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Those who lived through the Civil War have long passed, the only accounts we have of the events that transpired are taken from notes and letters left behind by those who lived through the highly talked about war. As with any event in our history, the details left behind are pieced together to paint a picture of actual events. As with any story, some accounts may be invaluable and un-factual. It is important to sift through the information determining what pieces of history are factual. A good history book will provide factual accounts of the topic, in this case the Civil War, followed by supportive documentation without the authors personal opinion attached. For those who are new to the subject, we learn with the flip of every page counting on the truth and unbiased opinion created by the author.

When I began reading the *Battle Cry of Freedom*, I found it to be boring and dry. I have held out hope that the reading will gain my attention; however, after reading the reviews I must admit I have mixed feelings. Being new to the Civil War, I am unfamiliar with what documentation is factual and incorrectly stated. The author of the book has an extensive knowledge of the subject, so one would surmise he would be best informed to write a factual knowledgeable book about the accounts. But one must still hold out reserve, any factual knowledge is simply gained through research of documents of the era. Without living through the era, it is difficult to recount the events with absolute certainty.

Taking all the reviews into account, I am eager to read the book. Though some of those who read the book felt the information was inaccurate or poorly stated, many felt the lines between the North & South were clearly drawn. Because I am new to the subject, I will not be able to determine whether the accounts are inaccurate or factual. I am going to trust the decision made by my professor, this is a history class and he would not require a book that does not correctly portray the events of the war.

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