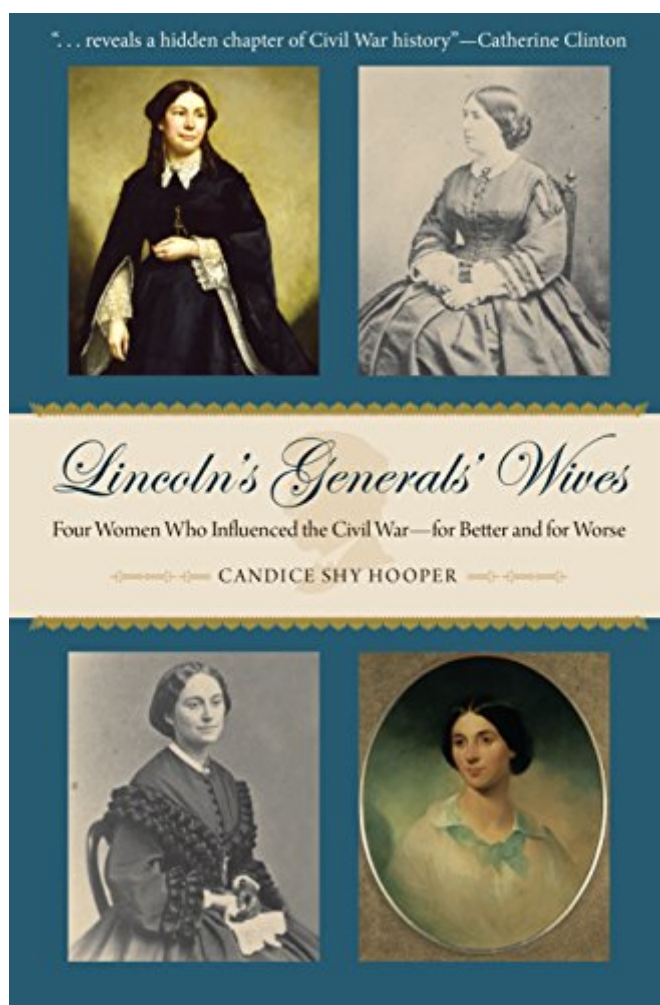


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# Lincoln's Generals' Wives: Four Women Who Influenced The Civil War--for Better And For Worse (Civil War In The North Series)



## Synopsis

The story of the American Civil War is not complete without examining the extraordinary and influential lives of Jessie Fr mont, Nelly McClellan, Ellen Sherman, and Julia Grant, the wives of Abraham Lincoln's top generals. They were their husbands' closest confidantes and had a profound impact on the generals' ambitions and actions. Most important, the women's own attitudes toward and relationships with Lincoln had major historical significance. Candice Shy Hooper's lively account covers the early lives of her subjects, as well as their families, their education, their political attitudes, and their personal beliefs. Once shots were fired on Fort Sumter, the women were launched out of their private spheres into a wholly different universe, where their relationships with their husbands and their personal opinions of the president of the United States had national and historical consequences. The approaches and styles of Fr mont and McClellan contrast with those of Sherman and Grant, and there is equal symmetry in their wives' stories. Jessie Fr mont and Nelly McClellan both encouraged their husbands to persist in their arrogance and delusion and to reject the advice and friendship of their commander in chief. In the end, Jessie and Nelly contributed most to the Union war effort by accelerating their husbands' removal from active command. Conversely, while Ellen Sherman's and Julia Grant's belief in their husbands' character and potential was ardent, it was not unbounded. Ellen and Julia did not hesitate to take issue with their spouses when they believed their actions were wrong or their judgments ill-advised. They intelligently supported their husbands' best instincts "including trust in and admiration for Lincoln" and re-buffed their worst. They were the source of strength that Sherman and Grant used to win the Civil War. Relying on a close reading of letters, memoirs, and other primary sources "and, for the first time, mapping the women's wartime travels" Hooper explores the very different ways in which these remarkable women responded to the unique challenges of being Lincoln's generals' wives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It's hard to believe that new ground can still be plowed in American Civil War history, but Hooper has succeeded in her insightful study of the lives of four of Lincoln's generals' wives. We all know that women have influenced the lives of prominent men,, but here, by choosing similar subjects - northern generals - the author shows how diverse those womens' influences can be and how profound the impacts on their husbands careers. Meticulous in detail and engaging in style, this is a welcome addition to any Civil War library.

What a wonderful book. While well researched and documented, it tells a tale never heard before. Behind every great man there is a woman. Which- may or not be the case amount these four couples. Big book and I couldn't put it down !

I must first say that I started reading this book because my brilliant sister-in-law wrote it. I continued to read it with great enjoyment because it is thoroughly researched and very well written. These generalsâ™ wives were women of their Victorian era and are presented here within that context with respect and clarity. Very different women married to very different men whose roles as Lincolnâ™s generals had repercussions for their times and ours. The precise choice of words and development of the stories make for a well presented case for these womenâ™s influence on their husbands and President Lincoln, leading to thoughtful, studied conclusions.Thanks for the great read, Candy!

I loved this book. The author presents history in a most interesting way and in a way one can easily understand. She has discovered new information that brings new insights to that tumultuous time.

This is a page turner. Beautifully researched and written. I've never been a CW student, but my husband and sons are so now I've gotten the bug. We live right in the middle of several major Union and Confederate campaigns, so I am now mapping an itinerary to follow some of Julia Grant and Ellen Sherman travels. This book has opened up so many doors for me and the lessons learned will stay with me for a long time. Thanks to Ms. Hooper.

Amazing research and interesting stories. Brings history and its complex female characters to life.

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