

because she does not seek to prove whether what she labels “self-rhetoric” is expressed, vocally or silently, beyond the confines of the diaries of these women.

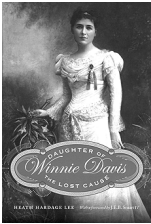
In the last chapter and conclusion, Harrison has an opportunity to contextualize women’s lives. She might have shown how women actually followed tradition by first asserting themselves as patriots and Confederates—at least to themselves, during the war, standing up to Yankees, in their own minds, defending their men’s positions in the absence of those men—to show how traditional southern women acted, or as they thought they acted. English common law, adopted by Americans after the Revolution, designated women as subservient and invisible (*femme covert*) unless their husbands were absent, at which point wives took husbands’ places. This, it seems is what the whole book shows. Women, in their own minds, and possibly in their spoken words and actions to audiences other than themselves and God, asserted themselves in defense of their homes, their men’s honor, and their “country,” while the war raged. They then toned down their patriotic rhetoric once the conflict ended. In her last chapters Harrison shows how women wrote about the ahistorical attitude of the conquerors toward their former enemies and the inability of southern elite and middle-class women to forget the recent past, a difference that characterized one section of the nation that remained steeped in a particular memory of the past and possibly stuck there. She seems to point to what happened next, that many white southern women held onto a “reconstructed” version of the past for dear life, while northerners moved forward into the future, rarely looking back. She also shows a glimmer of how two memories of the past conflicted in the South, as black southern women, who remembered slavery, reacted to white mistresses in hostile ways, and white women attempted to recreate a past that continued to ignore the fact that now free Americans were oppressed by the system. White women became so nostalgic for an idyllic past that they were willing to forgive white men for defeat in order to preserve class and race privilege rather than to seek gender equality.

Again, I wanted to like the book, but the repetition and overuse of the word rhetoric in various forms was tedious beyond measure.



Winnie Davis: Daughter of the Lost Cause • Heath Hardage Lee • Dulles, Va.: Potomac Books, 2014 • xvi, 214 pp. • \$29.95

Reviewed by Jane Turner Censer, professor of history at George Mason University. She is the author of *The Reconstruction of White Southern Womanhood, 1865–1895* (2003).



Few Civil War buffs, not to mention the general public, could today identify Varina Anne “Winnie” Davis, who was well-known at the height of Lost Cause nostalgia. As the “Daughter of the Confederacy,” she came to symbolize to the postbellum South both white female purity and daughterly devotion. This new highly readable biography introduces Winnie Davis to a modern audience.

Born in Richmond in 1864, Winnie, the youngest child of Confederate president Jefferson Davis and his wife Varina, experienced a childhood full of upheaval. After the Civil War, the Davis family moved frequently among Canada, England, and the American South, settling in Memphis in 1870. In 1876, thirteen-year-old Winnie was sent to a boarding school in Germany, where she remained for five years. Explaining this important decision, Heath Lee asserts that although the Davises wanted an excellent education for their daughter, they also wanted her to receive rigorous training. Jefferson Davis, in particular, “worried about his youngest daughter’s stubbornness and lack of parental deference” (p. 45).

Winnie Davis received a highly intellectual education, but the years of separation exacted a huge emotional penalty and gave her an upbringing different from most young American women, especially southern ones. More intellectually inclined, Winnie also was less interested in fashion. Some time in the mid-1880s, she became her father’s traveling companion as he visited Confederate reunions and memorials. In the spring of 1886 an introduction of her to a crowd of veterans, most likely in West Point, Georgia, led a newspaper to designate her as the “Daughter of the Confederacy.” She never escaped this title, even though her European education had given her a slight German accent and little interest in the Civil War.

In the 1880s Winnie also frequently visited New York City, where she was hosted by her cousin, Kate Pulitzer, wife of the wealthy New York newspaper publisher. There Winnie met well-to-do Northeasterners, including Alfred Wilkinson, a young lawyer from Syracuse, New York, and the grandson of a prominent abolitionist. By the autumn of 1888, Winnie and Alfred were engaged. The southern outcry over such a possible union and Winnie’s precarious health led to her taking a European getaway, financed by the Pulitzers, the following year. After the engagement fizzled, Winnie and her mother moved to New York City. Again with the assistance of family friends, Winnie began a literary career, writing magazine pieces and two novels. Ironically enough, after years of gastritis and perhaps an eating disorder, she developed a fever, after reluctantly attending a Lost Cause event, and died in 1898 at age thirty-four.

This book, in process over the last twenty years, has been a labor of love for the author. In part, she builds upon historian Cita Cook’s fascinating article about Winnie Davis’s symbolic meaning to Confederate veterans. Lee views Davis as unsuited by temperament and outlook for that celebrity and turns her focus more on

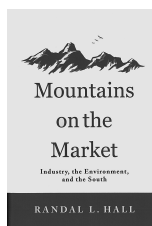
Winnie's actual life. This book delves into Winnie's outlook and motivation, but the destruction of many of her letters presents an enormous roadblock. Moreover, like other biographers, Lee at times inflates the importance of her subject: few historians would agree that Winnie Davis's death "signaled the end of an era" (p. 164).

Although far from the average southern woman, Winnie Davis in education, courtship, and career outlook probably more resembled other privileged young women, North and South, than the author indicates. Nonetheless, Heath Lee has produced an engrossing, fast-paced account of one young woman's brush with a celebrity that she was unable to renounce.



Mountains on the Market: Industry, the Environment, and the South • Randal L. Hall • Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2012 • viii, 290 pp. • \$40.00

Reviewed by John E. Stealey III, Distinguished Professor, Emeritus, of History at Shepherd University. He is the author of *Kanawhan Prelude to Nineteenth-Century United States Monopoly: The Virginia Salt Combinations* (2000).



Other than bituminous coal, the extractive industries in the western part of Virginia in any era have attracted the piercing attention of few professional historians. In this relatively brief study, with detail that defies easy summarization, Randal L. Hall surveys the 250-year period of natural resource exploitation and allied economic phenomena—such as land tenure, capital formation, transportation issues, town formation, technological advances, the labor sources and work, and legal evolution—in the commonwealth's New River Valley and surrounding areas. With astonishing comprehensiveness, he relates the development of the myriad resource and associated smelting and manufacturing enterprises: lead, iron, copper, zinc, sulphuric acid production, limestone quarrying, calcium carbide, the munitions industry, and hydroelectric generation. Mineral by mineral, industry by industry, Hall conveys the path of evolution from mining to the manufacturing or fabrication process (for example, iron ore to railcar wheels). Each activity required a separate investigation and narrative. Hall unfailingly shows the many relationships between the regional enterprises over time and their connection with national and international political, economic, and technological developments.

Common historical themes characterize Appalachian western Virginia's extractive industries from colonial times to the modern. Colonial landowners, often in a few interrelated families, and their later successors, sometimes holding huge acreages,