



Gender and Lynching: The Politics of Memory

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Mary Turner was eight months pregnant when a mob of several hundred men and women murdered her in Valdosta, Georgia. The Associated Press reported that she had made 'unwise remarks' and 'flew into a rage' about the lynching of her husband, insisting that she would press charges against the men responsible. Her death in May of 1918 prompted a widespread, multifaceted response that continues to evolve today.

The powerful imagery of lynching is likely to be with us for long time, and with it, a desire for deeper understanding. Where much of the scholarship on lynching and its victims has focused on African American men, *Gender and Lynching* locates and centers African American women in this history. Although the ritual of lynching claimed many lives, *Gender and Lynching* is not so much about Black female victimhood as it is about reclaiming the life stories of African American women via public remembrance, oral history, and community narratives.

This collection makes a major contribution to American history and sheds new light on the ways constructions of race and gender still influence contemporary life.

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