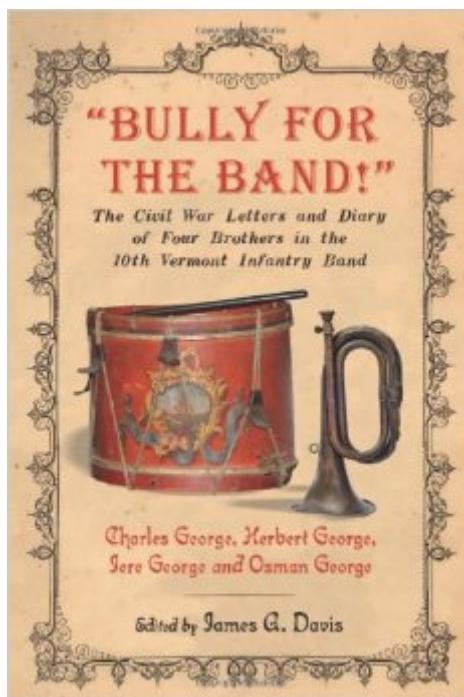


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# "Bully For The Band!": The Civil War Letters And Diary Of Four Brothers In The 10th Vermont Infantry Band



## Synopsis

From the commanding call of the bugle at reveille to combat instructions (such as "fix bayonets") to reassuring songs around the campfire at night, music was an integral part of the Civil War soldier's experience. This volume presents the Civil War writings of Charles, Herbert, Jeremiah and Osman George, four brothers from the town of Newbury, Vermont, who played in the 10th Vermont Infantry regimental band. Their letters and a diary describe the life of an enlisted musician, including forming a band, rehearsals and repertory, performances for officers, troops, and civilians--and battlefield stretcher-bearer duties. Despite the hardships they suffered, including the loss of one brother, their writings (supported by detailed scene-setting narratives by editor Davis) reveal the Georges' fraternal bond that sustained them emotionally and ensured they would continue to serve their comrades in battle.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

All aficionados of the US Civil war, especially past and present musicians of the period will be thoroughly entertained and fascinated by dailiness of the soldier-musicians presented by the Four George brothers in **BULLY FOR THE BAND**. While one of the brothers succumbs finally to the "real" killer of the Civil War soldiers, that is, cholera and pneumonia, the other three Georges flourish during their three-year soldering in the Army of the Potomac. Their deprivations are legend from rain downpours and hunger to illness and fatigue are relieved by the welcomed letters from home and very few furlongs. Their greatest pleasures came from their musical performances that brought such

pleasure to the soldiers and officers in the field as they functioned as a New Hampshire regimental band contrary to official military orders and the usual portrayal of "music on the march". Indeed, the July 1862 decree did not do away with the "regimental band", but only drove them into the officer corps of individual regiments without any proviso to prevent the regimental bands from forming into "Brigade Bands", that is, "brigading with other regiments". The book is well written and will be appealing to both Civil War readers and the general public. Furthermore, it is a rare read of musicians' diaries so uncommon in the ever-growing literature of Civil War histories. Huzzah to the George brothers and their invaluable past and present contributions to our knowledge of "life on the front."

This book is about the underreported and unappreciated role of regimental musicians in the Civil War, both in camp and on the battlefield. We learn about them through the letters and diary entries of the four George brothers in the Vermont Tenth Regiment. The book's editor does an excellent job of providing background and context. The diary entries of Jere George are particularly poignant, as when he describes witnessing President Lincoln riding through Petersburg, shortly after the city fell into Union hands. His observations and reflections have an immediacy not matched by the efforts of latter day historians, writing more than 100 years later.

A well researched account of four soldiers who served as bands men in the 10th Vermont volunteer infantry brass band. The author weaves a very readable account of their experience of the war. The majority of the book are letters that the brothers wrote home. The author leaves in just enough background to aid the reader in understanding the context of the letters. Along the way the reader gains insights into the non-band activities required of these men. For me it documents many activities of the band that hereto for I had read but without any footnoted detail. As a band reenactor I have read seven of the books in print about Civil War bands. This book is the best written the best documented and provides great insight into the lives of these men.

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