



Second Story Tours

Newsletter

March 2024



March is Women's History Month!

This month, we celebrate all kinds of women who have contributed to our story: those who stayed home to run the house (including vacuuming the tiger) and those who went to work - some good, and some not so good.

In this month's newsletter, enjoy stories of famous and infamous women in American History.

Woman using vacuum, January 1932. Courtesy of [Museum of New Zealand](#).

The Infamous Peggy Shippen

Peggy Shippen was born into high society in Philadelphia in 1760. At 19, she married a dashing officer in Washington's Army and the man who's name would later become synonymous with the word "traitor" - Benedict Arnold. He had been passed over for promotions, and was becoming disgruntled.

Together, they hatched a plan. They decided to help the British capture an American fort. They passed coded messages to Peggy's close friend, Major John Andre', a British spy.

But General Washington found out, and traveled to their home to confront them. Peggy faked an illness, giving Arnold time to flee. Though they both escaped to safety in England, Major Andre' did not. He was hanged for his part in the plot.



Portrait of Peggy Shippen (wife of Benedict Arnold) with one of her children, c. 1785

Cedar Grove Mansion



Cedar Grove Mansion, photo by [Frederikto](#)

Cedar Grove Mansion is a beautiful colonial home built by Elizabeth Coates Paschall in 1746. It was moved from its original location in the Frankford neighborhood to Fairmount Park when it was gifted to the City in 1926.

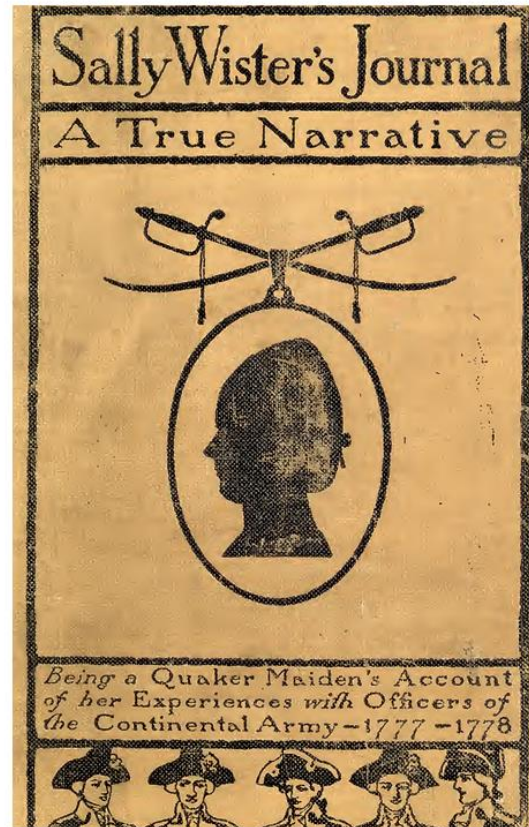
Who was Elizabeth Coates Paschall? Elizabeth was a widow, mother, businesswoman, and medicine woman. After her husband Joseph died, she inherited his business in dry goods, and built Cedar Grove for her and her three children. Her book of medicinal recipes from the 1700s is a valuable resource that documents some of the first medical treatments in America. [Click here to read more about how to visit Elizabeth's charming home, Cedar Grove.](#)

Sally Wister's Journal

Sarah "Sally" Wister was a fifteen year old Quaker from Philadelphia who kept a journal from 1777 to 1778. Her entries were intended for her friend, Deborah Norris, though her journal would not be delivered to her until years after Sally passed away in 1804.

Over a period of nine months, Sally recounts her experiences with many Continental Army officers during the Revolutionary War. Her journal is filled with genuinely charming and frank observations.

[Read Sally's entire journal - for free - online.](#)



There's Still Time!



There is still time to plan your field trip to Philadelphia this spring! Contact us today so we can help you plan your trip. We have options to fit every schedule.

[Contact Us](#)