Women in colonial Virginia had a greater role in the eighteenth-century world of print and the public sphere than previously recognized. This article focuses on less-elite printed matter: books for women, newspapers, and popular almanacs. Women went so far as to ask for equal treatment under the law and were indeed involved in public debates in print even before the Stamp Act controversy. This participation goes beyond the elites to the middling sort. The conclusion here is that colonial Virginia women were involved in the debates that prefaced the Revolution, a discovery that has implications for understanding how people of the separate colonies conceived and formed a new nation.

Introduction

The only newspaper operating in colonial Virginia in 1736 published a very remarkable poem. “The Lady’s Complaint” pointed out that men and women had quite unequal positions in society. It noted that custom was partial to men, and failed to give women equal measure. This unknown poet wrote that the laws were even more unfair, and the verse ended with a plea for equal treatment for women:

Then Equal Laws let Custom find,  
And neither Sex oppress;  
More Freedom give to Womankind,  
Or give to Mankind less.¹
This article analyzes Paul Lazarsfeld’s 1941 book, Radio and the Printed Page, arguing for the book’s enduring significance in communication and media studies. In the book, Lazarsfeld rejected the then-influential technological determinist model that Hadley Cantril and Gordon Allport had developed through studying the new medium of radio. In contrast to Cantril and Allport, Lazarsfeld found through studying Americans’ listening and reading habits that radio’s effects on society were not totalizing, and he discovered that radio not only did not diminish the importance of reading printed texts, but that it in fact may have encouraged the practice. The book established Lazarsfeld’s scholarly reputation in the United States and formed the basis for his later and widely influential research.

Long ignored in the intellectual history of media studies, Radio and the Printed Page is in fact a foundational work, one that contains the clear beginnings of the social constructivist ideas that Lazarsfeld would later articulate in The People’s Choice and Personal Influence. Ultimately, the work presented a theory understanding media effects as significant but not totalizing, analyzed how people made meaning of media content through everyday social life, and demonstrated the continuing relevance of print in a world increasingly linked together by newer forms of media.

In the early years of commercial radio broadcasting in the United States, popular understandings of the new medium varied widely. Some optimistically heralded radio as the enabler of a new and better society. As one writer remarked in 1922, radio could “carry into the home nothing more important than the truth about those vital issues to decide which is to determine the course of...
This article recounts the media’s role in one of the more controversial military and diplomatic actions of the Second World War, the American decision to install Admiral Jean Darlan as head of the Vichyite administration in North Africa in the wake of the Allied landings in 1942. Darlan’s administration continued to enforce anti-Jewish directives, persecute political enemies, and indeed lock up many of those who had—at great personal risk—aided the Allies.

Journalists learned of these actions, but their initial attempts to report on them were spiked by military censors. Eventually several correspondents were able to get word of these injustices into their reports from the field, and American policy began to change. Drawing on the published memoirs of several of the main actors, as well as State Department, U.S. Army and other archival material, this article traces these events in more detail as reported by four correspondents on the scene—A.J. Liebling, Ernie Pyle, John MacVane, and Drew Middleton. It calls into question the assumed amity between the media and the military during World War II.

Both the media and the military—and historians of both—look back nostalgically to their relationship during World War II. As Peter Andrews has observed, “the years between 1941-1945 represented the high-water mark of cooperation between the military and the media, and the two worked together as closely as they were ever likely to do.” Similarly, James Tobin concludes in his introduction to Reporting America at War that “when leaders, soldiers, reporters and the public agree the purpose is worthy, and that violence in pursuit of the purpose is justified, as in World War II, then the soldiers and the reporters
Inez Callaway Robb, in her 50-year career as a reporter, society editor, WWII correspondent, and columnist, wrote more than 10,000 articles, syndicated to about 150 newspapers. By the 1950s, Inez Robb was a household name, and Robb was regularly billed as one of the world’s top newspaper women. Yet, few people know her name today, and scholars largely have overlooked Robb’s contributions to journalism. This biographical essay uncovers Robb’s life and writings, while considering the apparent contradiction of her work, corresponding from more than 40 countries around the world, while advocating traditional gender roles and opposing an Equal Rights Amendment.

Introduction

As a teenager whose parents refused to pay for silk stockings, Inez Callaway earned spending money writing society notes and proofreading copy for her local newspaper. It was 1916; she had never flown. The Idaho State Fair came to town, and a stunt pilot visited the Boise Capital News office in search of a passenger. The fifteen-year-old was the last one asked and the first to volunteer. She wrote about her barnstorming mission for the newspaper the next day, telling readers that flying was the only way a girl could stand on her head and still keep her dignity.¹

Described as a “hell-kitten,” “a regal lady of impeccable manners,” “an astringent-tongued newswoman,” and “a juggernaut in kid-gloves,” Inez Callaway Robb defied conventions and clung to them.² In her fifty-year career as a reporter, society editor, war correspondent, and columnist...
This study analyzes the advocacy role of a white university newspaper on behalf of African Americans and desegregation during the two decades prior to the modern civil rights movement. This analysis of the University of Missouri's student-run newspaper focuses on news and editorials in reaction to the early efforts of the NAACP to overturn the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson separate but equal doctrine. It was in the Missouri Student's backyard that the NAACP mounted its most significant challenge to desegregation in the United States to date with Gaines v. Canada in 1938. In one of the earliest school desegregation cases in American history, the United States Supreme Court ordered Missouri to either allow Lloyd Gaines into the University of Missouri School of Law or establish a law school at the state's only university for blacks. The Gaines decision would ultimately lead to the landmark Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka case in 1954. Starting with Gaines, the Student began a period of robust advocacy for desegregation before World War II, much earlier than the mainstream press took interest in the civil rights story. The Student's stance was noteworthy because the white press traditionally spoke to and for the dominant culture that sought to maintain the status quo.

In 1938, a handful of college journalism students used their editorial freedom to advocate what was at the time an unpopular cause: desegregation. In one of the earliest school desegregation cases in American history, the United States Supreme Court ordered Missouri to either allow African American Lloyd Gaines into the University of Mis.