Module 03: A Revolution for Whom?

Evidence 10: New Jersey Voting Act of 1790



Introduction

Most American men shared John Adams's reluctance to grant women the vote. No state explicitly allowed women to vote, and only New Jersey did so implicitly. The unique situation in New Jersey lasted until 1807, when the law was changed to exclude women.

Questions to Consider

- Who did the law allow to vote?
- Where does the law refer to women?
- Which women would be allowed to vote under this law?

Document

Optification of Voton of Voton, and

1.1. And be it further Exacted, That all free Inhabitants of this
ton of Voton, and

State of full Age, and who are worth Fifty Founds Proclamation Money clear Effate in the fame, and have refided within the County in
which they claim a Vote, for twelve Months immediately preceding
the Election, finall be entitled to vote for all public Officers which shall
be elected by Virtue of this Act; and no Perion shall be entitled to vote
in any other Township or Precince, than that in which he or she
a qually reside at the Time of the Election; and no Perion who shall be
convicted of Treason against this State or the United States, or any of
them, shall be entitled to vote at any such Election.

Qualifications of Voters. . . .

11. And be it further Enacted, That all free Inhabitants of this State of full Age, and who are worth Fifty Pounds Proclamation Money clear Estate in the same, and have resided within the County in which they claim a Vote, for twelve Months immediately preceding the Election, shall be entitled to vote for all public Officers which shall be elected by Virtue of this Act; and no Person shall be entitled to vote in any other Township or Precinct that that in which he or she doth actually reside at the Time of the Election; and no Person who shall be convicted of Treason against this State or the United States, or any of them, shall be entitled to vote at any such Election.

Source:

New Jersey Women's History, "Acts of the 15th New Jersey General Assembly, November 18, 1790," 670. Special Collections and University

Archives, Rutgers University Libraries.

 $\underline{http://www.scc.rutgers.edu/njwomenshistory/index.htm}.$