

**WAR REMINISCENCES  
BY THE SURGEON OF  
MOSBY'S COMMAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649137237

War reminiscences by the surgeon of Mosby's command by Aristides Monteiro

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ARISTIDES MONTEIRO**

**WAR REMINISCENCES  
BY THE SURGEON OF  
MOSBY'S COMMAND**





*A. Monteiro D.D.,*

E. W. HALLIDAY,

18031

WAR

REMINISCENCES

BY THE

SURGEON OF MOSBY'S COMMAND.

---

RICHMOND, VA. :

1890.

Entered according to Act of Congress, December 17, 1889,  
By A. MONTEIRO, M. D.,  
In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, Washington, D. C.

## PREFACE.

---

These papers were written more than a dozen years after the last eight thousand Confederate muskets had been stacked at Appomattox. It was only at the request of esteemed army comrades, whose memory seemed to linger yet, with the cold ashes of long extinguished camp-fires, that they were written at all. These thoughts were transmitted to paper under the pressure of extraordinary and exacting professional labors. The opinions and sentiments expressed, are the shadows and reflections, of uncommon events and startling scenes. Many years afterwards, an accomplished physician and an estimable gentleman, Dr. J. B. Brewster, of Plymouth, Massachusetts, read these papers. He advised and recommended their publication. Whilst in his possession for examination, he submitted them to a severe test of merit. They were placed in the hands of the Rev. Frederick N. Knapp, of Plymouth. This distinguished scholar, philanthropist, and patriot, was a warm personal friend of the illustrious General Grant and the lamented Lincoln. He had held a high position on the National Sanitary Commission during the war. It would not be reasonable to anticipate for the literary labors of a partisan Major of medicine, a very flattering criticism from such an exalted source.

This excellent man, noted alike for high literary attainments, pure patriotism, and exalted Christian virtues, generously tendered his valuable services "to review these papers for the press." He was suddenly removed by death, and called to his reward before he completed his task. His valuable suggestions, however, have been carefully observed. Many "passages which might have given pain or annoyance" have been omitted.

The following criticism from this distinguished son of Massachusetts needs no extended explanation :

"PLYMOUTH, MASS., July 16, 1888.

"*My Dear Doctor*—I have looked over with care "*The Reminiscences of the War* by the Surgeon of Mosby's Command."

---



They are of great interest and value. They should be published after some passages which might give pain or annoyance, perhaps, are cut out.

"They present details of the war such as I have not elsewhere seen. They evidently are an honest transcript of the feelings and impressions of a clear-headed, earnest Confederate, who was by Mosby's side during those most trying days, including the days of the surrender. The generous tone in which the writer gives his impressions of the cordial greeting and kind fellowship of the Union generals at the time of the surrender of the Confederate army, is admirable. So also is the graphic setting forth, previously, of what a Yankee stood for in the eyes of the South. The tribute to Lincoln, coming from the source it did, is full of pathos. Whatever is exaggerated or severe in any of these papers can readily be accepted, as a most natural fruit of the circumstances under which these experiences were obtained. What is caustic in tone can now cause no ill feeling, or lead to reproach. It portrays what was, not what is. We want facts just as they were. These papers admit us to a most interesting gallery, where we may see drawn, with a bold, if sometimes dashing hand, pictures of the war as seen by a Confederate officer.

"I would with pleasure, if it should be desired, assist in reviewing these papers for the press.

"Yours, truly,

"FREDERICK N. KNAPP.

"*Dr. J. E. Brewster.*"

In answer to a letter recalling the papers, after the death of Mr. Knapp, the following from Dr. Brewster was received :

"PLYMOUTH, February 9, 1889.

"*Dr. A. Monteiro :*

"Dear Doctor—I received your note of January 24th, and thank you for the kindness expressed. In your brief correspondence, you have read correctly the character of Mr. Knapp. He was, as you have said, "a noble patriot and philanthropist." Our whole community mourns him as a dear friend gone. I return the papers, as you requested, and regret deeply that the opportunity was not afforded Mr. Knapp to have assisted you in their publication. Death only has prevented. He was very much interested, and very anxious to have them given to the public. Now, dear doctor, let me assure you of my very great regard for yourself, and that I shall ever consider your acquaintance as the pleasantest souvenir of my trip South.

"Very truly yours,

"J. B. BREWSTER."

# CONTENTS.

---

	Page.
PREFACE . . . . .	3
CHAPTER I.	
Siege of Petersburg—Wounded men transported under fire—Meeting with Mosby—His student life recalled—Visit to General Lee's headquarters—Kind reception of the guerilla chief and the surgeon by the great chieftain—The medical director of the army surprised by the rough rider . . . . .	9-17
CHAPTER II.	
Field hospital of Wise's brigade—Sad parting with battle-scarred veterans—Officers and men eager to join the partisan command—The curiosities of medical examining boards—Nepotism . . . . .	18-25
CHAPTER III.	
Colonel Tabb's marriage—General H. A. Wise—His consoling prophecy—Black flag and death by hanging—Boots of bull's hide—Home guards and conscript hunters—Halted by a guard—The guard converted to <i>guerillanism</i> —Mosby wounded—Two calves and an ox-cart—A close search . . . . .	27-35
CHAPTER IV.	
The wounded chief—His description of the capture of General Stoughton—Jackson, Lee, Stuart and Mosby—Political hypocrites, knaves, and slanderers—Injustice of pusillanimous critics . . . . .	37-44
CHAPTER V.	
Inconsistencies of patriotism—Unreasonable prices—Comparative insanity—Mr. Adam Via a good Samaritan—The value of whiskey—Rated much higher than life or land—Ragged military highwaymen—On the road . . . . .	45-54

## CHAPTER VI.

	Page.
Glen Welby—Major Richard Henry Carter—A utopian Virginia home—Adjutant Willie Mosby—His account of partisan life and the hanging of prisoners—Major Blatzer's expedition, defeat and capture—Sam Alexander as a comforter . . . . .	55-62

## CHAPTER VII.

Wounding of Lieutenant Charles E. Grogan—Successful psychological surgery—Dr. Nelson of the Eighth Illinois regiment—His kindness—Trap doors—Yankee raid—Dolly Richards—His costume—Successful pursuit of the enemy—Drunken cavalry—Recapture of prisoners—Allinity of partisans for a wagon train—Raid near Alexandria—Capture of dead negroes—Yankee raid on Glen Welby—"Grogan, they have got me" . . . . .	63-78
--	-------

## CHAPTER VIII.

Escape on the house top—A cold roost—Willie Mosby's sad predicament—His earnest prayers and vehement oaths—"No scrib of an 'ore"—Colonel Welby Carter captured—Joe Blackwell's great dread of Yankees—His escape in light attire—A spirited pursuit . . . . .	74-84
---	-------

## CHAPTER IX.

Rapid firing—A desperate attempt at rescue—"May the Lord have mercy on our souls"—Our escape ascribed to prayer—The missing chief of staff returns—His painful plight and grotesque garb—The ladies retire from the spectral figure—"Help me, for God's sake, and give me a drink" . . . . .	85-91
--	-------

## CHAPTER X.

Mosby's return to the command—His civil and military authority—Speedy trials—Promotion for merit—Incendiaries, and their treatment—Military atrocities in Fauquier—Arson . . . . .	92-99
--	-------

## CHAPTER XI.

Union men and Quakers—Collecting Confederate taxes in Loudoun—Interesting visit to the leading Union Quaker's farm—A beautiful sufferer—Anger and orisons . . . . .	100-111
---	---------