

# ***Tyler Litke***

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## “Yearning for Normalcy: Marriage and Gender in the Slaveholding Class during the Civil War”



This thesis examines gender relations and the overall controlling structure of paternalism in the nineteenth-century South through the lens of southern couples’ experiences in the Civil War. I argue that the solutions women believed would solve their wartime problems, which were created and exacerbated by separation, conformed to antebellum gender relations. In the crucible of the Civil War, women preferred the familiar comfort of paternalistic protection.