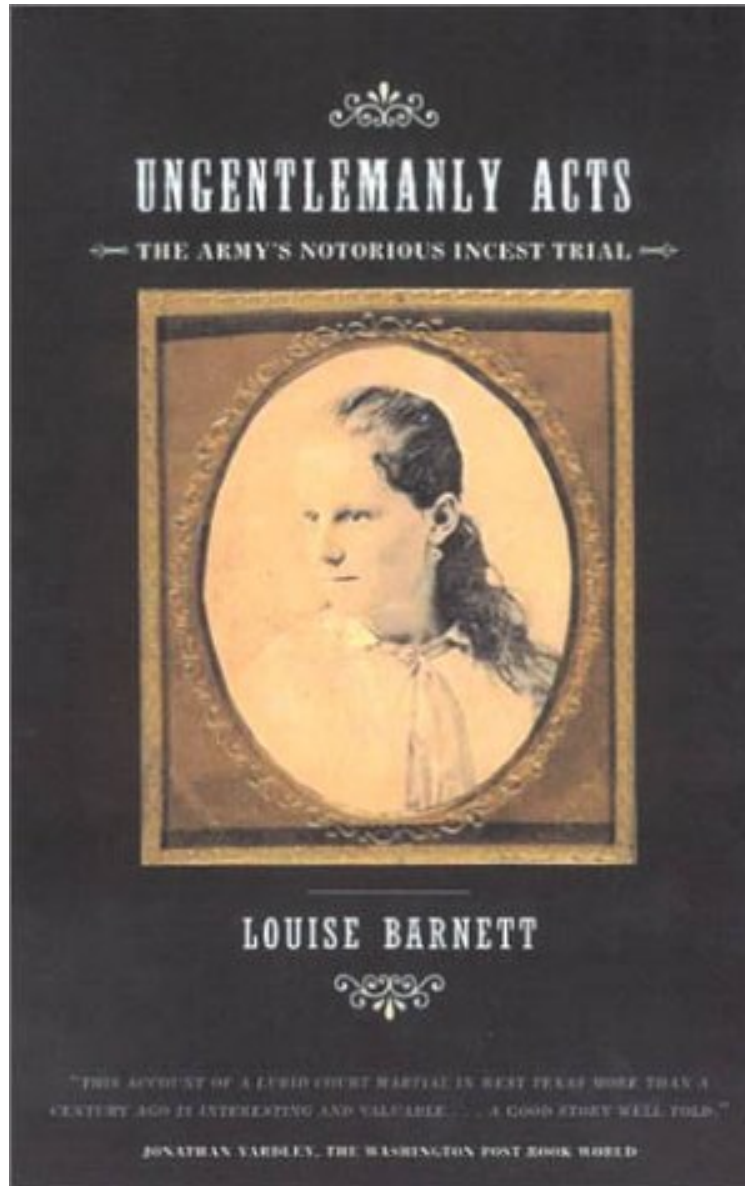


[Download] Ungentlemanly Acts: The Army's Notorious Incest Trial

## Ungentlemanly Acts: The Army's Notorious Incest Trial

*Louise Barnett*

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#3797730 in Books Hill and Wang 2001-04-15 2001-04-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .70 x 5.50l, .90 #File Name: 0809073986304 pages | File size: 40.Mb

**Louise Barnett : Ungentlemanly Acts: The Army's Notorious Incest Trial** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ungentlemanly Acts: The Army's Notorious Incest Trial:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Incredible Story - Well Researched By Heidi Crabtree aka ScoundrelI stayed up until 3am reading this book because I couldn't put it down. An incredible story of an officer accused of incest with his daughter, by another officer who may or may not have attempted to seduce the girl himself.

Very deeply researched, well written. I bought the book both because I am always seeking info on the Tenth Cavalry, and I just published a bio on an officer, G W Graham, of the Tenth, court-martialed in 1870, so the characters in this book are familiar to me (Orleman, Carpenter, Grierson, Armes) and really added to my enjoyment. How surprised I was to see a mention of Graham here as well. In a time when officers spent their spare time filing charges on each other, this case was out of the ordinary. It was extraordinary how the court was obsessed with the definition of "physical virginity" and how often objections were overruled. Anyone interested in military history, especially those units located in desolate places in the frontier, will enjoy this book. It's an important look into a side of the military rarely written about. 10 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Mostly excellent. By D. C. Carrad A well-written story of Army life in the second half of the 19th century, the American frontier, old-style military justice and some other interesting subjects. I would unhesitatingly give this book five stars if it were not for the fact that the author has a feminist ax to grind and keeps grinding it in the most inappropriate places -- it's a bit like going to an opera and every five minutes the leading tenor feels compelled to wave Chairman Mao's Little Red Book about and quote from it. I suppose she will have to be forgiven as she is an academic at an East coast university and would probably be disbarred if she did not bung this feminist rhetoric into everything she writes. Her ax is only a mediocrity-sized one and she does keep it mostly under control, but it does detract from the rest of the book. Without this stuff this would be a five star book. I recommend you buy it, read it and ignore the PC stuff that crops up every fifth page or so. Hope she will write some more history books and tone down the rhet. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GENERAL IN CHIEF - FAIL!! By Mike Movius OMG! General Sherman drops the pass, misses the 3 and is called out at home! This account about incest and the dirty little secrets within the U. S. Army will blow the minds of 21st century Americans. How in the world could this happen and not be stopped? My regard for WTS dropped below respect!

The shocking story behind the U.S. Army's longest court-martial--full of sex, intrigue, and betrayal. In April 1879, on a remote military base in west Texas, a decorated army officer of dubious moral reputation faced a court-martial. The trial involved shocking issues--of sex and seduction, incest and abduction. The highest figures in the United States Army got involved, and General William Tecumseh Sherman himself made it his personal mission to see that Captain Andrew Geddes was punished for his alleged crime. But just what had Geddes done? He had spoken out about an "unspeakable" act--he had accused a fellow officer, Louis Orleman, of incest with his teenage daughter, Lillie. The army quickly charged not Orleman but Geddes with "conduct unbecoming a gentleman," for his accusation had come about only because Orleman was at the same time preparing to charge that Geddes himself had attempted the seduction and abduction of the same young lady. Which man was the villain and which the savior? Louise Barnett's compelling examination of the Geddes drama is at once a suspenseful narrative of a very important trial and a study of prevailing attitudes toward sexuality, parental discipline, the army, and the appropriate division between public and private life. It will enrich any reader's understanding of the tumultuous post-Civil War period, when the United States was striving to define its moral codes anew.

From Publishers Weekly How do you accuse someone of an unspeakable sin? In post-Civil War America, you did not, if you were smart, for speaking of an unspeakable sin was unpardonable. In 1879, in west Texas, Captain Andrew Geddes accused a fellow officer, Louis Orleman, of having incestuous relations with his (Orleman's) daughter. Orleman countercharged that Geddes had seduced his daughter and planned to abduct her, and that the incest charge was merely an attempt to deflect responsibility from his own devious actions. The result was a court-martial of Geddes; no person in a position of authority seriously considered the possibility that Orleman could be guilty of incest, for Americans of the time, according to Barnett, "preferred to believe--regardless of evidence--that it [incest] simply did not occur...." Barnett, a professor of English at Rutgers, carefully chronicles the trial. Her thesis is that while Geddes was no saint, his trial was a mockery of justice and the unprosecuted charges against Orleman probably contained more truth than those pressed against Geddes. A guilty verdict was set aside by the army's highest judicial officer, the judge advocate general, but the continued hostility toward Geddes within the army led to his ultimate dismissal. The greatest strength of this volume is the way events are placed within historical and cultural context. A real sense of army life on the frontier and how the larger values of society shaped the proceedings are skillfully woven into the narrative. Through a relatively unknown incident, Barnett presents a morality play showcasing late-19th-century social values that have evolved but are still in effect. 24 bw photos not seen by PW. (Feb.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Barnett (English, Rutgers; *Touched by Fire*) examines the army's court-martial of Captain Andrew Geddes and contemporary novels such as *Infelice* to illuminate late 19th-century American thought on incest. Her book stages the conflict that sent Geddes to trial: he had accused fellow officer Louis Orleman of incest with his teenage daughter, Lillie; but Orleman accused Geddes of attempting to seduce and abduct Lillie. Barnett argues that the army court-martialed Geddes largely because public scrutiny of incest uncomfortably forced Americans to question their views of family, sexuality, and gender roles. She also places the trial in the context of life on a western Texas military fort staffed mainly by black soldiers surrounded by white civilians, Mexican

Americans, and Native Americans. This is an absorbing, well-documented book, although more discussion of 19th-century laws and attitudes about incest might have enriched it. Recommended for public and academic libraries with military, gender, or American West history collections. -Charles L. Lumpkins, Pennsylvania State Univ., State College

Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sFrom Rutgers English professor Barnett (*Touched By Fire*, 1996), an artfully reconstructed chronicle of a notorious US Army incest-accusation trial that sheds remarkable clarity upon the emerging military and moral climate of the post-Reconstruction Southwest. In 1879, Capt. Andrew Geddes of the Armys Department of Texas filed a complaint against Lt. Louis Orleman, his neighboring officer at remote Fort Stockton, alleging criminal intercourse between the officer and his daughter, Lillie. The Army moved swiftly by trying Geddes, ostensibly on Orlemans countercharge of attempted seduction of Lillie, but evidently more to punish Geddes violation of both Victorian morality and military frontier codes of silent manliness. Barnett recreates the trial, its aftermath, and the harsh, complex social environment of Fort Stockton (which won notoriety for these events and for related violence and corruption), emphasizing the dramatic ambiguities and human failings wrought in the crucible of the militarized Texas frontier. For example, though the author finds Geddes account plausible and Orlemans less so (as did the militarys appellate review, overturning Geddes conviction), she explores how Geddes reputation as a seamy lothario provoked top generals Ord and Sherman essentially to order an otherwise exemplary soldiers destruction. And she sets the narrative in a generous context of contemporaneous events, ranging from the 1869 H.B. StoweLord Byron incest scandal to the depredations of 1870s Texasrife with sliding scales of hatred among Mexicans, African-American soldiers whod been refused billets nearer civilization, white settlers, and the displaced, despised, and still-threatening Comanche and other tribesreminiscent of Cormac McCarthys *Blood Meridian*. Such detail evokes the paranoia, clannishness, and artificial moralities that, focused by the trial, would long remain in American military and civic life. Barnett brings intellectual fervor to potentially dry material, particularly in her portrait of the long-suffering Lillie Orleman, offering subtle interpretations of gender and racial volatility and finding startling metaphors within this singularly perverse interlude in the dissipated postCivil War military. (24 bw photos) --

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