American Spirit
Daughters of the American Revolution
May/June 2007

Step Back in Time
Footwear in Early America

William Thornton’s Mind for Design
The Journey of the Liberty Bell
She-Merchants: The Far-Reaching Empires Of Colonial Businesswomen
Annapolis: A Capital Preservation
Create Your Legacy

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Let Freedom Ring 24
For centuries, the image of the Liberty Bell has inspired Americans. In our Visions of America series, we explore the storied history of this silent symbol of freedom.

BY EMILY McMACKIN

Sole Connection 30
Step into the shoes of colonists to learn more about their lives.

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Enterprising Women 35
Men dominated trade in the Colonies—except for a few entrepreneurial women who faced hardship and limited legal rights to make a name for themselves in the marketplace.

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ABOUT THE COVER: SHOES WORN BY EARLY AMERICANS, COURTESY OF THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION
Today’s Daughters

The Doctor Is In

As the health and medical correspondent for CBS News’ “The Early Show,” Dr. Emily Senay translates the latest health news for millions of viewers.

BY LENA BASHA

Collectibles

A Model Collection

Patent models—miniature replicas of 18th- and 19th-century inventions—capture America’s innovative spirit.

BY KATIE PORTERFIELD

Class Act

Dressed for Democracy

Wearing wigs helps eighth-graders in Alex Duncan’s history class identify with the Founding Fathers.

BY EMILY McMACKIN

Q&A

A Legacy of Patriotism

Discover more about the National Society’s rich heritage in our conversation with Diana Bailey, author of American Treasure, a new book celebrating the DAR.

BY LENA BASHA

Spirited Adventures

A Capital Preservation

Stroll through Annapolis, Md., a city steeped in Colonial history and a community committed to preservation.

BY JAMIE ROBERTS

Plus

President General’s Message
Whatnot
National Treasures
Bookshelf
From the President General

In each issue of American Spirit, we are proud to spotlight the Society’s three guiding tenets—historic preservation, education and patriotism—to illustrate how our organization’s goals are alive, relevant and essential to our nation now, as always.

The magazine staff enjoys unearthing little-known gems of history for readers. Our feature on Colonial “she-merchants” disproves the assumption that Colonial men were the only ones who sold wares to far-reaching empires. We show how growing demand in the New World opened the doors for a few adventurous women to join the trading scene, gaining personal independence in the bargain.

Why did early Americans bury shoes in their walls? When did the shoe buckle become popular? What did most colonists wear on their soles? With the assistance of experts at Colonial Williamsburg (the source of the beautiful shoes on the cover), we step back in time to answer those questions—and examine the fancy and not-so-fancy footwear of our ancestors.

Design ingenuity is the focus of two other features. The United States Capitol Building was first conceived in the magnificent mind of a little-known American named William Thornton. Even though his contemporaries considered him a savant, why didn’t such a remarkable person gain more lasting fame? We also visit Alan Rothschild’s amazing collection of 18th- and 19th-century patent models, miniature working models of prospective inventions. Rothschild’s 4,000 models capture the spirit of inventors, representing the American innovations that fueled the country’s growth.

Don’t forget to read our Class Act column featuring “wiggled out” 8th-grade history teacher Alec Duncan, and our Today’s Daughters department profiling DAR member Dr. Emily Senay, health and medical correspondent for CBS News’ “The Early Show.”

We set sail for summer by visiting Annapolis, America’s first peacetime capital in 1784 and a preservation success story today. Our Spirited Adventures department features the ongoing work to keep history alive in the city’s beautiful Colonial homes. Daughters have always taken seriously the quest to protect our nation’s past.

In Manchester, N.H., the Molly Stark Chapter lovingly preserves the historic Colonial home of Revolutionary General John Stark and his wife, Molly. Our Historic Homes department uncovers the little red house’s treasures.

Speaking of treasures, how could a cracked bell with a misspelled inscription become one of the world’s most familiar symbols of freedom? Our Visions of America photo essay delves into the surprising and storied history of the Liberty Bell.

Our faithful readers will notice that this most iconic of images—the symbol of patriotism—to illustrate how our organization’s goals are alive, relevant and essential to our nation now, as always.

Presley Merritt Wagoner
Today's Daughters

BY LENA BASHA

Are you ever curious about what the latest medical breakthrough means for your health? As the health and medical correspondent for CBS News' "The Early Show" for the past 10 years, Dr. Emily Senay helps the morning show's almost 3 million viewers make sense of health-related news, from the recent FDA advisory on heart stents to the latest on hormone replacement therapy.

"I stay away from the single case of the day, like the person who has a giant tumor removed," she says. "They're fascinating stories, but they don't help anyone. I'll only cover it if it can have a real impact on a great number of people and help them make healthy decisions."

When she's not on the air, you can find Dr. Senay at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, where she earned her M.D. in 1988. Last year she earned a master's degree in public health from the school, and now directs the program, which she says enhanced her ability to do her job at CBS. Dr. Senay also has worked as a physician in underserved settings, making house calls to elderly, homebound individuals and working in HIV/AIDS and methadone clinics on the city's Lower East Side and in Harlem. She has even worked at Rikers Island, New York City's largest jail.

"I never saw myself hanging up a shingle and making lots of money as a doctor," she says. "I didn't want to have a business like that. I've chosen to work in underserved settings because those populations are in desperate need of medical attention. It's also very gratifying because you can really help people directly in those settings."

Working with the underserved, she says, also provides the opportunity to educate patients about a topic Dr. Senay is passionate about—preventing diseases instead of treating them after they become big problems.

"Heart disease, diabetes and obesity are all problems that are tremendously difficult for people to live with, but in most cases these problems are preventable if people do the right things to take care of their health," she says. "If we don't help people get out of these unhealthy situations, the expense to treat these conditions is going to crush our medical system.

She was initially drawn to women's medical issues, but she recently became interested in men's health, co-writing From Boys to Men: A Woman's Guide to the Health of Husbands, Partners, Sons, Fathers, and Brothers (Fireside, 2005).

"The book helps overcome the inequities in men's health: Men are naturally predisposed to being more vulnerable than women to disease and injury, and they're just not as good at taking care of their own health as women are," she says.

Although she is proud of her professional accomplishments, her No. 1 priority remains with her family. She and her husband, Avery Seavey, have three children: 10-year-old Harry and 7-year-old identical twin daughters, Ruby and Lucy.

"I always try to be there when they come home," she says. "My family has to come first."

She considers attending soccer practice with her son and figure-skating lessons with her girls just as much her day job as "The Early Show." As a Daughter and member of the Peter Minuit Chapter, New York, N.Y., Dr. Senay also finds time to instill a sense of history in her children, who are all members of the Children of the American Revolution.

"I want my kids to have a sense that nothing is as it is today without history," she says. "The DAR is one of the few organizations that helps promote history and preservation, which is why I got involved."

Dr. Senay jokes that she wishes there was also a place for her husband in the DAR. "He's a history buff. If we pass a plaque on the highway, we have to pull over to look at it," she says. "The DAR would be right up his alley."
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Jamestown, the oldest permanent English settlement to survive in the New World, turns 400 years old this year, and the Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center are celebrating the anniversary in a big way. The 400th anniversary celebration, which kicked off in May 2006, features a series of signature events and new programs commemorating various aspects of the Jamestown story and celebrating the contributions both the settlers of Jamestown and the Native Americans who lived nearby gave to the New World. Bone up on your Jamestown history with the timeline below, then mark your calendar for some of the special programs taking place around the region the rest of the year.

1607
An expedition of 104 colonists lands on May 14 and begins building Jamestown, named for England's King James I.

1608
The year begins with the first of many arrivals of new settlers and goods to Jamestown.

1611
Colonial settlements expand with the establishment of Henrico, near Richmond, and Kecoughtan, a few miles downstream from Jamestown.

1613
Pocahontas, the daughter of Chief Powhatan, is kidnapped by the English and brought to Jamestown. The following year, she marries John Rolfe.

1614
Jamestown begins exporting tobacco, which helps make the Virginia Colony profitable.

1617
Pocahontas dies in England.

1619
The House of Burgesses, the first representative legislative assembly in the New World, convenes on July 30.

1622
The Powhatan Confederacy surprises English colonists in a bloody attack, killing more than 300 settlers—one-third of the English population—but Jamestown is spared.
Journey Up the James
May 4—26, various locations

The newest replica of Godspeed, one of three ships that brought English colonists to Virginia in 1607, was finished last year just in time for a sail from the Chesapeake Bay up the James River. Re-creating parts of the original route sailed 400 years ago, the Godspeed started April 26 in Virginia Beach, will dock in Jamestown for America’s Anniversary Weekend and end its voyage at Henricus, which, founded in 1611, became the second successful permanent English settlement in the New World.

America’s Anniversary Weekend
May 11—13, Jamestown

The premier signature event takes place May 11–13 at Jamestown. Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor is the honorary chair of the three-day salute to Jamestown, which will feature cultural and heritage events, interactive exhibits, family-friendly programs and musical performances by Bruce Hornsby, Chaka Khan and Ricky Skaggs. Available through Colonial Williamsburg, single-day tickets are $30 for adults and $15 for children. Your ticket also provides admission to Historic Jamestowne (the original site of the fort), Jamestown Settlement and Anniversary Park.

“The World of 1607”
Through April 2008
Jamestown Settlement,
Williamsburg, Va.

This special exhibition portrays 17th-century Virginia in a global context through artifacts on loan from various museums and collections from more than 10 countries. Included among the artifacts are a 15th-century copy of the Magna Carta, considered one of the most important documents in the history of constitutional law and democracy, and a 16th-century African ivory carving.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival
June 27—July 1, July 4—8
National Mall, Washington, D.C.

The 41st annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival turns its attention to Virginia this year, highlighting the state’s Native American, English and West African roots. More than 120 performers, artists, storytellers, cooks and farmers will demonstrate the diverse cultural traditions of early Virginia. For a more in-depth look at the cultures and contributions of American Indian tribes, the three-day American Indian Intertribal Cultural Festival takes place July 21–22 in Hampton, Va. Contributions made by African-Americans in the past 400 years will be highlighted at the Black Cultural and Commerce Expo, August 24–25 in Norfolk, Va.

Jamestown Settlement Galleries
Ongoing, Jamestown Settlement

Open since October 2006, a new permanent exhibition at Jamestown Settlement chronicles the history of early Virginia by looking at the Powhatan Indian, European and African cultures. Three galleries comprise the 30,000-square-foot space. The first introduces visitors to pre-17th-century Virginia, the second gallery covers cultural interaction, and the third explores the political, social and economic development and expansion of the Virginia Colony.

For more information on these and other related events, visit www.americas400thanniversary.com or www.historyisfun.org.
Priceless information will be saved for future generations, thanks to the President General’s Project, “Preserving Our Patriotic Heritage,” which aims to scan and digitize the National Society’s ancestral records, source documents and genealogical reports. Prospective DAR members will also find it easier to research and document their lineages through an electronic index of names and records of Patriots, their children and their grandchildren. The project has raised $3.3 million to fulfill these goals.

One of the project’s popular sales items has been the porcelain Liberty Bell brooch, handcrafted by Penny Sanford Fikes, a member of the Thomas Rodney Chapter, Winona, Miss. The brooch, which sells for $25, replicates the Liberty Bell down to its famous crack and slippery elm yoke and even incorporates an unfurled American flag into its three-dimensional design. It can also be worn as a pendant.

“It’s a conversation starter,” Mrs. Sanford Fikes says. “Everyone who sees the crack knows what it is. And in that way, the bell continues to speak about liberty and freedom, even though we don’t hear it ring.”

Mrs. Sanford Fikes fires her porcelain at a temperature above the usual 95 degrees to give the brooch a “white chocolate” luster. Its design is equally meticulous: While planning it, she collected photos of the bell from different angles and read voraciously about its history. Mrs. Sanford Fikes also made the Memorial Continental Hall ornament several years ago, as well as other ornaments and brooches to benefit DAR projects in Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana.

As an outgoing National Division Vice Chairman of the Genealogical Records Committee, the cause of this project is close to her heart.

“The DAR has a fortune in genealogical information,” she says. “Thankfully, it also has the vision to push forward by digitizing it.”

Order your Liberty Bell brooch online today through The DAR Store by visiting www.dar.org/darstoreor by calling the store toll-free at (888) 673–2732. Find more information about the brooch and its artist at www.pennysanford.com.

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For Your Sweet Tooth

Next time you’re craving something sweet, take a step back in time with American Heritage Chocolate. Made using recipes and manufacturing methods from Colonial America, the chocolate is grittier and spicier than most modern-day chocolate, but it’s just as rich.

Most frequently consumed as a breakfast beverage that would have rivaled coffee or tea, chocolate was more than just a treat to Colonial Americans. During the American Revolution, chocolate was a mainstay at commissaries, and it was drunk as a medicine on the Lewis and Clark expedition. For more information and for recipes, visit www.americanheritagechocolate.com.

The Name Game

More than a decade ago, the National Genealogical Society announced an ambitious project: to make its massive collection of members’ ancestry charts (MACs) available online to NGS members. The project got under way early last year, and after one year, the NGS has already uploaded more than 1 million names to the database. The MAC collection is one of several NGS member benefits. For information on joining, visit www.ngsgenealogy.org.

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Research Reunions

Ever wish you had a place to meet with other researchers interested in the same surname to share information and work toward solutions of genealogical problems? NOW YOU HAVE IT!

Take advantage of our popular research reunions. The Sumner County Archives will make available our meeting rooms to groups for research.

Once a vast wilderness area beyond the Cumberland Mountains, Sumner County became the most populous county in Middle Tennessee in 1786 only 20 years after its first explorers and 16 years before Tennessee became a state. Remarkably, this was all accomplished while settlers were enduring Indian attacks.

Sumner played a major and unique role in the expansion of the West as a permanent home for many and a way station for others who remained long enough to leave footprints. Those footprints await you at the Sumner County Archives.

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Symbol of Progress

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EXPERIENCE FRONTIER LIFE firsthand during Old West Days, taking place May 25–28 in Jackson Hole, Wyo. In its 26th year, this event is the real McCoy, offering visitors a glimpse of the Old West with activities like gunfight re-enactments, barn dancing and stagecoach rides. Grab a seat in front of the action—but don’t get too close—during a performance by the famed Jackson Hole Shootout Gang, which will be shooting up town square every night at 6:15.

The festivities culminate on Memorial Day with a service conducted by the American Legion to honor U.S. men and women who have died in military service. A Native American Pipes for Peace ceremony to celebrate Jackson Hole’s diverse heritage will close out the weekend.

For additional information and a full schedule of events, visit www.jacksonholechamber.com.

FOLLOW IN THE FOUNDING FATHERS’ FOOTSTEPS on a walking tour of historic Philadelphia, offered by the Constitutional Foundation. In its third year, the program offers self-guided and guided tours of all the historic hot spots in Philadelphia, including the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, the National Constitution Center and the Betsy Ross House.

Named one of Philadelphia’s top 25 tourist attractions by the Philadelphia Business Journal in 2004, the guided tour is offered daily all summer long and on weekends during the fall. If a group tour isn’t your thing, consider the Philly Mp3 Audio Tour, featuring patriotic music and entertaining stories that take you back in time. Cell phone tours and stroller tours are also available. Visit www.theconstitutional.com for more information.

MOTHER’S DAY
1. When did Mother’s Day become an official holiday?
2. Who is credited with founding Mother’s Day?
3. What two U.S. states have the highest percentage of mothers ages 15 to 44?
4. How many cards were purchased for Mother’s Day last year?
5. How much money is spent on Mother’s Day each year?

Answers on page 10.

Discover the meanings behind some of the DAR chapters’ interesting names.

The charter members of Cooch’s Bridge Chapter, Newark, Del., had a lot in common. They all lived near Cooch’s Bridge and almost half of them were members of the Cooch family. Cooch’s Bridge is also the site of Delaware’s only Revolutionary War battle, which took place on September 3, 1777. The battle was a delaying action to slow the British advance toward the Brandywine Valley and Philadelphia.

The namesake of the Linn Chapter, Albany, Ore., was Missouri Senator Dr. Lewis F. Linn, a leading advocate in Congress on behalf of the settlement of Oregon and the establishment of the Oregon Territory. One of Oregon’s first counties was also named for the senator. Despite several bullet holes in his clothing, the namesake of the Jacob Forney Chapter, Lincoln, N.C., was said to be bulletproof after escaping serious injury at the hands of a small group of Indians near Lincoln County, N.C., where he settled in 1754. Forney hosted British General Cornwallis for three days during the Revolutionary War, and his plantation suffered great losses as a result. The general and his men consumed all of Forney’s livestock and 40 gallons of brandy, appropriated his three horses, destroyed much of the property and even seized a stash of gold, silver and jewelry Forney had buried in his distillery. Later, Forney reportedly remarked that his reputation of being bulletproof was of great service during the Revolution, too.

The Council Oak Chapter. Council Grove, Kan., received its name from the tallest tree in an extensive and dense forest of hardwood trees covering a large part of the bottomland east of the Neosho River. On August 10, 1825, three United States Commissioners and the chiefs of the Great and Little Osage Indians met under this tree and signed a treaty to allow passage of traders to Santa Fe via the Santa Fe Trail.
In the Galleries

IDENTITY BY DESIGN: Tradition, Change and Celebration in Native Women’s Dresses
National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C., ongoing
Featuring dresses from the Plains, Plateau and Great Basin regions of the United States and Canada, the exhibit examines how traditional Native American dresses have reflected the identity of Native women and how the dresses—and their identities—have evolved. Learn more at nmai.si.edu.

‘AND SO TO BED…’
When English diarist Samuel Pepys wrote those four words at the end of his daily journal entries, he probably wasn’t writing them from bed. It was the 17th century, after all. But couldn’t you picture a modern-day diarist writing that from bed—on a laptop computer? In this exhibit, “And So to Bed: The American Bedroom 1750–1920,” the DAR Museum explores the evolution of the bed and the bedroom. Changing ideas of style, privacy, health and hygiene altered the design of bedrooms, beds, bedding and bedclothes. For more information, visit www.dar.org/museum.

THE STORY OF WE THE PEOPLE
National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, ongoing
This past Presidents’ Day, the National Constitution Center added a variety of rare historical artifacts to its permanent exhibit, “The Story of We the People.” All of the new artifacts are linked to different presidents throughout history, including a letter sent from George Washington to Thomas Jefferson on September 18, 1787, the day after the U.S. Constitution was signed, and the coat worn by William Withers, the orchestra leader at Ford’s Theatre the night Abraham Lincoln was shot. The coat (left) was slashed by John Wilkes Booth during his escape. Visit www.constitutioncenter.org for more information.

HERE’S WHAT’S COMING UP
The July/August issue of American Spirit will feature:
• America’s Main Street: The Historic National Road
• Celebrating the 250th Birthday of the Marquis de Lafayette
• Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Fests
• Back in Time to Conner Prairie
• Boston’s Royall House

QuickQuiz
Answers to quiz on page 9: 1. In 1914; Father’s Day didn’t become officially recognized until 1972. 2. Anna Jarvis, who went on a decade-long quest starting in the late 19th century to create a holiday for mothers. 3. Mississippi and Alabama, which are each comprised of 65 percent mothers, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The national average is 55 percent. 4. There are an estimated 80.5 million mothers in the United States, and an estimated 150 million greeting cards were given to them in 2006. 5. Mother’s Day is the second highest sales leader among holidays, with $13.8 billion spent on Mother’s Day in 2006, according to the National Retail Federation. Valentine’s Day was close behind, with $13.7 billion in sales.
A ROLLER SKATE. A SWING SET.

Washing machines, knitting machines and a life-preserving stateroom for navigable vessels. These are just a few of the 4,000 patent models—miniature replicas of late 18th- and 19th-century inventions—that make up Alan Rothschild’s collection. By Katie Porterfield.
From 1790, the year the U.S. Patent Office was created, to 1880, inventors were required to submit working models, no larger than 12 square inches, of their inventions to obtain a patent. Alan Rothschild, a 64-year-old health-care executive whose family-owned business sells medical supplies for home use, began collecting patent models about 10 years ago and now owns the largest viewable collection of U.S. patent models in the world. He exhibits some of the models in a small museum in his home in Cazenovia, N.Y., while others, still in their original packing, are tucked away on shelves in his basement.

Rothschild’s collection and other surviving patent models capture the spirit of invention, representing the American ingenuity that fueled the country’s growth. “They are a valuable part of invention history in the United States and provide a chronicle of the industrial revolution,” says Mitch Scott of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. “The variety of inventions is amazing. Everyone knows about the typewriter and the telegraph, but there are so many other things that someone had to invent, like the rubber heel on a shoe, for example. These models chronicle all of that.”

MODEL HISTORY

More than 200,000 models made their way to the patent office between 1790 and 1880, and those still in existence are fairly well-traveled collectibles. Many inventors hired model makers, part of a thriving cottage industry in the 1800s, to construct the miniature replicas that were submitted with papers and diagrams describing an invention’s operation and purpose. Two patent office fires, one in 1836 and another in 1877, destroyed about 90,000 models, and although 2,000 of those lost in 1836 were recreated, the bulk of the treasures were never restored.

Congress repealed the model stipulation in 1870 because it deemed the law impractical, but the patent office continued to require the models until 1880, when the agency changed the law to permit models only when the commissioner required them. In 1908, the agency, strapped for space, auctioned about 3,000 models and stored the remaining 150,000 in a livery stable. Unwilling to continue to pay for storage, Congress ordered the patent models sold in 1925.

The Smithsonian Institution received about 2,500 models, and the others were auctioned to pharmaceutical entrepreneur Sir Henry Wellcome. After Wellcome’s death, the models changed hands multiple times, traveling from a Broadway producer to a group of businessmen to auctioneer O. Rundle Gilbert. Gilbert auctioned many of the models through the years, and in 1979, he sold the remainder of his collection—about 35,000 models—to aerospace engineer Cliff Peterson.

Peterson kept about 5,000 models and donated the rest to the United States Patent Model Foundation, a nonprofit organization that planned to establish a museum. After a series of problems, however, the nonprofit’s models were sold in auctions, flea markets and antique shops. Rothschild purchased the majority of the models in his collection from Peterson’s private collection. Other surviving models are scattered throughout the United States in both public and private collections.
HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS

Some of the miniature models in Rothschild’s collection seem impractical or even silly, while others represent inventions that revolutionized an industry. Still others, however, exemplify one-of-a-kind, carefully crafted works of art.

Although none of the models submitted before 1836 survived the fire, Rothschild has the recreation of what he believes to be one of the oldest models—an 1809 washing machine. It’s just one of several washing machines in Rothschild’s collection. “They’re all similar to what we have today, except they were mechanical and not powered by electricity,” he says. “They agitate the clothes, and ribs inside a tub rub against the clothes to get the dirt out.”

Nelson Goodyear’s slab of vulcanized rubber, created in 1851, permitted the commercial use of rubber, and C.F. Theodore Steinway’s 1878 “Improvement in Capodastro Frames for Piano Fortes” is standard in every piano. Models of knitting machines containing spools of thread demonstrate the intricate detail used to produce perfect miniature replicas of larger inventions.

Perhaps one of Rothschild’s most unusual models is a “Life-preserving State Room for Navigable Vessels.” Submitted by Henry Hallock of Brookhaven, N.Y., in 1858, the contraption, Rothschild says, was designed to sit on the deck of a ship and float if the ship sank. An 1878 model of a horse designed to illustrate an “Improvement in Check-Reins” provides an example of an elaborate artistic creation. Several improvements for toys, such as roller skates or swing sets, are reminders of recreational needs.

MODEL PASSION

Rothschild’s interest in collecting began long before he discovered patent models. As a teenager, he purchased and restored a 1930 Model-A Ford. He later attended Albany College of Pharmacy where a project on patented medicines sparked an interest in apothecary items. Years later, he recreated an early 1900s apothecary shop, opened a museum showcasing his exhibit in Syracuse, N.Y., and ultimately donated the shop to the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology.

About that time, he stumbled across several patent models at an antique show. He purchased them, began researching their history and, little by little, his collection grew. “I thought they were phenomenal, and I wanted to find out more about them,” he says. “It’s intriguing to me to be a part of the history of these inventors and these artifacts that are truly what made this country what it is today.”

For years, Rothschild has tried to establish a national patent model museum that will keep his collection intact and allow the public to appreciate and learn from the historical artifacts. This dream, however, has proven difficult, so Rothschild has refocused his efforts on establishing a virtual museum and creating a traveling exhibit that will appear in museums across the country. He is also selling a portion of his collection to fund endowments and educational programs for aspiring inventors.

“I want to stimulate kids to start thinking about the process of inventing,” Rothschild says. “If we can grow inventors, starting with young kids, they will create products, products will create industry, and industry will create jobs, which are needed to keep a community healthy.”

Katie Porterfield is a freelance writer based in Nashville, Tenn.
Dressed for Democracy:
STUDENTS GET WIGGED OUT ON HISTORY

By Emily McMackin

Studying the Constitution can be hairy for 8th graders in Alec Duncan’s history class at North Star Academy in Redwood City, Calif. So when the time comes to teach the subject, Duncan asks students to slip on their wigs. The classroom becomes Independence Hall, and students adopt the personas of delegates as they stage their own Constitutional Convention.

“When they put on their wigs, they literally transform themselves into the delegates,” Duncan says. “It puts them into character.”

For three weeks every fall, anyone who peeks into Duncan’s room can witness spirited debates, as students in cascading white locks defend the words, attitudes, opinions and ideas of their Colonial character.

The scene is much different from the groans Duncan gets when he introduces the activity, which starts with a wig-making assignment.

“Most of them hate the idea of wearing a wig at first because it takes work to make one, and they worry about looking foolish,” Duncan says. “But once they see everyone else doing it, they like it.”

Students immerse themselves in their assigned roles with extensive research on their delegate and his state. They learn not only about where he grew up and attended school but also about his business interests and political outlook, as well as his feelings about England and governing the republic. Some even model their wig after their delegate’s wig or dress in costume for extra credit.

“Occasionally, those researching Ben Franklin will discover that he didn’t wear a wig, so they won’t wear one either,” Duncan says.

The wigs, which students fashion from quilt batting glued to a baseball cap with the bill cut off, help them connect with their characters, especially once they realize the hairpieces were a fashion statement, like “wearing nice sneakers to class,” Duncan says.

Students empathize with the Founding Fathers even more when convening with other “delegates” from their state to vote on issues, such as slavery, westward expansion, state representation and balance of power. Duncan uses prompts outlining delegates’ different viewpoints to spark discussion, and students earn points for making, seconding and opposing motions. “They love to argue,” Duncan says.

Some students get frustrated, especially when trying to balance their state’s wishes with their own or when cautioned not to interject 21st-century ideas into 18th-century debates, but they discover the value of compromise.

“They see that this stuff didn’t come from a textbook; it came from people hammering it out,” Duncan says.

The convention ends with students compiling the motions they pass into their own constitution—which is often surprisingly similar to the 1787 original—then signing it for their delegate and themselves. Audrey Spickermann, 13, wasn’t sure about wearing a wig at first, but the project left her with a deeper appreciation of how democracy works.

“It showed me how hard it was to come up with these ideas,” she says. “People were doing something nobody else had done before, so they had to kind of wing it.”
THE DAR MUSEUM has an impressive collection of wedding attire, including wedding dresses worn by three generations of one Philadelphia family. On Mary Emma Funk Radcliffe’s wedding day in 1882, she wore a white satin bustle skirt and bodice (left). Wearing white for your wedding didn’t become a common cultural ideal in America until the second half of the 19th century. Queen Victoria of England was credited with setting the style for white, but white had already become the custom for bridal attire among the English aristocracy in the 18th century.

Mary Emma’s daughter, Sarah Cunningham Radcliffe MacKay, reflected the fashion of the time in her 1914 dress and veil (center). The 1942 white rayon satin dress worn by Jean Radcliffe MacKay Christie was accompanied by a veil and “Juliet cap” made with lace taken from her mother’s 1914 wedding dress. The recycling of dresses and veils was a common practice then, and many brides today still enjoy adopting family heirlooms into their own wedding attire.

The dresses were the gift of Mr. James W. Christie III, Mr. Stuart R. Christie and Mr. John M. Christie.
History in the Making

A Conversation With Diana L. Bailey, author of American Treasure: The Enduring Spirit of the DAR

Y ou’ll want to make sure there’s plenty of room on your coffee table for American Treasure: The Enduring Spirit of the DAR, scheduled for release in June. Through vibrant photos and compelling text on 304 pages, the book celebrates the contemporary work of the National Society carried out by DAR chapters around the world, while also detailing the fascinating history of an organization that has stayed true to the important objectives set by its founders in 1890.

For the past year, author Diana L. Bailey has pored over the DAR Archives as well as contemporary articles and books. She also conducted more than 40 interviews to help her tell the remarkable story of a century-old organization that continues to be vibrant—and relevant—today.

“With each person I spoke to, whether it was an Honorary President General or someone else within the organization today, I gained new knowledge about the DAR, but it always went back to the mission,” she says. “That’s what’s so fascinating about the DAR. The various projects of the organization have changed and evolved over time, but the mission has not—and it hasn’t needed to.”

Bailey, who recently retired after almost 38 years in public relations, has written and edited a variety of pictorial history books on a range of topics, from the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., to the history of naval aviation. She recently spoke with American Spirit about American Treasure from her home in Virginia Beach, Va.

While researching in the DAR Archives and interviewing members, what most surprised and interested you?

I was stunned by all of the accomplishments of the DAR. For example, I had no idea that Valley Forge was in danger of being sold for private development until the DAR intervened, or that members led the way for occupational therapy for immigrants on Ellis Island, or that it was because of the DAR that many historical trails in danger of being lost, such as the Natchez Trace and the Oregon Trail, are now national trails, which have been preserved and marked. I was also surprised by how nontraditional the founders were and how much they accomplished. They were very progressive. That same thing is true for today’s Daughters. Talk to any member and you’ll be astounded that many are busy, successful career women who also do so much in their communities.

You have years of experience writing and editing historical books. How does American Treasure differ from your other projects?

Other projects I’ve worked on have been straight chronological histories on subjects with a somewhat limited audience. But as the research unfolded for American Treasure, I realized that the story of the DAR would appeal not just to Daughters, but to any American because the history of the DAR is so tied to the historical events in this country. As a result, I tried to keep both perspectives in mind when writing the text and choosing the photos. Other books have already done a great job of capturing the history of the DAR, but this one gives dimension to today’s Daughters, fusing the contemporary story of the DAR to its rich history.

Since you are not a DAR member, how do you think an outsider’s perspective contributed to the telling of the DAR story?

Because I had no preconceived notion of the Society, I
think I was able to let the Daughters tell the story themselves. I could just sit back and let their story unfold. I think I was also able to uncover and identify things that would appeal to both the Daughters and the general public. Some of them were stories even the Daughters themselves hadn’t heard before.

The title of the book, American Treasure, could be interpreted several ways. What does it mean to you?

I think the title speaks to the many facets of the DAR, that the organization is not just about the artifacts and the historical sites, but freedom, education, patriotism, and what it really means to be an American. The Daughters have never lost sight of that, and that’s the American treasure they help preserve. Since working on this project, I have a better appreciation of what it is to be American and what a treasure it is to be born here.

How do you think this book confronts common misconceptions about the DAR?

You’re going to see Daughters rolling up their sleeves and getting their hands dirty, and you’ll read touching stories about Daughters volunteering at VA hospitals and providing basic necessities to soldiers returning from Iraq. When the DAR first formed, questions swirled about its purpose. So they hosted a social event that was so successful, some people were under the misconception that the DAR was just a group of rich women with a lot of time on their hands. There is a social aspect to the DAR, but it’s just a time for them to meet and affirm their service to the community. And I think this book shows that.

The book features more than 400 contemporary and historical photos. How do these vibrant images help illustrate the story of the DAR?

The book showcases more than 1,700 Daughters past and present. These are all Daughters in action. Even if you were just to glance at the photos and read the captions, you’d immediately realize that the DAR isn’t what everyone stereotypically thinks it is. It’s hard to pick a favorite, but two photos stand out. One of them is of DAR President General Edith Scott Magna (1932–1935) getting suited up for a flight in an open-cockpit, two-seater aircraft. She loved flying and was the first President General to really take advantage of it to meet all of her commitments. Another photo that shows that same adventurous, fun-loving spirit is the one of the members of the Knickerbocker Chapter in New York City ringing the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange. No single photo can capture the diversity of service and the spirit of the Society, but hopefully this collection tells a story that really hasn’t been told before now.

— Lena Bashu

How to Order American Treasure:

Use the available card to reserve a copy of the limited-edition volume at the discounted introductory price of $35 (plus shipping and handling), and your copies will be shipped directly to your home upon publication. The pre-sale discount runs through July 1, 2007, and the remaining books will then be available for $50. (The special DAR member price is $40.) You can preorder American Treasure online through The DAR Store at www.dar.org/darstore, by calling the store toll-free at (888) 673–2732, or by downloading preorder forms from www.dar.org/americantreasure and mailing them to the National Headquarters.

The members of the Knickerbocker Chapter, New York, N.Y., ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange on July 5, 2005.
Annapolis has long encouraged its visitors to step outside and explore the city’s storied history for themselves. Discover “a museum without walls”—a community committed to keeping its history alive and vibrant for new generations.
“THE FOUNDATION HAS KEPT OUR SLOGAN — ‘a museum without walls’—for decades because it really describes the community,” says Glenn E. Campbell, historian at the Historic Annapolis Foundation. “All this history spills over into the streets; it’s not encased in a museum.”

As one of the preservation capitals of America, Annapolis boasts a greater concentration of 18th-century buildings than anywhere else in the country, including the homes of all four Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence.

“As one of the preservation capitals of America, Annapolis boasts a greater concentration of 18th-century buildings than anywhere else in the country, including the homes of all four Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence.”

“Many towns have restored one or two homes from the Colonial era, but our Colonial riches are abundant,” says Susan Steckman, director of communications at the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau.

The remarkable preservation of Annapolis’ historic buildings is an amazing story of how grassroots activism and insightful leadership can not only save old homes, but also revive a community.

Remembering a Colonial Legacy

In 1694, Colonial Maryland’s governor, Francis Nicholson, decided to move the capital from St. Mary’s City to the more centrally located Anne Arundel Town, named for the wife of the second Lord Baltimore. Nicholson renamed the city Annapolis, or “Anne’s city,” after England’s Princess Anne, who became queen in 1702. With its strategic location on the Chesapeake Bay, Annapolis became a bustling hub for the Colony’s trade with Europe.

The influential seaport served as the nation’s first peacetime capital in 1784. Maryland’s capital city is also where General George Washington resigned his commission as commander in chief of the Continental Army, and where Congress ratified the 1784 Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War.

Although Annapolis briefly shone as an early American social and cultural center, the state’s money and power moved from Annapolis to Baltimore after the Revolutionary War. With little industry,
the 19th century was a time of economic upheaval for the city. Ironically, its economic downturn proved beneficial to its later preservation.

“The citizens couldn’t afford to tear down old buildings, so they made do with the buildings they had,” says Patricia Blick, Historic Annapolis Foundation’s vice president for preservation and education. “Even as the economy improved, there was never a great demand for property or a reason for wholesale demolition. Thus, many of the city’s 18th-century structures survived.”

Rallying a Grassroots Movement

Taking an inventory of the city’s crumbling gems, concerned citizens formed the Company for the Restoration of Colonial Annapolis (CRCA) in 1935. Inspired by the success of Colonial Williamsburg, this early preservation movement worked to save centuries-old buildings from the wrecking ball. (The DAR shared some of the CRCA’s preservation goals, and Sarah Sutherland Green, then-Regent of the Peggy Stewart Tea Party Chapter, Annapolis, Md., was on the group’s first board.) However, the Great Depression made it difficult for the CRCA to raise funds for capital projects, and its work soon foundered.

By the early 1950s, the issue of preservation took on greater urgency. In 1952, a new organization, the Historic Annapolis Foundation, began with renewed zeal to restore the city’s treasures. Foundation members pounded the pavement to make the case that preservation was good for the local economy, urging homeowners to lead visitors on weekend tours of their historic properties and partnering with local business owners who could meet the needs of out-of-towners.

“When tourists showed up and spent money, the business community quickly saw that preservation could help support the economy,” Campbell says.

The foundation gained momentum in 1955 when it saved the Carroll-Barrister House from demolition. The birthplace of Charles Carroll the Barrister (not to be confused with several other Charles Carrolls who lived in Colonial Annapolis), who served as president of the Maryland Convention, was constructed on Main Street in the mid-1720s. When new owners wanted the lot vacated, the foundation raised $20,000 to move the house to a new site on the campus of St. John’s College, a liberal arts college chartered in 1784 and now known for its distinctive “great books” curriculum.

“Early attempts had failed, but this showed that Historic Annapolis had the ability to pull off a feat that size,” Campbell says. “And now, instead of looking for a Rockefeller to finance the city’s preservation, people start sprucing up their own properties. Preservation became a grassroots effort rather than a top-down effort.”

Uncovering Hidden Gems

The foundation’s biggest success came in 1965 to 1976 with the restoration of the William Paca House & Garden. One of several elite Marylanders who built grand houses in Annapolis in the 18th century, Paca, a wealthy planter and signer of the Declaration of Independence, lived in the five-part Georgian mansion from 1765 to 1780.

After changing hands several times in the 19th century, the Paca House was purchased in 1901 by a developer who built a large rear addition and opened the 200-room Carvel Hall Hotel on the site. When the hotel fell into decline in the 1960s, the house was in danger of being torn down. Foundation members rallied to raise funds and worked with the state of Maryland to bring the house and property back to their 18th-century grandeur. In partnership with the Maryland Historical Trust, the foundation also completed an archaeological excavation and reconstruction of the home’s two-acre 18th-century Colonial pleasure garden.

Around the corner is the Chase-Lloyd House, which was once home to Samuel Chase, a lawyer and signor of the Declaration of Independence. He started building his three-story Georgian townhouse in 1769, but when he ran out of funds to complete it, he sold the

William Paca House & Garden
unfinished house to Edward Lloyd IV, a wealthy plantation owner. Today, the first-floor rooms are open to the public, while the upper two floors serve as a home for retired women.

Across Maryland Avenue from the Chase-Lloyd House is another classic Georgian structure, the Hammond-Harwood House, named for Patriot Matthias Hammond. Designed by famed architect William Buckland, the home has ornate carved moldings and boasts “the most beautiful doorway in America.” Today it houses a fine arts collection.

Closer to the water, where Spa Creek meets the Chesapeake Bay, is the Charles Carroll House, the residence of the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence. The house was built by three generations of Carrolls through the 1700s and hosted the Marquis de Lafayette during the Revolutionary War. In 2006, the Historic Annapolis Foundation assisted in managing the stabilization of the house.

Presiding over Annapolis’ painstakingly restored historic homes is the Maryland State House. Built between 1772 and 1779, the Maryland State House is the oldest state capitol building in continuous legislative use. From late 1783 to the summer of 1784, Congress met here, making it the only statehouse to serve as the U.S. Capitol. The Old Senate Chamber is an especially venerable room—it’s where Washington resigned his commission to return to private life on December 23, 1783. The Maryland State Archives recently acquired—and will soon permanently display at the statehouse—Washington’s personal copy of his resignation speech.

The statehouse’s design is also noteworthy. Its dome, the only wooden one of its kind, is made of cypress beams held together by wooden pegs, and the flagpole that sits atop is actually a lightning rod based on a design by Benjamin Franklin.

Ensuring Historic Integrity

Today the Historic Annapolis Foundation is responsible for 10 properties in downtown Annapolis, including the management of some state-owned projects. It’s also an advocacy organization responsible for investigating and commenting on every building permit in the historic district.

“Since tourism is such a large part of the economy, citizens have seen that ensuring the historic character of Annapolis is in their best interest,” Blick says.

Last year, the foundation opened the multimillion-dollar HistoryQuest at 99 Main Street. Located in a three-story, 1790s-era building at the foot of Main Street and the city dock, the center provides an orientation film, exhibits and guided audio tours of Annapolis, encouraging visitors to walk the city streets and discover all the historic nooks and crannies for themselves.

“We’re not a museum property frozen in time,” Campbell says. “We’re a living, breathing community. Annapolis is a great example of how you can live with history all around you, and that preservation can actually benefit a community economically and culturally”.

Jamie Roberts is the magazine’s managing editor.

**Continue the Journey**

After marveling at Annapolis’ historic homes and buildings, consider adding a few other must-sees to your travel to-do list.

**Stand at attention.** Founded at Fort Severn in 1845, the United States Naval Academy is now a National Historic Landmark. Attracting more than 1 million visitors a year, the Academy’s highlights include the Navy Chapel (left), which houses the tomb of Patriot naval hero John Paul Jones, and the U.S. Naval Academy Museum, famous for its model ships and other naval memorabilia. In June 2007, the 160-year-old museum and its home, Preble Hall, will undergo a $10.5 million renovation slated for completion in January 2009. (For more information, visit www.usna.edu/museum.)

**Set sail.** Nicknamed “America’s Sailing Capital,” Annapolis celebrates its maritime history at the Annapolis Maritime Museum and the sport of sailing at the National Sailing Hall of Fame (in temporary quarters until October, then in a soon-to-be-built permanent structure). After admiring the beautiful pleasure boats anchored along City Dock’s “Ego Alley,” visitors can enjoy cruises ranging from 40 minutes on the water to a day on the bay of Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Each October, the Annapolis harbor is the scene for two of the largest in-the-water boat shows in the world.

**Explore African-American heritage.** The city’s African-American heritage is celebrated at the Banneker-Douglass Museum (right), named after two prominent local residents: astronomer and inventor Benjamin Banneker and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. In 2005, the museum unveiled a $2.8 million expansion. (Visit www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/bdm.html for more information.) At City Dock, you can find memorials to Alex Haley, author of Roots, and his ancestor, Kunta Kinte, who arrived in Annapolis aboard the slave ship Lord Ligonier in 1767.

**Take a day trip.** Just south of Annapolis, London Town & Gardens in Edgewater is the site of one of Anne Arundel County’s first Colonial settlements. It is also Maryland’s largest ongoing archaeological dig. Other popular sites in the county include the National Cryptologic Museum and the Benson-Hammond House, a 19th-century farmhouse and home to the Anne Arundel County Historical Society.

American Spirit • May/June 2007 21
The Places You’ll Go

The freedom and fun of summer are just around the corner, which means it’s time to make your vacation plans. Wondering where to go? Check out American Spirit’s picks for planning the perfect all-American getaway. Whether you’re looking for relaxation, the country’s best food or a front-row seat for an interactive history lesson, these travel guides will help you map out an unforgettable trip.

Follow the Footsteps of History

From Savannah, Ga., to Fort Ticonderoga, N.Y., Colonial America and the American Revolution: The 25 Best Sites (Greenline, 2006) by Clint Johnson is a helpful handbook for history novices and buffs alike. For each of the 25 locations, Johnson ranks the points of interest on a scale of one to five stars, and he adds historical anecdotes to give travelers a sense of what locations were like during the Revolutionary era. And from Fodor’s “Travel Historic America” series, The Thirteen Colonies (2003) gives an even more comprehensive look at the Revolutionary War sites, Colonial homesteads and historic restorations where you can experience Colonial America for yourself.

The Essence of the Northeast

A trip to New England offers something for every kind of traveler, whether you’re looking for a historical experience or a relaxing outdoor adventure. With succinct, clearly written details on the most popular attractions, museums, restaurants, accommodations and outdoor activities in each of the six states, Eyewitness Travel Guides: New England (DK Travel, 2003) is a useful tool for planning anything from a day trip to Cape Cod to a week-long getaway in New Hampshire. The colorful Eyewitness guide—part of a popular series—also gives the most casual traveler just enough historic background to get the most out of a trip up East.

Sightseeing on the Trace

Instead of booking a flight this summer, enjoy the drive—and the rich history and diverse scenery—of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Stretching from Natchez, Miss., to Nashville, Tenn., the parkway takes tourists on a journey from the time of Native Americans to the battles of the Civil War to the struggles of 19th-century travelers. To get the most out of your drive, take along F. Lynne Bachleda’s Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway (Menasha Ridge Press, 2005), which provides readers with the history of the Trace, as well as the best places to stop along the way. Whether you take a detour to see the ancient Indian mounds of Mississippi or tackle all 444 miles of the historical highway, Bachleda’s guide makes it easier to enjoy the ride.

Indulge in Nature

If camping or hiking in the middle of nature’s glory is your idea of perfect happiness, then the National Geographic’s Guide to the National Parks of the United States (National Geographic, 2006) is a must-read. Spanning 26 states and navigating readers through 57 of America’s National Parks, the guide is separated by region so destinations can be found quickly. The book provides comprehensive information on activities available in...
each park, including detailed maps, directions, advice on when to go and details on the best hiking trails and driving tours to visit to ensure that you won’t miss a thing on your outdoor trek. Before exploring the popular parks of the Colorado Plateau or the remote beauty of Alaska’s eight National Parks, this guide should be in your backpack.

**Wander Washington on Foot**

Lace up your walking shoes for a better view of our nation’s capital with the help of *City Walks: Washington, D.C: 50 Adventures on Foot* (Chronicle Books, 2006). This series of handy cards makes it easy to navigate the city streets and avoid snarling traffic—while being wowed by such sites as the presidents’ memorials, monuments to our military and other architectural gems. Each card includes an illustrated map and detailed directions, historical background on the sites you’ll pass and insider information to guide you on your self-directed adventure. It’s easy to customize your trip by choosing from among 50 possible walking paths. *City Walks* are available for a variety of U.S. and international cities, including Boston, New York, Chicago, London and Paris.

**Travel With Your Taste Buds**

The true spirit of traveling America lies in experiencing the culture unique to different regions. And one of the best ways to experience the diversity of America is to taste each region’s distinct flavors. Jane and Michael Stern’s *Roadfood* (Broadway, 2005) is every traveler’s handbook to finding the best barbecue in the South, the freshest lobster in New England and the hottest Tex-Mex in the Southwest. Complete with maps, a price guide and advice on those don’t-miss dishes, *Roadfood* reviews the country’s most obscure restaurants and their most mouthwatering meals. By the time you reach the end of your gastronomic journey, you won’t want to part with your grease-stained copy.

**Explore the Paths of Literary Greats**


—Grant Thomas and Megan Pacella
LEV. XXVII. PROCLAIM
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Broken but beautiful, the Liberty Bell has endured the ravages of time, emerging as a quintessential icon of American freedom. Its essence only grows more meaningful with age, offering Americans a tangible touchstone to a past that shapes our lives today. Democracy becomes more real than ever when visitors stand in front of a glass case in Philadelphia’s Independence Square, where the Liberty Bell is displayed.
“We see a range of emotions, from smiles to pride to awe to tears of joy,” says Jonathan Bari, director of the Constitutional Walking Tour (www.theconstitutional.com). Millions trek to Philadelphia each year from all over the country and the world “to experience the Liberty Bell in person, to embrace its history and significance,” Bari says. Join us on a walk through its evolution from a cracked bell into a cherished American emblem.

**Strains of Liberty**

The idea for the bell originated in 1751, nearly 50 years after William Penn’s Charter of Privileges, which established a rule of law protecting property rights, guaranteeing civil liberties and recognizing colonists’ right to self-govern. A public building—the largest one on the continent at the time—had been constructed to house Pennsylvania’s self-governing assembly, and it needed a bell strong enough to resound throughout the city. Assembly Speaker and Chairman of the State House of Superintendents Isaac Norris, whose father had persuaded Penn to pass the charter, was devoted to “the cause of liberty and the rights derived to us by our charter and our laws” and proposed a bell to serve as “an enduring symbol of that idea.” He envisioned a weight of 2,000 pounds, and because no American craftsman could make a bell that big, the order went to Britain’s Whitechapel Foundry, which had also cast Big Ben. Norris chose an Old Testament passage to encircle its crown: “Proclaim liberty throughout the land, unto all the inhabitants, thereof” (Lev 25:10). The scripture captured the Quaker vision of freedom, which viewed liberty as a God-given right.

Before reaching the statehouse steeple, the bell underwent several reformations. Damaged during its trip overseas, it cracked when workmen tried to ring it the first time. Unable to send it back, Quaker leaders commissioned local workmen John Pass and Charles Stow to recast the brittle bell. The craftsmen left their mark on the remolded version by adding more than just their names and the date. They added copper to strengthen the metal—and it ruined the sound. After getting ridiculed for botching the job, the men broke the bell again for a second recasting. Still displeased with its sound on the next try, Norris ordered a new bell from London, but upon its arrival, city leaders decided its tone was no better. By then, many had grown fond of the first bell, which had “a distinctive tone, deep and very heavy, almost a growl,” writes David Hackett Fischer in *Liberty and Freedom: A Visual History of America’s Founding Ideas* (Oxford, 2005). As one Philadelphian said, “it rang as if it meant something.”

**Instrument of Independence**

The State House Bell initially served as a self-governing instrument, calling the Pennsylvania Assembly to order: but it soon gained an even greater role in the independence movement, summoning colonists to meetings opposing oppressive British laws and announcing events, such as Benjamin Franklin’s journey to England to address Colonial grievances. Its gloomy toll after skirmishes at Lexington and Concord...
drew more than 8,000 people to the State House yard, where they pledged to take up arms to protect their liberty. When the British invaded Philadelphia, townsfolk feared the enemy would melt their bells into cannons, so they evacuated them to the countryside. Patriots under the command of Colonel Thomas Polk marched the State House Bell to Allentown, Pa., where it was hidden beneath the floor of the Zion Reformed Church. When the bell returned home a year later, it rang as vigorously as before, calling the legislature into session, reminding voters to hand in ballots, commemorating Washington’s birthday and the Fourth of July and later memorializing the dying Revolutionary generation.

The Old State House Bell, as it came to be called, nearly faded into obscurity in 1816, when the state moved its capital to Harrisburg and proposed selling Independence Hall to a developer. The city bought the building, saving the bell. When the steeple was rebuilt in 1828, city officials replaced the bell, moving the original to the tower and ringing it for special occasions.

**Legends and Lore**

Conflicting stories abound about when the bell’s famous crack surfaced, but by 1846, it was so fractured officials tried to drill it together before Washington’s birthday—the last time it tolled. As Independence Hall became a patriotic shrine, the mute bell developed its own lore, including its most enduring tale of an elderly bellman, who, while waiting for Congress to declare independence on July 4, 1776, doubted the group’s
resolve—until his grandson ran upstairs, yelling “Ring grandfather, ring.” The story is doubtful, considering the steeple was so rotten in 1776 the bell might not have rung at all—and if it did, it probably tolled on July 8, at the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Evolution of a Symbol

Not until the mid-19th century did the State House Bell become known as the Liberty Bell. The phrase first appeared in an 1835 pamphlet by the American Anti-Slavery Society. In it, the author describes a visit to Independence Hall’s bell tower and reflects on the bell’s proclamation of liberty for all, noting “its peals have been a mockery, while one sixth of ‘all inhabitants’ are in abject slavery.” The term, “Liberty Bell,” was also used in a Boston abolitionist pamphlet poem, which William Lloyd Garrison’s newspaper, The Liberator, reprinted. It soon gained iconic status as a symbol of the abolitionist movement, with idealized images of the bell often used as frontispieces on anti-slavery publications. “Its Quaker inscription, its linkage to the American Revolution, and its idea of universal rights were especially meaningful to the anti-slavery movement,” Fischer writes. The bell was later used as a symbol for the turn-of-the-century suffrage movement.

An Inspiring Icon

By the late 1900s, the Liberty Bell came to symbolize national unity as it traveled cross-country by railcar, appearing at World’s Fairs and healing divisions between the North and South. Inspired by its sentiment, New Jersey resident William McDowell proposed casting a replica bell for Chicago’s 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition and enlisted the help of the DAR. Inscribed with scriptures on brotherhood and unity, along with the original Leviticus passage, the “Columbian Liberty Bell” was to promote universal peace and freedom. The Daughters issued requests for historic relics to add to its casting. Thousands of pieces were donated, including George Washington’s surveying chain and Thomas Jefferson’s copper kettle. The 13,000-pound replica—1,000 pounds for each colony—debuted at the exhibition, but after embarking on a national tour, it vanished with no clue to its whereabouts.

Emily McMackin is a contributing editor. Her story on historic American movie theaters was featured in the March/April 2007 issue.
May the Lord
Bless and Keep You,
My Precious Daughter

Precious daughter ... may the Lord’s blessings inspire you and make you strong in your faith. Now, share your love and hope for your daughter’s blessing with the “My Blessed Daughter Diamond and Sapphire Pendant.”

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Step back in time

FOLLOWING THE PATH OF FOOTWEAR IN EARLY AMERICA
BY SHANNON McRAE
Colonists didn't have access to the mega shoe retail stores found in most American cities today, but shoes were still an important aspect of their wardrobes. Since they spent more time on their feet than people in today's sedentary society, early Americans needed comfortable and durable shoes—even if they didn't have a pair to match every outfit.

What we know today about footwear in Colonial times comes from information carefully stitched together. "There are very few records unless someone's personal inventory included his or her shoes," says Linda Baumgarten, curator of textiles and costumes for Colonial Williamsburg.

Not surprisingly, wealthier colonists had fancier footwear that occasionally was preserved throughout generations. But few leather shoes, which were most common during those times, survived above ground. "They got worn out and thrown away," Baumgarten says. "Sometimes they are found in an archeological context—maybe hidden in the walls of old buildings. But few museums have everyday shoes from that time period."

Fashion Plates

Today's changing shoe styles make it difficult to keep up with the latest trends from season to season. Are pointy-toed stiletto heels all the rage, or should you opt for a more rounded-toe tall boot? Fortunately, most early Americans were spared such harrowing fashion decisions. While there were distinct differences in men's and women's shoes, the styles among the sexes varied little and changed slowly. It's almost impossible to identify the exact year a Colonial shoe was made since there wasn't "a lot of change in the general shape for 10-year periods," Baumgarten says.

Though higher heels for men were fashionable in Europe early in the century, most Colonial men by the mid- to late-18th century opted for shoes with no more than a half-inch heel. Black was the most popular color. Women still donned heels for more formal occasions, but nothing like the teetering 3-and-a-half-inch heels sold on today's shoe racks.

The average colonist had about four pairs of shoes, each worn for different occasions. "The shoes you wore to plow the fields or muck out a barn weren't the ones you wore to church," says D.A. Saguto, who has been Colonial Williamsburg's master shoe and boot maker since 1990.

Just like today, financial status influenced how many shoes a person owned, and how fancy—or practical—they were. "The average working man wore a sturdy leather shoe made of beautiful tanned leather," Baumgarten says. In early Colonial times, almost all shoes tied. Around 1660, the shoe buckle was introduced into England from the Continent, and the style made its way to America—adopted at first by men and then by women around 1730 when their hems went up to expose the buckles. Fashionable ties and laces dominated styles in later years.

When wealthy women dressed for formal occasions, they were more likely to wear shoes made of more expensive fabrics than leather. Wool damask and silk brocade shoes were adorned with buckles made of silver or even gold if the woman was well-off. Women of lesser means were content with durable worsted wool calamanco fabric, and poorer women with leather.

Though portrait images from this time period often show a man standing proud in riding boots, the average colonist couldn't afford such luxury. "Wealthy men had riding boots," Baumgarten says, "but a poor farmer on the frontier did not." For most, shoes were more of a necessity than a fashion statement, costing about a day's or even a week's wages for one pair.

The Gentle Craft

The founding steps of the earliest colony can be traced back to shoes. Captain John Smith's Jamestown settlement explorations were partly funded by the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers, London's shoemakers' guild. Colonial Williamsburg's D.A. Saguto says.

The prestige of shoemakers only grew with the expanding colonies; every town needed accomplished cordwainers (or shoemakers) and they were heavily recruited in 17th-century Virginia. In fact, in most 18th-century Colonial towns, shoemaking and tailoring were the two largest shopkeeping professions. "Shoemaking was considered then a genteel trade," Saguto says. "It didn't smell bad or make horrible noises."

Two signers of the Declaration of Independence even had cordwainer connections. Roger Sherman, a member of the committee that drafted the declaration, was trained as a shoemaker. And John Adams' father was a well-respected Massachusetts shoemaker.

But don't make the mistake of confusing a cobbler with a shoemaker. The term cobbler referred to any "bungling workmen" who simply repaired shoes, Saguto says, while shoemakers crafted new ones. Saguto explains society's view of cobblers by recalling...
the story of a London man whose defense for murder was explaining to the judge that the victim had called him a cobbler.

The work of Colonial cordwainers was far different than we imagine today. “Most people are under the impression that shoemakers were solitary elves who custom-made one pair of shoes at a time,” Saguto says.

But most Colonists bought ready-made footwear. The majority of 18th-century shoemakers employed eight to 10 workmen who each specialized in a different step of the shoemaking process. A shop of four could easily turn out about two dozen pairs a week, which were sold to customers in the shop’s storefront. Saguto says. By the 18th century, a few London cordwainers with as many as 160 employees dealt exclusively in wholesale manufacturing. Virginia had up to 30 multi-worker shoe factories by 1661, and the trend increased into the 18th century.

The work was very precise, though needles pulling thread were reserved for the tailors’ shops. Shoemakers used awls (a pointed tool on a wooden handle that can poke holes in a variety of materials) and boars’ bristles (which were cheaper and followed the holes easier than needles).

Stepping Out on Their Own

Up until the Revolution, many Colonists ordered shoes from England or bought English brands in Colonial shops. Even Founding Father George Washington preferred English-made shoes. Before the war, he ordered his footwear from the London firm Didsbury, considered the Bruno Magli of the 18th century, Saguto says.

Washington discovered Didsbury’s shoes fit him well after trying on a pair of shoes that belonged to Colonel George Baylor. “He liked them so much that the next time he ordered, he requested that his be made the same way as Colonel Baylor’s,” Saguto says. Washington apparently didn’t buy American shoes until after the war. “What he did during the war was anyone’s guess,” Saguto says.

As the colonists trekked toward revolution, shoemakers kept them on firm footing, increasing production as homegrown goods gained popularity. As Revolutionary-era boycotts became more popular, shoe production in this country got a big boost. “The boycotts were an impetus for American manufacturers,” Baumgarten says. “They spurred American production of almost everything—shoes included.”

Yet after the war, many Americans returned to ordering shoes by mail from London. And American shoe styles still closely followed trends in Europe. Distinct American styles didn’t emerge until the Jefferson age, Baumgarten says.

In addition to monitoring European styles, some Americans living on the frontier adopted traditional Indian footwear out of necessity. “White men began realizing how practical Indian moccasins were,” Baumgarten says. “They were soft and comfortable shoes that worked well in wooded areas—but they never flowed over into high fashion.” Contemporary wearers commented that they dried out faster than shoes in the constantly wet forest environment, and they were readily replaceable where proper shoes were not.

A Pair for Luck

So, what about all those shoes hidden in walls? A long-practiced superstition by the time the ritual made it to early America, no hard historical evidence remains of what the ritual was intended to achieve.

“There’s currently strident debate in the archaeological community about shoes concealed in buildings,” Saguto says. “Many theories as to why have been offered—for good luck, fertility, family happiness, warding off evil, witches and demons, a stand-in for human sacrifice, etc.—but they remain just theories. By the time the practice reached America in the 17th and 18th centuries, individuals probably just thought it was a ‘good luck’ thing to do.”

Shannon McRae is a Portland, Oregon-based writer.

Baby Steps

Keeping growing children in shoes was a challenge for Colonial parents just like it is today. Because kids outgrew footwear so quickly, their shoes were often made by other children. “Apprentices needed the practice, and parents didn’t want to spend a lot of money on shoes that children couldn’t wear for a long time,” says D.A. Saguto, master shoe and boot maker at Colonial Williamsburg.

Though there was a brief period when reformers thought children’s feet should be less constricted, most kids wore either new or hand-me-down shoes, especially when they were dressed for more formal occasions. Parents often used children’s ages to indicate their size. “When Virginia planters sent to London for shoes, ‘age 8’ was the sizing specified for children,” says Linda Baumgarten, Colonial Williamsburg’s curator of textiles and costumes.
She-Merchants: The Far-Reaching Empires of Colonial Businesswomen

By Gin Phillips
Margaret Hardenbroeck journeyed across the Atlantic to New Amsterdam for the first time in 1659 as a 22-year-old entrepreneur employed by a trading business to collect debts and arrange new deals. The Dutch West India Company had claimed the territory of New Netherland in 1609, and the Dutch emphasis on trade had found a booming outlet in the New World.

Two years after she landed at the harbor, Hardenbroeck had transformed herself from an upstart to an independent merchant with her own sailing fleet. The harbor itself bore the mark of her success—ships packed with oil, wine, prunes or skins and goods stored in casks emblazoned with her initials. She soon trafficked in her new home’s abundant timber, linens from Holland, gold tobacco from Virginia and sugar molasses from Barbados. Throughout the next decades, port logs listed her fleet numbering two dozen ships, including the Charles, Pearl and New Netherland Indian. Her ship, the Beaver, once cleared port carrying the pelts of 1,713 beavers, more than 500 bears, 1,250 foxes and 1,100 otters, and it returned with swords, muskets, tools and tobacco pipes. And she was sometimes aboard her own ships, dictating orders to the captain during the months-long journey to London or Amsterdam to procure merchandise.

As a “she-merchant,” a term the Dutch used for independent businesswomen dealing in imported goods, Hardenbroeck was not alone in the New World, though she was exceptionally successful. Women merchants thrived in New Amsterdam, and from 1653 to 1663, 134 female traders lived in the town. “She-merchants helped give the town its mercantile muscle,” writes Jean Zimmerman in The Women of the House: How a Colonial She-Merchant Built a Mansion, a Fortune and a Dynasty (Harcourt, 2006).

Holland had a particularly egalitarian attitude toward women, but in many places across Europe, women traders were an expected part of city life and a normal part of a town’s market scene. And in the shifting, striving European colonies, growing demand and a lack of precedent opened the doors for more freedom for women. The trading scene was a blank slate where women could write their names. Economic opportunity grew from the variety of goods and endless needs of the colonists. And as trade increased and the population multiplied, the number of shops increased out of pure necessity, and so the number of women shopkeepers grew.

There was Alice Quick, a widow who had made her own fortune in trade and ran a Boston business for decades in the 18th century. And Maria Van Rensselaer who managed seven children, ran her family’s 1 million-acre estate and took an active role in the family trading business. Letters document Van Rensselaer’s instructions for ships headed downriver bearing skins. She also ran her own brewery, which she'd asked her husband to build. “Like Margaret Hardenbroeck, she could have paid people to do the work,” Zimmerman says. “She ran a brewery because she wanted to.”

The Path to Independence

Women opened shops in part because they could—it was one of the few proprietary trades in which women were accepted. “Many women found shopkeeping a more attainable trade than others,” Patricia Cleary writes in a 1995 issue of The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography. “The comparatively limited skills required—literacy and simple math—coupled with easily obtained credit and rising consumer demand, made commercial endeavors attractive to those who needed to support themselves and who had enough assets.”

Born in Scotland, Elizabeth Murray traveled to North Carolina at 12 to live with her brother after her parents died. She then lived briefly in London, but after her brother married, 22-year-old Elizabeth came back to America in 1749, stopping in Boston. Elizabeth opted to launch her own business in Boston, staying on her own in the unfamiliar city instead of moving into her brother’s home. She carved out a new life as a shop owner in the largest port in New England, running her own business until 1760.

Murray’s story illustrates a few prerequisites for successful businesswomen of the period. First, she came from a high enough class that she received basic schooling as well as training in skills like needlework that would supplement her work as a
shopkeeper. For women in a lower class, the ability to read would have been unlikely, and the ability to write or do simple math would have been even less likely.

“Education would depend dramatically on class and education in general in the 18th century,” says Cleary, a history professor at California State University. “For those in the housewife category, it would be important for them to know basic housewife skills. Learning to read was a prized skill, and wealthier women like Elizabeth Murray would have learned a lot of ornamental skills.”

Likewise, Hardenbroeck had benefited from the Dutch educational system. Her achievements were “undergirded by a progressive legal system that gave Dutch women marital and inheritance rights unheard of in other countries, social mores that sanctioned greater independence outside the home, and universal elementary-level education for girls as well as boys,” Zimmerman writes. Holland was the only country in the 17th century that taught girls reading, writing and math.

The English customs toward women’s education—focused on creating flower arrangements and fruits out of wax—did not offer nearly as sturdy a foundation for women.

“The fruits-and-flowers female curriculum of early 18th-century New York goes a long way toward explaining the absence of ship merchants such as Margaret Hardenbroeck in the new century,” Zimmerman writes. The English customs toward women’s education focused on creating flower arrangements and fruits out of wax did not offer nearly as sturdy a foundation for women.

“Tantalizing were the notices such as that of Michael McGraw,” writes Frances Manges, who structured a dissertation around newspaper advertisements from the Colonial time period. “He said he and his wife had agreed to separate. ‘She has agreed to work for her own subsistence and has released him from all demands,’ he wrote. Therefore, the public should give her no credit on his account.” The modern reader is left to question: How did she support herself? Clearly she was self-sustaining, but we have no idea how.

Historians have combed through newspapers and pieced together a picture of female commerce and independence. Although the existing records rarely reveal a complete story about these women, one angle of the picture is clear: She-merchants were a common, integral part of Colonial life.

Manges mentions women’s estate settlement notices, having found 27 instances of women owning their own estates in Colonial Philadelphia, though some women may have inherited them. Likely far more women disappeared from the public record: A well-known printer, Cornelia Bradford was listed as “widow” rather than a printer in her notice.

In a 1995 article in The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Patricia Cleary mentions the more than 300 women in retail in Philadelphia and New York between 1740 and 1775. In her 1924 book Colonial Women of Affairs: Colonial Women in Business and the Professions Before 1776, Elizabeth Dexter calculates that in a six-month period of advertisements in the Boston Evening Post in 1773, merchants included 64 men and six women. Even with that small sample, she reasoned that around 9 percent seemed to be a “reasonable estimate” of the percentage of women merchants overall.

Death often offered sudden commercial independence for women as they took over a husband’s business. Cleary writes that the majority of Boston female shopkeepers were widows, many of whom took over their husbands’ businesses. And often women were in business together: Dexter traces the paths of Mary Purcell and Jane Eustis, friends who started a business in 1755. By 1759, Eustis was running the business alone, and that same year, Purcell joined forces with another woman to begin a different business that advertised regularly until 1773.
them run by women.” Surrounded by merchants with fabric, silver, china and the most intricate and fashionable accessories, London would have given Elizabeth the chance to see and touch the possibilities of commerce—a place where she could run her fingers through her future.

And the same attraction to risk that would have applied to men launching their own businesses surely applied to women, too. Murray made the treacherous Atlantic crossing three times by the time she was 22. With carefully kept accounts and neatly stocked shelves, these women were adventurers. Independence was worth forgoing safety and security. Then again, luck and connections played as much of a role as passion and ability. Murray had her brother James’ backing when she launched her business, including his help with contacts and his willingness to extend his credit to her. That financial foundation was essential, but her brother made it clear that she was on her own: When the London mercantile firm she worked with asked about ordering goods, James instructed them to deal with his sister directly.

Hardenbroeck came to America with a job and solid connections. Her cousin owned a trading business, and Hardenbroeck would represent his business in New Amsterdam. As ship merchants, her whole family worked in trade, but her cousin chose her above other relatives to collect debts and find buyers in this burgeoning town. In Holland, she’d spent her days following up on business accounts, so she was able to transfer those same skills to a new continent. And when her first husband died, he left her property, cash and a ship: all the capital she needed to start her business.

Learning to Market
dry goods were the most common type of trade for women, writes Elizabeth Dexter in Colonial Women of Affairs, and seeds and china were often associated with groceries. But the lines between goods weren’t very rigidly drawn. Stores didn’t specialize in merchandise as they do today. “The merchant with the most elaborate articles of dress was very likely to sell tea; and the grocer might slip in ‘women’s and children’s stays,’” Dexter writes.

The storeowner needed to decide which merchandise she wanted to sell and then go about procuring it. After being dissatisfied with her first shipment of goods (and several shipments thereafter), Murray took a more active role in selecting her merchandise, crossing the Atlantic to supervise the process in London. “Always aware of the consumer, she strove to capitalize on what she knew of Bostonians’ tastes by selecting the merchandise herself,” Cleary says.

The merchants also became their own best marketers. Murray designed a broadside “to appeal to fashion-conscious Bostonians,” Cleary writes. Her stamp—“Imported from LONDON, by Elizabeth Murray”—established her as a “cosmopolitan woman with metropolitan connections.”

Courting Equality
Colonial she-merchants’ successes were even more noteworthy because they faced a legal system that often slammed shut important doors. Under British law, women were under coverture, legally belonging to their fathers or husbands. “Feme covert” status deprived a woman of any separate legal or financial status. Her money, property and legal interests all belonged to her husband.

Some Colonies had a different legal option: Married women in Colonial Pennsylvania and South Carolina could receive “feme sole trader” status, which acknowledged that they ran their own businesses independently. The label allowed them to conduct their own legal transactions and protected their property.

But a woman who tried to run an import business in Boston or New York had fewer options. The lack of ability to control her own property or keep her own earnings had obvious implications for a
woman. A husband’s behavior could decimate a woman’s credit and leave her burdened with debts. A few years after shopkeeper Henrietta Maria East married Hugh Caine (who already had a wife in Ireland, incidentally), he left after whit- ting away much of her estate and stealing the rest in 1751. After nine years, she was still tied to him legally, and no one would sell her goods because of the ensuing credit problems. Patricia Cleary writes. East was unable to have the marriage dissolved, never regained her career, and a court eventually declared her mentally incompetent.

For businesswomen, the inability to appear in court had almost equally drastic consequences. Frequent default on debts and arguments over trade specifics meant that court was a matter of course for business owners.

“People were in and out of court all the time in Colonial times,” Zimmerman says. “A business owner’s skill in arguing a case in court was key to commercial success. Margaret [Hardenbroeck] cut a persuasive figure in the courtroom, and that was a real asset.”

British law obliterated more progressive customs in the Dutch colonies. In Holland, unmarried women had the same legal rights as men. And when she married, a woman chose which kind of marriage—and which range of rights—she would live under. The more liberal option upheld the legal independence she’d enjoyed as a single woman, letting her represent herself in court and allowing a prenuptial agreement to set the terms of the couple’s property. An unwed mother could file suit against the father for support, or she could insist that he marry her.

Estate laws, too, marked Holland as “a uniquely egalitarian society,” Zimmerman says. A spouse would typically receive at least 50 percent of an estate, and daughters had the same inheritance rights as sons. Egalitarian inheritance laws meant Dutch women had more capital than women elsewhere, a fact crucial to business success. New Netherland was settled with women and men who used that sense of equality as the foundation of their new community.

When Hardenbroeck married her second husband, she already ran a successful business enterprise, and she needed to control that business free and clear. She drafted the traditional prenuptial contract that outright rejected a husband’s legal and financial control over his wife. Her property, including four ships, was solely hers. Her court appearances would continue. Marriage for her would be different legally than for women in Massachusetts or Virginia.

In 1664, the British took over New Netherland without firing a shot, changing its name to New York. The transition meant that Dutch laws were swept away by England’s more restrictive legal system. A married woman could no longer be a legally independent entity.

Hardenbroeck’s husband functioned as an “economic beard,” according to Zimmerman, affording her more freedom than most women. The number of women traders shrank steadily under British legal strictures. And by 1682, Hardenbroeck still ran her fleet of ships, but she couldn’t represent herself in court.

Yet, even under British rule, with a liberal-minded husband, a woman could circumvent the rules somewhat. The government tended to look the other way if couples made private arrangements that sidestepped traditional arrangements.

When Boston shop owner Elizabeth Murray married a trader in 1755, she traded her legal independence for dependence. Her property became her husband’s property by law. When he died in 1759, she suffered through a bitter wrangling over his estate with his family. But when Murray remarried a much older, very wealthy man in 1760, the couple signed an elaborate prenuptial agreement. The agreement went against the typical English customs that had been adopted in Massachusetts, with the groom relinquishing the control that marriage would have given him over his wife’s legal affairs and property. According to Cleary, the agreement allowed her to retain control of what she brought to the marriage and promised her one-third of his estate as his widow.

Erased From the Record

When a fleet of ships wasn’t commonplace even for a man in those days, so Hardenbroeck’s name left an imprint. Generations to come built on her legacy. Likewise, Murray’s efforts to help other women in business warranted another kind of legacy.

“In the way she set up other women in business, she was clearly the financial and business acumen behind them, in the way that Benjamin Franklin set up other printers,” Cleary says.

These women left their names and stories behind in a few surviving mentions in newspapers, letters and paper- work. But many more women who likely played a role in family business disappeared behind their father’s or husband’s name. Others have been condensed to a single line in an ad or an obituary. But centuries ago, they were cogs in the wheel of American commerce, as active and vital—and profit-generating—as the men whose names are actually recorded in history.

Jean Zimmerman, author, The Women of the House: How a Colonial She-Merchant Built a Mansion, a Fortune and a Dynasty

“People were in and out of court all the time in Colonial times. A business owner’s skill in arguing a case in court was key to commercial success. Margaret [Hardenbroeck] cut a persuasive figure in the courtroom, and that was a real asset.”

Gin Phillips’ article on Rebecca Lukens, America’s first female industrialist, was featured in the January/February 2007 issue.

American Spirit • May/June 2007
The U.S. Capitol, one of America’s most recognized and revered structures, was first conceived in the magnificent mind of a little-known American named William Thornton. Educated as a physician, Thornton had no formal training in architecture, yet his design was chosen for the nation’s central governmental structure. While his natural architectural talent is impressive, it wasn’t Thornton’s only special skill. In fact, this obscure American made contributions in a variety of areas—and his success in a number of pursuits earned him quite a reputation among his contemporaries.

“He was considered a savant during his lifetime,” says Norman Schneeberg, M.D., who authored an article about Thornton for The Journal of Medical Biography last year. “But he wrote few or no medical articles during his lifetime; he was known more in architectural circles.”
In fact, in addition to medicine and architecture, Thornton found success in a number of pursuits, he was also an accomplished “inventor, artist and crusading abolitionist,” Schneeberg writes. "He delved into botany, taxidermy and orthoepy [the study of the pronunciation of words]."

While Thornton was successful at a number of things, his tendency to try so many different pursuits meant he failed to establish a lasting reputation in any one field. In his *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* (1915), Allen C. Clark recorded that after his death, Thornton’s wife, Anna Maria, wrote that, "His search after knowledge was perhaps too general, as general as it embraced almost every subject. Had his genius been confined to fewer subjects he would have attained celebrity by becoming more deeply learned in some particular branch, for he could have attained perfection in any art or science had he given up his mind solely to one pursuit: philosophy, politics, finance,
Friends in High Places

Along with Madison and Franklin, Thornton counted among his friends a number of luminaries, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration of Independence and the most famous American physician and medical educator of the time. In January 1788, Thornton became an American citizen in Delaware and made his permanent home in Philadelphia a year later. There he became an active member of local society; among the many social invitations in his papers is an invitation to dinner at Franklin's home written in Franklin's hand.

Although Thornton was no longer actively practicing medicine, a number of his high-ranking friends sought his medical advice throughout his life. He treated President Washington's secretary, Tobias Lear, in 1799, and was later called in to examine Washington upon his deathbed, although he arrived too late. While Thornton didn't work as a physician during the Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic of 1793, President Jefferson later requested his theories about the cause and treatment of the fever. And due to his position as an important citizen and friend to national leaders, Thornton was selected to offer the eulogy at a ceremony following the deaths of Jefferson and John Adams.

Lauded Architectural Pursuits

Soon after Thornton settled in Philadelphia in 1789, the Library Company of Philadelphia, founded by Franklin as the nation's first subscription library, advertised for "ingenious artists and friends of the institution" to submit architectural drawings for the company's soon-to-be-erected building. Although he had no experience, Thornton accepted the challenge, and his design was chosen for the library building, which was completed in 1790. According to the Dictionary of American Biography, Thornton later said, "When I traveled I never thought of architecture, but I got some books and worked a few days, then gave a plan in the ancient Ionic order which carried the prize."

The prize for his design was a share in the library, and Thornton remained a shareholder for almost two decades. "His share number, 754, was recorded on September 7, 1789," says Cornelia King, reference librarian at the Library Company of Philadelphia. "The share passed to another individual on January 8, 1817, so he kept it for many years when he was no longer in the Philadelphia area."

In 1790, Thornton married Anna Maria Brodeau in Philadelphia, and the couple moved to Tortola for two years, but Thornton's interest in both America and architecture remained strong. In 1792, when he heard about a competition for the design of the U.S. Capitol, Thornton "lamented not having studied architecture..."
and resolved to attempt this grand undertaking and study at the same time," he later wrote. "I studied some months and worked almost night and day."

Thornton's design for the Capitol was submitted after the competition had closed, but was approved by President Washington, who praised it for its "grandeur, simplicity and convenience." Jefferson, who was then Secretary of State, called the design "simple, noble, beautiful, excellently arranged and moderate in size," according to Sandra Tatman's *Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects*. In 1793, Thornton was awarded the prize of $500 and a lot in the capital city, where he made his home in 1794.

Thornton was later commissioned to design other buildings, including a house for Colonel John Tayloe, which served as a temporary home for President James Madison and his wife, Dolley. After the White House was burned in the War of 1812, the Tayloe House, called The Octagon, now serves as the headquarters of the American Institute of Architects. Thornton also designed two homes for Washington, and for Jefferson, he designed Pavilion 7 at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

While Thornton's untrained architectural talent is impressive, it might not be so memorable had he not succeeded in other areas in which he'd received no training. "Thomas Jefferson also practiced architecture," says William Whitaker, collections manager at the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania. "In fact, architecture as a profession only emerged in the late 18th century. Most construction in the 18th century was the work of master builders, whose practice paralleled the building guilds of the Middle Ages… Their works were not the sole means, and in fact were a relatively small percentage, of their overall income. As men of learning, they had access to significant books dating from the Renaissance and beyond, which were useful to their learning and evolution as designers."

Still, Thornton's architectural work is what has earned him a place in history. "When I began researching my paper about him, I asked various doctors in Philadelphia, and none of them knew who Thornton was," Schneeberg says. "But I mentioned his name to an architect friend of mine, and he immediately knew about Thornton and his contributions."

**Inventions and Patent Work**

Thornton's constant learning led to new discoveries; in fact, between 1802 and 1827, Thornton patented eight inventions of his own. They included the steam gun and improvements of stills for distilling spirits.

In 1802, President Jefferson appointed Thornton as superintendent of the new U.S. Patent Office, a position he held until his death in 1828. During his tenure at the patent office, Thornton became a captain of the Washington, D.C., militia and served during the War of 1812. In that role, Schneeberg says, "he is credited with convincing a British officer to save the State Department and the Patent Office from the fire that devastated the Capitol and the White House."

**Nancy Mann Jackson indulged in Colonial sweets for the March/April 2007 issue.**
MANCHESTER'S LITTLE RED HOUSE

HOME OF A NEW HAMPSHIRE HERO

By Phyllis McIntosh • Photography by John Gauvin
For 270 years, the little red house—Manchester’s oldest structure—has survived legions of Stark children, decades of neglect as a rental property and a mile-long move to a new location.

Photos on pages 44–47: After enduring the chaos of the battlefield while leading rebel troops, John Stark looked forward to the solace he found at the little red house that he shared with his wife, Molly, in Manchester, N.H. From handmade embroidery bearing the Stark initials and a rare double loom to framed wartime correspondence and wire-rimmed glasses (and even a lock of John’s hair), the restored home and its furnishings capture the lives of the devoted Patriot couple.
General John Stark, New Hampshire’s most famous soldier, was the quintessential American Patriot. An inspirational military leader, he was a hero of the French and Indian War and the battles of Bunker Hill and Bennington during the Revolution. Also a dedicated farmer and family man, he liked nothing more than to return home to Manchester and his beloved wife, Molly.

Today, the Molly Stark Chapter, Manchester, N.H., carefully preserves the memory of a devoted couple—whose lives were so entwined with the birth of the nation—at the house where John grew up, and he and Molly lived as newlyweds.

For 270 years, the little red house—Manchester’s oldest structure—has survived legions of Stark children, decades of neglect as a rental property and a mile-long move to a new location. Now restored to its 18th-century glory, the house plays host to visiting schoolchildren, historic interest groups, local walking tours and guests of the Molly Stark Chapter, which holds its meetings there.

Born in 1728 in Londonderry, N.H., John Stark was the son of Scottish immigrants Archibald and Eleanor Stark. When the family home burned in 1736, Archibald purchased 800 acres along the Merrimack River in what is now Manchester. There he built a house by the Amoskeag Falls where he and Eleanor raised seven children. John, the fourth child, lived there from age eight until the 1750s, when he went off to fight in the French and Indian War. While attending to his military duties, he wooed and married Elizabeth Page, whom he nicknamed Molly.

In 1760, with the promise of a lasting peace, John brought Molly to live at the Manchester house, which he had acquired following his father’s death. Two children, John Jr., and Archibald, were born there. With another child on the way by 1765, the little house seemed cramped. John, who by then had bought all of the land his siblings had inherited from his father, decided to build a grand mansion nearby. (Unfortunately, that home burned in 1865.)

In 1775, as soon as news of clashes with the British at Lexington and Concord reached New Hampshire, Stark joined thousands of other volunteers to take up arms. After distinguishing himself at Bunker Hill, he crossed the Delaware with General George Washington on Christmas 1776 and fought at Trenton and Princeton.

Mighty Molly
While Stark was at Bennington, Molly was never far from his mind. He rallied his troops with the words, “There is the enemy, boys. We must flog them, or this night Molly Stark will sleep a widow.” A British cannon captured during the fray was affectionately dubbed the Molly Stark Cannon. Today “Old Molly” belongs to the state of New Hampshire and proudly rests on the common in the town of New
Boston. Other tributes to the woman who kept John Stark's home fires burning include the Molly Stark State Park in Wilmington, Vt., and the Molly Stark Trail, which marks the route taken by Gen. Stark as he led his troops across Vermont to Bennington.

Molly was a brave, independent woman who managed the farm and family during her husband's frequent absences. She bore 11 children and raised 10 of them to adulthood, a remarkable feat in that time. Following the Battle of Bennington, she nursed men wounded during the conflict or afflicted with smallpox. Blessed with vigorous good health, she was sick hardly a day in her life until she contracted typhoid fever and died at age 77.

John never recovered from the loss, though he lived for eight more years. He died in 1822 at age 94, as the last surviving American general of the Revolutionary War. His lasting legacy to the people of New Hampshire was a toast he sent in 1809 to the committee in charge of a celebration commemorating the Battle of Bennington. Noting that "the infirmities of old age" would not permit him to attend, he wrote, "I will give you my volun-
teer toast: 'Live free or die: Death is not
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Restoring the Past

The John Stark House offers a fascinating glimpse into the life and times of this remarkable family. After John and Molly built their new home, John Jr. and his wife, Mary, moved into the little house and raised 12 children there. His descendants sold the house in 1814, and in 1835, a textile company acquired it.

For the next 100 years, the house was largely ignored. Tenants came and went, bricking up the beautiful fireplaces and converting the front entry into a bath-
room. When the textile firm fell on hard times in 1937, it deeded the house to the Molly Stark Chapter for a dollar. The chapter undid some of the damage—opening up the fireplaces, stripping paint from the paneling, restoring the front entryway—and continued to rent the property until 1968, when the state relo-
cated the structure to make way for a new bridge. It was not until 10 years ago, when Geraldine Ohnstead, a descendant of Gen. Stark, left her estate to the chapter, that restoration could begin in earnest

In recent years, the chapter has installed a climate-control and burglar-
alarm system, new chimney liner and a
new white picket fence. Members have also repaired brick entryway steps, restored wall stenciling that suffered water damage and applied ultraviolet screening to the windows to protect the interior from the sun. House Chairman Anne Landini, an interior designer, has taken care to place the 18th and early 19th cen-
tury pieces as they might have appeared in the Starks’ time

A classic New England design of that era, the house has a small entryway flanked by parlors on both sides. Beyond one par-
lor is the keeping room, or kitchen, with a
large central fireplace. The other parlor leads to a hallway, side door and staircase to two upper bedrooms. In earlier days, the upstairs was likely one large sleeping loft for the numerous children of Archibald and John Jr. An ell extending from the down-
stairs—an original part of the house—made to train little girls, who would face each other as they worked, or for ladies who liked to talk while making bandages or strips of ribbon, "explains Phyllis Gagnon, Regent of the Molly Stark Chapter.

A Living Memorial

Now that restoration is complete and the house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the chapter is eager to share it with school groups and anyone interested in its history. Costumed host-
es escort young visitors and explain what daily life would have been like in the 1700s.

The Molly Stark Chapter is proud to be custodian of the house. Mrs. Gagnon says, "because the structure still breathes its tale of a bygone era.

"Its sturdiness tells of the general him-
self, who survived capture by Indians, the French and Indian War and the
Revolutionary War," she says. "Its beautiful corner beams, wide pine board wainscot-
ing and flooring speak of the bounty of the
Stark land. "Indian shutters" are still in working
condition on two windows in one of the
parlors. These are solid wood panels that
could slide across the window to protect against
Indian attacks. When the house was
moved, workmen discovered a smoke room with pegs for smoking meat con-
tained within the large central fireplace.

Among the house’s notable features are
original artifacts include John Stark’s
wire-rimmed glasses, a treasured find in a
trunk recently donated by a Stark descend-
ant. A lock of John’s hair and some of his
time correspondence are framed on
the wall. A piece of fabric embroidered with an “S” is believed to have been created by Molly. The oldest piece on display is a
small travel trunk brought from Scotland
by John’s father, the only item known to
have survived the 1736 fire at Archibald
Stark’s home.

The most unusual discovery in the
house was a mysterious pile of wood that
turned out to be a rare double loom. It is a
double face-to-face weaving loom, either
made to train little girls, who would face each other as they worked, or for ladies
who liked to talk while making bandages or
strips of ribbon,” explains Phyllis Gagnon, Regent of the Molly Stark Chapter.

Visitng the John Stark House

The John Stark House, located at 2000 Elm Street in Manchester, N.H., is open year-round by appointment only. Call (603) 669-8441 and leave a
message. Someone will return your call and schedule your visit.
It doesn’t play games, take pictures, or give you the weather.

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