

Name: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 9: War in Western Virginia
Section 4: Western Virginia and the American Revolution
The Attack on Fort Henry

Directions: Read the account of the heroism of Betty Zane that appeared in a Philadelphia newspaper. Then, answer the questions that follow in the space provided.

The powder became exhausted by reason of the long siege. In this emergency it became necessary to renew the stock from the abundant store in Col. Zane’s house.... It was proposed that one of the fleetest men should...obtain the powder and return to the fort. Col. Zane’s sister was in the fort and at once volunteered to bring the powder...On being told that one of the men would run less risk by reason of his fleetness, she replied — “Should he fall his loss would be more severely felt. You have no men to spare...” She was then told to go, and diverting herself of some heavy clothing, started out through the gate like a deer: The sight so amazed the (Indians) that they cried “squaw, squaw” and not a shot was fired at her. Arriving at the house, Col. Zane fastened a cloth about her waist, and poured into it a quantity of powder, when she again ventured out, the Indians now discovered the object of the “squaw” and bullet after bullet whizzed past her head. She reached the fort in safety, although a bullet hole was found in her dress.

1. What does this excerpt tell you about the role of women in colonial America? _____

2. How might the outcome of this historical event have been different if Betty Zane had not been the one to go for gunpowder? _____
