

Well Satisfied with My Position: The Civil War Journal of Spencer Bonsall



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(Brandt Koss III)

WELL SATISFIED WITH MY POSITION: THE CIVIL WAR JOURNAL OF SPENCER BONSCALL



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Southern Illinois University Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Well Satisfied with My Position: The Civil War Journal of Spencer Bonsall, Spencer Bonsall, Michael A. Flannery, Katherine H. Oomens, "Well Satisfied with My Position" offers a first-person account of army life during the Civil War's Peninsula Campaign and Battle of Fredericksburg. Spencer Bonsall, who joined the 81st Pennsylvania Infantry as a hospital steward, kept a journal from March 1862 until March 1863, when he abruptly ceased writing. Editors Michael A. Flannery and Katherine H. Oomens place his experiences in the context of the field of Civil War medicine and continue his story in an epilogue. Trained as a druggist when he was in his early twenties, Bonsall traveled the world, spent eight years on a tea plantation in India, and settled in Philadelphia, where he worked in the city surveyor's office. But in March 1862, when he was in his mid-forties, the lure of serving his country on the battlefield led Bonsall to join the 81st Pennsylvania Infantry as a hospital steward. Bonsall enjoyed his life with the Union army at first, comparing bivouacking in the woods to merely picnicking on a grand scale. "We are about as jolly a set of old bachelors as can be found in Virginia," Bonsall wrote. But his first taste of the aftermath of battle at Fair Oaks and the Seven Days' Battles in Virginia changed his mind about the joys of soldiering - though he never lost his zeal for the Union cause. Bonsall details the camp life of a soldier from firsthand experience, outlines the engagements of the 81st, and traces the Battle of Fredericksburg and the Peninsula Campaign. He records facts not available elsewhere about camp conditions, attitudes toward Union generals and Confederate soldiers, and troop movements. From the end...



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