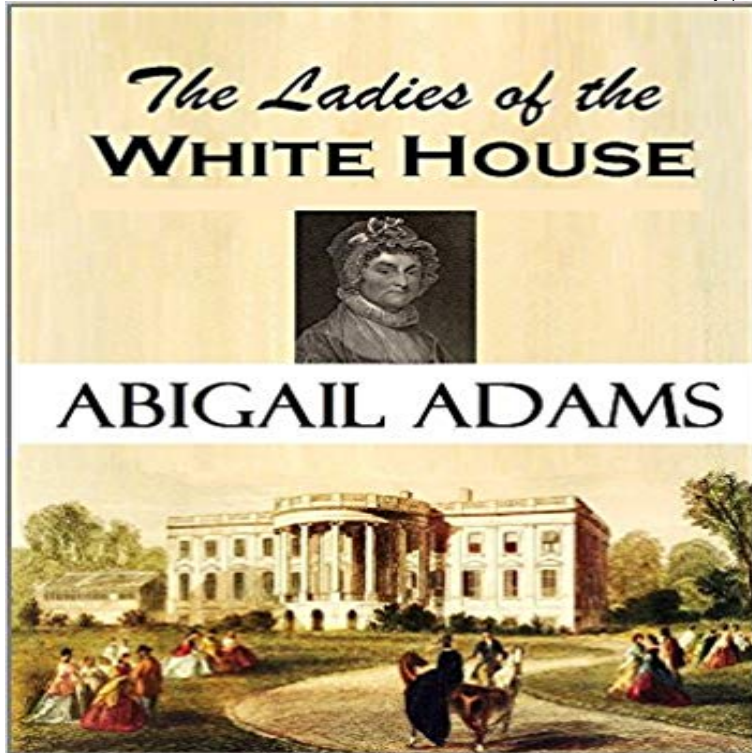


The Ladies of the White House: Abigail Adams (1882)



Laura Carter Holloway (Later, Holloway-Langford) (1843-1930) was a noted author and journalist at the Brooklyn Daily Eagle. In New York, Mrs. Holloway took up writing to support herself. By 1870 she had published a bestselling anthology called *Ladies of the White House; or, In the Home of the Presidents*. It sold nearly 150,000 copies worldwide, and gave Laura a degree of financial independence. This book on Abigail Adams is, for convenience, excerpted and reprinted from Holloway's much larger 700-page *Ladies of the White House* (which covers every first lady up to 1870). Holloway writes: The Ladies of the White House have had no biographers. The custom of the Republic, which relegates back to private life those who have served it, has made it difficult to gather much of stirring interest concerning the women who have made the social history of the different administrations. From privacy they came, to privacy they were returned, and the world took little cognizance of them beyond noting the entertainments they gave, and the success that attended their dinners and receptions. In the historical works of the age even in the biographies of the Presidents themselves not much has been said of women, who, for the most part, were powerful adjuncts to their popularity, and exerted great influence over their lives. The most that has been written of them heretofore were descriptions in the daily papers of the appearance of the lady of the White House on some public occasion, and with this the world has been content until now. We have had a hundred years of domestic honor in the White House a hundred years which has added much to the glory of the country abroad, and it is but fitting that women, who have held the highest social and semi-official position in the nation, should be made historic subjects. No better time than the present could be found for filling this serious gap

in general American history. The moral influence that has been exerted by the untarnished reputations and high social qualities of the women who have successively filled the position of Hostess of the Presidents House, cannot be estimated. Without the effective and intelligent aid they rendered, no administration would have been satisfactory; and though the political historian may ignore such service, the right-thinking, honorable men or women of this country have a higher appreciation of the services rendered by these ladies, who were the power behind the throne, equal in social influence to the throne itself, and a historical work bearing upon their lives is a valuable contribution to the nations official history. Originally published in 1882; reformatted for the Kindle; may contain an occasional imperfection.

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