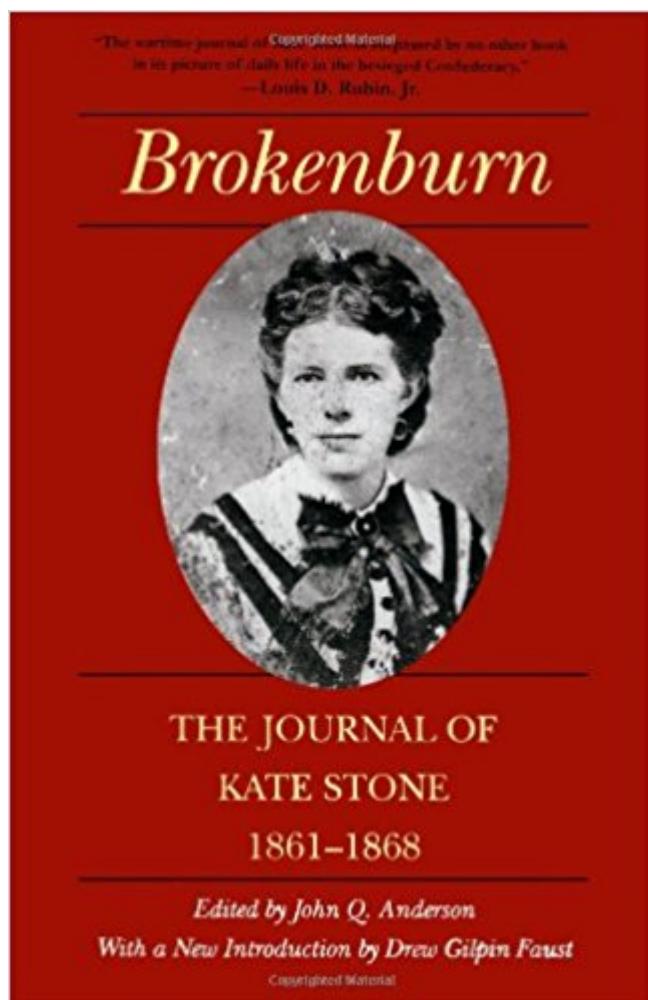


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Brokenburn: The Journal Of Kate Stone, 1861--1868 (Library Of Southern Civilization)



Synopsis

This journal records the Civil War experiences of a sensitive, well-educated, young southern woman. Kate Stone was twenty when the war began, living with her widowed mother, five brothers, and younger sister at Brokenburn, their plantation home in northeastern Louisiana. When Grant moved against Vicksburg, the family fled before the invading armies, eventually found refuge in Texas, and finally returned to a devastated home. Kate began her journal in May, 1861, and made regular entries up to November, 1865. She included briefer sketches in 1867 and 1868. In chronicling her everyday activities, Kate reveals much about a way of life that is no more: books read, plantation management and crops, maintaining slaves in the antebellum period, the attitude and conduct of slaves during the war, the fate of refugees, and civilian morale. Without pretense and with almost photographic clarity, she portrays the South during its darkest hours.

Book Information

Series: Library of Southern Civilization

Paperback: 440 pages

Publisher: LSU Press (May 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807120170

ISBN-13: 978-0807120170

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.5 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #485,983 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Women #297 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Confederacy #645 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > United States > Civil War

Customer Reviews

The wartime journal of Kate Stone is surpassed by no other book in its picture of daily life in the besieged Confederacy. --Louis D. Rubin, Jr.

This journal records the Civil War experiences of a sensitive, well-educated, young southern woman. Kate Stone was twenty when the war began, living with her widowed mother, five brothers, and younger sister at Brokenburn, their plantation home in northeastern Louisiana. When Grant

moved against Vicksburg, the family fled before the invading armies, eventually found refuge in Texas, and finally returned to a devastated home. Kate began her journal in May, 1861, and made regular entries up to November, 1865. She included briefer sketches in 1867 and 1868. In chronicling her everyday activities, Kate reveals much about a way of life that is no more: books read, plantation management and crops, maintaining slaves in the antebellum period, the attitude and conduct of slaves during the war, the fate of refugees, and civilian morale. Without pretense and with almost photographic clarity, she portrays the South during its darkest hours.

That period of time interests me. It was a good read, giving me new insight to the lives of those during the War Between the States. I admit to having to look up a few definitions of words used then... haws, for example. During hard times, folks would eat the berries from hawthorns. Kate's experiences were those of a well-to-do Southern woman, through good and bad times, From life on a large plantation to flee Brokenburn for Texas during the siege of Vicksburg as many did to escape the closeness of battle, pain and suffering of all - a good read and a clearer light into those times.

Brokenburn is a wonderful account of the Civil War. Kate Stone provides a literate, expressive account of her family's series of misfortunes throughout the war, and plots the shift in mindset that overcame the Confederacy as the war dragged on. I'd suggest reading this even if you don't have any serious academic interest in the Civil War - it's incredibly relatable, well-written and honest. This book is a major source for a paper I'm currently working on, and while I read it mainly for the information inside, I grew to like Kate as her story went on. If it's any indication, I bought the book after finishing using it as a source, just so I can have a copy to read whenever I like. While many of her ideas and beliefs are outdated, she's an intelligent, kind girl whose life was uprooted unexpectedly, and following her through the turmoil of the war shows an incredibly resilient personality.

Nothing like a good diary...info takes you right there...Great buy..

Loved it. A lot of interesting and little known facts about the TransMississippi area of the War Between the States. I really enjoyed this book. I read both Sarah Morgan and Mary Chesnut, several versions of each, but enjoyed this journal the most.

Anyone with ancestors from the Vicksburg area during the 1860's will enjoy this. Not only did Kate

give me an idea of what daily life was like but how she was conflicted about the slave issue. I myself never got the idea that she believed the war was about slavery. She gave some information I needed regarding the marriages of various Vicksburg citizens. Most of all I was able to see how our relatives made their way from Mississippi to various parts of Texas.

An amazing recording of a most difficult time in the life of a once privileged Southern Belle. The strength of character shown by all of her family is incredible.

I'm almost half way through this great book. As a born and bred Southerner, this book fascinates me. It gives a very realistic picture of life in the south as the war progressed. A sometimes poignant reminder of all that was the Old South - the good and the bad. I find myself transported back to Kate's time on this earth to what, at that time, was considered the good life.

Enjoyed a peek into the lives of Kate, family and neighbors.

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