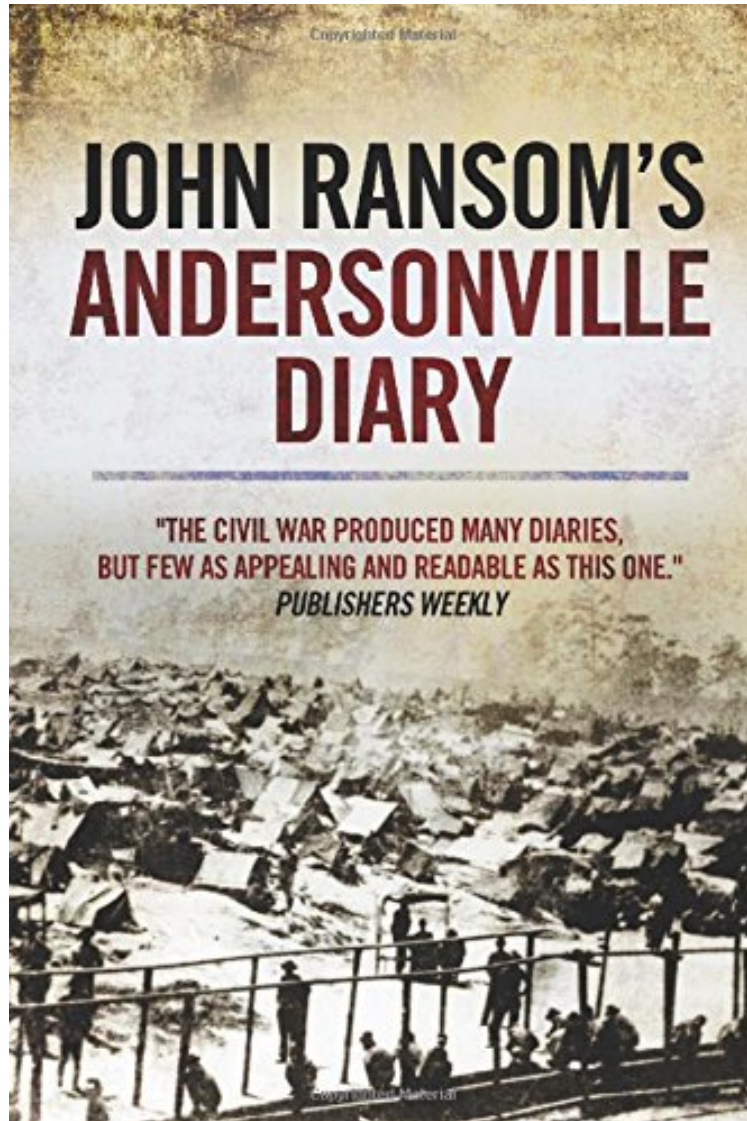


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John Ransom's Andersonville Diary

John L. Ransom

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John L. Ransom : John Ransom's Andersonville Diary before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Ransom's Andersonville Diary:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. documents in straight forward unembellished language a year in Hell.....By MizEm, Queens, NYThis is the best first person journal I have ever read. Written by a twenty year old captured Union soldier, it documents in straight forward unembellished language a year in Hell. Andersonville POW camp was as bad as any WWII concentration camp. Horrid sanitation leading to rampant diseases, starvation rations,

gangs preying on fellow prisoners, lack of potable water to drink or medical care, and incompetent cruel jailers. Ransom barely survives his ordeal, and in fact, was saved by another inmate. What is redeeming in this journal are the acts of kindness and care some inmates shared, and the fact that the Confederate commander who ran this camp was hung for his crimes after the war. This should be required reading for every citizen of the US. It would be welcome to find out just how John Ransom lived post his ordeal, but a quick foray yielded little results. Our inhumanity shows itself, barefaced and ugly, on every page of this journal, as does our spirit to survive and help fellow travelers. Documents such as this help define the extremes of our behavior. Hopefully, we will learn to be better people after reading this diary.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ransom a genius, his writings I do believe kept him alive. By Customer Pappyblues Fantastic ! , A hurray ! , Amazing man of resiliency to keep his fortitude in full positive strength. Not only did he save himself but aided in helping others in many ways . The Brotherhood that he was able to show in his writings and he partook in was skilled as much brave under the turbulent times of strife put to them by the Rebels . I heard stories as a boy of the Civil War and how it tore our family apart as well as neighbors close and far.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Reads like a novel By M. Heiss I appreciate this book more, also having read the novel ANDERSONVILLE, which is loosely based on this diary. John Ransom was a Michigan artilleryman captured and imprisoned, first on Belle Isle, and then in Andersonville. The language is accessible and the diary never descends into squalor, fear, or depression. Ransom and his comrades made a pact to stay as healthy and positive as possible during their imprisonment, and that comes through in the diary, written in three journals and hidden throughout his captivity. Ransom does not dwell on the horrifying details of the prisons, but focuses on the good and bad in the characters around him. His horror comes through, especially when he lists the dead of his acquaintance, or even just quantifies the daily death rate -- 15 per day... 20 per day ... 40 per day ... over 100 per day. If you want the shocking gory details, read the novel Andersonville by MacKinlay Kantor -- it isn't *near* the book that this diary is. But you will get physical descriptions of the prison that will turn your stomach. You will get physical descriptions of the diseases afflicting the prisoners -- much more detail than you probably want. But the novel Andersonville suffers from being way too depressing and maudlin, which never happens in John Ransom's diary. This diary is by far the better of the two books.

"An altogether exciting and unique, almost priceless documentary." Library Journal. Camp Sumter, more commonly known as Andersonville prison, opened in February 1864. Over the course of the Civil War 45,000 Union prisoners were received at the prison, of which 13,000 would never reach homelands again, as in the abhorrent conditions of the camp they succumbed to malnutrition and disease. John Ransom, Quartermaster of Company A, 9th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry, had been captured in November 1863. He would remain in Confederate prisons, including the notorious Andersonville, until his eventual escape in December 1864. Recording the day-by-day events of life under guard, Ransom notes how his friends around him fought to stay alive or gave up the struggle. Ransom himself goes through moments of despair when he believes he will not last another day, and only survives through the camaraderie and support of his fellow prisoners. A whole array of characters are noted through the pages of the diary, from the Andersonville Raiders who were ruthless Union prisoners that persecuted those around them to survive, to more benevolent figures like George Hendryx who was always looking for a way to escape and the Native American Battese who helped Ransom through his darkest days. "The Civil War produced many diaries, but few as appealing and readable as this one." Publishers Weekly. "A tale of adventure, of suspense from beginning to end, of fierce hate and great love, of the incredible callousness of man and the incredible warmth of man with the added knowledge that 'it really happened.'" Bruce Catton. As compelling and powerful as a novel Los Angeles Times. John Ransom was a printer in Jackson, Michigan before the war. He eventually escaped from Confederate prisons and returned to the north. He features as a character in Mackinlay Kantor's Pulitzer Prize winning book Andersonville. His diary was published in 1881. He died at the age of 76 on 23rd September 1919 in Los Angeles County.

From the Publisher 9 1-hour cassettes About the Author John Ransom, a Union soldier captured by the Confederate Army, ended up in the Andersonville prison. He had been a printer from Michigan, and he returned there after the war. Little else is known about his life except through his diary of his prison experience. David Thorn spent his childhood in the Channel Islands off the coast of France, was schooled in England, and then immigrated to the United States at the age of twenty-three. He is retired from international commerce and currently resides in California. From AudioFile Union prisoner of war John Ransom filled several books with his accounts of life in Andersonville, where 13,000 prisoners died, and other Confederate prison camps. David Thorn reads those accounts with a genteel calmness, even when recounting the most horrible experiences--a stint on a brutal chain gang, the uncertainty of coping with illness, or the suspense of watching a prisoner play dead to make his escape. At times Ransom seems astonished to note that prisoners would kill for a ration of bread or amused by "wormy and musty" bean soup, which he imagines as coming from some cookbook's "new edition." Thorn's consistency helps tie together an account that, from circumstances, rambles at times but amply preserves a record of war's inhumanity. J.A.S. AudioFile 2001,

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