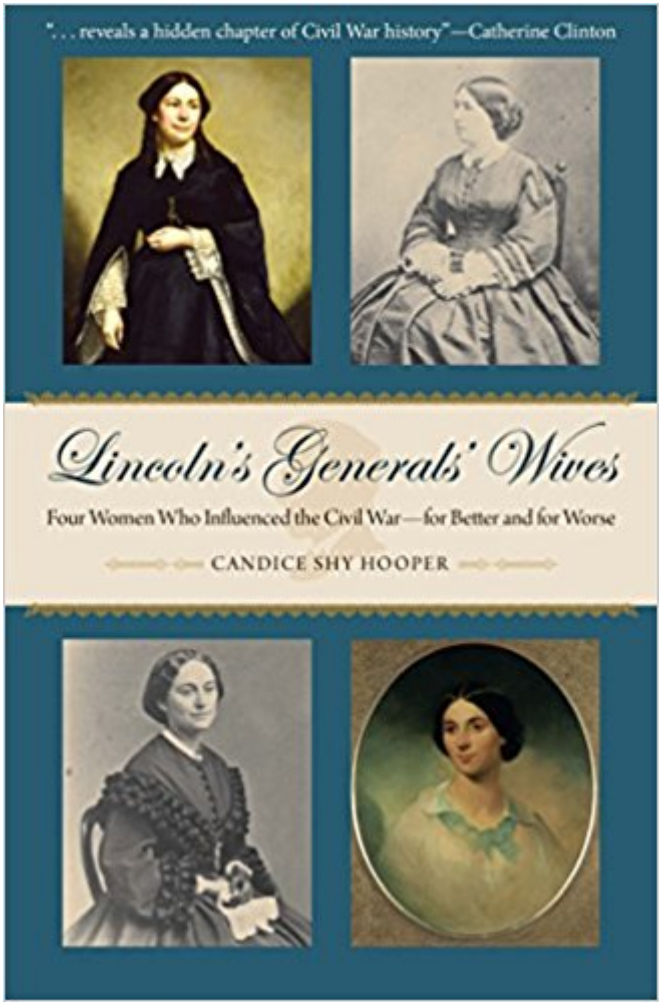
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Lincoln's Generals' Wives: Four Women Who Influenced The Civil War--for Better And For Worse (Civil War In The North)



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Synopsis

The story of the American Civil War is not complete without examining the extraordinary and influential lives of Jessie FrÃƒÂ©mont, Nelly McClellan, Ellen Sherman, and Julia Grant, the wives of Abraham LincolnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s top generals. They were their husbandsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ closest confidantes and had a profound impact on the generalsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ ambitions and actions. Most important, the womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s own attitudes toward and relation- ships with Lincoln had major historical significance.Candice Shy HooperÃ¢â ¬â„¢s lively account covers the early lives of her subjects, as well as their families, their education, their political attitudes, and their personal beliefs. Once shots were fired on Fort Sumter, the women were launched out of their private spheres into a wholly different universe, where their relationships with their husbands and their personal opinions of the president of the United States had national and historical consequences.The approaches and styles of FrÃƒÂ©mont and McClellan contrast with those of Sherman and Grant, and there is equal symmetry in their wivesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ stories. Jessie FrÃƒÂ©mont and Nelly McClellan both encouraged their husbands to persist in their arrogance and delusion and to reject the advice and friendship of their commander in chief. In the end, Jessie and Nelly contributed most to the Union war effort by accelerating their husbandsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ removal from active command. Conversely, while Ellen ShermanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s and Julia GrantÃ¢â ¬â„¢s belief in their husbandsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ character and potential was ardent, it was not unbounded. Ellen and Julia did not hesitate to take issue with their spouses when they believed their actions were wrong or their judgments ill-advised. They intelligently supported their husbandsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ best instinctsÃ¢â ¬â ¢including trust in and admiration for LincolnÃ¢â ¬â ¢and re-buffed their worst. They were the source of strength that Sherman and Grant used to win the Civil War.Relying on a close reading of letters, memoirs, and other primary sourcesÃ¢â ¬â ¢and, for the first time, mapping the womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s wartime travelsÃ¢â ¬â ¢Hooper explores the very different ways in which these remarkable women responded to the unique challenges of being LincolnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s generalsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ wives.

Book Information

Series: Civil War in the North
Hardcover: 432 pages
Publisher: The Kent State University Press (May 31, 2016)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1606352784
ISBN-13: 978-1606352786

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.3 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #333,668 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 inÃ Â Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Women #133 inÃ Â Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Translating #457 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > United States > Civil War

Customer Reviews

The story of the Civil War is incomplete without examining the extraordinary and influential lives of four women who influenced their husbandsJesse Fremont, Nelly McClellan, Ellen Sherman, and Julia Grant. They were their husband's closest confidantes and had a profound impact on their ambitions and actions. And, these women's attitudes toward and relationship with Lincoln had major historical significance. Relying on a close reading of letters, memoirs, and other primary sourcesand for the first time, mapping the women's wartime travels the author explores the very different ways in which these women responded to the unique challenge of being Lincoln's generals' wives.

Candice Shy HooperÃ¢â ¬â„¢s writing has been published in The Journal of Military History and The New York Times. She received her M.A. in history from The George Washington University and is a member of the Board of Advisors of President LincolnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Cottage in Washing- ton, D.C., and of the advisory board of the Ulysses S. and Julia D. Grant Historical Home in Detroit, Michigan.

Amazing research and interesting stories. Brings history and its complex female characters to life.

What a wonderful book. While well researched and documented, it tells a tale never heard before. Behind every great man there is a woman. Which- may or not be the case amount these four couples. Big book and I couldn't put it down !

This is an important book for anyone who is interested in the civil war. Most of the factual books about women are about caring for the wounded service men or masquerading as men so they could fight. This one is different in that is shows that even in a society that women had very little power financially or politically, they found ways to influence the war's outcome.

Insightful study of four women I would never have known. Great look , also, at their husbands, their fathers, the civil war era, and their views of Lincoln.

So enjoyed this book.

I found this book easy to read and enjoyable regarding the information I learned about the women.

wonderful book..well researched and very well written. This is a fascinating aspect but generally overlooked piece of history

One of the best books on civil war I have ever read.

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