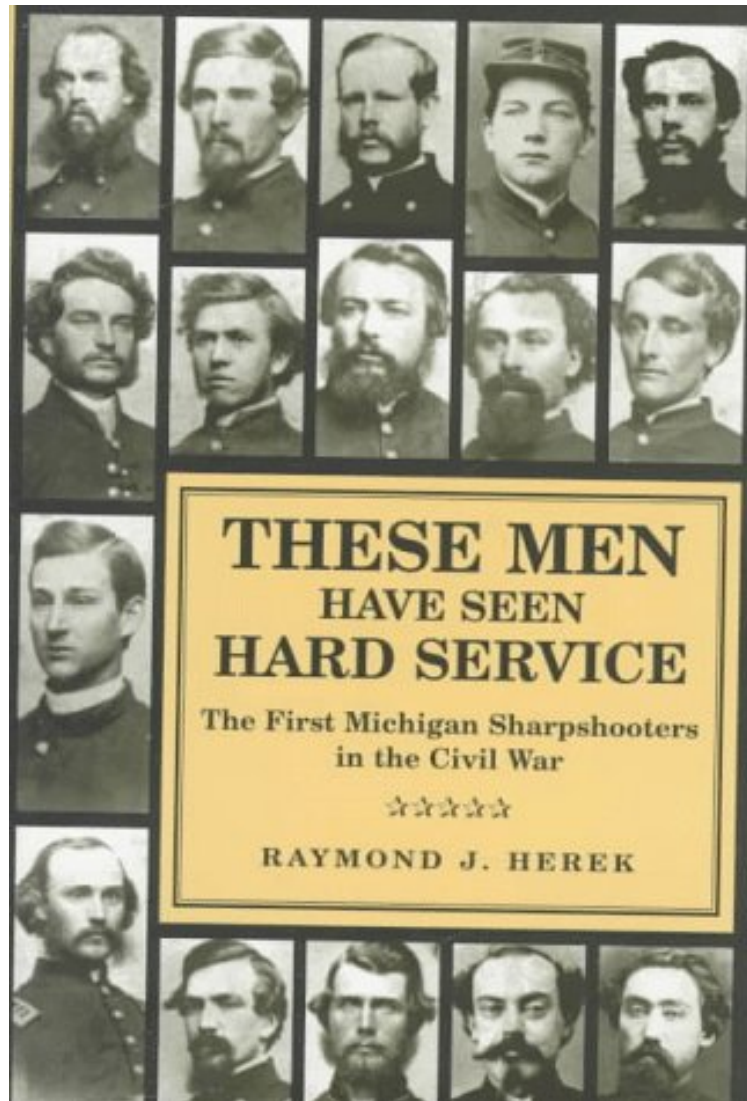


(Download pdf) These Men Have Seen Hard Service: The First Michigan Sharpshooters in the Civil War (Great Lakes Books Series)

These Men Have Seen Hard Service: The First Michigan Sharpshooters in the Civil War (Great Lakes Books Series)

Raymond J. Herek

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Raymond J. Herek : These Men Have Seen Hard Service: The First Michigan Sharpshooters in the Civil War (Great Lakes Books Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised These Men Have Seen Hard Service: The First Michigan Sharpshooters in the Civil War (Great Lakes Books Series):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. 1st Michigan Sharpshooters Hits the MarkBy MeredithI enjoyed this

book extremely, all the way through, which is unusual nowadays. This is a real book, by an author who really cares about his subject. So many books nowadays are dashed off any old which way, but this one is obviously a labor of love--and competence as well. It is well researched, well organized, and well written. It deals thoroughly with its subject, and all the aspects are interesting--how the regiment was raised, how the men were trained and supplied, their service as prison camp guards in Chicago, and finally their service in the front lines in the terrible battles in Virginia in the last year of the War. The author lets the story tell itself without much editorializing of any kind, but I think it is the most telling account I ever read of how bad management can nullify the best efforts of the people in the front lines, and how things sort themselves out over time. Somehow, after a few months, and after many of the original enlistees had been killed or captured, the incompetent officers went on to other jobs, the casualties went way down, and the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters had the honor of being the first to raise their flag over Petersburg. 12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding regimental history. Supurbly researched. By A Customer

The author has provided a well written and carefully researched narrative about a heretofore forgotten unit from Michigan. Herek consulted a wide variety of original manuscripts, letters, and diaries that add much to our understanding of the unit from a variety of perspectives. This regiment was unusual in that it contained a single company consisting of Native Americans, many of whom could hardly speak English. Herek explores the prevailing prejudice in a state that was part of the frontier only a few decades earlier, and how notions of citizenship evolved over the course of the war. I also highly recommend this book to those who are searching for a soldier's eye view of the Civil War. The book is full of details about regimental organization, recruitment strategies, rivalries between officers seeking to recruit companies, daily routines, food, and a host of other minutiae. Finally, the book sheds light on prison conditions in the North, since the 1st Michigan SS were stationed in Chicago doing prison guard duty for much of 1863. There is also a great chapter on the unit's confrontation with rebel John H. Morgan's cavalry raid into Indiana. My only complaint is that the author should have provided more information in the regimental roster that appears at the end of the book. As it stands, the book is not of much help to those seeking to do statistical analysis or geneological research. For the average reader, though, this is only of passing concern.

These Men Have Seen Hard Service recounts the fascinating history of one outstanding Michigan regiment during the Civil War. A compelling political, social, ethnic, and military drama, this book examines the lives of the 1300 men of the First Michigan Sharpshooters for the first time, beginning with the regiment's inception and extending through post-war activities until the death of the last rifleman in 1946. Beyond presenting numerous anecdotes about the men and officers and their contributions during the war, Raymond Herek provides insight into the medical community of the time, the draft, other commands in the same division, the politics endemic in raising a regiment, and Michigan's Native American contingent. The extensive appendices will be of particular use to genealogists, Civil War enthusiasts, and historians, because they list the men in the regiment, and also battle and camp casualties.

About the Author Raymond J. Herek is chair of the social studies department at Alcona Community High School where he teaches history and English. He also teaches history at Alpena Community College and has published widely on the subject of military and regional history.