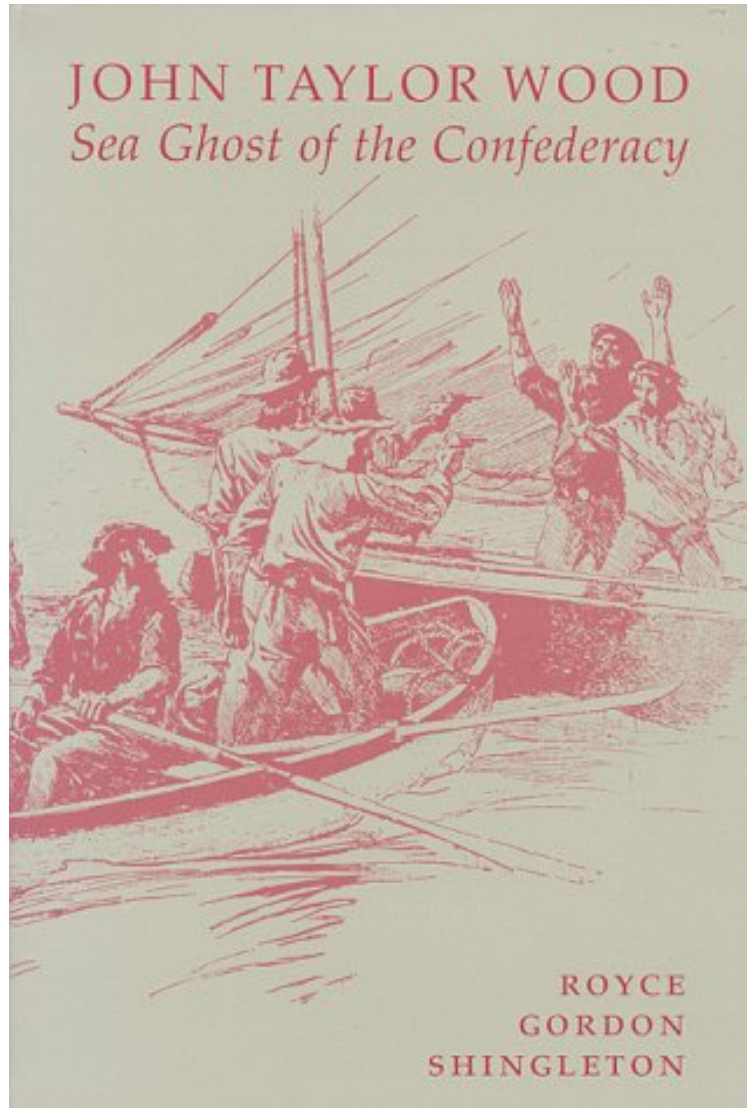


[Download pdf] John Taylor Wood : Sea Ghost of the Confederacy

John Taylor Wood : Sea Ghost of the Confederacy

Royce Shingleton

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#2731591 in Books University of Georgia Press 1979-10-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.45 x 7.09 x .01, .0 #File Name: 0820304662256 pages | File size: 28.Mb

Royce Shingleton : John Taylor Wood : Sea Ghost of the Confederacy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Taylor Wood : Sea Ghost of the Confederacy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. J.T. WoodBy MikeyThe book is in good enough shape for the price, and it is worth every penny due to the subject. This is a very interesting story of a largely forgotten hero of the Civil War.

The scion of America's military and political leadership, John Taylor Wood was the grandson of Zachary Taylor and

the nephew of Jefferson Davis. While his father and mother remained loyal to the Union, Wood himself resigned his commission at the U.S. Naval Academy and received a lieutenant's commission in the Confederate navy. He was best known for his raids against enemy ships. In one three-week period, he captured over thirty Union merchant vessels off the north Atlantic coast. Between raids he served on President Davis's staff, and was captured with Davis in May 1865. He escaped, made his way to Cuba and eventually settled in Nova Scotia.

"A fine biography" -- Journal of American History "A most readable book, in fact at times it reads like a novel....An excellent book, one that makes a significant contribution to the literature of the Civil War" -- Journal of Southern History "A well-reasoned and lively narrative. Students now have a reliable biography of Wood and the general reader can enjoy an exciting story" -- 7100 "An adventure to the very end" -- Civil War Times Illustrated "Colorful and spirited. Indeed, its lively pace befits these adventures on the high seas; much good fun is to be had from this reading" -- Atlanta Historical Journal "Excellentlly illustrated with Wood's drawings, contemporary press illustrations and very useful maps" -- Macon Telegraph and News "Often as exciting as a romantic sea novel" -- Raleigh News and Observer "This is a lively biography of one of the most lively figures in the War Between the States....A scholarly, yet highly readable job of tracing the life of one of the South's most colorful fighters" -- Asheville Citizen Times "This is for all buffs of the Civil War, naval affairs or swashbuckling tales" -- Huntsville Historical About the Author Royce Shingleton is professor of history at Darton College in Albany, Georgia. A native of North Carolina, he received his Ph.D. from Florida State University. Dr. Shingleton has won numerous awards for his writing and research. In 1992 he was the subject of a bibliographic essay in the Naval War College. Dr. Shingleton also has written Richard Peters, Champion of the New South, High Seas Confederate: The Life and Times of John Newland Maffitt, and was a contributing author to The Confederate Navy: Ships, Men and Organization, 1861-65. To view the author's home page, visit the Darton College web site at www.dartnet.peachnet.edu, click on Academics, and scroll to R.G. Shingleton. (Dr. Shingleton offers courses on-line in U.S. History Before 1877 and U.S. History After 1877.) Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. In the spring of 1865 a lone horseman slowly made his way through the pine forests of south Georgia. He bestrode a lean mount fitted out with saddle and bridle patched with various scraps of leather, and he wore tattered gray trousers that contrasted with his civilian shirt, all of which suggested that the rider was a soldier of a defeated nation returning home from war. Armed only with a small derringer, he relied mainly on his wits for protection against both the uncertainty of the times and an enemy who had labeled him a pirate. Like all fugitives he was alert for possible danger, but as the miles drifted by, his mind turned to thoughts of better days and battles past. The man on horseback was John Taylor Wood. A remarkable fighter, Wood's Civil War adventures could easily have come from the imagination of a writer of fiction. He participated in naval engagements involving the latest advances in ship construction, motive power, and naval ordnance (including the first battle between ironclads), but another specialty, an old method of sea warfare, was the cutting-out expedition. In a truly dramatic wartime career he seized over forty prizes, ranking second only to Raphael Semmes in the number of vessels captured. Most of Wood's victims fell prey to the dreaded ocean-going commerce destroyer he commanded late in the war, and the remainder he captured by leading boarding parties in a series of midnight raids against Union ships. Moving his boarding cutters overland on wagons by day, the amphibious "Horse Marine" suddenly emerged from an unexpected place at night to board and capture enemy vessels, and the prizes taken in this hazardous work included several armed gunboats. Alarmed Union authorities distributed printed pamphlets warning their commanders against Wood's surprise attacks, but there is no record that he was ever repulsed once he moved alongside an enemy ship. Wood was also an exceptional leader of men and a commanding personality who was usually found in the mainstream of Civil War activity. A tall, strongly built man, he bore himself erect. His demeanor suggested considerable intellect, and he looked pleasant except when contemplating or confronting the enemy. Immense personal integrity, an easy civility, and ready adaptability enhanced his capacity for leadership. Totally committed to the Confederacy, Wood enjoyed the confidence of the South's highest officials, and although a strict disciplinarian, he was no mere authoritarian who exercised power solely because of influential relatives; rather it was his coolness and quick thinking in hand-to-hand combat that inspired the men he commanded. His planning equaled his execution, with each man in his command individually selected for a specific task, and all of them followed him into battle without question or complaint. Wood is significant because of his considerable influence in the Confederate government, especially the Navy Department, and he is interesting as a result of his many colorful exploits.