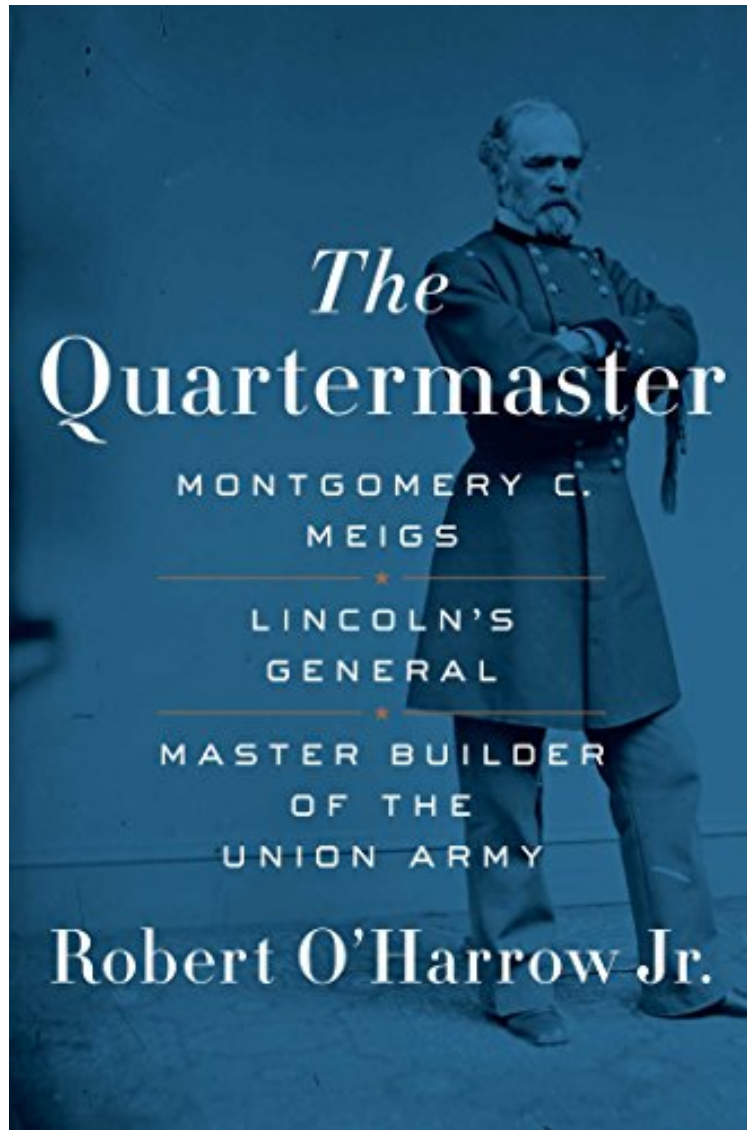


[Get free] The Quartermaster: Montgomery C. Meigs, Lincolns General, Master Builder of the Union Army

The Quartermaster: Montgomery C. Meigs, Lincolns General, Master Builder of the Union Army

Robert O'Harrow Jr.

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Robert O'Harrow Jr. : The Quartermaster: Montgomery C. Meigs, Lincolns General, Master Builder of the Union Army before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Quartermaster: Montgomery C. Meigs, Lincolns General, Master Builder of the Union Army:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Masterful and pertinentBy L. RobertsonTo limit a review to "he was a great war hero" or "wow! logistics are important to the success of anything," is to unintentionally undermine this

wonderful book. Montgomery Meigs was passionate, creative, driven, loyal beyond measure, and in the end, instrumental in defining who we are as Americans and as a nation. Robert O'Harrow is masterful in revealing all of this and making it clear. The Quartermaster is that wonderful and all-too-rare balance of a book that "gets it" - in the sense of fully understanding what was going in this period of our history + delving into the minds of those who 'made' this period of our history + realizing that not every person who reads this is a consummate 'civil war buff,' or logistics geek, or whatever - and entertains ALL of those audience segments as he writes. O'Harrow masterfully architects the story of one of the forgotten pillars of this exceptional nation. Montgomery Meigs rises out of the shadows to make every reader smack their head and declare, "Wow! That's how it really happened?" Truly, this is a fast-paced, revealing look about how we assessed who we are and what we wanted to become + how the heck we made that a reality. One final note: In this fall of 2016 period, the parallels between 'a past time' and now are arresting. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. LARGELY UNKNOWN CIVIL WAR HERO MONTGOMERY MEIGS GIVEN HIS DUE IN THIS RECENT BIOGRAPHY By MICHAEL URELL The lifetime accomplishments of Montgomery Meigs (1816-1892) make this 2016 book by Washington Post Reporter Robert O'Harrow, Jr. a great read. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton stated that without the efforts of Quartermaster General Meigs the Civil War may have been lost or at least greatly imperiled. This was a great accomplishment for anyone's lifetime but there were so many more. The Meigs family way back were Puritans who settled in the New Haven, Connecticut area in the 1630's. Many members of the family were high achievers and attended the best universities. The family had close ties with the military and Montgomery, with a keen interest in engineering, entered West Point at age 16. He graduated 5th out of an 1836 class of 49. He soon began to work on Army Corps of engineers projects including helping build Fort Mifflin on the Delaware River and Fort Wayne on the Detroit River. It is interesting to note that he also worked with then Lieutenant Robert E. Lee on improving navigation on the Mississippi River. His favorite pre-war project was helping build the Washington Aqueduct which brought water into Washington D. C. from the Potomac River. He was particularly proud of the Union Arch Bridge which was a clever engineering feat that spanned the Cabin John Creek. From 1853 to 1859 he was involved in the building of the wings and the dome of the Capitol building. All of this working around Washington D. C. And being dependent on monies and support from Congress led him to have contact with many characters of the day. Senator Jefferson Davis was generally a supporter of him. Secretary of War Floyd under James Buchanan was not. Floyd and Meigs area of conflict was that Meigs was very honest and Floyd was the opposite. At one point just before the war this conflict led to Meigs being given orders to be sent to the Tortugas for a few months until the resignation of Floyd for corruption and a new administration under Lincoln came in. Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward sent Meigs and Lieutenant David D Porter to Fort Pickens in Florida to fortify the Fort and as a result it remained in Union hands throughout the war. Returning from that mission Meigs was promoted to Quartermaster General of the Union Army. So the table is set for you and I hope I have whetted your appetite. You will be amazed at the materials and logistics necessary to supply the Union Army. A smart, honest and able man was necessary and Montgomery Meigs was that man. And, oh yes, Meigs always had an eye for new weaponry. The building of Arlington National Cemetery was largely his doing and his loathing of the traitor Robert E. Lee is made clear. Visit section one at the cemetery and that will be more clearly spelled out for you. The book is well written and many parts of Meigs' life and the history of our country are covered. His further accomplishments went into the 1890s. You will want to read more about the events of those days. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Writing is okay. Learned less about logistics of the ... By rl Writing is okay. Learned less about logistics of the war than I thought I would. More of a retelling of Civil War information I already knew. The part that turned out to be most interesting was his work on bringing water to Washington and working on the rotunda of the Capitol expansion. Also learned how an honest man - probably the last ever - could with constant vigil work his way around the corruption that filled the halls of Congress then as it does today.

The lively story of the Civil Wars most unlikely and most uncelebrated genius. The Wall Street Journal General Montgomery C. Meigs, who built the Union Army, was judged by Lincoln, Seward, and Stanton to be the indispensable architect of the Union victory. Civil War historian James McPherson calls Meigs the unsung hero of northern victory. Born to a well-to-do, connected family in 1816, Montgomery C. Meigs graduated from West Point as an engineer. He helped build America's forts and served under Lt. Robert E. Lee to make navigation improvements on the Mississippi River. As a young man, he designed the Washington aqueducts in a city where people were dying from contaminated water. He built the spectacular wings and the massive dome of the brand new US Capitol. Introduced to President Lincoln by Secretary of State William Seward, Meigs became Lincoln's Quartermaster. It was during the Civil War that Meigs became a national hero. He commanded Ulysses S. Grant's base of supplies that made Union victories, including Gettysburg, possible. He sustained Sherman's army in Georgia, and the March to the Sea. After the war, Meigs built Arlington Cemetery (on land that had been Robert E. Lee's home). Robert O'Harrow Jr. brings Meigs alive in the commanding and intensely personal Quartermaster. We get to know this major military figure that Lincoln and his Cabinet and Generals called the key to victory and learn how he fed, clothed, and armed the Union Army using his ingenuity and devotion. O'Harrow tells the full dramatic story of this fierce, strong, honest, loyal, forward-thinking,

major American figure.

Montgomery Meigs may have been a more important architect of Union victory in the Civil War than Grant, Sherman, Farragut more important than anyone except Lincoln himself. And before supplying the armies that won the war, he supervised the expansion of the Capitol, including the construction of its new dome, along with the creation of the aqueduct that brought clean water to Washington. This splendid biography offers new insights on this man of many talents. (James McPherson, author of *The War That Forged a Nation*) As quartermaster general, Montgomery Meigs was one of the architects of Union victory in the Civil War. A brilliant engineer and talented organizer, he supplied the troops in the field and on the march, a daunting undertaking. Relatively unknown in our times, two of his enduring achievements can be seen today: the Capitol dome and Arlington National Cemetery. Robert O'Harrow, Jr.'s compelling biography of this remarkable man and soldier is rich in details and rightly places Meigs among the major leaders who saved the Union. (Jeffrey D. Wert, author of *The Sword of Lincoln: The Army of the Potomac*) O'Harrow's compact and remarkably readable portrait of Montgomery Meigs shows that Lincoln's Quartermaster, long recognized as a significant player, was an even more fascinating and consequential figure than has been realized. (Douglas Wilson, winner of the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize, author of *Lincoln's Sword*) The Quartermaster offers a vivid and eminently human portrait of Montgomery Meigs, the brilliant and principled general whose mastery of supply and logistics on a grand scale contributed decisively to Union victory in the Civil War. Too long overlooked, Meigs deserves a place beside such luminaries as Grant and Sherman, as O'Harrow convincingly demonstrates in this fast-paced, bracing account. This is one of the most important Civil War biographies to appear in recent years. (Peter Cozzens, author of *The Earth is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West*) O'Harrow's matter-of-fact style is well suited to demonstrating why this creative, hard-working officer deserves a more prominent place among the heroes of the conflict. This biography of a man who labored tirelessly to secure a fame that would outlive him is recommended for readers interested in American history, the Civil War, and the history of Washington. (Library Journal) The lively story of the Civil War's most unlikely and most uncelebrated genius. (Allen Guelzo *The Wall Street Journal*) Robert O'Harrow brings an eye for lively detail and an appreciative sympathy for his subject. . . . A former member of Lincoln's Cabinet remarked that without Meigs's superb contributions, the civil war in the United States could not have been prosecuted . . . with the smallest hope of success. The Quartermaster does much to sustain this judgment, highlighting the centrality of logistics to the Union victory and situating a principal architect of that success near center stage in the compelling national drama. (The Washington Post) An excellent biography. . . . The author masterfully traces Meigs' role in a variety of endeavors in the decades prior to the conflict. . . . Historians interested in the operations of the quartermaster department during the Civil War, particularly purchasing and distribution practices, will find this volume extremely useful. . . . O'Harrow's thorough, masterfully crafted, and impeccably researched biography is destined to become the authoritative volume on Meigs. (Civil War Monitor) About the Author Robert O'Harrow Jr. is an award-winning reporter on the investigative unit at The Washington Post. O'Harrow is the author of *No Place to Hide*, *Zero Day: The Threat in Cyberspace*, and *The Quartermaster*, a biography of Montgomery C. Meigs. He was a contributor to the 2016 biography, *Trump Revealed: An American Journey of Ambition, Ego, Money, and Power*. He lives with his wife and son in Arlington, Virginia. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. CHAPTER 1 Rigid Duty Montgomery Cunningham Meigs was born on May 3, 1816, in Augusta, Georgia. His father, Dr. Charles Meigs, a recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, with his new bride, Mary, had come to Augusta to start his medical career and raise a family in an atmosphere of piety. They lived not far from the Savannah River, optimistic about their prospects. But it soon became clear to the couple they could not stay in the South. The brutality of slavery made Mary ill. So they returned to Philadelphia, a bustling business center quickly filling with schools, churches, and businesses. It retained the charm of a provincial city, giving way quickly to unspoiled countryside. About sixty-three thousand residents relied on wood to heat their homes. Farmers brought food to the city by wagons. The city offered the Meigs family an affordable place to live, study, work, and grow. Montgomery and his six brothers and two sisters explored nearby rivers and forests. He loved to romp along the Delaware River with friends, examining the creatures he found in the mud and water. Sometimes in the summer, he fished until dark on the Schuylkill River. Now and then his family took sailing excursions to nearby farms. Montgomery was bright and affectionate and seems to observe everything that passes, his mother wrote in 1822, when he was six. But he also pained his family. He very soon tires of his play things, she wrote. Destroying them appears to afford him as much pleasure as their first possession is not vexed with himself for having broken them. Is very inquisitive about the use of everything, delighted to see different machines at work. When playing, he tended to be bossy. His mother described him as high tempered, unyielding, tyrannical towards his brothers; persevering in pursuit of anything he wishes. Meigs's father demanded discipline and excellence from the children. His stories were laden with moral lessons. The children often gathered around him near the fireplace and listened as he told them about their virtuous and industrious ancestors. The stories begin at the great Puritan migration in the 1630s, when the first of the clan arrived in Boston from England. The ancestors were educators, doctors, engineers, soldiers, and public officials. They were ambitious, patriotic, and pious. A certain righteousness also

reappeared from generation to generation, much to the annoyance of neighbors and colleagues. Dr. Meigs in his stories underscored the importance of personal honor. He told the children it was their rigid duty to protect the family name. They were to beware lest [they] disgrace that history. In a note inscribed at the end of the family Bible, he wrote: Discard without mercy every member of their blood line whose conduct might stain the family reputation. His father challenged Meigs in other ways. He taught at Jefferson Medical College and became a pathbreaker in the realm of womens health, writing books on obstetrics while maintaining regular hours for patients. He shouldered an extraordinary workload, often snatching only two or three hours of sleep on the family couch before going to work. Charles Meigs didnt seem to mind. He felt called to service and thought his medical work put him closer to God. Montgomery Meigs would credit his mothers influence for much of his success, but he would never lose sight of the model set by his father. As a boy, Meigs watched militia companies march by on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia. He heard how Stephen Decatur, the American naval hero, had offered the toast My countryright or wrong! He dreamed of going to the United States Military Academy at West Point, in New York, where he could train as a soldier and engineer. He was accepted in 1832, when he was sixteen, and he was awed by the outpost perched on a bluff in the forested mountains of the Hudson Highlands. Meigs studied mathematics, engineering, and building. One teacher insisted that every soldier know how to draw for mapmaking, and Meigs was soon able to do so with unusual finesse. Though he thrived as a student, he racked up demerits for cutting against what he later called West Points uncompromising devotion to orthodoxy. He complained about the demerit system, saying it impeded enterprising men in favor of the stolid, the namby pamby, the men having no distinguishing traits or character. In 1836 Meigs graduated fifth in his class and became a second lieutenant in the army, dedicating himself to God, family, country, duty, honor. He joined the artillery corps but gave up that commission a year later to become a brevet second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers, an elite organization that played a primary role in building the young countrys roads, canals, bridges, and harbors. Its achievements included the countrys longest highway, the Cumberland Road, west of the Ohio River. In the summer of 1837, one of his first assignments paired him with another West Point graduate, Robert E. Lee, class of 1829. Their task was to find ways of improving navigation on the Mississippi River. Meigs and Lee, his superior, set up headquarters on an abandoned steamboat about 150 miles to the north of St. Louis. Part of the deck was under water, but the staterooms were dry. Meigs drew and painted the countryside as part of mapmaking responsibilities. Lee directed a survey of the river and oversaw preliminary work of laborers to clear the river bottom. Meigs loved nearly everything about the assignment. For a time, the men bunked in a cabin onshore and ate the catfish and pike they caught. Meigs admired Lee, then in the vigor of youthful strength, with a noble and commanding presence, and an admirable, graceful, and athletic figure. He was one with whom nobody ever wished or ventured to take a liberty, though kind and generous to his subordinates, admired by all women, and respected by all men. He was the model of a soldier and the beau ideal of a Christian man. With harsh winter weather coming on, Meigs and Lee disbanded their crew. Meigs went back to Philadelphia; Lee, to his wifes plantation at Arlington, Virginia, in the hills overlooking Washington. They would remain fond of each other until a national crisis turned them into mortal enemies.