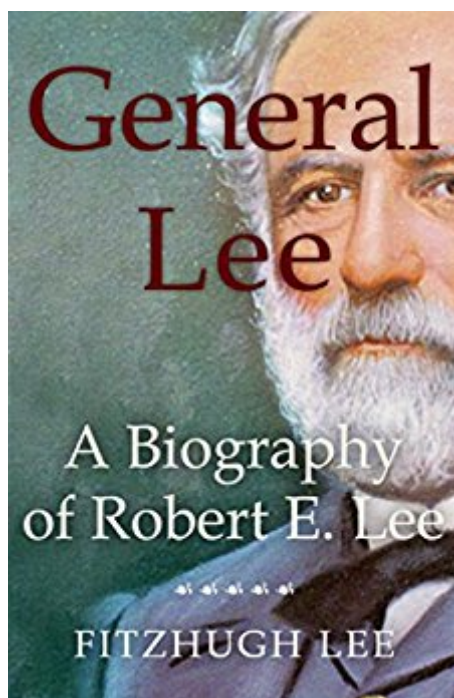


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General Lee: A Biography Of Robert E. Lee



Synopsis

General Robert E. Lee was one of the greatest generals to have ever lived. Although having fought for the slave-trading South during the American Civil War he was, and still is, regarded as a superb tactician and leader of men by both North and South. General Lee, written by his nephew and fellow soldier, Fitzhugh Lee, takes the reader to the heart of Lee's life, from his family origins to his early career in the military as he became a military engineer and fought in the Mexican-American War. Through access to numerous unpublished letters and accounts Fitzhugh Lee provides fascinating insight into his uncle's military genius throughout the American Civil War, from the Seven Days Battle to Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville to Gettysburg, right through until his eventual surrender to Grant in 1865. General Lee remains a valuable book for students of Lee and his campaigns as well as those interested in southern efforts to write a military history of the Confederacy.

- Gary W. Gallagher • Much solid narrative, interspersed with letters previously unpublished.
- Douglas Southall Freeman Fitzhugh Lee was a Confederate cavalry general in the American Civil War and a United States Army general in the Spanish-American War. He also served as a diplomat for the United States and as the 40th Governor of Virginia. Along with General Lee which was published in 1894 he also wrote Cuba's Struggle Against Spain in 1899. He passed away in 1905.

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Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful book that has greatly increased my understanding of the Civil War and the role of Robert E. Lee.

Intimate biography by R.E. Lee's nephew, Fitzhugh Lee.

The author, Fitzhugh Lee was General Lee's nephew and an important cavalry commander in his army. Fitzhugh Lee went on to become governor of Virginia and he was appointed consul-general to Cuba by President Cleveland and retained in that office by President McKinley while dealing the tensions in the prelude to the sinking of the USS Maine. This is an excellently written biography that combines the perspective of a military man with the insights of a close family member. Written in 1894, the book is very readable though the prose is reflective of its time. I particularly appreciated the many small details of military and civilian life at the time. They helped me to understand a bit more of "how it was," during that terrible war.

Drawn largely from interviews or chats with contemporaries and family as Gen Lee left few written documents. Not a typical family apology but obviously slanted at least some by the source material and author's sympathies.

Lee was much more than a Confederate General that led the Confederacy. He was the gentleman that is thought of in a Romantic novel. He was truly one of the greatest military market minds in history. His political thinking makes one think of a Shakespearean tragedy. He certainly made me rethink him. Thinking him to be a traitor is too basic and not looking at a man caught up in History and a moral dilemma.

This book is very well written and informative and even though written by Fitz Lee it is very even handed. Along with other books I have read it give a good insight to the life of General Lee and the Confederate Army during the civil war. It also shows the genius of Robert E Lee as a General

compared to that of U S Grant. Lee continually beat Grant, Mead, Hooker, Burnside and McClellan with a third of the man power. Even Gettysburg in my opinion really wasn't a loss if you look at the number of troop killed/wounded/mia from both sides and Lee's retreat back to Virginia saving his army shows his leadership. With the exception of loosing so many men he actually did what he had planned to do which was to give Virginia a break from the war and get the crops in to feed his army. This book also tells how much he cared for his troops he was always worried about them suffering from lack of food to lack of shoes & clothing in the cold. Even with all the hardships his men endured they loved him and would fight for him and I'm sure won many battles for him because of this. Lee was the best General on the field period and we in the north are lucky he didn't have the man power and supply's of Grants army. I really like this book its very informative, it not only tells about Lee the General but as Lee the man & husband.

The author General Fitzhugh Lee goes into detail on every battle of the war and gives great insight into what Lee was thinking about during those times.

A admirable read unfortunately his son who was a very great warrior was unable to place the blame upon one who took it upon himself after the battle was lost. But it is more than understandable when one considers what he went through in a war that was "all hell" I still shudder with the knowledge how close these men were who faced each other. The pure agony of such a war is so beyond my understanding so I give my respect for all involved.

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