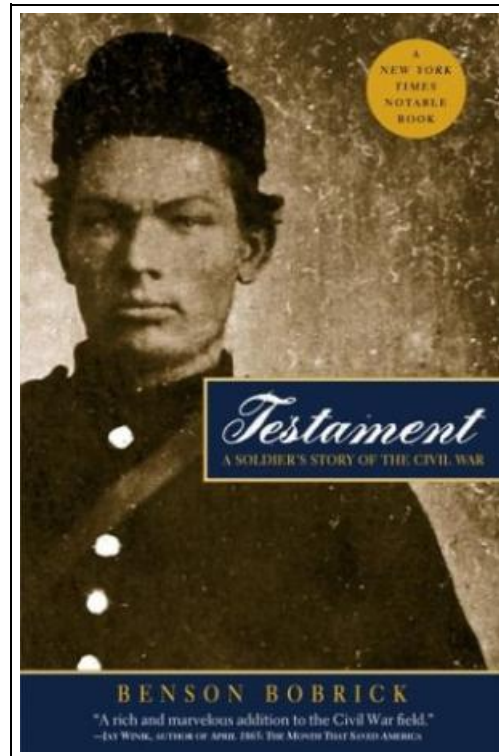


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Simon Schuster Ltd, United Kingdom, 2004. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 210 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The story of the author s great-grandfather s Civil War experience, based on a remarkable set of newly discovered letters a powerful, moving addition to the firsthand soldiers accounts of the Civil War. Dear Mother, I was very glad to hear from home this morning. It is the first time since I left Otterville. We marched from Sedalia 120 miles.I almost feel anxious to be in a battle yet I am almost afraid. I feel very brave sometimes think if I should be in an engagement, I never would leave the field alive unless the stars stripes floated triumphant. I do not know how it may be. If there is a battle I should fall, tell with pride not with grief that I fell in defense of liberty. Pray that I may be a true soldier. Not since Stephen Crane s The Red Badge of Courage have the trials and tribulations of a private soldier of the Civil War been told with such beguiling force. The Red Badge of Courage, however, was fiction. This story is true. In Testament, Benson Bobrick draws upon an extraordinarily rich but hitherto untapped archive of material to create a continuous narrative of how that war was fought and lived. Here is virtually the whole theater of conflict in the West, from its beginnings in Missouri, through Kentucky and Tennessee, to the siege of Atlanta under Sherman, as experienced by Bobrick s great-grandfather, Benjamin W. (Webb) Baker, an articulate young Illinois recruit. Born and raised not far from the Lincoln homestead in Coles County, Webb had stood in the audience of one of the Lincoln-Douglas debates, become a staunch Unionist, and answered...



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