



I Fear I Shall Never Leave This Island

Life in a Civil War Prison

David R. Bush

A first-of-its-kind investigation of Civil War prison conditions

"A fascinating study that will appeal to a variety of audiences. The author literally uncovers the prisoner of war experience at Johnson's Island by sifting through the material culture record."
—Michael P. Gray, author of *The Business of Captivity: Elmira and Its Civil War Prison*

Johnson's Island, in Sandusky, Ohio, was not the largest Civil War prison in the North, but it was the only one to house Confederate officers almost exclusively. As a result, a distinctive prison culture developed, in part because of the educational background and access to money enjoyed by these prisoners.

David Bush has spent more than two decades leading archaeological investigations at the prison site. In *I Fear I Shall Never Leave This Island* he pairs the expertise gained there with a deep reading of extant letters between one officer and his wife in Alexandria, Virginia, providing unique insights into the trials and tribulations of captivity as actually experienced by the men imprisoned at Johnson's Island.

Together, these letters and the material culture unearthed at the site capture in compelling detail the physical challenges and emotional toll of prison life for POWs and their families. They also offer fascinating insights into the daily lives of the prisoners by revealing the very active manufacture of POW craft jewelry, especially rings.

No other collection of Civil War letters offers such a rich context; no other archaeological investigation of Civil War prisons provides such a human story.

David R. Bush is professor of anthropology at Heidelberg University in Ohio and chairman of the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison.

"An intimate view of both a Confederate prisoner and his wife. Bush works from their letters but provides insight based on archaeological investigations at Johnson's Island and some additional letters from other prisoners."

—Lawrence E. Babits, author of *Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse*

To order this book, send a check to:

Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison
3510 Confederate Drive
Johnson's Island, Ohio 43440

To receive a signed copy, please indicate to whom you would like it signed. The cost for this cloth hardbound book is \$35.00. Members price \$30.00 Shipping is included. Great for your **Holiday Gift** needs.

Shipping Address:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZC: _____

Signed to: _____

Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison

A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of the Johnson's Island Prisoner of War Depot, recognized as a National Historic Landmark.

Membership-2012

Yes, I want to help preserve this National Historic Landmark by joining the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison. Yearly membership runs December through November. Members receive newsletter and sutler discounts.

Membership Categories:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Member | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing/Institutional Member | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1000.00 |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Mail to: Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison
3510 Confederate Drive, Johnson's Island, Ohio 43440