

Wade Hampton III: A Legendary Confederate General and Reconstruction Era Governor

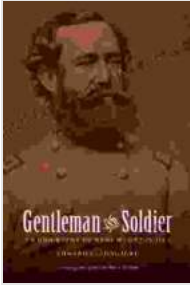


Gentleman and Soldier: A Biography of Wade Hampton

III by Edward G. Longacre

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English



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Wade Hampton III was a prominent American military leader and politician who served as a Confederate general during the Civil War and as the 91st Governor of South Carolina during the Reconstruction era.

Born into a wealthy planter family in South Carolina, Hampton attended the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) and graduated with honors in 1846. After graduation, he returned to South Carolina and managed his family's plantation.

Civil War

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Hampton joined the Confederate Army and quickly rose through the ranks. He fought in several major battles, including the Battle of Gettysburg and the Battle of Atlanta. Hampton was known for his bravery and leadership skills, and he was eventually promoted to the rank of lieutenant general.

In 1865, Hampton surrendered to Union forces at Appomattox Court House, effectively ending the Civil War. After the war, Hampton returned to South Carolina and resumed managing his plantation.

Reconstruction Era

During the Reconstruction era, Hampton emerged as a leader of the Democratic Party in South Carolina. He opposed the policies of the Republican-controlled federal government, which he believed were oppressive to the white population of the South.

In 1876, Hampton was elected Governor of South Carolina. As governor, he worked to restore white supremacy in the state and to undo the gains made by African Americans during Reconstruction. Hampton also led the efforts to suppress the Ku Klux Klan, which had been terrorizing African Americans in South Carolina.

Later Life

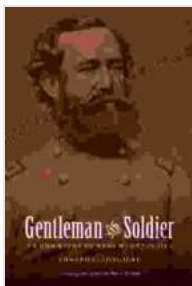
Hampton retired from politics in 1879. He spent his later years farming and writing. He died in 1902 at the age of 77.

Legacy

Wade Hampton III is remembered as a controversial figure. He was a skilled military leader who fought bravely for the Confederacy, but he was also a fervent supporter of white supremacy. His efforts to undo the gains made by African Americans during Reconstruction had a lasting impact on the state of South Carolina.

Today, there are many monuments and memorials to Wade Hampton III in South Carolina. The city of Hampton is named after him, and there is a statue of him in the United States Capitol. However, there is also a growing movement to remove these monuments and memorials, as they are seen by many as symbols of racism and oppression.

Wade Hampton III was a complex and enigmatic figure. He was a brave and skilled military leader, but he was also a fervent supporter of white supremacy. His legacy is still debated today, but there is no doubt that he was one of the most important figures in South Carolina history.



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