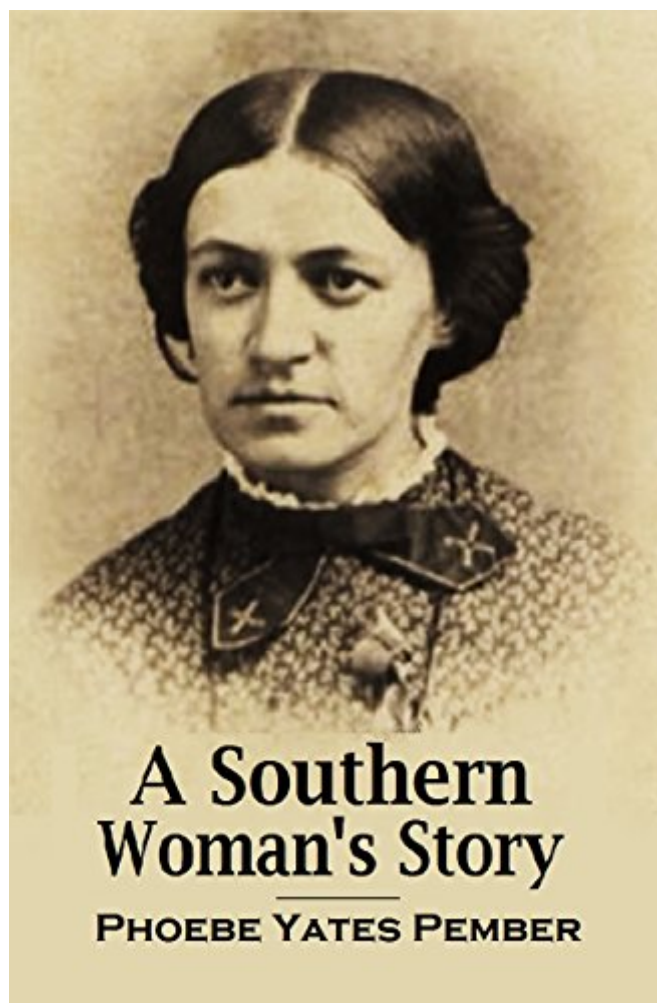


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# A Southern Woman's Story (1879)



## Synopsis

Phoebe Yates Levy Pember (1823 - 1913) was a member of a prominent American Jewish family from Charleston, South Carolina and a nurse and female administrator of Chimborazo Hospital at Richmond, Virginia during the American Civil War. She assumed the responsibility informally at the age of 39 and eventually over 15,000 patients came under her direct care during the war. Pember remained at Chimborazo until the Confederate surrender in April 1865. She published her memoir soon after the war, in March 1866, serialized in a Baltimore magazine called *The Cosmopolite* as "Reminiscences of A Southern Hospital. By Its Matron." The memoir would later be published in book form as *A Southern Woman's Story: Life in Confederate Richmond*, in 1879. The memoir, which details her daily life through anecdotes of the war years, remains one of the best sources for understanding the experiences and ideas of upper-class Southern Jewish women before and during the Civil War.

## Book Information

File Size: 431 KB

Print Length: 93 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: October 14, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01M9BKUH3

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #109,922 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #11

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## Customer Reviews

Solid historical read and good Kindle formatting. I started reading this in connection with one of my classes and it is really very good. Phoebe Yates Pember's story is an engaging one, and she writes

it well.

If you love Civil War history, this book is a must read! If this book had been 1000 pages if this book had been 1000 pages it still would not have been enough!

Cheer for the promptitude of your sending. I heard of this book, instructive and enriching, on "Radio Courtesy", via internet, which is the "independant local radio station of the real country and the francophonie". The purpose of the emission was directed by Alain Sanders and was to rehabilitate the spirit Southerner.

A first person account of a wartime story, interspersed with humor as well as strong perseverance on the part of the author. She was at the mercy of the "chain of command" within the hospital and adeptly related the logistical issues that posed in her ability to carry out her duties. The perpetually filched liquor stores was quite funny, however, to learn that surgeons were performing surgery under the influence, was a most sad revelation. It held my interest and I found the author to be an earnest individual of good moral/ethical character, who cared deeply for her charges. Her intellect served her well, while it proved to be a threat to many of her co-workers, based solely on the fact that she was female. This tragedy of the era left many women of the authors time on the sidelines due to discrimination of male counterparts/superiors. A disappointment that we did not learn anything of the authors post war life. It would have nicely complimented the story if we could have had some indication of what happened to her. Yes, we can research, but would have been a nice addendum to the book. Did she marry, have children, continue working in any capacity, etc.? A decent read, which I'd recommend for civil war buffs, those interested in early women's rights issues, etc..

Funny, sad, heart-breaking. I loved Ms. Pember's story.

An interesting account of nursing in the War Between the 'States and the accompanying politics. It is amazing what the caregivers accomplished in the primitive conditions of massive casualties. From their early efforts has evolved our current trauma system. They have my respect. Margaret

Very good . . .

This was an enlightening book. It is well written and a page-turner.

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