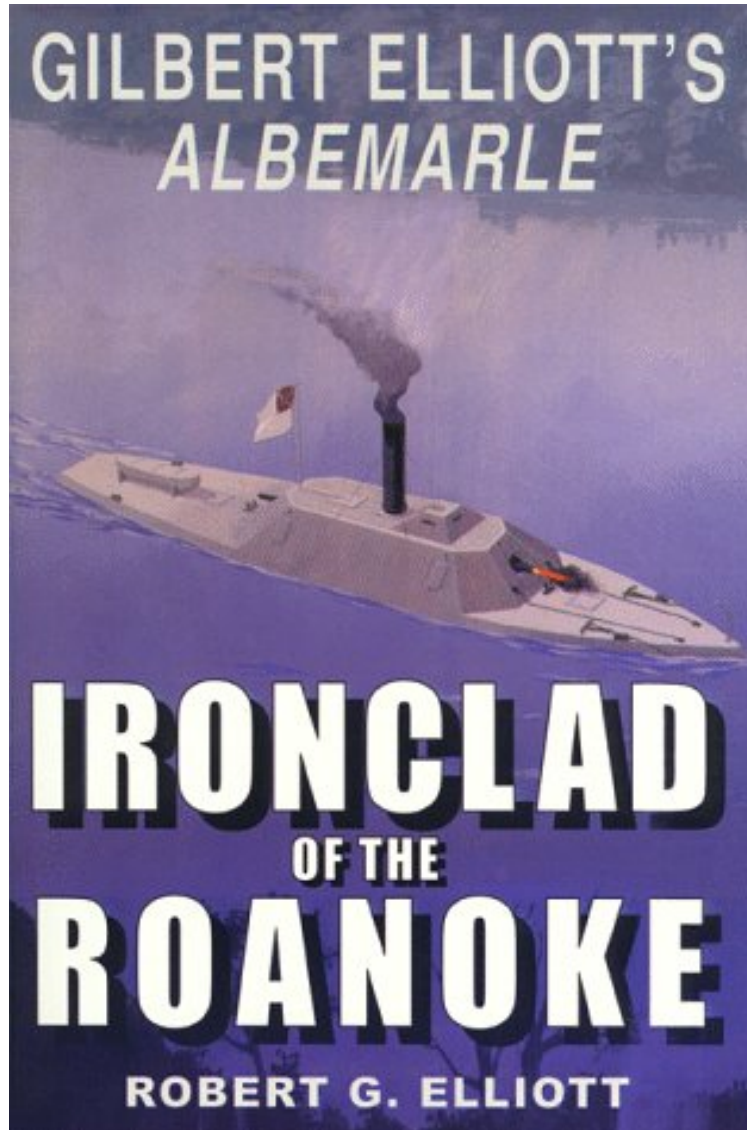


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Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliott's Albemarle

Robert G. Elliott

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Robert G. Elliott : Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliott's Albemarle before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliott's Albemarle:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. IRONCLAD OF THE ROANOKEBy Robert A. LynnIRONCLAD OF THE ROANOKE: UPDATED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEWLY DISCOVERED ARTIFACTSROBERT G. ELLIOTTWHITE MANE PUBLISHING, 2005QUALITY SOFTCOVER, \$24.95, 380 PAGES, ILLUSTRATIONS, PHOTOGRAPHS, DIAGRAMS, MAPS, APPENDICES, BIBLIOGRAPHY, ENDNOTES, INDEXAlbemarle Sound,

located in the northeastern North Carolina is a partially enclosed body of water connected to the open Atlantic Ocean and its southern extreme. It is formed by the confluence of several rivers and streams, the most notable of which are the Chowan and Roanoke Rivers. The Sound is separated from the open sea by a razor-thin stretch of land running north to south and known as the Outer Banks. The Sound has many finger-like protuberances radiating out from the main body of water. Some of them have their own names, like Croatan Sound, which separates the mainland from Roanoke Island. Other smaller sounds contained within the larger one are the Currituck and Roanoke Sounds. Albemarle Sound, which is about 55 miles long and from 3 to 14 miles wide, is also home to numerous islands of varying sizes. A shallow inlet, the water depth is no greater than 25 feet. It was in this area that one of the Confederate Navy's most successful ironclads, the CSS Albemarle, would play a key role in the capture of Plymouth, North Carolina on 17-20 April 1864. The ironclad's contractor was twenty-one year old shipbuilder and engineer, Gilbert Elliott. The designer and supervisor of construction was John L. Porter, Chief Naval Constructor of the Confederate Navy and who had worked on the conversion of the USS Merrimack into the CSS Virginia. The CSS Albemarle began construction in a former cornfield on the Roanoke River at Edward's Ferry, North Carolina in May, 1863. This was a remote yard and therefore Elliott had to compete with other shipyards for workers, supplies, and other resources. But when finally completed and commissioned in April, 1864, she was 152 feet long, with a beam of 45 feet and a draft of 8 feet. Constructed of solid 8x10 pine timbers, and covered with 4-inch plates and two layers of 2-inch thick iron plating, the vessel was powered by two 200-horsepower engines. Her armament consisted of two 6.4-inch Brooke rifles, mounted at the bow and stern. An 18-foot oak prow, also covered with iron plates, could be used as a ram. **IRONCLAD OF THE ROANOKE** is the detailed and well-written account of the CSS Albemarle. The construction of this ironclad as well as other ones used by the Confederate Navy was no less a miracle of ingenuity, improvisation, and logistics. Even though surrounded by a superior U.S. Navy, it was their vision and dedication that saw the Confederate Navy utilizing a remarkable collection of vessels to contest the U.S. Navy's control of the rivers and coastal waters of the South for four years. Author Robert G. Elliott, a collateral descendant of shipbuilder and engineer Gilbert Elliott, gives the most detailed history of the CSS Albemarle to date. He covers the entire life of both its builder and the ironclad itself. The book is full of excellent diagrams and detailed cutaway illustrations that clearly show the intellect of the young and talented Gilbert Elliott. Further complimenting this book are the numerous quality photographs. The author has paid not only a long overdue tribute to his descendant but also to the ship he was instrumental in constructing as well. Lt. Colonel Robert A. Lynn, Florida Guard Orlando, Florida 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Civil War History at Its Best! By Moriarty For fans of the Civil War (American) this book is great. I knew little about the Confederate ironclads until I read Elliott's wonderful book. It describes the history behind the building of this powerful ironclad, about the sailors who made her a great fighting machine and about her unusual and amazing battles. Also sadly her demise. What happened to one of the few Confederate ironclads not destroyed by her builders? You'll find out in this great book. As to those wondering about the author. He is the third cousin of the brilliant designer of the Albemarle. A truly amazing story. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Story By Chris Todd Davidson It is an interesting story of a plucky Confederate Ironclad that was a powerful force until sunk by a Union Torpedo Boat after its brief stormy life. Ironic in the fact it was built in a Cornfield. Confederate Ingenuity at its finest! A very good book!

Almost every student of Confederate Naval history has heard of the Confederate Ironclad Albemarle, built in eastern North Carolina on a corn field along the Roanoke River near Scotland Neck. Not only was the ship instrumental in assisting the Confederate recapture of Plymouth, North Carolina, but also she served to repel the Union Flotilla holding the western limits of Albemarle Sound. Though severely outnumbered, the Albemarle was successful in stopping the Union Navy advance on May 5, 1864. Here is the story of why the vessel was built, how she was built, with what, and by whom. Correspondence of Gilbert Elliott, the contractor; Commander James W. Cooke, C.S.N., her skipper; Stephen R. Mallory, Secretary of the Confederate Navy, and many others has revealed the feelings and actions of those involved in that remarkable feat. Wartime politics almost prevented her launching, and later did prevent her being used to force the Union Navy from Albemarle Sound. Picture a youth of eighteen building vessels under contract to the Confederate Navy. He managed a shipyard, ordered materials, negotiated financing, hired craftsmen, managed his employer's business and personal holdings, cared for his family, and earned the respect and admiration of the Secretary of the Confederate Navy. This book combines the history of both the Confederate Ironclad Albemarle, and of her renowned builder, Gilbert Elliott.

"...an excellent account and highly recommended..." -- Confederate Veteran Magazine "A book of such high quality research and presentation that it became a standard reference." -- Choice Magazine "a fascinating tale of military intrigue as well as political bickering...entertaining reading" -- Southern Heritage Magazine "a valuable book that should be of interest to students of both Confederate naval history and Civil War history" -- Civil War Magazine From the Publisher Updated edition contains a new introduction and photos of artifacts discovered since the first publication in 1994! About the Author Robert G. Elliott, a collateral descendant of Gilbert Elliott, is the author of A Tarheel

Confederate and his Family. He is a World War II veteran and active in several historical societies.