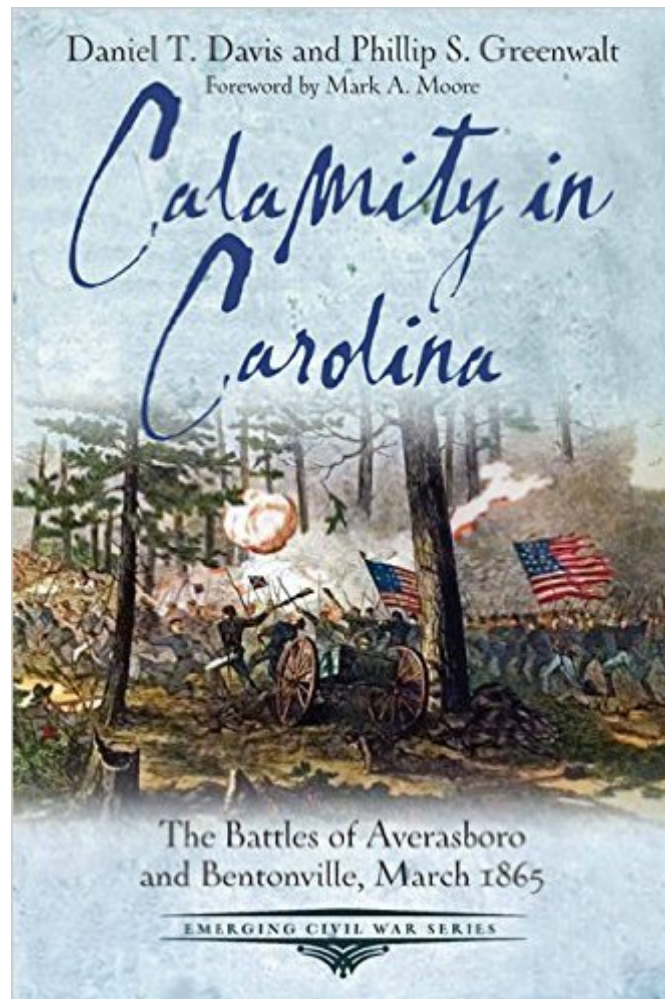


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Calamity In Carolina: The Battles Of Averagesboro And Bentonville, March 1865 (Emerging Civil War Series)



Synopsis

Robert E. Lee gave Joseph E. Johnston an impossible task. Federal armies under Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman had rampaged through Georgia on their "March to the Sea" and now were cutting a swath of destruction as they marched north from Savannah through the Carolinas. Locked in a desperate defense of Richmond and Petersburg, there was little Lee could do to stem Sherman's tide so he turned to Johnston. The one-time hero of Manassas had squabbled for years with Confederate President Jefferson Davis, eventually leading to his removal during the Atlanta Campaign. The disgraced Johnston had fallen far. Yet Lee saw his old friend and professional rival as the only man who could stop Sherman—the only man who could achieve the impossible. "J.E. Johnston is the only officer whom I know who has the confidence of the army," Lee told Davis. Back in command, Johnston would have to assemble a makeshift force—including the shattered remnants of the once-vaunted Army of Tennessee—then somehow stop the Federal juggernaut. He would thus set out to achieve something that had ever eluded Lee: deal a devastating blow to an isolated Union force. Success could potentially prolong the most tragic chapter in American history, adding thousands more to a list of casualties that was already unbearable to read. Historians Daniel T. Davis and Phillip S. Greenwalt, co-authors of *Bloody Autumn: The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864* and *Hurricane from the Heavens: The Battle of Cold Harbor*, now turn their considered gaze toward the long-forgotten battles of Averasboro and Bentonville. Written in the accessible style that has become the hallmark of the *Emerging Civil War Series*, *Calamity in Carolina: The Battles of Averasboro and Bentonville* includes more than a hundred illustrations, new maps, and thought-provoking analysis to tell the story of the last great battles of the war in the West.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

SYNOPSIS Being a Civil War buff and having read many books on the war, including a number on the Carolinas Campaign, I purchased this book looking for additional information. The book is not designed to provide the details and depth to satisfy those with more than a casual interest in the battles of Aversboro and Bentonville. And for those just wanting to familiarize themselves with the battles by a concise, well organized overview, a convoluted discussion is provided instead, punctuated throughout by various side stories (some with questionable relevance), walking tour directions, and photos of markers, monuments, and of numerous fields and trees representing parts of the battlefields. The narrative concerning the battles is unmistakably written to appeal to Southern pride and the accomplishments of Confederate troops and chivalrous officers (e.g., Wade Hampton, whose exploits are highlighted at various points) against overwhelming odds in trying to stop the Yankee invaders. A number of quotes by Union troops complimenting their opponents are included to provide emphasis. The book also contains an appendix dedicated to Sherman's March, which largely focuses on Yankee barbarities, including murder, although no examples of murder are provided. What is not mentioned is that over the course of both the Savannah and Carolina Campaigns there were actually very few credible reports of rape (less than a handful), and even fewer of murder. In one credible case of rape and one of murder in NC, both soldiers were executed by their respective commands. Also not mentioned, the approximately 175 Union troops captured while foraging and found executed by hanging, being shot at close range, or with their throats slit, with some mutilated.

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