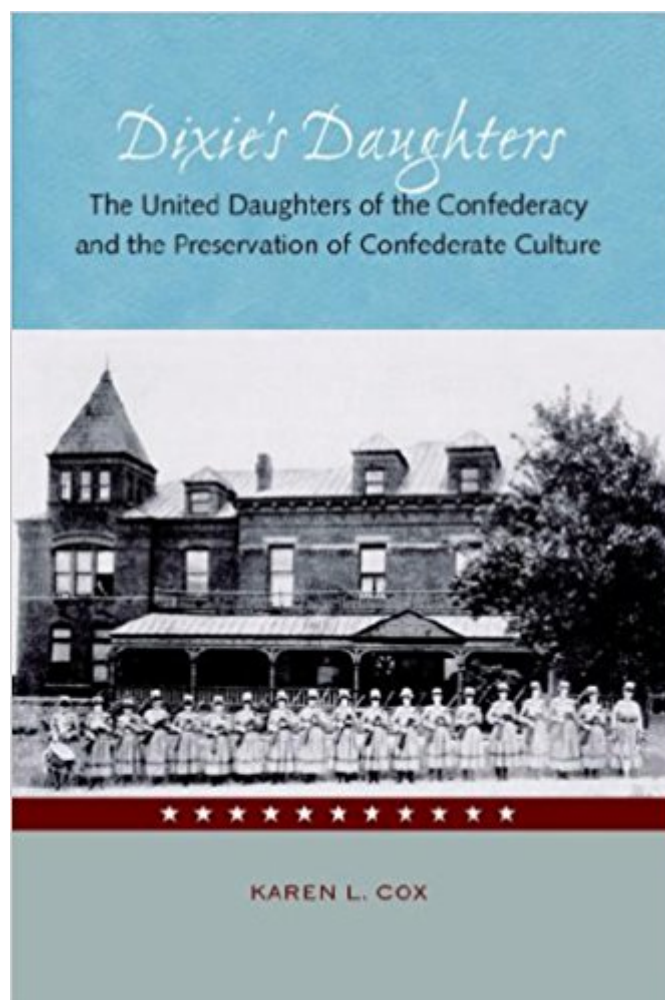




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Dixie's Daughters: The United Daughters Of The Confederacy And The Preservation Of Confederate Culture (New Perspectives On The History Of The South)





Synopsis

Even without the right to vote, members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy proved to have enormous social and political influence throughout the South--all in the name of preserving Confederate culture. Karen L. Cox's history of the UDC, an organization founded in 1894 to vindicate the Confederate generation and honor the Lost Cause, shows why myths surrounding the Confederacy continue to endure. The Daughters, as UDC members were popularly known, were literally daughters of the Confederate generation. While southern women had long been leaders in efforts to memorialize the Confederacy, UDC members made the Lost Cause a movement about vindication as well as memorialization. They erected monuments, monitored history for truthfulness, and sought to educate coming generations of white southerners about an idyllic past and a just cause--states' rights. Soldiers' and widows' homes, perpetuation of the mythology of the antebellum South, and pro-southern textbooks in the region's white public schools were all integral to their mission of creating the New South in the image of the Old. Placing the organization's activities in the context of the postwar and Progressive-Era South, Cox describes in detail the UDC's origins and early development, its efforts to collect and preserve manuscripts and artifacts and to build monuments, and its later role in the peace movement and World War I. This remarkable history of the organizations presents a portrait of two generations of southern women whose efforts helped shape the social and political culture of the New South. It also offers a new historical perspective on the subject of Confederate memory and the role southern women played in its development.

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Customer Reviews

"A vital and, until now, missing piece to the puzzle of the 'Lost Cause' ideology and its impact on the daily lives of post-Civil War southerners. This is a careful, insightful examination of the role women played in shaping the perceptions of two generations of southerners, not simply through rhetoric but through the creation of a remarkably effective organization whose leadership influenced the teaching of history in the schools, created a landscape of monuments that honored the Confederate dead, and provided assistance to elderly veterans, their widows, and their children."--Carol Berkin, City University of New York

Even without the right to vote, members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy proved to have enormous social and political influence throughout the South--all in the name of preserving Confederate culture. Karen L. Cox's history of the UDC, an organization founded in 1894 to vindicate the Confederate generation and honor the Lost Cause, shows why myths surrounding the Confederacy continue to endure. The Daughters, as UDC members were popularly known, were literally daughters of the Confederate generation. While southern women had long been leaders in efforts to memorialize the Confederacy, UDC members made the Lost Cause a movement about vindication as well as memorialization. They erected monuments, monitored history for "truthfulness," and sought to educate coming generations of white southerners about an idyllic past and a just cause--states' rights. Soldiers' and widows' homes, perpetuation of the mythology of the antebellum South, and pro-southern textbooks in the region's white public schools were all integral to their mission of creating the New South in the image of the Old. UDC members aspired to transform military defeat into a political and cultural victory, in which states' rights and white supremacy remained intact. To the extent they were successful, the Daughters helped to preserve and perpetuate an agenda for the New South that included maintaining the social status quo. Placing the organization's activities in the context of the postwar and Progressive-Era South, Cox describes in detail the UDC's origins and early development, its efforts to collect and preserve manuscripts and artifacts and to build monuments, and its later role in the peace movement and World War I. This remarkable history of the organization presents a portrait of two generations of southern women whose efforts helped shape the social and political culture of the New South. It also offers a new historical perspective on the subject of Confederate memory and the role southern women played in its development. Karen L. Cox is assistant professor and director of the public history program at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

Karen L. Cox is professor of history at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Exquisitely researched, elegantly written, indispensable for serious scholars of the Civil War. These women, largely the daughters, wives, and sisters of the Brahmins of the south, enjoyed tremendous success in transforming Johnny Reb's image from loser and traitor to patriot and man of military valor, proving that a lie repeated often enough can become a fact for many.

Professor Cox has done an excellent job of revealing the tremendous influence the United Daughters of the Confederacy had in the latter stages of the Lost Cause. This influence is still felt today. The book is well researched and very readable. It was a big help on a recent project of mine concerning the development of Confederate nationalism following the Civil War. I am a graduate student at San Jose State University in California. Thomas Brown

A wonderful story about the struggles of women during a terrible time & what they did

This book is not something you will enjoy reading. It is slow, repetitive, and about a subject that concerns almost no one. The award it won was for "The best book in southern women's history". That is such a specific category that there were probably like 2 other books at most in competition for the award. The only reason anyone would have for reading this book is if they were assigned it for a class, or if they are among the few people who are actually interested in that sad excuse for a subject known as "Southern Women's History."

It was what I expected. I expected the United Daughters to be shown in a "bad" light and it was.

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