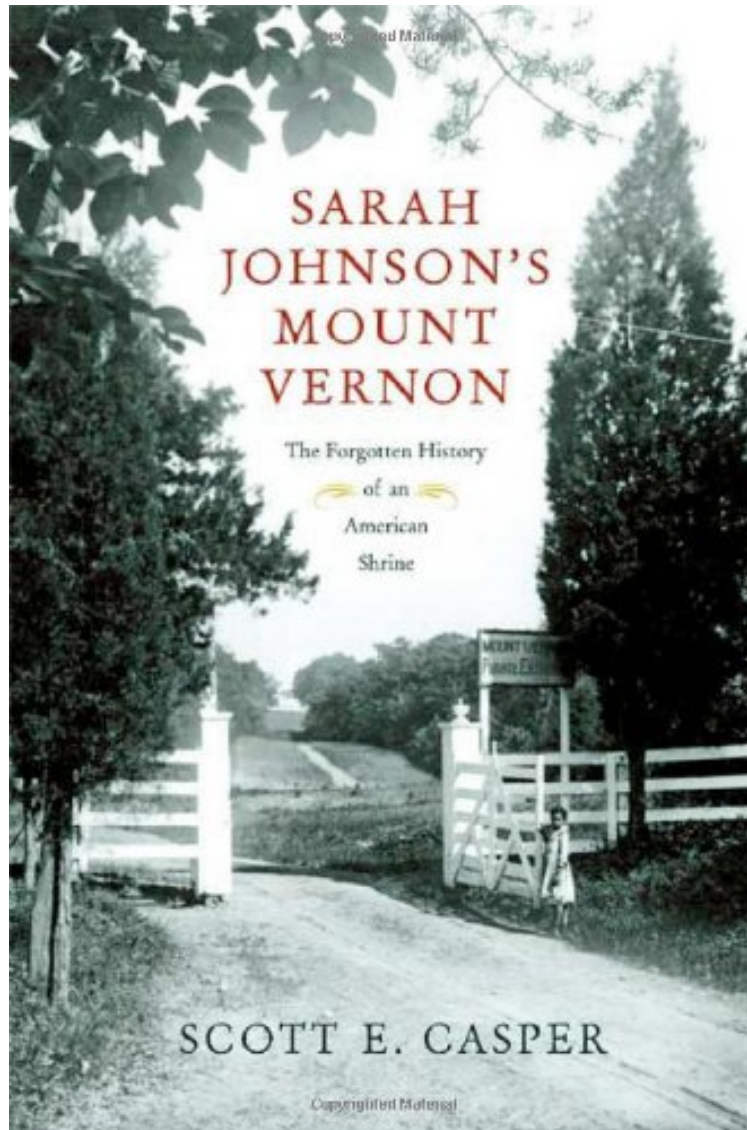


Sarah Johnson's Mount Vernon: The Forgotten History of an American Shrine

Scott E. Casper

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#2229435 in Books Hill and Wang 2008-01-22 2008-01-22 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.91 x 1.28 x 6.731, 1.10 #File Name: 0809084147320 pages | File size: 34.Mb

Scott E. Casper : Sarah Johnson's Mount Vernon: The Forgotten History of an American Shrine before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sarah Johnson's Mount Vernon: The Forgotten History of an American Shrine:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Mt. Vernon After George By Wynnetrav We know that George Washington had a large plantation freed his slaves upon his death. The story of how Mt. Vernon fared under his

descendants (the first was a Supreme Court justice and the last was a Confederate officer) is just as interesting. The focus of this book is on the black people, both enslaved and free) who played prominent roles in the life of the estate under Washington's descendants and in the employ of the Mt Vernon Ladies Association who acquired the estate in 1858. A fascinating but little known story. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It's a book that isn't afraid to challenge readers to think about the history of America's greatest house by looking at evidence. By Jason A. Dr. Casper's book is an incredibly engaging account of stories that have often been lost to time. Nearly everyone in America respects George Washington and his legacy, yet few care or know about the people who lived, worked, and died on his plantation. This book covers this and so much more. It's a book that isn't afraid to challenge readers to think about the history of America's greatest house by looking at evidence and history that had been long forgotten. I highly recommend it to any fan or student of American history who wishes to know a thoughtful chapter in Mount Vernon's history. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting history. By Jerry T. Wise. For me the history of the ownership of the Mt Vernon Mansion and its land was most interesting. I am about 2/3rds through the book and find it difficult to follow the life or history of Sarah Johnson. There are so many Sarah's in the book I forget what the book is about. I would recommend the book in that there are so few written about the life of Mount Vernon after the death of George Washington. I have always been fascinated by Mount Vernon as many are. Love the history in the book, hard to follow who is who.

New Stories from an Old American Shrine The home of our first president has come to symbolize the ideals of our nation: freedom for all, national solidarity, and universal democracy. Mount Vernon is a place where the memories of George Washington and the era of America's birth are carefully preserved and re-created for the nearly one million tourists who visit it every year. But behind the familiar stories lies a history that visitors never hear. Sarah Johnson's *Mount Vernon* recounts the experience of the hundreds of African Americans who are forgotten in Mount Vernon's narrative.

From Publishers Weekly: Schoolchildren, learning that George Washington freed his slaves when his wife died, may believe that slavery then ended at Mount Vernon, but this emancipation was not wholesale. Martha's slaves were not freed, and Mount Vernon remained a slave plantation. Historian Casper relates the complex tale of Mount Vernon's triple identities, home, workplace, and enduring, malleable national symbol, via the lives of its black workers and residents, slave and free, and its owners while he restores African-Americans' essential roles as actors—both as historical persons doing the work of maintaining Mount Vernon and as theater, today playing the roles that maintain an illusion of 18th-century accuracy. Casper uncovers the full breadth of these African-Americans' lives. Sarah Johnson, for example, was not only a slave, a servant and an attendant to the public decades after Washington's death; she was also a wife, mother, seamstress, landowner and default curator of the Mount Vernon residence. Casper succinctly relates how Washington's 18th-century estate became a 19th-century national shrine [and] site of reverent pilgrimage and deftly integrates national political, social and technological transformations into his tale. Unanticipated links and unsolved mysteries engage, while Casper's cautious speculation and meticulous documentation make his book as trustworthy as it is fascinating. illus. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Now, at last, Casper tells the story of the invisible men and women who worked the 8,000-acre riverfront estate for generations.... Casper deftly uses the limited sources available to depict Johnson's life with an authenticity that is moving." —The Washington Post