



Lucy Flucker Knox (1756-1824)

Lucy Flucker was born into a family at the apex of Boston pre-Revolution society, the daughter of the royal provincial secretary Thomas Flucker and his second wealthy wife, Hannah Waldo. An obituary described Lucy as a woman of “strong mental powers” and having “acquired much useful information” through “extensive reading.” Her level of education was exceptional, even among her elite social class.

She first met Henry Knox **at his bookstore** and they **married in 1774** despite her family’s strong opposition to someone “in trade.” Throughout their life together, she continued to encourage him toward the grand lifestyle to which he aspired, although it was sometimes beyond their means. The Revolution caused her to choose life with her husband over her Loyalist family. Like her husband, she was a physically large person, attaining 250 pounds as an adult. Although many officers’ wives did follow their husbands to field headquarters like the Vanderveer House, Lucy Knox did so to an unusual extent, living in rented facilities in a number of locations.

While she was at the Vanderveer House, Lucy was either in the late stages of pregnancy or ill after the birth of her daughter **Julia**, who died at the house. Lucy went to live at Mount Vernon with her friend Martha Washington after leaving the Bedminster area in the summer of 1779. After the end of the war, the Knoxes moved to Boston. She was awarded the family estates as the only non-Loyalist Flucker. The Knoxes followed the capital to New York and Philadelphia in the 1780s and ’90s, where Lucy became a close friend of the socially prominent Federalist Anne Willing Bingham.

After the Knoxes moved to Montpelier, Lucy continued to entertain visitors in her grand house. One of the tragedies of the Knoxes’ life was the loss of nine of their twelve children in infancy or before adulthood.

Knox Children

“Little” Lucy Knox (1776-1854). The elder daughter of Lucy and Henry Knox, Lucy accompanied her parents. She was two or three at the time of her parents’ residence at the Vanderveer House. She was the oldest of the three Knox children to survive to adulthood, along with her brother Henry and sister Caroline.

Julia Knox (1779). The second child of Henry and Lucy, Julia was one of the nine children of the Knoxes who did not survive to adulthood. She was born and died in the Vanderveer House. Her burial sparked a controversy because she died of a “paroxysm” that indicated possible demonic possession to the members of the Dutch Reformed Church clergy. Further, her family were not members of the church. According to tradition, she was buried in unconsecrated ground given by Jacobus Vanderveer where he had buried his own infant daughter who had died two years before. This land is now incorporated in the existing cemetery.