

# ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

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## Billy Yank

By **Thomas Rodgers**, University of Southern Indiana

### Resources

#### If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
McPherson, James M.	<i>For Cause &amp; Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War</i> . New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. This book is outstanding on soldier motivations, values, and beliefs.

### Books

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Billings, John D.	<i>Hardtack &amp; Coffee: The Unwritten Story of Army Life</i> . Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1993. Part memoir and part history, Billings covers numerous aspects of life in the Army of the Potomac.
Frank, Joseph Allan	<i>With Ballots and Bayonet: The Political Socialization of American Civil War Soldiers</i> . Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1998. This work is especially good on Billy Yank and northern politics.
Glatthaar, Joseph T.	<i>The March to the Sea and Beyond: Sherman's Troops in the Savannah and Carolinas Campaigns</i> . Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985. This book has especially good chapters on camp life, soldier interactions with southern whites, and the destruction inflicted on the South by Billy Yank.

<p>Mitchell, Reid</p>	<p><i>The Vacant Chair: The Northern Soldier Leaves Home.</i> New York: Oxford University Press, 1993. This work is especially good on manhood issues and the soldier's relationship with the home front.</p>
<p>Rhodes, Robert Hunt, ed.</p>	<p><i>All for the Union: The Civil War Diary and Letters of Elisha Hunt Rhodes.</i> New York: Vintage Books, 1991. Rhodes served from First Bull Run to the end of the war, rising from private to colonel. This memoir provides numerous insights from an optimistic, religious, and patriotic soldier in the Army of the Potomac.</p>
<p>Robertson, James I., Jr.</p>	<p><i>Soldiers Blue and Gray.</i> Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1988. This book provides an excellent overview of basically all aspects of Billy Yank and his experience, including such things as equipment, training, camp life, and religion.</p>
<p>Rodgers, Thomas E.</p>	<p>"Billy Yank and G.I. Joe: An Exploratory Essay on the Sociopolitical Dimensions of Soldier Motivation," <i>Journal of Military History</i> 69 (January 2005):93-121. This article elaborates on comparisons between Billy Yank and modern soldiers made in this article.</p>
<p>Throne, Mildred, ed.</p>	<p><i>The Civil War Diary of Cyrus F. Boyd, Fifteenth Iowa Infantry, 1861-1863.</i> Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1953. Boyd's memoir provides keen insights into army life in the Western Theater of action.</p>
<p>Wiley, Bell I.</p>	<p><i>The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union.</i> Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1952. This work is the classic description of all aspects of Billy Yank and his experiences. Wiley's interpretations of soldier patriotism and religion are dated, but the descriptive parts of the book are informative and engagingly written.</p>
<p>Winter, Oscar O., ed.</p>	<p><i>With Sherman to the Sea: The Civil War Letters, Diaries &amp; Reminiscences of Theodore F. Upson.</i> Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1943. Upson's memoir begins with an account of</p>

	his home community in northern Indiana and continues through his service in the Western Theater and in the Carolinas under Sherman. Upson's account is simple, genuine, and unassuming. It is filled with insights and memorable anecdotes.
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## Organizations

## Web Resources

## Other Sources

## Scholars

Name	Email
Thomas Rodgers	<a href="mailto:trodgers@usi.edu">trodgers@usi.edu</a>

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