

About the Author: David A. Powell is a 1983 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute with a B.A. in history. After graduating from VMI, he went to work for CBS Messenger—a family business in the Chicago area—but never lost his intense interest in military history, especially in the American Civil War. David has written numerous articles for a variety of magazines, more than fifteen historical simulations of various battles, and regularly leads tours of the Chickamauga battlefield. His previous books include *The Maps of Chickamauga: An Atlas of the Chickamauga Campaign, Including the Tullahoma Operations, June 22 - September 23, 1863* (2009), and *Failure in the Saddle: Nathan Bedford Forrest, Joseph Wheeler, and the Confederate Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign* (2010), which is the recipient of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table's Richard B. Harwell Award.

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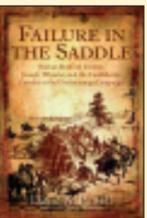
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— Advance Praise —

“Award-winning author David Powell has already made a name for himself with his two previous Chickamauga-related books. His latest monograph, *The Chickamauga Campaign—A Mad Irregular Battle*—the first of three volumes on the full campaign—sets the standard for Civil War battle studies. Powell’s monumental contribution is based upon some 2,000 sources and a deep familiarity with the battlefield. The result is a clearly written and intimately detailed account of this complex engagement from its earliest roots through the night of September 19, 1863. The second installment will finish the fighting and carry readers to Chattanooga, while the third and final volume handles a variety of controversies, orders of battles with losses, and much more. No one will ever look at Chickamauga the same way again.”

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“David Powell has written a book of impressive detail. This exhaustively researched study puts the reader squarely in the middle of the battle of Chickamauga. He presents a balanced look at not only the fighting, but the myriad personalities who took part. This book is a must for any serious student of the campaign. I eagerly await the next two volumes that will complete this series.”

— Frank P. Varney, author of *General Grant and the Rewriting of History: How the Destruction of General William S. Rosecrans Has Influenced Our Understanding of the Civil War*



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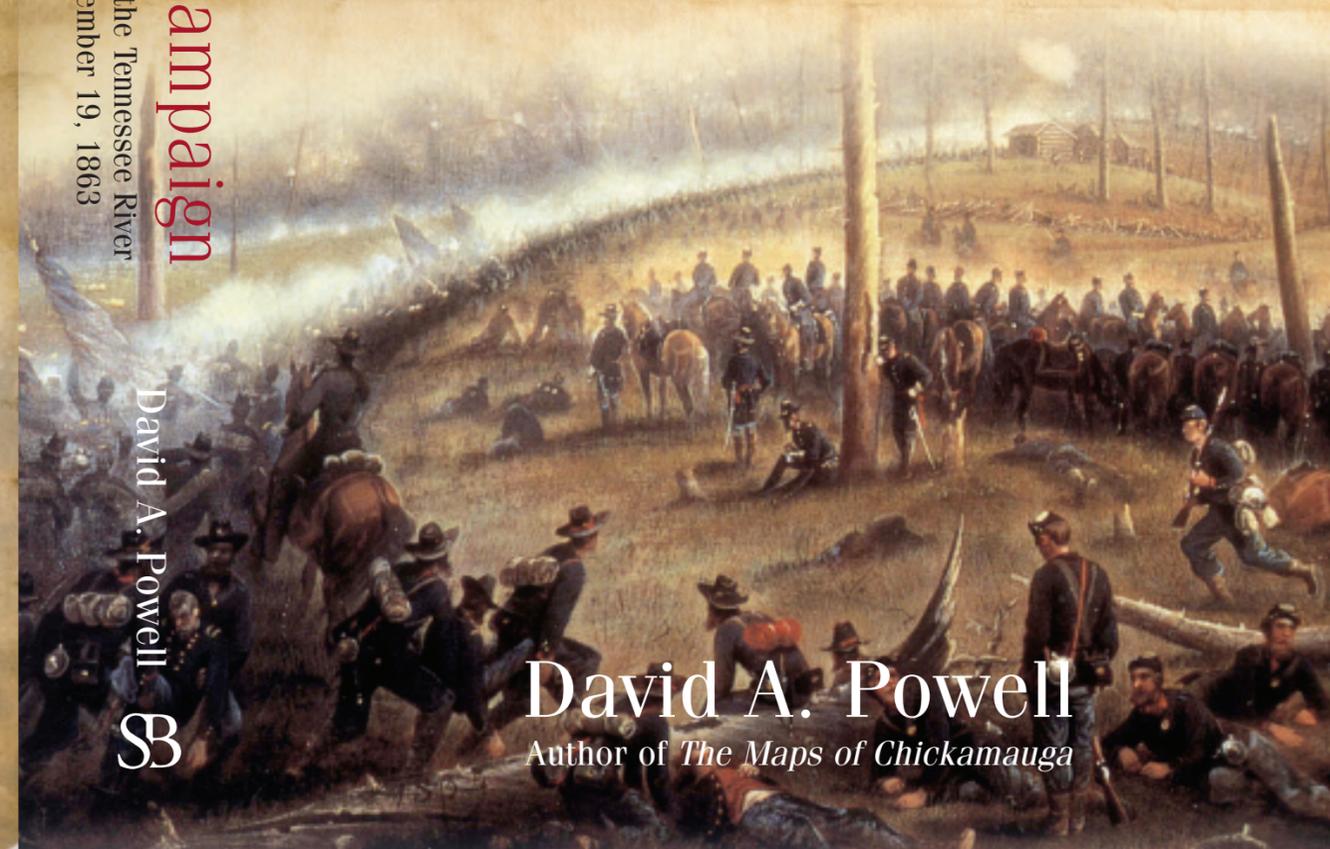
A Mad Irregular Battle: From the Crossing of the Tennessee River Through the Second Day, August 22–September 19, 1863

The Chickamauga Campaign

David A. Powell

The CHICKAMAUGA Campaign

A Mad Irregular Battle: From the Crossing of the Tennessee River Through the Second Day, August 22–September 19, 1863



David A. Powell
Author of *The Maps of Chickamauga*

CHICKAMAUGA, according to soldier rumor, is a Cherokee word meaning “River of Death.” It certainly lived up to that grim sobriquet in September 1863 when the Union Army of the Cumberland and Confederate Army of Tennessee waged bloody combat along the banks of West Chickamauga Creek. Long considered a two-day affair, award-winning author David Powell embraces a fresh approach that explores Chickamauga as a three-day battle, with September 18 being key to understanding how the fighting developed the next morning. The second largest battle of the Civil War produced 35,000 casualties and one of the last, clear-cut Confederate tactical victories—a triumph that for a short time reversed a series of Rebel defeats and reinvigorated the hope for Southern independence. At issue was Chattanooga, the important “gateway to the South” and logistical springboard into Georgia.

Despite its size, importance, and fascinating cast of characters, this epic Western Theater battle has received but scant attention. Powell masterfully rectifies this oversight with *The Chickamauga Campaign—A Mad Irregular Battle: From the Crossing of the Tennessee River Through the Second Day, August 22–September 19, 1863*. The first of three installments spanning the entire campaign, *A Mad Irregular Battle* includes the Tullahoma Campaign in June, which set the stage for Chickamauga, and continues through the second day of fighting on September 19. The second installment finishes the battle from dawn on September 20 and carries the narrative through the retreat from the battlefield that night. The third and last book of the series covers the retreat into Chattanooga and the beginning of the siege, as well as appendices and essays exploring specific questions about the battle in substantially greater detail.

Powell’s magnificent study fully explores the battle from all perspectives and is based upon fifteen years of intensive study and research that has uncovered nearly 2,000 primary sources, all stitched together to relate the remarkable story that was Chickamauga. Here, finally, readers will absorb the thoughts and deeds of hundreds of the battle’s veterans, many of whom they have never heard of or read about. In addition to archival sources, newspapers, and other firsthand accounts, Powell grounds his conclusions in years of personal study of the terrain itself and regularly leads tours of the battlefield. His prose is as clear and elegant as it is authoritative and definitive.

The Chickamauga Campaign—A Mad Irregular Battle is Powell’s magnum opus, a tour-de-force rich in analysis brimming with heretofore untold stories. It will surely be a classic must-have battle study for every serious student of the Civil War.