Assignment Sheet 7: “GENDER” IN AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
1. Because of Spring Vacation, there will be no class on March 20. We’ll discuss the readings below in the class on March 27.
2. A preliminary draft of your essay will be due on April 3, so plan your research, discussions with me, and writing to fit that schedule.
3. Melissa Stock and Amber Surmiller will lead the discussions of the two main essays in this week’s reading. I have added a general introduction to the use of the concept of gender in history (written for a women’s history reader, but we can apply it to the history of masculinity as well). The discussions of the two essays do not have to have gender as their primary focus, but they do include information that relates to gender roles.
4. An optional task is to consider which essays that we have previously read deal with gender roles (and/or other secondary material you have read for your own research) and what we can learn from how they discussed femininity and/or masculinity.

REQUIRED READING (available on electronic reserve)
Chapter recommended by Amanda Surmiller: Stephen M. Frank, “A Father’s Care” (a book introduction) and “Fatherhood in Colonial New England and the Early Republic”
Materials to be handed out in class: Jane Sherron De Hart and Linda K. Kerber, “Introduction: Gender and the New Women’s History” (focus on pages 10-17); some guidelines to help with writing and summations of Turabian

WEEKLY REPORT SHEET
1. Any thoughts, suggestions, and/or questions inspired by the last class and/or your meeting(s) with me.
2. For each assigned reading, after including the basic bibliographic information (for your future use), summarize BRIEFLY in your own words the main points and thesis, as well as your evaluation of the strengths and/or weaknesses of the essay. For the combined readings, indicate any thoughts and/or questions you have, including any terms you want us to discuss and any ideas they inspired about how to do your own research and analysis for this class.
3. What are your thoughts about the best ways for historians to define, research, and analyze the history and roles of “gender?”
4. In what ways do you think “gender” ideas and experiences might have affected your research topic?
5. Any new thoughts you have about your final paper and any reading or other work you did in connection to it.
6. Anything else you think I should know.