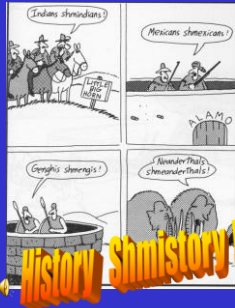


## The Coming of the American Revolution: White Men, White Women

Teaching with Biography:

Abigail Adams

Benjamin Franklin



Jenny Nettles  
Vivaldi, *The Four Seasons*

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## Abigail Adams and John Adams "Remember the ladies"



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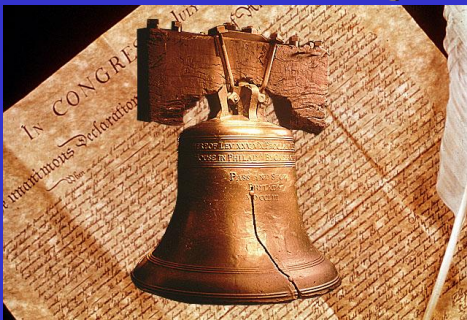
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## "All Men Are Created Equal"



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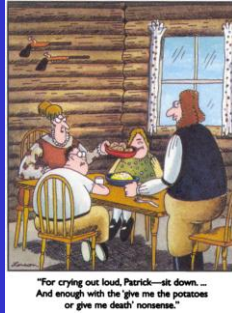
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## Political & Legal Status of White Women

- “Coverture”
  - Legally “covered” by males
  - “Dependent”
  - Cannot own property
  - Cannot vote
  - Cannot choose husbands
  - “Inferior”
    - Intellectually & morally



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## Teaching with Biography

- Humanize history
- Individuals illustrate broader themes
  - Self-educated
  - “Enlightened”
  - Chooses husband
  - Limited by laws



Abigail Adams

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## Women’s Power & Capabilities

- (1776): “In the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would **Remember the Ladies**, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. . . .
- (1776) If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies, we are determined to foment a Rebellion, **and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice or Representation.**”



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## Women Becoming Politicized

- Pre-Revolutionary Struggle 1765 - 1776
  - Boycott participants
  - “Home Spun” clothing



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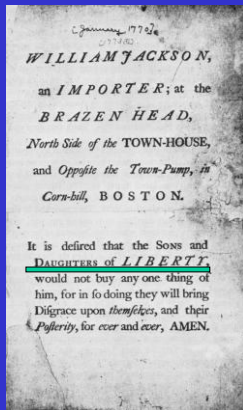
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## Broadside, 1770

Calls on Sons and Daughters of Liberty to boycott English goods



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## Politicized During War: Poorer Women

- Food riots (1779)
  - “Moral Economy”:
    - Force merchants to lower prices and stop hoarding grains
    - Enforce “fair price” for bread
- Riots against limiting urban ownership of pigs



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## Wartime Experiences

- Greater Independence & Responsibility

- Lucy Knox to her soldier Husband (1777): “I hope you will not consider yourself as commander in chief of your own house, but be convinced that there is such a thing as equal command”



“Daughter of Liberty”

Woodcut 1779

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY0Z1o6N3Q>

- Abigail Adams

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## Domestic and Family Life

- (1776): “I cannot say that I think you very generous to the Ladies. . . **you insist upon retaining an absolute power over Wives. . . but women have in our power not only to free ourselves but to subdue our Masters, and without violence throw both your natural and legal authority at our feet.**



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## Love and Marriage

- Liberty & Independence

- Women selecting husbands



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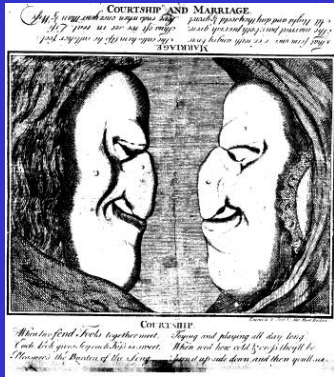
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## Companionate Family

- Marriage based on affection and emotional satisfaction of both people
- Declining patriarchy




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1741

## Family: Two Views



1849

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## Ben Franklin: "Renaissance Man"

Introduction & Search  
1657 - 1730

Printer  
1657 - 1730

Rising Citizen  
1731 - 1747

Soldier, Scientist & Politician  
1748 - 1757

American  
1758 - 1764

Unofficial Ambassador to England  
1765 - 1775

The Oldest Revolutionary  
1776 - 1785

Elder Statesman  
1786 - 1790

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# Benjamin Franklin: Self-Made Man

- “American Dream”
  - Rags to Riches
- Middle-Class (Bourgeois) Values: Hard Work & Frugality
  - “Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise”
  - “A penny saved is a penny earned”
  - “Remember that time is money”



Printer's Apprentice

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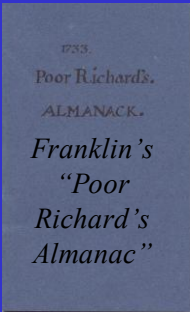
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# Franklin the “Capitalist”



VI Mo. August hath xxxi days.		VII Mo. September hath xxx days.	
1	Monday	1	Monday
2	Tuesday	2	Tuesday
3	Wednesday	3	Wednesday
4	Thursday	4	Thursday
5	Friday	5	Friday
6	Saturday	6	Saturday
7	Sunday	7	Sunday
8	Monday	8	Monday
9	Tuesday	9	Tuesday
10	Wednesday	10	Wednesday
11	Thursday	11	Thursday
12	Friday	12	Friday
13	Saturday	13	Saturday
14	Sunday	14	Sunday
15	Monday	15	Monday
16	Tuesday	16	Tuesday
17	Wednesday	17	Wednesday
18	Thursday	18	Thursday
19	Friday	19	Friday
20	Saturday	20	Saturday
21	Sunday	21	Sunday
22	Monday	22	Monday
23	Tuesday	23	Tuesday
24	Wednesday	24	Wednesday
25	Thursday	25	Thursday
26	Friday	26	Friday
27	Saturday	27	Saturday
28	Sunday	28	Sunday
29	Monday	29	Monday
30	Tuesday	30	Tuesday
31	Wednesday	31	Wednesday

# “The Way To Wealth”

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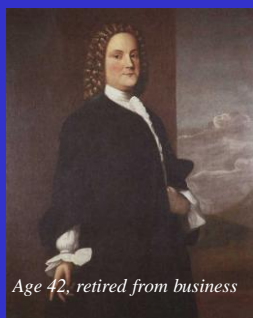
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# The Anti-Capitalist Limited Aspirations for Wealth

- Franklin rejected “the general Foible of Mankind, in the Pursuit of Wealth to no end.”
  - A “Decent Competency”
- At retirement (age 42):
  - “I would rather have it said that He lived usefully rather than He died rich.”



Age 42, retired from business

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## Civic Commitment Institutions Founded by Franklin



University of  
Pennsylvania



"Pennsylvania Hospital for  
the Sick Poor"

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## Civic Commitment Institutions Founded by Franklin

Library Company of  
Philadelphia



American Philosophical  
Society

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Paving and Lighting  
streets  
Constables (police)  
Progressive Taxation

"In this world nothing  
can be said to be certain,  
except death and taxes."

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## Benjamin Franklin

### Scientist & Man of the Enlightenment



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### Religion: Deist

- Admired Jesus but did not believe in his divinity
- “The scriptures assure me that at the last day we shall not be examined on what we thought but what we did.”



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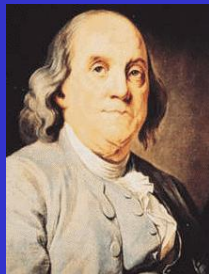
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### Benjamin Franklin: Personal Life

- Enjoyed earthly pleasures
  - “Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to prosper” (A Deist)
- Numerous Romantic Liaisons
  - Neglected wife



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IaJF7mOYdI4>

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