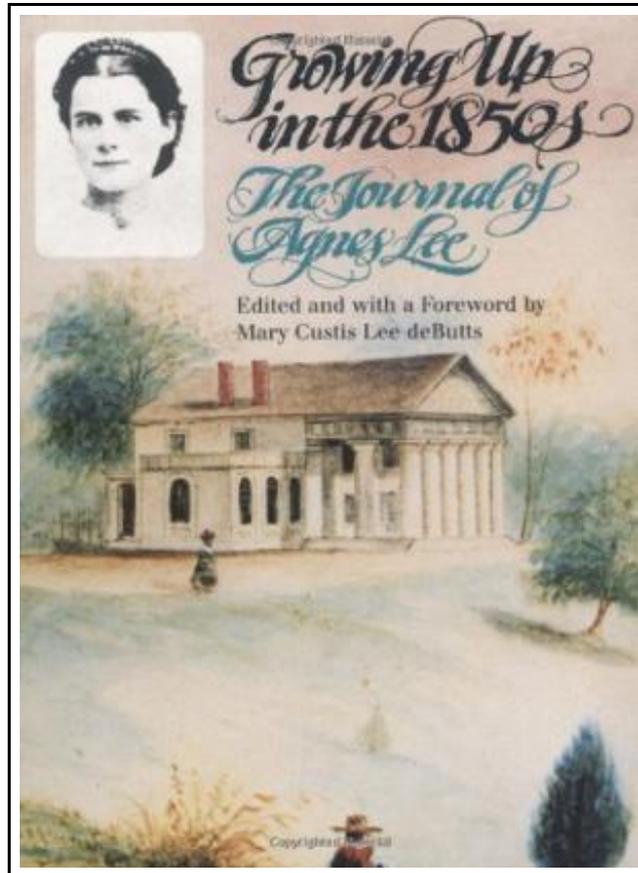


Growing up in the 1850s: The Journal of Agnes Lee



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Reviews

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GROWING UP IN THE 1850S: THE JOURNAL OF AGNES LEE



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The University of North Carolina Press, United States, 1989. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 1st New edition. 201 x 147 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Eleanor Agnes Lee, Robert E. Lee s fifth child, began her journal in December 1852 at the early age of twelve. An articulate young woman, her stated ambitions were modest: The everyday life of a little school girl of twelve years is not startling, she observed in April 1853; but in fact, her five-year record of a southern girl s life is lively, unpredictable, and full of interesting detail. The journal opens with a description of the Lee family life in their beloved home, Arlington. Like many military families, the Lees moved often, but Agnes and her family always thought of Arlington -- with its commanding view, fine old trees, and the soft wild luxuriance of its woods -- as home. When Lee was appointed the superintendent of West Point, the family reluctantly moved with him to the military academy, but wherever she happened to be, Agnes engagingly described weddings, lavish dinners, concerts, and fancy dress balls. No mere social butterfly, she also recounted hours teaching slaves (an illegal act at that time) and struggling with her conscience. Often she questioned her own spiritual worthiness; in fact, Agnes expressed herself most openly and ardently when examining her religious commitment and reflecting on death. As pious as she was eager to improve herself, Agnes prayed that He would satisfy that longing within me to do something to be something. In 1855 General Lee went to Texas, while his young daughter was enrolled in the elite Virginia Female Institute in Staunton. Agnes letters to her parents complete the picture that she has given us of herself -- an appealingly conscientious young girl who had a sense...



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