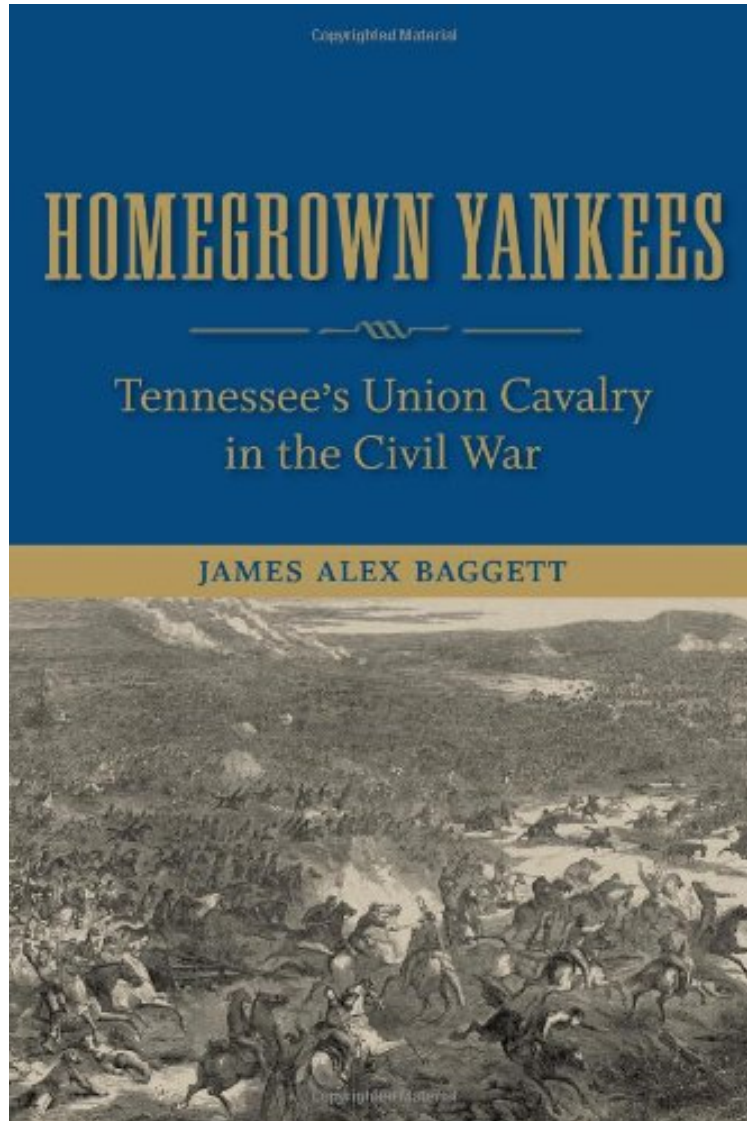


(Download) Homegrown Yankees: Tennessee's Union Cavalry in the Civil War

Homegrown Yankees: Tennessee's Union Cavalry in the Civil War

James Alex Baggett

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James Alex Baggett : Homegrown Yankees: Tennessee's Union Cavalry in the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Homegrown Yankees: Tennessee's Union Cavalry in the Civil War:

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book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Bought this for my husband. He actually read it ...By Donnia KestnerBought this for my husband. He actually read it from cover to cover the first time he picked it up.4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Fighting Each OtherBy J. SicklesPity the poor boarder states. There were large populations that fought on both sides. The problem was your neighbor was apt to burn your house down while you were off fighting for your side. Throw in the fact that there were roving gangs of paranoid psycopaths who operated under the premise that,"I'd better kill him in case he wants to kill me." This book concerns the Union side of the fighting. The regiments raised were very uneven as far as quality. James Brownlow's regiment of cavalry would certainly be considered an elite unit. Other regd.iments were mixed, depending upon the soldier's commitment. Some joined to escape the Confederate draft, while many Confederates in pow camps turned coat to avoid dying. There are a few typos in the beginning of the book, but they are easily overlooked. This is a well researched book. A fine read.

Of all the states in the Confederacy, Tennessee was the most sectionally divided. East Tennesseans opposed secession at the ballot box in 1861, petitioned unsuccessfully for separate statehood, resisted the Confederate government, enlisted in Union militias, elected U.S. congressmen, and fled as refugees into Kentucky. These refugees formed Tennessee's first Union cavalry regiments during early 1862, followed shortly thereafter by others organized in Union-occupied Middle and West Tennessee. In *Homegrown Yankees*, the first book-length study of Union cavalry from a Confederate state, James Alex Baggett tells the remarkable story of Tennessee's loyal mounted regiments. Fourteen mounted regiments that fought primarily within the boundaries of the state and eight local units made up Tennessee's Union cavalry. Young, nonslaveholding farmers who opposed secession, the Confederacy, and the war -- from isolated villages east of Knoxville, the Cumberland Mountains, or the Tennessee River counties in the west -- filled the ranks. Most Tennesseans denounced these local bluecoats as renegades, turncoats, and Tories; accused them of betraying their people, their section, and their race; and held them in greater contempt than soldiers from the North. Though these homegrown Yankees participated in many battles -- including those in the Stones River, Tullahoma, Chickamauga, East Tennessee, Nashville, and Atlanta campaigns -- their story provides rare insights into what occurred between the battles. For them, military action primarily meant almost endless skirmishing with partisans, guerrillas, and bushwackers, as well as with the Rebel raiders of John Hunt Morgan, Joseph Wheeler, and Nathan Bedford Forrest, who frequently recruited and supplied themselves from behind enemy lines. Tennessee's Union cavalry scouted and foraged the countryside, guarded outposts and railroads, acted as couriers, supported the flanks of infantry, and raided the enemy. On occasion, especially during the Nashville campaign, they provided rapid pursuit of Confederate forces. They also helped protect fellow unionists from an aggressive pro-Confederate insurgency after 1862. Baggett vividly describes the deprivation, sickness, and loneliness of cavalymen living on the war's periphery and traces how circumstances beyond their control -- such as terrain, transport, equipage, weaponry, public sentiment, and military policy -- affected their lives. He also explores their well-earned reputation for plundering -- misdeeds motivated by revenge, resentment, a lack of discipline, and the hard-war policy of the Union army. In the never-before-told story of these cavalymen, *Homegrown Yankees* offers new insights into an unexplored facet of southern Unionism and provides an exciting new perspective on the Civil War in Tennessee.

About the AuthorA retired dean and professor of history at Union University in Tennessee, James Alex Baggett is the author of three previous books, including *The Scalawags: Southern Dissenters in the Civil War and Reconstruction*. He lives in Atlanta with his wife, Lillian Faulkner Baggett, a novelist.