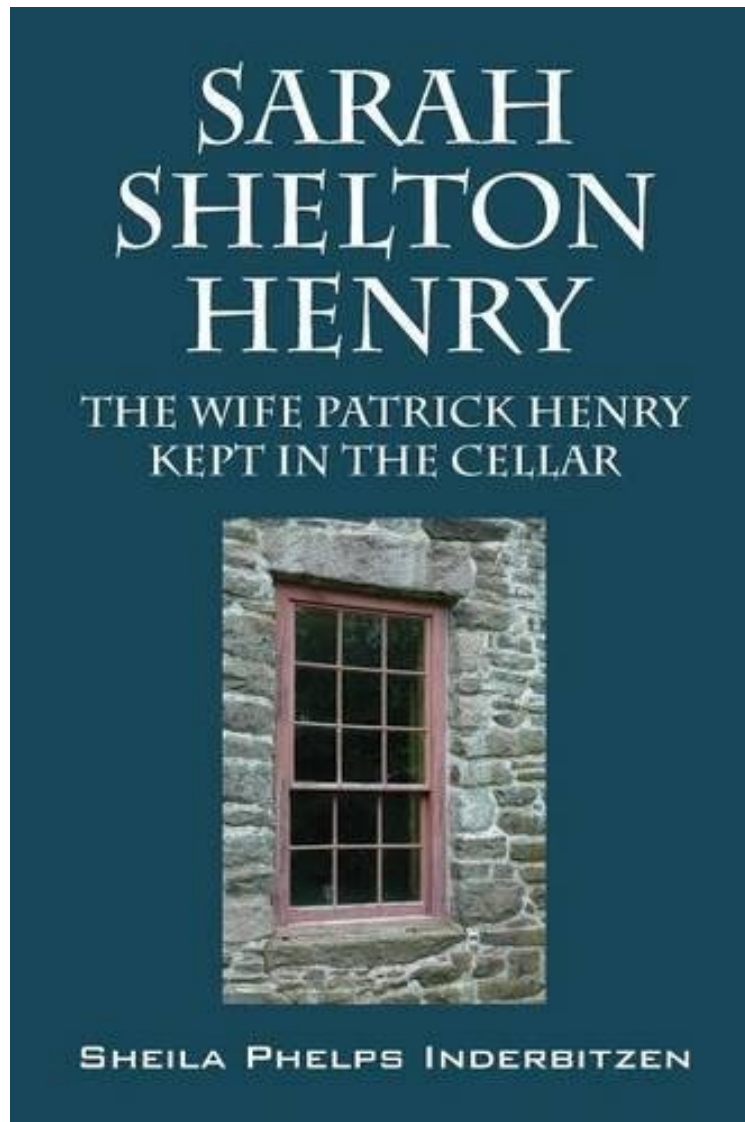


[Download ebook] Sarah Shelton Henry: The wife Patrick Henry kept in the cellar

Sarah Shelton Henry: The wife Patrick Henry kept in the cellar

Sheila Phelps Inderbitzen

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Patrick Henry kept her in the cellar. This is a story of revolutionary war patriot Patrick Henry's first wife Sarah Shelton (1738-1775). This woman was confined to the cellar of her home by her husband Patrick Henry. Sarah Shelton Henry was thought to be insane and/or possessed by the devil. Today Sarah Shelton Henry would probably be diagnosed as suffering from postpartum depression and or puerperal psychosis. These are two types of illnesses that sometime affects women after the birth of a child. Sarah Shelton's mental state of mind did began to decline after the birth of her last child. In fact, in a letter written to Patrick Henry's sister from her mother stated "we feel Sarah is losing her mind after the birth of little Neddy. Most people of Virginia did not know what the Henry family had to endure day after day for three to four years. This dark secret could never be exposed. The dark secret of having your wife living her life in the cellar. These were very politically active years for Patrick Henry. He was trying to make a change for Virginia and also becoming the first governor.