

Partisans and Redcoats: The American Revolution in the Southern Backcountry
July 15-20, 2007
Converse College , Spartanburg , South Carolina
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Introduction:

It is said that wars are started by, led by, and fought by men. Contrary to these concepts, it is a fact that women are involved in wars on a number of levels. During the American Revolution, women in the North and South played a variety of roles beyond their day to day lives, some in a supportive realm, others that took them to a heroic realm.

Guiding Questions:

What roles did women play during the American Revolution in the southern backcountry that led them to function beyond their non-wartime daily responsibilities?

Consider the following:

1. How did women's home front responsibilities change?

Suggested considerations: running the family business; becoming an overseer; buying and selling goods (i.e. harvest to market); protection of the family (i.e. Bratton's wife at Brattonsville)

2. How did women function in their roles as camp followers?

Suggested considerations: care of soldiers (i.e. setting up camps; cooking; nursing the sick and wounded).

3. What roles did women play in aiding the Patriot troops?

Suggested considerations: secret enlistments; couriers; spies.

Learning Objective:

To understand the changing roles of women during the American Revolution in the Southern backcountry during their husband's absence due to warfare.

Preparing to Teach This Lesson:

*Materials:

Women in the American Revolution
www2.lhric.org/spbattle/wohist.html

A Contemplator Short History of Women in the Revolutionary Era
www.contwemplator.com/history/revwomen.html

Women of the American Revolution
www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/1789/women.html

American Athenas, Women in the Revolution
www.Americanrevolution.org/nguyen.html

Camp Followers of the American Revolution
Users.erols.com/grippo/campfol.html

Idella Bodie's
www.itv.sctev.org/guides/SCWomen.pdf

*Background:

During the lessons on the war in the South, the concept of expanded women's roles will be explored through excerpts that cite a variety of responsibilities taken on by women out of necessity and choice. These excerpts, supported by cited websites and other sources, will offer students insights into women's perspicacity on all fronts.

Excerpts:

Margaret Cochran Corbin www.distinguishedwomen.com/biographies/corbin.html

Amazing Women in War and Peace
Userpages.aug.com/captbarb/femvets.html

* Documents:

Ellet, Elizabeth F. *Women of the American Revolution*. 3 vol. 1850. Reprint, New York : Haskell House Pub. Ltd., 1969.

Howard, Robert A. and E. Alvin Gerhardt, Jr. *Mary Patton: Powder Maker of the Revolution*, Rocky Mount, VA: Rocky Mount Historical Assoc., 1980. (KMNMP)

Suggested Activity:

Each student will write a five-paragraph essay based on the Guiding Questions. The essay will include: 1. an introductory paragraph citing the topic at hand and listing three areas of women's changing roles; 2. three body paragraphs, each of which discusses one of the women's expanding roles during the war; 3. a concluding paragraph that either summarizes women's wartime capabilities or projects to women's roles in future American society.