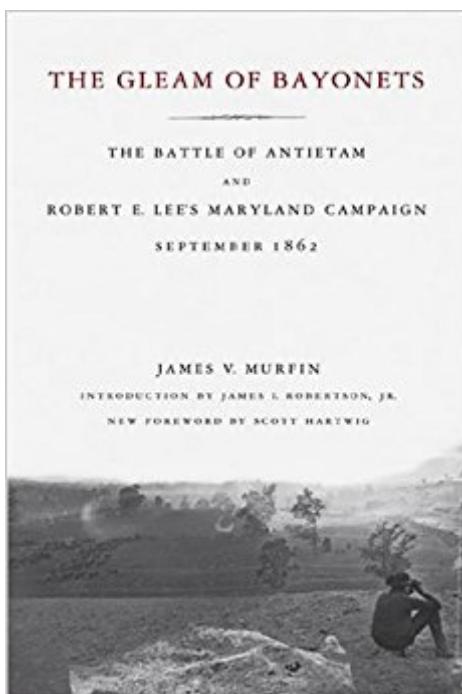


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# The Gleam Of Bayonets: The Battle Of Antietam And Robert E. Lee's Maryland Campaign, September 1862



## **Synopsis**

One of the bloodiest days in American military history, the Battle of Antietam turned the tide of the Civil War in favor of the North and delivered the first major defeat to Robert E. Lee's army. In *The Gleam of Bayonets*, James V. Murfin gives a compelling account of the events and personalities involved in this momentous battle. The gentleness and patience of Lincoln, the vacillations of McClellan, and the grandeur of Lee -- all unfold before the reader. The battle itself is presented with precision and scope as Murfin blends together atmosphere and fact, emotions and tactics, into a dramatic and coherent whole. Originally published in 1965, *The Gleam of Bayonets* is now recognized as a classic and the standard against which all books on Antietam are measured.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"The Gleam of Bayonets was the first book I ever read on the Maryland campaign of 1862 and the battle of Antietam, and it remains one of the best.... The reissue of this splendid book will make it available to a new generation of readers."

James V. Murfin (1929--1987) spent most of his life chronicling the dramatic battle that took place close to his boyhood home of Hagerstown, Maryland. He worked for the National Park Service in the Publication's Division at Harpers Ferry for seventeen years and was the author or editor of more than a dozen books, including *Harpers Ferry* and *National Parks of the U.S.A.* The Murfin Theater at Antietam National Battlefield Visitors Center is named in his honor.

This is one of the BEST books I have read on the Battle of Antietam. The author has a writing style that makes the book move at a natural pace without omitting battle details. Highly recommended!

Out of respect for those who've passed on, I'll not be overly critical of Mr. Murfin's work. He tried hard. However, as Dr. Robertson said in his introduction to this book, Mr. Murfin was NOT a historian. And that fact shows in this work. Further, Murfin's bias towards the north and Lincoln in particular is obvious in his writing. The book also contains numerous redundancies as well as purported "facts" stated by Mr. Murfin that are no such thing. In addition, the maps in this work are of little use for the serious student of this battle. Far better works on this battle have been done by Stephen Sears, Dr. Gary Gallagher, and of course the very best work published to date is that of the late Dr. Joseph Harsh whose "Taken at the Flood" and "Sounding the Shallows" sets an exceptionally high standard for future historians who decide to write about this battle. General Lee made a serious mistake (as stated convincingly by Edward Porter Alexander) in going into Maryland so soon after fighting & winning Second Manassas. This battle should never have been fought at that time, but General Lee believed in his army, as crippled as it was so soon after Second Manassas. And he, along with President Davis believed that the time was right to take the war to the North. A sad mistake! It turned out to be a very bloody draw with no clear winner, sadly for both sides. In fact, this war perpetrated by Lincoln and the abolitionists should never have happened. I'll not editorialize further. I can't recommend this book when there are other far better works on this battle available to the serious student of military history and this war in particular.

Book is great! Service was even better!!!!

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