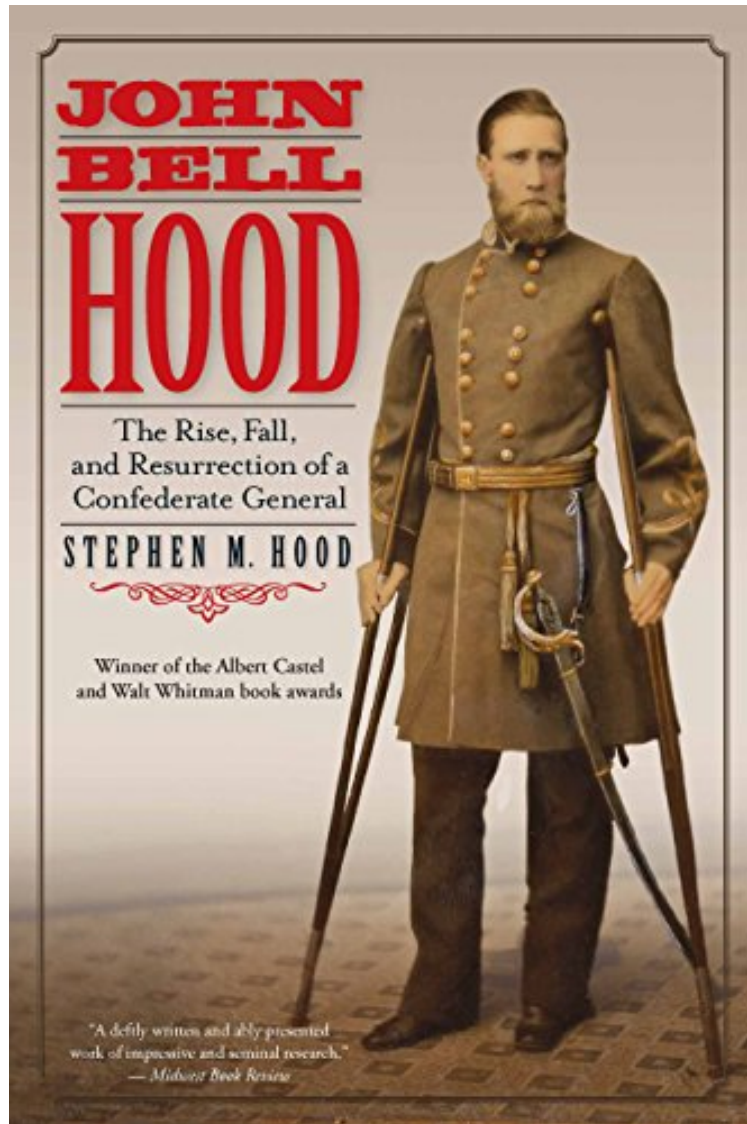


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John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General

Stephen Hood

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Stephen Hood : John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Civil War Scholars: Buffs or Buffoons? By Dean Charles Marshall If you believe Confederate General John Bell Hood has unjustly and egregiously been made a "scape goat" by

contemporary Civil War historians than you'll feel a certain vindication after reading Stephen Hood's, "John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of a Confederate General". Stephen Hood, a distant relative of JBH, is a tenacious "pit bull" author who exposes and refutes the lies, innuendos, misquotes and "dubious" scholarship that have been written by such civil war historians as Stanley Horn, Thomas Connelly and Wiley Sword to defame and discredit the career of John Bell Hood. Make no mistake about it, Stephen Hood has his facts thoroughly researched and substantiated, sometimes to a fault. Sadly, historians are not satisfied with the fact that Hood "gave his all" for the Confederacy, sacrificing an arm at Gettysburg and a leg at Chickamauga in the process. The Confederacy was in its final death throes in late 1864 when President Jefferson Davis and the Confederate cabinet made a desperate decision to replace the always "retreating and lamentable" General Joe Johnston with Hood and then "ordered" Hood to go on the offensive to save Atlanta and reverse the South's ebbing fortunes with a "Hail Mary" gamble dubbed the Tennessee Campaign to recapture Nashville and draw the pressure off Lee in Virginia. Noted historian Wiley Sword in his book, "The Confederacy's Last Hurrah" seems to relish berating and finding fault with every detail (both real and imagined) of Hood's personality and his conduct of the campaign. According to Sword, despite having to cope with the most dire of manpower and supply shortages General Hood should have miraculously "saved the day" and because he didn't deserves being held solely responsible for losing the entire Civil War in the West for the Confederacy. That's quite a stretch Wiley! Truth is, at this stage of the war, as with General Robert E. Lee in Virginia, Hood and the Army of Tennessee were confronting the ominous reality of the North's "overwhelming numbers and resources". Seriously, how much longer could Lee and Hood have delayed the inevitable? Yes, the battles around Atlanta, Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville where Hood commanded were "tragic and bloody" affairs that may have yielded very different results if Hood's corps commanders; Generals Ben Cheatham, William Hardee and Stephen Lee had properly followed orders and exercised some real initiative when it counted, but they didn't, and the "blame game" against Hood commenced and has been going strong ever since. As author Stephen Hood explains with exacting detail, the life and times of General John Bell Hood have been grossly misinterpreted. Have historians like Sword and Connelly made Hood out to be one of those civil war generals "everyone loves to hate"? Perhaps, but in all fairness, Lee fumbled greatly at Gettysburg, Burnside at Fredericksburg and Grant at Cold Harbor, yet those generals don't receive anywhere near the criticism or venomous treatment Hood got for the so called "debacle" at Franklin. At the end of the day much Civil War scholarship is really just a lot of "woulda, coulda, shoulda" speculation awash in minutia. And where playing "fast and loose" with the facts has become de rigueur. Stephen Hood challenges that paradigm and makes a persuasive case with this extremely well documented effort to set the record straight about General John Bell Hood. And frankly, it's about time. An excellent book worth reading. Unequivocally five *****!7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. I am a Nashvillian who, after extensive previous reading ...By B SmithI am a Nashvillian who, after extensive previous reading has long held the common local contempt and anger against General J B Hood for what I had concluded were his insane mistakes at Franklin. But I am also an admirer of diligent, difficult research and the ability and willingness of an author to state truth convincingly and infectiously. I have been so infected by Sam Hood and solely because of his book have become a complete convert on John Bell Hood, I apologize for my years of ignorance.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Don't read another work on John Bell Hood until you start with this work by Stephen "Sam" HoodBy Tom KriegerWhile I can't profess to be a scholar regarding Civil War history, as a West Pointer and practicing attorney, I know something of military strategy and factual scholarship. Sam Hood has written the definitive historical account of the life and times of General John Bell Hood and, hopefully, has put to bed the many unsupported myths that besmirch his life and reputation. After reading this well documented and factually researched book, I was surprised and somewhat stunned at the "literary license" many historical writers took in their biased efforts to make General Hood the scapegoat for the Confederacy's failure in the West. Sam Hood's well researched and detailed accounts of what really happened debunks the loosely written and unsupported accounts passed on from one Hood critic to another. While his work may not make you like General Hood if you started your research with other negative writers, if you are open to historical fact rather than fictionalized storytelling, you will appreciate the time and effort Sam Hood has put into this work. I found General Hood to be a most accomplished military tactician and commander who had a real compassion for his troops but who was victimized by short-sighted and disloyal subordinates whose own agendas surpassed what was required to accomplish the bigger mission of their commander. Until this work, history has not been fair to John Bell Hood. Now there is another point of view that is factually supported and portrays General Hood in a much more positive light.

WINNER of the 2014 ALBERT CASTEL BOOK AWARD and the 2014 WALT WHITMAN AWARDJohn Bell Hood was one of the Confederacy's most successful—and enigmatic—generals. He died at 48 after a brief illness in August of 1879, leaving behind the first draft of his memoirs *Advance and Retreat: Personal Experiences in the United States and Confederate States Armies*. Published posthumously the following year, the memoirs immediately became as controversial as their author. A careful and balanced examination of these “controversies,” however, coupled with the recent discovery of Hood's personal papers (which were long considered lost) finally sets the record straight in *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General*. Outlived by most of his critics, Hood's

published version of many of the major events and controversies of his Confederate military career were met with scorn and skepticism. Some described his memoirs as nothing more than a polemic against his arch-rival Joseph E. Johnston. These unflattering opinions persisted throughout the decades and reached their nadir in 1992, when an influential author described Hood's memoirs as "merely a bitter, misleading, and highly distorted treatise" replete with "distortions, misrepresentations, and outright falsifications." Without any personal papers to contradict them, many historians and writers portrayed Hood as an inept and dishonest opium addict and a conniving, vindictive cripple of a man. One writer went so far as to brand him "a fool with a license to kill his own men." What most readers don't know is that nearly all of these authors misused sources, ignored contrary evidence, and/or suppressed facts sympathetic to Hood. Stephen M. "Sam" Hood, a distant relative of the general, embarked on a meticulous forensic study of the common perceptions and controversies of his famous kinsman. His careful examination of the original sources utilized to create the broadly accepted "facts" about John Bell Hood uncovered startlingly poor scholarship by some of the most well-known and influential historians of the 20th and 21st centuries. These discoveries, coupled with his access to a large cache of recently discovered Hood papers—many penned by generals and other officers who served with Hood—confirm Hood's account that originally appeared in his memoir and resolve, for the first time, some of the most controversial aspects of Hood's long career. "Blindly accepting historical 'truths' without vigorous challenge," cautions one historian, "is a perilous path to understanding real history." The shocking revelations in *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General* will forever change our perceptions of Hood as both a man and a general, and those who set out to shape his legacy.

"John Bell Hood was one of few Confederate generals who held important commands in both Virginia and the Confederate West. Given command of the defense of Atlanta, Hood fought to hold the city but failed. He later led the army in the unsuccessful Tennessee Campaign, where he was unable to cut off Schofield's Union army at Spring Hill, was bloodily repulsed the next day at Franklin, and routed two weeks later at Nashville. Historians and writers since then have denied Hood his day in court, thus shaping a very negative opinion of the general. But Sam Hood's scholarship in *John Bell Hood* has shown that contemporary views of Hood were often much different from the perpetuated stereotypes. His study demonstrates anew the complexity of history and the importance of impartiality by those who write it." - (Brandon H. Beck, Professor Emeritus, McCormick Civil War Institute, Shenandoah University) "The time is right for Sam Hood's book. Another way of looking at it is, my, what we have learned since the Civil War's Centennial fifty years ago." - (Stephen Davis, Civil War author) "The Civil War historical community can only benefit from Sam Hood's Dedication and perseverance in presenting a full...review and strong defense of JBH's life and service. Readers will certainly understand the general better..." (Journal of America's Military Past) From the Back Cover "A monumental addition to Confederate history. This volume deserves to be on your bookshelf."-- Confederate Veteran "Stephen Hood has written a powerful critique on Hood scholarship, raising important questions both about how historians write, and how they have treated Hood."-- Emerging Civil War "The time is right for this book. Another way of looking at it is, my, what we have learned since the Civil War's Centennial fifty years ago."-- Stephen Davis, author of *A Long and Bloody Task* and *All the Fighting They Want* "The scholarship in *John Bell Hood* demonstrates that contemporary views of General Hood were often much different than those perpetuated by later writers. This study demonstrates anew the complexity of history and the importance of impartiality by those who write it."-- Brandon H. Beck, Professor Emeritus, McCormick Civil War Institute, Shenandoah University "A deftly written and ably presented work of impressive and seminal research."-- Midwest Book About the Author Stephen M. "Sam" Hood is a graduate of Kentucky Military Institute, Marshall University (BBA, 1976), and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. A collateral descendent of General Hood, Sam is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Blue Gray Education Society, a past president of the Board of Directors of Confederate Memorial Hall Museum in New Orleans, and the author of *The Lost Papers of Confederate General John Bell Hood* (2015).