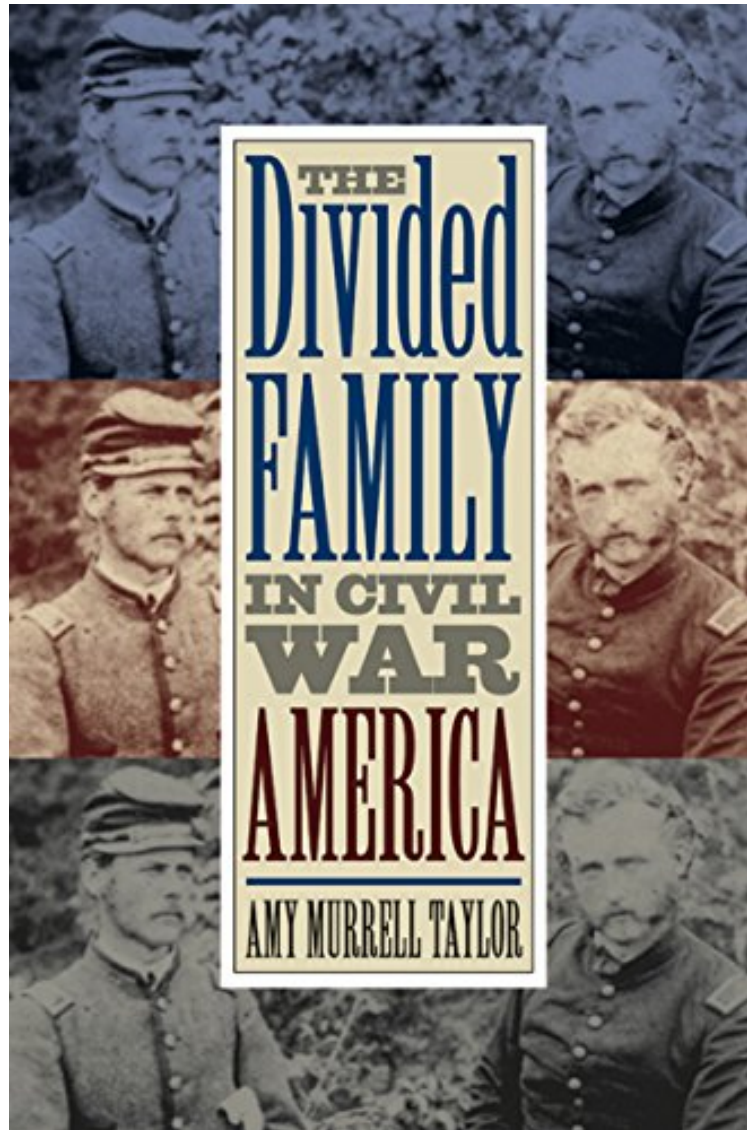


(Library ebook) The Divided Family in Civil War America

## The Divided Family in Civil War America

*Amy Murrell Taylor*

*ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2146099 in Books The University of North Carolina Press 2009-08-01 2009-08-01Original  
language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.90 x .84 x 5.80l, 1.01 #File Name: 0807861863336 pages | File size: 48.Mb

**Amy Murrell Taylor : The Divided Family in Civil War America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Divided Family in Civil War America:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. An Impressive Work, As Much Literature as HistoryBy Civil War HistorianI am extremely impressed with Taylor's book, which explores the real and imagined consequences of the Civil War on families in border states, where the question of secession was the most complicated and the most fraught. This book not only documents (in writing that rises to the level of great literary writing -- a rarity in young historians)

the actual occurrence of split families and what they had to say for themselves, but also the psychological, moral, and political implications of families at odds with each other. That is, this book gets beyond the idea of "the brother's war" as merely a curiosity or a sentimental metaphor, and shows how the state of the society -- the relations between men and women, white and black -- itself is revealed in the experience of these families, observed in extremis. The writing, again, is extraordinary. Fans of Doris Kearn Goodwin or David McCullough will love this book, and will be pleased to know that Taylor is of the new generation of historians and likely to be around and writing for a very long time. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful Civil War study. By Andrew Patrick. Dr. Amy Murrell Taylor makes an invaluable contribution to our understanding of the complex reality of divided families during the American Civil War, while also pressing beyond the material circumstances of individuals' lives to explore the important symbolic weight of family metaphors in shaping contemporary and modern views of the central conflict of the nation's history. Highly recommended for scholars, students and the interested general reader. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book. By W. Patrick Fogarty. This is a very thorough and interesting work outlining the problems that the Civil War created for families at the time. I recommend it for any history buff.

The Civil War has long been described as a war pitting "brother against brother." The divided family is an enduring metaphor for the divided nation, but it also accurately reflects the reality of America's bloodiest war. Connecting the metaphor to the real experiences of families whose households were split by conflicting opinions about the war, Amy Murrell Taylor provides a social and cultural history of the divided family in Civil War America. In hundreds of border state households, brothers--and sisters--really did fight one another, while fathers and sons argued over secession and husbands and wives struggled with opposing national loyalties. Even enslaved men and women found themselves divided over how to respond to the war. Taylor studies letters, diaries, newspapers, and government documents to understand how families coped with the unprecedented intrusion of war into their private lives. Family divisions inflamed the national crisis while simultaneously embodying it on a small scale--something noticed by writers of popular fiction and political rhetoric, who drew explicit connections between the ordeal of divided families and that of the nation. Weaving together an analysis of this popular imagery with the experiences of real families, Taylor demonstrates how the effects of the Civil War went far beyond the battlefield to penetrate many facets of everyday life.

"Story by story, family by family, chapter by chapter, Amy Murrell Taylor weaves together compelling examples and well-crafted sketches of her divided Americans, yet emerges with something much more than the sum of the parts. First we are dazzled by stories of revenge and reconciliation, bittersweet and wrenching choices which form the core of this exciting new volume. Next, Taylor offers imaginative insight into the layered dramas presented by war. With her deft prose and assured analysis, "The Divided Family in Civil War America" transforms the metaphor of the Civil War's tragic and momentous toll into a meditation on Americans' conflicted choices. Taylor reflects on the clashing legacies of these life and death confrontations for both our nation and the war's survivors." -- Catherine Clinton, author of "Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom" "A deeply researched and well-written book." -- "Arkansas Historical Quarterly" "A rich, new perspective on the Civil War." -- "Virginia Magazine" "Broad, deep, and thoroughly current." -- "Register of the Kentucky Historical Society" Broad, deep, and thoroughly current.--Register of the Kentucky Historical Society Taylor's deeply researched and thoroughly readable book is the first social and cultural history of Civil War-era divided families. . . . The dynamic portrait painted here ably renders any simple stories as much more complicated and complex narratives, and therefore ultimately much more historically satisfying.--Civil War History [The Divided Family in Civil War America] is an important and insightful study of a frequently invoked but often oversimplified subject. It is essential reading for scholars of nineteenth-century America, southern history, and the Civil War.--H-Civil War A rich, new perspective on the Civil War.--Virginia Magazine A valuable book on a fascinating subject, and Taylor has provided a valuable historical service by giving voice and personalities to the often characterless stereotypes of the divided family. . . . Well-written and well-constructed. . . . A compelling study of the divided family within American popular culture, and a testament to the importance of family within everyday society.--H-South Taylor engages us in thinking about the divided family in a more complete way through the sheer variety of her perspectives. . . . Interesting and well-written.--H-Minerva [The Divided Family in Civil War America] is a sophisticated and multi-faceted treatment of an ambitious topic. Taylor makes as significant a contribution to gender and family history as she does to that the on the Civil War home front, and her book deserves a wide readership from those interested in either field.--Journal of Southern History A must for any historian who wants to know more about how war affected the people who lived in the border states, both before and after the conflict.--North Carolina Historical Amy Murrell Taylor provides a valuable analysis of the ways in which families in the border states divided and reunited before, during, and after the Civil War. In addition to exhaustive research, Taylor demonstrates a very real and sensitive understanding of family dynamics in the nineteenth century, which she handles with care and aplomb throughout the book.--James Marten, author of The Children's Civil War A deeply researched and well-written book.--Arkansas Historical Quarterly A fine study of divided families. . . . Those who desire to enhance their

understanding of the Civil War's impact on Americans will find here a great deal to think about.--Civil War News  
The Divided Family in Civil War America is a signal addition to the literature on the war and a striking example of the gains in understanding that come from approaching old questions from new angles.--H-War  
Taylor has produced a clever and well-researched book. . . . In the end, The Divided Family in Civil War America is a noteworthy addition to the border regions genre of Civil War history.--Louisiana History  
A fascinating study of actual families, North and South, white and black, divided by war. . . . Taylor writes well, easily mixing absorbing details of family dysfunction with cogent and complex analysis.--Journal of American History  
Taylor provides us with a convincing interpretation of the ways in which Americans used familiar ideas, behaviors, and rhetoric to cope with the colossal failure of family that was one aspect of the Civil War. Her work adds considerably to studies of Civil War popular culture and family life, her sources are comprehensive and well-mined, and her writing is thoughtful and at times downright lyrical. Well done.--American Historical From the Inside Flap  
Taylor looks behind the Civil War metaphor of "brother against brother" to the real experiences of families, particularly in border states, whose households were split by divided loyalties. She studies letters and diaries to understand how families coped with division between husbands and wives, fathers and sons, and she traces the adoption of the image of the "house divided" in newspapers, government documents, and popular fiction to describe the divided nation.