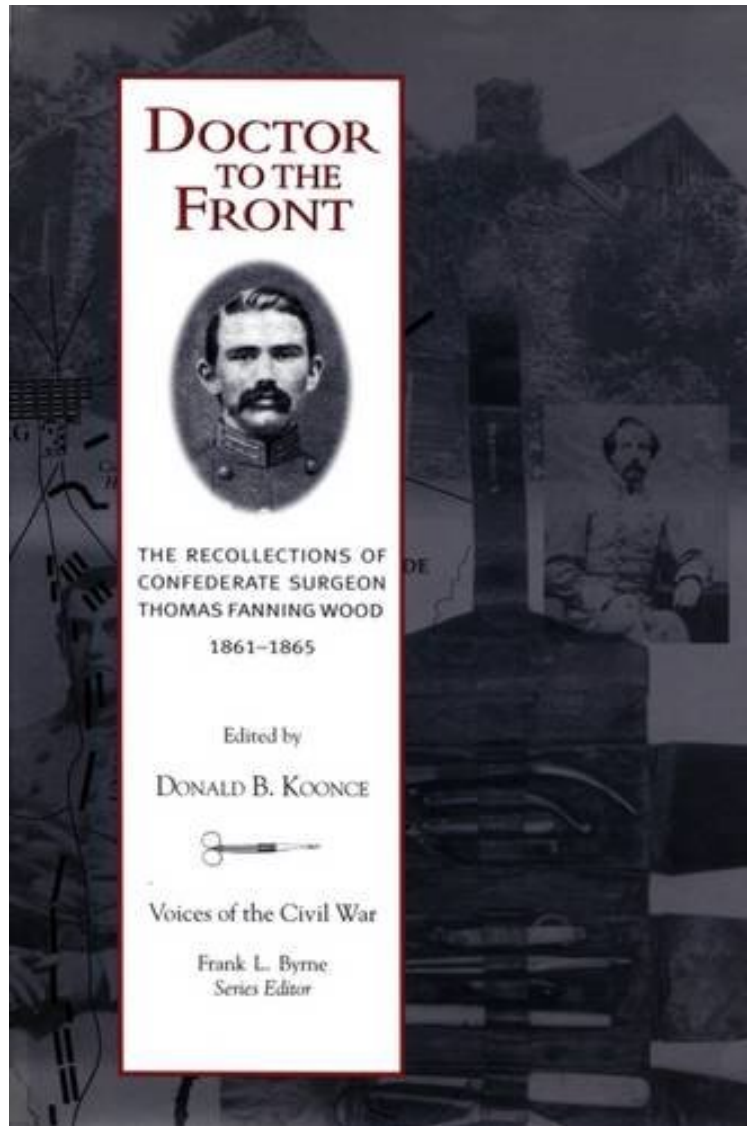


[Download pdf] Doctor To The Front: Confederate Surgeon Thomas Fanning Wood (Voices of the Civil War)

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Donald B. Koonce

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Donald B. Koonce : Doctor To The Front: Confederate Surgeon Thomas Fanning Wood (Voices of the Civil War) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Doctor To The Front: Confederate Surgeon Thomas Fanning Wood (Voices of the Civil War):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you are interested in war strategies for the Civil ...By Lou M.

Nelson If you are interested in war strategies for the Civil War, this book is well-written and interesting. However, I marked it down because I was expecting to read about medical practices for the period and very little medical information is given. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Fine Narrative! By Nathan Hale This is a terrific book that discusses the life of a Confederate army surgeon. Thomas Wood wrote his "recollections" nearly twenty-one years after the war ended. Wood wrote of his adventures in the third North Carolina Regiment. He saw Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and many others. He gives interesting biographic sketches on different members of the regiment. Wood's letters home are included in the book to make it very interesting. The medical situation was very inadequate. There was very little knowledge of sanitary laws. Wood did not truly have any medical degree, nor was he recommended by a medical school, he began to practice medicine after developing an interest in it after recovering in an army hospital. I enjoyed this book because Wood writes well. His detail of the battles are interesting. Though it may interest the historian, I think that a book like this should be enjoyed by anyone who loves a good book. One other book on medical history is *Kate: the Journal of a Confederate Nurse* by Kate Cumming. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. *Wartime experiences as a Confederate Army surgeon* By Midwest Book Review *Doctor To The Front: The Recollections Of Confederate Surgeon Thomas Fanning Wood 1861-1865* is the latest addition to the University of Tennessee Press *Voices of the Civil War Series* and an outstanding contribution to Civil War studies. Military doctors labored through the smoke of battle where impossible conditions and fear of infection compelled them to resort to amputation -- an operation most often performed without painkillers. Thomas Wood's account of his wartime experiences as a Confederate Army surgeon and his recollections of those events provide the reader with a vividly narrated "window in time" to those harrowing days. Very highly recommended for personal, professional, and academic Civil War reading lists and reference collections, *Doctor To The Front* combines historically significant information with human interest accounts to reveal still another horrific facet of the civil war.

The Civil War was a tragic conflict that destroyed many lives, but for those trying to save lives the tragedy was often compounded. Military doctors labored through the smoke of battle where impossible conditions and fear of infection often forced them to resort to amputation, and most operations were performed without painkillers. Thomas Fanning Wood recorded his wartime experiences as a Confederate Army surgeon, and his recollections of those events allow us to hear a distinct voice of the Civil War. As a young soldier recovering from fever at a Richmond hospital, Wood developed an interest in medicine that was encouraged by a doctor who steered him toward medical training. After only eight months of study he was made an assistant surgeon in the Third North Carolina Regiment. His narrative-drawn from his memoirs, letters from the front, and articles written for his hometown newspaper-presents a poignant and sometimes horrifying picture of what the Civil War physician had to face both under battlefield conditions and in urban hospitals. Wood himself spent much of his time at the front, and his vivid narrative describes both a doctor's daily activities and the campaigns he witnessed. He was present at many of the war's major engagements: he was near Stonewall Jackson when the general fell at Chancellorsville, manned a field dressing station at the foot of Culp's Hill at Gettysburg, and was one of the few survivors of the Union attack on the "mule shoe" at Spotsylvania when his entire division was wiped out. Wood's account also lends new insight into Jubal Early's 1864 campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley and against Washington. With its observations of medical care and training not found in standard histories of the war-including a description of the examination required to become an assistant surgeon-*Doctor to the Front* offers a unique human perspective on the Civil War. With their additional descriptions of key figures and events, Wood's recollections combine historical significance and human interest to show us another side of that terrible conflict.

About the Author Donald B. Koonce is the great-grandson of Thomas Fanning Wood and has served on the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Historical Society and the Historic Greenville Foundation, USA. He is president of the Koonce Group, Inc., an award-winning communications company whose productions include *Daybreak at the Cowpens*, a documentary for the National Park Service.