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The Rhetoric of Rebel Women: Civil War Diaries and Confederate Persuasion

By Kimberly Harrison

Southern Illinois University Press, United States, 2013.
Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. During the American Civil War, southern white women found themselves speaking and acting in unfamiliar and tumultuous circumstances. With the war at their doorstep, women who supported the war effort took part in defining what it meant to be, and to behave as, a Confederate through their verbal and non-verbal rhetorics. Though most did not speak from the podium, they viewed themselves as participants in the war effort, indicating that what they did or did not say could matter. Drawing on the rich evidence in women's Civil War diaries, *The Rhetoric of Rebel Women* recognises women's persuasive activities as contributions to the creation and maintenance of Confederate identity and culture. Informed by more than one hundred diaries, this study provides insight into how women cultivated rhetorical agency, challenging traditional gender expectations while also upholding a cultural status quo. Author Kimberly Harrison analyses the rhetorical choices these women made and valued in wartime and postwar interactions with Union officers and soldiers, slaves and former slaves, local community members, and even their God. In their intimate accounts of everyday...



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