

DOWNLOAD PDF FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION: THE LIFE OF MERCY OTIS WARREN.

Chapter 1 : Mercy Otis Warren: The First Lady of the American Revolution | The Old North Church

Mercy Otis Warren was born on September 14, (old style), the third of thirteen children and first daughter of Colonel James Otis () and Mary Allyne Otis (). Only six of her siblings survived to adulthood.

Early life[edit] Mercy Otis Warren was born on September 14, old style , the third of thirteen children and first daughter of Colonel James Otis " and Mary Allyne Otis " Only six of her siblings survived to adulthood. The family lived in West Barnstable, Massachusetts. Mary Allyne was a descendant of Mayflower passenger Edward Doty. He won election to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in The Otis children were "raised in the midst of revolutionary ideals". Although Mercy had no formal education, she studied with the Reverend Jonathan Russell while he tutored her brothers Joseph and James in preparation for College. Unlike most girls of the time who were simply literate, Warren wanted to learn as much as she possibly could. She devoured book after book, learning about history and language. This set her apart from other girls, and most likely paved the way for her to break the traditional gender roles of her time. His previous occupations included farming and merchanting. These exchanges of adoration showed both a mutual respect and an enduring bond between the two. What next can I do better than write to a Saint," and Mercy would then respond, "Your spirit I admire- were a few thousands on the Continent of a similar disposition we might defy the power of Britain. In he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Mercy Warren actively participated in the political life of her husband. The Warrens became increasingly involved in the conflict between the American colonies and the British Government. Their Plymouth home was often a meeting place for local politics and revolutionaries including the Sons of Liberty. Warren became increasingly drawn to political activism and she hosted protest meetings in her home. With the assistance of her friend Samuel Adams , these meetings laid the foundation for the Committees of Correspondence. Warren wrote "no single step contributed so much to cement the union of the colonies. Mercy accordingly became a strong political voice with views on liberty, republican government and independence for the American colonies. Later, she wrote a history of the American Revolution, the first by a woman. Revolutionary writings and politics[edit] Warren formed a strong circle of friends with whom she regularly corresponded, including Abigail Adams , John Adams , Martha Washington and Hannah Winthrop, wife to John Winthrop. In a letter to Catharine Macaulay she wrote: Yet Britain, like an unnatural parent, is ready to plunge her dagger into the bosom of her affectionate offspring. In a letter to James Warren, Adams wrote, "Tell your wife that God Almighty has entrusted her with the Powers for the good of the World, which, in the cause of his Providence, he bestows on few of the human race. That instead of being a fault to use them, it would be criminal to neglect them. The book contains eighteen political poems and two plays. The two dramas, The Sack of Rome and The Ladies of Castille, deal with liberty, social and moral values that were necessary to the success of the new republic. Therefore, Rapatio is the antagonist in The Adulateur. The protagonist is Brutus, a character that Warren created to represent her brother, James Otis. In the play, the characters that are Whigs are brave, independent people. The characters that are Tories are selfish and rude. The play includes a happy ending for the Whigs. After the play was published, Hutchinson actually become known as Rapatio to citizens of Massachusetts who identified with the Whigs. Because her first play was so successful and she thoroughly enjoyed writing about politics, Warren did not stop there. Hutchinson had no idea the accuracy of her plot nor completely comprehended the impact she made on his political fate. In Warren published The Group, a satire conjecturing what would happen if the British king abrogated the Massachusetts charter of rights. The anonymously published The Blockheads and The Motley Assembly are also attributed to her. In she published Observations on the New Constitution, whose ratification she opposed as an Anti-Federalist. Warren was one of the most convincing Patriots in the Revolution and her works inspired others to become Patriots. Her work earned the congratulations of numerous prominent men of the age, including George Washington and Alexander Hamilton, who remarked, "In the career of dramatic composition at least, female genius in the United States

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has outstripped the male". The two plays are called, *The Sack of Rome* and *The Ladies of Castille*, deal with liberty, social and moral values that were necessary to the success of the new republic. President Thomas Jefferson ordered subscriptions for himself and his cabinet and noted his "anticipation of her truthful account of the last thirty years that will furnish a more instructive lesson to mankind than any equal period known in history. Death and legacy[edit] Mercy Otis Warren died on October 19, , at the age of 86, six years after her husband died in Warren proved her ability to resonate to her colonial audience, men and women alike, despite the limited opportunity for women in her time. Furthermore, she proved courageous in being willing to put forth work calling out the authoritative power while raising a family, yet she was humble and practical in how she presented the commentary through quieter presentations. Her success was never above her personal dignity. She never took any political affiliation post-Revolution or a career having anything to do with politics. She said to her son, "The thorns, the thistles, and the briers, in the field of politics seldom permit the soil to produce anythingâ€ but ruin to the adventurer," yet the public would not let her retire from commentating on the political conflicts of her later days.

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Chapter 2 : Mercy Otis Warren - New World Encyclopedia

I first read about Mercy Otis Warren in a biography of John Adams. The sister of James Otis, one of the first American patriots unfortunately silenced due to illness caused by a severe beating over politics, Mercy married James Warren and had six sons.

The American Revolution and her particular place in Massachusetts society and politics, however, practically forced Warren into the limelight. Both families were descended from the earliest Pilgrim settlers. James Otis was a farmer, merchant, and attorney, and his successful practice won him election to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1761. Not an educated man himself, Otis wanted his two sons to have an education and hired the Reverend Jonathan Russell to prepare them for college. When Joseph, the oldest son, decided not to attend college, Mercy, the youngest child, was allowed to take his place. She studied the same curriculum as her brother James, except for Latin and Greek, which she read in translation. Both James and Mercy were exceptional students. Both of the Otis children studied literature, including Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, and Pope, and became able writers and rhetoricians. They had a long, happy marriage and raised five sons. He served continuously from 1763 to 1780, eventually becoming speaker of the House and president of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, which had moved to Watertown during the British occupation of Boston. A radical and outspoken activist, he became an active leader in local revolutionary politics. Because of her family connections, no other woman, with the exception of Abigail Adams, was as intimately involved as Mercy Otis Warren with the political issues of the day. Thus, when Tory supporters brutally beat her brother James in a Boston tavern in 1768, friends in her circle urged her to step in and take his place as a revolutionary polemicist. Warren complied, although a comment by her friend and fellow patriot John Adams suggests the social conventions massed against her. That instead of being a fault to use them, it would be criminal to neglect them. She wrote numerous letters and poems, which she published anonymously in newspapers. They appeared in newspapers and as pamphlets, instead of being performed, because Puritan Boston had laws against staging plays and did not have a theater until 1786. Three political plays have been identified as hers: All three focus on the moral evil of the Tory administration in Massachusetts, its hypocrisy, crass ambition, warmongering, and the invidious policies of its arch villain, Governor Thomas Hutchinson. The best of the three is *The Group*, printed in the Heath Anthology in full, a brilliant defense of the patriot cause. Instead of staging debates in this play, Warren offers a series of dialogues among Tory sympathizers and turncoats, many of whom were connected to her family, in which they drop their public masks to reveal their ignoble choices and reprehensible designs. At the end of the Revolution, both Warrens fell out with their old friends: James for supporting Daniel Shays and his rebellion; Mercy for her comments on the overly passionate nature of John Adams. In 1783, they purchased the estate of their former antagonist, Governor Hutchinson, but lived there only eight years before moving back to Plymouth, where Warren attended to her writing. In 1787, she brought out the collection *Poems, Dramatic and Miscellaneous* in her own name. Warren gives them the most stirring speeches; an example from *The Ladies of Castille* is excerpted in the Heath Anthology. It was written over twenty-five years and represents a brilliant and important female intervention in a conventionally masculine field of literature. As Warren states in her preface, she was uniquely positioned to experience events leading up to the Revolution, and she knew well many of the leaders who took part in the various military campaigns.

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Chapter 3 : Mercy Otis Warren | Biography, Poems, & Facts | calendrierdelascience.com

To ask other readers questions about First lady of the Revolution, please sign up. Be the first to ask a question about First lady of the Revolution Anthony must be commended for her effort to chronicle the life of Mercy Otis Warren, an important "founding mother" at a time when Warren had largely.

September 14, Death Date: October 19, Place of Birth: West Barnstable, Massachusetts Nationality: Mercy Otis was born at West Barnstable, Mass. She had no formal education, but the tutor of her elder brother, James Otis, permitted her to use his library. She married James Warren of Plymouth in During the Revolutionary period Warren became a poet and pamphleteer. Her particular enemy was Thomas Hutchinson, who had served as chief justice and governor of Massachusetts and had been prominent in the "writs of assistance" controversy. In she wrote a pamphlet, *The Adulateur*, and a play, *The Defeat*, based upon letters that Hutchinson and his lieutenant governor, Andrew Oliver, had written to England criticizing the colonists. In she wrote *The Group*, a satirical play. Her *Poems Dramatic and Miscellaneous* was published in The first volume covers the period from the Stamp Act to Valley Forge, the second goes to the end of the Revolutionary War, and the third to The history is not parochial, as Warren included British domestic affairs and the war in other theaters as well as in the continental United States. Despite her opposition to the Constitution, she praised Washington. Her treatment of John Adams helped alienate a friendship, and her description of Alexander Hamilton as a "foreign adventurer" won her no support from his friends. *The Life of Mercy Otis Warren*, is adulatory. *Three Patriot Historians of the American Revolution* Need a custom written paper? Let our professional writers save your time. Need an original paper?

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Chapter 4 : Mercy Otis Warren Facts

Mercy Otis was born to a prosperous Cape Cod family. One of her brothers was the political activist and firebrand James Otis, who was early involved in events leading to the American Revolution.

In an era where it was unusual for women to be educated, much less to emerge as a leader, her advocacy for the cause of patriotism and a central role for women in society was remarkable. The family lived in West Barnstable, Massachusetts. Mary Allyne was a descendant of Mayflower passenger Edward Doty. He won election to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1763. He was an outspoken opponent and leader against British rule and against the appointed colonial governor, Thomas Hutchinson. Additional Information The Otis children were raised in the midst of revolutionary ideals". Although Mercy had no formal education, she studied with the Reverend Jonathan Russell while he tutored her brothers Joseph and James in preparation for College. Unlike most girls of the time who were simply literate, Warren wanted to learn as much as she possibly could. She devoured book after book, learning about history and language. This set her apart from other girls, and most likely paved the way for her to break the traditional gender roles of her time. James Otis attended Harvard College and became a noted patriot and lawyer. She married James Warren on November 14, 1766. His previous occupations included farming and merchanting. Nancy Shoemaker has been nominated several times over the years. Melanie Barron, and Mindy Abbott. In her nomination, Ms. Barron noted in her nomination that Nancy Shoemaker co-teaches a writing class at the Academy for Lifelong Learning and regularly encourages class members to submit Letters to the Editors and Point of View in the Cape Cod Times. Shoemaker is the owner of West Barnstable Press and offers her talents free of charge to a number of nonprofits. Images from her photograph collection have appeared in numerous brochures, publications, and newsletters including those for the Town of Orleans, HyArts Cultural District, Harwich Conservation Trust, and many others. She is a sought after speaker on a number of historical topics. Shoemaker is perhaps most proud of her role in preserving meadow land in West Barnstable that Mercy Otis Warren wrote of playing on as a young girl. The Mercy Otis Warren Selection Committee was blessed to have received nominations of many stellar candidates from all over the Cape. The award is a marquette of the statue of Mercy Otis Warren which is located on lawn of the Barnstable County Courthouse. Brochures with details about this unique and prestigious award are available for viewing and printing. The brochure describes criteria for the award, the guidelines for nomination, and gives highlights of the life of Mercy Otis Warren. The award was presented Tuesday, June 5th, 7 p.

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Chapter 5 : Mercy Otis Warren | Tales of Cape Cod

Includes bibliography Biography of Mercy Otis Warren, , a political satirist in the Vanguard of this country's emancipated women. (Sister of James Otis, "The Patriot").

Playwright, historian M ercy Otis Warren produced both prose and poetry while running a home and parenting five sons. She wrote plays making fun of Americans who stayed loyal to Great Britain during the American Revolution 1783 , as well as patriotic poems and a history of the Revolution. This intelligent woman also exchanged letters and engaged in political discussions with such well-known patriots of her day as Samuel Adams , John Adams , and Abigail Adams see entries. The Otises, who lived in Barnstable, Massachusetts, had thirteen children in their strict but loving home. Six of them died before reaching adulthood. Because her mother was so often tired, pregnant, or recovering from childbirth, Warren took on many of the family chores at a young age. But her heart was in reading and studying. The Otises stressed the importance of education and received many newspapers. Their home served as a center for patriotic discussions in which their children were welcomed to participate. Warren was very close to her favorite brother, James Otis , three years her senior. In he left home to attend what is now Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. James shared with his sister many of the ideas he learned there. With his encouragement, Mercy Warren read books of philosophy, literature, history, and religion. He later became one of the leaders of the American revolutionary movement. It is likely that Otis introduced his sister Mercy to his friend, James Warren, the son of a wellknown Plymouth lawyer. In 1772, when Mercy Otis was age twenty-six, she and James Warren began their long and happy marriage. Her husband would become a successful businessman, lawyer, and politician. Warren believed women needed to be educated in order to help their children become good citizens. Although Warren enjoyed her intellectual pursuits, she believed that a woman should put her domestic and wifely duties ahead of any pastimes. She squeezed her reading and writing into periods throughout the day when she had no immediate chores. The Stamp Act forced the colonists to buy specially stamped paper for legal documents; documents written on any other paper were not considered legal. At that stage, neither of the Warrens was in favor of a violent revolution by Americans. In time the British government withdrew the Stamp Act because the colonists had reacted against it so strongly. However, the British government was not deterred, and in Parliament passed the Townshend Acts. With the Townshend Acts in place, England could tax the colonists for imported paper, lead, glass, paint, and tea. Eventually protests by the colonists succeeded in getting all the taxes lifted except the tax on tea, an item that was widely used in America. The tragic life of James Otis James Otis, who corresponded frequently with his sister, became physically and emotionally ill in the late 1760s, and by the early 1770s he was no longer able to remain active in Massachusetts politics. British historian Catharine Macauley had written to James Otis in 1770 to support his defense of colonial rights. Warren wrote back, explaining to Macauley that, because of his poor health, James was no longer able to write. A correspondence began between the two women, and Macauley provided Warren with a female role model. Warren soon started writing poems and plays that ridiculed the pro-British men who held public office and she encouraged American patriots to continue their fight for American rights. Angry at the Tea Act, colonists joined together to protest ships carrying English tea landing on American shores. Patriot leaders feared that Americans might be tempted by the cheap tea and would give up their opposition to British taxation policies that they considered unfair. The fear was unfounded; cut-price tea could not lure Americans away from their quest for independence. In late 1773 three British ships bearing tea landed in Boston Harbor. A group of American patriots stationed themselves at the dock to prevent the tea from being unloaded. In her later writings about the American Revolution , Warren noted that "The American war may be dated from the hostile parade of this day," when the tea was thrown into the harbor. Warren home center of patriotic activity In the early 1770s the Warrens became firm supporters of the American cause. Mercy Warren was a witness to the protests planned by the patriots against the royal government. This letter-writing network joined towns and villages throughout

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the colonies in an effort to further the cause of colonial rights. In 1775, after the United States declared its independence from Great Britain, James Warren was made Second Major General of the Massachusetts militia an army made up of citizens rather than professional soldiers. In 1776, he became a member of a three-man group that purchased supplies and helped organize the American navy. As a result of his involvement in the war effort, James Warren was forced to neglect family affairs. Fortunately, she received constant moral support from the wives of fellow patriots, including Abigail Adams and Martha Washington. Like many women of her time, Warren traveled about Massachusetts to visit her husband while he served in the military. In some of them, she complained about the frequent separations that took place when her husband was engaged in the "endless strife" of politics. At the time that Warren wrote, women were generally shut out of politics. They were not allowed to vote and were not welcomed into political discussions. Throughout her lifetime Warren experienced a tension between her desire to write and share her opinions and the need to remain a proper lady. Other male patriots encouraged her in her writings because they felt her outstanding ability with words could be used to further the patriotic cause. But that did not mean they necessarily believed in equality for women. Both women participated in discussions with the male patriots in which their opinions were both solicited and respected. Writes patriotic plays Warren wrote plays to actively promote the revolutionary cause. In them she ridiculed the Loyalists, American colonists who stayed loyal to Great Britain. During the mid- to late-eighteenth century, many Americans thought it was not respectable to attend plays, and even though she authored many plays, Warren never attended a play during her lifetime. It was not until years later that the public presentation of plays became acceptable. The play featured Loyalists who sat around playing cards, drinking, and stating their opinions in ways that made the patriots who read it laugh loudly. The play convinced some of the people of Boston to take part in active resistance against Great Britain. As for politics, Warren viewed the much-discussed proposed Constitution of the United States to be an evil plot to replace individual rights by the rule of the wealthy, whose concerns were far removed from those of the common people. He served as Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1780 but was defeated in his bid to become lieutenant pronounced lew-TEN-uhnt governor and retired to his home to manage his farm. In the decade following the American Revolution, Warren faced the mental breakdown of her college-age son and her own health problems, including exhaustion, depression, and bad headaches. Woodrow, an adventurer, was killed in an Indian ambush, and Charles and George died of illnesses. The oldest Warren son, James, became a teacher and postmaster and helped his mother complete research for a book she wrote on the history of the American Revolution. Another son, Henry, became a farmer. Warren and her sons remained close as they grew older and wrote frequently when they were apart. In 1789 Warren had begun publishing pamphlets, short booklets on political subjects. In her pamphlet entitled *Observations on the New Constitution and on the Federal and State Conventions*, she stated her opposition to the new Constitution of the United States because of its lack of a bill of rights. At that time a public debate was raging over the issue. While some patriots, such as John Adams and Alexander Hamilton see entry, were in favor of a strong central government, others like the Warrens wanted a weaker central government. They believed a bill of rights would protect the weaker from the more powerful. In time the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution. Final plays In Warren published all of her poems along with two early plays under her own name. Revolutionary-era patriots had usually published their works without author names or using pen names made-up names that protected their identities from revenge by the pro-British. With her name now appearing on her writings for the first time, Warren received public praise for her work from such people as George Washington, the Adamses, and Thomas Jefferson, among others see entries. John Adams later came to criticize her when their political ideas differed see box. Also, in 1792 Warren wrote *The Ladies of Castile*, which contained a pro-revolutionary message. The play focused on the uprising of a group of people in Spain, and in it Warren featured women characters for the first time. It portrayed the invasion of the city of Rome by a destructive enemy tribe in ancient times. The play contained vigorous language and violent action. By then, Massachusetts society had begun to attend plays. Warren hoped to see her plays performed on stage, but they never were. The book covered American

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history from the Stamp Act of to the end of the eighteenth century. It provided an eyewitness account of the political, military, and economic events that took place both in America and abroad. Constitution; and offered a look at the presidencies of George Washington and John Adams. A major purpose of the book was to remind new generations of the importance of liberty and the type of government in which the supreme power rests with all the people entitled to vote. By that time Warren was nearly blind, and her son James had to help her edit the book. Most of the factual information in her history was correct, and she even used footnotes, a rarity at that time. However, the work caused a serious rift in her friendship with former President John Adams, who felt it treated him unfairly see box. As time passed, she grieved the loss of many friends and her husband James, who died in , after fifty-four years of marriage. Mercy Otis Warren fell ill and died on October 13, , at age eighty-six. She was a woman who had learned to live within the established roles granted to women of the eighteenth century, yet she indirectly challenged them through her writings. She had found a way to combine her writing talent and political beliefs to become the first female historian of America. For More Information Anthony, Katharine. First Lady of the Revolution. Scribners, , reprint, Spartanburg, SC: Cast for a Revolution: Some American Friends and Enemies â€” Outstanding Women of the American Revolution: Thomas Todd Publishers,

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Chapter 6 : Mercy Otis Warren - Wikipedia

Alice Brown, Mercy Warren (), is dated, while Katherine Anthony, First Lady of the Revolution: The Life of Mercy Otis Warren (), is adulatory. The most complete evaluation of Warren as a historian is in William Raymond Smith, History as Argument: Three Patriot Historians of the American Revolution ().

Tell your wife that God Almighty has entrusted her with the Powers for the good of the World, which That instead of being a fault to use them, it would be criminal to neglect them. The Heath Anthology of American Literature. She was the fifth of thirteen children. Such a large number of children was not unusual during that time. Mercy never had a formal education, like many girls of her time. Jonathon Russell, however, the minister of the local parish, took pity on her and supplied her with both books and counsel. As she became older, it was her brother, James Otis, who became her companion in literary pursuits. It is he who is rumored to have said, "Taxation without representation is tyranny. They were, by report, a happy couple. Three years later, they had their first child, James, and continued to have children until she reached five boys total. Her last son, George, was born in James Warren senior had a very distinguished political career and made his living off of his passion. He was more involved in the early beginnings of the American Revolutionary War than he was in the War itself, although he fought alongside her brother, James Otis, at Bunker Hill. James Warren became president of the Massachusetts House of Representatives eleven years into his marriage with Mercy. When her husband realized she could speak more clearly than he ever could, he encouraged her to write about her convictions. James Warren affectionately dubbed his wife his "scribbler. Their house even became a meeting place for the Sons of Liberty. The Influence of Mercy Otis Warren With the influences she had in her life, it should come as no surprise that she took up her pen in behalf of the liberty of America. The National Society of Colonial Dames has moved the page linked above. The quotes cited below can also be found at alphahistory. In , she described the American situation as follows: America stands armed with resolution and virtue; but she still recoils at the idea of drawing the sword against the nation from whence she derived her origin. Yet Britain, like an unnatural parent, is ready to plunge her dagger into the bosom of her affectionate offspring. But may we not hope for more lenient measures! Women of the American Revolution: Years later, she describes America as standing more ready: I hinted that the sword was half drawn from the scabbard. Since then it has been unsheathed. Almost every tongue is calling on the justice of heaven to punish the disturbers of the peace, liberty, and happiness of their country. Along with these letters, she wrote plays expressing her political opinions. Several other plays were written, also cryptically directed against Governor Hutchinson, and all were written anonymously. It would be before Mercy Otis Warren would put her own name to a book. Abigail Adams, another influential Revolutionary War woman , wrote to encourage her: In other words, Ms. The Generals Washington, Lee, and Gates, with several other distinguished officers from head-quarters, dined with us at Watertown three days since. The first of these I think one of the most amiable and accomplished gentlemen, both in person, mind, and manners, that I have met with. The second, whom I never saw before, I think plain in his person to a degree of ugliness, careless even to unpoliteness--his garb ordinary, his voice rough, his manners rather morose; yet sensible, learned, judicious, and penetrating: The last is a brave soldier, a high republican, a sensible companion, an honest man, of unaffected manners and easy deportment. Her writings contained her beliefs, thoughts, and opinions about wars and political issues. President Jefferson ordered advance copies for himself and every cabinet member in the White House. The cause of death is unknown. She was 86 years old. The legacy she left behind is amazing. Seldom has one woman in any age, acquired such an ascendancy over the strongest, by the mere force of a powerful intellect. She is said to have supplied political parties with their arguments; and she was the first of her sex in America who taught the reading world in matters of state policy and history. She spoke up when she needed to, and everyone benefited from the things she said. She was inspirational and worth remembering as a builder of our nation.

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Chapter 7 : Bio of Mercy Otis Warren

Mercy Otis Warren was born on September 14th, to Colonel James Otis and Mary Allyne, who was a descendant of Mayflower passenger Edward Doty. She was the fifth of thirteen children. Such a large number of children was not unusual during that time.

They raised five sons. Her mother was a descendant of Mayflower passenger Edward Doty, while her father was a farmer, merchant, and attorney, who served as a judge for the Barnstable County Court of Common Pleas and later won election to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1764. Although Mercy had no formal education, she studied with the Reverend Jonathan Russell while he tutored her brothers in preparation for college. She loved history—especially political history—and was fond of rhetoric that displayed invective and wit. She also studied literature, including Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, and Pope, and became an able writer and rhetorician. One of her brothers was the noted patriot and lawyer James Otis, Jr. In 1768, Mercy married James Warren, a prosperous merchant and farmer from Plymouth, Massachusetts, when she was 24 years old. A descendant of the Mayflower passenger Richard Warren, he was a Harvard graduate and colleague of her brother. They settled in Plymouth, just a few miles north from her home and had five sons, James, Winslow, Charles, Henry, and George. In 1773, he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives and eventually became speaker of the House and president of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress. Mercy actively participated in the political life of her husband, and they became increasingly involved in the conflict between the American colonies and the British government. Their home became a focal point of local politics where they hosted protest and strategy meetings for the Sons of Liberty, among whom was their friend, John Adams. Mercy herself became a strong political voice with views on liberty, democracy and independence for the American colonies. James encouraged her to write, fondly referring to her as the "scribbler," and she became his chief correspondent and sounding board. Mercy Otis Warren died in October, 1789, at the age of 49. In a letter to Catherine Macaulay she wrote: Yet Britain, like an unnatural parent, is ready to plunge her dagger into the bosom of her affectionate offspring. Warren also became a correspondent and adviser to many political leaders, including Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and especially John Adams, who became her literary mentor in the years leading to the Revolution. In a letter to James Warren, Adams wrote, "Tell your wife that God Almighty has entrusted her with the Powers for the good of the World, which, in the cause of his Providence, he bestows on few of the human race. That instead of being a fault to use them, it would be criminal to neglect them. She later wrote that "no single step contributed so much to cement the union of the colonies. She combined her vantage point with a talent for writing to become both a poet and a historian of the Revolutionary era. However, all of her works were published anonymously until 1773. When the colonies began to rebel against English rule, Mercy Otis Warren became perhaps the most important of Revolutionary War women. She wrote several plays, including the satiric *The Adulateur*, directed against Massachusetts Governor Thomas Hutchinson. The play foretold the coming Revolution. In 1773, she wrote *The Defeat*, also featuring the character based on Hutchinson; and in 1774 she published *The Group*, a satire conjecturing what would happen if the British king abrogated the Massachusetts charter of rights. The anonymously published *The Blockheads* and *The Motley Assembly* are also attributed to her. In 1775 she published a political treatise, *Observations on the New Constitution*, whose ratification she opposed as an Anti-Federalist. The first work bearing her name "Mrs. Warren" the book contains 18 political poems and two plays. The two dramas, *The Sack of Rome* and *The Ladies of Castille*, dealt with the social and moral values necessary to the success of the new republic. Both of these plays showed republics undermined from within by the loss of civic virtue. Mercy Otis Warren was known as the "Conscience of the American Revolution" Other, more personal poetry, she kept unpublished until almost two centuries after her death. Her letters to hundreds of contemporaries including Franklin, Jefferson, Hamilton, and Abigail Adams and her husband John—with whom Warren quarreled as Adams

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grew increasingly conservative have now been published and are of great use to scholars for historical insight into the time. Although she was excluded from direct involvement in the development of the Revolution because of her gender, she nonetheless did bring much influence on the men who worked at the center of the activities and at times acted as their conscience, spurring them to action. During the French Revolution she wrote that revolutions are "permitted by providence, to remind mankind of their natural equality. In an age where most people thought democracy an impossible ideal sought by the ignorant masses, she understood that the "natural rights philosophy" exhibited in the Declaration of Independence would lead to democracy and egalitarianism for everyone. Her radical beliefs even led her to oppose the ratification of the Constitution in the late 1780s. It was finally published, in 1805, when she was 77, as a three volume work entitled, *History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution*. President Thomas Jefferson ordered subscriptions for himself and his cabinet and noted his "anticipation of her truthful account of the last thirty years that will furnish a more instructive lesson to mankind than any equal period known in history. She thus undertook the task with "trembling hand. In her later years she focused on educational reform. She criticized the fact that women had to do needlework while men learned Latin, Greek, history and politics. In her letters to Abigail Adams, she wrote of her belief that the "relegation of women to minor concerns" reflected not their inferior intellect but the inferior opportunities offered them to develop their capacities. This theme has caused her to be regarded as a "proto-feminist" in recent times, and she has been studied by feminists as a pioneer of her age. Although her writings have little else in common with modern feminism, she was indeed a leading woman of her own era who did much to begin the process of change in the accepted role of women within the greater society. Legacy Warren lived her entire life in the state of Massachusetts, but she lived in the company of revolutionaries, visionaries and many of the Founding Fathers of the emerging United States. Her own family home was the venue for numerous discussions which led up to the break with England and the establishment of a democratic nation. She was both an eyewitness to and the conscience of the Revolution, due to her skill in writing. Her *History* chronicles the three decades leading up to and including the Revolution. She was well respected by many of the most prominent men of the era. Warren was also a pioneer for women writers, poets and historians, and her passion for freedom and liberty pushed many to move forward towards independence. Her vision of the permanent state of democracy in the United States encouraged others to consider its lasting value. She was as much a part of the Revolution as any man who carried a gun or wrote a document. She did this as she raised five sons and ran her household. Sometimes characterized as a proto-feminist, she wrote with the expectation of the realization of the natural rights of women. While recognizing both physical and social differences between men and women, she understood that the mind of both genders could be equally valuable. To this end she realized that women needed education as much as men and pushed for schools to be established for women and girls. Although not a feminist in contemporary terms, she was unique in her time, writing and working for equal respect and equal rights for women, regardless of station in life. Prentise Hall, Retrieved December 26, *First Lady of the Revolution: The Life of Mercy Otis Warren*. Catharine Macaulay and Mercy Otis Warren: *The Revolutionary Atlantic and the Politics of Gender*. Oxford University Press, Lane, "The Columbian Patriot: Mercy Otis Warren and the Constitution. *The Muse of the Revolution: Liberty Classics*, modern reprint of orig. Mercy Otis Warren and the American Revolution. ISBN External links.

Chapter 8 : Mercy Otis Warren

Mercy Otis Warren was born in Barnstable, Massachusetts to a prominent family on September 28th, As a result, she was afforded more opportunities than the average person and in her youth she was privileged to have her parents' approval to sit in on her Harvard-bound brother's privately tutored school lessons.

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Biography of Mercy Otis Warren, , a political satirist in the Vanguard of this country's emancipated women. (Sister of James Otis, "The Patriot").