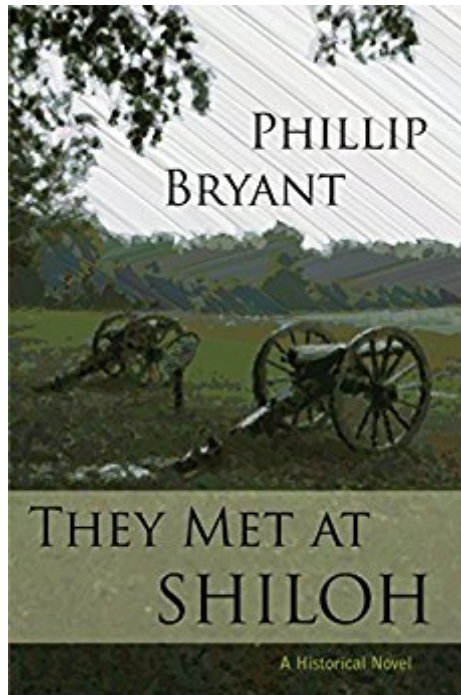


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# They Met At Shiloh: A Civil War Novel (Shiloh Series Book 1)



## Synopsis

An entertaining and informative tale woven from the common soldier's view of battle, often graphic in descriptions of combat, and delving deep into soldier comradeship and friendship, best selling author Phillip Bryant tells a compelling story of two armies clashing along the banks of the Tennessee River.. Pittsburg Landing was a place at peaceâ "one that never expected to be the site for one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. Peace is shattered as Confederate and Federal troops meet on the fields and farms surrounding a tiny Methodist church. In the midst of death and destruction, friendships form as four soldiers struggle to survive the battle. Forced to leave his position as minister, Phillip Pearson knows his life is in danger, but not just from the Confederates. The Harper family, incensed at Pearson's refusal to bury a philandering son, has a vendetta against him that is played out on the battlefield. Demoted from his command by a West Point graduate, Capt. Michael Greirson is forced to choose between ambition and duty. When a bumbling youth becomes his shadow, Private Robert Mitchell gains an unlikely friendâ "something that has been missing from his life. Afraid to trust, he is forced to confront those fears and depend on others in the heat of battle. War is an adventure to Private Stephen Murdoch and his best friend, William Banks. For months they dream of the glory of war before volunteering together. On the eve of battle, they sense something momentous is about to happen. Their idealistic views fade in the blood of their fallen comrades. Two days of horrific fighting turn boys into men and sever the sacred bonds of comradeship in the bloodiest days of the war.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'They Met at Shiloh' follows four men across the battlefield of Shiloh during the American Civil War. Each man must fight not only the battle set before him, but internal wars as well. To the interested reader, to the person who wants to know more about Shiloh and the cog this battle fit in the larger scheme, this book may be helpful. Even more valuable, if someone asks 'what was it like to be a soldier in the western theatre of the Civil War,' 'They Met at Shiloh' is highly recommended. To the average reader, this novel may feel somewhat sluggish, especially at the beginning. Bryant brings to life the soldiers who fought for a variety of reasons, risking their lives for their 'pards' and their country. Well researched, well thought out, and well worth the money.

The story itself is captivating. I enjoyed the experience of Shiloh from the divergent points of view of the different soldiers on both sides, and at times could find myself caught up in the action. However sloppy syntax and gross grammatical errors kicked me out of the Civil War and back to reality way too many times. Seriously, "revile" for "reveille?" And as a good Catholic girl, I can tell you that the dying are given last "rites," not "rights." There were multiple errors of this type that really spoiled the flow of the story. On several occasions, poor syntax and uncertain pronouns left me unsure as to which character was being featured. This story deserves a good editing job to clean it up, and turn it into a 5 star book.

This is a very good book. It follows different people, on both sides of the conflict, and tells about what led up to them winding up at Shiloh. During the course of the book different people express their opinions about the war and why they're in it. It shows that different people have different reasons for being involved in a fight, so a war isn't about just one thing. One viewpoint that I found very interesting was the Southerners who felt they were, like their ancestors in the Revolution, righting against a tyrannical government that was trying to deprive them of their rights. Namely the right to tyrannize over slaves. The contradiction didn't seem to register with them. I found the book confusing at first because Kindle opens to the first page of the story, and I have a habit of skipping preludes anyway, so I didn't think to back page. The prelude explains who the different characters are and what the events leading up to the battle were. If you read that first you understand what's

going on much better than if you do like I did, and try to figure out why it's jumping from one group to another in different chapters. I plan to read it again now that I know who's who.

I have read many, many Civil War novels over the years and honestly, this is one of the very best. There is a complete and definite sense of authenticity. With each and every chapter, I have felt that I am eavesdropping on the soldiers and circumstances. Nothing more need be said...read this book.

I thoroughly enjoyed Phillip Bryant's book, *They Met at Shiloh*. The Civil War novels I have read before were primarily from the view of the officers, especially the generals, but this historical fiction was written from the viewpoint of the privates and sergeants, the men on the front lines. The men who were being targeted with the cannons and rifle fire had a different perspective from those who were planning the strategies. They wondered why they were there, why they were fighting their fellow countrymen. Mr. Bryant did an excellent job of expressing their conversations and thoughts. He also gave perspective on their lives in the military...the hours of boredom, moments of fear and terror, and even moments of heroism, which men on the front lines would probably all experience. Mr. Bryant, who was a soldier himself, also had his characters express the thoughts, doubts, and sometimes arguments with fellow soldiers about God and eternity which is a topic that men would be driven to discuss as they watched men die at their side and contemplated their own mortality. Another thing I appreciated about this book was that both sides, the Union and the Confederacy, were equally represented and neither side condemned. The book seems to be well researched and contains many details about day to day camp life that were fascinating to me. I look forward to more from Mr. Bryant.

I think I was required to read *The Red Badge of Courage* in High School. Normally a compliant student, I failed to complete that assignment. I don't really like war stories, particularly graphically realistic and gruesome ones. I did, however, finish reading *They Met at Shiloh*. Yes, there is extreme realism in the description of the battle scenes and aftermath. But even if you're very squeamish like me, here's why you should read it anyway. I swear I was there, trudging down those endless roads, rolling up those bedrolls, changing from my nightcap to my forage cap, hot, cold, sweat-soaked and rain-soaked, right along with these characters. Phillip, Stephen, Michael, Robert -- I know them. Bryant gives such a richness of detail to his scenes, his clothing, and his characters. I smelled the powder and the blood. I saw that horrible pool you must read about to understand. Above all else, I saw how real men felt and described their different Christian faiths,

something glaringly missing from anything Stephen Crane might have written. Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, as well as those who only scratched their heads at another's belief (or screamed that it was hypocritical and false) all had their say. Crane gave us no hope. Bryant didn't "save" everybody, or straighten everybody out to one belief, even. He let them grope, struggle, and come to grips or turn away in bewilderment as real men do. That isn't to say the message of what brings a man peace in Christ wasn't clear. It was realistically presented, but not everybody understood what was happening or how it applied to them. Green soldiers think they understand how to do battle before they really engage. Some run. Some fumble. Some understand and do exactly what they must to do their duty. So it is with the lost. As prepared or unprepared as they may be by our poor efforts, God gives the increase.

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