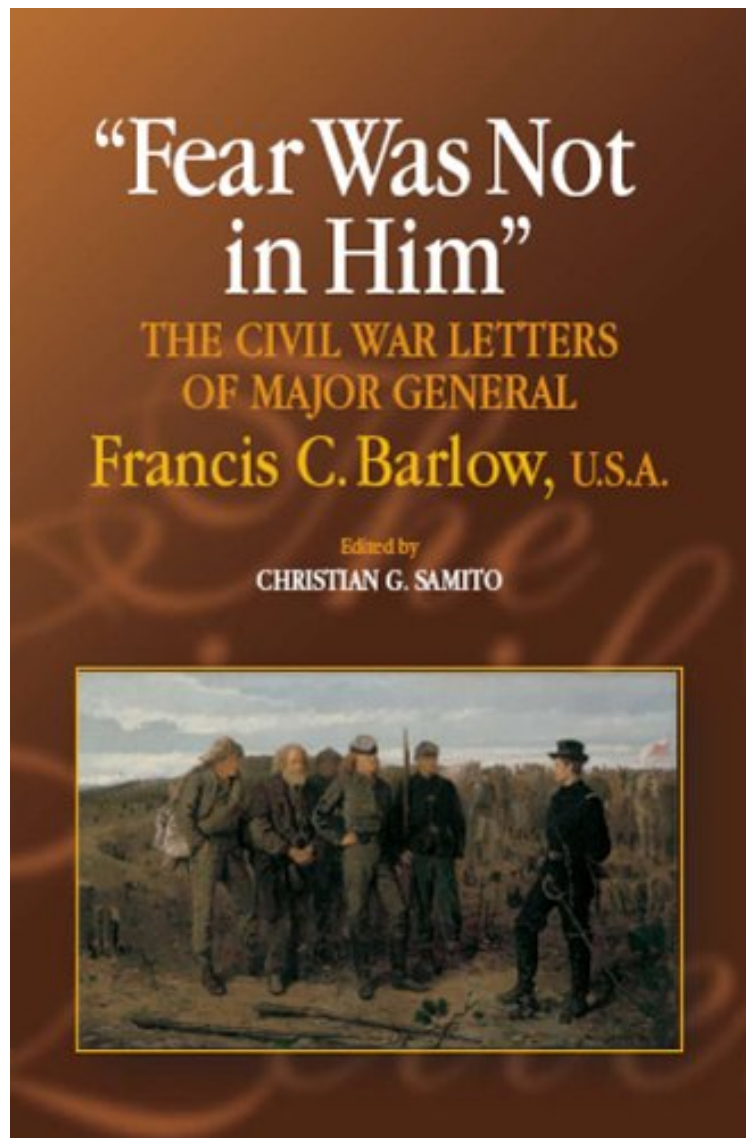


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Fear Was Not in Him: The Civil War Letters of General Francis C. Barlow, U.S.A (The North's Civil War)

Christian G. Samito

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Christian G. Samito : Fear Was Not in Him: The Civil War Letters of General Francis C. Barlow, U.S.A (The North's Civil War) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fear Was Not in Him: The Civil War Letters of General Francis C. Barlow, U.S.A (The North's Civil War):

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A superb primary source and a welcome addition By Midwest

Book Review Expertly compiled and edited by Christian G. Samito (editor of *Commanding Boston's Irish Ninth*), *"Fear Was Not In Him": The Civil War Letters Of Major General Francis C. Barlow* is an impressively informative anthology of American civil war correspondence from a young intellectual and lawyer, who entered the war as lieutenant and ended it as one of the North's premier combat generals. Revealing the horrors of battle, the terrible responsibility of command, and a reasoned examination of the war itself on both a small and large scale, *"Fear Was Not In Him"* is a superb primary source and a welcome addition to personal, academic Civil War Studies supplemental reading lists and library reference shelves.

Originally untrained in military science, Francis Channing Barlow ended the Civil War as one of the North's premier combat generals. He played decisive roles in historic campaigns throughout the War and his letters are classic accounts of courage combat, and the burdens of command as experienced by one of the Union's fiercest officers. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Barlow enlisted in April 1861 at the age of twenty six, commanded the 61st New York Infantry regiment by April 1862, and found himself a general in command of a division by 1863. He played a key role at Fair Oaks, Antietam, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Petersburg, suffered two serious wounds in combat, and was left for dead at Gettysburg, where part of the battlefield is named after him. Barlow's war correspondence not only provides a rich description of his experiences in these actions but also offers insight into a civilian learning the realities of war. As a young intellectual, Barlow was also well connected with many eminent figures of his time. He spent part of his youth at Brook Farm, graduated first in his Harvard College class, and became a successful New York City lawyer by the time he enlisted. Among his friends he counted Ralph Waldo Emerson, Charles Russell Lowell, Jr., and Winslow Homer's family. Transformed by his experiences in the War, Barlow entered politics and served as New York's Secretary of State and Attorney General. Superbly edited by Christian G. Samito, Barlow's letters not only illuminate the life of a talented battlefield commander; they also fill a gap in Civil War scholarship by providing a valuable window into Northern intellectual responses to the War.

. . . Informative and make[s] for interesting reading . . . (?Army History) A significant contribution to the collection of correspondence attributed to officers in the Army of the Potomac. (?Blue Gray Magazine) Editor's work makes book of Barlow's letters worth reading. (?Civil War Interactive) About the Author Christian G. Samito earned his law degree from Harvard Law School and his doctorate in American history from Boston College. He teaches legal history at Boston University School of Law and practices law in Boston. His most recent books are *Becoming American under Fire: Irish Americans, African Americans, and the Politics of Citizenship during the Civil War Era* (Cornell University Press, 2009) and *Changes in Law and Society during the Civil War and Reconstruction: A Legal History Documentary Reader* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2009). His forthcoming book concerns Lincoln and constitutional amendment, and he is also editing a collection of essays about the Civil Rights Act of 1866.