



Rebel Salvation

Pardon and Amnesty of Confederates in Tennessee

KATHLEEN ZEBLEY LIULEVICIUS

In *Rebel Salvation*, Kathleen Zebley Liulevicius examines pardon petitions from former Confederate soldiers and sympathizers in Tennessee to craft a unique and comprehensive analysis of the process of Reconstruction in the Volunteer State after the Civil War. These underutilized petitions contain a wealth of information about Tennesseans from an array of social and economic backgrounds, and include details about many residents who would otherwise not appear in the historical record. They reveal the dynamics at work between multiple factions in the state: former Rebels, Unionists, Governor William G. Brownlow, and the U.S. Army officers responsible for ushering Tennessee back into the Union. The pardons also illuminate the reality of the politically and emotionally charged post-Civil War environment, where everyone—from wealthy elites to impoverished sharecroppers—who had fought, supported, or expressed sympathy for the Confederacy was required by law to sue for pardon to reclaim certain privileges. All such requests arrived at the desk of President Andrew Johnson, who ultimately determined which petitioners regained the right to vote, hold office, practice law, operate a business, and buy and sell land.

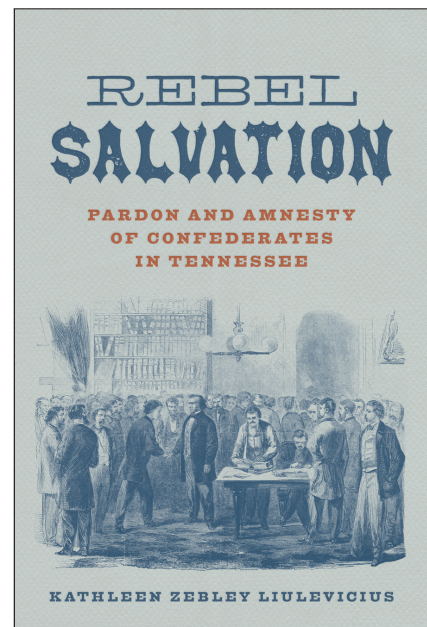
The pardoning of former Confederates proved a collaborative process in which neighbors, acquaintances, and erstwhile enemies lodged formal pleas to grant or deny clemency from state and federal officials. Indeed, as *Rebel Salvation* reveals, the long road to peace began here in the newly reunited communities of postwar Tennessee.

KATHLEEN ZEBLEY LIULEVICIUS received her PhD in nineteenth-century United States history at the University of Tennessee. She has taught at the State University of New York–Geneseo, the University of North Carolina–Pembroke, and the University of Tennessee.

PRAISE FOR *REBEL SALVATION*:

“Liulevicius’s pioneering study exposes in all its complexity peacetime Reconstruction’s first, fatal step: the pretenses, promises, aspirations, and rationalizations of those seeking to restore their old ties to a government that they had striven to destroy. It will make essential, dismaying reading.”
—Mark Wahlgren Summers, author of *The Ordeal of the Reunion: A New History of Reconstruction*

“This meticulously researched account helps us to better grasp the limitations and shortcomings of Andrew Johnson’s Reconstruction plan.”—Caroline E. Janney, author of *Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation*



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