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Benjamin F. McGee

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SERVICE OF THE COMMON SOLDIER. WITH AN APPENDIX
CONTAINING COMPLETE ROSTER OF OFFICERS AND MEN

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My great grandfather was in this unit and is mentioned in ...By Barbara WestfallMy great grandfather was in this unit and is mentioned in the book. It is a large read but when I had back surgery I was disabled for six weeks and delved into the book and Wow, I loved it. Small print but it was so enlightening and entertaining since it was written in the vernacular that was common for that time. It brought up several words that I had to go to the internet to understand but that made it much more educational. It makes you appreciate much more of the hard times they had and how their ingenuity got them through. My great granddad was John T Haynes and apparently he had a good sense of humor as it says in the book since on one of their foraging runs he brought back an old fighting rooster names Methuselah and it entertained the men. Small personal things like this are all through the book. My only regret is that there is no mention of his 14 year old son that he kept by his side who enlisted with him. They joined in 1862 two years after his wife died and left him with 5 children. The other four were left with friends and one was accidently poisoned while he was gone. It really makes you think of the sacrifice he made to keep his family and serve his country. He also served I the Mexican was in 1846 so he was one of the older recruits. I have so much regard for him and what he stood for. After the was in 1865 he remarried to my great grandmother and had seven more children. I am very proud of him.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy RonJThis is an excellent history of one Union Civil War Regiment. It was part of Wilder's Lightning Brigade, one of the first mounted infantry units, highly regarded by both Union and Confederate troops. The brigade played an important role in the battle of Chickamauga and was equipped with the seven-shot Spencer repeating rifle, one of the best weapons used in the war. Because the army was so slow in approving weapons, the men voted to pay for them themselves and signed notes co-signed by Col. Wilder to buy them. However, the government eventually paid for the rifles. I first saw this book in a genealogical library about 25 years ago, but, until the Google project, copies had been long unavailable (except used for several hundred dollars). Although it is very detailed, almost day by day (naming actions by individual soldiers), it is very readable. If you had an ancestor in the Wilder Brigade, or just want to know more about what life was like in the Union army, this is a must-have book.

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