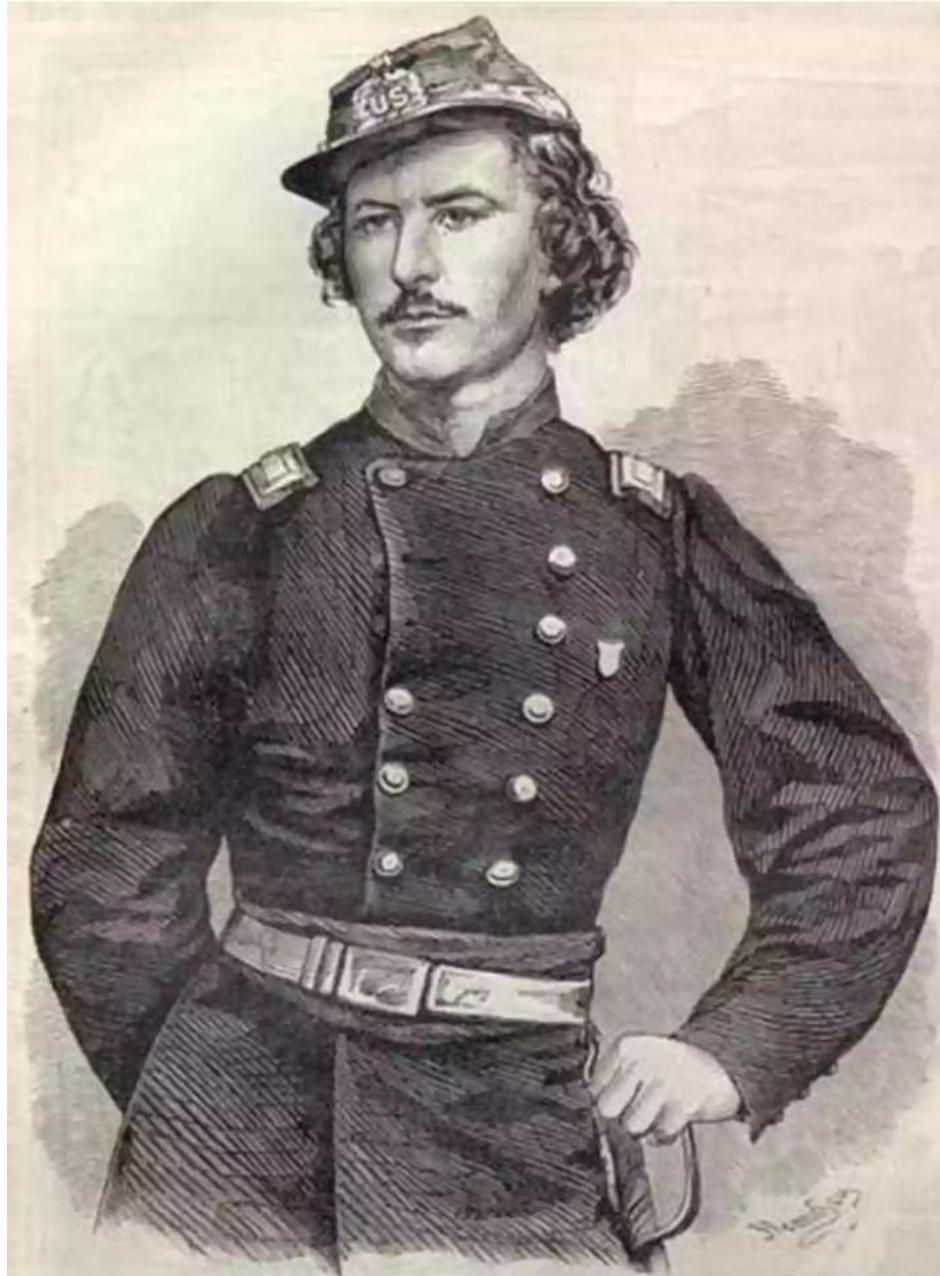


The Life Of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth: The North's First Civil War Hero



When it comes to heroes of the American Civil War, many individuals are known for their bravery, leadership, and sacrifices. One such individual who stands out is Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, an influential figure in the Union Army and the North's first Civil War hero. Ellsworth's life, marked by dedication, valor, and tragic

sacrifice, is a testament to the unwavering spirit of those who fought to preserve the Union during one of America's most significant conflicts.

Early Years and Ambitions

Elmer Ellsworth was born on April 11, 1837, in Malta, New York. A precocious child, he showed an exceptional interest in military affairs from a young age. Fascinated by the heroic stories of renowned leaders such as Napoleon Bonaparte and George Washington, Ellsworth dreamed of joining their ranks and making a difference in the world.



First Fallen: The Life of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, the North's First Civil War Hero

by Meg Groeling (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 36924 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 323 pages



As a teenager, Ellsworth became involved in a cadet militia known as the National Guard. This experience further fueled his ambition to pursue a military career. Eventually, he attended the United States Military Academy in West Point, where his dedication and leadership skills earned him the respect of his peers and superiors.

Rise to Prominence

Continuing his military journey, Ellsworth began working as a law clerk for Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois. During his time there, he formed a close bond with the future president, who recognized Ellsworth's potential and appointed him as an officer in a volunteer militia known as the Zouave Cadets.

Ellsworth's fame skyrocketed when he formed the celebrated unit known as the "Fire Zouaves." This regiment showcased impressive drill performances and distinctive uniforms, which captured the attention of the public and the media. As a result, Ellsworth earned the nickname "The Colonel" and became a prominent figure in the growing tensions between the Northern and Southern states.

The Tragic Loss

The outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861 saw Ellsworth playing a significant role in rallying support for the Union cause. His fearless determination and unwavering commitment led him to become one of President Lincoln's trusted advisors. However, tragedy struck on May 24, 1861, in Alexandria, Virginia.

Ellsworth, accompanied by a small group of men, had the audacious idea of removing a Confederate flag that was flying atop a hotel in Alexandria. As they succeeded in taking down the flag, a Southern sympathizer named James W. Jackson shot and killed Ellsworth, making him the first Union officer to be fatally wounded in the war.

The news of Ellsworth's death spread like wildfire, causing an outpouring of grief throughout the North. Thousands attended his funeral, including President Lincoln, who delivered a moving eulogy mourning the loss of a dear friend and distinguished soldier.

Legacy and Impact

Colonel Elmer Ellsworth's death had a profound impact on the Union and the nation as a whole. His sacrifice symbolized the bravery and dedication of those fighting for the preservation of the Union. It served as a rallying cry, inspiring thousands to join the fight against the Confederate forces.

Ellsworth's legacy lives on through numerous memorials, monuments, and institutions named in his honor. The Ellsworth Museum in Illinois, dedicated to preserving his memory, showcases artifacts and exhibits related to his life and military career.

Colonel Elmer Ellsworth's life, marked by ambition, dedication, and unwavering commitment to his country, made him an iconic figure during the American Civil War. His tragic sacrifice and untimely death further solidify his status as the North's first Civil War hero. He serves as a reminder of the extraordinary bravery and selflessness displayed by countless men and women during this tumultuous period in American history.



First Fallen: The Life of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, the North's First Civil War Hero

by Meg Groeling (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 36924 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 323 pages

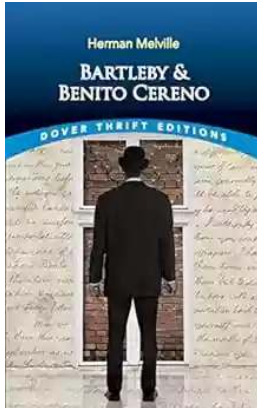


Colonel Elmer Ellsworth was the first Union officer killed in the American Civil War. When it happened, on May 24, 1861, the entire North was aghast. Ellsworth was a celebrity and had just finished traveling with his famed and entertaining U. S. Zouave Cadets drill team. They had performed at West Point, in New York City, and for President Buchanan before returning home to Chicago. Ellsworth then joined his friend and law mentor Abraham Lincoln in his quest for the presidency. When Lincoln put out the call for troops after Fort Sumter was fired upon, Ellsworth responded. Within days he was able to organize over a thousand New York firefighters into a regiment of volunteers.

Was it youthful enthusiasm or a lack of formal training that resulted in his death? There is evidence on both sides. What is definite is that the Lincolns rushed to the Navy Yard to view the body of the young man they had loved as a son. Mary Lincoln insisted that he lie in state in the East Room of their home. The elite of New York brought flowers to the Astor House en memoriam. Six members of the 11th New York accompanied their commander's coffin. When the young colonel's remains were finally interred in the Hudson View Cemetery, the skies opened up. A late May afternoon thunderstorm broke out in the middle of the procession, referred to as "tears from God himself." Only eight weeks later, the results of the battle of First Bull Run knocked Ellsworth out of the headlines. The trickle of blood had now become a torrent, not to end for four more years of war.

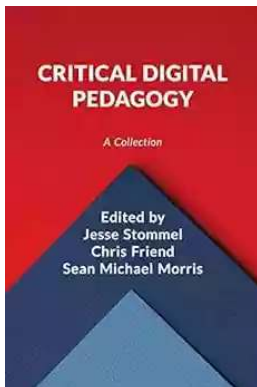
Groeling's well-written biography is grounded in years of examining archival resources, diaries, personal letters, newspapers, and other accounts. In the sixty intervening years since the last portrait of Ellsworth was written, new information has arisen that gives readers and historians a better understanding of the Ellsworth phenomenon. The author's interwoven accounts of John Hay, George Nicolay, Abraham Lincoln, and the Lincoln family put Ellsworth clearly at the forefront of the excitement that led up to the election of a president.

First Fallen: The Life of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, the North's First Civil War Hero examines every facet of Ellsworth's complex, fascinating life. It is the story of many young men who fought and died for the Union. Elmer, however, was the first and--according to those who remember him--perhaps the best.



Unmasking the Enigma: A Colliding World of Bartleby and Benito Cereno in Dover Thrift Editions

When it comes to classic literary works, Dover Thrift Editions has established itself as a reliable source for readers across the world. Two of its acclaimed publications,...



Critical Digital Pedagogy Collection: Revolutionizing Education in the Digital Age

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, education has been greatly impacted by the emergence of new technologies and pedagogical approaches. Critical Digital...



The Diary Of Cruise Ship Speaker: An Unforgettable Adventure On The High Seas

Embark on an incredible journey filled with captivating stories, awe-inspiring destinations, and unforgettable adventures. Welcome to the diary of a cruise ship...



Best Rail Trails Illinois: Discover the Perfect Trails for Outdoor Adventures

If you're an outdoor enthusiast looking for a thrilling adventure in Illinois, look no further than the state's incredible rail trails. These former rail lines, converted...



Child Exploitation: A Historical Overview And Present Situation

Child exploitation is a grave issue that has plagued societies throughout history. The abuse, mistreatment, and exploitation of children in various forms...



The Untold Story Of The 1909 Expedition To Find The Legendary Ark Of The

Deep within the realms of legends and mythology lies the mysterious Ark of the Covenant. Legends say that it holds immense power and is said to be a divine testament of an...



Through The Looking Glass - A Wonderland Adventure

Lewis Carroll, the pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, took us on an unforgettable journey down the rabbit hole with his iconic novel...



Advances In Food Producing Systems For Arid And Semiarid Lands

In the face of global warming and the increasing scarcity of water resources, food production in arid and semiarid lands has become a significant challenge. However, numerous...