



Southern Sons: Becoming Men in the New Nation

By Lorri Glover

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Between the generations of Thomas Jefferson and Jefferson Davis, the culture of white Southerners experienced significant changes, including the establishment of a normative male identity that exuded confidence, independence, and power. *Southern Sons*, the first work in masculinity studies to concentrate on the early South, explores how young men of the southern gentry came of age between the 1790s and the 1820s. Lorri Glover examines how standards for manhood came about, how young men experienced them in the early South, and how those values transformed many American sons into southern nationalists who ultimately would conspire to tear apart the republic they had been raised to lead.

This was the first generation of boys raised to conceive of themselves as Americans, as well as the first cohort of self-defined southern men. They grew up believing that the fate of the American experiment in self-government depended on their ability to put away personal predispositions and perform prescribed roles. Because men faced demanding gender norms, boys had to pass exacting tests of manhood in education, refinement, courting, careers, and slave mastery. Only then could they join the ranks of the elite and claim power in society.

Revealing the complex interplay of nationalism and regionalism in the lives of southern men, Glover brings new insight to the question of what led the South toward sectionalism and civil war.

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Southern Sons: Becoming Men in the New Nation By Lorri Glover Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

A compelling examination.

(Giselle Roberts *Civil War Book Review*)

Makes important contributions to historians' understandings of gender, family, and sectionalism.

(Anya Jabour *Journal of American History*)

Insightful study.

(*Choice*)

We read about young men who exhibited a lifelong negotiation with authority, with society's expectations, with one another, and eventually with the North... Well-written, meticulously researched.

(Evan A. Kontarinis *Journal of the Early Republic*)

Glover convincingly revises the long-held thesis that honor is the best paradigm for investigating young Southern men's identities in the early national period.

(Jennifer L. Gross *H-NC, H-Net Reviews*)

Glover successfully demonstrates that becoming a man in the early national South was a complicated process that demanded much of the boys who sought to be considered men.

(Charlene Boyer Lewis *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*)

Glover carefully charts the empowerment which elite southern boys received over a lifetime of successfully navigating these social waters.

(R. Matthew Poteat *Shenandoah: The Washington and Lee University Review*)

Glover's new study of southern elite manhood in the new nation is an important contribution to southern history as well as to gender history.

(Thomas A. Foster *William and Mary Quarterly*)

Southern Sons is an impressive work, certain to influence?and perhaps even reshape?Southern social and cultural history for years to come, as well as the history of American masculinities.

(Steve Tripp *Historian*)

Glover's analysis is insightful and rests on exhaustive research in reliable sources.

(Matthew Mason *Southern Quarterly*)

An important book for anyone interested in gender, family history, or education in antebellum America. It is also a refreshing way to frame the origins of the American Civil War.

(Michael DeGruccio *H-CivWar*)

Southern Sons provides insight into the day-to-day lives of young southern elites and offers a detailed examination of the process by which southern boys became southern men in the Early Republic.

(Ehren K. Foley *Journal of Social History*)

Southern Sons adds immeasurably to our understanding of gender relations in the antebellum South. Compellingly argued, lucidly written, and thoroughly researched, this work is a model of sensitive historical analysis. Especially valuable is her demonstration of the complexities in social relations between parents and sons, peers and kin, college authorities and their often immature students. She pursues the lives of these favored young slaveholders through their courtships, marriages, and arrival on the threshold of responsible adulthood. Throughout their development, Glover persuasively asserts, they sought to become 'men of honor' and refinement in the classic terms of their time and culture. This study will be highly acclaimed by ordinary readers well as scholars of American history.

(Bertram Wyatt-Brown, author of *Southern Honor: Ethics and Behavior in the Old South* and *The Shaping of Southern Culture: Honor, Grace, and War*)

From the Back Cover

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Lorri Glover is the John Francis Bannon Professor in the Department of History at Saint Louis University. She is the author of *All Our Relations: Blood Ties and Emotional Bonds among the Early South Carolina Gentry*, also published by Johns Hopkins, and coauthor with Daniel Blake Smith of *The Shipwreck That Saved Jamestown: The Sea Venture Castaways and the Fate of America*.

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Users Review

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William Chapman:

This Southern Sons: Becoming Men in the New Nation usually are reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The key reason why of this Southern Sons: Becoming Men in the New Nation can be one of several great books you must have is giving you more than just simple reading food but feed a person with information that might be will shock your prior knowledge. This book is actually handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions at e-book and printed kinds. Beside that this Southern Sons: Becoming Men in the New Nation giving you an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

Doris Rice:

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