



Mary Lincoln's Flannel Pajamas: And Other Stories from the First Ladies' Closet

Feather Schwartz Foster

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Did Mary Lincoln really wear flannel pajamas?

Why was Martha Washington's "dress" turned into a pincushion?

How did Julia Grant's hat show support for the Confederacy?

Did Edith Wilson really track mud onto the White House carpets?

These are some of the stories (all true) that have been told about some of the First Ladies you may have forgotten about--or never knew. The stories are either factual, actual or "metaphorical" using an item of their clothing to propel the tale.

You love their gowns at the Smithsonian; now you can love them better!

Mary Lincoln's Flannel Pajamas: And Other Stories from the First Ladies' Closet Details

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From Reader Review Mary Lincoln's Flannel Pajamas: And Other Stories from the First Ladies' Closet for online ebook

Lou says

Feather Foster knows the "old" first ladies! She writes stories that are not only true but captivating and fun to read. She has the ability to select interesting facts from mostly dry history books and weave them into entertaining and informational tales that bring these largely overlooked women to life.

If you caught her contributions on the C-SPAN series on the first ladies, you know that she is an excellent speaker, quick thinker, and has a remarkable wit when it comes to her precious first ladies. She is always entertaining to hear and to read, and I have thoroughly enjoyed her latest book.

Florence Primrose says

Feather Foster tells little-known stories about all the First Ladies from Martha Washington through Mamie Eisenhower.

Leslie Goddard says

Short, lively anecdotes about the early (pre-Jackie Kennedy) First Ladies, using clothing items as a hook. Very easy, pleasant bathroom reading. She has a fun writing style that makes the reading easy. You won't get a full picture of any first lady, really, and this wouldn't be my top pick as an intro to the topic. But good stories and minutiae. (The author brags she has done 300 lectures -- for a historian/author/public speaker, that's not that much and kind of undermines her point). I read the whole thing in a day.

Melody says

Easy, fun brief read about the signature clothing of the First Ladies up to Mamie Eisenhower. Interesting way to meet the First Ladies though too little substance to be more than an introduction.

Susan O says

Mary Lincoln's Flannel Pajamas: And Other Stories from the First Ladies' Closet by Feather Schwartz Foster is a delightful and clever introduction to the First Ladies of the US from Martha Washington through Mamie Eisenhower. The book consists of stories about each woman which serve to give insight into her character, capabilities and accomplishments. Most of the stories focus on an item from her closet, either actual or metaphorical, which makes them fun as well.

I've read a fair amount about the First Ladies, but still learned new facts about each of them. I don't want to

give anything away, but you learn which FLOTUS was a Martha Stewart caliber homemaker, who crocheted thousands of pairs of slippers, and who was obsessed with the color pink, among other facts. There are a couple of "bad hat" stories as well. These interesting tidbits combined with the basic facts of their lives make for a fun and quick read. If you want an introduction to the First Ladies, or even if you think you know them well, I would recommend it.

I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange for an honest review. I regularly read Ms. Foster's blog and eagerly awaited the book, and I wasn't disappointed.

Michell Karnes says

This was an easy, fun book of happy stories about articles of clothing each first lady was known for. Some of the sections on first ladies were informative and interesting other sections were sadly lacking in information. A few were even just about what they probably wore or representative of clothing.

Candice says

Ms. Foster is a local (Williamsburg, VA) author and I heard her speak at the Williamsburg Regional Library last month. She is an entertaining and informative speaker and of course I had to read her book. The book itself goes into lots of details of the first ladies from Martha Washington through Mamie Eisenhower. As the title implies, its focus is on the ladies' clothing, but it doesn't end there. We learn of their personalities, their families, their relationships. In her talk, Ms. Foster said that her favorite was Ellen Wilson, Woodrow's first wife and an amazing artist. I was compelled to look up some of her paintings on the internet, and they are gorgeous. After reading the anecdotes about these women, I would have to say that Lou Hoover has become one of my favorites. This is a super introduction to first ladies of the past. When something is a conjecture, or is only probably true, Ms. Foster will indicate that so any sticklers for strict accuracy will be informed.

Anne says

Flows well. Would like to have seen images of the objects that were written about; also there is a lot of "oh, you know that story about that First Lady;" stuff which, sadly, I don't know and disliked having these certain affairs and objects referred to, but never discussed or covered in the book. Light reading and overall enjoyable.
