

THE **MYTH** OF THE **LOST CAUSE**



**WHY THE SOUTH FOUGHT THE CIVIL WAR
AND WHY THE NORTH WON**

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The Lost Cause

Gaines M. Foster



The Lost Cause:

The Myth of the Lost Cause Edward H. Bonekemper, 2015-10-05 History isn't always written by the winners. Twenty-first century controversies over Confederate monuments attest to the enduring significance of our nineteenth century Civil War. As Lincoln knew, the meaning of America itself depends on how we understand that fratricidal struggle. As soon as the Army of Northern Virginia laid down its arms at Appomattox, a group of Confederate officers took up their pens to refight the war for the history books. They composed a new narrative, the Myth of the Lost Cause, seeking to ennoble the sacrifice and defeat of the South, which popular historians in the twentieth century would perpetuate. Unfortunately, that myth would distort the historical imagination of Americans north and south for 150 years. In this balanced and compelling correction of the historical record, Edward Bonekemper helps us understand the Myth of the Lost Cause and its effect on the social and political controversies that are still important to all Americans. [The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History](#) Gary W. Gallagher, Alan T. Nolan, 2000. The myth of the Lost Cause of the Confederate States in the Civil War was and is an elaborate and intentional effort on the part of southerners to rationalise the secession and the war itself. Unfortunately for historical truth and the national memory, these skilful propagandists, beginning with Jubal Early, have been so successful that the Lost Cause has assumed a life of its own and continues to misrepresent what really happened, distorting the national memory in the process. In this book, nine historians analyse the Lost Cause, describing its content and identifying its falsity. The work is thus a major contribution to Civil War historiography. **The Myth of the Lost Cause, 1865-1900** Rollin Gustav Osterweis, 1973. *The Lost Cause* Edward Alfred Pollard, 1867. [Monuments to the Lost Cause](#) Cynthia Mills, Cynthia J. Mills, Pamela Hemenway Simpson, 2003. This richly illustrated collection of fourteen essays examines the ways in which Confederate memorials, from Monument Avenue to Stone Mountain, and the public rituals surrounding them, testify to the tenets of the Lost Cause, a romanticized narrative of the war. Several essays highlight the creative leading role played by women's groups in memorialization, while others explore the alternative ways in which people outside white southern culture wrote their very different histories on the southern landscape. The authors, who include Richard Guy Wilson, Catherine W. Bishir, W. Fitzhugh Brundage, and William M. S. Ramussen, trace the origins, objectives, and changing consequences of Confederate monuments over time and the dynamics of individuals and organizations that sponsored them. Thus, these essays extend the growing literature on the rhetoric of the Lost Cause by shifting the focus to the realm of the visual. They are especially relevant in the present day when Confederate symbols and monuments continue to play a central role in a public and often emotionally charged debate about how the South's past should be remembered. The editors, Art Historian Cynthia Mills, a specialist in nineteenth century public sculpture, is executive editor of *American Art*, the scholarly journal of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Pamela H. Simpson is the Ernest Williams II Professor of Art History at Washington and Lee University. She is the coauthor of *The Architecture of Historic Lexington*. [The Limits of the Lost Cause](#) Gaines M.

Foster,2024-04-03 The Limits of the Lost Cause challenges prevailing ways of thinking about the impact of the Civil War on the American South Above all Gaines Foster s work encourages Americans to confront the new divisions within their society even as they wrestle with old national not just southern failings *The Lost Cause* Edward Alfred Pollard,1868 **Gale Researcher Guide for: The Lost Cause Mythology** Andrew P. Patrick,2018-09-28 Gale Researcher Guide for The Lost Cause Mythology is selected from Gale s academic platform Gale Researcher These study guides provide peer reviewed articles that allow students early success in finding scholarly materials and to gain the confidence and vocabulary needed to pursue deeper research Ghosts of the Confederacy Gaines M. Foster,1987-04-23 After Lee and Grant met at Appomatox Court House in 1865 to sign the document ending the long and bloody Civil War the South at last had to face defeat as the dream of a Confederate nation melted into the Lost Cause Through an examination of memoirs personal papers and postwar Confederate rituals such as memorial day observances monument unveilings and veterans reunions *Ghosts of the Confederacy* probes into how white southerners adjusted to and interpreted their defeat and explores the cultural implications of a central event in American history Foster argues that contrary to southern folklore southerners actually accepted their loss rapidly embraced both reunion and a New South and helped to foster sectional reconciliation and an emerging social order He traces southerners fascination with the Lost Cause showing that it was rooted as much in social tensions resulting from rapid change as it was in the legacy of defeat and demonstrates that the public celebration of the war helped to make the South a deferential and conservative society Although the ghosts of the Confederacy still haunted the New South Foster concludes that they did little to shape behavior in it white southerners in celebrating the war ultimately trivialized its memory reduced its cultural power and failed to derive any special wisdom from defeat The Lost Cause: a New Southern History of the War of the Confederates Edward Pollard,2014-03-09 One of the most important works written about the Civil War came from someone who didn t fight in the war itself In 1867 Edward Pollard an editor for a Richmond newspaper published *The Lost Cause* championing his voluminous book as a New Southern history of the war Pollard s work poignantly reflected the sentiments of unrepentant rebels clinging to their ideology Pollard explicitly explained the motivation behind what he termed the Lost Cause Although the South had lost the Civil War he argued that the South could still wage and win the war of ideas Conceding that the South s loss meant restoration of the union and the excision of slavery Pollard was still defiant writing that the war did not decide Negro equality To say Pollard s work was influential would be an understatement Pollard s *Lost Cause* quickly found its way into Southern writing most notably in the Southern Historical Society Described by historian David Blight as the vehicle for presenting the Confederate version of the war to the world Civil War historiography originated with Pollard s work and the papers published by the Society Written mostly by unreconstructed veterans aiming to relate and rewrite the history of the Civil War the Society s papers became the most important driving force for Southern revisionism dedicated to making their vision of Civil War history the dominant one The

Society would prove to be extremely successful at this and the Lost Cause interpretation of the Civil War named after Pollard's work is still one of the most influential today

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Table of Contents The Lost Cause

1. Understanding the eBook The Lost Cause
 - The Rise of Digital Reading The Lost Cause
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying The Lost Cause
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an The Lost Cause
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from The Lost Cause
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - The Lost Cause User Reviews and Ratings
 - The Lost Cause and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing The Lost Cause Free and Paid eBooks
 - The Lost Cause Public Domain eBooks
 - The Lost Cause eBook Subscription Services
 - The Lost Cause Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating The Lost Cause eBook Formats

- ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
- The Lost Cause Compatibility with Devices
- The Lost Cause Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of The Lost Cause
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking The Lost Cause
 - Interactive Elements The Lost Cause
- 8. Staying Engaged with The Lost Cause
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers The Lost Cause
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books The Lost Cause
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection The Lost Cause
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine The Lost Cause
 - Setting Reading Goals The Lost Cause
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of The Lost Cause
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of The Lost Cause
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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