

the war, but one thing lacking in the book was more explanation of the reasons for the harsh approach taken by the Union commanders on the ground.

An outstanding part of this work is Cashon's use of primary source material. The reader gets to indulge often in the actual words of individuals ranging from the famous Ulysses Grant to the obscure Quintus Quincy Quigley, a Paducah lawyer. The words of war-time nurse Jennie Fyfe transports the reader to a hospital besieged by a hostile army. The book contains numerous newspaper sources from New York to Paducah that show the uncertainty of the fog of war, and the entire work is peppered with photos from the Library of Congress to put faces with names. In short, the research is thorough, and it makes for a compelling read.

Cashon, who studied both history and archeology at Murray State University, took on many roles to complete this work, which has all the tell-tale signs of a labor of love. In addition to the numerous primary sources he uses, he has contributed to the story of the Jackson Purchase region by photographing many sites in the city and connecting them to their place in Paducah's past. With this book, which is his first, Cashon has made a fine contribution to the understanding of the area's place in the Civil War. Along the way, he tells many rich stories in a lively and entertaining style, which is what all historians should strive to do.

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*Forrest: On the Way to Fort Pillow.* By Lonnie E. Maness. Jackson, TN: Yetto Publishing, 2016. 242 pages.

While examining the reasons the South did not win the Civil War, retired UT Martin History Professor Dr. Lonnie E. Maness ventured that the South could have won if its generals had been of the caliber of Nathan Bedford Forrest. The outcome could have even been different if Forrest had received higher commands. Maness then compared the military philosophy and approach of commanders Ulysses S. Grant and Forrest. They were both quite determined and offensive minded. In comparison and impact, their roles were greatly different because Grant commanded larger units whereas Forrest was limited to more supporting positions.

Nonetheless, Maness maintains Forrest distinguished himself wherever he was. Many times he envisioned a better Confederate approach as at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Chickamauga, and Chattanooga. Likewise, he foresaw the need to keep the Mississippi River from the Union, but Confederate officials took another approach.

To Maness, "Forrest is one of a handful of truly great generals produced by the Civil War," placing him with Robert E. Lee, Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, U.S Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, and Philip Sheridan. Unlike them he did not have formal military instruction and pre-war experience.

In this volume Maness was quite impressed with Forrest's accomplishments mainly after Chickamauga in West Tennessee, upper Mississippi, and Alabama. At times Forrest was largely on his own in moves and acquisition of men and supplies. Numbered among those drives were a Middle Tennessee raid, West Tennessee recruitment in 1863, a spring 1864 push up West Tennessee into West Kentucky, and a foray into Johnsonville.

On the other hand, Maness admitted Forrest's record was not flawless. Some setbacks, Maness believed, resulted from higher-ranking commanders' unwise decisions or intervention. In the author's mind, such instances happened at Dover, Tennessee in 1863, at Harrisburg, Mississippi in 1864, and at Franklin, Tennessee in 1864. Otherwise, minor stumbles occurred at Parker's Crossroads late in 1862 and at Paducah, Kentucky in the spring of 1864. In the latter instance, afterwards Union forces bragged publicly where they had successfully hidden a large number of horses from the Confederate raiders. Forrest and his men promptly returned to confiscate those vitally needed animals.

Maness did put the battle at Selma, Alabama in April 1865, as a major loss. Union General James H. Wilson triumphed with more and better-armed personnel and interestingly with tactics Forrest usually employed.

Easily the most controversial aspect of Forrest's military career was the taking of Fort Pillow on the Mississippi River during April 1864. The longest chapter of the book concerns the importance of that fortification to the Union and Confederate causes. After the outcome of the chaos and confusion of fighting Union supporters contended Forrest and the Confederates, massacred Union soldiers and blacks while Southern believers considered numerous casualties were usual acts of war. In another detailed chapter, Maness looked at the pros and cons of each side and the extensive historical research about Fort Pillow. Finally, Maness concludes that there was no mass murder.

Maness added other special features. The book contains 8 maps and 31 photographs of military personnel. He has five appendices covering Forrest as a civil rights proponent, the general's military concepts, British Lord Wolseley's evaluation of the commander, the general at Shiloh, and a Forrest timeline.

Maness' acknowledgements mention two former students who piqued his interest in Forrest. In the early 1970s at UT Martin, one pupil was Steve McDaniel from the Parker's Crossroads area. The latter shared his own gathered resources about Forrest and the Parker's Crossroads battle. That generosity resulted in Maness' first article during 1975 about the cavalry leader. Naturally, the student, who has since been in the Tennessee House of Representatives for many years, continued in their symbiotic relationship. Another former UTM undergraduate of the early 1970s, Jerry O. Potter, subsequently a Memphis lawyer, turned over the Maness sources previously intended for a book on Fort Pillow.

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