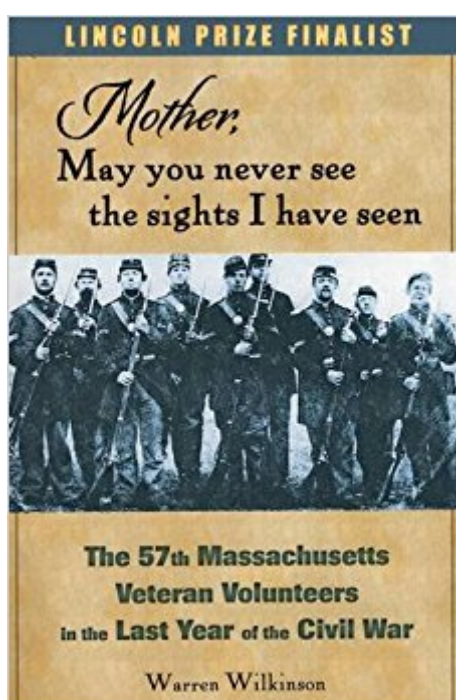


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Mother, May You Never See The Sights I Have Seen: The 57th Massachusetts Veteran Volunteers In The Last Year Of The Civil War



Synopsis

Seldom does one encounter a history of a military unit that so compellingly reproduces its experiences.--New York Times"An unusually detailed study of men at war, as well as a superb unit history."--Publishers Weekly"An altogether splendid contribution to military history."--KirkusThe 57th Massachusetts Veteran Volunteers lost more men killed and mortally wounded than any other regiment in the Union army. In this classic Civil War unit history, Wilkinson crafts an intimate, gutsy, candid story of men at war.Covers the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and PetersburgNo-holds-barred account of the fatigue, horror, boredom, gallantry, and cowardice of the Civil War soldier

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Customer Reviews

The late Warren Wilkinson, a native of Massachusetts and resident of Georgia, was a lifelong student of the Civil War. He also wrote (with Steven Woodworth) *A Scythe of Fire*.

This book started out as a genealogy project. Warren Wilkinson discovered that his maternal great great grandfather Martin Farrell was a veteran of the 57th. Wilkinson did more digging. He discovered that a history of the 57th had been published by John Anderson, a former captain of the 57th. After several readings, Wilkinson was irked. He ended up discovering that Anderson's history was a highly sanitized version. No doubt Anderson was trying to spare veterans and their families of the less than savory aspects of the war. Freed from such restraint, Wilkinson embarked on a four

year journey to find the real history of the 57th. The result was this work and it is a magnificent effort from beginning to end. Having done his research in chronological order, he ended up with over 1500 manuscript pages which also included a complete regimental roster of all who served with the 57th. Many Civil War books are deeply researched, but sometimes their authors lack skill with a pen. Not so with Wilkinson, his account of the 57th's first action in the Wilderness on May 6th is some of the most vivid battle writing you will ever encounter. As if that wasn't enough, his account of the Crater and the 57th's role in that fiasco is even better. In short, Wilkinson makes the war come alive. I was reminded of Bruce Catton's Pulitzer Prize winning masterpiece, "A Stillness at Appomattox," many times while reading. If anything, this book could be called the regimental version of the same story. With any luck, hopefully a university press will reprint this Civil War classic. Without doubt, this is one of the best regimental histories ever written. Whitman's absurd statement that "the real war will never get into the books," is proved wrong by Wilkinson's magnificent book.

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