Although having received no formal education herself, Abigail Adams was a strong advocate for public school education. Letters to her husband John Adams were notable for her opinions on issues surrounding the formation of the new government during the Revolutionary Era.

After being kidnapped from her home in West Africa, Phillis Wheatley arrived in Massachusetts by slave ship in 1761. She was taught to read and write by the Wheatley family, writing poems about Washington during the Revolution. She became the first published African American poet in history.

Deborah Sampson spent her early years as an indentured servant before joining the teaching profession once she became of age. Having disguised herself as a man and concealing her identity under the alias Robert Shurtlieff, she joined and fought in the Revolution at West Point, NY. After she died at age 66, her husband was awarded military spousal pay.

Mrs. Washington, born in New Kent Country, Virginia, served as the very first FLOTUS. During the harsh winter of Valley Forge in the midst of the war, Mrs. Washington worked tirelessly to provide aid to the troops. She provided food, socks, and nursed wounded or dying soldiers.

Dolley Madison, wife of President James Madison, set the precedent of the role of First Lady during her term inside the White House. She spent time furnishing the new home of the President and when it burned down during the war of 1812, she managed to save the portrait of George Washington.

Wife to Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, Mrs. Hamilton recorded her husband’s experiences and political opinions in written letters. After the death of her husband she founded the first orphanages in New York City and Washington DC. She survived her husband’s legacy by compiling his letters and writings from other founders.

Mercy Otis Warren is one of the first women to write for a public American audience. An author and propagandist, she sympathized with the war writing political poetry and dramas that satirized the Massachusetts government. In 1803 she compiled “A History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution.”

Originating from London, Reed moved to Philadelphia where she hosted many political figures in her home, including George Washington. She upheld the belief that the government should pay for soldiers’ food and supplies. She organized the Ladies Association of Philadelphia to provide aid and support for the Revolutionary troops.

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