



I Had Rather Die: Rape in the Civil War (Paperback)

By Kim Murphy

Coachlight Press, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.The American Civil War is often regarded as a low-rape war, due to gentlemanly restraint. Nearly thirty Union soldiers were executed for the crime. As a result, rape is perceived to have been dealt with harshly. On the surface, the numbers reflect the view that rape was indeed far from widespread. In reality, few soldiers received harsh punishment for a crime that was considered a capital offense in the nineteenth century. Through the extensive use of primary sources, Kim Murphy exposes the misrepresentations of the topic of rape during the war. Not only were women raped during times of battle, but those who bravely stepped forward to name their attackers were interrogated in the justice system, often by their assailants. Courts-martial revolved around a woman's consent and her degree of resistance against a man's force. Poor and black women frequently had their reputations called into question. For far too long, women's claims have been dismissed as hearsay and propaganda. Behind the brother-against-brother war lurks the hidden war of brother against sister.

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