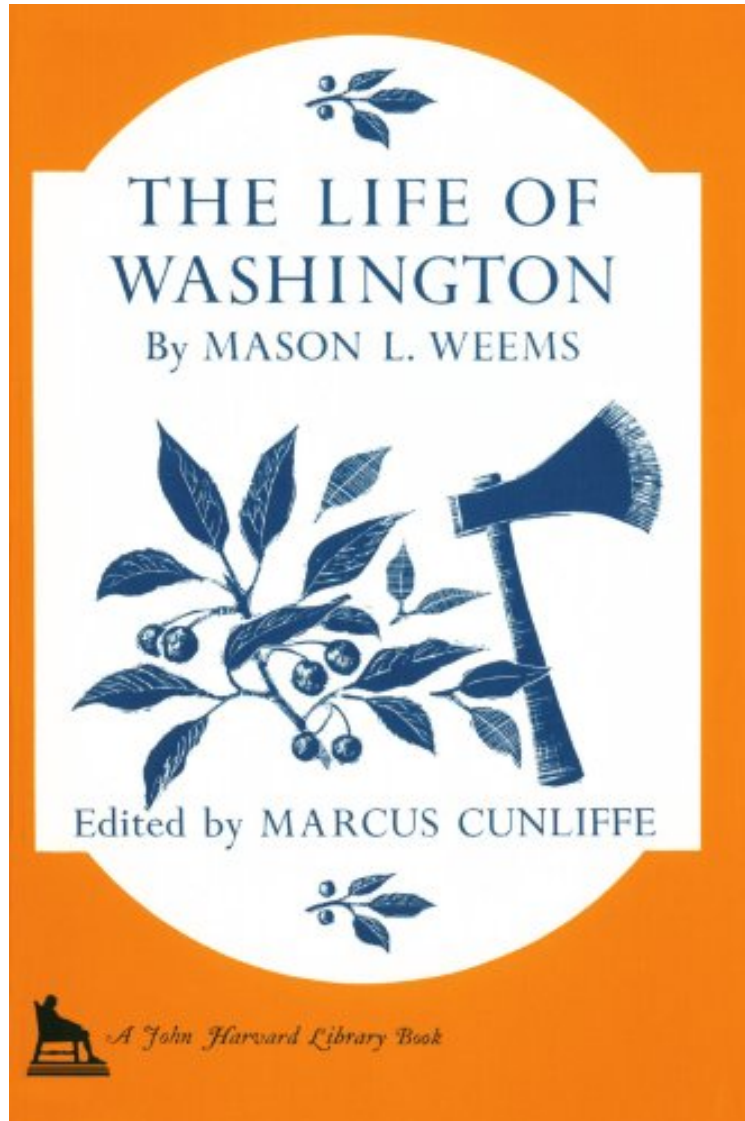


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The Life of Washington (The John Harvard Library)

Mason L. Weems

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Mason L. Weems : The Life of Washington (The John Harvard Library) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Life of Washington (The John Harvard Library):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Richard B.good job0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy J.E. Los Angeles, CAExcellent book!2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not enough about WashingtonBy PHILIP SCHNEIDERThis book is more about Mr. Weems and his odyssey trying to get the book published and people to pay for it.The actual information about George Washington is reported in a

sensible manner but lacks any personality. I just don't think there's that much recorded information available in real records that was accessed by Weems. I feel I need to know more about Washington after reading Weems's book.

The effect of this "single, immortal, and dubious anecdote," and others like it, has made this book one of the most influential in the history of American folklore. Originally published as an eighty-page pamphlet entitled *The Life and Memorable Actions of George Washington*, it quickly attained immense popularity. In 1806 a so-called fifth edition was published which contained for the first time the tale of George Washington and the cherry tree; the book has survived to this day, although largely on the basis of that episode. This volume follows the text of the ninth (1809) printing, which included all the famous anecdotes. The first republication of the book since 1927, it is unique in its detailed commentary on Weems and other biographers of Washington.

[Marcus Cunliffe] has provided the first scholarly editing of Parson Weems work. He introduces the high-spirited old scamp with more sympathy than he has received in many a year, gives a short account of Weems own life drawn from the attenuated facts available, an evaluation of the reliability of the biography, and delivers a kindly judgment: Weems supplied distinct needs for the American imagination. (New York Herald Tribune)