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**Charlie Bateaux, 1861**

**By**

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**A Top 100 Free for Kindle eBook**

**"The Killing of Train-Man Brown"**

Charlie Charlie Bateaux, 1861 Bateaux, 1861

**Foreword**

In his memoirs, Ulysses S. Grant wrote about Shiloh, saying:

"I saw an open field, in our possession on the second day, over which the Confederates had

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made repeated charges the day before, so covered with dead that it would have been possible to walk across the clearing, in any direction, stepping on dead bodies, without a Charlie Bateaux, 1861 foot touching the ground."

The story you are about to read is fiction. It begins in 1861, and ends on the second day of the battle of Shiloh.

The story is not pretty, as war is not pretty - as one more quote from Grant about war shows:

"One cannon ball passed through our ranks not far from me. It took off the head of an enlisted man, and the under jaw of Captain Page... while the splinters from the musket of the killed soldier, and his brains and bones, knocked down two or three others..."

Welcome to Charlie Bateaux's world in 1861.

It's the first day of the war, and Charlie – a gravedigger by trade – has big plans.

But the war has other plans...

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And Charlie Bateaux, 1861 Charlie will see way more of it than he wants to...

For as after the battle, Captain J. Harvey Mathes, CSA said, "It was all gallantry and useless sacrifice of life. They were slaughtered by wholesale."

### **Charlie Bateaux, 1861**

Charlie Bateaux (Pronounced Ba-toe) was in the grave when the war came. It was Pete Fielder's hole. Charlie had to have it ready by one o'clock sharp.

But Charlie Bateaux, 1861 he was Charlie Bateaux, 1861 taking her easy.

Plenty of time.

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He lay down on his back looking up at the big blue sky above, as if he were looking out a rich man's window.

Billy Gillis stuck his head over the edge. He Charlie Bateaux, 1861 jumped up and down for joy and looked down.

"Get out the hole, Charlie! "he cried out, "The war's started!"

Charlie jumped straight up and shouted "Thank you, Lord!" to great God above. "That's Charlie Bateaux, 1861 what I was waiting for!"

Billy said, "What you saying Charlie Bateaux, 1861 down there?"

"I said," he said to Billy above, "I'm gonna be rich!"

"How you gonna do that?" Billy said. "Soldiers don't make no money."

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Charlie reached up and extended a hand for Billy to pull him up out of the red dirt.

"Yeah, Billy, you're right. But grave diggers do!"

"What you mean, Charlie? You ain't gonna fight?"

"Fight?" Charlie said. "Smart men don't fight. They make money off the fight'en. That's what I'm gonna do."

He went on. "Smart men make money off both sides. I'll bury Union or Reb, I Charlie Bateaux, 1861 don't care which. Long Charlie Bateaux, 1861 as the money's good and they're dead. How you know the war's really started anyway, Billy?"

"They fired on some place in South Carolina, that's how!"

"Who did?"

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"I think we did. I think it was us opening up on them and they gave up after a shot or two."

"Damn," Charlie Bateaux, 1861 Charlie said. "I hope they don't fold before I get Charlie Bateaux, 1861 to the game."

"Where?" Billy said.

"South Carolina, you dummy. Use your head."

"You use yours," Billy said. "That fighting's over, I done told you."

"Yeah, but people got killed didn't they?"

"Not very many, I think," Billy said. "And none of us. One poor sucker got his legs blowed off! But he lived, they say."

"Damn!" Charlie said, thinking Charlie Bateaux, 1861 ahead and ignoring the news Charlie Bateaux, 1861 about the now legless man: "I can see right now my problem is gonna be

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logistics."

"Lo – what – ics?" Billy said.

"Logistics," Charlie said. "Means being at the right place at the right time. With your shovel."

"How you gonna do all that?" Billy asked.

"Well, it's a dual problem. A dilemma. I've got to be where the action is – but not close enough I'll get sucked into our army. I can't go for that. It's going to be a predicament. But I've got to be where the dead are gonna be."

He walked over to where Billy's horse rested, nibbling grass around a tombstone.

He was thinking. And that was dangerous.

"Was old Doc Dodson at home when you passed by his farm?" he asked, while petting Billy's horse.

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"Yeah," Billy said. "He was tending to his honey bees."

Charlie said, "That's good. Now get on your horse, Billy." He now knew what he had to do.

"What for, Charlie?"

"Just do as I say. I've always been smarter than you, haven't I?"

"Yeah, guess you have."

"Then get on that flea bucket."

Billy did.



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"Now ride over toward the Doc's house, and when you hear a shot - start riding like hell and tell Doc I done shot my knee up in an accident."

"You did what?" Billy asked.

"You heard me."

"You aint gonna do that."

"Oh yeah?" Charlie said. "I figure I can still walk on a bum knee – whereas if I shot my foot off I couldn't put no weight down on a shovel. And a bum knee will keep me out of the army for sure."

"You're crazy," Billy said.

"Maybe," Charlie said. "Or smart like a fox. Charlie Bateaux, 1861 Better a knee than my life, Billy. I ain't gonna die. And plenty of soldiers are. Maybe even you. Now start riding."

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"I'm gonna ride, Charlie, but I'll bet a dollar you ain't gonna do it."

"Well don't spend that dollar," Charlie told him, "Cause I'm gonna need it to get to Charlie Bateaux, 1861 luka."

"What you need to go there for?"

"Cause that's the nearest railroad station. From there I can go just about anywhere there can be a battle. Me and my shovel."

He slung it over his shoulder, and pulled out his pistol he used to shoot copperheads with. "Now git gone, Billy, and I'll see you when Doc gets here and fixes me up. And have my dollar ready, you hear? But don't give it to me in front of him."

"Yeah," Billy said, "But I'm sure gonna look like a fool riding over there and you ain't gonna Charlie Bateaux, 1861 do nothing." He rode off.

"You ain't gonna be no fool, Billy. Don't you Charlie Bateaux, 1861 worry. I'm good for my word."

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When Billy was gone at just the right distance where Charlie thought he wouldn't bleed to death before the Doc got back, he put the pistol to his knee and pulled the trigger.

That's when unfortunately, things began to not go according to his plan.

## **Charlie Bateaux 1861**

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