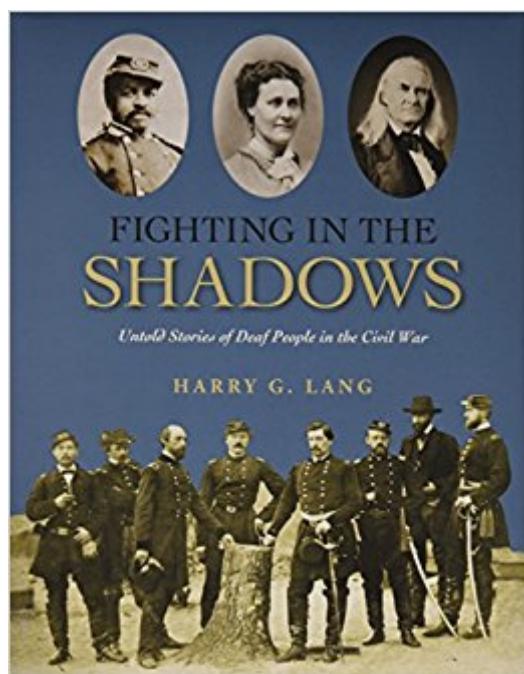


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Fighting In The Shadows: Untold Stories Of Deaf People In The Civil War



Synopsis

This visually rich volume presents Harry G. Lang's groundbreaking study of deaf people's experiences in the Civil War. Based on meticulous archival research, *Fighting in the Shadows* reveals the stories of both ordinary and extraordinary deaf soldiers and civilians who lived through this transformative period in American history. Lang documents the participation of deaf soldiers in the war, whose personal tests of fortitude and perseverance have not been previously explored. There were also many deaf people in noncombat roles whose stories have not yet been told—clerks and cooks, nurses and spies, tradespeople supporting the armies, farmers supplying food to soldiers, and landowners who assisted (or resisted) troops during battles. Deaf writers, diarists, and artists documented the war. Even deaf children contributed actively to the war efforts. Lang pieces together hundreds of stories, accompanied by numerous historical images, to reveal a powerful new perspective on the Civil War. These soldiers and civilians were not "disabled" by their deafness. On the contrary, despite the marginalization and paternalism they experienced in society, they were able to apply their skills and knowledge to support the causes in which they ardently believed. *Fighting in the Shadows* is a story of how deaf civilians and soldiers put aside personal concerns about deafness, in spite of the discrimination they faced daily, in order to pursue a cause larger than themselves. Yet their stories have remained in the shadows, leaving most Americans, hearing and deaf, largely unaware of the deaf people who made significant contributions to the events that changed the course of our nation's history. This book provides new insights into Deaf history as well as into mainstream interpretations of the Civil War.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The American Civil War has been viewed through countless lenses over the last 150-plus years. Lang's view, through the diverse experiences of deaf men and women who lived it, is a revelation. The individual stories of those on both sides of the conflict, who stepped out of the acoustic shadows to stand up for their beliefs, inspire and raise awareness of the contributions of deaf people in our society. (Ronald S. Coddington, editor and publisher of "Military Images" magazine and co-author of "Faces of the Civil War Navies: An Album of Union and Confederate Sailors") The deaf experience, in its various manifestations, emerges from the silence in this engaging journey of mid-nineteenth-century America. Like an impressionist master, Lang deftly inserts deaf people into the grander narrative of American history and, in particular, the American Civil War. (Octavian Robinson, American Sign Language and Deaf Studies, College of the Holy Cross) Harry Lang's groundbreaking study shows that in an era with little inclination and few resources to accommodate them, deaf people during the Civil War displayed courage, ingenuity, and sacrifice. Fighting in the Shadows presents portraits of deaf patriots, soldiers, poets, and others determined to make a contribution to the outcome of the conflict. It also augments our understanding of the war's impact on civilians. (Justin Carisio, author of "A Quaker Officer in the Civil War: Henry Gawthrop of the 4th Delaware")

This visually rich volume presents, for the first time, stories of deaf soldiers and civilians who lived during the Civil War.

I'm usually like short stories and not "library" books, but this one changed my mind. It is well written, keeps you interested in all the stories and makes you think sometimes, what deaf/HoH people went through back then and still did their jobs. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the Civil War and Deaf history. I found out new info about Stonewall Jackson and Gen Grant I didn't know about. What is this info, have to get the book.

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