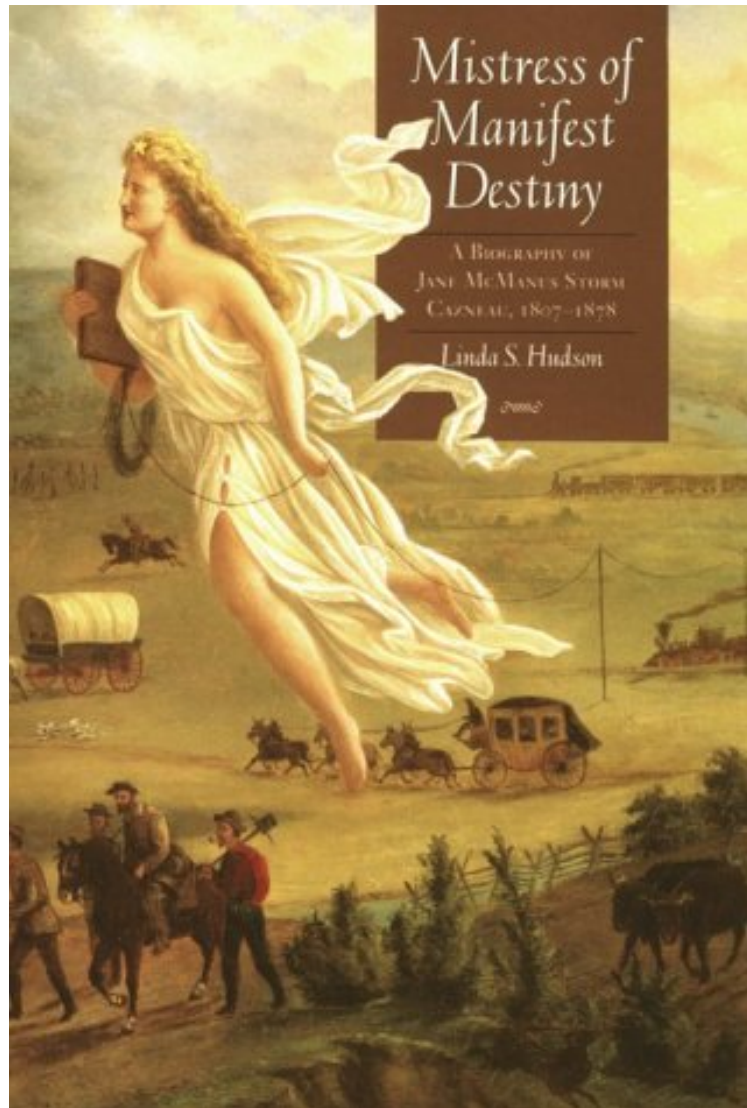


Mistress of Manifest Destiny: A Biography of Jane McManus Storm Cazneau, 1807-1878

Linda S. Hudson

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Linda S. Hudson : Mistress of Manifest Destiny: A Biography of Jane McManus Storm Cazneau, 1807-1878
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mistress of Manifest Destiny: A Biography of Jane McManus Storm Cazneau, 1807-1878:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy TIM MABEEgreat book.....this one bought as a gift for family member12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A Woman's Place in the 1850'sBy Blanche H BrickLinda Hudson has done a wonderful job of following the travels and trials of Jane McManus Storm Cazneau

from her youth in New York to her involvement in Texas land deals in the 1830's and her mission to Mexico City in the midst of the Mexican War in the 1840's to her life in Eagle Pass, Texas, (which she somehow did not at first realize was literally the middle of no where) to her exploits in Cuba and her return to New York City to play a role in the presidential campaign of 1852. She has shown the complexity of the politics of the times especially as they relate to the question of slavery and its expansion into Texas. She has also related the very complicated life of a woman who was liberated long before being a liberated woman was considered cool. In doing so, she has created a far more complex view of society in the United States in the middle of the 19th century than many historians have uncovered...or been willing to admit to having uncovered. It is a wonderful trip into the history not only of the United States but also of Mexico and the Caribbean that she has taken with Jane Cazneau and that she allows the reader to share. 5 of 8 people found the following review helpful. I would love to have been Jane. By Sherry Hensley History is a passion of mine and this book is so very good. I can not imagine how long it took to do all this research. It gave me a different understanding of our government history. Just to think if our politicians had had the foresight that Jane McManus and Aaron Burr had, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Mexico just to name a few, could have been States today. I would love to have been Jane because she was so smart and brave. I found her one of the most fascinating persons in history. I loved this book.

Jane McManus Storm Cazneau (1807–1878) was a complex person who died at sea the way she lived—at the center of a storm of controversy. Whether as Aaron Burr's mistress, land speculating in Texas, behind enemy lines during the Mexican War, filibustering for Cuba or Nicaragua, promoting Mexican revolution from a dugout in Eagle Pass, or urging free blacks to emigrate to the Dominican Republic, Cazneau seldom took the easy path. She foresaw a nation with equal rights for all in a world in which representative government was the norm rather than the exception. As a journalist, an advisor to national political figures, and publicist, she helped shape United States domestic and foreign policy from the mid-1840s into the 1870s. Cazneau's most unique contribution was as a staff writer for John L. O'Sullivan, editor of the *United States Magazine and Democratic Review*, where she described the mission of the United States as "Manifest Destiny," thereby coining one of the most significant and influential phrases in American political history. A single parent and working mother, Cazneau was not a women's rights woman who agitated for suffrage. She ridiculed the Seneca Falls housewives' complaints because real oppression existed for women in the factories, in the needle trades, on Indian reservations, and in the Caribbean. Cazneau advised working women to educate themselves and take better-paying men's clerical jobs. Although it appeared that her schemes and speculations failed, many of the policies she advocated eventually succeeded. She promoted the need for a steam navy and merchant marine fifty years before Alfred T. Mahan. She wrote about the problems of the working class sixty years before it became a Progressive crusade, advocated agrarian reform fifty years before Populists took up the cause, and assisted republican revolutionaries a hundred years before the United States awoke to the needs of the ordinary people in the sister republics of the Western Hemisphere. Cazneau's letters, books, journal, and newspaper articles leave little more than a hint of her intelligence and conversational wit, a mere suggestion of her sexuality and explosive temper, a glimpse of her courage and spirituality, and a trace of her sense of humor reflected in the sparkle of violet eyes beneath raven hair and a dark complexion that was her distinguishing trait. She was dedicated to the expansion of republican government; she had a special place in her heart for the abandoned and neglected, whether persons or animals; and she had a deep and abiding love for her country and faith in its people and in its future.

About the Author LINDA HUDSON is an historian who lives in Carthage, Texas. Grants for this research include the John H. Jenkins Research Award presented by the Texas State Historical Association and the Ottis Lock Research Award given by the East Texas Historical Association.