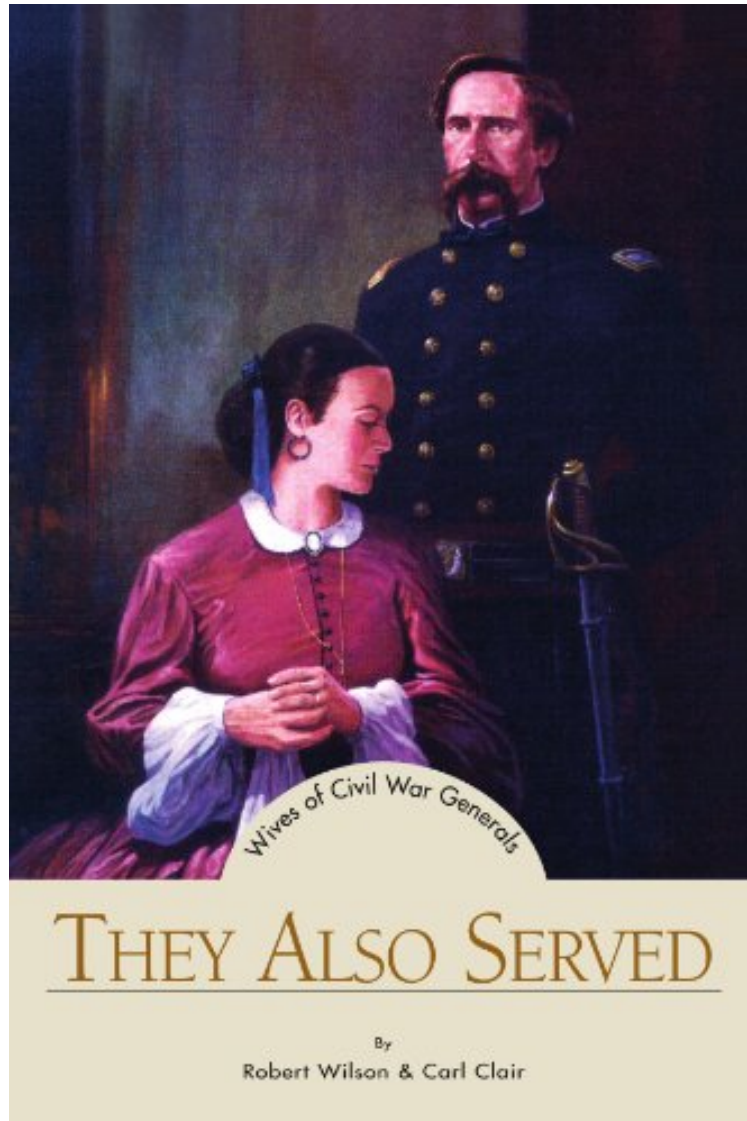


[Free and download] They Also Served: Wives of Civil War Generals

They Also Served: Wives of Civil War Generals

Robert Wilson Carl Clair

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Robert Wilson Carl Clair : They Also Served: Wives of Civil War Generals before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised They Also Served: Wives of Civil War Generals:

Celebrating his first night in the President's House, John Adams offered the following toast, "May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this house." To which his wife Abigail replied, "Remember the ladies. It is hoped that this

modest work, which we have entitled "They Also Served", will shed new light on the lives of the remarkable women who shared the history of this terrible time along with their warrior husbands. We have gathered these stories from various sources including books, magazines, the Internet, and several archival collections. A conscientious effort has been made to insure the information used in the telling of these stories has not only been accurate, but also fully documented. After Fort Sumter, the men left in droves obeying the call of their governments to serve with the armies being formed, not to return for years or at all. The glamorous picture of the brave men riding off to war is a popular one, however, it remained for the wives to take up the many burdens their departures left behind. Overnight, wives became heads of family with sole responsibility for maintaining home and hearth. Most were completely unschooled in managing household finances or supervising plantation or farm laborers. Alone, they bore the deaths of their children and suffered the shock of news from the front that their husbands had been killed or captured. Somehow, most of them survived and, in the process, added poignant, and truly amazing stories to Civil War folklore. They managed the home front as single parents for years. They followed their husbands to the front providing comfort and support, displaying great courage under dangerous and trying conditions. They provided badly needed nursing care. They developed skill at unraveling the politics of the military bureaucracy seeking ways they might support the careers of their loved ones. They suffered the anguish of spousal unfaithfulness. They served and died in support of a conflict that they little understood. Throughout the long four years they remained faithful to their respective causes without complaint and, often, with good cheer. One of our early favorites was the fascinating Fanny Haralson Gordon, wife of Confederate General John Brown Gordon. This formidable woman decided to remain with her husband as much of the time as possible under what, at times, became truly hazardous conditions. With the professional help of the staff at the University of Georgia Libraries we were able to develop a profile of Fanny's life prior to, during, and after the Civil War. Her spectacular story drove us forward with renewed energy. We next found the flamboyant Libby Custer, the noble and stoic Mary Custis Lee, followed by the melancholy Fanny Chamberlain. We were hooked. And so, we have heeded the admonition of the remarkable Abigail and hope this book will help in "Remembering the Ladies".

From the Publisher of *They Also Served: Wives of Civil War Generals* by Robert Wilson Carl Clair By Rita M. Bean, Professor of Education, University of Pittsburgh In this book, Wilson Clair describe the lives of 33 women who were wives of Civil War Generals. The title of the book, *They Also Served*, reveals a great deal about the viewpoints of the authors as they tell the tales of these remarkable women and their lives. Fundamentally, they demonstrated that the strength, courage, tenacity, and love of these women were influential in how their husbands lived and performed their duties. Many of these women actively lived with their husbands at their postings, often putting themselves in danger. For example, Fanny Haralson Gordon, wife of Major General John Brown Gordon, left her two sons with grandparents and followed her husband to the front lines. When he was wounded at the Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam), she cared for him during his recovery. Indeed, he claimed that he owed his life to her nursing. Although I enjoyed reading about all of the wives, one of my favorite "ladies" was Julie Dent Grant, wife of Ulysses Grant. Mrs. Grant, who served as first lady during the eight years of Grant's presidency, went on to work for women's suffrage and also wrote her own memoirs. I was intrigued with the fact that six of these women became authors, some writing about their husband's lives while others chose to write novels, memoirs, or children's stories. It is obvious that Wilson Clair did extensive research to uncover the fascinating lives of these women. The stories are at times sad—at times, somewhat humorous. But each one of these short vignettes captures not only the lives of these women, but provides important insights into the lives of their husbands at this important time in U.S. history. The book broadened my knowledge of the Civil War in a very personal way—by telling the stories of individuals who were deeply affected by that war. But, most of all, the book illustrated for me the key role of women—not only in supporting the work of their husbands, but as individuals with their own stories to tell.

About the Author Robert M. Wilson In 1938 his father took him to the last gathering of Civil War veterans at Gettysburg. The interest created there never left him. His professional career took him onto the path of teacher education and he was a professor at the University of Maryland for 30 years. But his Civil War interests never left him and he took part in the formation of the Civil War Round Table. With that group he was able to travel to nearly all of the Civil War sites East of the Mississippi. At Maryland he was the director of a Women's Equity Grant and had his eyes opened to the treatment of women in history Thus alerted he turned to the treatment of women in the Civil War literature. It seemed that it would be worth the effort to bring some of those women's stories to the front.

Carl Clair Carl holds BA and MA degrees in History and Political Science from the University of Connecticut. He served for over 30 years as an Air Force and National Security Agency intelligence officer. In retirement, his interest turned to the Civil War and he is currently president of the "Skedaddlers", a small, traveling Round Table group. In this capacity, he has been a frequent visitor to various battle fields and associated libraries. Three years studying the role of women in the Civil War led to this work. He lives in Laurel, Maryland.

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