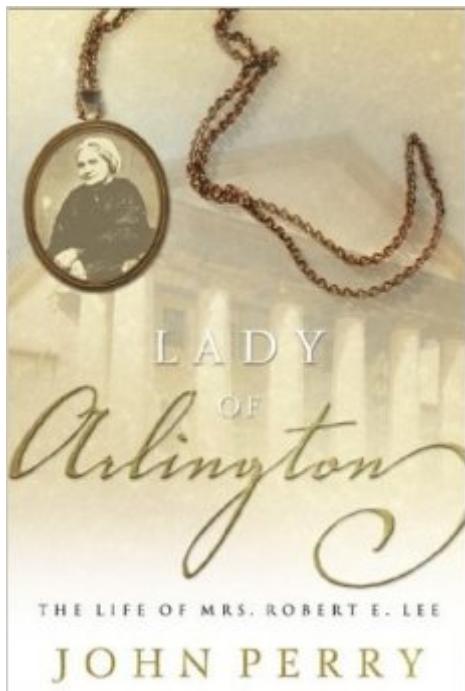


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The Lady Of Arlington: The Life Of Mrs. Robert E. Lee



Synopsis

Many people know something about her husband, Robert E. Lee; perhaps even more know her great-grandfather, George Washington; some have even visited her family estate. But few people today know much about Mary Custis Lee - wife, mother, daughter, and the Lady of Arlington, Virginia. Chronically ill and often in excruciating pain, Mary trusted God as she raised her seven children, faithfully witnessing to her husband for years before his conversion and, later, his confirmation in the Anglican Church. During the Civil War, she was instrumental in negotiating the release of her family from house arrest and her son from a prisoner-of-war camp. Later, she retained her dignity and faith throughout a fruitless, heartbreaking attempt to win compensation for the confiscation of her home and valuables. History is never more powerful than when it provides a role model for enduring hardship with sturdy and radiant faith. Mary Custis Lee is such an example.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"History has given Mary Custis Lee a bad rap," writes John Perry in the opening sentence of *LADY OF ARLINGTON: THE LIFE OF MRS. ROBERT E. LEE*. "I'm out to change that." And change that he does. Perry rehabilitates Mary Custis Lee from a whining, neurotic invalid whose weakness and selfishness made everybody around her miserable and demonstrates that she was, in fact, a charming, attractive woman who turned heads in the Supreme Court chamber as a teenager and who almost certainly received a marriage proposal by no less a man than Sam Houston. "Over her sixty-five years," writes Perry, "friends, relatives, and perfect strangers consistently described her as

cheerful, smiling, welcoming, and industrious. She read Latin and Greek, and when she ordered a copy of LES MISERABLES, she wrote the bookseller to send it in either English or French, whichever was more readily available."True, had not her great-grandfather been George Washington, and had she not have married Robert Edward Lee, the greatest of Confederate generals, we probably would never have heard of Mary Anne Custis. But Perry shows that she was a fascinating and inspiring woman in her own right.Mary Custis Lee was an excellent painter, a published author, a legendary hostess, a tireless fund-raiser for charities, a devout Christian, staunch patriot, the mother who cared for seven children when their father was away from home for years at a time, and a devoted wife who nurtured her beloved husband's career even as arthritis crippled her body and the ravages of the Civil War drove her from the only home she had ever known.

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