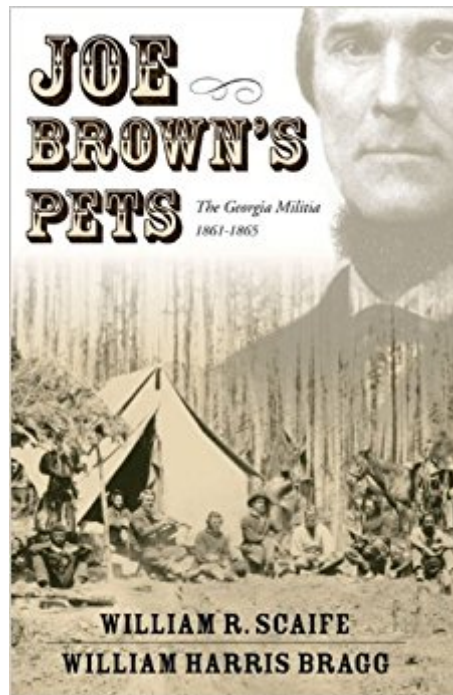




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# Joe Brown's Pets: The Georgia Militia, 1861-1865



## Synopsis

At the beginning of the Civil War, Georgia ranked third among the Confederate states in manpower resources, behind only Virginia and Tennessee. With an arms-bearing population somewhere between 120,000 and 130,000 white males between the ages of 16 and 60, this resource became an object of a great struggle between Joseph Brown, governor of Georgia, and Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. Brown advocated a strong state defense, but as the war dragged on Davis applied more pressure for more soldiers from Georgia. In December 1863, the state's general assembly reorganized the state militia and it became known as Joe Brown's Pets. Civil War historians William Scaife and William Bragg have written not only the first history of the Georgia Militia during the Civil War, but have produced the definitive history of this militia. Using original documents found in the Georgia Department of Archives and History that are too delicate for general public access, Scaife and Bragg were granted special permission to research the material under the guidance of an archivist and conducted under tightly controlled conditions of security and preservation control.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

William R. Scaife has taught at Emory University, and is a retired architect with more than 40 years experience in architecture and engineering. He is a widely respected Civil War historian with numerous publications and has served as consultant to or member of many organizations of history, national parks, and history magazines. William H. Bragg teaches history at Georgia College and

State University in Milledgeville, Georgia, and is the author of two previous books on the Civil War published by Mercer. William Harris Bragg, a native Georgian, is lecturer in History and director of the Center for Georgia Studies at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Georgia. Bragg has previously published with Mercer University Press *Joe Brown's Army* and was co-author of *Joe Brown's Pets: The Georgia Militia, 1861-1865*.

William R. Scaife & William H. Bragg's *Joe Brown's Pets* is one of the most well-researched, comprehensive, and readable history of any War Between the States regiment which I have read. The work is as exhaustive as one could be without copying out battle reports in their totality and the authors have managed to craft a wonderful and complex narrative despite the relative dearth of primary resources. I wish only that their editor had been given a freer hand, as the work suffers from unorthodox organization and the end of one chapter seems to have been deleted entirely; fortunately only about a page seems to be missing. These qualms do not, however, merit the removal of a star simply because the rest of the work is so fantastic. Quoting heavily from contemporary reports and letters, the authors tell the story of the Georgia Militia from its war-time inception to the surrender of the state government of Georgia. The book covers the Atlanta Campaign, the Battle of Griswoldville, the Battle of Honey Hill, the Siege of Savannah, and the Fall of Macon, but is also bursting with supplemental information about the organization of the various militia and the cultural perceptions of the militia during this period. The result is a tome brimming with information, even if one has to take a little time to determine how best to access the text. The one area where *The Georgia Militia* is lacking is in the more human element of the regular soldiers. Limited to primary resources, Scaife and Bragg are not able to dwell on the amazing oral traditions which have sprung up about those old men and young boys who served. My own ancestors, the Reddings, lost three sons in service to the Militia and two more to the Confederate Army. I think a wonderful follow-up to this official history would be a collection of stories about the soldiers themselves. I would recommend *Joe Brown's Pets* to anyone interested in learning more about the Georgia Militia during the War Between the States. Unfortunately, the work is too precise to serve as a general introduction to the War in Georgia and the ingenué might want to brush up on the history of the War in the Deep South before diving in.

This is the best resource to have if you are interested in the Ga. Militia during the civil war. Some the roster/county affiliations are incorrect although the roster listings are correct, e.g. Co. E 8th regiment are from Twiggs and Jones county which is incorrect in the roster. My ancestor was Elias

Champion, killed at Griswoldville and I have other resources to indicate the correct county affiliation for that regiment. I believe it must be mis-transcribed in the book. The Griswoldville account in this book is excellent.

I love the intent of this book but find the arrangement of information very difficult to follow. Sure, you can find the information, if you already know the information, but it takes much searching if you don't already have the information. This is a good book, but lacking in arrangement.

Fair

My ancestor was in the Georgia Militia and the State Guard. For six years, I had been struggling to learn about his service in the Civil War. This book has more information about the Georgia Militia than every other resource combined. I would highly recommend it.

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