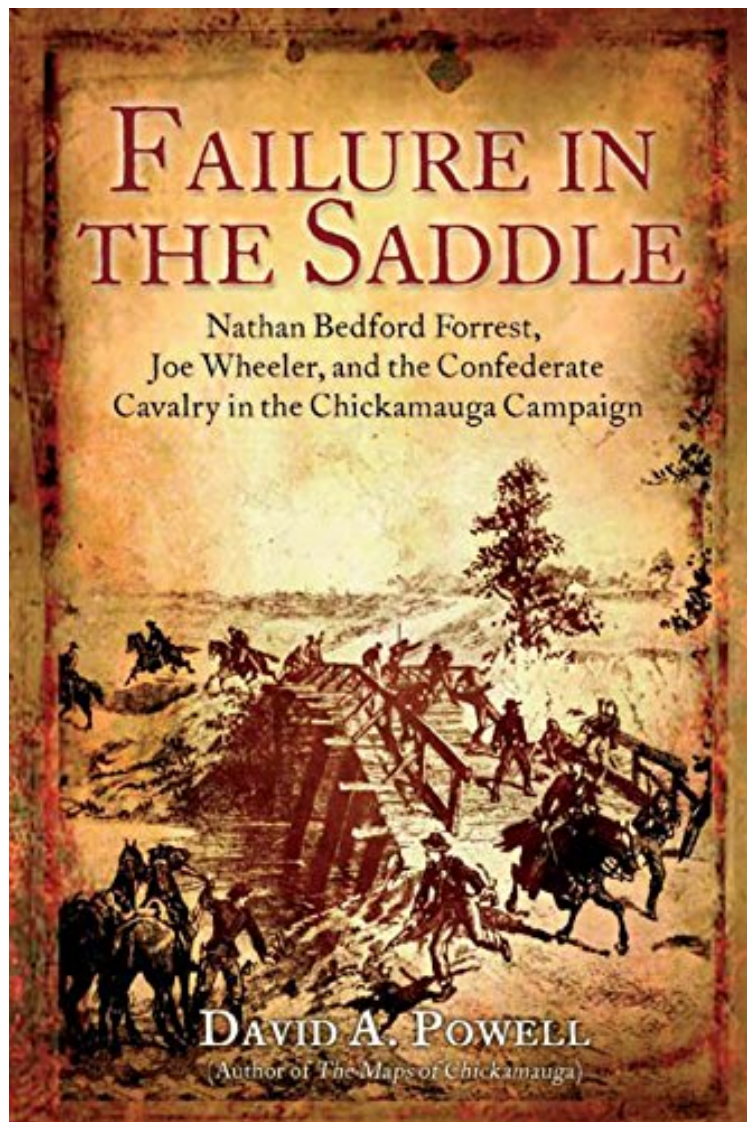


[Download] Failure in the Saddle: Nathan Bedford Forrest, Joe Wheeler, and the Confederate Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign

## Failure in the Saddle: Nathan Bedford Forrest, Joe Wheeler, and the Confederate Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign

David A. Powell

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David A. Powell : Failure in the Saddle: Nathan Bedford Forrest, Joe Wheeler, and the Confederate Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Failure in the Saddle: Nathan Bedford Forrest, Joe Wheeler, and the Confederate Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent overview of the Confederate cavalry operations during the Chickamauga campaign

By Classic Rock Fan I have been to Chickamauga many times but not recently. I used to go on the military staff rides with William Glenn Robertson and have also gone with the NYC Civil War Round Table with Jim Ogden leading the group. I currently own Gracie's book about Chickamauga as well as Cozzen's book on Chickamauga and Chattanooga. I have added David Powell's Maps of Chickamauga as well as this book. All I can say is that I can not disagree with anything David Powell has stated. Forrest did have a learning curve to corps command and Wheeler probably have received a medal from the Union side for helping the Union side. Definitely a recommended read for anybody interested in the Civil War and this campaign. I will be purchasing David Powell's 3 volume set in the Chickamauga campaign in the near future. Many thanks to Savas for publishing these books. As for the Confederate "barren" victory, let's say that Union troops came and filled the hole between Snodgrass Hill and the Kelly field. The Confederates continued to beat themselves against that line and then retreated to Dalton GA. Is Rosecrans and Thomas going to pursue the Confederates. No, the Union Army would limp back to Chattanooga and rest and refit much like they did after Stone's River. I don't know what anybody would have been able to do with the Confederate army immediately after the heavy casualties lost at Chickamauga.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good Book But I disagree with some Powells conclusions:

By jab40 First lets start by saying Powell is a very good writer, I have both his books on Chickamauga and I cant wait for his series on the Chickamauga Campaign next year. In this book I have to disagree with some of his points, in the book He places a lot of blame on Wheeler and Forrest. It seems at times he places the whole failure of the Army of the Tennessee on their shoulder's. Now some will disagree with me and that's fine, we all have a right to our point of view. However I do believe both Wheeler and Forrest failed as the eye's and ear's of Bragg's army. I hold Wheeler more at fault than Forrest, now hold on before you start foaming at the mouth. Here's why Wheeler is more at fault than Forrest: Wheeler was a trained military professional, he had the education. Read this from Wikipedia: Wheeler entered West Point in July 1854, barely meeting the height requirement at the time for entry. He graduated on July 1, 1859, placing 19th out of 22 cadets, and was commissioned a brevet second lieutenant in the 1st U.S. Dragoons.[3] He attended the U.S. Army Cavalry School located in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and upon completion was transferred on June 26, 1860, to the Regiment of Mounted Rifles stationed in the New Mexico Territory. So Wheeler should have known how to operate as a Cavalry Chief. Now lets look at Forrest : He had no education, he was self taught. He had no prior military training, he was in essence learning on the job. Forrest was a brawler. Forrest was good as a small cavalry raider, in those operations Forrest did very well, read what he (Forrest) did to Grant : Again, Bragg ordered a raid, this one into west Tennessee to disrupt the communications of the Union forces under Grant, threatening the city of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Forrest protested that to send such untrained men behind enemy lines was suicidal, but Bragg insisted, and Forrest obeyed his orders. On the ensuing raid, he showed his brilliance, leading thousands of Union soldiers in west Tennessee on a "wild goose chase" to try to locate his fast-moving forces. Never staying in one place long enough to be attacked, Forrest led his troops in raids as far north as the banks of the Ohio River in southwest Kentucky. He returned to his base in Mississippi with more men than he had started with. By then all were fully armed with captured Union weapons. As a result, Union general Ulysses S. Grant was forced to revise and delay the strategy of his Vicksburg Campaign. "He [Forrest] was the only Confederate cavalryman of whom Grant stood in much dread," a friend of Grant's was quoted as saying. So yes I do agree with Him that some blame can be placed on them both. But I believe that even if Wheeler and Forrest had performed perfectly , got all the information Bragg needed, screened Braggs army, stopped the Union army at key points, I believe the internal problem's within Braggs command, would have caused Braggs operations to fail. The commanders under Bragg flat out refused to obey his orders. Even before Longstreet left Lee's army he became caught up in the affair. The cancer that spread through Braggs command was to far gone, it had spread all the way down to lower levels of command. So even if Wheeler and Forrest had did their job's, the internal conflict would have caused Braggs plan's to fail. Look at the attack at Davis Crossroads on Sept 10-11, Bragg wanted Thomas C. Hindman to attack Negley's division. Hindman disobeyed Braggs orders to attack. There are so many example's that one could use, going back before this battle, all the way to Perryville. Bragg was at fault for all of this as commander of the army he should have tried to fix the problems in his command, instead of causing more. There are so many who are to blame for the failure of this Grand Army, who wrought it's destruction. Chickamauga was indeed a hallow victory for the Army of Tennessee. This book should be read but like I said there are so many who are to blame. Forgive any typo's and the like, I am not a very good writer.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Being a Forrest admirer (but realizing he is not perfect) I was very pleased and informed with the premise and research of Failu

By Nate in Tn Powell hits a homerun with this work. Being a Forrest admirer (but realizing he is not perfect) I was very pleased and informed with the premise and research of Failure in the Saddle. For anyone who likes a deep dive into the Chickamauga Campaign and all its sub plots.....BUY THIS BOOK. As a member of The Sons of Confederate Veterans and having a great grandfather ride with both Forrest and Wheeler I found this book to be non-bias as well as "matter of fact" with what occurred during this time.

WINNER, 2010, RICHARD HARWELL AWARD, GIVEN BY THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF

ATLANTA Confederate cavalry has a storied and favorable relationship with the history of the Civil War. Tales of raids and daring exploits create a whiff of lingering romance about the horse soldiers of the Lost Cause. Sometimes, however, romance obscures history. In August 1863 William Rosecrans' Union Army of the Cumberland embarked on a campaign of maneuver to turn Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee out of Chattanooga, one of the most important industrial and logistical centers of the Confederacy. Despite the presence of two Southern cavalry corps (nearly 14,000 horsemen) under legendary commanders Nathan Bedford Forrest and Joe Wheeler, Union troops crossed the Tennessee River unopposed and unseen, slipped through the passes cutting across the knife-ridged mountains, moved into the narrow valleys, and turned Bragg's left flank. Threatened with the loss of the railroad that fed his army, Bragg had no choice but to retreat. He lost Chattanooga without a fight. After two more weeks of maneuvering, skirmishing, and botched attacks Bragg struck back at Chickamauga, where he was once again surprised by the position of the Union army and the manner in which the fighting unfolded. Although the combat ended with a stunning Southern victory, Federal counterblows that November reversed all that had been so dearly purchased. David A. Powell's *Failure in the Saddle: Nathan Bedford Forrest, Joseph Wheeler, and the Confederate Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign* is the first in-depth attempt to determine what role the Confederate cavalry played in both the loss of Chattanooga and the staggering number of miscues that followed up to, through, and beyond Chickamauga. Powell draws upon an array of primary accounts and his intimate knowledge of the battlefield to reach several startling conclusions: Bragg's experienced cavalry generals routinely fed him misleading information, failed to screen important passes and river crossings, allowed petty command politics to routinely influence their decision-making, and on more than one occasion disobeyed specific and repeated orders that may have changed the course of the campaign. Richly detailed and elegantly written, *Failure in the Saddle* offers new perspectives on the role of the Rebel horsemen in every combat large and small waged during this long and bloody campaign and, by default, a fresh assessment of the generalship of Braxton Bragg. This judiciously reasoned account includes a guided tour of the cavalry operations, several appendices of important information, and original cartography. It is essential reading for students of the Western Theater. About the Author: David A. Powell is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute (Class of 1983) with a BA in history. He has published numerous articles in magazines, more than fifteen historical simulations of various battles, and is the co-author (with David A. Friedrichs) of *The Maps of Chickamauga: An Atlas of the Chickamauga Campaign, Including the Tullahoma Operations, June 22–September 23, 1863*, a selection of the History and Military book clubs.

"David A. Powell's deeply researched and thoroughly analyzed *Failure in the Saddle* demonstrates that the vaunted Confederate cavalry under Nathan Bedford Forrest and Joe Wheeler failed miserably during the Chickamauga Campaign. Their errors mislead Gen. Braxton Bragg, lost Chattanooga to the Confederacy, and turned the great success at Chickamauga into an empty victory" (Eric J. Wittenberg, award-winning Civil War cavalry historian) "...a richly detailed and elegantly written study full of insightful tactical commentary, new perspectives on the strategic role of the rebel horseman, and fresh insights on every engagement, large and small, waged during the bloody North Georgia campaign." (James Durney) About the Author David A. Powell is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, class of 1983, with a BA in history. After graduating he went to work in the family business, CBS Messenger, in the Chicago area, but David never lost his intense interest in military history, especially in the American Civil War. He has published articles in a number of magazines, more than fifteen historical simulations of various battles, and led tours to various sites. For the past decade David's focus has been on the epic battle of Chickamauga.