



**History of the 72d Indiana Volunteer Infantry of  
the Mounted Lightning Brigade: A Faithful  
Record of the Life, Service, and Suffering of the  
Rank and ... Prison; Especially Devoted to Giving  
the Re**

*B. F. McGee*

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Excerpt from History of the 72d Indiana Volunteer Infantry of the Mounted Lightning Brigade: A Faithful Record of the Life, Service, and Suffering of the Rank and File of the Regiment, on the March, in Camp in Battle, and in Prison; Especially Devoted to Giving the Reader a Definite Knowledge of the Service of the Common Soldier With an Appendix

A paraphrase of the 31: 35 of Job would read thus: "O, that mine enemy would write a book!" And no doubt the old patriarch verily believed that in no other way could his enemy so completely give himself away.

In early modern times, becoming an author was considered the greatest misfortune that could possibly befall any one, as it laid him open to the attacks of friend and foe alike. Like the unfortunate novice of the present day who runs for office he must make up his mind to have his motives impugned, his character assailed, and himself distrusted by every one. Whether my comrades who unanimously elected me to the position of Regimental Historian, at our first reunion in LaFayette, September 19th, 1878, and at our every reunion since have without a dissenting voice continued me in that position, for a moment thought of the misfortunes they were heaping upon me, I know not. Rut certain it is, that from the very first my position has been a most unenviable one. Comrades will never know with what feelings of utter helplessness and inefficiency I began the work of preparing a history of our noble old regiment; of the most utter chagrin and disappointment that has followed me all along the course of its preparation; nor of the terrible and overwhelming trials that have assailed me from every side. And now, after four years of arduous toil, in which I have waded through almost insurmountable difficulties and drained the cup of misfortune and disappointment to the very dregs, and have had plenty of time to realize all there is of honor or pleasure in it, I am compelled to say that no amount of money would ever induce me to undertake another such job.

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