

Why Annotated Content?

Like most readers, I have read numerous historical novels, many of which dealt with subjects I knew little or nothing about beyond a general notion of the historical period. Unfortunately, my limited familiarity prevented me from thoroughly enjoying the novel's "point of view," as a knowledgeable reader would. As a result, countless "unexplained" portions of some narratives were lost on me, mainly those dealing with military tactics, lifestyles, and/or histories from the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries.

With its Annotated Content, this novel is my humble attempt to incorporate such typically "unexplained" pieces of the historical narrative relative to the U.S. Marines of 1859. Unlike a nonfiction work, the annotations have been immediately embedded into the text rather than stacked in numeric sequence by chapter at the back of the book. In addition, the annotations are presented in a smaller, gray-shaded font. This method allows every reader to skip over any annotation if s/he is already familiar with the intended reference or subject. And hopefully, without the necessity to refer to an internet search engine, many readers will enjoy the "on-the-page" explanation.

You might say, "I am fundamentally a teacher at heart."