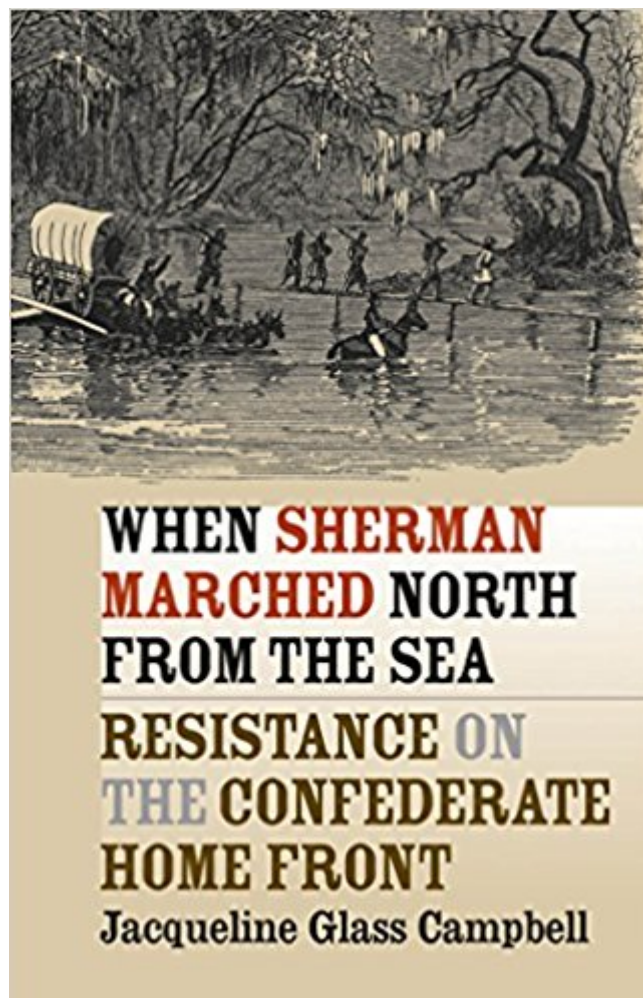


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# When Sherman Marched North From The Sea: Resistance On The Confederate Home Front (Civil War America)



## Synopsis

Home front and battle front merged in 1865 when General William T. Sherman occupied Savannah and then marched his armies north through the Carolinas. Although much has been written about the military aspects of Sherman's March, Jacqueline Campbell reveals a more complex story. Integrating evidence from Northern soldiers and from Southern civilians, black and white, male and female, Campbell demonstrates the importance of culture for determining the limits of war and how it is fought. Sherman's March was an invasion of both geographical and psychological space. The Union army viewed the Southern landscape as military terrain. But when they brought war into Southern households, Northern soldiers were frequently astounded by the fierceness with which many white Southern women defended their homes. Campbell argues that in the household-centered South, Confederate women saw both ideological and material reasons to resist. While some Northern soldiers lauded this bravery, others regarded such behavior as inappropriate and unwomanly. Campbell also investigates the complexities behind African Americans' decisions either to stay on the plantation or to flee with Union troops. Black Southerners' delight at the coming of the army of "emancipation" often turned to terror as Yankees plundered their homes and assaulted black women. Ultimately, *When Sherman Marched North from the Sea* calls into question postwar rhetoric that represented the heroic defense of the South as a male prerogative and praised Confederate women for their "feminine" qualities of sentimentality, patience, and endurance. Campbell suggests that political considerations underlie this interpretation--that Yankee depredations seemed more outrageous when portrayed as an attack on defenseless women and children. Campbell convincingly restores these women to their role as vital players in the fight for a Confederate nation, as models of self-assertion rather than passive self-sacrifice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Both intellectually sophisticated and warmly human, it's a major work. Highly recommended. (Mark Grimsley, author of "The Hard Hand of War: Union Military Policy Toward Southern Civilians, 1861-1865")""One of those rare books that artfully weaves military and social history into one story while seamlessly analyzing the cultural assumptions of an era that should have ruled the behavior of both combatants and civilians, and later shaped the memory and interpretation of Sherman's March through the Carolinas. . . . A fascinating subject, meticulous research, and an eminently readable narration. "Georgia Historical Quarterly""A well-written, well-argued, thought-provoking account of this less-remembered, but perhaps more important, part of Sherman's march across the South. Campbell convinces the reader that southern women did not react passively and that the presence of Union troops reinforced rather than destroyed their loyalty to the Confederacy. In accomplishing this goal, Campbell has deftly addressed and intertwined the fields of women's history, African-American history, military history, and public memory in a brief, accessible work. "Civil War Book Review""Anyone interested in a well-researched account of Confederate women's responses to Sherman's march will find this study rewarding." -- "American Historical Review""A worthy addition to the burgeoning literature focusing on the social and cultural aspects of the Civil War. Concise yet thoroughly researched, it contributes fresh, thought-provoking insights into a long-neglected area of study: the interaction between General William T. Sherman's soldiers and southern civilians, black and white, male and female, during his march through the Carolinas." -- "The South Carolina Historical Magazine"

Using the dual lens of gender and race, Jacqueline Glass Campbell provides a unique view into the intersection of military and civilian life. . . . Campbell's well-written and engaging study is a 'must read' for scholars and students seeking to understand the interplay between Union military policy and Confederate women's patriotism.--H-SAWH[Campbell's] book is well worth reading for its insights on gender, race, and what she calls the cultural politics of war.--H-Civil WarShort but illuminating. . . . Campbell's work not only fills a void in the phase of Sherman's advance often neglected but offers thought-provoking insights, leaving readers with the desire to know more about

the impact of war on civilians of any era.--Florida Historical QuarterlyPursuing wide-ranging sources, relying heavily on rich primary material, presenting her case with solid strains of scholarship, the author has produced a work that will henceforth be a starting-point for any study of the climactic Union offensive in the Carolinas. Whether one is interested in the occupation of Savannah, the burning of Columbia, or the outrages committed every mile along the way, here is a fundamental guide to it all.--Richmond Times-DispatchA different look at Sherman's march through the Carolinas in the closing weeks of the war. . . . [When Sherman Marched North from the Sea: Resistance on the Confederate Home Front] provides a more nuanced treatment than has been customary of the reception given Union troops by African Americans.--NYMAS ReviewThis portrait of the interaction between Sherman's soldiers, Confederate civilians, and African Americans deepens and refines our understanding of an emotionally charged subject thickly encrusted with mythology. Both intellectually sophisticated and warmly human, it's a major work. Highly recommended.--Mark Grimsley, Ohio State University [Glass] writes easily and fluently, as much for the lay reader as for the professional historian.--KliattA well-written, well-argued, thought-provoking account of this less-remembered, but perhaps more important, part of Sherman's march across the South. Campbell convinces the reader that southern women did not react passively and that the presence of Union troops reinforced rather than destroyed their loyalty to the Confederacy. In accomplishing this goal, Campbell has deftly addressed and intertwined the fields of women's history, African-American history, military history, and public memory in a brief, accessible work.--Civil War Book ReviewAnyone interested in a well-researched account of Confederate women's responses to Sherman's march will find this study rewarding.--American Historical ReviewOffers new insights into civilian reaction to Sherman's campaign and in the process challenges the Lost Cause image of Confederate women.--Civil War NewsA worthy addition to the burgeoning literature focusing on the social and cultural aspects of the Civil War. Concise yet thoroughly researched, it contributes fresh, thought-provoking insights into a long-neglected area of study: the interaction between General William T. Sherman's soldiers and southern civilians, black and white, male and female, during his march through the Carolinas.--The South Carolina Historical MagazineJacqueline Glass Campbell here blends military and social history with . . . sophistication and subtlety. . . . When Sherman Marched North from the Sea deserves a front-rank place in this field of our war's literature.--Blue & Gray MagazineOne of those rare books that artfully weaves military and social history into one story while seamlessly analyzing the cultural assumptions of an era that should have ruled the behavior of both combatants and civilians, and later shaped the memory and interpretation of Sherman's March through the Carolinas. . . . A fascinating subject, meticulous research, and an eminently

readable narration.--Georgia Historical Quarterly

Campbell makes a compelling argument in her differentiation between Sherman's march South to the sea which was relatively tame in comparison to his march North from the sea that was indicative of Total War or the Hard Hand of War as Grimsley calls it. Campbell's observations regarding the attitude of slaves during the occupation does not always mesh with the brutality often expressed by Douglas, Jacobs, and other slaves that escaped to the North prior to the war. Campbell observes that many of the slaves viewed Northern soldiers with greater contempt than that which they held their Southern owners. This book does raise serious questions to the amount of sensationalism that accompanied some of these earlier inflammatory writings.

This book is what happens when 21st. Century feminist thinking tries to layer itself over the 19th. Century and the American Civil War. Basically the book deals with the abuse of white southern women, black women and the wanton destruction of property by General Sherman's campaign through the Southern heart land in 1864. Using limited sources the author builds a case of excessive violence, rape and destruction of property. Gen. Sherman's campaign is well documented and known to historians and although there obviously were examples of what Prof. Campbell described it was not the normal standard of behaviour of Gen. Sherman's Army of 61K. I have no doubt that the examples given in this text are factually true but the historical records as well as personal diaries and letters that have survived strongly indicate that these atrocities toward Southern civilians or slaves were the norm.

This is a fascinating subject: women on the home front facing invasion by a dreaded enemy. Most of the men were in the Confederate forces (or dead or in hiding from the draft). Campbell's source materials include letters and journals. This book is entirely too short. Sherman is the most reviled figure on that war, still the object of something like disgust and hate on the part of people who keep rewriting history, claiming that slavery wasn't so bad. Get over it people, Sherman outgeneraled his opponents and his campaign was fierce and harsh--was he supposed to say "Please" and "Thank you" from a regime based on slavery and maintained by brute force? It seems that some of these women were among the authors of the legend of Sherman being an uncivilized brute. Campbell's book gives these women a greater presence than most histories do; they were not just the victims, they had voices and did not hesitate to use them. They were in the way of an invasion, but remained feisty and unrepentant. There was almost certainly abuse of women by the Union army, but the

subject is little known and memoirs sometimes recall that Union soldiers were unexpectedly gentlemanly.

This is a very condensed book, mainly dealing with how the war, ( Sherman's March) affected the people in the path of Shermans army. Mrs. Campbell (the author, and a professor of history) uses extensive footnotes, and numerous sources, from a wide spectrum of people, and authors. One thing Mrs. Campbell bears on, is how Shermans march affected the African-American people, and how it differed with it's affect on the white people; and the differences in effect it had on the moral of the people, versus the effect it had on the Confederate soldiers.If you're new to Shermans March, this is a good book to start with. It's an excellent, quick view of the effect on the Southern people.If you've read extensively, on Sherman March, this is an excellent book, that adds to your knowledge.I also recomment, "Sherman's March"-Richard Wheeler; "Shermans March"-Burke Davis; as well as Shermans March through the Carolina's"- John G. Barrett.

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