Scene:

--Rich politicians wives gossiping around tea reading letters and reflecting on their opinions.

--In support of the Federalist party and candidate Rufus King

Woman 1:

Hello, I’m Mary Ann, and this is my partner and longtime friend Elizabeth Trist.

We are here today to discuss what my husband keeps calling the biggest strain of the upcoming 1816 election; womens participation in politics.

Elizabeth Trist:

Thanks Mary, yes in recent years women have been becoming increasingly involved with the politics of this country tearing the country apart between supporters and non-supporters.

Woman 1:

So Ms. Trist I understand you have a letter with you that you would like to share with us?

Elizabeth Trist:

Yes Mary, I received a letter from longtime friend Thomas Jefferson writing me from France. He said “Do not you turn politician, too, but write me all the small news; the news about persons and not about the states.”

Woman 1:

What does this mean Ms. Trist?

Elizabeth Trist:

Well I think we have a lot to learn from Mr. Jefferson being the influential man that he is these days. While I support my husband in the Federalist party, Mr. Jefferson makes a good point about staying out of politics; something i think more women should try to do. Im my opinion Mary, women should strive to engage not in politics, but instead in “republican motherhood.”

Woman 1:

And can you tell us exactly what “republican motherhood is”

Elizabeth Trist:

Yes of course. It is women taking more feminine roles and raising their kids at home while supporting their husbands while they are away. Since they spend the most time with them, woman should use that time to teach their boys of the value of freedom and republicanism. So you see, Mary, women have just as much political influence as their husbands, it just will show through their children when they grow up.

Woman 1:

Where do you think it came from, that women wanted to get involved with politics?

Elizabeth Trist:

Well I think a lot of it came from women because of the “natural rights” given to everyone, and women think that they should be included in that as well. But also women like Hannah Webster Foster and her book The Coquette influenced woman to wonder as well.

Woman 1:

What did she describe in her book?

Elizabeth Trist:

She created a fiction novel that had a scene in it where men and woman in it were at a social gathering discussing political issues together. Marry, I personally think a lot of woman read things like this and want to make the fiction into a reality.

Its not only just books either, Mary, its newspapers as well. So many women these days are educated and literate. Did you know that after the revolution there were about 50 newspapers by women? Well by 1800 that number became 250 papers. So you have to ask yourself if women are being influenced by all the books and papers or if they truly want to be more involved in politics.

Woman 1: Well thank you, Elizabeth. I think that is all we have time for today. I hope you have a great day, and it was great interviewing you.

Made by, Jon McEwen, Trey Trusevich, and Dylan Deflorio