

*Widow of Gettysburg*, Jocelyn Green

In *Widow of Gettysburg*, Jocelyn Green assembles a diverse group of characters: a seminary school dropout, news reporter, former slave, and a young Union widow. These four play the main characters, while others weave in and out of the story of the immediate aftermath of the battle of Gettysburg. *Widow of Gettysburg* highlights the story of Liberty, a young Union soldier's widow, whose home becomes a Confederate hospital. The story is interesting and educational, but also quite graphic, displaying the horrors of war at a time when amputation was often the only life-saving option available.

This story is historical fiction, based on the journals and writings of the women in and around Gettysburg, Pennsylvania during June-November, 1863. In a note at the beginning of her book, Green lays out the details of the actual community during the Battle of Gettysburg. Gettysburg, a community of 2,400 people was at this time mostly women and children as the men had left for war. During the first three days of July 1863, an estimated 163,000 men and 15,000 animals clashed in battle within the hills and burghs surrounding Gettysburg. Homes, barns, taverns, or any available building became army hospitals for both Union and Confederate soldiers. Supplies of any type were quickly consumed. Death and disease reigned over the area, with much of the physical work falling upon the women left in the community.

Green provides a second story line within the battle for readers, one that shares the emotional connections between families and the roles played by slavery. This is a well written, thought provoking read.