



(<http://www.nyhistory.org/community/library-blog?page=6>)

Name: Mary Spratt Provoost Alexander

Place: New York City

Years: April 17, 1693 - April 18, 1760

Brief Biography

Mary Spratt Provoost Alexander was born on April 17, 1693 in New York City. Her father John was a merchant and her mother Maria was a Dutch heiress. Mary's father died and her mother remarried a merchant by the name of David Provoost. As Mary matured and her mother died, she found herself marrying her father's brother, Samuel Provoost.

With the inheritance she received from her mother, she invested in and became part of her husband's business. Upon the death of her husband, she took complete control over the business. She later remarried James Alexander who was an attorney and also a politician.

While managing the family business, Mary was able to become an important New York importer. The goods she had imported were sold in her store. In addition to these goods were those items that people gave to her in return for her husband's service as their attorney.

As a leader in the business industry, Mary offered her house up as a meeting place for politicians and business people. She also made notable contributions during the French and Indian War to Fort Niagara.

Mary died on April 18, 1760 in New York City.

Major Achievements

Mary was known as a leading business woman. She was a female pioneer in the business world. She was able to support her own business and provided aid during the French and Indian War. In addition to the merchant aspect of her life, she was also indirectly involved in the politics of the area through her husband James Alexander.

For More Information

New-York Historical Society (business records)

New Jersey Historical Society (business records)

The Goede Vrouw of Mana-ha-ta: At Home and in Society, 1609-1760 by Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer

Family Records and Events by Livingston Rutherford

Resources

American National Biography Online

<http://www.nyhistory.org/community/library-blog?page=6>

By Jenn Delisle