

Of the one hundred thousand Southerners who donned Federal uniforms during the Civil War, more than forty thousand were Tennesseans. Not surprisingly, most came from the Appalachian counties of East Tennessee??but not all. A Middle Tennessean named Marcus Woodcock, not yet nineteen when the war began, was among the exceptions. A Southern Boy in Blue is Woodcocks own account of his experiences during the war. After joining the 9th Kentucky Infantry, Woodcock barely missed the battle of Shiloh??a bout of measles kept him from the front lines??but he went on to see action at Stones River, Chickamauga, and Missionary Ridge. He also participated in the Atlanta campaign and the siege of Corinth and was among the reserves at the battle of Perryville. In three years he rose from the rank of private to that of first lieutenant. Since Woodcock wrote his memoir in 1865 (instead of much later as many veterans did), his descriptions of battles, camp life, and period politics have a special vividness. Woodcocks account is also significant in showing how his views and opinions of the war changed over time. Initially opposed to the use of black troops and to Lincolns re-election, he eventually converted to both positions and describes the process by which he transformed his thinking. Woodcocks memoir has been meticulously annotated by Kenneth Noe, who also provides an introduction that places Woodcocks experiences in historical context and describes his postwar career as a prominent Tennessee legislator, attorney, business administrator, and Baptist layman. The book is not only a compelling personal account but an important addition to the literature on Southern Unionism. The Editor: Kenneth W. Noe is associate professor of history at West Georgia College. He is the author of Southwest Virginias Railroad: Modernization and the Sectional Crisis.

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