

Colonial Women During the Revolution

During the mid-1700s, the British crown began to try to control the American colonists more than ever. The colonists, an independent breed from the start, didn't readily accept this new approach from the mother country. A spirit of rebellion spread like wildfire throughout the colonies, especially in the Boston area. As more men began to join the rebellion, colonial women were needed to take on more serious roles.

These revolutionary times were a true test of the new American spirit—especially for women. Many women discovered their inner strength as well as their physical endurance. With all that was going on—battles, scarcity of food, disease—women coped with and overcame these hardships. They grieved, suffered, and protected loved ones, while serving the cause of freedom. This was an exciting and liberating time for women too!

Many colonial women discovered their own strengths during these trying times in American history. Elizabeth Murray, along with many other colonial women, was one who stood up to the extreme challenges of the American Revolution. With strong ties to England, she tried not to take sides in the ever-increasing tension between the colonists and the British. Others, though, chose to get involved, either for the Americans, or for the British. American women were developing into an incredibly diverse and dynamic group of citizens—a new breed to be taken seriously.