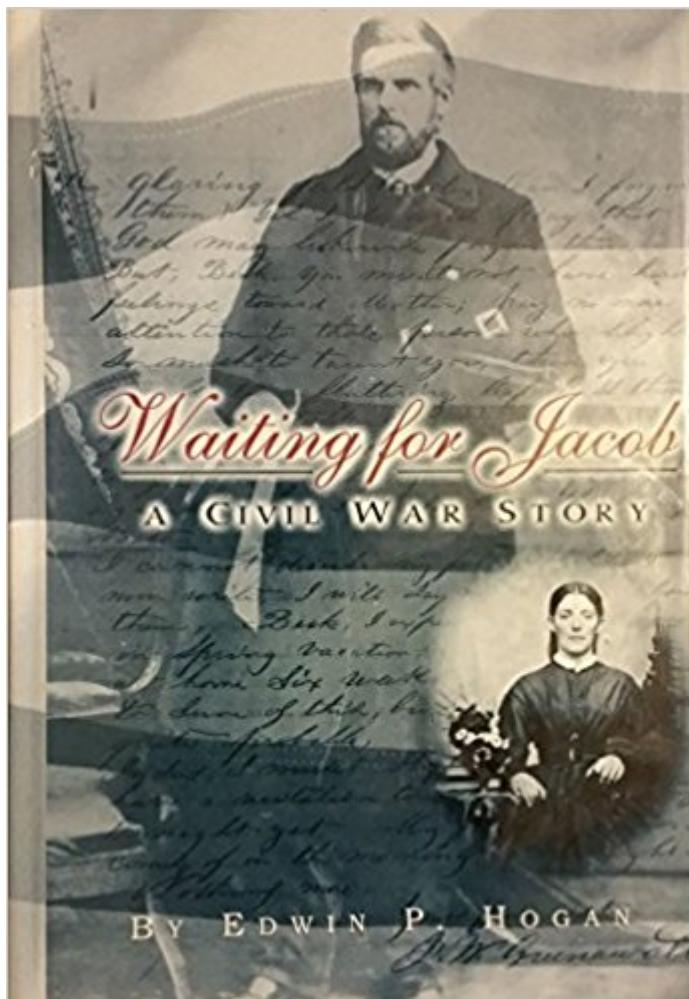


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Waiting For Jacob: A Civil War Story



Synopsis

A Civil War story by Edwin P. Hogan.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Civil War story by Edwin P. Hogan.

I have read more than my share of Civil War books based upon letters and diary. Most of these volumes begin when the soldier goes to war and pens his first letter home and usually ends with the last letter written either before his muster out or death. Waiting for Jacob, however begins with Jacob's letters from college four years before the war. Letters in which he proclaims his love to his "young miss" as she waits for him at home. The letters amazingly do not end with Jacob's death in 1864, but continue two years later when the nurses that cared for the dying soldier once again reaffirm his love from statements made on his death bed to the grieving widow. I found these letters quite unique and moving, they were letters that keep Rebecca "alive" for the next six decades. The author attempts in this tome, successfully I might add, to weave together different story lines. The first drawn from a "first person" account of the last years of Rebecca, his Civil War widow. This passage is drawn from an interview with an elderly lady, who as a teenage that cared for Rebecca in her last years, as she waited not for Jacob but instead for death to rejoin her martyr husband killed 61 years before. He also vividly narrates the stories told by Jacob's letters. Letters that tell not only war but also of backstabbing fellow officers, and the senseless losses both on the battlefield

and of disease caused by incompetent generals. It also included is a complete roster and some personal stories of the 100 men from his hometown of West Newton, PA who he recruits and leads as a Captain. The story of their recruitment is drawn completely from local period newspapers. Most unique to me was the chapter obtained completely from state archive records when Jacob is promoted to Major over a more senior captain (The "War" with Captain Hastings). An incident that forces Jacob to resign his commission (it was rejected) and is moved to write to Rebecca his most heartfelt letter where he proclaims, "I am no Christian." It is my humble opinion that this book would be enjoyed not only by a Civil War "buff" but also one interested in a Victorian period love story. It is indeed a story that does deserve to be preserved forever

Dr. Hogan takes the reader of this wonderful book right into the Civil War, and even deeper into the life of Col. Greenawalt. You won't want to put it down. This is a story that will etch itself into your heart. As you read, you will come to know and understand Jacob's feelings on the war, his relationships with his fellow soldiers, and most of all, his intense love for Rebecca. The descriptions of the battles he fought in are so realistic that you'll feel you are there at his side. The pain and longing to see his wife that Jacob feels when he is dying in the army hospital is likewise just as real. The author of this book did a great service to both the memory of Jacob Greenawalt, and to the people of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, by writing this book. Having grown up in West Newton myself, it was especially moving, but you don't have to be a Pennsylvanian "Wildcat" to appreciate this great story.

In this charming work, Edwin Hogan, captivates the reader with the tender love story set against the background of the American Civil War. Dr. Hogan's research adds depth to the story told in the letters from Jacob Greenawalt to his wife Rebecca. The story will be especially of interest to those living in Western Pennsylvania, as familiar place and family names jump off the pages and even minor characters come alive under his pen. However, the story of love, war, and longing has universal appeal. For those with a particular interest in this period of history, the book adds new details of the contributions made by the people of West Newton and the surrounding area. It is one of the finest books that I have read in quite some time.

I truly enjoyed this book, knowing very little of the history of 105th, it lets you look into the mind of one of its leaders. I truly enjoyed seeing my great grand-father's picture and seeing our name mentioned. The story is one of love and tragedy, lets you see the sacrifice made by our forebearers.

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