

THE OKLAHOMA SCOUT

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The Oklahoma scout by Theodore Baughman

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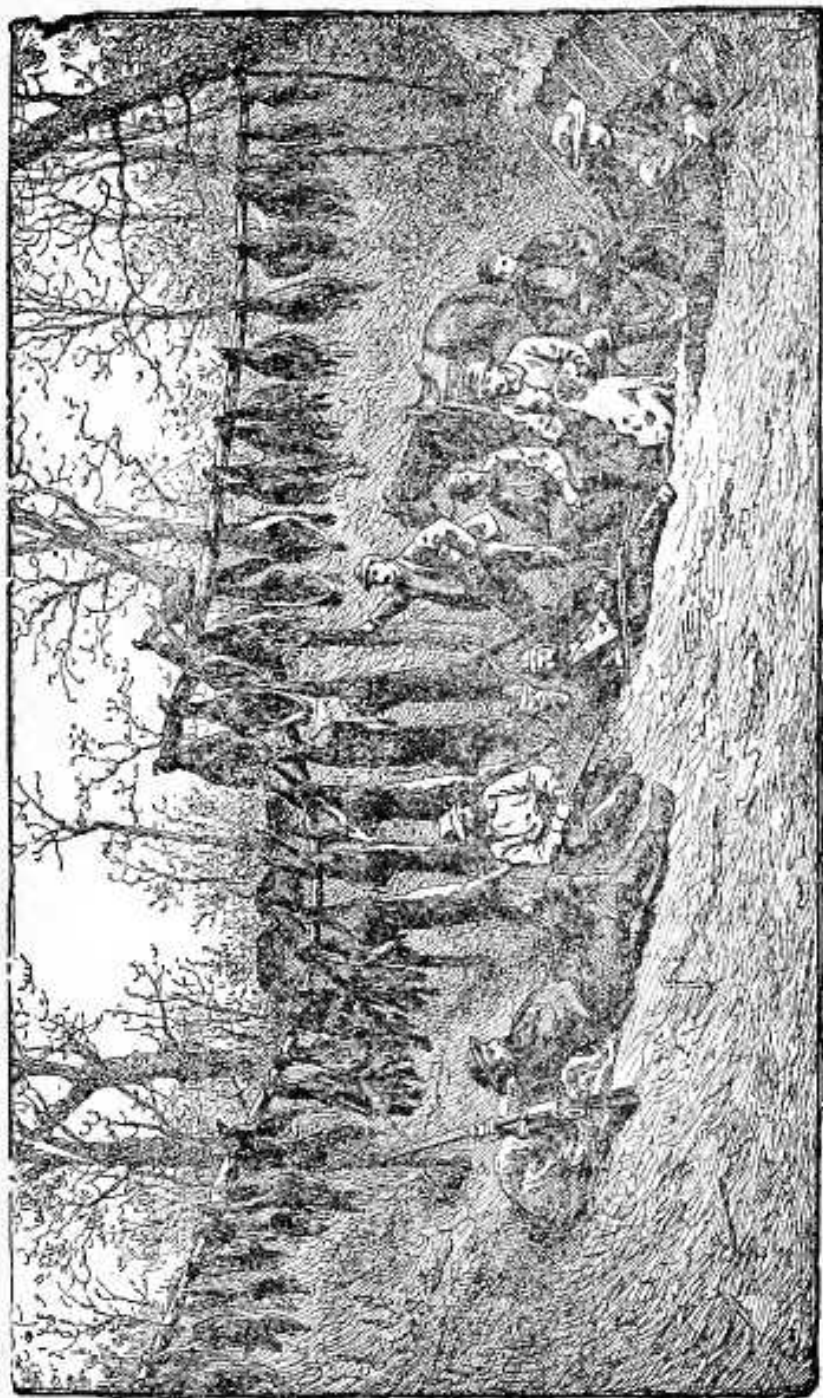
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THEODORE BAUGHMAN

**THE OKLAHOMA
SCOUT**



THE PRODUCE OF THE HUNT

THE OKLAHOMA SCOUT.

BY

THEODORE BAUGHMAN. 1845-

CHICAGO

W. B. CONKEY COMPANY

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THE OKLAHOMA SCOUT.

CHAPTER I.

HOW I BECAME A SOLDIER.

This book will be principally concerned with the events connected with my twenty years' experience as a scout and frontiersman for the United States army in the West. But that the reader may have a better understanding of the motives and causes which led me to adopt a career of such adventurous hardship a brief sketch of my previous life will be necessary.

I was born in Attica, Seneca county, Ohio, on the 30th of July, in the year 1845. There were nine children of us, I being next to the oldest. My father was a mechanic. He moved to Branch county, Michigan, about the year 1858, where we were living when the rebellion broke out.

I will not dwell upon my boyhood, which in its details did not materially differ from

that of thousands of other hard-working farmer lads. I always had a longing after an adventurous life. The humdrum experiences of the farm didn't at all suit my notions. I did plenty of hard work, to be sure, but it went against the grain, and I spent as much time as I could get in hunting and fishing or roaming over all the surrounding country.

Nor was I much fonder of the schoolhouse than of the farm. I was not the teacher's pet by any means. Memory fails me in any attempt to enumerate the thrashings I got for the various offenses of a genuine "bad boy." I was not often without a black eye, and generally two or more of my fingers were tied up in rags, little reminders of fights with other boys.

This sketch indicates my course of life up to the commencement of the rebellion in 1861, at which time I was a stout, well-grown boy of sixteen. But I did not count myself a boy then, but felt anxious to be a soldier along with the rest of the men. Early in the year 1862 my elder brother John and I went to Coldwater to enlist in company C of the 19th regiment of Michigan infantry, the rendezvous of the regiment being at Dowagiac. To my chagrin they refused to muster me in on any account of my age, and most