The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “1976/06/29 - Ribbon Cutting at the "Remember the Ladies" Exhibit, Plymouth, Massachusetts” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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We are in Plymouth, where the Pilgrims landed in search of religious freedom. We are here to honor the unsung women, who helped win our National independence. And in remembering them, we focus attention on the unfinished business of our Revolution—full freedom and justice for women.

Abigail Adams wrote her husband asking "remember the ladies" in the new code of laws. He replied: "Depend on it, we know better than to repeal our masculine systems."

But at long last, the repeal is underway and going strong. Thanks to some determined ladies of 1976, many Americans will learn of the contributions of the ladies of 1776. A look back at the talents and achievements of those women. The new visibility and participation of women in American life draws strength from a look back. And I hope this exhibit will
PLYMOUTH, MASS. (UPI) -- FIRST LADY BETTY FORD MADE A NON-POLITICAL VISIT TO THIS HISTORIC COLONIAL TOWN TUESDAY TO JOIN SEVERAL OTHER LEADING AMERICAN WOMEN IN DEDICATING A BICENTENNIAL ART EXHIBIT.

MRS. FORD WAS GREETED BY SOME 1,500 WOMEN WHOSE CHEERS DROWNED OUT CHANTS OF A SMALL GROUP OF PLACARD-TOERING DEMONSTRATORS PROTESTING HER ENDORSEMENT OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

JOINING MRS. FORD IN THE CEREMONIES TO OPEN THE EXHIBIT CALLED "REMEMBER THE LADIES—WOMEN IN AMERICA 1750-1815," WERE JOAN KENNEDY, NANCY KISSINGER, REP. MARGARET HECKLER, R-MASS., AND MASSACHUSETTS FIRST LADY KITTY DUKAKIS.

ALTHOUGH RAIN DAMPENED THE MORNING, THE SUN HAD POPPED OUT WHEN MRS. FORD, UNDER HEAVY SECRET SERVICE ESCORT, ARRIVED AT THE PLYMOUTH YACHT CLUB SHORTLY BEFORE 12:30 P.M. FOR A BRIEF LUNCHEON WITH THE OTHER GUESTS.

THE TITLE OF THE EXHIBITION, SPONSORED BY CLAIROL AND PHILIP MORRIS, INC., WITH FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES, WAS BASED ON A REQUEST ABIGAIL ADAMS ONCE MADE OF HER HUSBAND, JOHN ADAMS.

IN FORMULATING THE LAWS OF THE NEW AMERICAN NATION IN 1776, MRS. ADAMS WROTE, "I DESIRE YOU REMEMBER THE LADIES AND BE MORE GENEROUS AND FAVORABLE TO THEM THAN YOUR ANCESTORS."

UPI 06-29 04:37 PED
We are in Plymouth, where the Pilgrims landed in search of religious freedom. We are here to honor the unsung woman, who helped win our national independence. And in remembering them, we focus attention on the unfinished business of our Revolution—full freedom and justice for women.

Abigail Adams wrote her husband asking "remember the ladies" in the new code of laws. He replied: "Depend on it, we know better than to repeal our masculine systems."

But at long last, the repeal is underway and going strong. Thanks to some determined ladies in 1976, many Americans will learn of the talents and achievements of the ladies in 1776. But, most of all, this exhibit about these neglected Americans should give us strength and courage to seek equal rights and responsibilities for women today.

I look for the day when America fully honors Abigail Adams' request, because then the promises of the Declaration of Independence will have new meaning for all Americans.

* * *
Ribbon Cutting, Remember the Ladies Exhibit, June 29, 1976

We are in Plymouth, where the Pilgrims landed in search of religious freedom. We are here to honor the unsung women, who helped win our National independence. And we are here to focus attention on the unfinished business of our Revolution---full freedom and justice for women.

Abigail Adams wrote her husband asking "remember the ladies" in the new code of laws. He replied: "Depend on it, we know better than to repeal our masculine systmes." But at long last, the repeal is underway and going strong.

this exhibit recognizes Thanks to some determined ladies in 1976, the contributions of the ladies of 1776.

And a look back reminds us all of the changes needed to honor Abigail Adams request of so long ago. But surely she would be proud to know her words inspire us to keep up the fight for equal rights and responsibilities for women.
We are in Plymouth, where the Pilgrims landed in search of religious freedom. We are here to honor the unsung women, who helped win our National independence. And in remembering them, we focus attention on the unfinished business of our Revolution---full freedom and justice for women.

Abigail Adams asked her husband to "remember the ladies" in the new code of laws. He wrote her back: "Depend on it, we know better than to repeal our masculine systems." But at long last, the repeal is underway and going strong.

Thanks to some determined ladies of 1976, many Americans will be reminded of the contributions of the ladies of 1776. This look back at the talents and achievements of those women must inspire us to increased participation in the events of our time. We must
Ribbon Cutting, Remember the Ladies Exhibit, June 29, 1976

We are in Plymouth, where the Pilgrims landed in search of religious freedom. We are here to honor the unsung women, who helped win our National independence. And we are here to focus attention on the unfinished business of our Revolution---full justice and freedom for women.

When Abigail Adams wrote her husband asking "remember the ladies" in the new code of laws. He replied: "Depend on it, we know better than to repeal our masculine systems." But at long last, the repeal is underway and going strong.

The determination of women in 1976 has made this exhibit to recognize the women of 1776 a reality. The new visibility of women in American life draws strength from the accomplishments of women in the past.

A look backward must remind us all of the work remaining before America honors the request Abigail Adams made so long ago.

I hope this exhibit inspires a special commitment to
Ribbon Cutting, Remember the Ladies Exhibit

We are in Plymouth, where the Pilgrims landed in search of religious freedom. We are here to honor the unsung woman, who helped win our National independence. And, most of all, we are here about the unfinished business of that Revolution—full freedom and justice for women.

When Abigail Adams wrote her husband asking "remember the ladies" in the new code of laws, he replied: Depend on it, we know better than to repeal our masculine systems." That exchange has been repeated in many different ways during our two hundred years. But the repeal is underway and going strong. The ladies are being remembered, because of the determination of women in 1976 to see that the contributions of women, past and present, are recognized.

In looking back, all Americans must take courage from those ladies of the past to work today to achieve
When Abigail Adams wrote her husband asking "remember the ladies," he wrote back: "Depend on it, we know better than to repeal our masculine systems." That exchange has been repeated in many forms during our two hundred years. And today on the eve of our Bicentennial celebration, full justice and freedom for women remain the unfinished business of the American Revolution.

But surely Abigail Adams would be pleased with our progress, although amazed
When Abigail Adams wrote her husband asking "remember the ladies," the reply was one that has become all too familiar in America's history.
PLYMOUTH, MASS. (UPI) -- Mrs. Betty Ford was paid special tribute to the "Founding Mothers" of America in a visit to Plymouth, the historic oceanside town where the Pilgrims landed in 1620. Joining Mrs. Ford were Massachusetts First Lady Katherine "Kitty" Dukakis, Mrs. Joan Kennedy, Mrs. Nancy Kissinger and U.S. Rep. Margaret Heckler, R-Mass.

The first lady's visit Tuesday was in conjunction with the opening of a bicentennial art exhibit: "Remember the Ladies -- Women in America 1776-1976."

"We are here in Plymouth where the Pilgrims landed; we are here to honor the unsung women who helped win our independence," Mrs. Ford said in remarks at dedication ceremonies for the exhibit.

The exhibit is commercially sponsored with funding from the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities.
Mrs. Ford Helps 'Remember the Ladies'

By JUDY KLEINSUDB

Plymouth, Mass., June 29—Three of Washington's most prominent political wives—Betty Ford, Nancy Kissinger and Joan Kennedy—gathered on the steps of Pilgrim Hall here today for the opening of a major bicentennial exhibition about Revolutionary War era women, called "Remember the Ladies."

"We're here to honor the unsung women who helped to win our national revolution," Mrs. Ford said, shortly before cutting a white ribbon marking the opening of the exhibition, "and to focus attention on the unfinished business of our revolution for full freedom and justice for women."

Mrs. Ford, who was dressed in a white linen dress by Gloria Sachs, drew mild boos from a small group of anti-ERA demonstrators in the crowd of about 1,000 persons gathered in front of the hall, when she said, "This exhibit about neglected Americans should give us strength and courage to seek equal rights for women today."

The hecklers carried signs reading "Stop ERA" and "Equal Rights Amendment Stamps Out the Family," and they occasionally chanted, "Go away, ERA. Advocates of the amendment countered by chanting "ERA, All the way.""

Protesters Chant

The protesters broke into the chant again after Mrs. Ford finished reading a letter to President Ford from a 65-year-old South Carolina girl, Alison Buckholtz, which said in part, "Why can't women be equals? Men are. Why can't women? Men say women can't be equal. That's not fair to girls and women. I'm going to write to the Governor so he can change the law."

The exhibition, housed on two floors of Pilgrim Hall and in the nearby Antiquarian House, consists of 213 objects dealing with American women—rich and poor, black and white—and their lives in the period between 1750 and 1815.

Why did the planners stop at 1815 rather than going up to the present? "Because we wanted to show what revolutionary era women were like," said Linda Grant DePauw, the exhibition's historian. "It was a time when all women were working in the same occupations as men, and had equal pay and far more legal freedom and political rights than our own time. They were more liberated than at any time since."

This all changed when the Industrial Revolution came along," she said. "The affluence that occurred harmed them into dependent women," she said.

The exhibition will be at Plymouth, the landing place of the Pilgrims, through Sept. 9, and then will move out to Atlanta, Washington, Chicago, Austin, Tex., and New York, where it will end on June 15, 1977.

"A Doll's Life"

It includes a number of portraits of the period's outstanding women, including Abigail Adams, Martha Washington, and Mercy Otis Warren. There are also dolls given and a maternity dress, as well as a 17th-century sea man's manual published in Philadelphia, a wig curler, an 18th-century Hanover lamp, Christina Gerster's conditions of rape by British soldiers during the Revolutionary War and an exhibit of clothing worn by the war's camp followers.

Near Martha Washington's portrait is a portion of a letter she wrote while First Lady to a cousin in Virginia, which says in part: "I live a very dull life here and know nothing that is news in the town—I never go to any public place—indeed I think I am more like a state prison than anything else..."

The display of a woman being teased into one of the portraits shows that the heroine of the Revolution is more than just a wife.

Betty Ford pauses at a display of an 18th-century corset at "Remember the Ladies" exhibition in Plymouth, Mass. "I'm just grateful I didn't have to live in that day," she said. "I would never be able to get ready."
Ladies' of Revolutionary Era

tight corsage of the period caused Mrs. Ford to laugh during her tour of the exhibition this afternoon.

"I'm just grateful I didn't have to live in that day," she said. "I would never be able to get away with it." At a nearby statue of Molly Pitcher, Mrs. Ford was told by Conover Hunt, the exhibition's curator, that there never was a real Molly Pitcher. She said that that name had been used to symbolize the heroism of women who fought in the American Revolution. The name was "That's disappointing," Mrs. Ford said. "I received the Molly Pitcher Award one time.

National Mortgage

Noticeably missing from the exhibition was Martha Washington's bathing suit, which had been mentioned among the items in earlier publicity material.

"I learned the "sad" of Martha Washington's bathing suit," Miss Hunt said. "It's at Mount Vernon. They just won't loan it out." She described the bathing suit as a gray-green, perfectly plain homespun shift.

The exhibition was the inspiration of Paul and Susan Brandon, a Plymouth, Mass., couple who got the idea in 1975 after working to save Mercy Otis Warren's home from extinction. Until now, the exhibition's national director.

This exhibit has two areas of great disappointment to me," Mrs. Brandon said. "We have very little material on black women and Indian women. Their story has been extremely difficult to document, and as a result, I feel that their story has not been told."

Forcibly Stopped

She said the exhibition cost about $50,000 and that it had been sponsored by grants from the Philip Morris Corporation and Citi, with additional funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She refused to specify how much each sponsor had contributed.

Executives of the two corporations were seated in the head table next to Mr. Ford. Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Kissinger, at a table of their own, were seated at the head table.

Mrs. Kennedy, who was wearing a white sheath dress with a red and blue stripe running around it, and Mrs. Kissinger, who was wearing a white dress with navy polka dots, were seated in the front row of the head table.

"Nancy was in and out of that car of hers in the lush and the mud, raising funds," Mrs. Brandon said. "They also helped in cutting some of the red tape in getting portraits out of museums and other things.

Mrs. Kennedy, who in the past had helped her friend Mrs. Brandon save a number of saltbox houses from destruction in Plymouth, said the part of the exhibition that especially appealed to her was "how the ordinary woman lived in those days."

Among the other prominent guests at the festivities were Representative Margaret Heckler of Massachusetts, Lily Peterson and Liz Carpenter, co-chairmen of F. E. America, and Kitty Orchak, wife of Massachusetts Governor.

When several feminist-oriented women complained that the title of the exhibition should have been "Remember the Women," rather than "Remember the Ladies," Miss Hunt pointed out that from Abigail Adams's writings request to her husband John to formulate the laws of the new nation, he should have said, "Remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors."

Joan Kennedy looks at the Abigail Adams exhibit in Pilgrim Hall. Mrs. Kennedy played an active role in preparing the exhibition to help save a number of saltbox houses in Plymouth that were marked for destruction.
Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-town invitation:

EVENT: Opening of Special Bicentennial Exhibition "Remember the Ladies: Women in America 1750-1815"

GROUP:
- The Pilgrim Society
- The Plymouth Antiquarian Society
- The Plymouth County Development Council
- The Plymouth Bicentennial Commission

DATE: Tuesday, June 29, 1976

TIME:
- 12:30 Luncheon (Yacht Club)
- 2:30 Official Opening (Pilgrim Hall Museum)

PLACE: Plymouth, Massachusetts

CONTACT: Mabel H. Brandon
- H: (202) 232-6551
- New York: (212) 361-0400
- After Sunday, June 20th: (617) 746-6420

COMMENTS: Mrs. Ford, the National Honorary Patroness of the Exhibition, will participate in the opening of the Bicentennial Exhibition entitled "Remember the Ladies: Women in America 1750-1815" based on the famous admonishment of Abigail Adams to her husband. As the background material reflects, the basic theme of the Exhibition is to show the profound change which took place in the Revolutionary period in the lives of American women. 20 national women's groups are involved and the leading scholar of women's colonial history, Professor Linda Grant De Pauw of George Washington University, has done much of the scholarly work. Mrs. Brandon is very much hoping Mrs. Ford will attend the luncheon at the Yacht Club beside the Mayflower and then participate in the ribbon-cutting of the Exhibition at Plymouth Hall. It is my strong inclination that although
attending the luncheon would be a nice thing, in order
to pare Mrs. Ford's time commitment, it would be best to
attend only the official opening at 2:30. This would
enable Mrs. Ford to leave the White House later and I
expect the press and photos would be best from this
section of the program. She may also wish to see the
Mayflower and Plymouth Rock while she is there.
This Exhibition has had widespread publicity and is
probably the finest exhibition relating to women to come
out of the Bicentennial. Many outstanding women have
been interested in it and I believe Mrs. Onassis has done
some of the editorial work at Viking Press in association
with the Exhibition.

Following the opening, Mrs. Ford will travel to Mike and
Gayle Ford's home in Essex, Massachusetts, for a private
visit with them and will return to Washington the morning
of July 1.

The file is attached. Thank you.
January 22, 1976

Ms Sheila Weidenfeld
The White House
Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sheila:

This is just a short note to amplify my note of a few days ago. I think that a really original and brilliant suggestion has been made concerning Mrs Ford’s trip to Plymouth and I wanted your reaction:

That a luncheon be held on the lovely grassy lawn of the dock beside the Mayflower—with guests boarding on and off at their leisure—with 18th century food; served by women in 18th century costume from an 18th century menu which would be printed in 18th century script. It’s kinda schmaltzy but I think that it would be pictorially wonderful and very original and nice. I look forward to your reaction.

All goes well here and I hope the same is true with you.

Warmest greetings,

Mabel H Brandon:
3067 Whitehaven St NW
Washington, D.C. 20008
January 16, 1976

Ms. Sheila Waldenfeld
The Office of Mrs. Gerald Ford
The White House
Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C.

Thank you so much for sparing me a few minutes the other day so that I could move ahead on the plans for Mrs. Ford officiating in Plymouth on June 29th. You have been most helpful ever since the beginning and I look forward so much to giving you and Mrs. Ford a grand day in Plymouth in the near future - don't let it rain.

Within the next 10 days Mrs. Ford will be receiving invitations from the presidents of both the Pilgrim Society and the Plymouth Antiquarian Society as well as the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen (our quaint governing body) and Kitty Dukakis, the wife of the Governor. The letters will state the date because I felt that you would wish some options as to the time of day for the actual opening ceremony and perhaps some other events scheduled as well.

You felt that we could come up with something more imaginative than a tea. What about one of the following:

1. Luncheon with the city fathers and the presidents of Clairol and Philip Morris and the women who really created the exhibition and other distinguished out-of-town guests aboard the Mayflower. Terrific photographically; never been done; will delight the secret service as it is at the end of a long pier.

2. Luncheon at the Plymouth Plantation: the replica of the first Pilgrim settlement one mile south of town overlooking the Bay.

3. An evening dinner at Pilgrim Hall.

4. Tea on the lawn of the Plymouth Antiquarian House overlooking the harbor after the opening ceremonies. This may still not appeal, but it is a lovely site and Mrs. Ford could then meet a larger number of people than at a luncheon.
Do let me know what kind of an event Mrs Ford would like and I am sure that there will be no problem. Everyone wants to please her and to make the day as pleasant as possible for her.

There is a group called the Women's Coalition for the Third Century who would very much like to present her with their declaration of "Interdependence" some time that day. I have said that I would ask you and let them know. They are marvelous, disorganized, well-meaning and nifty women from 10 national organizations who incorporated themselves as the only national women's coalition concerned with women's programs during the Bicentennial. I enclose a list of their groups and let you and your staff decide.

The catalogue is now going to press under the best eyes at Viking Press and it is going to be GORGEOUS!

I enclose the list of national museum to which the exhibit will travel after it opens in Plymouth next June.

We have an embarrassment of riches for the Museums have, with a little coaxing, been more than generous and we have had to cut back from 400 artifacts to 250. This show is really going to be SOMETHING. Do take one second and look through the enclosed list of objects and their category headings. What these gals have done in 6 months is staggering and really deserves the highest form of recognition.

Let me know any thoughts that you or Mrs Ford may have on all this. We will do everything in our power to accommodate to her wishes and needs and we hope that she will join us on this very unique occasion.

Henry joins me in sending best wishes to you and Ed and hopes that we will all be together soon.

My "Abigail Adams file" is now the fattest in the cabinet!

Warmest greetings,

Mabel H. Brandon
3067 Whitehaven St NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

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Donna Allen, Media Report to Women
3306 Ross Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008 (202-363-0812)

Linda Grant DaPauw, Dept. of History
George Washington Univ.
Washington, D.C. 20052 (202-676-6230)

Patricia Miller King, Schlesinger Library
3 James St., Cambridge, Ma. 02138 (517-864-7)

Patricia Hunter Mittenthal, 46 Garden Rd.
Wellesley, Ma. 02181 (617-335-2564)

Else Wiersma, Jefferson St.
Marblehead, Ma. 01950 (617-633-1778)

STAFF COORDINATOR

Katharine Torbet, 99 Overbury Blvd.
Buffalo, N.Y. 14217 (716-875-4059)

4/29/79

10025

(212-693-5881)

60619 (313-643-5905)

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MUSEUM SCHEDULE:

Opening: Pilgrim Hall and the Plymouth Antiquarian Society
       June 29, 1976 until September 26, 1976

Atlanta: The High Museum
       October 16, 1976 - November 14, 1976
Washington, D.C.: The Corcoran Gallery of Art
       November 24, 1976 - December 31, 1976
Chicago: The Museum of Science and Industry
       January 17, 1977 - February 20, 1977
Austin, Texas: The Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Library
       March 14, 1977 - April 24, 1977
New York: The New York Historical Society
       May 7, 1977 - June 15, 1977

as of January 16, 1976
January 16, 1976

"Remember the Ladies" Women in America 1750-1815

Total raised to date: $425,000.00

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Dukakis, Ms. Kitty: Massachusetts
Fenwick, The Honorable Millicent: House of Representatives
Ganz; Ms Joan Cooney: Children's Television workshop
Graham, Mrs Katherine; publisher: The Washington Post
Harris, Mrs Ladonna: Americans for Indian Opportunity
Hills; the Honorable Carla: Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Holt; the Honorable Marjorie; House of Representatives
Holtzman; the Honorable Elizabeth: House of Representatives
Horner; Dr. Martina; President of Radcliffe College
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Kennedy; Mrs Joan
Keys, the Honorable Martha; House of Representatives
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Kissinger, Mrs Henry
Lambert, Miss Eleanor
Lloyd; the Honorable Marilyn: House of Representatives
Lord, Mrs Oswald: former Representative to the United Nations
McGrory; Ms Mary: pulitzer Prize winning journalist
McWhinney; Madeline H. President; The First Women's Bank, New York
Mellon, Mrs Constance
Meyner, The Honorable Helen: House of Representatives
Morris, Mr. Richard: Historian
Gnassis: Mrs Aristotle
Parnis: Mrs Mollie: Designer
Ramsay: Dr. Estelle R. Georgetown University Medical school
Rockefeller: Mrs Nelson A.
Ruchelshaus, Ms Jill: International Women's Year
Russell: Ms Rosalind: actress
Schroeder: The Honorable Patricia: House of Representatives
Sills: Ms Beverly: Opera singer
Smith: the Honorable Virginia: House of Representatives
Straus: Ms Ellen: Chairperson CALL FOR ACTION
Studds: The Honorable Gerry: House of Representatives
Travall, Dr. Janet: Doctor of Medicine
Tree, Mrs Marietta: Former Representative to the United Nations
Walters, Ms Barabara: NBC Television
Wells, Ms Mary: Advertising executive
Pettis: The Honorable Shirley N. House of Representatives.

(list incomplete: January 16, 1976)
June 10, 1976

Dear Ms. Brannan,

Your gracious letter inviting me to serve as the National Honorary Patroness of the special exhibit being planned, "Remember the Ladies" is deeply appreciated. It would be a pleasure to have my name listed in this way reflecting my great interest in this outstanding effort to focus on the vital contributions of women in America during this unique period in our history. I am also grateful for this opportunity to convey my encouragement to all who are actively involved in preparations.

With gratitude and my warmest best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ms. Habel M. Bramon
National Director
"Remember the Ladies"
3007 Whitehaven Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20008

cc: BF Pending Affiliations (except) BF Pending (June 29, Massachusetts) with copy of incoming Sheila Weidenfeld
Mrs. Gerald Ford  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

On the behalf of the Board of Trustees of the  
Pilgrim Society and the Plymouth Antiquarian Society  
of Plymouth, Massachusetts, as well as our own National  
Individual Sponsors (see enclosed list), I am writing  
to request that you would be kind enough to serve as  
the National Honorary Patroness of the exhibit, "Re-  
member the Ladies:" Women in America 1750-1815 which  
will open June 29th in Plymouth.

Thank you so very much for your kind consideration  
and all the support you have given this project thus  
far.

Very sincerely yours,

Mabel H. Brandon  
National Director  
3067 Whitehaven Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

enclosure
July 8, 1975

Dear Ms. Brandon,

Your gracious invitation to Mrs. Ford to participate in the opening of the exhibition Herstory 1776: The Changing Role of Women in the American Revolution, 1765-1815 is greatly appreciated. We were interested to learn about this exhibition and its outstanding potential for bringing new enlightenment to the story of the role of women during the Revolutionary period.

Although we are unable to know Mrs. Ford's schedule so far in advance, we would be happy to keep this special invitation in mind to consider closer to the date.

With gratitude and our encouragement to all who are working toward the success of this exhibition,

Sincerely,

Susan Porter
Appointments Secretary
for Mrs. Ford

Ms. Helen M. Brandon
Executive Director
Herstory 1776
3307 Whitehaven Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20008

cc: VP Pending to consider [1976]
Sheila Weldenfeld

II Background material sent to Mrs. Ford's Files

SR
Dear Mrs. Ford:

On behalf of the Bicentennial Commission of Plymouth, Massachusetts and the Pilgrim Society, I extend to you a most cordial invitation to attend the opening of the exhibition, "HERSTORY 1776: The Changing Role of Women in the American Revolution: 1765-1815." The actual opening is scheduled to take place in August, 1976 but the actual date would depend upon your convenience.

The basic theme of the exhibition is to show the profound changes which took place in the Revolutionary period in the lives of American women. From a relatively unrestricted lifestyle in which women could engage in a wide range of activities, as exemplified by Abigail Adams, the role of women dramatically changed as the nation became independent. New financial and political independence created profound sociological, religious, and educational changes which this exhibit will illustrate through portraits, costumes, furniture, diaries, letters and household effects. Although the exhibit will be based along thematic lines there will also be special emphasis placed on regionalism and ethnic and social groups such as the role of Indian women and Black women.

From Plymouth, Massachusetts the exhibit will move across the nation for the remainder of 1976 through 1977. It is already booked into the University of Maryland and we are making plans with the Washington University in St. Louis. Six other national museums are planning to mount the exhibit but the dates are yet to be fixed.

Twenty national women's groups have been asked to sponsor this exhibition as it goes across the country. The response has been enthusiastic from both these groups as well as from nationally prominent individual women. I enclose the partial list of sponsors.

The leading scholar of women's Colonial history, Professor Linda Grant de Pauw at George Washington University, has agreed to write the text of the catalogue assisted by two brilliant research assistants - one from New York, one from Maryland. Their biographies are included.
From all of our research with the National Bicentennial and the National Association of American Historians we have been assured that there will be no other exhibit of this kind dealing with women of the Revolutionary Period anywhere in the nation. It is our hope that this exhibition and the accompanying catalogue — which will also be sold as a book commercially — will bring new enlightenment to the story of the role of women during this period.

Knowing of your deep commitment to women's rights in the present, it seems most appropriate that you should participate in this exhibition examining women's rights in the historical past. I hope so very much that your busy schedule will enable you to attend.

Very sincerely yours,

Mabel H. Brandon
Executive Director
HERSTORY; 1776
3057 Whitehaven St NW
Washington, D.C. 20008
Mrs. Gerald Ford
The White House
Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the people of Plymouth, Massachusetts, I wish to extend to you a most cordial invitation to attend the opening ceremonies of the exhibition, "Remember the Ladies", Women in America 1750-1815, on June 29, 1976.

This community is working hard to offer this exhibit as our contribution to the nation during this Bicentennial Year and we would be most honored if you would join us in this tribute to the women of the 18th century who played such a vital role in our history.

We are most sympathetic with the pressures upon your schedule this busy year, but we would do everything in our power to insure that your visit to Plymouth would be as great a pleasure for you as it would be for us to have you here.

Very sincerely yours,

David Tarantino, Chairman
The Plymouth Board of Selectmen
AT OPENING OF BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT: Betty Ford with some of the women who gathered in Plymouth, Mass., yesterday for an exhibit about Revolutionary War era women. From left: Kitty Dukakis, wife of Governor of Massachusetts; Joan Kennedy, Mrs. Ford, Representative-Margaret-Heckler and Nancy Kissinger. Page 7.
Old Men—and Women—Need Love Too

Nannie Gurley isn't worried about the 21-year difference between her age and her husband's. "I always did like older men," she said. And she didn't even mind that Amsley Sheffield didn't have a ladder for their apartment. "We were in love," she said, admiring her marriage license. "We didn't know they were in love," said Salley Maloney, social services director at the Highland House Nursing Home in Columbus, Ga. "All the ladies call Mr. Sheffield 'Mister' and 'Sugar.' We thought he was playing the field." Sheffield, 94, just was looking forward to setting up housekeeping with Mrs. Gurley, 73, a widow in her home in Columbus. "The doctor didn't want me to play alone," she said. "Now I've got someone to be with me 24 hours a day." Sheffield began the wedding night sharing the twin bed in her wife's nursing home room, but she was too nervous and finally had to give up and went back to her own room next door. Beside her, Mrs. Sheffield said, "The man and all the ladies kept knocking on our door all night to congratulate us." Sheffield, 94, with his bride, Nannie, 73.

Many people around the world are planning to help the United States celebrate its bicentennial. Nigel Breslaw found out what he would be doing when he came home from work in Nairobi, Kenya, and saw his wife, Linda, walk in the door. "I have to celebrate the queen's silver jubilee," he said. "I have to fly a kite off Mt. Kilimanjaro." The young couple—he is an engineer and an airline executive, she grew up in Melrose, N.J.—will be climbing 19,200-foot Mt. Kilimanjaro in neighboring Tanzania to fly a homemade kite. "Mrs. Breslaw expects to set a new kite altitude record, as well as seeing the United States its most unusual birthday salute.

First Lady Betty Ford made a nonpolitical visit to the historic town of Plymouth, Mass., to join several other prominent women to dedicate a bicentennial art exhibit. With Mrs. Ford to open "Remember the Ladies—Women in America 1776-1976" were Joan Kennedy, Nancy Klessig, Rockeisha P. Ketcham, Roberta McPherson and Maine delegate First Lady Businesswoman. The title of the exhibit, which was designed by a local artist, comes from a letter written in 1841 by a Virginia woman to her husband, John. "Remember the laws of the new nation, the new nation," she wrote, "I desire you remember the ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors." After viewing the show, Mrs. Ford, a proponent of the Equal Rights Amendment, said, "I look forward to the day when the wish of Abigail Adams is answered."

—By Jennifer Parrel
Plymouth Rock Hen Party

One of the Week came at Plymouth, Mass., yesterday, and goes, depending on your point of view, to either First Lady Betty Ford or the handful of anti-feminist women who booed her pro-feminist remarks at the dedication of a Bicentennial exhibit on Revolutionary era women. The exhibit, titled "Remember the Ladies" (a quote from Abigail Adams, who had no way of knowing how unliberated a word she had chosen), examines the political, domestic and social lives of women between 1780 and 1815, and like most things it will eventually visit Washington. There's some question as to just what Mrs. Ford said to draw the boos.

The Associated Press version was: "This exhibit about those forgotten ladies should give us the courage to seek equal rights for women today." United Press International's man heard it this way: "This exhibit is dedicated to those neglected women who gave us strength to seek equal rights for women today." Maybe he said both in sequence and that's what got the girls gone.

First Lady Betty Ford (right) visits historic Plymouth, Mass., yesterday for a preview showing of a Bicentennial exhibition about women in America. Among those joining her were Kitty Dukakis (left), wife of Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, and Joan Kennedy, wife of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.
II. Love and Marriage

A. Although husbands were legally masters of their wives, many, like John Adams, preferred to be friends.
   261. Abigail Adams "Remember the Ladies" letter
   61. Blackstone "When you marry..."
   262. Abigail Adams engagement ring

B. Great social pressure to marry
   54. "The Old Maid"
   65. "Old Maid's Last Prayer"
   64. Divorce Petition of Isaiah Thomas (provided that it is relevant to item 65. If not it belongs in category XII A)

C. Courtship
   52. "The Disappointment"
   56. Dower Chest
   57. Engagement Ring
   58. Courtship Fraktur

D. Bundling
   69. Courtship Coverlet
   99. "A New Bundling Song"

E. Black marriage and families
   330. "The Old Plantation"--slaves dancing

F. Marriage
   45. "Courtship and Marriage"
   51. Needlework marriage picture
   235. Wedding dress

G. Despite examples of cruelty and unhappiness, happy marriages were possible
   67. Family Group Painting
   103.平衡ence of contrast of happy and unhappy
III. Child Rearing

A. Fertility rate of colonial women very high
   62. Manuscript on birth control
   46. Black maternity dress
   47. White maternity petticoat
   44. Gynecological forceps
   35. Obstetric kit
   37. Illustration of birthing chair
   38. "An Abridgement of the Practice of Midwifery"

B. Children conceived before marriage and bastardy
   332. "Woman Swearing a Child to a Grave Citizen"

C. Feeding infants
   150. Silver nipple and tube
   151. Pewter nursing bottle
   152. Ceramic nursing bottle
   154. Glass nursing bottle with pewter nipple
   155. Glass nipple shield
   156. Glass breast pump

D. Feeding little children
   147. Silver porringer
   148. Pewter porringer
   153. Pap boat
   183. High chair

E. Clothing for children
   161. Child's shirt
   162. Child's petticoat
   163. Child's crewel dress
   184. Portrait of brother and sister
   185. Portrait of the Royall children

F. Lessons for little children
   5. The Universal Library
      34. Wooden box with cards
      1. Child's songbook, Fraktur 1730's
      2. "Little Goody Two Shoes"
      3. "Mother Goose"
   4. Little Fanny paper dolls

G. Sewing lessons for little girls
   6. Sampler by Nabby Martin
   7. Sampler by I.R. 1791
   20. Miniature man's shirt
   169. Sampler by Anne Marsh's grandmother 1654
   170. Sampler by Anne Marsh 1727
   187. Saltonstall coat of arms by Henrietta Saltonstall
   186. Portrait of the Saltonstall children (I assume this portrait includes Henrietta.)
H. Despite harsh child-rearing practices, parents loved children and could rejoice at birth of child.

36. Pincushion "Welcome Little Stranger"
39. Birth Certificate of Sarah Zimmerman
40. Portrait of Mrs. Matthew Jouett and Son, 1814

I. Children's toys

144. Silver rattle with bells, 1750
145. Child's doll, French c. 1775
146. Carved wooden doll, American, c. 1780
149. Wooden doll
338. Child's silver and carol bells (?)
357. Leed's porcelain top

IV. Sickness and Death

A. Rearing a family usually involved burying several children

30. "The First, Second, and Last Stages of Mortality"
32. "Portrait of Rachel Weeping"
33. Gravestone with twelve children

B. Death a constant threat

40. Abby Bishop Mourning Sampler, 1796
41. "The Abbe Family" mourning picture
42. Mourning ring
43. Mourning brooch
44. "Memorial for Herself" by Ennice Pinney
45. Funerl painting

C. Treating the sick

31. Painting: woman treated by doctor
160. Travelling medicine chest
161. Bleeding kit
162. Bleeder
163. Bleeding bowl, English c. 1800
164. Women gathering leeches--lithograph
165. Herbal remedies

D. Those who survived to youth might live to a great age

158. Portrait of Mrs. Davies
166. "Alice an Ancient Black Woman"
159. Senility cradle

V. Food, Clothing, and Housework

A. Cooking
200. Illustrations of women in kitchen
201. Recipes
203. Egg whip
204. Pie crimper, 1757
334. Hearth rug
337. Pot holder
348. Trought iron turner
276. Iron pot
B. Maintaining the kitchen garden
   133. Lady Skipworth's garden plan
   220. Gardener's calendar by Martha Logan

C. Food for the upper classes
   197. Abigail Adams's cookbook
   198. Two small cookbooks
   199. Silver nutmeg grater
   200. Silver carving pan
   201. Silver skewer

D. Other household chores (making candles, soap, etc.)
   202. Candlebox

E. Homemade clothing
   207. Homespun apron
   193. Wooden tape loom, 1814
   194. Woman weaving, illustration
   82. Pair of leather pattens
   85. Cap (if elegant move to category IX)
   94. Brown chintz every day dress
   100. Quaker beaver hat
   105. Red cloak
   173. Petticoat
   130. Pair of pockets

F. Homemade bedcoverings
   175. Phoebe Warner coverlet, 1800
   176. Glazed wool coverlet
   177. Eagle quilt
   178. Yellow silk coverlet
   341. Bed rug
   318. Lower class quilt
   242. Esther Bradford coverlet

G. Women's pride in handwriting
   182. Portrait of Mrs. Richard Yates sewing
   183. Portrait of Mrs. Elizabeth Tyche (sewing ?)
   171. Pincushion, 1750
   189. Needlework pincushion
   190. Silver bobbin
   191. Silver buttonholer
   192. Silver buttonholer
   195. Gold thimble

H. Women's art: ornamenting the functional
   167. Man's belt, dated and signed
   168. Man's pocketbook, 1776
   70. Pocketbook, "Elizabeth S___", needlepoint, c. 1769
   174. Crewel petticoat border
   172. Pettipoint seat cover
   179. Crewel seat cover
   181. Crewel panel
VI. Working Women

A. Black servants and slaves
   217. "Jersey Nanny", mezzotint
   218. A black Virginia slave, oil
   324. "Portrait of Gustavius Hanneley and his Nurse"
   325. "A Cargo of Negroes", broadside, 1769
   326. "An Overseer Doing His Duty," watercolor
   327. Slave tag
   328. Slave costume, reproduction

B. White servants
   222. Milkmaid
   319. "Three Stages of Life of Indentured Woman", engraving
   331. White servant's indenture

C. Farmers and plantation managers
   218. Letter from Eliza Pinckney on indigo
   219. Lebrun map of Charleston showing planting of indigo
   350. Pinckney blue slipper

D. Merchants and vendors
   226. Girls selling papers, drawing
   227. New Orleans fruit vendor
   228. "The Cries of Philadelphia"

E. Millers, mantua makers, upholsterers and other needleworkers
   223. Advertisement from a milliner

F. Printers
   209. Goddard almanac
   210. Goddard petition to Congress
   247. Mary Goddard's press
   248. Book published by Elizabeth Godefroy
   216. Advertisement: Mrs. Green to publish Annapolis Gazette

G. Actresses
   107. Playbill "For the Benefit of Miss Storer"
   108. Portrait of Mrs. Lewis Hallam
   109. Miniature of Mrs. Lewis Hallam
   110. Engraving of Mrs. Wrighten
   111. Playbill "The Old American Theater Company"

H. Painters and sculptors
   112. "Landscape Watercolor"
   113. Painting by Sunice Pinney
   114. "Two Sisters", painting
   115. "Pastel of Mrs. Ward"
   116. "Painting of Mrs. Caleb Perkins"
   117. "The Orphans"
   118. Watercolor by Mary Ann Willson (A)
   119. Watercolor by Mary Ann Willson (B)
   120. Watercolor by Mary Ann Willson (C)
   121. Miniature by Netty Benbridge
   122. Advertisement of Hetty Benbridge
   123. "The Effigy of Lord Chatham", sculpture
   124. Engraving of Mrs. Cright
   125. "The Heads of the Nation in Right Situation", engraving
I. Criminals (I am assuming all of these are crimes for gain. Crimes such as infanticide belong in another category.)
243. Court ruling for damages
244. Mary Coles's trial
245. Dying words of Ezra Brooks
246. Dying words of a black woman
247. Account of woman counterfeiter

VII. Pious Women

A. Protestant
315. "The Total Immersion of Methodists", watercolor
297. Woman in front of Rev. George Whitfield
312. Hannah Coffin, Sentences Divine and Moral"
317. Certificate for membership in an orphan benevolent society
227. "Constitution of the Philadelphia Female Association", 1803
(I assume this was a benevolent society)

B. Quakers
311. Quaker dress
312. Letters of Sophia Huzo, preacher
315. The Quaker Meeting

C. Moravian
298. Portrait of Moravian woman, 1811
299. Moravian cap
300. Moravian marriage (by lot), engraving
301. Moravian bakery, aqua drawing
302. German engraving of Love Feast

D. Shakers
303. Shaker portrait
304. Shaker worktable
305. Shaker rocking chair
306. "The Shaker Dance", engraving
307. Shaker sewing stand

E. Blacks
314. Negroes in Religious Ceremony in Philadelphia

F. Jews
307. Mrs. Jacob Franks
308. Rebecca Gratz

G. Catholics
296. Portrait of Mrs. Wheelright (became nun)
309. Mother Anna Seton
310. Needlepoint picture of Mother Seton's school
VIII. Learned Women

A. Exceptionally well-educated women
   29. Portrait of Theodosia Burr

B. Hannah Adams
   134. "History of the Jews"
   135. Portrait
   316. Portrait

C. Mercy Otis Warren
   233. Portrait
   236. "History of the American Revolution"
   234. Card Table
   238. Mother of pearl playing fish
   235. Shoe
   237. Hair brooch
   239. Jewelry

D. Botanists
   221. Botanical drawing by Jane Colden

E. Writers
   228. "Nirroy, A Novel"
   215. "The Observer" by Beatrice Ironside

F. Susanna Rowson
   133. "Charlotte Temple"
   138. "National Song"
   12. Portrait
   27. "Universal Dictionary and Geography"
   20. Watercolor view of Mrs. Rowson's school

G. Poets
   129. Manuscript poem by Hannah Griffiths
   130. Poems by Sarah Wentworth A. Horton
   131. Portrait of Sarah Horton
   132. Portrait of Sarah Horton

H. Phillis Wheatley
   126. Elegy on Whitfield
   127. "Poems" with portrait frontispiece
   128. Manuscript poem

I. Education of blacks
   18. Blacks at African free school 1796

I. Theories of women's education
   28. Benjamin Rush, "Syllabus of Lectures"
IX. Accomplished Ladies of Fashion

A. Schools for young ladies
25. "Young Ladies Boarding School", print
21. "Graduation at a Young Ladies Seminary," oil, 1810
22. Advertisements, ladies' boarding school
12. Portrait of Lydia Signourey (school teacher?)
17. Silver award for merit, 1812
24. Book presented for excellence

B. Accomplishments: fine needlework
44. Sampler "Wisdom Leading Youth up to Education," 1812
14. Needlework globe on stand
74. "Cymbeline" needlework picture
13. "Cymbeline" engraving
9. Sampler, Mrs. Mansfield's school
10. Coat of arms, needlework, Mrs. Patten's school
11. Needlework picture by Fait Trumble
353. "Liberty feeding the Eagles", needlework picture

C. Accomplishments: painting
18. "The Watercolor Class," oil
15. Painted picture done at Salem Academy, 1815
16. Sewing table with painted decoration (I am assuming that all the pieces in category VI H are clearly of professional rather than amateur quality)

D. Accomplishments: music and dancing
133. Woman playing musical instrument
137. "Music Soothes the Savage Beast", 1744, three women & guitars
139. Dancing

E. Development of American Ladies
66. Portrait of Harriety Leavens, c. 1815
67. Portrait of Mrs. Jeremiah Lee, 1769

F. Lady of fashion condemned and ridiculed
71. "Heyday!... Daughter Anne!" engraving, 1773
72. "A Fashionable Lady in Dress and Undress"

G. Corsets
73. "Tight Lacing"
74. Green corset
75. Child's corset

H. Hairdressing
101. Wig stand
104. Carved wooden head for wig
102. Wrought iron hair curlers
103. Eighteenth century hair rollers

I. Cosmetics
68. Portrait of lady with perfume bottle
96. "The Toilet of Flora"
97. "The American Toilet"
81. Perfume bottle
24. Silver patch box
J. Ladies clothing
   95. Fashion drawings
   99. Sketches of women's hats and fashions

undergarments
   76. Yellow silk petticoat
   77. White chemise, 1802

Dresses
   349. Spetsai's gown, c. 1750
   350. Green silk gown
   351. Green silk dress with cape, c. 1815
   352. Orange block print dress
   353. Silk and taffeta ball gown

Shoes
   78. Blue shoes with silver cord
   79. White shoes with flowers, c. 1750
   80. Yellow shoes with black polka dots
   81. Pair of blue boots

Accessories
   69. White satin reticule
   95. Hat box
   241. Beaded bag with Isaac Hull ship
   106. Chinese ivory fan
   107. Silk mantles, c. 1760
   108. Coral silk stockings
   109. Grey silk calash
   88. Straw bonnet

X. Presidents' Ladies

A. Martha Washington
   245. Portrait
   249. Travelling expenses during Revolution
   339. Travelling trunk
   250. Needlework seat cushion
   251. Cookbook
   254. Green silk cloak
   255. Panel from state coach
   256. Invitation to dinner—blank card
   257. Letter describing being first lady
   258. Martha Washington at tea at Mount Vernon, watercolor
   340. Bathing costume

B. Abigail Adams
   252. Portrait
   253. Copy of dress
   254. Fan
   260. Blue sprig china plate

C. Dolley Madison
   264. Portrait
   265. Turban
   263. Red velvet ball gown
   266. Piece of French furniture
XI. Women and War

A. Women's political views
211. "Joy and Gladness", repeal of the Stamp Act
213. Providence Gazette Extraordinary (Goddard), Stamp Act repeal
208. Mary Goddard printing of Declaration of Independence
291. "Beware the Ides of March", poem
271. "The Sentiments of an American Lady", broadside
285. "Letter to an Officer," broadside

B. Daughters of Liberty
280. Documents re Daughters of Liberty
273. "A Society of Patriotic Ladies"
269. Man's linen shirt, c. 1780
270. Portrait of Sarah Franklin Bache

C. Civilian heroines
283. Statue of Sybil Ludington

D. Women with the armies
272. "A New Touch of the Times" (exhibit logo)
265. "Jolly Pitcher," 19th century wooden statue
276. Camp follower's costume, reproduction
277. Camp store
278. Various camp objects
292. British soldier with pregnant wife, broadside

E. Margaret Corbin
286. Gravestone
287. Petition to Congress

F. Deborah Sampson Gannett
281. Portrait
232. Wooden canteen
233. Short sword
288. Pension application

G. Hardships of war
279. State pension certificate for Susannah Mariner
278. Rape testimony, 1779
232. Rape account of 11 year old
295. New York women petition for clemency
293. Grace Galloway letter

H. War of 1812
289. "Receipt for Old Glory"
267. Dolley Madison letter describing evacuation of White House
290. Engraving, "The Bombardment of Fort McHenry"

XII. Liberty, Equality, and Women's Rights

A. Rights of Wives
55. Divorce ruling 1811
58. Advertisement for runaway wife
59. Retort from runaway wife
60. Prenuptual property agreement
B. Servants and slaves
329. Advertisement for white runaway
320. Northern blacks kidnapped by southern slavers, engraving
321. Nubet, watercolor portrait
322. Nubet's gold bracelet

C. Feminist writing
229. Wollstonecroft, "Rights of Women"
212. "Letters of Lady Mary Wortley Montague", printed by Goddard

D. Women and politics
231. Women voting in New Jersey, newspaper account
254. "Politics in Petticoats," poem
236. Engraving of presentation on women's rights

XIII. Suggestions for Further Reading and Exhibit Checklist