



# Such Are the Trials: The Civil War Diaries of Jacob Gantz

*Jacob Gantz*

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## **Such Are the Trials: The Civil War Diaries of Jacob Gantz** Jacob Gantz

Dust jacket notes: "Such Are the Trials: The Civil War Diaries of Jacob Gantz is a look into the lives of two people - an Iowa cavalryman and his great-great-granddaughter, Kathleen Davis, a Texan who spent over thirty years of her life unaware of her ties to the North. When Gantz's diaries were found, Davis was forced to face 'the disquieting revelation...that he wrote them wearing blue - not gray.' As Davis embarks on a search for her heritage, she reads about Gantz's journeys through the South with the Fourth Iowa Cavalry. Her research takes her to Iowa and the tomb of her ancestor, where she acknowledges her roots. 'He went to his grave proudly proclaiming his military involvement with the Union army; I went away from his grave proudly claiming my great-great-grandfather,' writes Davis. As Davis gains a better understanding of her ancestry, the reader gains a better understanding of the day-to-day workings of a Civil War cavalry unit. Gantz, who spent much of his time in the service as a cook, details the constant search for provisions for the men and horses. He describes the beauty of lands he's never seen before and the ugliness of the diseases that claimed the lives of more Iowans than did battle wounds. Relatively few books have been written specifically about Iowa's involvement in the Civil War, and even fewer actual diaries of Iowa soldiers have been published. This book lets the reader peer into the life of an ordinary cavalryman, but it also advances the notion that this nation's people - those who appear on different sides of conflicts - often are bound by roots far below the surface."

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