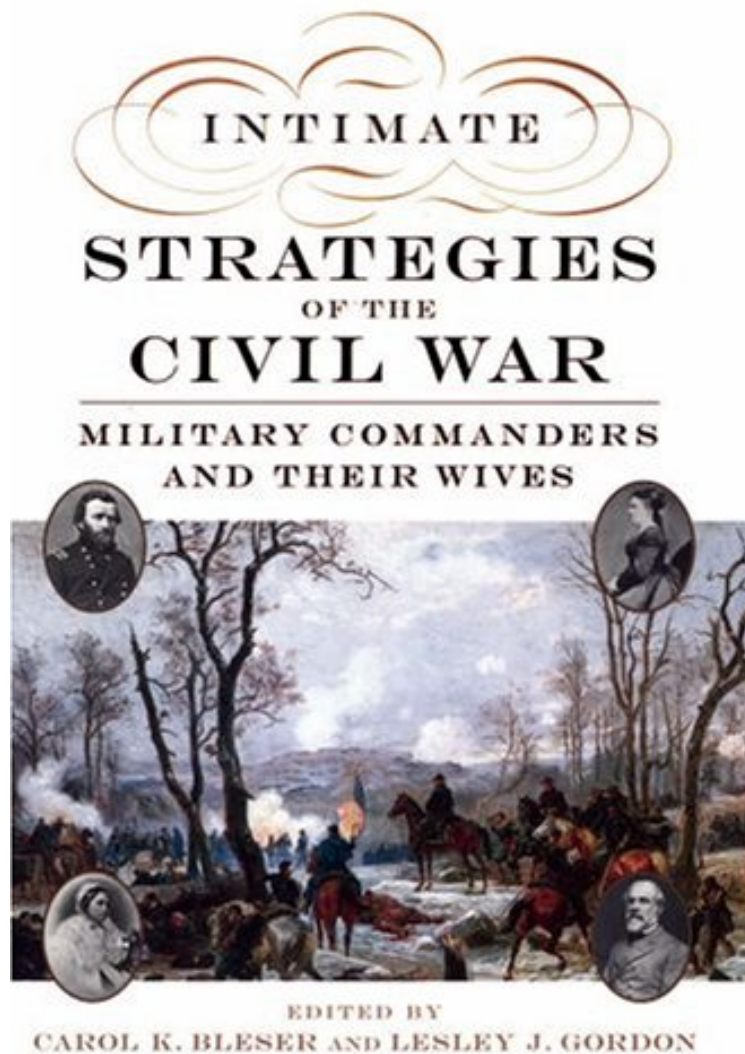


[E-BOOK] Intimate Strategies of the Civil War: Military Commanders and Their Wives

Intimate Strategies of the Civil War: Military Commanders and Their Wives

Carol K. Bleser, Lesley J. Gordon
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Carol K. Bleser, Lesley J. Gordon : Intimate Strategies of the Civil War: Military Commanders and Their Wives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Intimate Strategies of the Civil War: Military Commanders and Their Wives:

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white photographs of the couples. Some of the marriages in the book include the Shermans, Grants, Lee's, Custer's, Stonewall Jacksons, and many others. With so many figures from the civil war this book gives a wonderful overview of some of the more famous marriages and their family life. With so many figures to choose from I think the authors did a superb job with the couples they featured. This is a book not to be missed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. very insightful

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From Robert E. and Mary Lee to Ulysses S. and Julia Grant, *Intimate Strategies of the Civil War* examines the marriages of twelve prominent military commanders, highlighting the impact wives had on their famous husbands' careers. Carol K. Bleser and Lesley J. Gordon assemble an impressive array of leading scholars to explore the marriages of six Confederate and six Union commanders. Contributors reveal that, for many of these men, the matrimonial bond was the most important relationship in their lives, one that shaped (and was shaped by) their military experience. In some cases, the commanders' spouses proved relentless and skillful promoters of their husbands' careers. Jessie Frmont drew on all of her connections as the daughter of former Senator Thomas Hart Benton to aid her modestly talented husband John. Others bolstered their military spouses in less direct ways. For example, Ulysses S. Grant's relationship with Julia (a Southerner and former slave owner herself) kept him anchored in stormy times. Here, too, are tense and tempestuous pairings, such as William Tecumseh Sherman and his wife Ellen--his foster sister before becoming his wife--and Jefferson Davis's fascinatingly complex bond with Varina, further complicated by the hostile rumors about the two in Richmond society. Throughout, these historians paint remarkably intimate portraits of their subjects. Readers will see these famed men in a way that they perhaps never considered: not merely as famous leaders, but as lovers, husbands and fathers.

From Publishers Weekly In *Intimate Strategies of the Civil War: Military Commanders and Their Wives*, editors Carol K. Bleser (In Joy and in Sorrow) and Lesley J. Gordon (General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend) present essays on the domestic lives of six Union and six Confederate leaders, by an array of historians. Sarah Gardner looks at Mary Anna Jackson's self-appointed role as style counsel to the reluctant Stonewall; he begged her to stop sending him pants decorated with gold braiding, and shied away from her efforts to make the most of his wartime glory. John F. Marszalek examines the unharmonious relationship between General "Cump" Sherman and Ellen Boyle Sherman, beset by insurmountable, lifelong religious and lifestyle differences after the war. A limited audience of Civil War and pop culture scholars will appreciate this narrow but engaging collection. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal Readers are not as likely to recognize the names of Varina Howell Davis and Julia Dent Grant as those of their husbands, Jefferson and Ulysses, but these wives of Civil War leaders also contributed to the war's outcome and to their husbands' careers. Long neglected in traditional military treatments of the conflict, the family life and very different wives of 12 of the Union's and Confederate's most significant leaders are the topic of this fascinating collection of essays. Editors Bleser (emerita, history, Clemson; In Joy and Sorrow: Women, Family, and Marriage in the Victorian South) and Gordon (history, Univ. of Akron; General George E. Pickett) are well qualified to compile and contribute to such a volume. Other respected historians, editors, and biographers provide well-written, thoroughly documented essays to this first volume to provide such an extensive examination of the Civil War commanders' wives. Highly recommended for any academic or public library. Theresa McDevitt, Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "From homefront to battlefield, from the first couple of the Confederacy to the marriages of Grant and Sherman, *Intimate Strategies* takes us behind the frontlines and into commanders' tents, where other battles were fought--conflicts within conflicts, ebbing and flowing during the course of the Civil War."--Catherine Clinton, author of *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom* "Civil War scholarship too often has separated the home front and the battlefield, examining each in isolation and obscuring the myriad connections between the two. This collection of essays joins a growing body of literature that refreshingly counters that trend, exploring the lives of a dozen prominent couples and underscoring the fact that, even amid momentous military and political events, relationships with spouses and families often held center stage. Readers interested in Civil War military history, the importance of gender as an analytical tool, and the ways in which personal relationships

influenced postwar writings about the conflict will read this book with profit--as will anyone drawn to the often compelling stories of Robert and Mary Lee, Ulysses and Julia Grant, Fannie and Joshua Chamberlain, and the other famous couples."--Gary W. Gallagher, author of *The Confederate War* and *Lee and His Army in Confederate History*"Intimate Strategies delivers fresh, readable material to both Civil War specialists and general readers. Original in conception and successful in execution, these twelve essays on the marriages of Union and Confederate commanders and their wives probe a neglected interaction between private affairs and public matters. Through their fascinating, sometimes surprising profiles of these marriages of well-known commanders including those of Lee, Grant, Jackson, and Sherman, the authors break down the artificial divide between battlefield and marriage bed. Intimate Strategies doesn't just personalize the larger themes of military and gender history; it also displays the significance of marriage as an historical topic."--Jean Baker, author of *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography*"The dozen essays in these pages collectively give us both a view of a too-much neglected side of Civil War America and offer insights into the lives of some of the period's prominent men and of the fascinating women who shared life with them. The editors and their colleagues have put together a fine work that will do much to aid our understanding of the era and its people."--Richard M. McMurry, author of *Atlanta 1864: Last Chance for the Confederacy*"This edited collection will surely silence anyone foolish enough to think that the curtain should be brought down on Civil War historiography. Intimate Strategies moves into relatively uncharted territory and undertakes the systematic exploration of private lives and military performance. The contributing authors demonstrate that marriage, long regarded by some as a private blood sport, also affected the panoramic public bloodletting of the Blue and the Gray."--Margaret Ripley Wolfe, author of *Daughters of Canaan: A Saga of Southern Women*