



YOU BE THE CURATOR!

VMHC EDUCATION

You Be the Curator! Example Exhibit

Exhibit Title: Women in Colonial Virginia

About My Exhibit: I chose my five objects to display a little about women's influence in the American Revolution. I tried to include objects that represented a variety of people of different races, social status, and economic means, as well as why I thought they were interesting.

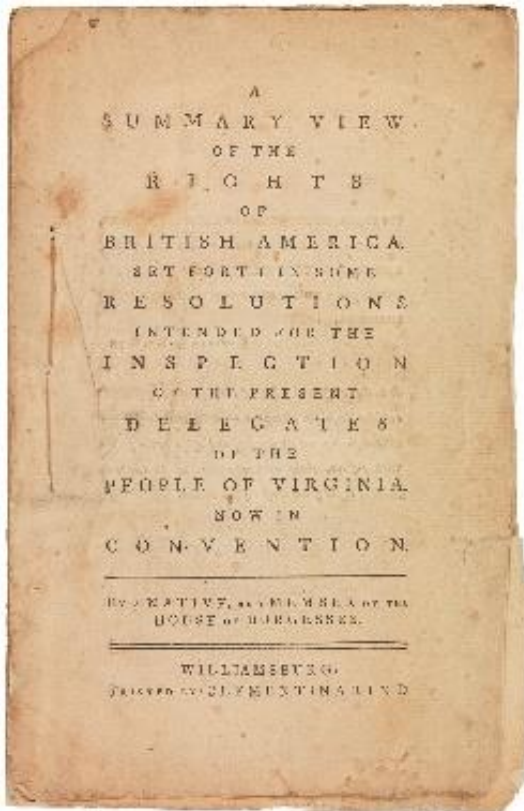
Object Chosen:



Portrait of Lucy Randolph Burwell, 1773

Object Info - Lucy Randolph was a member of the Virginia gentry class and married Lewis Burwell in 1764. Her husband was a Loyalist and her brother was a vocal Patriot. In October 1775, Lewis Burwell stabbed Lucy's brother at dinner, "but fortunately a Rib prevented it's proving Mortal. He was prevented by the Ladies from making a second stroke."




Why I thought this was interesting: Lucy's story shows how families didn't always agree on the American Revolution.



"A Summary View of the Rights of British America"

Object Info - The Continental Congress assigned to Thomas Jefferson the task of drafting a Declaration of Independence and then cut one-quarter of what he wrote. Jefferson got the job because he essentially had already written the declaration in his 1774 *Summary View of the Rights of British America*, a landmark in Virginia history. In Summary View, Jefferson wrote that rights are derived from the laws of nature and are given by God to all people; that "free trade with all parts of the world" is a "natural right" that has been cut off by Great Britain; that "a series of oppressions" have been pursued by the king; that he has suspended colonial legislatures; that he has "laid his governors under such restrictions that they can pass no law"; and that he is "send[ing] over . . . mercenaries to invade & deluge us in blood." This copy was printed by Clementina Rind, the designated public printer for the colony of Virginia.

Why I thought this was interesting: It is cool to see something printed by a woman with a job outside the household, something I think we don't learn about a lot in the 1700s!

	<p>Letter, George Washington to Jacky Custis, June 19, 1775</p> <p>Object Info - Washington writes to his step-son from Philadelphia announcing that he has been selected to lead the Continental Army and expresses concern about leaving his wife, Martha, during his service.</p> <p>Why I thought this was interesting: Even though this is written by a man, it mentions Martha and the impact on their family.</p>
	<p>William Bolling slave register</p> <p>Object Info - One of the greatest hypocrisies of the American Revolution was the rhetoric of freedom while the practice of slavery existed. Bolling lived in Goochland County, Virginia and his register includes names of his enslaved workers along with their dates of births and names of mothers, dates of death, purchases and names of sellers and prices. The left page shows Betty's children born during the American Revolution.</p> <p>Why I thought this was interesting: It is difficult to learn about enslaved people since there aren't always a lot of record – this artifact shows evidence of their lives, and the different in an enslaved woman's life vs. someone like Lucy Randolph or Martha Washington.</p>
	<p>Stockings</p> <p>Object Info - Handwritten note in object file: "Miss Sallie Talbott knitted these stockings during the Revolutionary War. She was the daughter of Richard and Ruth Dorsey Talbott of Anne Arundel County, Md. In 1836 she gave them to Caroline Moore, wife of her nephew, Charles Talbott, who was the son of her youngest brother, John Lawrence Talbott. Her eldest brother, Richard, was an officer in the Revolutionary War. / Dictated by Adele Talbott Armistead."</p> <p>Why I thought this was interesting: One of the ways women supported to war effort was through preparing supplies for troops, like knitting stocking!</p>