



A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens

By Lawrence E. Babits

Download now

Read Online →

A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits

The battle of Cowpens was a crucial turning point in the Revolutionary War in the South and stands as perhaps the finest American tactical demonstration of the entire war. On 17 January 1781, Daniel Morgan's force of Continental troops and militia routed British regulars and Loyalists under the command of Banastre Tarleton. The victory at Cowpens helped put the British army on the road to the Yorktown surrender and, ultimately, cleared the way for American independence. Here, Lawrence Babits provides a brand-new interpretation of this pivotal South Carolina battle. Whereas previous accounts relied on often inaccurate histories and a small sampling of participant narratives, Babits uses veterans' sworn pension statements, long-forgotten published accounts, and a thorough knowledge of weaponry, tactics, and the art of moving men across the landscape. He identifies where individuals were on the battlefield, when they were there, and what they saw--creating an absorbing common soldier's version of the conflict. His minute-by-minute account of the fighting explains what happened and why and, in the process, refutes much of the mythology that has clouded our picture of the battle.

Babits put the events at Cowpens into a sequence that makes sense given the landscape, the drill manual, the time frame, and participants' accounts. He presents an accurate accounting of the numbers involved and the battle's length. Using veterans' statements and an analysis of wounds, he shows how actions by North Carolina militia and American cavalry affected the battle at critical times. And, by fitting together clues from a number of incomplete and disparate narratives, he answers questions the participants themselves could not, such as why South Carolina militiamen ran toward dragoons they feared and what caused the "mistaken order" on the Continental right flank.

↓ [Download A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens ...pdf](#)

A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens

By Lawrence E. Babits

A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits

The battle of Cowpens was a crucial turning point in the Revolutionary War in the South and stands as perhaps the finest American tactical demonstration of the entire war. On 17 January 1781, Daniel Morgan's force of Continental troops and militia routed British regulars and Loyalists under the command of Banastre Tarleton. The victory at Cowpens helped put the British army on the road to the Yorktown surrender and, ultimately, cleared the way for American independence.

Here, Lawrence Babits provides a brand-new interpretation of this pivotal South Carolina battle. Whereas previous accounts relied on often inaccurate histories and a small sampling of participant narratives, Babits uses veterans' sworn pension statements, long-forgotten published accounts, and a thorough knowledge of weaponry, tactics, and the art of moving men across the landscape. He identifies where individuals were on the battlefield, when they were there, and what they saw--creating an absorbing common soldier's version of the conflict. His minute-by-minute account of the fighting explains what happened and why and, in the process, refutes much of the mythology that has clouded our picture of the battle.

Babits put the events at Cowpens into a sequence that makes sense given the landscape, the drill manual, the time frame, and participants' accounts. He presents an accurate accounting of the numbers involved and the battle's length. Using veterans' statements and an analysis of wounds, he shows how actions by North Carolina militia and American cavalry affected the battle at critical times. And, by fitting together clues from a number of incomplete and disparate narratives, he answers questions the participants themselves could not, such as why South Carolina militiamen ran toward dragoons they feared and what caused the "mistaken order" on the Continental right flank.

A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #176847 in Books
- Brand: Brand: The University of North Carolina Press
- Published on: 2001-02-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.19" h x .63" w x 6.06" l, .89 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

 [Download A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

It's easy to forget that the British won most of the battles during the American Revolution. The Americans certainly carried the day at Saratoga and Yorktown, but they were beaten again and again by their enemy elsewhere--and often badly. So it's especially odd that the Battle of Cowpens, fought in South Carolina on January 17, 1781, isn't better remembered in American imagination. As author Lawrence E. Babits shows, Cowpens was the Continental troops' greatest tactical moment--and it marked a crucial turning point in the war.

The fight itself was fairly brief, and the outcome lopsided--it was "a devil of a whipping," as American leader Daniel Morgan said at the time. Babits provides a richly detailed account of the battle, including an especially good overview of the weapons and tactics used by troops of the time. An archaeologist by training, Babits approaches Cowpens with the familiar meticulousness of his profession; this is an important piece of scholarship on the military history of the American Revolution. --*John J. Miller*

Review

One of the best analyses that we have of an individual Revolutionary War engagement. ("Journal of American History")

An exceptionally well-researched and richly detailed treatment of one of the most important battles of the American Revolution. ("Military History of the West")

One of Babits's purposes was the hope that the Cowpens veterans would not be forgotten. The masterful work that he has produced goes far towards achieving that purpose. ("Journal of Southern History")

With the tools of social history, Lawrence Babits has demonstrated what military historians have long argued: war is above all else a human endeavor worthy of study to complete the record of mankind's struggle to survive and to achieve. ("William & Mary Quarterly")

Babits comes closer than any previous historian to reconstructing the eighteenth-century soldier's experience of combat and has given us as close to a definitive account of the battle of Cowpens as we are ever likely to have. ("Virginia Magazine of History and Biography")

Review

One of the best analyses that we have of an individual Revolutionary War engagement.--*Journal of American History*

Babits's book, which includes use of personal memoirs and available pension records, is a model of historical interpretation.--*On Point*

An engaging narrative. . . . An important contribution to Revolutionary War military history, sure to be of

interest to Revolutionary War students and historians of the South.--*Southern Historian*

An exceptionally well-researched and richly detailed treatment of one of the most important battles of the American Revolution.--*Military History of the West*

A superb example of the 'new military history'. . . . Babits comes closer than any previous historian to reconstructing the eighteenth-century soldier's experience of combat and has given us as close to a definitive account of the battle of Cowpens as we are ever likely to have.--*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*

[A] superb new study. . . . Babits's account moves with the sharpness and decisiveness of the action he describes. . . . No other Revolutionary battle has been subjected to this level of meticulous, intensive, multifaceted analysis. This book will stand as the model for any such future effort. One of Babits's purposes was the hope that the Cowpens veterans would not be forgotten. The masterful work that he has produced goes far towards achieving that purpose.--*Journal of Southern History*

An important work that draws upon untapped evidence and employs new methods for interpreting traditional sources. . . . Babits gives us the definitive history of this significant battle.--*Journal of Military History*

Simply one of the best--perhaps the very best--studies we have of a Revolutionary War battle. . . . Babits has mastered the literature of the battle as no other scholar has, and he has made far greater use of contemporary maps and pension statements than any other student of the contest. . . . This study is one of the best examples I have seen of the 'new military history,' which--like 'the new social history' of which it is a part--focuses on the use of the microscope rather than the telescope.--Don Higginbotham, author of *War and Society in Early America*

The battle of Cowpens was so decisive an American tactical victory--the most complete of the Revolution--that its contrast with numerous American defeats still causes us to marvel. Babits offers the best explanation of the outcome that we have, based on both a thorough knowledge of the tactics and weapons of the period and modern insight into the psychology of combat, particularly the probable impact of combat fatigue upon the British.--Russell F. Weigley, Temple University that grow in coastal habitats from northern Mass. to central Florida

No previous author has applied the power of social history to this battle; Babits's work should serve as the model for future historians trying to relate the chronology of events to the position of units and individual soldiers on the terrain of the battlefield. His methodology gives the common soldier a voice in unraveling the

complex details of the fight from the smoke and bad information obscuring key facts. . . . With the tools of social history, Lawrence Babits has demonstrated what military historians have long argued: war is above all else a human endeavor worthy of study to complete the record of mankind's struggle to survive and to achieve.--*William & Mary Quarterly*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Frances Feist:

The ability that you get from *A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens* could be the more deep you searching the information that hide within the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but *A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens* giving you joy feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by anyone who read the item because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this particular *A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens* instantly.

Bruce Brown:

This *A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens* are reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The explanation of this *A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens* can be one of many great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple studying food but feed an individual with information that perhaps will shock your earlier knowledge. This book is handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions at e-book and printed people. Beside that this *A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens* forcing you to have an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that could it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

Teresa Laureano:

You are able to spend your free time to see this book this e-book. This *A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens* is simple to develop you can read it in the park, in the beach, train and also soon. If you did not have much space to bring the particular printed book, you can buy the e-book. It is make you better to read it. You can save the actual book in your smart phone. So there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

Linda Thomas:

With this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. On the list of books in the top

checklist in your reading list is A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upward and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

Download and Read Online A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits #ILMA6UNCY3E

Read A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits for online ebook

A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits books to read online.

Online A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits ebook PDF download

A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits Doc

A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits Mobipocket

A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits EPub

ILMA6UNCY3E: A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens By Lawrence E. Babits