



# Women Heroes of the American Revolution: 20 Stories of Espionage, Sabotage, Defiance, and Rescue

*Susan M. Casey*

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When you think of the American Revolution, perhaps you envision the Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere's infamous ride, or George Washington crossing the Delaware River. But there are many other, lesser-known stories of the war that engulfed women's lives as it did the lives of their fathers, husbands, and sons. Some women served as spies, nurses, and water carriers; some helped as fundraisers, writers, and couriers; and still others functioned as resisters, rescuers, and—surprisingly—even soldiers. Most often, their names did not make it into history books.

In *Women Heroes of the American Revolution*, these fascinating women step into the spotlight they deserve. You'll learn about such brave rebels as Martha Bratton, who blew up a supply of gunpowder to keep it out of the hands of approaching British troops and boldly claimed, "It was I who did it!"; 16-year-old Sybil Ludington, who rode her horse Star twice as far as the legendary Paul Revere did in order to help her father, Colonel Ludington, muster his scattered troops to fight the British; and Deborah Sampson Gannett, who bound her chest, dressed as a man, enlisted in the Continental Army as Robert Shurtliff, and served undetected for three years alongside her fellow soldiers.

These and 17 other inspiring stories of women and girls contributing to our nation's independence are recounted through energetic narrative and revealing letters and documents that allow us to hear the voices of the women themselves and those who knew and admired them.

## Women Heroes of the American Revolution: 20 Stories of Espionage, Sabotage, Defiance, and Rescue Details

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# **From Reader Review Women Heroes of the American Revolution: 20 Stories of Espionage, Sabotage, Defiance, and Rescue for online ebook**

**Chris says**

Disclaimer: ARC via Netgalley.

When I went to grade school, the sum total I was told about women in the American Revolution was Molly Pitcher and Abigail Adams' letter to her husband about not forgetting the women.

That's it.

Hopefully this book will become standard reading in grade schools to rectify that.

Look, let's be honest, part of the reason why history is dominated by men doing great things is because the men didn't have to do housework and get the children off to school. Let John Adams change nappies and let's see if he can write a constitution. Additionally, the men determined what made it into the history books and also defined heroism. This is while Joan of Arc is both a saint and a witch; it just depends upon which guy was writing the story.

Furthermore, at times revisionist history can be a bit much. A course on ancient Greek women poets – who are going to do besides Sappho? Female generals of ancient Rome? Huh? You take the point. And then there is the fact that the women who break the gender roles might have kept quiet about it. We don't know, for sure, how many Deborah Chapmans might have existed because the women didn't become famous or kept quiet. And as Susan Casey points out in this excellent book, there might not have been one woman named Molly Pitcher, but there were a great many Molly Pitchers anyway.

So, we need to do better remembering heroes who are not white men or men in general.

The great thing about this book is the multiple definitions of the word hero. Phyllis Whitney is in here, and when you really pause to consider the penalty for a slave knowing how to read, she really does deserve her place. She isn't the only slave whose story is related in this volume; though the majority of stories are white women (we are back to that ability to record information again). Spies are featured as are newspaper editors. We are told a story of teenage girl who does a Paul Revere like ride, but also of older women who protest in a variety of different ways. This group includes Franklin's daughter, though most of the women discussed in the book are not connected to the most famous founding fathers – so while Martha Washington is mentioned she doesn't get her own chapter and Abigail Adams is not dealt with here. Lesser known women come out.

The focus on women with little or no connection to the Framers makes this book a good edition to the work of Cokie Roberts and her two books on the women behind the Founders. Casey's book presents the common woman (Mr. Policeman's wife) as opposed to Roberts' famous woman (hello, Jackie O). It's more than wonderful to have such three great books out there.

When dealing with the women who were enslaved, Casey does not hide or excuse slavery, and she is very careful in dealing with family lore versus fact. When the record does not show what happens, Casey presents the various outcomes. So a slave woman's rescue of her master does that come across as a lap dog action, but

an action of a woman who is trying to endure her own family as opposed to that of her masters.

The book is divided into various sections, classifying the women, loosely, on how they fought against the British. Most of the women, with the exception of the Molly Pitchers, get their own chapter complete with further information sources at the end.

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### **Kari says**

#### **Fun & educational**

I found it surprising how much women contributed to the Revolutionary War and there is so little evidence or history about them. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the stories and telling them to my daughter

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### **Daniela M says**

I liked this book for its several tales of bravery and stories of rescue and espionage. This book captures the reader and explains how courageous women have been throughout history. This book is easy to read and thoroughly written.

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### **Katie Cupoli says**

At first I was upset because there weren't more well known ladies in this book, as I assumed there would be. But after reading it, and learning about all of these wonderful ladies whose stories have been left out of history, and discovering how amazing some of them were... I am glad. It was very fun to read. I highly enjoyed it.

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### **Ben Truong says**

*Women Heroes of the American Revolution: 20 Stories of Espionage, Sabotage, Defiance, and Rescue* is written by Susan M. Casey and pays homage to twenty American women that participated in the American Revolution as spies, saboteurs, resistance leaders, and rescuers. This book is divided into five sections, which group these women as "Resisters, Supporters, and Rescuers", "Spies", "Saboteurs", "Soldiers and Defenders of the Home Front", and "Legendary Ladies".

Casey has written powerful, riveting, and concise biographies of each of these twenty women patriots. She writes intelligently, albeit a tad simplistic, feisty, educationally and delves into the lives of these twenty women, which was rather an enjoyable read.

Casey has also given an overview of the American Revolution and sets up the circumstances that these women lived, thrived, and resisted. One tiny nit-pick, as I mention before, the language used was a tad

simplistic, and it wasn't revealed until I was three-quarters into the book that it was for middle grade students.

All in all, *Women Heroes of the American Revolution: 20 Stories of Espionage, Sabotage, Defiance, and Rescue* is a wonderfully written book and a magnificent collection of mini-biographies of twenty war heroes, who happens to be women. It is a good read and reference book for anyone who wants to learn more about women in history.

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### **Jeri says**

The book is a great historical picture of 20 different women in all walks of life during the American Revolution who are little known and assisted so much in the efforts. It's well researched and has lots of documentary "evidence" to support the stories. Alas, i didn't realize it was a children's book until about half-way through, and by then I'd already developed a distaste for the writing style. Go into the book knowing that and I'd think you'd enjoy it more than I did.

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### **Darlis says**

Very interesting chapters about the activities of 20 women.

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### **Margaret says**

This was a fun, quick read. Each of the profiles gives further sources so you can find out more if you want to. But at the very least, this book is a good way of introducing the idea that women played many different roles in the American Revolution, something that doesn't often get as much attention as it could.

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### **Maureen says**

A truly engaging book shedding some much-needed light on the heroines of the American Revolution. Meticulously researched, differing angles respected and addressed, and an impressive bibliography.

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### **Diane Moyle says**

Susan Casey has put together a noteworthy non-fictional collection of tales about a wide variety of women during the Revolutionary War. They hailed from all walks of life and financial backgrounds. Some disguised themselves and became soldiers while others were spies. Some sabotaged the British's efforts and some rescued their husbands/masters from prison camps. Some were considered beauties in their day and some were more homely but all contributed to help the Colonials win their freedom from the British.

This collection covers a wide range of instances that highlight how women helped during the war. The

stories are short and concise and easy to read. They are well written with enough variety that there is something for everyone. Since most women's roles were downplayed or not recorded, there are some questions left unanswered but the author successfully filled in as many blanks as possible.

I would recommend this book to anyone who has even a passing interest in American history, particularly women's history. It could be read and enjoyed by anyone from pre-teen and older. It will pique their interest and inspire them to read and learn more.

I read and reviewed this book for NetGallery

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### **P.e. lolo says**

When I received this book a few years ago from Netgalley I did not realize that it was a children's book. Still the women that are mentioned in this book are taught in any grade schools, junior high, or high school. Some of these women were spies, or saboteurs against the British, plotted and were able to get their husband out of captivity. This might not be a big deal to some people but the British held prisoners on ships so to find out where they were would take time. This is a good book to just see that women also played a role in our countries freedom. I received this book from Netgalley.com I gave it 4 stars. Follow us at [www.1rad-readerreviews.com](http://www.1rad-readerreviews.com)

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### **Anne says**

Although I started reading this awhile ago, just finished it, I loved it! Having taken a class in college on just the American Revolution, I remembered some of these stories while others I did not. What was the best, I was reading on the 4th of July of my own ancestors, Andrew Jackson's family!

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### **Cassandra says**

I won this book in a giveaway on Goodreads. And it was very enjoyable to read. It brought up some women who are rarely talked about which was nice. The book is very well thought out and has the references for each woman right after their part which is really helpful for research. And for the size and weight of the book it provides a good deal of information and without making the print small. I do recommend this for light essays and/or if your just in to history.

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### **Kristine says**

I realized about two chapters in that this was a children's book. (It's very simplistic and not well-written.) As one who is interested in history, I found it interesting. However, some of the "heroes" didn't really do anything heroic, and several of the stories can't even be verified for historical accuracy- they are simply legend. So it was a little disappointing. I should also note that slavery is very much glossed over, especially in regards to one Southern plantation mistress who is touted as one of the heroes.

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**Kristen says**

I loved this book.

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