The Perfect Scout: A Soldier’s Memoir of the Great March to the Sea and the Campaign of the Carolinas: George W. Quimby

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My attraction to the book, “The Perfect Scout”, edited by Anne Sarah Rubin and Stephen Murphy, was the cover photo of George W. Quimby riding his horse and leaping over a fallen tree with a stream below. Yes, I love horses and I admire the relationship between a soldier and his horse. Seeing the title of the book, “A Soldier’s Memoir of the Great March to the Sea and the Campaign of the Carolinas” deepened my desire to learn more.

Upon George Quimby’s death in 1990, Rubin and Murphy were appointed to settle the family estate. In their examination of the papers, documents, and other items in the home in Seattle, they found 3 legal sized folders of neatly typed memoirs. George W. Quimby was a Union soldier who served as a scout for Generals in the Union army. His challenge was to go ahead of a General and his troops and return with information of general reconnaissance.

Rubin and Murphy read the memoirs with great interest and decided a book that informs readers of General Sherman’s march from Atlanta to Savannah and from Savannah to Goldsboro through the eyes of a Scout was a missing piece of history.

These memoirs accomplish two objectives: informed knowledge of the life and work of a “Scout” and a deeper perspective on the last months of the Civil War under the command of Union soldiers in the March to the Sea and the Campaign of the Carolinas.

“The Perfect Scout” is beautifully written as a story that highlights pain, agony, mystery, death, tragedy, irony, and all those factors that war can highlight. To learn anew or for the first time, the struggles of Union and Confederate soldiers, Generals, and Scouts as well as families, children and citizens in the wake of the Marches toward an end of a tragic war is etched in the reflections of George W. Quimby.

Recommended for public and academic libraries. May be a great addition to an historical collection of Civil War resources. Maps are available and the text includes a Preface, Introduction, and a George W. Quimby’s Introduction. There is a Conclusion, Notes, Bibliography, and Index. Pages 165-191.

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant

This work is about beautiful Andrew Low House in Savannah, Georgia. Author Tania June Sammons was the administrative head of Savannah Georige Telfair Museums landmarks and ornate arts. Tania June Sammons wrote The Story of Silver in Savannah: Creating and Collecting since the 18th Century and The Owen-Thomas House, a beautiful house also in Savannah. Virginia Connerat Logan is a Georgia National Society of the Colonial Dames of America member and was librarian at Andrew Low House. Ms. Logan wrote Andrew Low’s Legacy and was an archivist for Georgia.