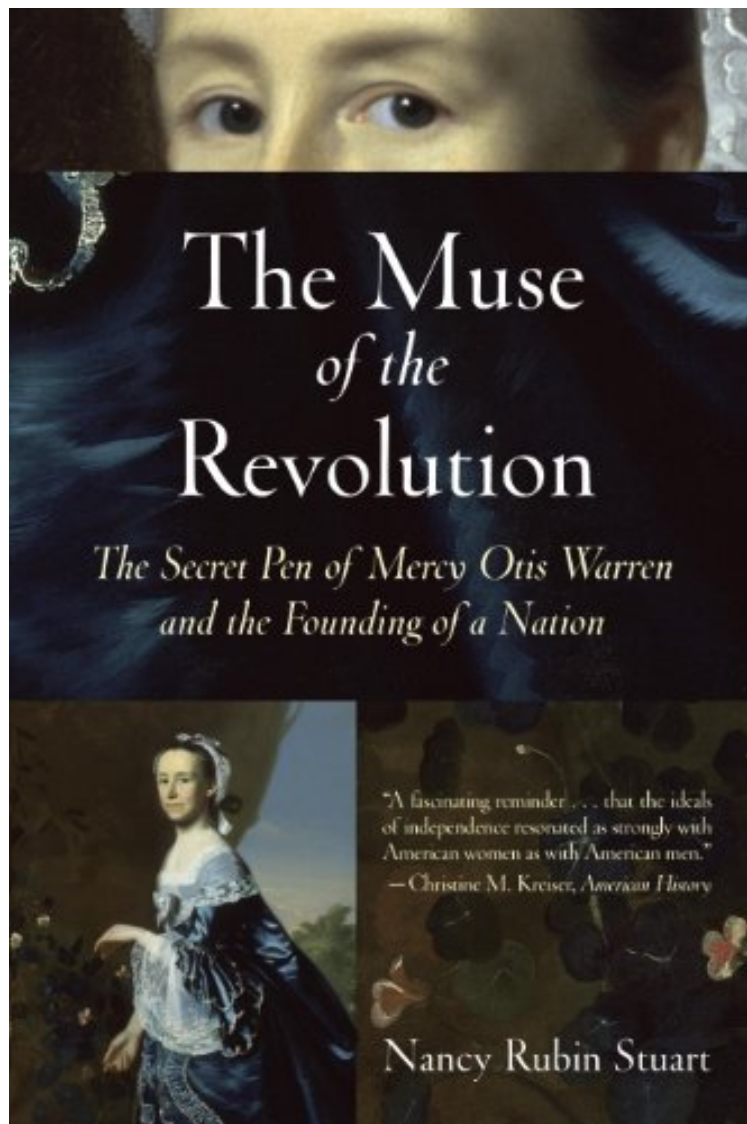


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The Muse of the Revolution: The Secret Pen of Mercy Otis Warren and the Founding of a Nation

Nancy Rubin Stuart

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Nancy Rubin Stuart : The Muse of the Revolution: The Secret Pen of Mercy Otis Warren and the Founding of a Nation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Muse of the Revolution: The Secret Pen of Mercy Otis Warren and the Founding of a Nation:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. "The Secret Storm" By Strawgold The Secret Garden of the Mind. This review covers more of the "method" than of simply the book contents, because the same theme seems to run

through most of the accounting of the best of history as it broke through daunting barriers. Secret Societies, Secret Meetings, Secret Pens - much of the best work of the universe of men and women has, of necessity, been carried out in "secret". There were a multitude of different reasons for this, but it all came down to fear of public opinion even as they strove to change it. From the Free Masons to the rebel pens of the Revolutionists - indeed, the very initial stirrings of the Revolution for American Independence formed behind closed doors, so tightly closed in fact, that the exact accounting will never be known because, according to John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, no notes were taken. From the tongue-in-cheek romps of "Silence Do Good" (Benjamin Franklin) to the covert writings of a female (Mercy Otis) who dared to bring her political thoughts before public perusal (but only because they were initially shrouded in secrecy). Pamphlets and plays became ours, all magnificently accomplished through a degree of fine deception; the great works somehow were recognized behind the veil of censorship, recognized though it's authors feared exposure even as they wrote for the people who would persecute them had their real names been revealed. These writings, some that began as covert and metamorphosed into revealing true identities at last are not only lessons in history, they tell a broader tale about the psyche of those who read the work of others. Almost everyone wants to read; and read truthful, detailed, newsworthy accountings of current events from those individuals whose unique talents can put "everyman's thoughts" into words - yet what a struggle those people endured in the early days to bring light to subject! That's the undertow of what I found most fascinating while reading of those turbulent times - the method used as the means. They obviously took fear and apprehension seriously, but they would not be silenced because of it. As I think of it, I personally marvel over it, feel grateful for, and wonder still at the courage level of such leaders "of encouraged thought" of the mind, in a time where darkness was preferred by the powerful, where even home and family often voiced a stern disapproval. This particular biography notes the important contributions of Mercy Otis Warren - to both the American Revolution and the Women's movement of the time. She took a different tack than most early feminists - through her pen and her wits rather than through physical presence but there is no denying her involvement or her worth to both movements. That she has not been afforded her true measure save for a scant handful of historians is regrettable, but it has happened to more than one early hero/heroine. Perhaps she was considered "radical", as was James Jr., but oftentimes, it is those types of individuals who will not be put asunder as their ideas are questioned or suppressed, and therefore, were the building blocks of our new nation, attaining their objective under nom de plume until eventually, they came forward in their own right. It is a very interesting subject. Some of the best I have found thus far regarding nom de plume (and without doubt, there are many more):** Mercy Otis Warren - the Muse of the Revolution** The first American (Benjamin Franklin)** A Woman's Dilemma (Mercy Otis Warren)** The Adams-Jefferson Letters (mention of pen names) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer got it quick and it even had authors signature in it 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must Read By Leslie Such an astute, intelligent woman of the Revolutionary War days, that had so much impact, as- well -as effect on the decisions and details, all written of the day. There are few such accounts of memoirs, especially that of a woman.

Praised by her mentor John Adams, Mercy Otis Warren was America's first woman playwright and female historian of the American Revolution. In this unprecedented biography, Nancy Rubin Stuart reveals how Warren's provocative writing made her an exception among the largely voiceless women of the eighteenth century. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Stuart reminds us that the U.S. Constitution—;notably the Bill of Rights—;carries Mercy Otis Warren's fingerprints as much if not more than those of most constitutional delegates. . . . This wonderfully researched and readable book has done an excellent job of giving another view of what it took to make this country.—;Library Journal, starred review "A valiant resurrection of an important early American author."—;Kirkus "A fascinating reminder . . . that the ideals of independence resonated as strongly with American women as with American men."—;Christine M. Kreiser, *American History* "Death by lightning, duels, treason, smallpox, 16-page rants written with quill pens, nervous breakdowns. This may sound like the stuff of an overwrought period novel, but it's straightforward fact in Nancy Rubin Stuart's nuanced biography of Mercy Otis Warren."—;Kathleen Willcox, *Bust* "Stuart has artfully set the story in the context of the Revolution . . . A lively introduction to the great Mercy Otis Warren."—;Edith Gelles, *Wilson Quarterly* "Should be required reading in American history classes . . . Warren was one of the great scribes of our American Revolutionary era."—;Larry and Saralee Woods, *American Spirit* "Warren emerges as a fully fleshed-out woman with literary insecurities, intractable opinions and a high-strung temper as well as deep affection for her husband and sons. Stuart includes fascinating period details, focusing primarily on Warren's home-front experiences of rampant inflation, scarcity of goods, high taxes and profiteering during the Revolution as well as typical 18th-century illnesses and family anxieties. Most poignantly, Stuart depicts Warren's loneliness and despair after the deaths of three of her five sons. This account is valuable as an eyewitness play-by-play of the American Revolution."—;Publishers Weekly From the Trade Paperback edition. About the Author Nancy Rubin Stuart is an award-winning author, journalist and writer-producer who specializes in women and social history. Her previous books include *The Reluctant Spiritualist: The Life of Maggie Fox*, *American*

Empress: The Life and Times of Marjorie Merriweather Post, andnbsp;Isabella of Castile: The First Renaissance Queen. In connection with her work she has appeared on several national television series and on NPR's "Morning Edition." Her articles have appeared in thenbsp;New York Times, thenbsp;Los Angeles Timesnbsp;and many national magazines. She currently serves as one of the directors of the Women Writing Women's Lives Seminar at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. While researching Mercy Otis Warren, she received a 2005 William Randolph Hearst Fellowship from the American Antiquarian Society. She lives in Manhattan with her husband.