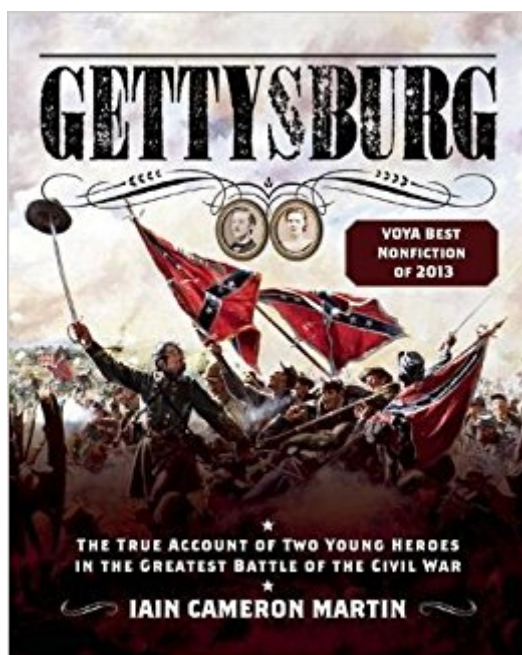


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# Gettysburg: The True Account Of Two Young Heroes In The Greatest Battle Of The Civil War



## Synopsis

In the summer of 1863, General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia advanced into Pennsylvania in a daring offensive to win the Civil War in a single campaign. They met the Union Army at a quiet crossroads town called Gettysburg and engaged in the greatest battle ever fought on American soil. Three days of combat ended on July 3 with Pickett's Charge, a heroic assault by nine of Lee's brigades against the Union defenses on Cemetery Ridge. Their repulse at the stone wall became known as the "high-water mark" of the Confederacy. At the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery that November, Lincoln used the occasion to deliver his Gettysburg Address, a short, two-minute speech that became the most famous in American history. In this original retelling of the Gettysburg story, Iain Martin draws upon firsthand accounts from the generals to the lowly privates and civilians caught in the epic struggle. Readers will discover history through the experiences of two Gettysburg teenagers; Matilda and Tillie Pierce and Daniel Skelly. Featuring the artwork of Don Troiani, photos, full-color maps, interesting tales, and trivia, *Gettysburg: The True Account of Two Young Heroes in the Greatest Battle of the Civil War* gives young readers a fascinating look into this great turning point of American history.

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Sky Pony Press; Reprint edition (June 16, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 163220438X

ISBN-13: 978-1632204387

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.7 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #809,645 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Period](#) #98 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Education & Reference > History > United States > 19th Century](#) #138 in [Books > Children's](#)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 6 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-To enhance his account of this momentous battle, Martin draws on the memoirs of Tillie Pierce and Daniel Skelly, teen witnesses, as well of those of soldiers and officers who fought in it. He opens with Pierce's account of the Confederate advance on Gettysburg in the days preceding the fighting and then describes General Lee's strategy for a Confederate invasion of Union territory, the convergence of the armies around Gettysburg, the details of the three-day battle, and the devastation and carnage it left behind. He closes with analysis of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the importance of the battle and battlefield in American memory and identity. A postscript tells about the post-Civil War fates of major civilian and military characters. Martin writes well, integrating details with an accounting of human costs to combatants, townspeople, and the nation. He is objective about the conflicting war aims of the opposing sides and admiring of the bravery and sacrifices of the soldiers in both armies. Period photos and highly detailed maps supplement the text. Although this book includes Pierce's and Skelly's experiences, it is much more focused on the fighting than Tanya Anderson's *Tillie Pierce: Teen Eyewitness to the Battle of Gettysburg* (21st Century, 2013), which concentrates more on how townspeople and Pierce reacted to and survived the battle. Although superficially similar, the two books' perspectives are very different.-Mary Mueller, Rolla Public Schools, MO (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Just in time for the 150th anniversary of the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg, this book looks back on events as they unfolded and reflects on their significance. Although two young people who lived in the town, Tillie Pierce and Daniel Skelly, are prominent in the subtitle, their place in the book is more modest. Accounts of their experiences, along with quotes from their first-person narratives, provide interesting sidelights on history. Primarily, though, the book delivers a balanced, detailed chronicle of the two armies' paths to Gettysburg; the battle itself; and its aftermath, including vivid quotes from a number of leaders and participants on both sides. Despite Martin's extensive use of quotes and the inclusion of a bibliography, there are unfortunately no source notes. The book's many illustrations include period photos of participants and sites, dramatic battlefield paintings by Don Troiani, and maps showing troop positions and movements. In the final version (not seen), illustrations are to be reproduced in color. Grades 7-10. --Carolyn Phelan

This book is an overview of the Battle of Gettysburg. The story is told very well. You read about all the familiar stories (6th Wisconsin, Lee's order to General Ewell at the end of the first day, Chamberlain and the defense of Little Round Top, Pickett's charge) and some less-familiar stories.

He nicely weaves in the story of the strategy and the fighting with the experiences of several local residents, most notably a young girl named Tillie Pierce and a teenaged boy named Daniel Skelly. He makes good use of original documents (diaries, letters, orders), maps, and photos. It makes an interesting read and provides a lot of material a teacher could use in class. The book focuses on the events of those first days of July 1863, but it also discusses the battle's aftermath, including the national cemetery, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and the postwar veterans' reunions that took place at Gettysburg. This outstanding book is described as intended for young people, but adults would find it interesting as well.

He loves history of our nation so I know he will enjoy learning more on the era of civil war

There are many books written about the American Civil War. Too many to count. And of those books I would venture to say that the majority of those are about the most infamous battle of that War: Gettysburg. Then there are the books that cover the civilian life in battle towns. Actually, there are only a very few of these. This book by Iain Martin called "Gettysburg" is refreshingly different, for it covers both the battle as well as the home front. This gives the reader a more well-rounded feel for the entire scene surrounding the Civil War. What I like most is the way the author has taken the information available from diaries and journals written by those who were involved in this battle and turned their words into story form. It's in this way that Martin brings the people and those days in early July 1863 to life. Each event that took place in that small Pennsylvania town is covered well, from the moment Lee's Confederate army entered the town in late June through the November reading of Lincoln's Gettysburg address. From the scurrying of Tillie Pierce to the "safe-haven" at the foot of the Round Tops to the death of Ginnie Wade. From Reynolds and Buford to Pickett's Charge. And everything in between. It's an informative read filled with original photographs, maps and diagrams that is suitable for upper middle school age kids through the schooled adult; a fine book looking at this most famous of battles from a slightly different angle than what you may be used to. Come see and feel what it was like to be in Gettysburg - whether on the farms fighting or in the cellars shaking - I think you'll be surprised.

For those with an interest in the U.S. Civil War, and the Battle of Gettysburg in particular, and especially for those who are homeschooling: I would like to commend to you this book. It is a lot like other non-fiction books in this area in that it is prolifically illustrated with maps, art by Don Troiani, period and present day photographs of the soldiers, battlefields and surrounding areas; it provides

meticulously researched historical details and a myriad of well-ordered information throughout re. the Union and Confederate armies; it provides first-hand accounts from both sides of the epochal battle. But what makes this specific volume unique is that the battle is largely presented through the eyes of two young teenagers who were living in Gettysburg as the conflict unfolded before their eyes: Tillie Pierce and Daniel Skelly. This book is an opportunity to view this pivotal battle through the eyes of these two young people, to experience how the Battle of Gettysburg affected these two civilians. Mr. Martin presents their story through the actual writings of these young people. And this is partly why I recommend this book to those who are homeschooling in the upper grades. Other reasons is the book's well-ordered and helpful supplemental material in the back sections, including a glossary of terms; also the succinct and flowing style of the text that does not presume the reader must have the interest-level or education of an Historian, just a desire to understand and appreciate history.

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