**MEN in Early America**

* Boys received a basic education at home or in one room school houses until about the age of 10.
* Boys had to perform chores around the house related to the Men’s sphere (hunting, field work, learning a trade from his father, etc.)
* High potential of being indentured in early America
* Expected to be working by their early teens
* Expected to own a home, farm or business by 25
* Men who owned property could vote
* Expected to marry after the age of 25
* Legally responsible for his wife, children and servants
* Responsible for the family’s religion
* Received custody of all children after a divorce
* Legal control over his wife’s property if she was married before (George Washington)
* Responsible for finding careers for sons
* Responsible for approving sons-in-law
* Legally able to correct (beat) children, wives and servants

**WOMEN in Early America**

* Married by the age of 15-17
* Women between the ages of 17 and 45 were either pregnant or nursing (or both)
* Women had little time for trades and were forbidden from most professions
* The worked in the house and garden (the Women’s sphere)
* Girls were taught to cook, clean and maintain the home
* Female Servants and Slaves
* Little protection by laws
* Rape common
* No marriage without master’s permission
* Pregnancy added 2 years to servitude (unless child was fathered by the master)
* Laundry:
* Soak the clothes overnight
* Rub clothes on the washboard
* Lye soap
* rinse
* Place on the clothes line
* iron
* Water
* 50 gallons per day needed for an average family
* 2 gallon bucket
* Water comes from a well pump or stream
* No sinks with drains
* Remove the dirty dish water and dump by hand
* No indoor toilets
* Empty the chamber pots by hand
* People usually bathed weekly
* Cooking
* 4 hours a day – preparing / cleaning the stove and fire
* Regulation of cooking heat done by hand (no knobs to turn)
* 50 lbs. of firewood needed per day
* fresh meat daily – kill and de-feather the chicken
* Coffee sold as green beans – must be roasted then ground
* Sugar was sold in loaves – must be ground
* Raisins – pick grapes, deseed them and dry them
* Cleaning
* No vacuum cleaners
* No way to remove the dust – only redistribute it
* Rugs must be beaten
* Floors must be scrubbed

**COURTSHIP in Early America**

* Laws gave the father the care and power to give his daughter’s hand in marrieage
* Fathers could successfully sue his daughter’s suitor if he did not get prior permsission to court his daughter
* Men were expected to bring property into the marriage
* Women were expected to bring a dowry (worth half the husband’s property value) into the marriage

**CHILDBIRTH in Early America**

* Average of 10 children aged 2.5 years apart
* 70% survived to 5 years
* 60% survived to adulthood
* Higher mortality rate in southern states
* Wealthier women had more children (they had more time and could hire a wet-nurse
* Death of the mother during childbirth **10%** of the time
* Birth of a child occurred at home assisted by midwives and female family members
* Until the mid-1800s, the only pain killer was alcohol
* 1847 – Chloroform and ether introduced
* Recuperation Time:
* Rich women – 3 to 4 weeks
* Poor Women – 2 to 3 days

**DEATH in early America**

* 33% of marriages lasted 30 years due to death of a spouse
* Typical death occurred at home after a prolonged death watch
* Family members were responsible for washing, dressing and displaying the dead body (on the kitchen table) for a funeral
* Embalming was created just before the Civil War
* Widows had to remarry to survive
* Children were usually indentured
* Women could take in boarders to pay the bills