

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

Teaching with Biography:

Abigail Adams

Benjamin Franklin

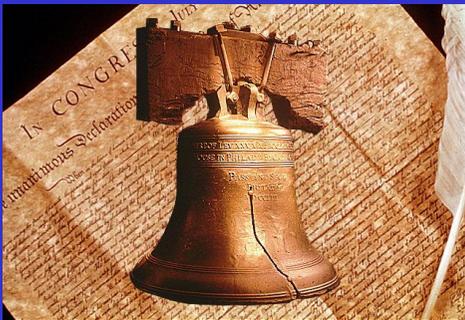


Jenny Nettles
Vivaldi, *The Four Seasons*

Abigail Adams and John Adams "Remember the ladies"

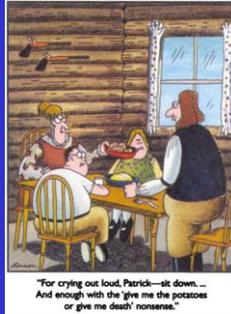


"All Men Are Created Equal"



Political & Legal Status of White Women

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



Teaching with Biography

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



Abigail Adams

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.**”



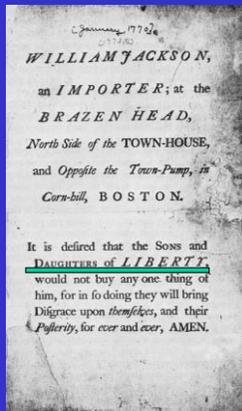
Women Becoming Politicized

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



Broadside, 1770

Calls on Sons and Daughters of Liberty to boycott English goods



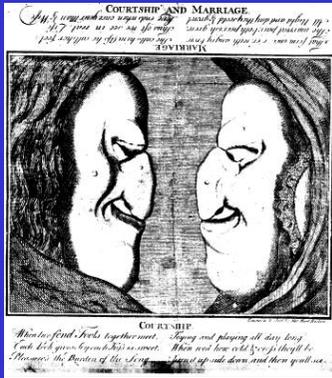
Politicized During War: Poorer Women

- 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



Companionate Family

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





1741

Family: Two Views



1849

Ben Franklin: "Renaissance Man"



Civic Commitment Institutions Founded by Franklin



University of
Pennsylvania

"Pennsylvania Hospital for
the Sick Poor"



Civic Commitment Institutions Founded by Franklin

Library Company of
Philadelphia



American Philosophical
Society



Paving and Lighting
streets
Constables (police)
Progressive Taxation

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

Benjamin Franklin

Scientist & Man of the Enlightenment



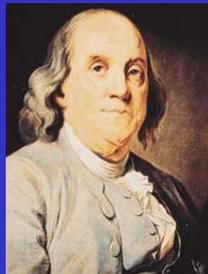
Religion: Deist

- 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.”



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>