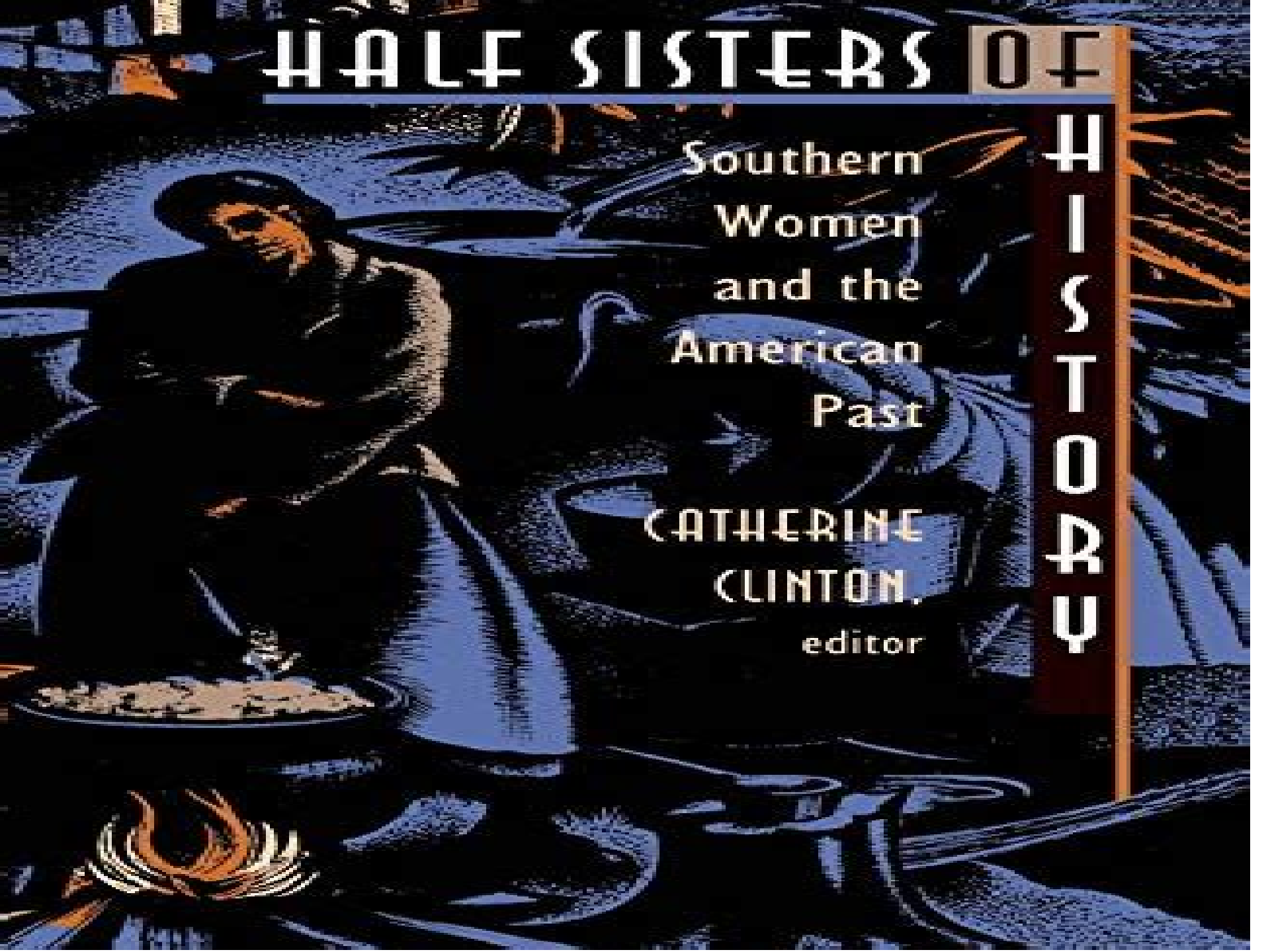


HALF SISTERS OF

Southern
Women
and the
American
Past

CATHERINE
CLINTON,
editor

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Half Sisters Of History Southern Women And The American Past

Carol Crawford Holcomb



Half Sisters Of History Southern Women And The American Past:

Half Sisters of History Catherine Clinton, 1994-09-09 Long relegated to the margins of historical research the history of women in the American South has rightfully gained prominence as a distinguished discipline A comprehensive and much needed tribute to southern women s history Half Sisters of History brings together the most important work in this field over the past twenty years This collection of essays by pioneering scholars surveys the roots and development of southern women s history and examines the roles of white women and women of color across the boundaries of class and social status from the founding of the nation to the present Authors including Anne Firor Scott Elizabeth Fox Genovese Jacquelyn Dowd Hall and Nell Irwin Painter among others analyze women s participation in prewar slavery their representation in popular fiction and their involvement in social movements In no way restricted to views of the plantation South other essays examine the role of women during the American Revolution the social status of Native American women the involvement of Appalachian women in labor struggles and the significance of women in the battle for civil rights Because of their indelible impact on gender relations issues of class race and sexuality figure centrally in these analyses Half Sisters of History will be important not only to women s historians but also to southern historians and women s studies scholars It will prove invaluable to anyone in search of a full understanding of the history of women the South or the nation itself Contributors Catherine Clinton Sara Evans Elizabeth Fox Genovese Jacquelyn Dowd Hall Jacqueline Jones Suzanne D Lebsack Nell Irwin Painter Theda

Perdue Anne Firor Scott Deborah Gray White **Generations of Freedom** Nik Ribianszky, 2021-03-31 In Generations of Freedom Nik Ribianszky employs the lenses of gender and violence to examine family community and the tenacious struggles by which free blacks claimed and maintained their freedom under shifting international governance from Spanish colonial rule 1779 95 through American acquisition 1795 and eventual statehood established in 1817 and finally to slavery s legal demise in 1865 Freedom was not necessarily a permanent condition but one separated from racial slavery by a permeable and highly unstable boundary This book explicates how the interlocking categories of race class and gender shaped Natchez Mississippi s free community of color and how implicit and explicit violence carried down from one generation to another To demonstrate this Ribianszky introduces the concept of generational freedom Inspired by the work of Ira Berlin who focused on the complex process through which free Africans and their descendants came to experience enslavement generational freedom is an analytical tool that employs this same idea in reverse to trace how various generations of free people of color embraced navigated and protected their tenuous freedom This approach allows for the identification of a foundational generation of free people of color those who were born into slavery but later freed The generations that followed the conditional generations were those who were born free and without the experience of and socialization into North America s system of chattel racial slavery Notwithstanding one s status at birth as legally free or unfree though each individual s continued freedom was based on compliance with a demanding and often unfair system Generations of Freedom tells the

stories of people who collectively inhabited an uncertain world of qualified freedom Taken together by exploring the themes of movement gendered violence and threats to their property and indeed their very bodies these accounts argue that free blacks were active in shaping their own freedom and that of generations thereafter Their successful navigation of the shifting ground of freedom was dependent on their utilization of all available tools at their disposal securing reliable and influential allies maintaining their independence and using the legal system to protect their property including that most precious themselves

Southern Lady, Yankee Spy Elizabeth R. Varon, 2003-10-02 Northern sympathizer in the Confederate capital daring spymaster postwar politician Elizabeth Van Lew was one of the most remarkable figures in American history a woman who defied the conventions of the nineteenth century South In *Southern Lady Yankee Spy* historian Elizabeth Varon provides a gripping richly researched account of the woman who led what one historian called the most productive espionage operation of the Civil War Under the nose of the Confederate government Van Lew ran a spy ring that gathered intelligence hampered the Southern war effort and helped scores of Union soldiers to escape from Richmond prisons Varon describes a woman who was very much a product of her time and place yet continually took controversial stands from her early efforts to free her family's slaves to her daring wartime activities and beyond Varon's powerful biography brings Van Lew to life showing how she used the stereotypes of the day to confound Confederate authorities who suspected her but could not believe a proper Southern lady could be a spy even as she brought together Union sympathizers at all levels of society from slaves to slaveholders After the war a grateful President Ulysses S Grant named her postmaster of Richmond a remarkable break with custom for this politically influential post But her Unionism Republican politics and outspoken support of racial justice earned her a lifetime of scorn in the former Confederate capital Even today Elizabeth Van Lew remains a controversial figure in her beloved Richmond remembered as the Crazy Bet of Lost Cause propaganda Elizabeth Varon's account rescues her from both derision and oblivion depicting an intelligent resourceful highly principled woman who remained as she saw it true to her country to the end

The Old South's Modern Worlds L. Diane Barnes, Brian Schoen, Frank Towers, 2011-04-06 The Old South has traditionally been portrayed as an insular and backward looking society The Old South's Modern Worlds looks beyond this myth to identify some of the many ways that antebellum southerners were enmeshed in the modernizing trends of their time The essays gathered in this volume not only tell unexpected narratives of the Old South they also explore the compatibility of slavery the defining feature of antebellum southern life with cultural and material markers of modernity such as moral reform cities and industry Considered as proponents of American manifest destiny for example antebellum southern politicians look more like nationalists and less like separatists Though situated within distinct communities Southerners white black and red participated in and responded to movements global in scope and transformative in effect The turmoil that changes in Asian and European agriculture wrought among southern staple producers shows the interconnections between seemingly isolated southern farms and markets in distant lands

Deprovincializing the antebellum South The Old South s Modern Worlds illuminates a diverse region both shaped by and contributing to the complex transformations of the nineteenth century world A Companion to the American South John B. Boles,2008-04-15 A Companion to the American South surveys and evaluates the most important and innovative writing on the entire sweep of the history of the southern United States Contains 29 original essays by leading experts in American Southern history Covers the entire sweep of Southern history including slavery politics the Civil War race relations religion and women s history Surveys and evaluates the best scholarship on every important era and topic Summarizes current debates and anticipates future concerns *Intimate Partner Violence in New Orleans* Ashley Baggett,2017-10-13 Ashley Baggett uncovers the voices of abused women who utilized the legal system in New Orleans to address their grievances from the antebellum era to the end of the nineteenth century Poring over 26 000 records Baggett analyzes 421 criminal cases involving intimate partner violence physical or emotional abuse of a partner in a romantic relationship revealing a significant demand among women the community and the courts for reform in the postbellum decades Before the Civil War some challenges and limits to the male privilege of chastisement existed but the gendered power structure and the veil of privacy for families in the courts largely shielded abusers from criminal prosecution However the war upended gender expectations and increased female autonomy leading to the demand for and brief recognition of women s right to be free from violence Baggett demonstrates how postbellum decades offered a fleeting opportunity for change before the gender and racial expectations hardened with the rise of Jim Crow Her findings reveal previously unseen dimensions of women s lives both inside and outside legal marriage and women s attempts to renegotiate power in relationships Highlighting the lived experiences of these women Baggett tracks how gender race and location worked together to define and redefine gender expectations and legal rights Moreover she demonstrates recognition of women s legal personhood as well as differences between northern and southern states trajectories in response to intimate partner violence during the nineteenth century

Marital Cruelty in Antebellum America Robin C. Sager,2016-07-06 In *Marital Cruelty in Antebellum America* Robin C Sager probes the struggles of aggrieved spouses shedding light on the nature of marriage and violence in the United States in the decades prior to the Civil War Analyzing over 1 500 divorce records that reveal intimate details of marriages in conflict in Virginia Texas and Wisconsin from 1840 1860 Sager offers a rare glimpse into the private lives of ordinary Americans shaken by accusations of cruelty At a time when the standard for an ideal marriage held that both partners adequately perform their respective duties hostility often arose from ongoing domestic struggles for power Despite a rise in the then novel expectation of marriage as a companionate relationship and even in the face of liberalized divorce grounds marital conflicts often focused on violations of duty not lack of love Sager describes how in this environment cruelty was understood as a failure to fulfill expectations and as a weapon to brutally enforce more traditional interpretations of marital duty Sager s findings also challenge historical literature s assumptions about the regional influences on violence showing that married

southerners were no more or less violent than their midwestern counterparts Her work reveals how definitions and perceptions of cruelty varied according to the gender of victim and perpetrator Correcting historical mischaracterizations of women s violence as trivial rare or defensive Sager finds antebellum wives both capable and willing to commit a wide variety of cruelties within their marriages Her research provides details about the reality of nineteenth century conjugal unions including the deep unhappiness buried within them

Reconstructing Dixie Tara McPherson, 2003-03-31 A cultural studies reading of white southern femininity as seen in a range of popular sites including novels television and tourist attractions

Engendering whiteness Cecily Jones, 2017-03-01 Engendering whiteness represents a comparative analysis of the complex interweaving of race gender social class and sexuality in defining the contours of white women s lives in Barbados and North Carolina during the era of slavery Despite their gendered subordination their social location within the dominant white group afforded all white women a range of privileges Hence their whiteness as much as their gender shaped these women s social identities and material realities Crucially as the biological reproducers of whiteness and hence the symbolic and literal embodiment and bearers of the state of freedom they were critical to the maintenance and reproduction of the cultural boundaries of whiteness and consequently the subjects of patriarchal measures to limit and control their social and sexual freedoms Engendering whiteness draws on a wide variety of sources including property deeds wills court transcripts and interrogates the ways in which white women could be simultaneously socially positioned within plantation societies as both agents and as victims It also reveals the strategies deployed by elite and poor white women in these societies to resist their gendered subordination to challenge the ideological and social constraints that sought to restrict their lives to the private domestic sphere to protect the limited rights afforded to them to secure independent livelihoods and to create meaningful existences A fascinating study that will be welcomed by historians of imperialism as well as scholars of gender history and women s studies

After Foucault University of Illinois at Chicago. Institute for the Humanities, 1988 The essays in this collection assess the impact of Michel Foucault s work on the conditions of disciplinary knowledge in humanistic studies and speculate on the directions we might take from his work They cover a wide range of fundamental concerns from philosophy of knowledge in both theoretic and applied forms to philology history psychoanalysis feminism and politics Whether the contributors would be counted as being for or against Foucault all of them show that their understanding has been altered by the challenges his work has posed In some cases Foucault s thought is severely criticized as an obstacle to effective understanding or action in others his thought offers a resource through which received opinion can be displayed

Advancing Sisterhood? Sharon Monteith, 2000 Though black and white women have long been associated with the heart of southern culture their relationships with each other in the context of contemporary southern fiction have been largely glossed over until now In *Advancing Sisterhood* Sharon Monteith offers an enlightening map of this new literary ground Beginning with an overview of the theory and literary incarnations of friendship *Advancing Sisterhood*

examines how prevalent specific relationships between black and white women have become in the works of Ellen Douglas Kaye Gibbons Connie Mae Fowler Lane von Herzen Ellen Gilchrist Carol Dawson and others Monteith explains that interracial friendships have become an alluring topic for white women writers She also examines these friendships in relation to the ways black women writers and critics have pictured black and white girls and women in the South Advancing Sisterhood explores childhood female relationships in such works as Ellen Foster and Before Women Had Wings and considers recent ecocriticism and its role in charting the female southern landscape Monteith also provides an in depth examination of the archetypal friendship between white housewives and their black servants Through these discussions Advancing Sisterhood demonstrates how contemporary white women writers have broadened their work to include friendships between women of diverse backgrounds and to influence literary expression

Victoria Woodhull's Sexual Revolution Amanda Frisken, 2012-03-06 Victoria Woodhull the first woman to run for president forced her fellow Americans to come to terms with the full meaning of equality after the Civil War A sometime collaborator with Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton yet never fully accepted into mainstream suffragist circles Woodhull was a flamboyant social reformer who promoted freedom especially freedom from societal constraints over intimate relationships This much we know from the several popular biographies of the nineteenth century activist But what we do not know as Amanda Frisken reveals is how Woodhull manipulated the emerging popular media and fluid political culture of the Reconstruction period in order to accomplish her political goals As an editor and public speaker Woodhull demanded that women and men be held to the same standards in public life Her political theatrics brought the topic of women s sexuality into the public arena shocking critics galvanizing supporters and finally locking opposing camps into bitter conflict over sexuality and women s rights in marriage A woman who surrendered her own privacy whose life was grist for the mills of a sensation mongering press she made the exposure of others secrets a powerful tool of social change Woodhull s political ambitions became inseparable from her sexual nonconformity yet her skill in using contemporary media kept her revolutionary ideas continually before her peers In this way Woodhull contributed to long term shifts in attitudes about sexuality and the slow liberation of marriage and other social institutions Using contemporary sources such as images from the sporting news Frisken takes a fresh look at the heyday of this controversial women s rights activist discovering Woodhull s previously unrecognized importance in the turbulent climate of Radical Reconstruction and making her a useful lens through which to view the shifting sexual mores of the nineteenth century

Reading for the Body Jay Watson, 2012 Jay Watson argues that southern literary studies has been overidealized and dominated by intellectual history for too long In Reading for the Body he calls for the field to be rematerialized and grounded in an awareness of the human body as the site where ideas including ideas about the U S South itself ultimately happen Employing theoretical approaches to the body developed by thinkers such as Karl Marx Colette Guillaumin Elaine Scarry and Friedrich Kittler Watson also draws on histories of bodily representation to mine a century of

southern fiction for its insights into problems that have preoccupied the region and nation alike slavery Jim Crow and white supremacy the marginalization of women the impact of modernization the issue of cultural authority and leadership and the legacy of the Vietnam War He focuses on the specific bodily attributes of hand voice and blood and the deeply embodied experiences of pain illness pregnancy and war to offer new readings of a distinguished group of literary artists who turned their attention to the South Mark Twain Jean Toomer Zora Neale Hurston William Faulkner Richard Wright Katherine Anne Porter Bobbie Ann Mason and Walker Percy In producing an intensely embodied U S literature these writers Watson argues were by turns extending and interrogating a centuries old tradition in U S print culture in which the recalcitrant materiality of the body serves as a trope for the regional alterity of the South Reading for the Body makes a powerful case for the body as an important methodological resource for a new southern studies

The Women's War In the South Martin Harry Greenberg, Charles V. Waugh, 1999-02-01 The Women's War in the South Recollections and Reflections of the American Civil War edited by Charles G Waugh and Martin H Greenberg recounts the manner in which Southern women experienced the war and the changes it brought about in their lives Filled with excerpts from the letters books diaries and postwar writings the women left behind it reveals the other side of the war the women's war through first person accounts of women running farms buying and selling goods working outside the home serving as spies and even participating in combat in disguise

Progressive Traditions Joshua B. Nelson, 2014-07-24 According to a dichotomy commonly found in studies of American Indians some noble Native people defiantly defend their pristine indigenous traditions in honor of their ancestors while others in weakness or greed surrender their culture and identities to white American economies and institutions This traditionalist versus assimilationist divide is Joshua B Nelson argues a false one To make his case that American Indians rarely if ever conform to such simplistic identifications Nelson considers the literature and culture of many Cherokee people Exploring a range of linked cultural practices and beliefs through the works of Cherokee thinkers and writers from the nineteenth century to today Nelson finds ample evidence that tradition can survive through times of radical change Cherokees do their cultural work both in progressively traditional and traditionally progressive ways Studying individuals previously deemed either traditional or assimilationist Nelson presents a more nuanced interpretation Among the works he examines are the political rhetoric of Elias Boudinot a forefather of American Indian literature and of John Ross the principal chief during the Removal years the understudied memoirs of Catharine Brown a nineteenth century Cherokee convert to Christianity and the novel Kholvn by contemporary traditionalist Sequoyah Guess a writer of peculiarly Cherokee science fiction Across several genres including autobiography fiction speeches laws and letters Progressive Traditions identifies an indigenous anarchism a pluralist community centered political philosophy that looks to practices that preceded and surpass the nation state as ways of helping Cherokee people prosper This critique of the common call for expansion of tribal nations sovereignty over their citizens represents a profound shift in American Indian critical theory and challenges contemporary

indigenous people to rethink power among nations communities and individuals *Home without Walls* Carol Crawford Holcomb, 2020-04-07 A critical examination of the Woman s Missionary Union and how it shaped the views of Southern Baptist women The Woman s Missionary Union WMU founded in 1888 carved out a uniquely feminine space within the Southern Baptist Convention during the tumultuous years of the Progressive Era when American theologians were formulating the social gospel These women represented the Southern Baptist elite and as such had the time to read write and discuss ideas with other Southern progressives They rubbed shoulders with more progressive Methodist and Presbyterian women in clubs and ecumenical missionary meetings Baptist women studied the missionary publications of these other denominations and adopted ideas for a Southern Baptist audience *Home without Walls* Southern Baptist Women and Social Reform in the Progressive Era shows how the social attitudes of women were shaped at the time By studying primary documents including personal letters official exchanges and memoranda magazine publications newsletters and editorials Carol Crawford Holcomb uncovers ample evidence that WMU leaders aware of the social gospel and sympathetic to social reform appropriated the tools of social work and social service to carry out their missionary work Southern Baptist women united to build a financial empire that would sustain the Southern Baptists through the Great Depression and beyond Their social attitudes represented a kaleidoscope of contrasting opinions By no stretch of the imagination could WMU leaders be characterized as liberal social gospel advocates However it would also be wrong to depict them as uniformly hostile to progressivism or ignorant of contemporary theological ideas In the end they were practical feminists in their determination to provide a platform for women s views and a space for women to do meaningful work **Before Jim Crow** Jane Dailey, 2009-11-30 Long before the Montgomery bus boycott ushered in the modern civil rights movement black and white southerners struggled to forge interracial democracy in America This innovative book examines the most successful interracial coalition in the nineteenth century South Virginia s Readjuster Party and uncovers a surprising degree of fluidity in postemancipation southern politics Melding social cultural and political history Jane Dailey chronicles the Readjusters efforts to foster political cooperation across the color line She demonstrates that the power of racial rhetoric and the divisiveness of racial politics derived from the everyday experiences of individual Virginians from their local encounters on the sidewalk before the magistrate s bench in the schoolroom In the process she reveals the power of black and white southerners to both create and resist new systems of racial discrimination The story of the Readjusters shows how hard white southerners had to work to establish racial domination after emancipation and how passionately black southerners fought each and every infringement of their rights as Americans **Fertile Ground, Narrow Choices** Rebecca Sharpless, 2005-10-12 Rural women comprised the largest part of the adult population of Texas until 1940 and in the American South until 1960 On the cotton farms of Central Texas women s labor was essential In addition to working untold hours in the fields women shouldered most family responsibilities keeping house sewing clothing cultivating and cooking food

and bearing and raising children But despite their contributions to the southern agricultural economy rural women s stories have remained largely untold Using oral history interviews and written memoirs Rebecca Sharpless weaves a moving account of women s lives on Texas cotton farms She examines how women from varying ethnic backgrounds German Czech African American Mexican and Anglo American coped with difficult circumstances The food they cooked the houses they kept the ways in which they balanced field work with housework all yield insights into the twentieth century South And though rural women s lives were filled with routines many of which were undone almost as soon as they were done each of their actions was laden with importance says Sharpless for the welfare of a woman s entire family depended heavily upon her efforts

A Shattered Nation Anne Sarah Rubin, 2009-06-16 Those interested in the nature of American nationalism will find much food for thought in this accomplished discussion of the way Southerners rejected their American identities during the Civil War and developed a sense of themselves as Confederates Foreign Affairs Historians often assert that Confederate nationalism had its origins in pre Civil War sectional conflict with the North reached its apex at the start of the war and then dropped off quickly after the end of hostilities Anne Sarah Rubin argues instead that white Southerners did not actually begin to formulate a national identity until it became evident that the Confederacy was destined to fight a lengthy war against the Union She also demonstrates that an attachment to a symbolic or sentimental Confederacy existed independent of the political Confederacy and was therefore able to persist well after the collapse of the Confederate state White Southerners redefined symbols and figures of the failed state as emotional touchstones and political rallying points in the struggle to retain local and racial control Rubin argues even as former Confederates took the loyalty oath and applied for pardons in droves

Genteel Rebel Sheila R. Phipps, 2003-10-13 This elegantly written biography depicts the combined effect of social structure character and national crisis on a woman s life Mary Greenhow Lee 1819 1907 was raised in a privileged Virginia household As a young woman she flirted with President Van Buren s son drank tea with Dolley Madison and frolicked in bedsheets through the streets of Washington with her sister in law future Confederate spy Rose O Neal Greenhow Later in life Lee debated with senators fed foreign emissaries and correspondents scolded generals and nursed soldiers As a Confederate sympathizer in the hotly contested small border town of Winchester Virginia she ran an underground postal service hid contraband under her nieces dresses abetted the Rebel cause and was finally banished Lee s personal history is an intriguing story It is also an account of the complex social relations that characterized nineteenth century life She was an elite southern woman who knew the rules but who also flouted and other times flaunted the prevailing gender arrangements Her views on status suggest that the immeasurable markers of prestige were much more important than wealth in her social stratum She had strong ideas about who was or was not her equal yet she married a man of quite modest means Lee s biography also enlarges our view of Confederate patriotism revealing a war within a war and divisions arising as much from politics and geography as from issues of slavery and class Mary Greenhow Lee was a woman of her time and place one whose

youthful rebellion against her society's standards yielded to her desire to preserve that society's way of life Genteel Rebel illustrates the value of biography as history as it narrates the eventful life of a surprisingly powerful southern lady

Embracing the Melody of Appearance: An Psychological Symphony within **Half Sisters Of History Southern Women And The American Past**

In a global consumed by screens and the ceaseless chatter of immediate transmission, the melodic beauty and mental symphony developed by the prepared word often diminish into the backdrop, eclipsed by the relentless sound and disruptions that permeate our lives. But, nestled within the pages of **Half Sisters Of History Southern Women And The American Past** a wonderful literary prize full of fresh emotions, lies an immersive symphony waiting to be embraced. Constructed by a masterful composer of language, that charming masterpiece conducts readers on a mental trip, skillfully unraveling the hidden tunes and profound affect resonating within each cautiously crafted phrase. Within the depths with this moving review, we can investigate the book is key harmonies, analyze its enthralling writing model, and surrender ourselves to the profound resonance that echoes in the depths of readers souls.

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