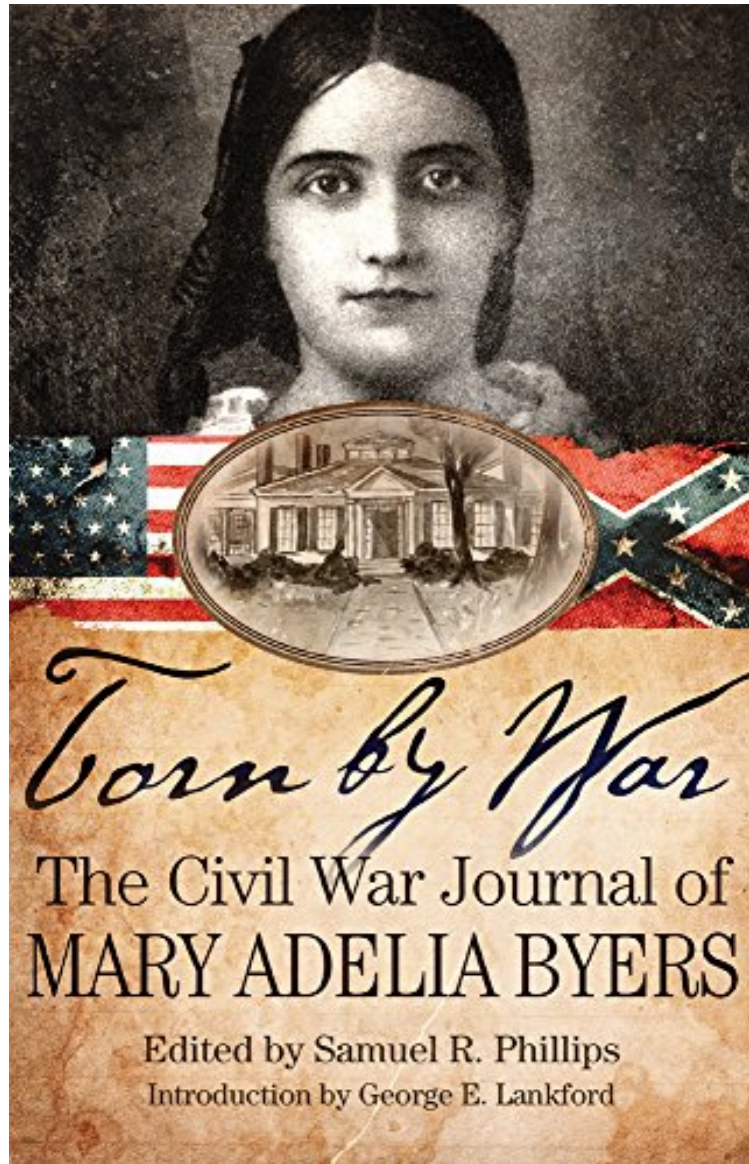


(Free) Torn by War: The Civil War Journal of Mary Adelia Byers

Torn by War: The Civil War Journal of Mary Adelia Byers

Mary Adelia Byers

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Mary Adelia Byers : Torn by War: The Civil War Journal of Mary Adelia Byers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Torn by War: The Civil War Journal of Mary Adelia Byers:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well doneBy KatherineI bought this because I'm researching my family tree, and the Byers are a large part of it. As an author of history books, I am impressed with how things such as

maps and genealogical information are included, as well as a description of such things as social standards and political views from Mary Adelia's era. to help give readers a better understanding of the war in an area that little has been written about. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Leigh Schwartz It was a big help in doing family research. Thank you! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Gary Wysong informative read

The Civil War divided the nation, communities, and families. The town of Batesville, Arkansas, found itself occupied three times by the Union army. This compelling book gives a unique perspective on the war's western edge through the diary of Mary Adelia Byers (1847–1918), who began recording her thoughts and observations during the Union occupation of Batesville in 1862. Only fifteen when she starts her diary, Mary is beyond her years in maturity, as revealed by her acute observations of the world around her. At the same time, she appears very much a child of her era. Having lost her father at a young age, she and her family depend on the financial support of her Uncle William, a slaveowner and Confederate sympathizer. Through Mary's eyes we are given surprising insights into local society during a national crisis. On the one hand, we see her flirting with Confederate soldiers in the Batesville town square and, on the other, facing the grim reality of war by "setting up" through the night with dying soldiers. Her journal ends in March 1865, shortly before the war comes to a close. *Torn by War* reveals the conflicts faced by an agricultural social elite economically dependent on slavery but situated on the fringes of the conflict between North and South. On a more personal level, it also shows how resilient and perceptive young people can be during times of crisis. Enhanced by extensive photographs, maps, and informative annotation, the volume is a valuable contribution to the growing body of literature on civilian life during the Civil War.

"*Torn By War* is a rich personal account of the middle class Confederate civilian experience in a geographically isolated, yet militarily contested, region (NE Arkansas and the town of Batesville) not often addressed in the published Civil War literature. Its value is only enhanced by the precociously perceptive nature of young Mary Byers and her unusually expressive writing. Indeed, social historians would do well to add this journal to any bibliography hosting the finest examples of female Civil War diarists, journal writers, and correspondents."—Andrew Wagenhoffer, *Civil War Books and Authors* website.