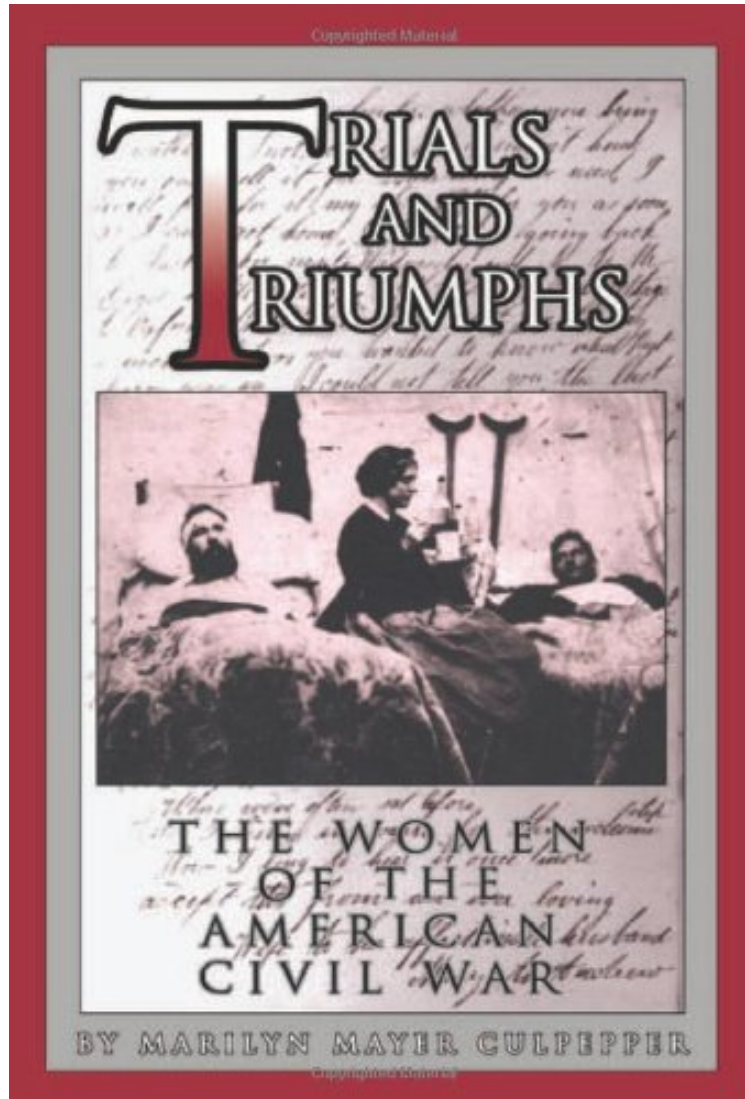


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# Trials and Triumphs: The Women of the American Civil War

Marilyn Mayer Culpepper

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**Marilyn Mayer Culpepper : Trials and Triumphs: The Women of the American Civil War** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trials and Triumphs: The Women of the American Civil War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good work, but somewhat biased By Thomas R. Fasulo While this was certainly an interesting book on women during the Civil War period, one of many in my library, I only gave it three stars as I felt the author had an agenda. For example, it is only toward the middle of the book that the author begins recounting stories favoring the Union cause. For example, the author quotes numerous letters from southern

women urging their men to fight for the South. Of course, this was true in the early days of the war, but the author then neglects to later tell of the numerous southern women urging their men to desert the Southern cause later in the war. As many historians have pointed out, this was a major factor in the high desertion rate in the Southern armies. Also, the author quotes numerous letters from Union soldiers to their wives and lady friends, denouncing the Emancipation Proclamation in the latter months of 1862, decrying it as a tool to change the main aim of the war to free the 'blacks.' This also occurred, but later letters from the front changed their tune and defended the war as also being a fight to free the slaves from bondage. This was due to the soldiers actually seeing the conditions of the slaves in the territories they 'liberated' from Southern control. I thought the most impressive chapter was that dealing with the women who worked in the hospitals on both sides. Yet I was surprised the author didn't quote any of the book written by Phoebe Yates Pender, who was famous for working in the Confederate hospitals around Richmond. Yates was only quoted in the following chapter summing up the end of the war.

In *Trials and Triumphs*, Marilyn Mayer Culpepper provides incomparable insights into women's lives during America's Civil War era. Her respect for these nineteenth-century women and their experiences, as well as her engaging and intimate style, enable Culpepper to transport readers into a tumultuous time of death, destruction, and privation—into a world turned upside down, an environment that seemed as strange to contemporaries as it does in our own time.

About the Author Marilyn Mayer Culpepper is the author of *Trials and Triumphs: The Women of the American Civil War* and *All Things Altered: Women in the Wake of the Civil War*. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and is Professor Emerita at Michigan State University.