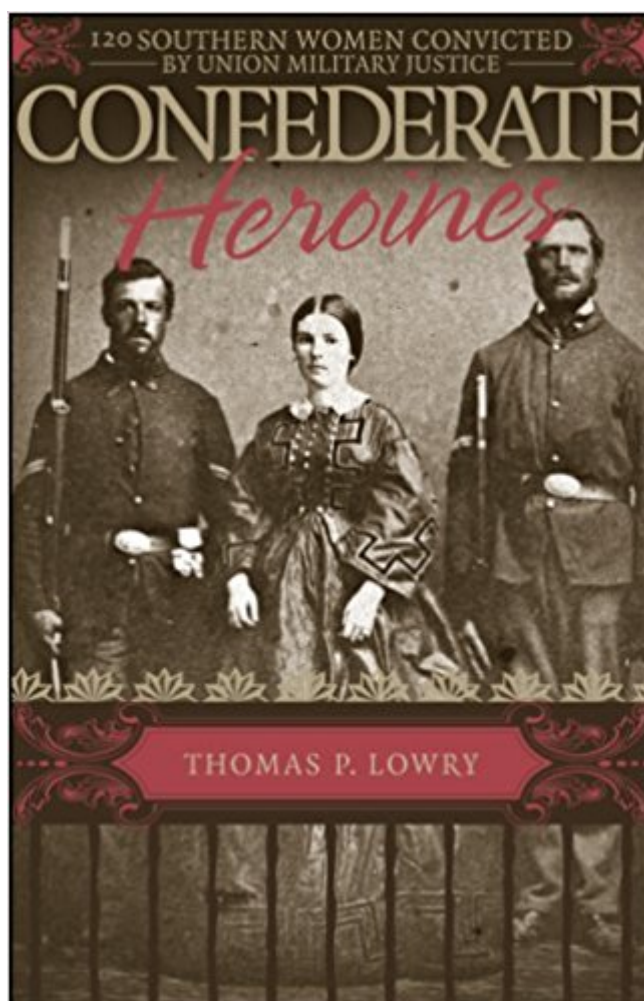


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# Confederate Heroines: 120 Southern Women Convicted By Union Military Justice



## Synopsis

During the Civil War, southern women fought a war within a war. While most of their efforts involved legal activities, many women in the Confederacy challenged Federal authority in more direct and dangerous ways. Here are their stories, many in first-person testimonies.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lowry (*Don't Shoot That Boy: Lincoln and Military Justice*) recounts the exploits of women who broke the law to serve the South. These feisty Scarlett O'Haras spied, smuggled medicine and cut telegraph wires. Even women who didn't intentionally help the Confederacy are included: prostitutes spread venereal disease that made Union soldiers "that much less of a threat to the men in butternut and gray." As the title suggests, there is more than a little lost cause Confederate patriotism in this book; Lowry praises the women as "heroic," but never grapples with the fact that their daring deeds were acts of treason against the U.S. government. A retired psychiatrist, Lowry doesn't bring the questions of a trained historian to bear, nor does his prose transcend the workaday. Nonetheless, this book is remarkable for the amount of research it represents—the author and his wife, Beverly Ann Lowry, slogged through transcripts of over 80,000 Union military trials, and they have done Civil War buffs a great service by digging up so many accounts of Confederate women's wartime activities. 4 b&w photos, 1 line drawing. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Psychologist and amateur historian Lowry has certainly done his homework. After poring over some

75,000 federal court documents pertaining to Civil War-era military trials, he extrapolates fascinating profiles of 120 women who were convicted of crimes against the U.S. army or government. Labeling all these women "heroines" is a bit of a stretch; a few were prostitutes convicted of spreading venereal diseases among the Union troops; nevertheless, these brief accounts detailing smuggling, spying, and sabotage provide an alternative to the more familiar representation of passive Southern womanhood. Although lacking in analytical historical perspective, this study will provide Civil War scholars and feminists with plenty of previously uncharted information, and casual readers will enjoy some of the more remarkable exploits. Margaret Flanagan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

A lot of good information.

I love history and this book fit right into my love for the civil war time period. Everyone should read this

This is a superb work for those interested in long-buried facets of our Civil War. Although the great number of publications dealing with the general subject might make one think that there are no new pastures to plow, Dr. Thomas Lowry has been pioneering one new field of research after another, from the "dark side" of Civil War medicine to the way courts-martial records illuminate--and round out--the moonshine-and-magnolias approach that still infects so much popular history-writing. I was bemused to read that one reviewer found this something of a "Lost Cause" book, since Lowry more often has written from the Union point of view; the point is that he's fair and serious--and easily the most creative, brilliant, innovative researcher at work today in the field of Civil War studies. The professoriat, buffs and lay readers alike owe Lowry a series of enormous debts. I believe I've read every one of his books and no author has taught me more about the period. This hard-facts volume about the roles played by Confederate women (including not a few eccentrics and dubious characters) in championing their cause deepens our understanding--whether our sympathies lie north or south of the Mason-Dixon line. You have to go straight to the Official Records to get information of this depth and quality. As for any academic criticism of Lowry--who was a career psychiatrist before devoting his life to this subject--it's pure jealousy. Lowry and his wife (who aids in his research) have done the tough, grinding archives-crunching that academics claim to respect but too-often shun in fact. This fine volume is the straightforward, unadorned truth about the American Civil War (think Joe Friday goes to Natchez). Very highly recommended for all serious students of

the period, as well as for general readers who delight in seeing things from a fresh point of view.

I am a history buff and I really enjoyed reading this book. It's an easy read and a lot of fun.

Just read today that the National Archives have discovered that Mr. Lowry changed an Abraham Lincoln document to make it look like that the last thing Lincoln did on 14 April 1865 (the day of his death) was pardon a soldier. Mr. Lowry told the Archives that he did it to essentially make himself important because he was the discoverer of this amazing document. The statute of limitations have passed and Mr. Lowry will not be charged for desecrating a national document; however, this now puts everything Mr. Lowry has written under a microscope of suspicion. Now his work needs to be taken with a grain of salt. It's really sad when someone sabotages themselves for a little bit of recognition.

Via altering an original handwritten Abe Lincoln Document for no reason other than to stroke your own ego, you attempted to steal history from everyone. Thank god you were caught, shame you cannot be sent to prison, as you deserve. I'll never know how good your books are or aren't, because I will now never buy them... and isn't that a shame, Thomas? Isn't it a shame that your books may contain a wealth of quality, otherwise accurate research, but because you pulled back the curtains on your character and showed everyone that you're a fraud, the sum total of your life's academic work will be wholly discarded- baby, bathwater and all? We should all be thankful that this was caught while you were still alive, and whatever credit you're due- as a criminal who confessed after being caught red-handed- should be delivered on to you... But take no comfort in that. You are a disgrace, Thomas Lowry. You are a liar and a fraud who attempted to hijack the historical record for your own, narrow interests. Shame.

I was wonderfully surprised by this book. Although I have read a lot of literature on the Civil War, I had little knowledge of the women charged with espionage. I found it a fascinating read, and very insightful as to a role women could take in a war that was, although tragic, passionately fought by both sides. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in history, and particularly to those Civil War aficionados.

From 1861 through 1865 Southern women in the Confederacy challenged Federal authority, aiding deserters, feeding Confederate bushwhackers, and cutting Federal telegraph wires. Lowry's

investigation uses some 75,000 Federal court-martial records recently uncovered in Nation Archives files and largely unrevealed since the Civil War to provide a striking historical survey of the events and lives of these women, making this a major pick not only for military collections strong in Civil War history, but for general holdings strong on women's history. Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch

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