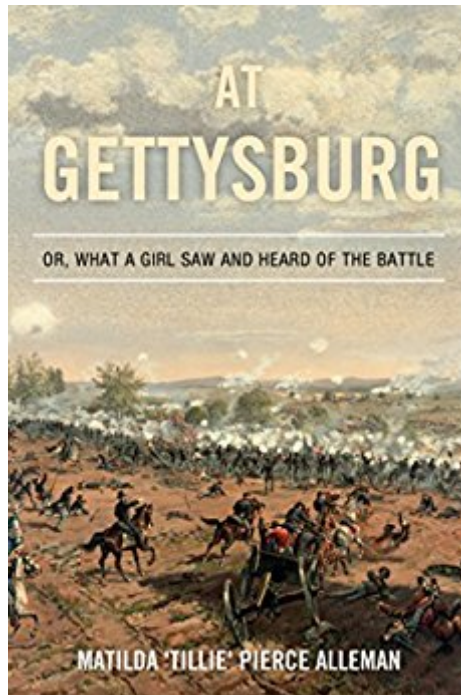


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At Gettysburg, Or, What A Girl Saw And Heard Of The Battle



Synopsis

On June 30th, 1863, fifteen-year-old resident of Gettysburg, Tillie Pierce, saw Union General Buford and his cavalry pass through the town. For the next three days she would be a witness to one of the bloodiest battles on American soil. On the first day, while cannons boomed on Seminary Hill and Cemetery Hill, Tillie was taken away from the heart of Gettysburg to a small farm on Taneytown Road, thinking that she would be safer there, but this did not shield her from the realities of war. It was on this day that she had the horrific experience of seeing a dead soldier for the first time. She would see more in the coming days. As Tillie recounts her experiences of assisting doctors and nurses in tending to wounded soldiers to providing a small tin of water to General Meade, the reader is transported into the heart of the battle from the viewpoint of a young observer. As the veteran who provides the preface states, "The story is told with such marked faithfulness, such honesty of expression, such vividness of portrayal, that those who lived in, and passed through those scenes, or similar ones, will at once recognize the situations, and surroundings, as natural and real." Written a number of years after the event, Tillie provides a day by day analysis of what she saw and heard during that time, before, during and after the battle. After the Civil War Tillie married a lawyer, Horace Alleman, and moved to Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. She recorded her account of Gettysburg in 1885. She died in Philadelphia in 1914.

Book Information

File Size: 3007 KB

Print Length: 72 pages

Publisher: Carolingian House (July 25, 2016)

Publication Date: July 25, 2016

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01J3NHII6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #158,486 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #9 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Women #30 inÂ Books

> History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Women #39 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields > Gettysburg

Customer Reviews

Tillie Pierce was a teenager when the Civil War came to her hometown of Gettysburg, PA. At the invitation of her next-door neighbor, Henrietta S(c)hriver (whose husband George was a Union soldier fighting elsewhere), Tillie accompanied her and her two young daughters out of the borough to the Weikert House, home of Henrietta's parents, to sit out the battle. Unfortunately, by doing so they went from the frying pan into the fire, because the Weikert House was located behind the two Round Tops, Big and Little, scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the three-day battle. Tillie describes everything she sees and experiences in great detail, including marching soldiers, shells bursting overhead, the pitiful cries of the wounded and dying, and a pile of amputated arms and legs as high as the garden wall outside the house. She later describes the aftermath, the dead bodies, and the terrible stench. She also relates some things told to her by her father that happened while she was away, such as Confederate soldiers capturing the Shriver House and one sharpshooter being shot dead in its garret (attic). Tillie Pierce was an eyewitness to the horrors of war, and many years later, as an adult, she wrote down that which was forever burned into her memory during those terrifying days; the result is this very revealing little book, a fabulous and very readable look at the Battle of Gettysburg from a (then) youthful civilian's perspective. Since this review is now attached to other editions than the one for which it was originally intended (that being a freebie from Arcadia but now \$1.99), I would recommend downloading a sample of several before you buy.

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