

# KIRKLAND TOWN LIBRARY



*Felicity*

1774 - Williamsburg, Virginia

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# Felicity

Felicity is a girl who lived in Williamsburg, Virginia. In 1774, Kirkland was very different from Williamsburg. Williamsburg was a bustling city, while Kirkland had few people living here. Williamsburg had churches, businesses, and nice homes for the families that lived there. Kirkland had no churches, business, and very few families.

Kirkland was the edge of the wilderness. On College Hill Road going towards Hamilton College, you'll see this granite marker on the right side of the road.

## Kirkland and surrounding areas in 1774s



*Courtesy of Clinton Historical Society*

*The marker indicates the line that separates the territory for white settlers and the Iroquois territory. The white settlers were not supposed to settle beyond that line. This line is called the Line of Property and extends from Kentucky to Fort Stanwix in Rome, New York.*

**Related activity:** Take a walk up College Hill Road to see the granite marker. Take pencil and paper and do a rubbing of the words and the Native American symbols that represented the names of those who signed the treaty.

# Families



*Sketch of Samuel Kirkland,  
(born 1741, died 1808)*



*Above right: Ft. Stanwix, Rome  
(<http://www.nps.gov/fost/index.htm>)*

*Right: The Oneida's Shako:wi Cultural Center  
(<http://www.oneidaindiannation.com>)*



There were many families that lived in Williamsburg, Virginia at the time Felicity lived there. She had many other children her age to play with. However, in the Kirkland area, there were very few families. Girls growing in the late 1700's in this area would likely only have their siblings to play with.

There were missionaries, like Samuel Kirkland. The town of Kirkland is named after him. He helped to establish Hamilton College. After living here for several years, his family came to live here with him. His daughter Sally wrote a letter in which she describes the bears and foxes in this area.

There were also some families at Fort Stanwix in Rome. The majority of the families living here were Native Americans. They were Oneidas, part of the Iroquois Nation.

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**Related activity:** Visit Fort Stanwix in Rome and the Oneida Indiana Nation's Shako:wi Cultural Center in Oneida to learn more about families in this area.

# Education

Felicity went to a manners school to learn how to be a proper young lady. In her day, girls had to learn to run a household and take care of a family. Women of wealthier families would also need to know how to dance, play an instrument and command a household of servants.

Girls here during the same time period would not have attended schools, but would have learned from their mothers. They would have to help their mother clean, cook, and care for the younger children. They would have learned simple math and how to read, especially the Bible. Writing would be done with a quill and ink.



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**Related activity:** Make your own quill pen and ink. Find a feather outdoors, or buy one from a craft store. Cut the end of a feather diagonally. Make ink by mashing and straining berries (any kind will work). Throw the pulp away and stir in  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt and  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon vinegar. Dip the quill pen into the ink and write a letter to a friend or add an entry in Felicity's journal.

# Patriots vs. Loyalists

The Felicity stories take place before the Revolutionary War. Many of the characters in the stories are either Loyalists, who were loyal to the King, or Patriots, those who thought the American Colonies should be independent from England. Felicity's parents were Patriots and believed that the Colonies should be their own country and no longer under British rule. Many Patriots became Revolutionary War soldiers.

There are 47 Revolutionary War soldiers in the Old Burial Ground on Kirkland Avenue.



*Old Burial Ground, est. 1796*

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**Related activity:** Take a walk through the Kirkland Burial Ground on Kirkland Avenue and see how many gravestones of Revolutionary War soldiers you can find.

# Tea

Tea was an important part of Felicity's world. Colonists, like Felicity, had tea every afternoon. It was a social activity, not just about drinking and eating.

After Britain taxed the tea sold to the Colonists, many decided not to drink tea as a way of protesting the tax. Felicity's father even stopped selling tea in his store.

Here in Kirkland during the same time period, people would drink tea, but not nearly as often. It would have been saved for special occasions because tea would not have been easy to get.



*Pewter teapot and children's teacups;  
B. Tegart collection*

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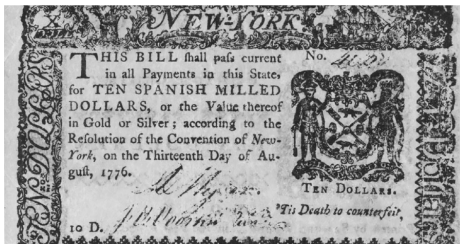
**Related Activity:** Have a tea party. With permission, use the China teacups your family normally uses for special occasions. Dress up and use your best manners. Pretend you are entertaining guests for tea just like Felicity and her mother did.

# Buying Things

Felicity's father ran a general store. He sold many different types of items, like food, tools, and fabric. Most people who bought those items would pay cash for them, or would put it on a charge account until they could pay cash.

However, here in the Town of Kirkland at the same time, there was no general store. Settlers here had to trade with other settlers and even the nearby Oneida Indians for the things they needed. Many things they had to make on their own, or learn to do without.

The United States government issues the money we use now, but back in the late 1700's, the dollar bills were designed and made by the states. British pounds were also still being used. If someone in the Kirkland area were going to buy something with money, and not trade, they would have used money that looked like this:



*Image of a 1776 \$10.00 bill;  
Clinton Historical Society*

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Related activity: Design your own money. What would a dollar bill look like? Will you use coins? Most coins and bills have pictures of famous people on them, who would have a picture on your money?

# Suggested Reading

## Juvenile Fiction

- *Young Americans Colonial Williamsburg: Ann's Story: 1747* by Joan Lowery Nixon (J Fiction NIX)
- *Young Americans Colonial Williamsburg: Maria's Story: 1773* by Joan Lowery Nixon (J Fiction NIX)
- *A Pickpocket's Tale* by Karen Schwabach (J Fiction SCH)
- *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare (J Fiction SPE)
- *Love Thy Neighbor: the Tory Diary of Prudence Emerson* by Ann Warren Turner (J Fiction TUR, Dear America Series)
- *Judy Moody Declares Independence* by Megan McDonald (BLUE J Fiction MAC)

## Juvenile Nonfiction

- *Colonial Days: Discover the Past With Fun Projects, Games, Activities, and Recipes* by David C. King (J 973.2 KIN)
- *Hasty Pudding, Johnnycakes, and Other Good Stuff: Cooking in Colonial America* by Loretta Frances Ichord (J 641.597 ICH)
- *Our Colonial Year* by Cheryl Harness (J 973.2 HAR LIGHT BLUE)
- *George Vs. George: the American Revolution as Seen by Both Sides* by Rosalyn Schanzer (J 973.3 SCH)
- *American Revolution* by Stuart Murray (J 973.3 MUR)
- *Who Was Abigail Adams?* by True Kelley (J B ADAMS, Who Was Series)

## Young Adult

- *The Secret of Sarah Revere* by Ann Rinaldi (YA Fiction RIN)



# Felicity's Accessories



Book



Hat



Nightgown & bonnet



Handkerchief



Thank you to **Friends of the Library** for sponsoring

*Felicity*

Thank you to the mother/daughter team of Teresa, Frances and Madeline Jones for researching and writing these cards.

To learn how you can sponsor a doll or its accessories contact Anne Debraggio, Director of Kirkland Town Library, at: [adebraggio@midyork.org](mailto:adebraggio@midyork.org).

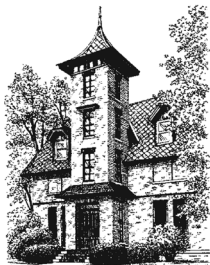
To learn more about the program visit <http://kirklandtownlibrary.org/americangirldolls/>



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