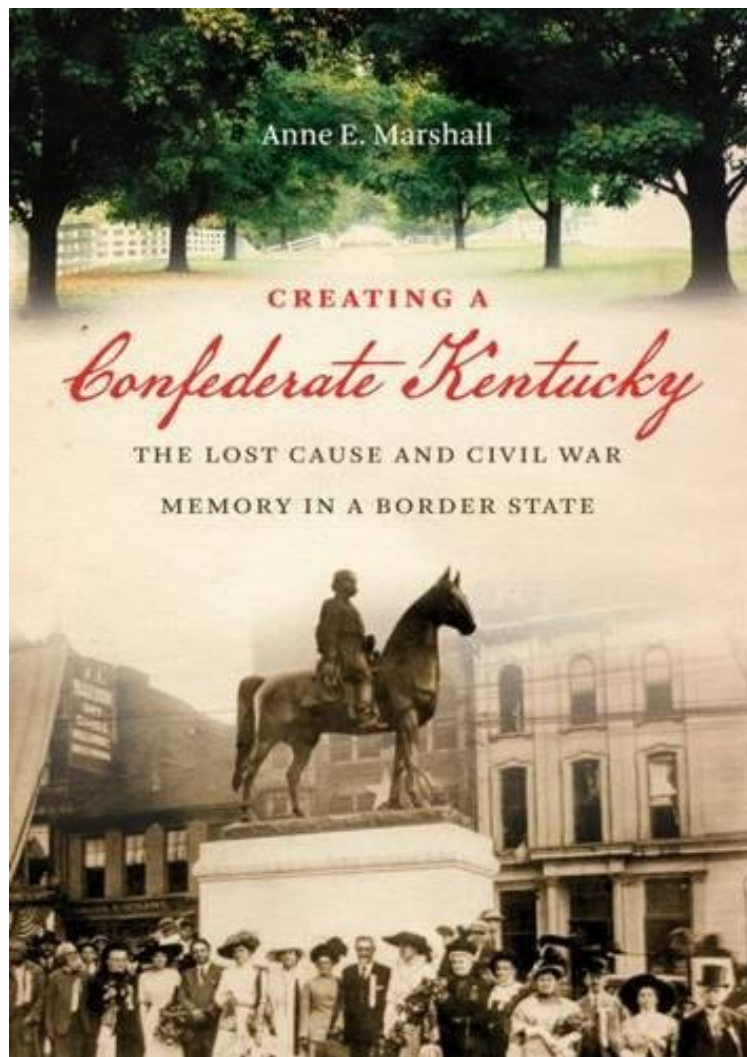


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## **Creating a Confederate Kentucky: The Lost Cause and Civil War Memory in a Border State (Civil War America)**

*Anne E. Marshall*

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#446214 in Books The University of North Carolina Press 2013-08-01 2013-08-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x .63 x 6.131, 1.19 #File Name: 1469609835256 pages | File size: 79.Mb

**Anne E. Marshall : Creating a Confederate Kentucky: The Lost Cause and Civil War Memory in a Border State (Civil War America)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Creating a Confederate Kentucky: The Lost Cause and Civil War Memory in a Border State (Civil War America)*:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. "A Strange Conclusion to a Triumphant war" By Alan F. Sewell Kentucky was arguably THE pivotal state in the Civil War. It was the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson

Davis, and Henry Clay, the "Great Compromiser." At the outset of the war Kentucky elected a pro-Union legislature that prevented the secessionist governor from taking the state out of the Union and thereby encouraging Maryland and Missouri to follow suit. During the war prominent Kentuckians filled President Lincoln's cabinet, reassuring Border State residents that Lincoln was not their enemy. Kentuckians refused to rally to the Confederate cause when Braxton Bragg's Confederate Army occupied most of the state. Thus it may be fairly said that the Confederacy's back was broken in Kentucky. Yet as soon as the war ended influential Kentuckians embraced the Southern causes of States Rights (i.e. "keep the Negroes in their place") to such an extent that most Kentuckians came to see their state as having been a keystone of the Confederacy instead of the other way around. A few years after the war a Kentucky Unionist lamented: "A consistently loyal man in Kentucky, is of all men most miserable,--persecuted, trodden under foot, hooted at by rampant rebels--And disowned Cast off--by the government, he hazarded all to Support--he finds no security, no ray of hope Anywhere--It is a political mystery if not iniquity, that a triumphant government, should exalt its enemies--and abase its friends--This is a Strange Conclusion to a Triumphant war." So why DID Kentucky repudiate the Confederacy during the war only to embrace it after it had been defeated? Dr. Marshall answers that question as succinctly as I have ever seen it stated:===== "For many Kentucky whites, who had traded their loyalty to the Union in return for protection of slave property, black enlistment (in the Federal Army) was the ultimate blow, the final realization that the Union cause had evolved and was no longer their own."===== In other words Emancipation caused a majority of White Kentuckians to switch their sympathies from the Union to the Confederacy but only AFTER it was too late to have a material impact on the course of the war. Kentuckians were also annoyed by the heavy-handed administrations of its Union Military Governors, but Emancipation is clearly the fundamental factor that alienated them. The most important conclusion I drew from this book is that President Lincoln was exactly right in his timing of the Emancipation Proclamation. If he had issued it during early 1862 Kentucky would most likely have entered the Confederacy during Bragg's invasion in September 1862 and the Union cause may have unraveled. This book makes it clear that maintaining White hegemony over Blacks was the primary political interest of Kentuckians during and after the war. As soon as their hegemony was broken White Kentuckians began to identify with the Confederacy. This book also hints at the importance of African-Americans in Kentucky. The book states that 40,000 Black Kentuckians enlisted in the Federal armies and many more labored as civilians in the railroads and ports. Thus, African-Americans accounted for much of Kentucky's Union war effort. Those were the important points that expanded my education about Kentucky during and after the Civil War. Here are some other things I liked: \* The writing is lucid and the length of the book is right. The breath of material is wide but there is no useless filler. Every paragraph is interesting. \* There are no hidden agendas. It is a deeply researched factual account that doesn't have any ideological or revisionist axes to grind. It is always a comfort to read this kind of book when so many these days are written by people aligned with outrageously bogus revisionist agendas that make a mockery of the Civil War era and the people who lived through it. This book lets the facts speak for themselves. \* It captures the feeling of postwar melancholy. After the war Kentucky became the step-child of the Union --- a loyal state that somehow wasn't loyal enough. Coincident with the war the political and economic center of the United States shifted toward the emerging Northeastern and Midwestern industrial centers, leaving Kentucky as a backwater. This was a severe demotion for a state that had played such a prominent role in national politics until 1860. \* It tells how the images of controversial Confederate Kentucky partisans like John Hunt Morgan were rehabilitated by postwar Kentuckians from being "horse thieves and highway robbers" to heroes. \* It tells the entertaining stories of how prominent Kentuckians like colorful newspaper editor Henry Watterson dedicated their lives to creating a mythology of Kentucky as a Southern state with Northern values. Some of the yarns they spun were hilariously exaggerated mischaracterizations of Kentuckians. Maybe they were trying a bit too hard to "spin" an image that really didn't need to be spun. Just let Kentucky be what it is. This book is an excellent complement to *SISTER STATES*, *ENEMY STATES* another well-written book that vividly describes Kentucky's Civil War years. By reading both books you will come away with a thorough understanding of how the Civil War shaped Kentucky both in fact and in mythology right on down to our own time. The human interest story in *CREATING A CONFEDERATE KENTUCKY* is about how during the past 150 years Kentuckians have spent so much effort inventing stories of what they THINK their ancestors did during the Civil War. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A look at *CREATING A CONFEDERATE KENTUCKY* By Douglas Lippman Dr. Ann Marshall's *CREATING A CONFEDERATE KENTUCKY* is a well written and well researched book. It points out the deception used by President Lincoln in order to keep the border states from seceding. Lincoln's famous quote that to lose Kentucky would be to lose it all reveals the importance he gave to the state of his birth. The constant promise that the best way to protect slavery was to stay in the Union turned out to be a deception for the slaveowners in the Commonwealth. Dr. Marshall plays heavily on this deception, revealing how this angered many Unionists in Kentucky when they realized they had been deceived. They rightly felt betrayed. Unfortunately, the author does not play enough on the importance of the war crimes of General Stephen Burbridge, who was the military governor of Kentucky in the later months of the conflict. His cruelty turned the stomachs of even the staunchest Unionists in the state. The result was a Kentucky characterized by lawlessness and bitterness after the war. Anarchy reigned, as former Confederates were voted into many of the most important positions in the

commonwealth's government. The treatment of the contradictions in Union policy is clearly revealed in her treatment of Camp Nelson. This is a book which will interest many students of the Civil War or Reconstruction. While it goes well beyond 1877 in its treatment of a state in crisis, it will certainly prove a fascinating read for fellow Kentuckians. Doug Lippman 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Strong Narrative, Accurate History By Joshua Bader The book is a sobering read, highlighting the ability of people to rewrite historical facts to suit current interests. While Kentucky became important as a Union state during the Civil War, racial politics interested in keeping freedpeople subservient radically obscured Kentucky's true history. Dr. Marshall does a good job of setting the record straight in this highly readable narrative.

Historian E. Merton Coulter famously said that Kentucky "waited until after the war was over to secede from the Union." In this fresh study, Anne E. Marshall traces the development of a Confederate identity in Kentucky between 1865 and 1925 that belied the fact that Kentucky never left the Union and that more Kentuckians fought for the North than for the South. Following the Civil War, the people of Kentucky appeared to forget their Union loyalties, embracing the Democratic politics, racial violence, and Jim Crow laws associated with formerly Confederate states. Although, on the surface, white Confederate memory appeared to dominate the historical landscape of postwar Kentucky, Marshall's closer look reveals an active political and cultural dialogue that included white Unionists, Confederate Kentuckians, and the state's African Americans, who, from the last days of the war, drew on Union victory and their part in winning it to lay claim to the fruits of freedom and citizenship. Rather than focusing exclusively on postwar political and economic factors, *Creating a Confederate Kentucky* looks over the longer term at Kentuckians' activities--public memorial ceremonies, dedications of monuments, and veterans organizations' events--by which they commemorated the Civil War and fixed the state's remembrance of it for sixty years following the conflict.

An intelligent narrative. . . . The author writes well and is easy to read. . . . A valuable and serious history of the development of Confederate memory in Kentucky and in America. . . . An excellent book for any student of Reconstruction, the process of reconciliation or the years after the Civil War.--TOCWOC: A Civil War Blog Marshall's book is beautifully written and truly a pleasure to read.--Journal of Southern History An interesting, informative book. It helps clarify the experiences of many of us who grew up in Kentucky. . . . The book has set a new standard.--The Kentucky Civil War Bugle Examines all sides of Kentucky's Union-Confederate postwar dialogue. . . . [A] thoughtful, carefully researched and plausibly presented historical study, illustrated with a handful of vintage black-and-white photographs. Highly recommended.--Midwest Book Marshall has crafted an easily read, easily comprehensible scholarly volume. Recommended. All levels/libraries.--Choice By enriching our understanding of the ways Confederate Kentuckians, white Unionists, and African Americans interpreted the state's participation in the Civil War, Marshall also sheds significant light on the processes through which competing interests claim ownership of history.--The Journal of American History Marshall has illuminated an important and understudied aspect of how a border region simultaneously departed from and reflected broader patterns of memory. Marshall's excellent study will refine our understanding of how contested and unpredictable memory was and continues to be.--The American Historical Rather than focusing exclusively on postwar political and economic factors, *Creating a Confederate Kentucky* looks over the longer term at Kentuckians' activities . . . by which they commemorated the Civil War and fixed the state's remembrance of it for sixty years following the conflict. . . . Will be a nice addition to your Confederate/Kentucky library shelf. . . . Excellent.--Lone Star Book Ideal for a range of scholars . . . . A pleasure to read.--Journal of Historical Geography A must read for all Civil War historians.--Journal of NC Association of Historians Marshall's book is a good read, and it will be of much interest to those seeking a better understanding not only of Kentucky's key role in the 1860s, but also of how all of us have remembered the war ever since.--Blue Gray Magazine Anne Marshall's *Creating a Confederate Kentucky* alters the entire field of Civil War memory study. . . . [It] is a masterful work of scholarship. Its prose is lucid; its research is thorough; and its interpretative power is truly groundbreaking.--Civil War Book An excellent book: tightly argued, richly detailed, and elegantly written. It is a model of what a state study can do, showing the importance of not just race, but also place, to the story of the Lost Cause.--Civil War Monitor *Creating a Confederate Kentucky* is a welcome addition to the study of post-Civil War Kentucky. . . . Those who teach the history of Kentucky and of the Civil War and Reconstruction will find this book a valuable addition to their reading lists.--Journal of the Civil War Era In this much-anticipated volume, Anne E. Marshall offers a definitive answer to the conundrum of why white Kentuckians manufactured a false Confederate past after the Civil War. It is both a significant contribution to studies of memory and a major milestone in the history of the Bluegrass State.--Kenneth W. Noe, author of *Reluctant Rebels: The Confederates Who Joined the Army after 1861* A fresh, readable, insightful look at postwar memory, *Creating a Confederate Kentucky* shows how a state with bitterly divided wartime loyalties fought a long postwar conflict with itself, one that produces a disconnect between history and memory. It is a riveting, revealing story that tells us much about not only that world but our own as well.--James C. Klotter, the state historian of Kentucky and professor of history, Georgetown College From the Inside Flap Marshall

traces the development of a Confederate identity in Kentucky between 1865 and 1925 that belied the fact that Kentucky never left the Union and that more Kentuckians fought for the North than for the South. Following the Civil War, the people of Kentucky appeared to forget their Union loyalties, embracing the Democratic politics, racial violence, and Jim Crow laws associated with formerly Confederate states.