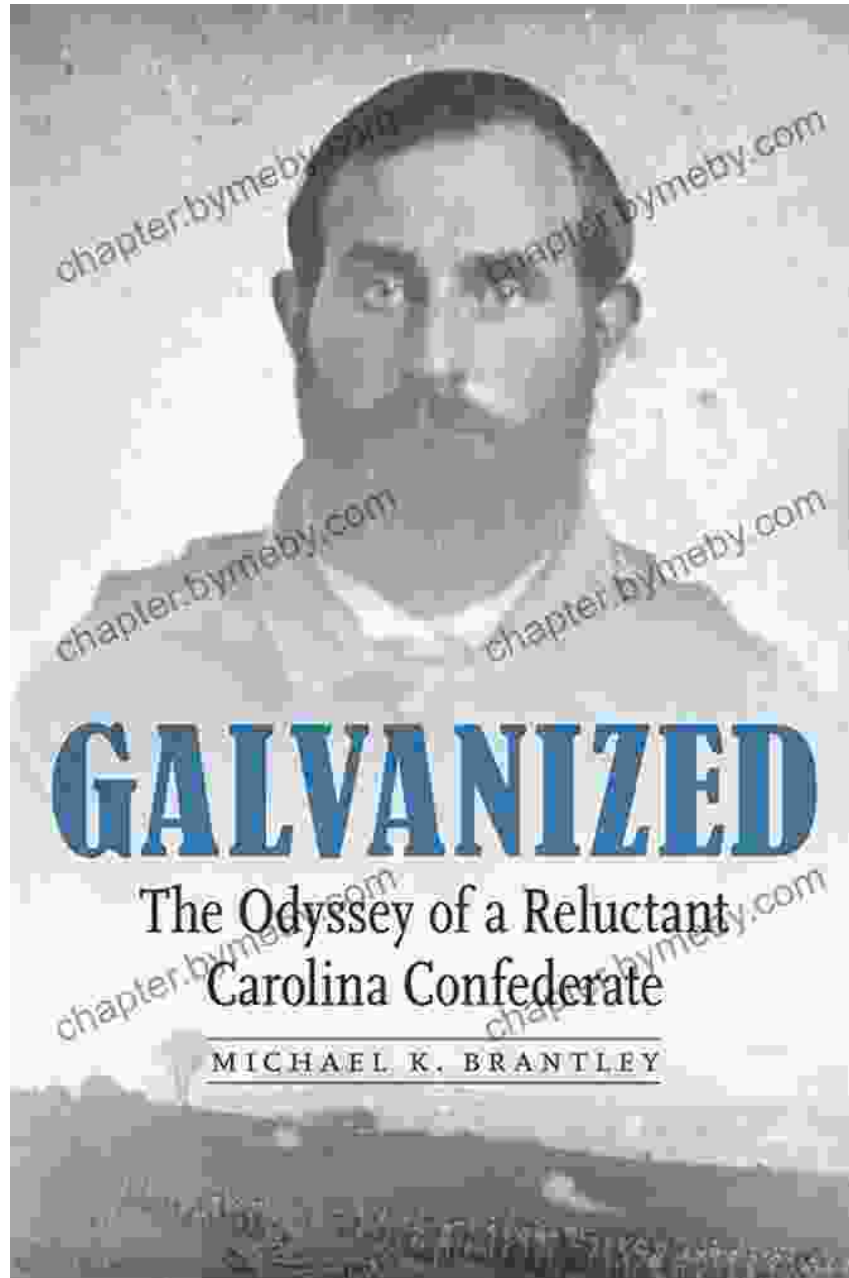


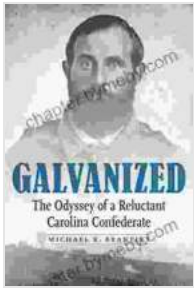
Galvanized: The Extraordinary Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina Confederate



The Improbable Journey of a Reluctant Confederate

In the annals of the American Civil War, the story of Robert Smalls stands out as a testament to resilience, ingenuity, and defiance. A young enslaved

man from South Carolina, Smalls seized his own freedom and that of hundreds of his fellow African Americans by commandeering a Confederate ship and sailing it to Union lines. His daring escape and subsequent military service earned him widespread recognition as a hero and made him a symbol of the fight against slavery.



Galvanized: The Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina

Confederate by Michael K. Brantley

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1303 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 198 pages
Lending	: Enabled



In *Galvanized: The Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina Confederate*, historian Ryan J. Barnhart tells the full story of Smalls's remarkable life, from his humble beginnings as a slave to his rise to prominence as a military leader and politician. Drawing on extensive research, including newly discovered letters and documents, Barnhart paints a vivid portrait of a complex and fascinating figure who defied all odds to become a beacon of hope for both his people and the nation.

A Journey from Slavery to Freedom

Robert Smalls was born into slavery in Beaufort, South Carolina, in 1839. As a young man, he worked as a skilled laborer on a plantation and later as

a harbor pilot in Charleston. Despite his enslavement, Smalls was a fiercely independent and intelligent man who longed for freedom.

In 1861, when South Carolina seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy, Smalls found himself trapped behind enemy lines. However, he refused to accept his fate as a slave and began to plot his escape.

In May 1862, Smalls and a group of fellow slaves seized the Confederate steamer *Planter* while its crew was ashore. They sailed the ship past Confederate batteries and through Union blockades, eventually reaching the safety of Union lines at Fort Monroe, Virginia. Smalls's daring escape made him an instant celebrity and earned him the respect of both abolitionists and Union officials.

A Military Leader and Politician

After his escape, Smalls joined the U.S. Navy and served as a pilot during the remainder of the Civil War. He participated in numerous raids and operations against Confederate forces, including the bombardment of Fort Sumter in 1863. Smalls's military service earned him the rank of captain and the respect of his fellow officers and sailors.

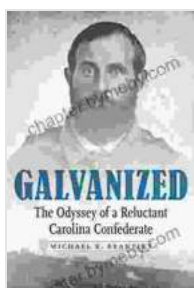
Following the war, Smalls returned to South Carolina and became involved in politics. He was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1868 and served for five terms. Smalls also served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1876 and was appointed collector of customs for the port of Charleston by President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1877. Throughout his political career, Smalls fought for the rights of African Americans and worked to improve education and economic opportunities for his people.

A Legacy of Courage and Resilience

Robert Smalls died in Beaufort, South Carolina, in 1915. He is buried in the Beaufort National Cemetery, where his grave is a testament to his extraordinary life and legacy.

Smalls's story is one of courage, resilience, and defiance. He overcame the odds to become a hero, a leader, and a symbol of hope for his people. His life is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can triumph over adversity.

Galvanized: The Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina Confederate is a must-read for anyone interested in the American Civil War, African American history, or the indomitable spirit of the human soul.



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