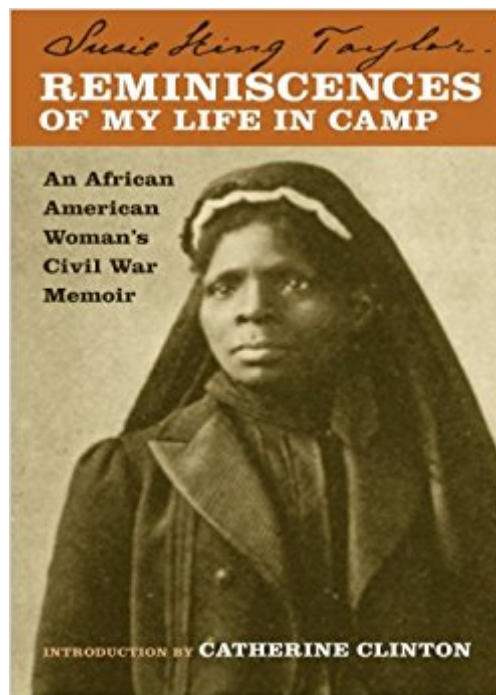




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# Reminiscences Of My Life In Camp: An African American Woman's Civil War Memoir



## Synopsis

Near the end of her classic wartime account, Susie King Taylor writes, "there are many people who do not know what some of the colored women did during the war." For her own part, Taylor spent four years—without pay or formal training—nursing sick and wounded members of a black regiment of Union soldiers. In addition, she worked as a camp cook, laundress, and teacher. Written from a perspective unique in the literature of the Civil War, *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp* not only chronicles daily life on the battlefield but also records interactions between blacks and whites, men and women, and Northerners and Southerners during and after the war. Taylor tells of being born into slavery and of learning, in secret, to read and write. She describes maturing under her wartime responsibilities and traveling with the troops in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. After the war, Taylor dedicated herself to improving the lives of black Southerners and black Union Army veterans. The final chapters of *Reminiscences* are filled with depictions of the racism to which these efforts often exposed her. This volume reproduces the text of the original 1902 edition. Catherine Clinton's new introduction provides historical context for the events that form the backdrop of Taylor's memoir, as well as for the problems of race and gender it illuminates.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Taylor's experiences, as Dr. Clinton explains in her typically clear and elegant language, provide interesting windows into the special burdens and opportunities afforded black women in the Civil War. An extremely well done introductory essay. (John David Smith Charles H. Stone

Distinguished Professor of American History, University of North Carolina at Charlotte)

Susie King Taylor (1848-1912) was the only African American woman to publish a memoir of her wartime experiences and the first African American to teach openly in a school for former slaves in Georgia. Catherine Clinton, an independent scholar, is currently affiliated with the Gilder Lehrman Center at Yale University. She is the author of twenty books, including *Civil War Stories* (Georgia) and highly praised biographies of Harriet Tubman and Fanny Kemble.

Wow this is a good find. I love Black History and started collecting books on the subject. What a great source .com. I only recently heard of Susie King Taylor. Now I know so much about her. When I was in school in the 1960s in the segregated south our schools received very slim picking of black history. I have found so many new people that I study about 5-8 hours a day. This book was a great surprise there are many accounts of battles I have never heard of.

Very interesting

AP History

I love this book, if you are a African American / Black or Person of color you must read this book. And thank you Miss. Taylor.

From both a historical and personal perspective I loved the book. Recommend that it be read by all history buffs.

A truly amazing Civil War tale of a 14-year-old black girl from Savannah who reveals to just the right white man that she can read and write. Several weeks later she is teaching school for ex-slaves under Union protection. By 15 she is a married woman and nurse to the wounded in the First South Carolina regiment of black troops on the Union side. Most amazing is that the regiment struggled on, doing successful forays against the 'Secesh,' totally without pay for 18 months, the biggest battle of the war for their white officers. A short but great read!

I am very interested in the Civil War from a female perspective so I decided to get this book. I have to say I was very disappointed with it. Ms. Catherine Clinton give an introduction which is good and

informative. When comparing this to other narratives I have read about the war this one falls flat. Ms. Taylor's narrative is lacking detail and emotion. I thought I would get a better understanding about life in camp, but that was not the case. For instance Ms. Taylor writes about fleas in her tent and how she barely slept. That's great, but how did that make her feel? Did she hate camp life? Did she question what she was doing there? And to be perfectly honest I'm not quite sure what her role was. On St. Simon's Island she was teaching children but when she got to Camp Saxton I have no idea what she did. It seemed like she was wandering around with the troops. Did she cook? Clean? ??? From page 52 on Ms. Taylor explains what her life was like after the Civil War. So the pages of her explaining what life was like in camp are rather slim. With Catherine Clinton's introduction the reader only gets 52 pages of camp life (minus the first two chapters on her ancestors and childhood). This book is not 136 pages of a woman's experience during the Civil War. Overall this was a great disappointment. I was hoping to read an engaging account of a black woman's experience but instead Ms. Taylor's explanation of the war was dry and lacked emotion. One thing I enjoyed about this book was how she observed race relations. I thought that was interesting and was the book's one saving grace.

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