

6th Wisconsin and the Iron Brigade: A selective and subjective list of introductory sources

Books and articles about the Regiment and its celebrated brigade abound. It is not the intent of this list to be exhaustive, but only to cite introductory and eminently readable titles.

The Essentials:

Service with the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers, by Rufus R. Dawes. 1890. Inarguably one of the finest memoirs of the Civil War, this eminently readable book details the war experiences of the Ohioan who most personified the 6th Wisconsin Volunteers.

The Iron Brigade: A Military History, by Alan T. Nolan. 1960. Considered by many as among the 100 best books about the Civil War, it is the essential work, now 50 years old, on the famed Black Hat brigade.

In the Bloody Railroad Cut at Gettysburg, by Lance J. Herdegen and Wm. J. K. Beaudot. 1990. Still in print after nearly 20 years, it focuses upon the action of July 1, 1863, but is also a history of the Regiment, 1861 to 1865.

Additional Titles:

The Men Stood Like Iron: How the Iron Brigade Won Its Name, by Lance J. Herdegen. 1997. A readable story about the early years of the fledgling Western brigade.

Those Damned Black Hats! The Iron Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign. 2008. The latest readable account, laden with images, by the dean of Iron Brigade historiography.

An Irishman in the Iron Brigade: The Civil War Memoirs of James P. Sullivan, Sergt., Company K, 6th Wisconsin Volunteers, by Wm. J. K. Beaudot and Lance J. Herdegen. 1993. After the war, Sullivan, living in Western Wisconsin, penned a series of newspaper accounts of his experiences; these were stitched together to form a seamless narrative of the Regiment.

The Iron Brigade, by John Selby. 1971. Part of the British publisher Osprey's "Men-at-Arms" series. Forty pages laden with images.