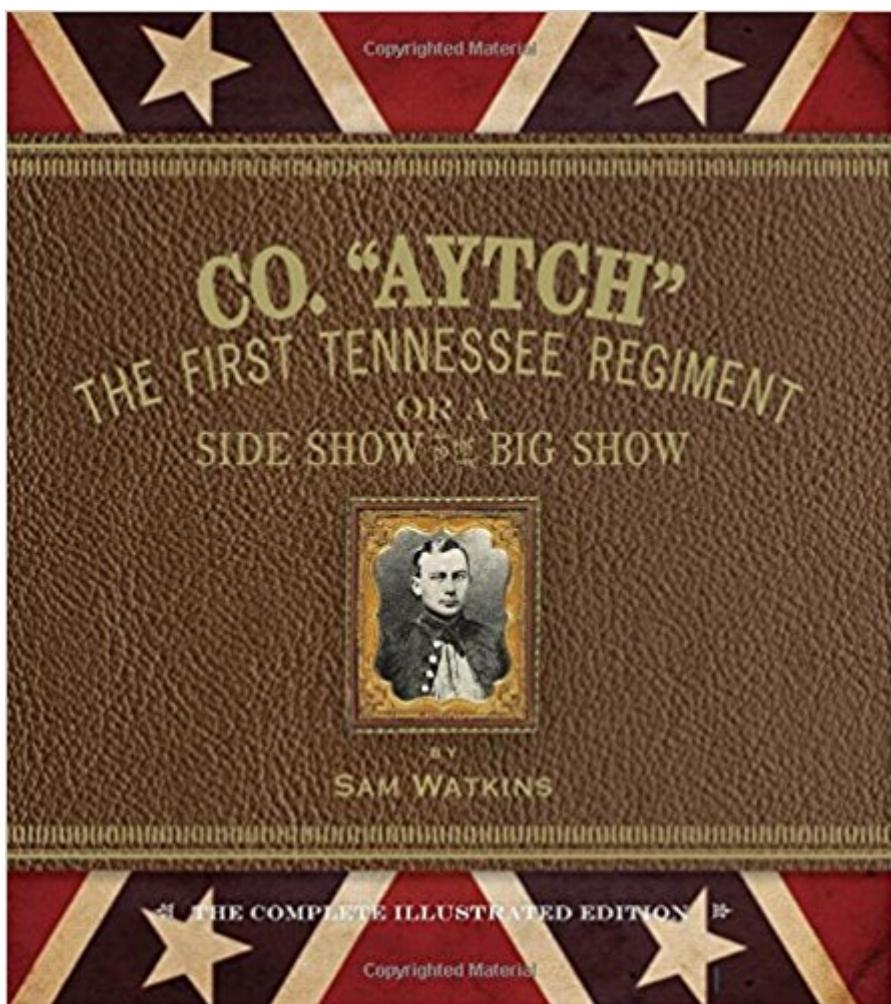


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# Co. "Aytch": The First Tennessee Regiment Or A Side Show To The Big Show: The Complete Illustrated Edition



## Synopsis

Read this classic memoir from the American Civil War, complete with images and other perspectives, for an enriching, unforgettable experience. This is the most famous and best-selling memoir of the American Civil War, now fully illustrated for the first time. Samuel Watkins faithfully served throughout the duration of the Civil War. Of the 120 men who enlisted in "Company H" in 1861, Sam Watkins was one of only seven alive when General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee surrendered to General William Tecumseh Sherman in North Carolina in April 1865. Of the 3,200 men who fought in the First Tennessee, only 65 were left to be paroled on that day. Soon after the war ended, Watkins began writing his memoir, entitled Co. "Aytch": The First Tennessee Regiment or a Side Show of the Big Show, which is heralded by many historians as one of the best war memoirs written by a common soldier of the field. Sam's writing style is quite engaging and skillfully captures the pride, misery, glory, and horror experienced by the common foot soldier. This beautifully illustrated edition of Co. "Aytch" includes writings from great Civil War generals, such as James Longstreet and William T. Sherman, as well as some of today's best contemporary historians, such as Doris Kearns Goodwin, James M. McPherson, Allan Nevins, and Bruce Catton, all of whom won the Pulitzer Prize for history. It is also richly illustrated with photos and illustrations from the Library of Congress, the George Eastman House, the National Parks Service, many of the country's major Civil War collections, and the National War College.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The announcement at the capitol building in Montgomery, Alabama, that Jefferson Davis would be

the first president of the Confederate States of America. Davis; Alex. H. Stephens, Vice President; Wm. L. Yancey, Leader of the Secession Party; and Howell Cobb, president of the Senate are all present. General Stonewall Jackson at Bull Run, August 17, 1861. Unidentified Confederate soldiers

Confederate prisoners at Knoxville. A field hospital of wounded rebels in Keedysville, Maryland. Soldiers bathing in the North Anna River, Virginia.

Samuel Watkins was in virtually all the major battles of the western theater of the American Civil War. His memoirs, which provide a common soldier's viewpoint of the war, continue to be studied by historians and enthusiasts. James M. McPherson, professor emeritus at Princeton University, is the author of *Battle Cry of Freedom* (winner of the Pulitzer Prize); *Hallowed Ground*; *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam*; and many more best-selling and critically acclaimed books on the Civil War.

Great service and excellent book.

I expected a little more, I guess. It's unique, interesting, etc but I expected a little more "meat".

Even before it was prominently featured in Ken Burns' award winning documentary, *The Civil War*, Sam Watkins' memoir *Co. Aytch: The First Tennessee Regiment or a Side show to the Big Show*, was a classic of Civil War literature, and widely heralded by many historians as one of the best memoirs of the war written by a common soldier. At the outset to the Civil War Watkins was one of 120 men who enlisted in Company H of the 1st Tennessee Infantry. He and his comrades were in virtually every major battle of the war in its Western theater. By the time the war ended in April 1865, Watkins was one of seven members of the company who were still alive when General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered the Army of Tennessee to Major-General William Tecumseh Sherman. Soon after his return home Sam Watkins began to write his memoir. His engaging narrative captures the pageantry and monotony, the glory and misery, the humor and drama, the pride and horror experienced by a common soldier of the Confederate in the Western Theater. Zenith Press has pulled Watkins' dusty and well worn volume from the shelf and republished it in a new and glorious illustrated edition. Every word of Sam Watkins' text has been preserved and supplemented with 175 color photographs, illustrations and maps. Period photographs and illustrations of politicians and military men, places and landmarks, camp life and

battle scenes take their place beside post-war artworks, modern photographs of artifacts, battlefields, monuments, and reenactments which have been gathered from the Library of Congress, the George Eastman House, the National Parks Service, the National War College, as well as many other of this country's major Civil War collections. Supplementary text is added from the Civil War generals such as James Longstreet and William T. Sherman as well as modern Pulitzer Prize winning historians Doris Kearns Goodwin, James M. McPherson, Allan Nevins and Bruce Catton. Zenith Press Co. "Aytch": The First Tennessee Regiment or a Side Show to the Big Show: The Complete Illustrated Edition breathes new life to Watkins' memoir for its 21st Century readers. It would be a welcome addition to any Civil War student's library, even if he already owns an earlier, and I'm sure dog-eared and well read, edition.

One of the best known and most quoted accounts by a Civil War soldier, this memoir was written as a serial in the Columbia, Tennessee, Herald newspaper in 1881 and 1882 and was then published as a book in 1882 by Sam Watkins of the Maury Grays, Company H, the 1st Tennessee Regiment in the Army of Tennessee. Private Watkins said he wrote the newspaper columns to answer the questions his grandchildren kept asking him. Co. Aytch is the work of an enlisted man who joined the Confederate Army in May of 1861. He fought from Shiloh to Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Atlanta, Franklin and Nashville to the end of the war in April of 1865 when his unit was surrendered by Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston to Union General William T. Sherman. This brave man effectively does full justice to the unfolding drama in a narrative rich in biographical detail, perceptive analysis, and scrupulous attention to the horrors of combat with a sense of humor and a sharp eye for the lighter side of the deadly clash between the North and the South. It is a testament to one man's enduring humanity, bravery, and insight in the midst of death and devastation. This revised table top illustrated edition of Co. "Aytch" includes new writings from United States President Abraham Lincoln, important Civil War generals, James Longstreet and William T. Sherman, as well as some of most prominent 20th and 21st Century historians; Bruce Catton, Doris Kearns Goodwin, James M. McPherson, and Allan Nevins, all of whom won the Pulitzer Prize for history. These valuable additions to the original narrative and revisions enhance the author's story and will appeal to a wide readership which will be useful as a valuable resource on the Civil War and the Army of the Tennessee. Published by Zenith Press of Minneapolis, Minnesota, it has a beautiful looking cover as well as many helpful period and contemporary photos and illustrations from the U.S. National Archives, Smithsonian Institution, the National Parks Service, many of the country's major Civil War collections, and the United States

Military Academy. The important words and thoughts of Sam Watkins classic Civil War memoir was prominently mentioned in every episode of Ken Burns documentary "The Civil War" first shown on public television in 1992. Mr. Watkins is an engaging story teller who allows readers to understand the experiences of someone who fought from the start to the end of the Civil War. He effectively allows readers to feel as if they are fighting with him throughout the conflict of this most important period of United States history. The author brings to life the key personalities of The Confederate States of America and makes blunt comments on many Southern leaders and generals that are refreshing and enlightening. I highly recommend this revised illustrated volume and suggest interested individuals add it to their library even if they own an earlier edition.

Although I'd read some of the major works on the Civil War prior to Burn's documentary masterpiece, I'd never heard of Sam Watkins or Co. "Aytch." Having read much more in past 20 years, I still hadn't read "Co. 'Aytch'" until now. Sam Watkins is a supremely interesting writer and brings the experience of a Civil War enlisted man, particularly a Confederate private, to life (I don't understand how he was never promoted to an NCO rating) in a manner that makes one really feel how life (and death) must have been during those four bloody years. Sam has a delightful low keyed sense of humor, and his only mention in chapter one of the "Cause" is an enlightening paragraph, and from it I comprehend for the first time what "state's rights" meant to the men fighting for it (although slavery remains the root cause of the war) and makes one sympathetic to their viewpoint, although as Grant said later, it was the worst cause that man ever fought for. This version of the book, (c) 2015 by Zenith Press, is a beautiful edition, featuring contemporary photos and drawings, and more modern photos, maps and excerpts from other works. I highly recommend it.

If you have seen Ken Burn's Civil War documentary, this book is mentioned. While I wonder how it first appeared in print, this version has many beautiful illustrations and photos which really add realism to the story.

This is a great read. I love it! So much insight into the time and people involved. This is one you don't want to loan.

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