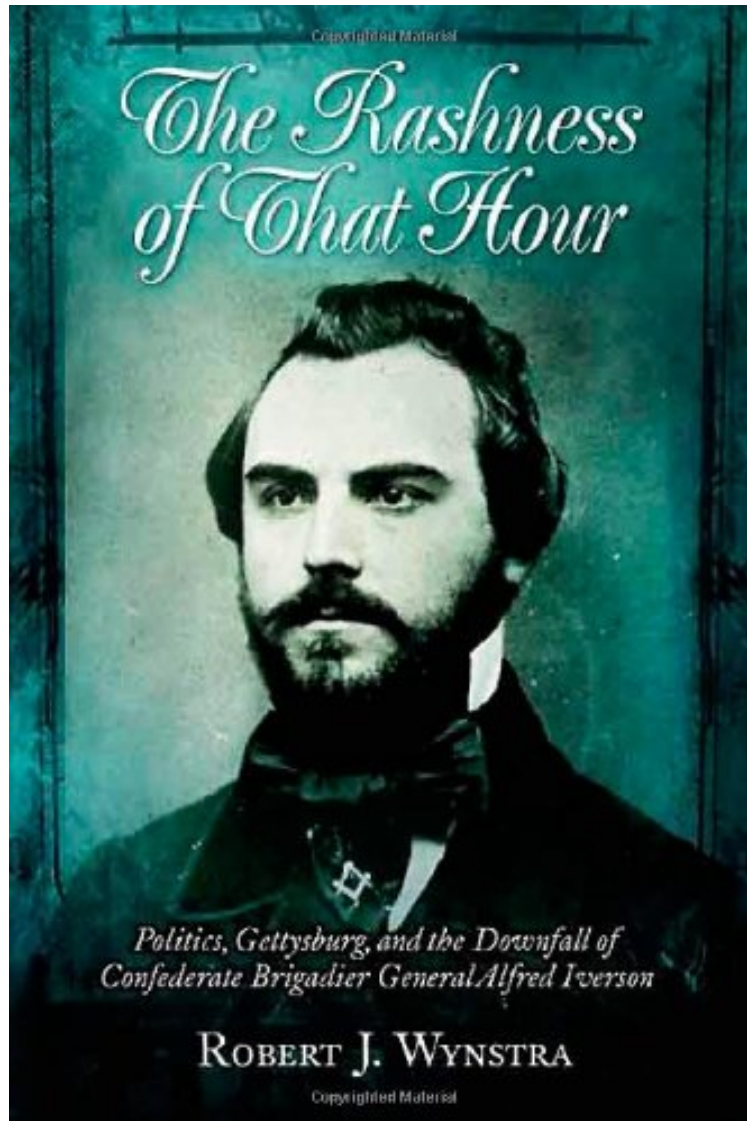


[Free and download] The Rashness of That Hour: Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall of Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson

The Rashness of That Hour: Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall of Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson

Robert Wynstra

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Robert Wynstra : The Rashness of That Hour: Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall of Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rashness of That Hour: Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall of Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fresh, detailed look
By hatuletoh
There is no topic about which I enjoy reading more than the Civil War, and so naturally I thought I knew everything there was to know about the battle of Gettysburg. But this book provided insights and information I'd never before encountered. The biographical background on General Iverson, and how that influenced the unfortunate fate of his brigade before the stone wall on the first day of the battle provided me with a background of information I didn't even know I was missing. This book offers a fantastically researched, easy to read narrative; and whether you're new to the topic of Gettysburg, or like me (wrongly) think you've read everything there is to read on the subject, I simply can't recommend this book enough. It was the most interesting thing I've read in a long, long time, and well worth the price.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Customer
Very interesting and well written book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Like leaves in a storm: Iverson's Brigade at Gettysburg
By Jonathan Weller
The Rashness of That Hour: Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall of Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson, by Robert Wynstra, is the most detailed telling of Alfred Iverson's rather notorious career in the Army of Northern Virginia. This book is essential in terms of gaining an understanding of why Iverson's North Carolinians suffered such an atrocious casualty rate on July 1, 1863, and similarly offers a rare and insightful personal look into one of the Confederacy's most intriguing generals: Alfred Holt Iverson. Wynstra's work is essentially more than just an overview of Iverson's Brigade on the first day of the battle of Gettysburg. The book does offer an examination of events that took place on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, which resulted in the virtual annihilation of Iverson's Brigade near Oak Hill, but it also offers the reader far more than just another take on Lee's defeat at Gettysburg. The story, as told by Wynstra, is deeply engrossing on every level presented, and allows the reader an in-depth look at not only military aspects, but also political and social as well. The Rashness of That Hour begins with offering the reader a detailed look back at how Alfred Iverson earned command of the brigade he led so poorly in 1863. Simultaneously, Wynstra begins laying a theme of political corruption and familial ties that would forever help Iverson ascend the ranks of Confederate leadership. The first part of the book meticulously leads the reader through Iverson's youth, adolescence and early manhood, and explains how he used the aforementioned political and familial ties to guarantee himself a cushy command in the new Southern Army at the outset of war, in 1861. The following sections of the book take a long hard look at Iverson's military career; this look is often through the lenses of Iverson himself, as well as his staff, subordinates and private soldiers alike. This is where Wynstra's work really shines brightest. The descriptions of Iverson at Gaines' Mill, Antietam and Chancellorsville are first-rate and pulsating for lovers of Civil War history, while the information on the inner workings of the Army of Northern Virginia are simply outstanding. Many, like me, probably thought that the ANV was this air tight, meticulous machine that simply lived, ate, and breathed military victory, but Wynstra's book shows the true backbiting and squabbling that bogged down both armies alike. The book thoroughly explains the basis for promotion within the ANV, and as you may expect, political strings were paramount as plenty of egotism abounded. The endgame manifested itself by explaining that Iverson's Brigade was overwhelmed with bitterness, disunion, and a sheer lack of trust among commander and subordinates. Iverson continuously butted heads with his regimental officers over promotions, appointments and discipline, all the while battling Confederate politicians who screamed bloody murder because a Georgian was commanding a brigade of North Carolina's native sons. After so many pages and chapters of Wynstra's book, you simply could expect nothing more than absolute destruction for Iverson's brigade during America's bloodiest battle, and it proved sad and disheartening that many a young man were slaughtered because of political incompetence. Iverson, however, survived Gettysburg and the war. He eventually was relieved of command and sent to Georgia until the end of the war, and revived his name ever so slightly in 1864, with the capture of Stoneman's Union Cavalry near Atlanta. I really enjoyed this book and recommend it immensely for its details on the inner workings of the Army of Northern Virginia, but Wynstra's retelling of Iverson's life also adds needed dimensions of the story. Very often we read of these honorable and chivalry-drenched Confederate leaders who waged war with ferocity and aggression that was unparalleled in the North, but Wynstra's work offers the opposite side of those stories. This book shows the immense power struggle between political and military mindsets within the Southern Confederacy during the Civil War, and Alfred Iverson's story is one that tells it better than most.

WINNER, 2010, DR. JAMES I. ROBERTSON LITERARY PRIZE FOR CONFEDERATE HISTORY
AWARD
WINNER, 2011, THE BACHELDER-CODDINGTON LITERARY AWARD, GIVEN BY THE ROBERT
E. LEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY
No commander in the Army of Northern Virginia suffered more damage to his reputation at Gettysburg than did Brig. Gen. Alfred Holt Iverson. In little more than an hour during the early afternoon of July 1, 1863, much of his brigade (the 5th, 12th, 20th, and 23rd North Carolina regiments) was slaughtered in front of a stone wall on Oak Ridge. Amid rumors that he was a drunk, a coward, and had slandered his own troops, Iverson was stripped of his command less than a week after the battle and before the campaign had even ended. After months of internal feuding and behind-the-scenes political maneuvering, the survivors of Iverson's ill-fated brigade had no doubt about who to blame for their devastating losses. What remained unanswered was the lingering uncertainty of how such a disaster could have happened. This and many other questions are explored for the first time in Robert J. Wynstra's *The Rashness of That Hour: Politics, Gettysburg, and*

the Downfall of Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson. Wynstra's decade-long investigation draws upon a wealth of newly discovered and previously unpublished sources to provide readers with fresh perspectives and satisfying insights. The result is an engrossing chronicle of how the brigade's politics, misadventures, and colorful personalities combined to bring about one of the Civil War's most notorious blunders. As Wynstra's research makes clear, Iverson's was a brigade in fatal turmoil long before its rendezvous with destiny in Forney field on July 1. This richly detailed and thoughtfully written account is biographical, tactical, and brigade history at its finest. For the first time we have a complete picture of the flawed general and his brigade's bitter internecine feuds that made Iverson's downfall nearly inevitable and help us better understand "the rashness of that hour." About the Author: Robert J. Wynstra recently retired as a senior writer for the News and Public Affairs Office in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in history and a Master's degree in journalism, all from the University of Illinois. Rob has been researching Alfred Iverson's role in the Civil War for more than ten years. He is finishing work on a study of Robert Rodes' Division in the Gettysburg Campaign.

"During the early afternoon of July 1, 1863, much of Iverson's brigade is killed, wounded or captured on Oak Ridge. Iverson loses his command less than a week after the battle. This book looks at this blunder, the feuds and politics involved in this incident and the aftermath." (CW Blog)"Wynstra's exhaustive research has uncovered a gratifying flood of fresh evidence on Alfred Iverson. The primary material that he unearthed sheds important new light on the general's controversial career" (Robert K. Krick, author of *The Smoothbore Volley That Doomed the Confederacy and Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain*) About the Author Robert J. Wynstra recently retired as a senior writer for the News and Public Affairs Office in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in history and a Master's degree in journalism, all from the University of Illinois. Rob has been researching Alfred Iverson's role in the Civil War for more than ten years. He is finishing work on a study of Robert Rodes' Division in the Gettysburg Campaign.