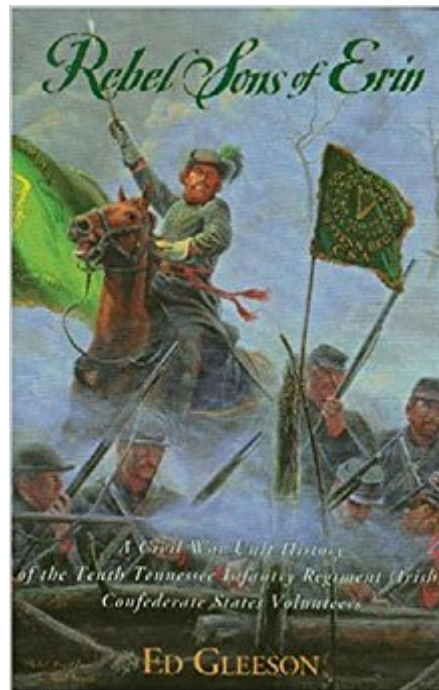




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Rebel Sons Of Erin



Synopsis

Book by Gleeson, Ed

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Customer Reviews

Book by Gleeson, Ed

I'm from Erin TN and the western Middle TN area. Further, I'm of Protestant Irish descent on my father's side. My mother's genealogy is well documented includes a Sgt. Banks that fought under General Andrew Jackson in the war of 1812, known as the Indian Wars on the frontier. He married a Walker, which was the name of my great, great, great grandparents. There are also a Buckners related to my maternal grandmother but can't determine if related to Buckner from Fort Donelson and beyond. So, for those reasons and knowing the geography, much of it very well, having hiked and canoed it during my college and post military years of the early 70s, I found the book selfishly fascinating. I recommend it to any Civil War history enthusiast without hesitation. If you are from middle or west TN and wish to gain a depth of insight into the contribution of the men from that region it is a must read. The only caveat is that it may be a bit of a tedious read at times for those unfamiliar with military terms, especially maneuvers. Ed B. From Yellow Creek (Austin Peay, 1973)

The "Rebel Sons of Erin" is a highly partisan history of the 10th Tennessee Infantry (Confederate). The 10th Tennessee was a hard luck regiment that was surrendered at Fort Donelson and lost

many of its members who either swore an oath of allegiance to the Union or joined one of two Illinois (Union) regiments while in prison. The regiment was never the same after its exchange. A number of Union prisoners of war were recruited to join the 10th from Camp Lawton and Andersonville prison late in the Civil War, but were captured at Egypt Station before they could join the main body of the 10th. Most of the captured galvanized Yankees changed sides again and joined the 5th US Infantry. A second attempt to recruit Union prisoners of war for the regiment from Andersonville also ended in failure. Only a handful of soldiers from the 10th (Confederate) surrendered with Johnston's Army at the end of the war, with most lost to capture, changing sides, disease, and death or injury in battle. Gleeson assembled a good bit of information about the 10th, but ignored much of its less glamorous history while writing this book.

I would recommend this to those interested in the War Between the States and lovers of history. Well written and kept my interest

I have scanned only a few pages, and find obvious errors. There was no "Father Darius HEBERT" in the western First Louisiana Infantry (Strawbridge's) or anywhere else in the Confederate chaplaincy, so he surely could not have been a friend of Fr. Emery Bliemel (p. 277). Father Darius HUBERT, a French-born Jesuit, served with the First Louisiana Infantry (Nelligan's) in the Army of Northern Virginia. So he certainly did not officiate at the hasty-held funeral of Fr. Bliemel in Georgia (p. 306). Since these assertions are original to Gleeson, and offer no documentation, they show not only carelessness with research but a worrying capacity to invent details for his narrative.

this book deals with a little written about subject, a confederate regiment comprised of mainly Catholic Irishmen. It traces their record from Ft. Donelson to Bentonville. The book is notable because of what it doesn't say as well as what it does. Most of these soldiers seemed to have little to any political views and joined up in defense of their lands and families, not really yankee-haters or sympathetic to southern slavery. When the war machine goes into gear they are caught in the machinery and sign up without much hesitation as southern patriots. Almost none of them own slaves or would even want to. What keeps them going is their loyalty to their country, their religion, and each other. The book contains a lot of anecdotal stories about the individuals in the book, like the heroism of Father Biemel, who ministered to the physical and spiritual needs of the men and paid the ultimate sacrifice. There is also a lot of humor in the book, I particularly enjoyed the story of General John Bell Hood, the rebel General in charge of the defenses of Atlanta. Gleeson

says of him that Hood became more aggressive on the attack the more body parts he lost. There are a lot of human interest stories as well as a "where are they now" section which tracks down some of the alumni of the 10th Tennessee after the war. A wife of one of the commanders who was killed in battle more or less forgot her husband and later became a notorious nag. The drummer boy made it 1938 and some of these ex-confederates were actually able to get state veterans benefits for their widows. The book also deals with the subject of confederate desertion rates throughout the war and this factor definitely cut into the combat ability of the 10th. I was surprised at how many desertions occurred in the earlier part of the war as well as the later.

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