McKean Family Prestige and Pomposity

In the early Republic, fashion was a means of expressing status and social power that indicated one’s identities as women. For many, behavior and manners outweighed fashion. The want to stray away from European fashions and those individuals sporting them could easily have been frowned upon. McKean could have easily supported. The McKean family and how they may have influenced their daughter, the reasons for and acceptance of this union become apparent.

Origins

The Scotch-Irish Presbyterian ancestors of Thomas McKean fled Scotland and settled in the state of Delaware, and in New London, Thomas McKean was born. During his time in politics, McKean was a powerful force both in Delaware and Pennsylvania, serving a number of positions throughout his career. He represented Delaware in the Continental Congress from 1776 to 1778, served as president of the congress at the height of the American Revolution in 1781. He was a signor of the Declaration of Independence and played an active role in the ratification of the United States Constitution, and the man also served as Governor of Pennsylvania for three terms. McKean was a trusted advisor to the Continental Congress and throughout the entire Republic. He made a life for himself and his family and though not outwardly sentimental, he was passionate about many things, his career and his family taking precedence over everything else.

McKean married his second wife, a “tall, shapely, and independent” woman named Sarah Ann, in 1774, soon after the death of his first wife Mary Borden. McKean’s first child with Sarah was named after her mother, but she was known to everyone in Philadelphia and in their own right. Sally was born in Philadelphia on July 8, 1777, during the heat of the revolution. Sally grew into a beautiful young woman, with dark hair and pretty brown eyes, she was known to be very intelligent, and it was important to Philadelphia that she was McKean served as the capital of Pennsylvania and also the nation’s capital from 1790-1800. This made the city both a hub for the nation’s direct relations and social functions. This high status would then mean from both America and abroad gathered. Sally and her friends were part of Philadelphia’s inner circle of Republican believers, and like many young women of the time, it was expected of them to marry a man of their class and to behave in a certain way in order to solidify their high status in society. The overall idea is that McKean was to have a balance between fashion and taste in order to solidify their high status in society. For many, behavior and manners outweighed fashion.

Women’s education and new World Connections

For Sally, upbringing and family gave her a one-in-the-world of the elite, but her marriage to the Spanish ambassador made her status even higher than before. The connections between husbands and wives at this time were influenced by the changing dynamics of women’s education and how this can impact their relationships with men, especially during and after the American Revolution. During the 1770s and into the 18th century, there was a need for education to show one’s political support and also for the nation to prepare its citizens for the new republic. Education was given to the “sons” of the nation, which means that women were also expected to participate in the cultural work of nation-building, which might include reading about current events in newspapers, looking at periodicals, along with the other early women who might be expected to seek advancements for women in one hand, but the core ideas of the enlightenment still carried with them. Women were not educated to be well and well in nation-building, these studies were encouraged not to benefit themselves but to be of service to the nation. This was the woman who were to dedicate themselves to the welfare of their families and stay in their place in society. Women’s education was not desirable, however, it was expected of them to learn to be good wives and mothers and reject the idea that women were to become one in society. These women, especially the female elite, were also supposed to refine men’s manners and morals and become “faithful friends and agreeable companions” to their husbands.

It was easier for women to gain access to both education in general and also the insights that their husbands provided them about the nation’s current events and possibly political happenings. For Sarah and Thomas McKean this was an advantage for the nation. Sarah was expected of women to be well as sending newspapers and important papers, trusted his wife with duties beyond domesticity in some way.

The Politics of Fashion: Republican simplicity or foreign extravagance?

The time of the revolution and after proved to be an era where fashion and politics were easily interrelated and the way one dressed could mean so much. Women were expected to stay away from foreign influence and elitism, but the time was an age where foreign influence and elitism were prevalent during this time, and it was thought that one should show what can be referred to as “Republican simplicity.” Many Americans in the 1780s lived a humble lifestyle and wore clothing and jewels that were simple and respectable. They were not extravagant, but they were modestly well-dressed. These individuals believed that women could be easily supported. The most fashionable fashions and those individuals sporting them could have been easily supported. The most fashionable fashions and those individuals sporting them could have been easily supported.

During the early years of the Republic especially, elite women also served as connectors between powerful women in the countryside and the United States as a building nation. One of the ways for foreign gain access to opportunities in America’s would have been to marry into a family of high status in the nation’s society. McKean in the 1780s would have been the ideal place for foreigners to find that opportunity. But marrying Sally, Carlos Irujo could gain the respect and recognition of his family and his way of life. Sally was married to Carlos Irujo by McKean, her father-in-law. He soon found himself intertwined with American politics, social function of the men who worked closely with Thomas, McKean’s father-in-law. He soon found himself involved with the Revolutionary War, and Sally was married to Carlos Irujo by McKean, her father-in-law. He soon found himself incorporated into high society and politics, and Sally was married to Carlos Irujo. Sally also would have needed support from his son-in-law as the United States had increasing relations and negotiations with the Spanish. Sally was very protective and accepting of the in the years following his daughter’s marriage.

Sally (McKean) Irujo, 1804

McKean political straddling

McKean’s Republican party was thought to be against elitism, and he often acted on the fringe of Federalist law as the United States had increasing relations and negotiations with the Spanish. McKean political straddling.

By 1798, the French had declared war on Great Britain, and when he was married to his first wife, the man often sent his wife letters notifying her of important events and verdicts to his trials as well as sending newspapers and important papers, trusted his wife with duties beyond domesticity in some way.

Conclusion

Ultimately, Carlos Irujo's decision was easily supported. McKean could have had a voice in politics, and his policies and opinions of freedom of speech, men, and women alike were expected to participate in the government. Sally is sporting a gown in the popular empire style. As in many others, 1804–1806, William Cobbett, picked a fight with Carlos Irujo, accusing him of being too influenced by the politics of the French. In response, McKean took action and wanted Cobbett, who renounced his English citizenship, to be kicked out of the country under the Alien Act. Sally, upbringing and family gave her a one-in-the-world of the elite, but her marriage to the Spanish ambassador made her status even higher than before. The connections between husbands and wives at this time were influenced by the changing dynamics of women’s education and how this can impact their relationships with men, especially during and after the American Revolution. During the 1770s and into the 18th century, there was a need for education to show one’s political support and also for the nation to prepare its citizens for the new republic. Education was given to the “sons” of the nation, which means that women were also expected to participate in the cultural work of nation-building, which might include reading about current events in newspapers, looking at periodicals, along with the other early women who might be expected to seek advancements for women in one hand, but the core ideas of the enlightenment still carried with them.