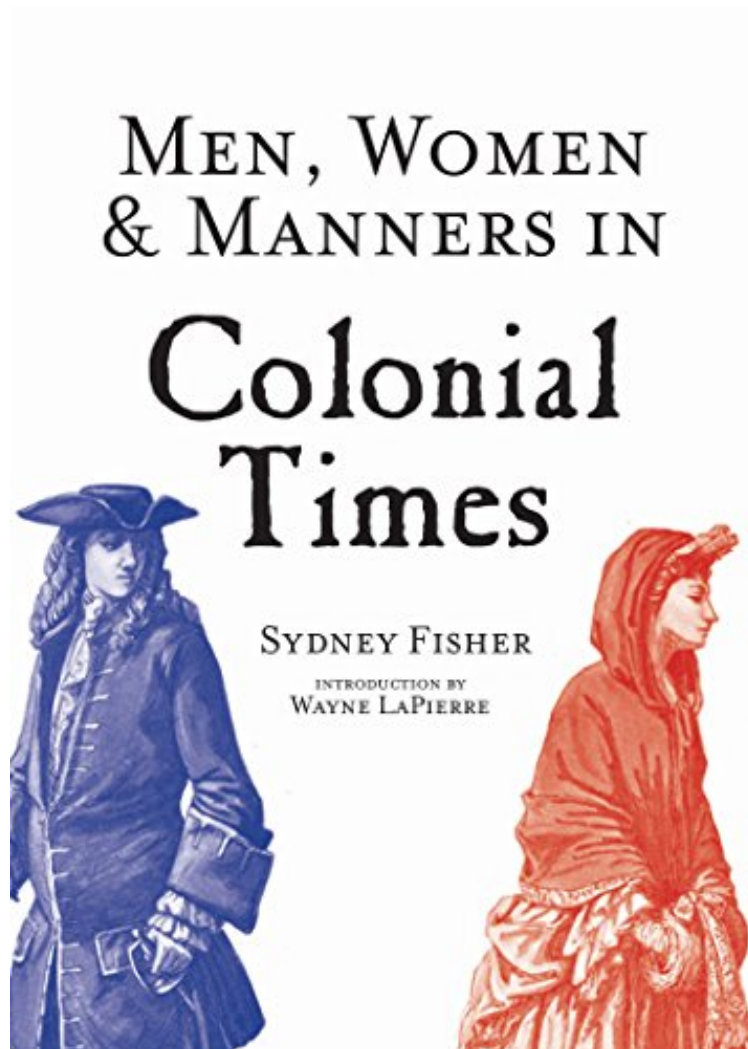


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Men, Women Manners in Colonial Times

Sydney George Fisher

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Sydney George Fisher : Men, Women Manners in Colonial Times before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Men, Women Manners in Colonial Times:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just as shownBy MichaelVery nice! Got these for my wife. She's done with the first and is already into the second one. She loves them! Plus the look great on the book shelf!8 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Cute, occasionally offensive, and not altogether accurateBy sharon dI give this 2 1/2 stars, really; it's entertaining, but not terribly accurate. Just one example: Fisher portrays Bacon's Rebellion in 1676 as a foreshadowing of the American Revolution, but more current scholarship, according to the Historic Jamestowne website, regards it as "a power struggle between 2 stubborn, selfish leaders rather than a glorious fight against tyranny." The fact that the intro. is by Wayne LaPierre of NRA fame should give you a heads-up. Buyer Beware! But it's a good example of 19th-century opinionated thinking and writing - e.g., he says of Virginia: "In a

community where the mass of the people is composed of negroes and indolent whites the degenerating influences can scarcely be held in check by any form of government short of an oligarchy." And re: the Puritans, he says they are "stiff, solemn individuals, devoted to schools, colleges, and learning, to whom amusement was a crime, whose lives were completely absorbed in religion, and who were among the most unrelenting fanatics the world has ever seen." One hopes he's kidding, but I'm not sure such flights of facetiousness were in vogue in 1897. And there are other comments you'd never see in a modern history book: he refers to one former governor of Virginia as "dying of a broken heart" when not granted a personal audience by Charles II. Well-written, over-all, but a curiosity at best, I'm afraid.

In travelling from Massachusetts to the Carolinas one passed through communities of such distinct individuality that they were almost like different nations, writes author Sidney George Fisher in his preface to *Men, Women Manners in Colonial Times*, in which he presented the history and culture of colonial America to his Gilded Age contemporaries, who he felt had lost an appreciation of the fascinating circumstances that created the Founding Fathers and the Revolution. In the almost two hundred years of colonial life preceding the Revolution, the colonies displayed a remarkable variety, from their religion, politics, and countries of origin, to their dress, lifestyles, and character. Fisher cites primary documents such as colonial newspapers and the diaries of common men and women as well as famous political figures. He addresses the credibility of legends of our forefathers still told today (George Washington was an extremely sociable man, and he could not have lived in Virginia and been otherwise) and the riveting colonial folklore lost to the ages (for instance, John Randolph, of Virginia, who, seeing a drove of mules passing through Washington on their way to the South, said to Marcy, of Connecticut, There go some of your constituents. Yes, said Marcy, going to Virginia to teach school.). Discover colonial architecture, illustrated here with photogravures, and colonial pastimes, including the favorites of George Washington and much of colonial Virginia: card playing and foxhunting. Learn the outstanding literary tradition of Massachusetts, the regularity of fighting off bears in New Hampshire, the popularity of horseracing in Maryland, Blackbeard's headquarters in North Carolina, the women who ran the South Carolina plantations, the cleanliness of the New York Dutch as they contemplated their comfort and prosperity while they smoked their pipes . . . willing that the rest of the world would enjoy the same pleasure.

About the Author Sidney George Fisher (1856-1927) was an American author and lawyer who wrote many significant books on American history, including *The Evolution of the Constitution of the United States*, *The Struggle for American Independence*, *The Making of Pennsylvania*, *The True Benjamin Franklin*, *The Quaker Colonies*, and *The True History of the American Revolution*. Wayne LaPierre is the executive vice president of the National Rifle Association of America, which is based in Fairfax, Virginia.