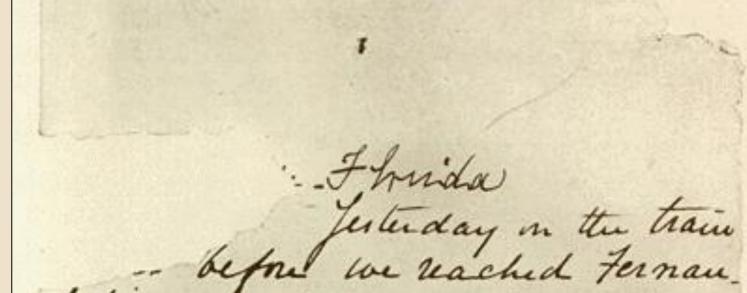
Mary Chesnut: A Southern Woman

Jade Gordon

WHO WAS MARY **BOYKIN CHESNUT?**

A DIARY FROM DIXIE, as written by

MARY BOYKIN CHESNUT, wife of JAMES CHESNUT, JR., United States Senator from South Carolina, 1859-1861, and afterward an Aide to Jefferson Davis and a Brigadier-General in the Confederate Army



Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Randi Barnes-Cox

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

Mary Chesnut was much like other women in the Antebellum south in her acceptance of the ways of the southern lady and she displays these traits throughout the entirety of VIEW OF CHARLESTON DURING THE WAR From an Old Print. her diary. Most of her diary consisted of of a southern woman, she accounts of her did not do it without observation of men talking complaint and commonly and discussing the Civil mentioned her struggles and War. This quiet frustrations with the observation is one of the patriarchal society. The most key principles of a important thing about Mary Southern Lady; to be seen Chesnut that really sets her and not heard. Her on the same level as the reconciliation with her other southern women of status as a southern lady the time is her opinions on defined her, as she was slavery. This is a highly

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dena la loman crud out : "That - Settles the hash". Janny Touched the on au thoulder, - Look ant: - Lineolu's elected: "How do you Know? "-"The man over There has a leligran The excitement was bey quat. Wery body was talking at the Same Rime . me, à little more moved than the others stow up. raying desportly - "The die is Cast - no more vain lepets - Sad for bodings an useless . The state is life or death ." " now did you ever!" was the surveiling exclamation.

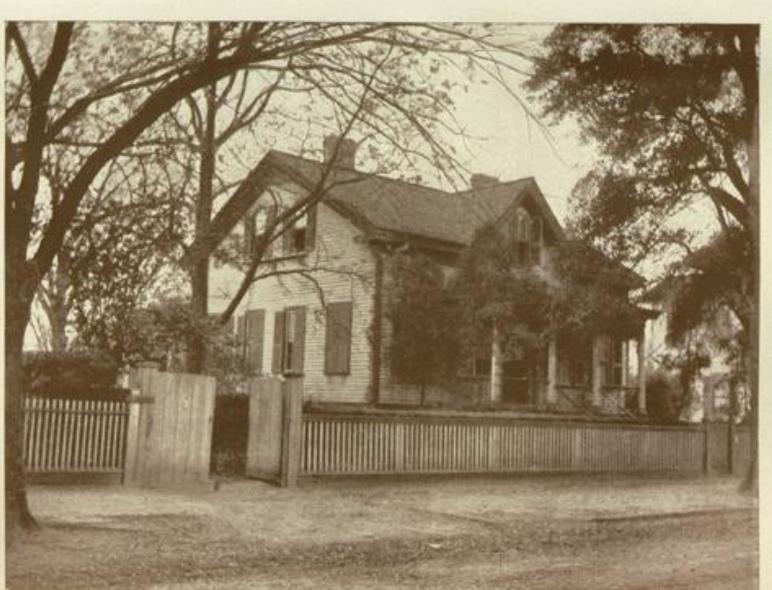
A PAGE OF THE DIARY IN FACSIMILE.

During the Antebellum era in care of the man's business in the southern United States, his absence. For many women women had a distinct, defined today, this would seem place in society. The typical oppressive, and they wouldn't southern woman was expected stand this treatment, but to be at the full will of their women at this time were husbands, obey their every expected to assimilate to that demand, act in a presentable way of life. Mary Chesnut was in manner and know their turn to one southern woman talk. On top of being expected particular who experienced the to uphold womanly duties like ways of southern life for caring for children, the home women, and she documented it and the slaves they would take in her Civil War Diary. Mary Chesnut was a southern woman who grew up on a plantation with many slaves and eventually married a wealthy slaveowner who went into politics leading up to the Civil War. Her husband was elected as a senator from South Carolina and served until the secession of the state, and during this period of time Mary advised her husband, as she was extremely smart.



unwilling to socially exile refuted point. Many herself by speaking her historians neglect to notice truth aloud and instead all of the of instances where channeled it into her she countered her occasional diary. While Chesnut did dissention with slavery with prejudice. fit into the norms

CONCLUSION



the Civil War as a whole with the day-today narrative. Not only is her work important to the Civil War but it is also essential to looking into the elite perspective of southern society and through the norms eyes of a woman who actively participated and documented it regularly.

MRS. JAMES CHESNUT, JR. From a Portrait in Oil.

Here Mrs. Chesnut entertained Jefferson Davis.

Mary Chesnut's diary is cited fantastic historical a as document and contributes to historians understanding of

Mary Chesnut noticed the contradictions of the southern way of life, yet she never did anything about it, nor did she do anything beyond pointing it out.

All pictures credit to: https://docsouth.unc.edu/southlit/chesnut/maryches.html#mches402