

Women in the 18th Century

This guide is designed to help researchers using the Library at Gunston Hall research women in the 18th century. It is divided into five sections: Women and Society, Women and the House, Women and the American Revolution, Primary Sources, and Women in Virginia.

Women and Society

Kerrison, Catherine. *Claiming the Pen: Women and Intellectual Life in the Early American South*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2006.

Kerrison presents an intellectual history of women in the south. She explains why and how women began to educate themselves and the ways they used education to help their social status.

HQ1438. S63 K47 2006

Kierner, Cynthia A. *Beyond the Household: Women's Place in the Early South, 1700-1835*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998.

Kierner explains the transformation of women's roles within the public sphere during the 18th and early 19th centuries. She argues that a number of factors influenced the changes, including politics and religion.

HQ 1391. U5 K55 1998

Reuther, Rosemary Radford and Rosemary Skinner Keller, ed. *Women and Religion in America*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1983.

This book is comprised of a series of essays covering different aspects of women and religion in the colonial and revolutionary periods in America. The essays touch on women of various faiths, religion, and social standings.

BR 515. W648 1981

Salmon, Marylynn. *Women and the Law of Property in Early America*. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1986.

Salmon details the history of women's property rights in America. She traces the changes in property rights and focuses on specific regions, including Virginia.

KF 524. S24 1986

Women and the Home

Fox-Genovese, Elizabeth. *Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988.

Fox-Genovese details the relationship between African American and white women to highlight the social differences between the two groups. She focuses on the women's daily lives and how the women defined their own identity.

HQ 1438. A13 F69 1988

Riley, Mara. *Whatever Shall I Wear? A Guide to Assembling a Woman's Basic 18th Century Wardrobe*. Excelsior Springs, MO: Graphics/Fine Arts Press, 2002.

This short book is designed to be a step-by-step guide for female reenactors. It includes brief descriptions and numerous illustrations which demonstrate the appropriate way women wore their clothes in the 18th century.

GT605. R5 2002

Scholten, Catherine M. *Childbearing in American Society 1650-1850*. New York: New York University Press, 1985.

In this short book, Scholten explains the evolution of childbearing in America. She contends that childbirth began as a communal experience, but as family size decreased, childbearing became more sacred and isolated.

HQ759. S2755 1985

Swan, Susan Burrow. *Plain and Fancy: American Women and Their Needlework: 1770-1850*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1977.

Swan traces the history of women and needlework and shows the importance of sewing on women's lives. This book includes numerous color illustrations and photographs.

TT 715. S9 1977

Vertical Files:

Includes articles and newspaper clippings

Clothing: Women

Pregnancy & Childbirth

Women

Women and the American Revolution

Kerber, Linda K. *Women of the Republic: Intellect & Ideology in Revolutionary America*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1980.

In this book, Kerber outlines women's participation in the Revolution. She argues that women had to develop their own ideology while still being restrained by traditional patriarchal notions.

HQ1418. K47 1986

Norton, Mary Beth. *Liberty's Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience of American Women, 1750-1800*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1996.

Norton focuses on family life to explain how the American Revolution altered the lives of women. She includes women of all social classes to show the beginnings of women gaining equality.

HQ1418. N67 1966

Primary Sources

Callcott, Margaret Law. *Mistress of Riversdale: The Plantation letters of Rosalie Stier Calvert 1795-1821*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.

Rosalie Calvert married into one of the richest families in America and took charge of the Riversdale plantation located in Maryland. Her letters show the daily tasks involved with running a large plantation.

F 187. C5 C35 1991

Spring, June, ed. *Domestick Beings*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

This primary source is a compilation of the diaries of seven 18th-century women who came from a variety of places, backgrounds and social classes. This book presents an account of their experiences in their own words.

HQ1418. S65

Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher, ed. *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on her Diary, 1785-1812*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.

In this primary source, Ulrich recreates the life of Martha Ballard based on the midwife's daily diary. As few women left diaries, Ballard's allowed for unique glimpses into everyday life for women in the 18th century.

F29. H15 U47 1990

Women in Virginia

Lebosck, Suzanne. *"A Share of Honour:" Virginia Women 1600-1945*. Richmond: The Virginia Women's Cultural History Project, 1984.

This book was designed to accompany an exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Lebosck gives an overview of the place and role of women in Virginia from 1600-1945 and shows how their role and freedoms evolved over the years. This book includes numerous photographs and illustrations.

HQ 1428. V5 L4 1984

Scott, Anne Firor and Suzanne Lebosck. *Virginia Women: The First Two Hundred Years*. Virginia: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1988.

In this short pamphlet, the authors give a brief summary of the role of women in colonial Virginia. They touch on women of all races and social classes including Native Americans and slaves.

HQ 1438. V8 S36 1988 C. 2

Snyder, Terri L. *Brabbling Women: Disorderly Speech and the Law in Early Virginia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2003.

Snyder explains how women used language to protest politics and culture in colonial Virginia. She shows the ways women entered the public forum and their interaction with the courts in Virginia.

HQ1438. V5 S68 2003

Sturtz, Linda L. *Within Her Power: Propertied Women in Colonial Virginia*. London: Routledge, 2002.

Sturtz focuses on gentry women with property and explains the ways they used the legal system for their benefit. She focuses on their place in society and the way they were treated by other colonists, both male and female.

HQ 1438. V5 S78 2002