



Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia

J. Michael Cobb, Edward Hicks, Wythe Holt

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia

J. Michael Cobb, Edward Hicks, Wythe Holt

Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia J. Michael Cobb, Edward Hicks, Wythe Holt

The Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia by J. Michael Cobb, Ed Hicks, and Wythe Holt is the first full-length treatment of the small but consequential June 1861 battle that reshaped both Northern and Southern perceptions about what lay in store for the divided nation. In the spring of 1861, many people in the North and South imagined that the Civil War would be short and nearly bloodless. The first planned engagement of the war at Big Bethel, however, provided undeniable evidence of just how wrong popular opinion could be.

Major General Benjamin F. Butler was in command of Union forces at Fort Monroe, Virginia, at the tip of the peninsula between the James and York rivers only ninety miles from the Confederate capital at Richmond. Thanks to the foresight of Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott, President Abraham Lincoln's elderly chief military adviser, thousands of troops had been assigned to Butler to protect the fort, eventually threaten Richmond, and perhaps bring a quick end to the war.

Opposing the Yankees was the aggressive and dramatic Col. John Bankhead Magruder, who decided to lure Butler into a fight. Magruder fortified a strategic swampy creek crossing, skillfully placed several artillery pieces, selected excellent defensive positions for his 1,500 men, and camouflaged the whole with brush. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Butler marshaled about 4,000 men for a daring dawn attack.

Although Butler launched three charges against earthworks well supported by artillery, each was repulsed. Several reasons account for this, including friendly-fire, a combination of murderous cannon and musketry, Magruder's deft handling of his men, the inexperience of the attackers, and poor Union leadership. One of the sterling performances of the day was turned in by Col. Daniel H. Hill, who ordered his Southern infantry to move across the enemy's front to retake a forward redoubt.

Although the carnage was light compared to later battles, the combat at Big Bethel remained indelibly imprinted on those who fought there. The successful defense reinforced the belief most Southerners held that their martial invincibility and defense of home and hearth were divinely inspired. After initial disbelief and shame, the defeat hardened Northern resolution to preserve their sacred Union. The notion began to take hold that, contrary to popular belief, the war would be difficult and protracted—a belief that was cemented in reality the following month on the plains of Manassas.

Years in the making, The Battle of Big Bethel relies upon letters, diaries, newspapers, reminiscences, official records, and period images—some used for the first time. The authors detail the events leading up to the encounter, survey the personalities as well as the contributions of the participants, set forth a nuanced description of the confusion-ridden field of battle, and elaborate upon its consequences. Here, finally, the story of Big Bethel is colorfully and compellingly brought to life through the words and deeds of a fascinating array of soldiers, civilians, “contraband” slaves, and politicians whose lives intersected on that fateful day in the early summer of 1861.

 [Download Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civ ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia J. Michael Cobb, Edward Hicks, Wythe Holt

From reader reviews:

Loretta Tellis:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also become a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with training books but if you want really feel happy read one having theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia is kind of publication which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Judith Roemer:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a guide. The book Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book features high quality.

Steven Dillinger:

Would you one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt when you find yourself in the book store? Try to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't ascertain book by its include may doesn't work is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside search likes. Maybe you answer might be Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia why because the great cover that make you consider with regards to the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content will be fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

Joseph Lafond:

Do you like reading a reserve? Confuse to looking for your preferred book? Or your book ended up being rare? Why so many query for the book? But almost any people feel that they enjoy with regard to reading. Some people likes looking at, not only science book but additionally novel and Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia or maybe others sources were given knowledge for you. After you know how the fantastic a book, you feel need to read more and more. Science e-book was created for teacher or students especially. Those books are helping them to put their knowledge. In some other case, beside science book, any other book likes Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia to make your

spare time considerably more colorful. Many types of book like here.

**Download and Read Online Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in
Early Civil War Virginia J. Michael Cobb, Edward Hicks, Wythe
Holt #WDJXVCI6M4F**

Read Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia by J. Michael Cobb, Edward Hicks, Wythe Holt for online ebook

Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia by J. Michael Cobb, Edward Hicks, Wythe Holt Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia by J. Michael Cobb, Edward Hicks, Wythe Holt books to read online.

Online Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia by J. Michael Cobb, Edward Hicks, Wythe Holt ebook PDF download

Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia by J. Michael Cobb, Edward Hicks, Wythe Holt Doc

Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia by J. Michael Cobb, Edward Hicks, Wythe Holt Mobipocket

Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia by J. Michael Cobb, Edward Hicks, Wythe Holt EPub