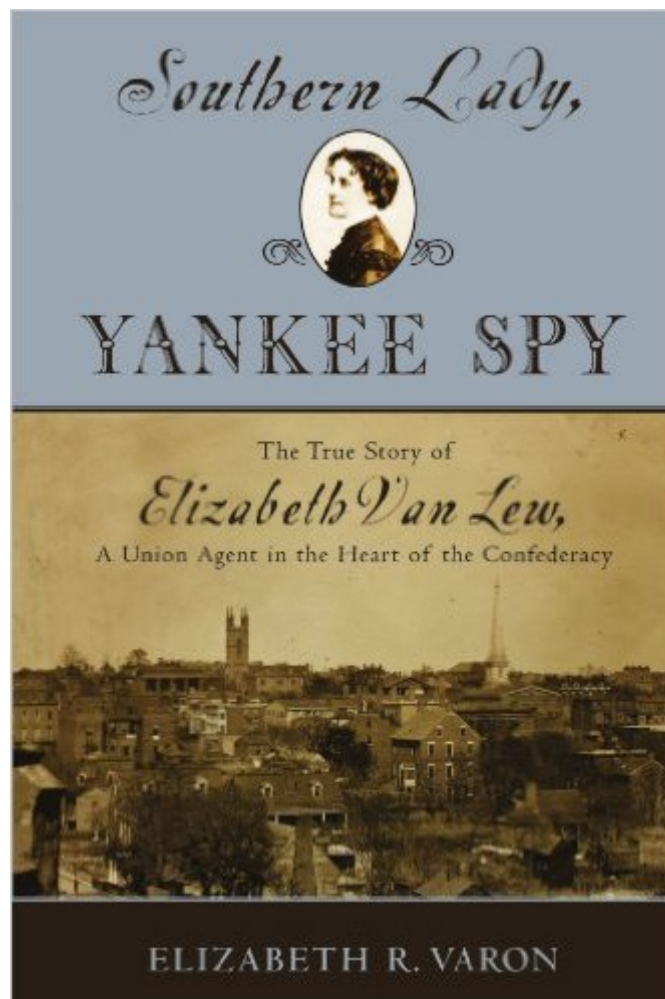


The book was found

Southern Lady, Yankee Spy: The True Story Of Elizabeth Van Lew, A Union Agent In The Heart Of The Confederacy



Synopsis

Northern sympathizer in the Confederate capital, daring spymaster, postwar politician: Elizabeth Van Lew was one of the most remarkable figures in American history, a woman who defied the conventions of the nineteenth-century South. In *Southern Lady, Yankee Spy*, historian Elizabeth Varon provides a gripping, richly researched account of the woman who led what one historian called "the most productive espionage operation of the Civil War." Under the nose of the Confederate government, Van Lew ran a spy ring that gathered intelligence, hampered the Southern war effort, and helped scores of Union soldiers to escape from Richmond prisons. Varon describes a woman who was very much a product of her time and place, yet continually took controversial stands--from her early efforts to free her family's slaves, to her daring wartime activities and beyond. Varon's powerful biography brings Van Lew to life, showing how she used the stereotypes of the day to confound Confederate authorities (who suspected her, but could not believe a proper Southern lady could be a spy), even as she brought together Union sympathizers at all levels of society, from slaves to slaveholders. After the war, a grateful President Ulysses S. Grant named her postmaster of Richmond--a remarkable break with custom for this politically influential post. But her Unionism, Republican politics, and outspoken support of racial justice earned her a lifetime of scorn in the former Confederate capital. Even today, Elizabeth Van Lew remains a controversial figure in her beloved Richmond, remembered as the "Crazy Bet" of Lost Cause propaganda. Elizabeth Varon's account rescues her from both derision and oblivion, depicting an intelligent, resourceful, highly principled woman who remained, as she saw it, true to her country to the end.

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (March 24, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195179897

ISBN-13: 978-0195179897

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.8 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (29 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #683,175 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #144 in Â Books > History >

Americas > United States > Civil War > Women #373 in Â Books > History > Americas > United

Customer Reviews

.I am the great-great grandson of Elizabeth's brother, discussed extensively in the book. Ms. Varon has admirably fleshed out with documented sources many of the accounts passed down through our family. She has (thankfully) quite thoroughly debunked the 'Crazy Bet' nonsense that always bothered those of us who knew something of the real story. In that respect it is a valuable and enjoyable work. Most satisfying was the evident skill with which the author develops the paradox of northerners, starting with Elizabeth's father who came to Richmond in 1807 from New Jersey at age 17, becoming so thoroughly southern that her brother could marry into some of the bluest blood Virginia ever produced. The book, however, would have been even better had Ms. Varon taken the time to develop a chapter on Elizabeth's sister-in-law, Mary Carter West. They did /not/ get along, and the Secession Crisis blew the Van Lew marriage apart along some already weak seams. Mary was directly descended from four of the most important families in Virginia -- the Carters, Harrisons, Randolphs, and Wests. Robert E Lee's mother was a Carter cousin. President Harrison was a great-uncle. Mary's brother Thomas enlisted with the 27th Virginia Infantry less than a month after Fort Sumter was shelled, and was one of a handful of original enlistees still alive to surrender at Appomatox. The battle of Malvern Hill (1862) was literally in the West family's front yard. In fairness to Ms. Varon I should note that she did mention Mary's departure from the family (family lore says that Elizabeth drove her out of the house) and subsequent (1864) testimony intended to finger the Van Lews as traitors.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Southern Lady, Yankee Spy: The True Story of Elizabeth Van Lew, a Union Agent in the Heart of the Confederacy
SOUTHERN COOKBOOK: Southern Cooking Bible: Smokin' Tasty And Authentic Southern Recipes (southern cooking, southern recipes, southern cookbook)
Southern Cooking: for beginners - Simple Southern Food Recipes - Old South Recipes (Southern Food - Southern Meals - Southern Recipes - Soul Food - American Cuisine Book 1)
How to Become a Spy: A Guide to Developing Spy Skills and Joining the Elite Underworld of Secret Agents and Spy Operatives
True Ghost Stories And Hauntings: Horrifying True Paranormal Hauntings From The Last 300 Years: Creepy True Ghost Stories And Accounts (True Ghost Stories, True Paranormal, Bizarre True Stories)
Heart Disease: Heart Disease Prevention And Reversal Guide To Prevent Heart Disease And Reverse Heart Disease With Heart Disease Prevention Strategies And Heart Disease Diet

Advice The Temporary Agent (The Agent Series) Bizarre True Stories: Weird And Unusual True Stories Of The Paranormal, Strange Sightings, Eerie True Ghost Stories And Unexplained Phenomena (True Paranormal ... True Ghost Stories And Hauntings) Heart of the Eagle: Dragging Canoe & the Emergence of the Chickamauga Confederacy Southern Pressure Cooking: Over 40 Quick and Easy Southern Meals and Secret Family Recipes for Your Pressure Cooker (Instant Pot & Southern Recipes) Southern Cooking Cookbooks: southern cooking recipes Collection Of the Best, Healthy, Delicious And Recommended Soul Food Cookbook (soul food for diabetes,Southern Cookbook): Best Fried Chicken Cruising the Southern and Western Caribbean: A Guide to the Ships & the Ports of Call (Cruising the Southern and Western Caribbean) (Cruising the Southern & Western Caribbean) True North: The Story of Mary and Elizabeth Durack Vincent Van Gogh Drawings (Vincent Van Gogh, Drawings) Vol.4 Een ontdekkingstocht in de binnenlanden van Suriname: dagboek van de Saramacca-expeditie Van Gogh y sus cartas a Theo: MÃ¡s allÃ¡ de la leyenda (Misterios de Van Gogh nÂº 2) (Spanish Edition) Una Hora con Van Gogh: BiografÃ­a completa para Principiantes (Misterios de Van Gogh nÂº 1) (Spanish Edition) Â¿A dÃ­nde van nuestros hijos cuando se nos van tan pronto? (Spanish Edition) Deanna Raybourn Lady Julia Grey Volume 2: Dark Road to Darjeeling\The Dark Enquiry\Silent Night bonus story (A Lady Julia Grey Mystery) The Political System of the European Union (European Union (Paperback Adult))

[Dmca](#)