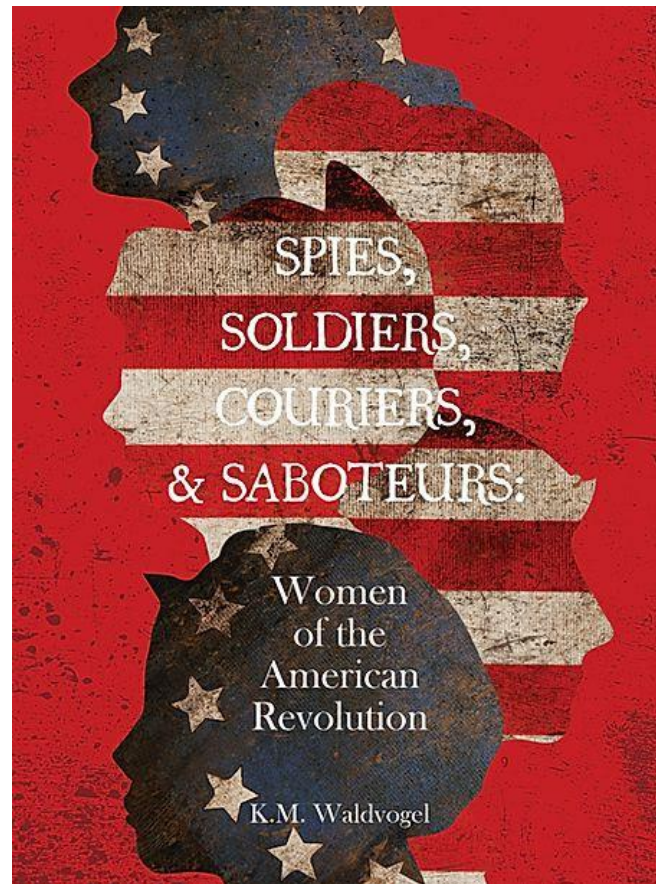


Spies, Soldiers, Couriers, and Saboteurs: Women of the American Revolution





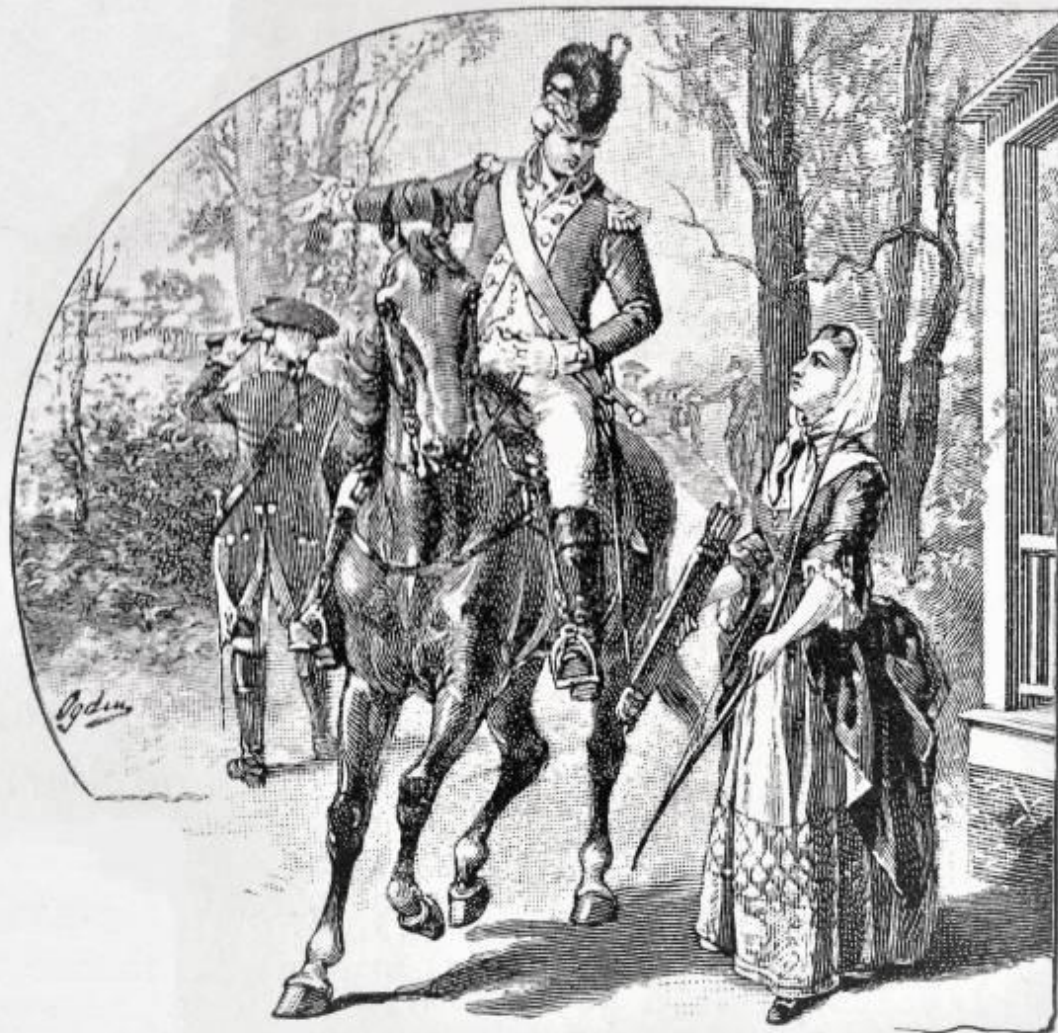
Role of Women during the American Revolution

- May have initially run the household while husbands/fathers ran businesses, farms.
- When war came, women's responsibilities changed. More involved in day-to-day operations of farms, businesses, etc.



Changes in Role of Women

- Women often stayed to protect property.
- Learned to manage hired hands on farms, day-to-day operations of businesses.
- Became responsible for finances of businesses, farms, etc.



A Brave Southern Woman.

Camp Followers

- Wives, mothers, daughters who followed male soldiers.
- Not able to support themselves or tend to their homes/businesses.
- Only allowed to stay if they could prove they were necessary to the needs of the army.



Camp Followers

Conventional Roles

- **Cooks** – prepared meals, foraged for food.
- **Laundry/Seamstresses** – clean clothing curtailed disease; mended & sewed clothing.
- **Nurses** – tended sick, wounded. Bathed and fed infirmed.
- **Battlefield** – helped during battles, carrying water, aiding those injured.



Unconventional Roles

- **Spies** – women considered too genteel to understand the strategies of war.
- **Soldiers** – disguised themselves as men. Fought alongside men in battle.
- **Couriers/Messengers** – rallied men when needed, carried messages between generals.



Unconventional Roles (Cont.)

- **Saboteurs** – help the Patriots by harassing, interrupting plans of the British. Distract British from completely focusing on the war.



Research

- **Credible/Reliable** – Resources should stand up to scrutiny.
- **Multiple Sources** – Verifying information through a variety of sources.
- **Primary Sources** – written information from those who lived during this time.

Sources of Information

- **Libraries** – scour libraries for nonfiction from reliable sources.
- **Online Websites** – credible sources such as Smithsonian Institute, National Women's History Museum, CIA Kids Page, Colonial Williamsburg
- **Museums** – contact by email or visit in person.

Sources of Information (Cont.)

- **Historical Societies** – contact historians to help with details/dates/accurate info.
- **Historical markers/monuments** – verify dates, locations of events.
- **Descendants** – provide stories handed down generation to generation.

Obstacles to Research

- **Time occurred** – happened 245-250 years ago. Rely heavily on written info.
- **Little-known women** – not prominent with multiple books written about them.
- **Conflicting information** – must verify through multiple sources.

Obstacles for Research (Cont.)

- **Different spelling** – names, locations, etc.
- **Access to resources** – limited in some cases due to location, some available to only members of organizations, etc.

Contact Information

Website:

www.kmwaldvogel.com

Email: waldvogelkm@gmail.com