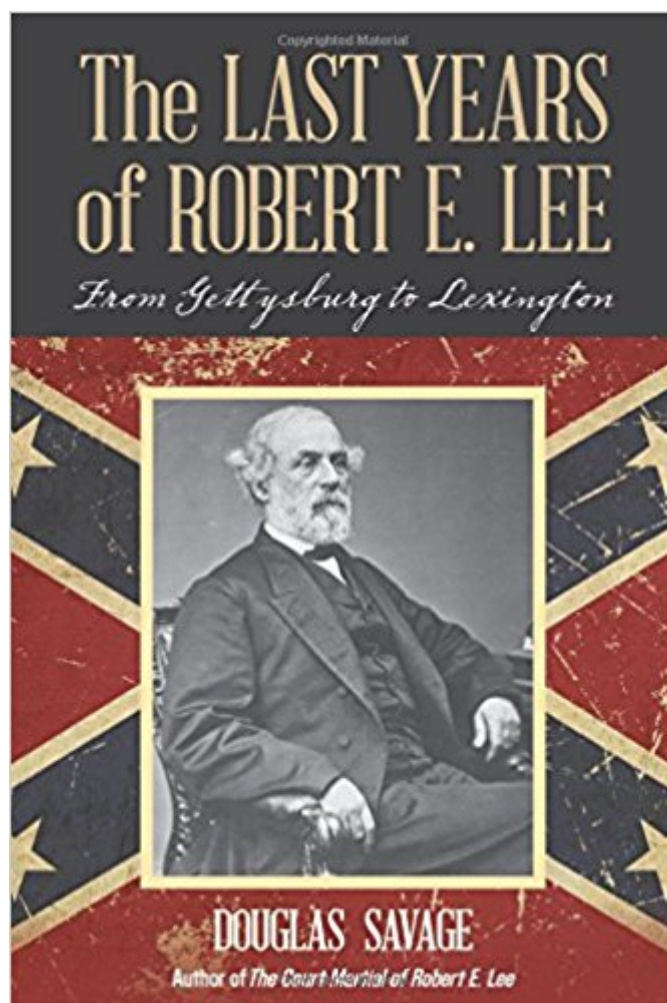


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The Last Years Of Robert E. Lee: From Gettysburg To Lexington



Synopsis

This book details Lee's life from Gettysburg to his death just five years after the South's surrender at Appomattox. Rather than retreating bitterly from life, Lee sought to heal the nation, even meeting with his rival, Ulysses S. Grant, while the former Union general occupied the White House. Leaving his military life behind, Lee went on to become president of Washington College, where he was revered for his fairness as well as his willingness to help struggling students.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Yet another book on Robert E. Lee as one of history's great captains would surely find readers but hardly make news. In contrast, Douglas Savage's *The Last Years of Robert E. Lee* will come as a revelation to many admirers of this master of martial craft. In the declining fortunes of war from Gettysburg to Appomattox, it is a portrait of supreme courage. In the sequel to final defeat, it is a story of the discovery of new purpose and new vocation. Here is the absorbing narrative of metamorphosis from warrior to peacemaker, moral healer, and—in the tradition of fellow Virginian Thomas Jefferson—educator. As president of Washington College (today Washington and Lee University) from 1865 until his death in 1870, Lee struggled through his last illness to invest mind and heart not in the Lost Cause of the Confederacy but in preparing a new generation that might make a broken nation whole. This volume is a poignant revelation of greatness more inspirational and more enduring than anything won at Chancellorsville or lost at Gettysburg. (Alan Axelrod, author of "Generals South, Generals North")

Douglas Savage is a critically acclaimed author of many books, including *A Mouthful of Dust: A Portrait of a Writer in Search of His Own Red Badge of Courage*, *The Court Martial of Robert E. Lee*, *Highpockets*, *Cedar City Rendezvous*, *The Glass Lady*, and *Incident in Mona Passage*. He lives in Canton, Ohio.

Excellent read. Mr. Savage is a marvelous writer. Many details and emotions were included to make for a great read. Glad I got the book. A standout in a crowded field.

great buy

A volume with much information but very hard to read. Good to have as a shelf reference.

This is a beautiful, lyrical account of Robert E. Lee's days from January 1864 through his death, with additional follow-up on the post-War fates of Lee's immediate family as well as other generals. (The subtitle is a little misleading as Gettysburg and the Bristoe Campaign are not covered except for brief flashbacks.) The claim in another (suspiciously brief) review that this book is hard to read could not be further from the truth. On the contrary, the reader is certain to savor the writing and derive great pleasure from the flow of words and images and descriptions and poignant details. The author imparts glimpses of immediacy into the War's unfolding drama which place you in the candlelight and under the canvas of Lee's insomniac nights. At times the feel of this book reminded me of "The Killer Angels" but without its fictional elements, thanks to an inward and personal treatment of Lee, his family and his army. Indeed, that is the primary contribution which this work adds to the Lee lexicon, much needed and appreciated at this time of frenzied vilification of anything Confederate. I did come across some incorrect points in the account. The author gives Lee too much credit for the victory at Petersburg in June 1864. It was not Lee who saved Petersburg, but Beauregard. And he wrote as though the Confederates were completely surprised by the mine explosion of July 30, which was not the case at all. Also, he states that Fitz Lee was "the only Confederate general who became a Federal general later" (in the Spanish-American War), but both Joseph Wheeler and Matthew C. Butler were commissioned generals in that conflict. I highly recommend this book for its close and gentle look into Lee as a mortal, rather than marble, man. It will shed light on his immortality in the eyes of his contemporaries as well as in history.

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