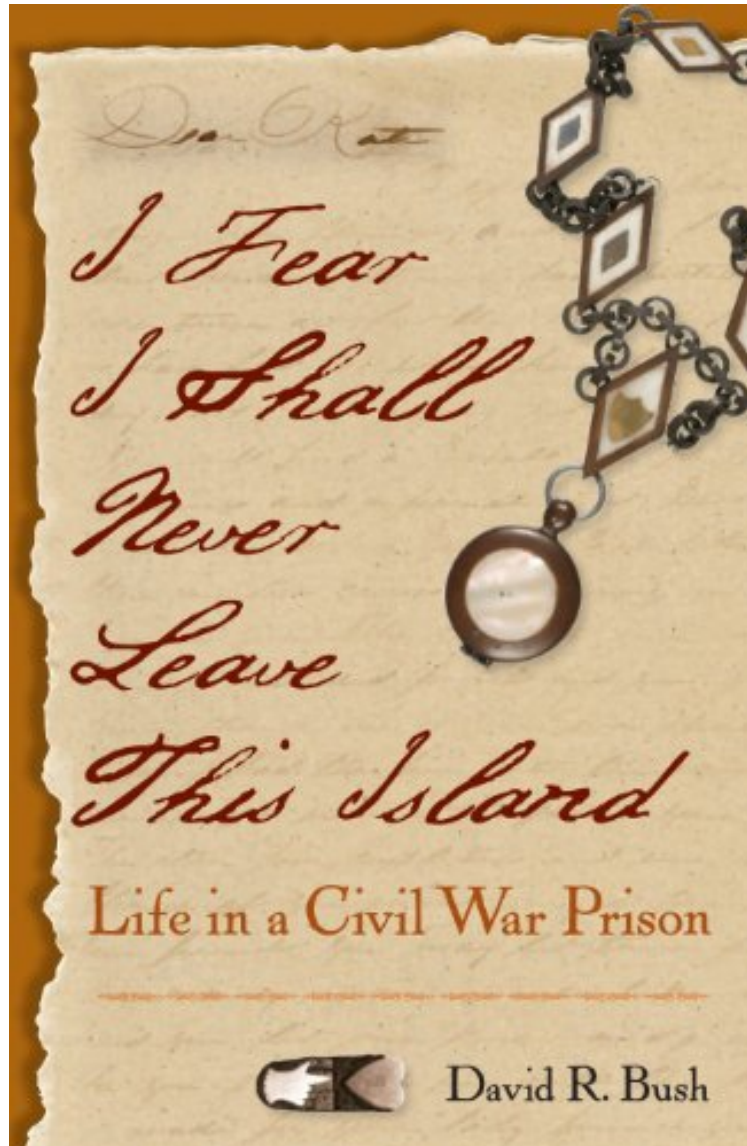


(Mobile ebook) I Fear I Shall Never Leave This Island: Life in a Civil War Prison

I Fear I Shall Never Leave This Island: Life in a Civil War Prison

David R. Bush

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War students. I was enlightened on how many freedoms the men enjoyed. Far cry from southern prisons. Compare with Andersonville. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *I Fear I Shall Never Leave This Island: Life in a Civil War Prison* By Gerald J Broz Great subject matter, could have gone into more detail on other prisoners and what the prison looked like then and now

Johnson's Island, in Sandusky, Ohio, was built in 1862 specifically to house captured Confederate officers. In part because of the educational background and access to money enjoyed by those individuals, a distinctive prison culture developed. David Bush has spent more than two decades leading archaeological investigations at the site, and has uncovered a wealth of material culture that demonstrates the magnitude of POW craft jewelry manufacture, especially rings created by officer-prisoners for loved ones back home. In *I Fear I Shall Never Leave This Island* Bush pairs these discoveries with a deep reading of extant letters, including a rich trove of correspondence between Captain Wesley Makely, captured shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg, and his wife, Kate, at home in Alexandria, Virginia. Bush captures in compelling detail the physical challenges and emotional toll of prison life and offers fascinating insights into the daily lives of prisoners, guards, and the homefront. No other collection of Civil War letters offers such a rich context; no other archaeological investigation of Civil War prisons provides such a human story.

From the Back Cover "Among Civil War military prisons, Johnson's Island was unique in many ways. Geographically, it was the farthest north of any Union prison. . . . It was constructed at the outset of the war and, from May 1862 on, its prisoner population was composed almost entirely of Confederate officers, as many as 2,500 at a time. . . . Bush tells the Johnson's Island story using letters exchanged between a prisoner and his wife, annotated with archaeological data and photographs of artifacts. The device is surprisingly effective and yields a unique insight into 'Life in a Civil War Prison.'"—Civil War News "Rather than merely annotating these moving letters, Bush puts them in context with a myriad of physical remains unearthed from the 14-acre site over the years. . . . Manages to bring both Captain Makely and Johnson's Island into clear, albeit stark, relief."—Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia "What makes this collection so special is that in most cases we are privy to the entire conversation. . . . [Bush] provides detailed images of the gutta-percha artifacts as well as other artifacts recovered from the archaeological investigation of Johnson's Island. These images give the reader a much better idea of and appreciation for just how detailed these items were and the skill of the prisoner-artisans who made them. . . . A fascinating work."—H-Net No other collection of Civil War letters offers such a rich context; no other archaeological investigation of Civil War prisons provides such a human story. David R. Bush is professor of anthropology at Heidelberg University in Ohio and chairman of the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison. He has spent more than two decades leading archaeological investigations at the site, and has uncovered a wealth of material culture that demonstrates the magnitude of POW craft jewelry manufacture, especially rings created by officer-prisoners for loved ones back home.