



Surgeon in Blue: Jonathan Letterman, the Civil War Doctor Who Pioneered Battlefield

By McGaugh, Scott.

Arcade. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. The author of *Battlefield Angels*, Scott McGaugh here profiles a remarkable if little-heralded figure of the Civil War, but one who would have been well-known to the doctors and nurses depicted in the PBS series *Mercy Street*. Jonathan Letterman was an outpost surgeon serving in Indian country before he was appointed chief medical officer for the Army of the Potomac. Faced with thousands of wounded men at battles like Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, Letterman revolutionized combat medicine, creating the first organized ambulance corps and a more effective field hospital system. He also improved health and combat readiness by pioneering hygiene and diet standards, and his principles of triage and care continue to be taught to military commanders and first responders. Based on original research, and with stirring accounts of battle and the struggle to invent and supply adequate care during impossible conditions, McGaugh recounts Letterman's life from his small-town Pennsylvania upbringing as a surgeon's son to his trailblazing wartime years and his subsequent life as the medical examiner of San Francisco. "A nicely crafted biography that also offers Civil War buffs an unusual ambulance-wagon view of the great conflict." *Kirkus Reviews* "A well-rounded...



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