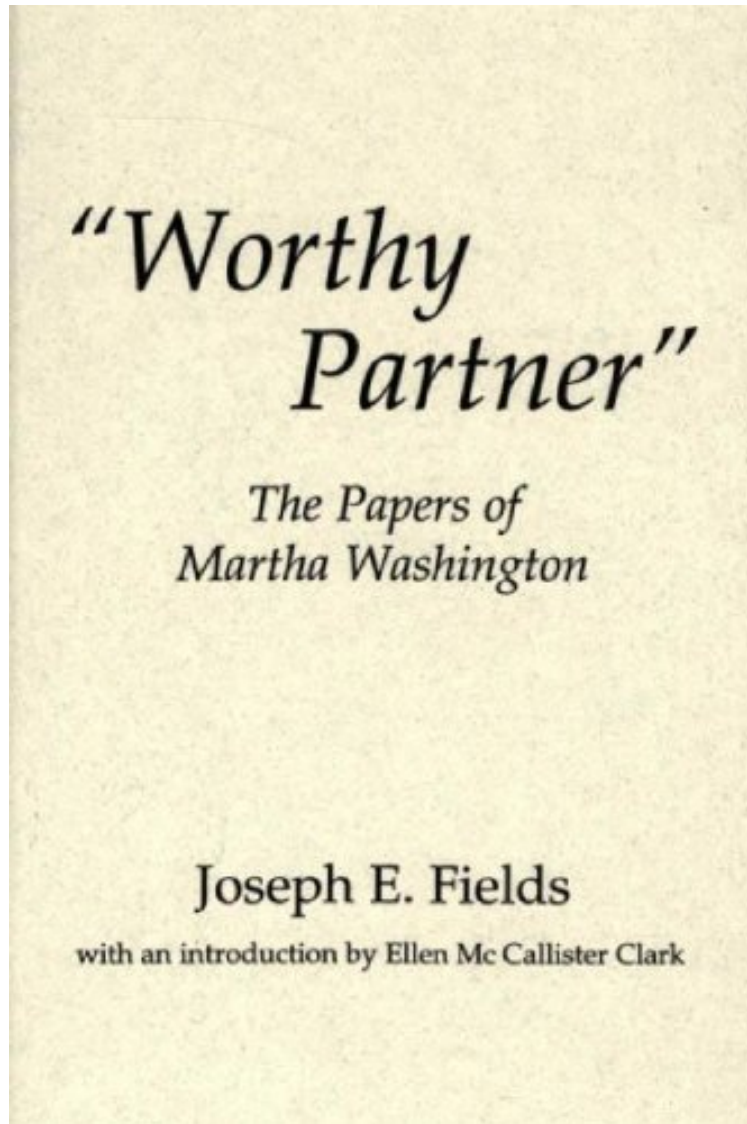


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helpful. Perfect primary reference. By Kae Seewhat could be better than getting the words right out of someone's mouth? that's exactly what this book is, simply the words of Martha Washington from Martha. It also gives you a context in which the letter was written to help give you a better understanding of the letter itself and what is really being said. If I had a complaint it would be that it is hard to read for any length of time, can't really read it as a novel for example. But if you want to know what Martha was like, her life, her loves and her period give it a read. You'll be glad you did.

Although Martha Washington has been the subject of several popular biographies, her writings, scattered into private hands, archives, and repositories, have never before been collected and published. This book attempts to publish all the known Martha Washington papers from every possible source. Most of her correspondence relates to key periods in her life--her first widowhood, the Revolutionary War, Washington's presidency, and the period after his death. Widowed at the age of twenty-six, her early correspondence was to settle and manage the affairs of her husband's estate, documenting well both legal and commercial affairs. During the revolutionary era, her letters, to friends, family, and acquaintances, are especially revealing for references to military affairs. The largest portion of the letters, written to friends and relatives during the presidential years, shed light on the Washingtons' life at Mount Vernon, New York, and Philadelphia. This book will be valuable to scholars of the Washington era and will interest all who are curious about Martha Washington.

From Library Journal
Fields, an independent researcher and manuscript collector, purports to have compiled all known papers of Martha Washington from every possible source in this volume. He consulted an impressive number of repositories, cited here, and in the introduction quantifies the surviving letters and documents he includes, which range from 1757 to 1802. Washington's early correspondence is concerned with the business affairs of her recently deceased first husband; following her marriage to George, the correspondence consists primarily of personal letters to friends and relatives. The repository that holds the original document is identified after each entry. Fields also provides footnotes within the transcribed text, which enhance the reader's understanding of the correspondence. Recommended for larger libraries.- Lynne Branche Brown, Pennsylvania State Univ., University Park
Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Brought together for the first time in one volume, these letters to and by Martha Washington remind readers that in the midst of revolutionary turmoil and nation-building, the everyday concerns and processes of life go on. Her correspondence reveals her to be both unpretentious and resilient, and endearing "down home" figure capable of creating a nest for her illustrious partner and herself wherever the fates took them. For every public and academic library with a good Colonial collection." -- Choice
About the Author
JOSEPH E. FIELDS is a retired obstetrician and gynecologist, living in Williamsburg, Virginia. He is a long time manuscript collector and was the founding president of The Manuscript Society. A graduate of Northwestern University, he is an independent researcher and author of numerous articles on collecting and the Revolutionary War period.