

Memo. On Activities of Women in The Revolutionary War.

Lossing gives a very interesting picture in his "Life of Mary and Martha Washington" of the former's skill as the director of her estate in Virginia. She took entire charge of the farms, making her daily tours in the carriage and directing men in detail. There seems to have been a good deal of very able management by women of large estates in this period, both before and during the war.

The work of women like Martha Washington, Mrs. Knox, Mrs. Reade and others, while with their husbands at the various headquarters, is deserving of some particular study. The life and correspondence of Knox gives very little insight into this, but considerable on the social life of the time, Mrs. Knox being an active social leader wherever she went. Mrs. Reade's case should be coupled with that of these two women. Mrs. Knox evidently was one of the most prominent social leaders in Boston during the Revolution. Her marriage was most romantic. Henry Knox, before the war, was a book seller, Knox's store being a popular resort for the British soldiers and for the Tory ladies. Miss Fluckner, whose family were rich and British sympathizers, while Knox was an ardent anti-Britisher, fell in love with him and finally decided to marry him. When they were finally obliged to leave Boston by the British, she quilted her husband's sword into her cloak and so got it out. It was a joke in Boston that Miss Fluckner was very fond of books, particularly books sold by Knox! While the army had its headquarters in Cambridge, she was the social head until Mrs. Washington came. The story of her life when in New York is amusing and illuminating. They saw everybody that came to the country, for both she and the Colonel were brilliant conversationalists and devoted to society. The size of her head-dresses, and the gorgeousness of her clothes, as well as the brilliancy of her tongue are all subjects of letters and journals of those who saw her in those days. — a kind of *Comme*
how much more more detail read?

Martha Washington - Certainly something should be done in the article on Martha Washington's courage. The way she stuck to Mt. Vernon when all the women in the country

about her were flying to Washington or somewhere else because of the fear of Lord Dunmore coming up the Potomac; her plucky trip from Washington to Boston to join General Washington; the way she conducted herself at Valley Forge and later again at Mt. Vernon when there was another war scare, show her to have been a woman of unusual spirit and courage. I should think that Hester Reade should probably be coupled with her.