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Betsy Ross: Businesswoman



Betsy ran her shop alone, advertising that she was <u>using American material</u> (hard to find suitable fabric, but somehow Betsy managed) and that she was a true "Buy American" patriot. Business was slow, as many people chose to put off buying luxury goods until after the crisis blew over. She was also in competition with three other fabric shops who had large staffs and more money.

Betsy was worried. She realized that her future might be ensured if she specialized in prospective orders from the wartime government of Pennsylvania and the Continental Congress. She knew her financial and political security lie with making contracts to supply military goods. Despite her Quaker upbringing, which encouraged her to steer clear of war activities, Betsy knew she had to embrace the revolution.

It was difficult for a single <u>woman to be in business alone in the 18th century</u>, but Betsy eked out a living they only way she could.

Footnotes:

1) Salmon, Marylynn, Legal Status of Women, 177601830, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Jul/12/2016, Jul/12/2016,

http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/womens-history/essays/legal-status-women-1776%E2%80%9318

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Betsy-Ross-Businesswoman-Betsy-Ross-The-Life-Behi</u>nd-the-Legend

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Betsy-Ross-Businesswoman-Betsy-Ross-The-Life-Behin d-the-Legend

Media Stream



Betsy Ross' House, Philadelphia Shorpy, Detroit Press View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Betsy-Ross-House-Philadelphia