiling for a Fight:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not your typical regimental history By Southern Historian Jamie

Gillum's book, *The History of the Sixteenth Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Vol. I, We Were Spoiling for a Fight, April 1861 - August 1862*, is an exceptionally well-done introductory volume of what would become one of the regiments of Ben Cheatham's famed all-Tennessee division of the Confederate Army of Tennessee. Gillum claims that this is not your ordinary regimental history, and I agree. I think Gillum has set the standard for Confederate regimental histories for some time to come. The book is excellently researched and is based on numerous and varied primary source accounts. While the book does contain the daily movements and activities of the 16th Tennessee regiment as a whole, which a good regimental history surely must, the book does not read as a stodgy or rigid military history. Interspersed throughout the accompanying footnotes are interesting biographical entries of selected men who are mentioned in the text. The flowing narrative opens with a brief, but necessary background that gives one a view into the complex political attitudes and viewpoints of citizens who were living in the fringe counties of anti-slavery East Tennessee and what would lead them to join the Confederate army. As the narrative progresses, Gillum weaves a tapestry of personal accounts giving the reader an understanding of the regiment as a whole in the broader military context, while at the same time bringing the perspectives and experiences of the common soldier into shining detail. After reading volume 1, I feel as though I know Colonel John Savage, Captain J. J. Womack, and Private Roysdon Etter, in particular. Volume 1 covers the first sixteen months of the war, and examines the soldiers' experiences from enlisting as volunteers, to training at Camp Trousdale, to their initial baptism of fire under Robert E. Lee in Virginia, to their transfer to the South Carolina coast, to their assignment with the Army of Mississippi at Corinth, Mississippi, and their movement with the army to Chattanooga, Tennessee. My only disappointment is that I wish I had volumes 2 and 3 in hand, because I am eager to discover more about the history, contributions, and experiences of this fine Tennessee regiment of Cheatham's Division and the stories of the men who comprised it.

Dr. Todd Cathey, Regimental Historian, 11th Tennessee Infantry Volunteers, found the following review helpful. Essential addition to CW library. By dfedak. My husband specifically requested this book and "The Battle of Perryville and the Sixteenth Tennessee Infantry Regiment..." also by Jamie Gillum, because he has ancestors who fought in this regiment. As a Civil War buff, he is always delighted to find well-written accounts of the battles in which this regiment participated. Would highly recommend this to anyone interested in the Civil War. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read. By Nate in Tn. Excellent first hand accounts. Excerpts from letters and diaries are insightful as well as entertaining.

This is the story of the Sixteenth Tennessee Infantry Regiment in the American Civil War. Where they were, who they fought and what they did is chronicled in this day by day account of the lives of the boys in this Confederate regiment. This study is written in three volumes, each covering about sixteen months of the war. From an immense number of surviving sources including letters, diaries (some never published) and memoirs comes the fascinating story of common soldiers in the most trying and difficult ordeal of their lives. A great reference for those interested in the Army of Tennessee, Cheatham's Division or Donelson's/Wright's/Carter's/Maney's Brigades. Volume I - April 1861 to August 1862 - chronicles their organization and their campaigns in the mountains of Virginia, the South Carolina coast and the contest for Corinth, Mississippi with preparations for the Kentucky Campaign. Volume II - September 1862 to December 1863 - includes the Battles of Perryville, Murfreesboro, the Tullahoma Campaign, the Battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and withdrawal to Dalton, Georgia. Volume III - January 1864 thru May 1865 - includes the battles and skirmishes of the Atlanta Campaign (Resaca, Marietta, July 20th and 22nd), Jonesboro, Franklin, Nashville, the retreat from Tennessee with the final battle at Bentonville. It also chronicles their return home and the hardships that faced the men and their families. Learn their hopes, their joys and their fears in this consolidated diary of a regiment of Tennessee volunteers. Experience triumph, death, desertion and despair alongside the men who lived it and continued Tennessee's legacy of bravery and patriotism in America's greatest struggle.