

# 18th Century Material Culture Laundry & Laundresses



# Laundresses



"The Laundress"  
by John Baptiste c.1730  
(Web Gallery of Art)



*Fait par Chardin*  
**LA BLANCHISSEUSE**  
*D'après le Tableau original, du Cabinet de M<sup>r</sup> Le Chevalier de la Roque, de 16 pouces  $\frac{1}{2}$  de large, sur 14 pouces de Haut.*  
*A Paris chez Basan Graveur rue du fou.*

“LA BLANCHISSEUSE” (“The Laundress”)  
by Francois Basan after Jean Baptiste Simeon Chardin 1739  
(The British Museum)



A French Washerwoman Seated  
by Louis Philippe Boitard c. 1733 - 1763  
(The British Museum)



ARTISANS.  
LE MAÇON ET LA BLANCHISSEUSE.

“ARTISANS.”

Undated - Likely Late 18th Century  
(Bunka Gakuen Library)



The Laundress  
by Giacomo Ceruti 1736  
(The Atheneum)



"The Laundress"  
by Pietro Longhi c. 1740  
(Art Renewal Center)



*Ge. Bickham pin. sculpsit.*

*How well the Motion with the Musick suits!  
So Orpheus tickled, and so charmed the Beasts*

The modern Orpheus  
by George Bickham 1745  
(Lewis Walpole Library)



The modern Orpheus  
by George Bickham 1745  
(Lewis Walpole Library)



Two Washerwomen  
by Paul Sandby 1742  
(The British Museum)



Scottish Washerwomen  
by Paul Sandby c. 1745  
(The British Museum)



The Letter  
by Pietro Longhi 1746  
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)



J. B. Huet del.

Jubier sculp.

## LES LAVEUSES,

*Tiré du Cabinet de Monsieur Vallé.*

*Paris, chez Bonnet, rue St Jacques, au coin de celle de la Parchominerie.*

“LES LAVEUSES.”

by C.L. Jubier, Published by Louis Marin Bonnet, After Jean Baptiste Huet c. 1760 - 1781  
(The British Museum)



Washer Woman at Sandpit Gate  
Paul Sandby c. 1765  
(The Royal Collection)



At Sandpit Gate  
by Paul Sandby  
(The Royal Collection)



Girl with a Bonnet at Work (Wash Tub or Basket)  
by Paul Sandby  
(National Gallery of Art, Washington)



Demarteau del.

*Tire du Cabinet de Madame Dazaincourt.*

*Paris chez Demarteau fils de la Harpe & la Harpe.*

“Tire du Cabinet de Madame Dazaincourt.”  
by Gilles Demarteau after Francois Boucher c. 1756 - 1776  
(The British Museum)



*La petite Lessive.*

*Paris chez la Citoyenne, rue de la Harpe, au Salon de la Citoyenne.*

77-56

“La petite Lessive.”  
by Louis Marin Bonnet after Francois Boucher c. 1760 - 1793  
(The British Museum)



The Laundress  
by Greuze 1761  
(University of Waterloo Library)



**“LA BLANCHISSEUSE.”**  
by Francois Boucher (1703 - 1770)  
(Art Institute Chicago)



"HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS"  
by John Collet  
(Colonial Williamsburg)



*Collett fecit.*  
London, Printed for R. Sayer, No. 51 Fleet Street, & J. Smith, No. 51 Cheap-side.

**HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS.**

*Caldwell sculp.*  
Published at the Art Store, 40 May 1772

“HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS”  
Printed for Jn. Smith & Robert Sayer, May, 1772  
(Colonial Williamsburg)



*La Lavandaja*

“La Lavandaja”  
by Nicolo Cavalli c. 1760 - 1770  
(The British Museum)



Illustration for Basedow's Elementary Work  
(Useful Occupations: Women's Work, Sewing, Spinning, Washing, Ironing, etc)

1770  
(LACMA)



“Miss White Clear Starcher to the Queen”  
by Unknown c. 1750 - 1780



“Domestick Employment STARCHING.”  
by Butler Clowes 1769  
(The British Museum)



*M<sup>rs</sup> Grosvenor Laundry Woman to the Queen*

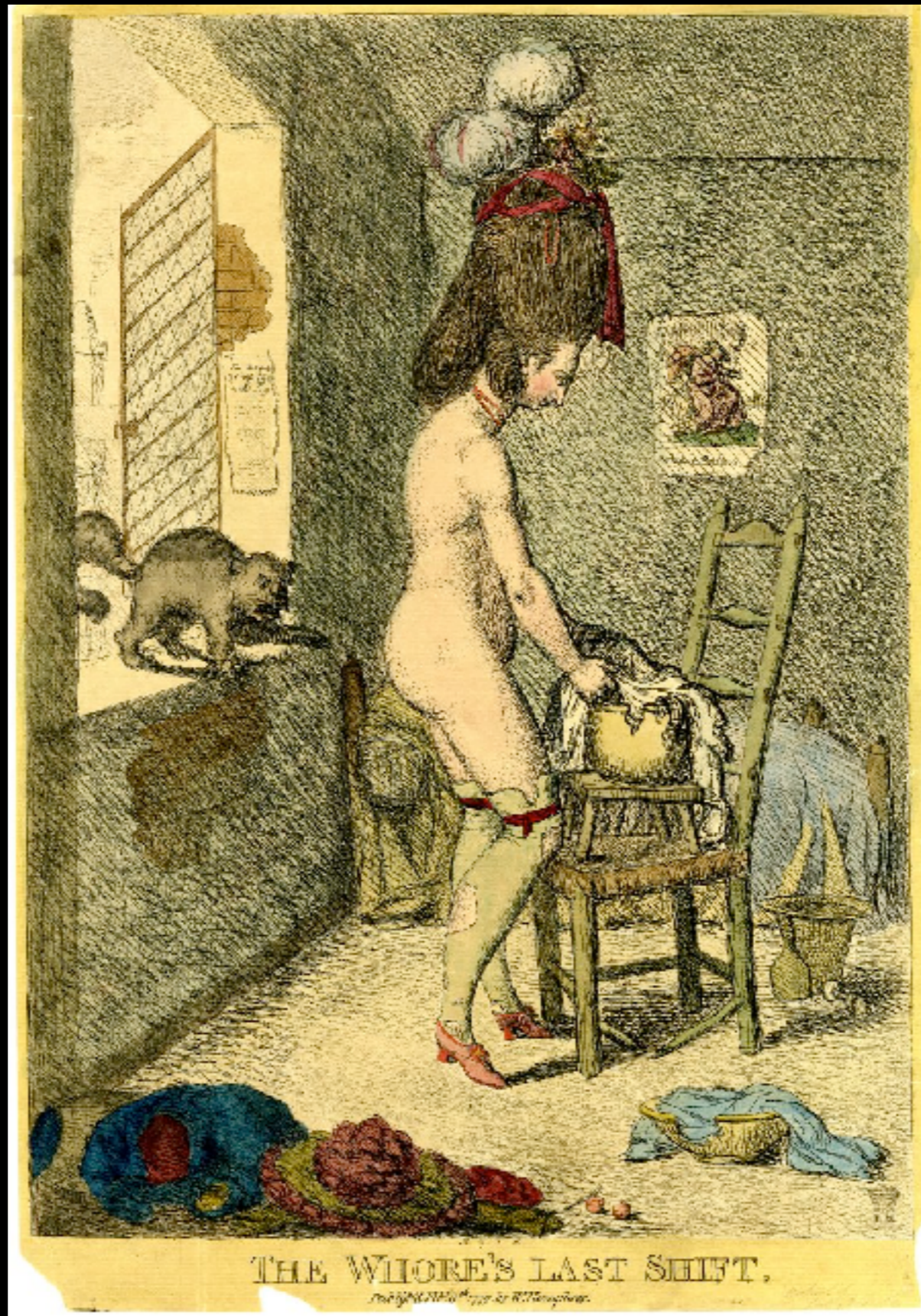
“Mrs Grosvenor Laundry Woman to the Queen”  
by Unknown c. 1750 - 1780  
(The British Museum)



“Domestick Employment Washing”  
by Richard Houston, after Philippe Mercier, Published by Robert Sayer c. 1736 - 1775  
(The British Museum)



“Domestick Employment Washing”  
by Richard Houston, after Philippe Mercier, Published by Robert Sayer c. 1736 - 1775  
(The British Museum)



**“THE WHORE’S LAST SHIFT”**

by James Gillray, Produced by William Humphrey 1779  
(The British Museum)



THE WHORE'S LAST SHIFT.

*Engraved by W. Humphrey.*

**“THE WHORE’S LAST SHIFT”**

by James Gillray, Produced by William Humphrey 1779  
(The British Museum)



Lady's Maid Soaping Linnen  
by Henry Robert Morland  
(Private Collection)



Lady's Maid Soaping Linnen  
by Henry Robert Morland (Died 1787)  
(University of Waterloo)



Lady's Maid Soaping Linnen  
by Henry Robert Morland c. 1765 - 1782  
(Tate)



Lady's Maid Soaping Linnen  
by Henry Robert Morland (Died 1787)  
(University of Waterloo)



Lady's Maid Soaping Linnen  
by Philip Dawe after Henry Robert Morland c. 1784  
(Private Collection)



“The Laundry Maid”  
by Sayer & Bennett 1774  
(Christie’s)

58-2-d



*Dillon delin.*

*London, Published 23 Oct. 1781 by John Harris Sweetings Alley, Cornhill.*

*R. Laurie Sculp.*

“FOUR VIEWS IN ESSEX / A View near Walthamstow”  
 by John Harris 1781  
 (Private Collection)



La Blanchisseuse (The Washerwoman)  
by Christoph Jakob Wilhelm Haller von Hallerstein c. 1785 - 1800  
(The British Museum)



La Blanchisseuse (The Washerwoman)  
by Christoph Jakob Wilhelm Haller von Hallerstein c. 1785 - 1800  
(The British Museum)



Halfway House / Sadler's Way  
by Paul Sandby c. 1780  
(Yale Center for British Art)



“SCOTCH WASHING”  
by Isaac Cruikshank c. 1780 - 1811  
(The British Museum)



SCOTCH WASHING

“SCOTCH WASHING”  
by Isaac Cruikshank c. 1780 - 1811  
(The British Museum)



“Washing with Ashes”  
by Julius Caesar Ibbetson Undated, Likely Late 18th Century  
(Yale Center for British Art)



LORD SOPESUDS *Washing fout Linen for the Good of the NATION.*  
*Publis'd April 1. 1782 by E. Dachery. N° 11. St. James's Street.*

“LORD SOPESUDS Washing fout Linen for the Good of the NATION”  
by E. Dachery 1782  
(Lewis Walpole Library)

LORD NO--H, IN THE SUDS.



For Taxing of Salt Tobacco and Soap.  
Some say that Lord No-th is deserving a Rope.

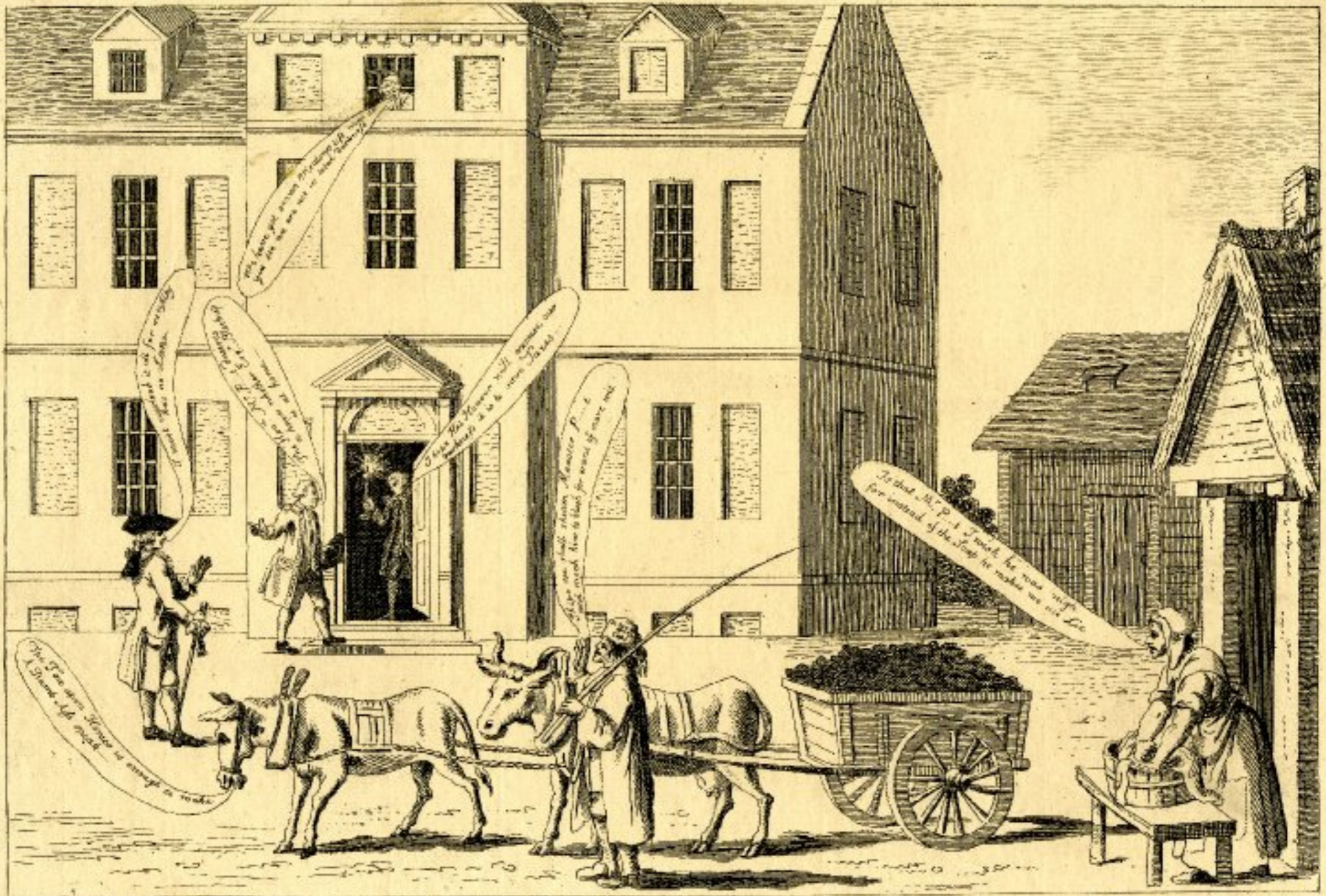
His Lordship you see he lies now in a Tub,  
While the old woman lathers & give him a Scrub.

Printed by T. Evans, Old and New Street, at 27, 1782. London.

"LORD N--H, IN THE SUDS"

by T. Evans 1782

(Lewis Walpole Library)



THE SAD AND DARK EFFECTS OF THE TAXES OF 1784

Published by S. Sparrow N<sup>o</sup> 17 Rosoman's Street Clerkenwell Price 6 pence.

Oct. 1. 1784

“THE SAD AND DARK EFFECTS OF THE TAXES OF 1784”  
 by S. Sparrow 1784  
 (The British Museum)



*A flourish bowm between two verdant trees  
Where lapses use to wash and spread their cloaths  
A trotting burnie whirling thro' the ground  
Its channel pebbles shining smooth and round*

*G. Morland del.*  
From the Scots Pastoral of the  
**GENTLE SHEPHERD.**

*London, Published Feb: 1785, by T. Bate, Ludgate Hill Street, & Rob: Dodd, Finsbury Field, Oxford Street.*

*Here view two barefoot beauties, clean and dear,  
First please your eye, next gratify your ear,  
While JENNY what she wishes disavows,  
And MEG, with better sense, true love defends.*

**“GENTLE SHEPHERD.”**  
by Robert Dowd, After George Morland 1785  
(The British Museum)



Brand del.

Ch. de Ligne sculp.

Group of German Washerwomen by a Lake  
by Charles, Prince de Ligne after Friedrich August Brand c. 1786 - 1787  
(The British Museum)



by Hubert Robert  
(b. 1733, Paris, d. 1808, Paris)



*Painted by G. Morland.*

*Engraved by W. Blake.*

**THE IDLE LAUNDRESS.**

*London, published & sold by J. P. & S. Smith, in 1788. Price 1/6. Printed & Sold by G. G. & J. P. in 1788.*

**“THE IDLE LAUNDRESS.”**  
by William Blake after George Morland 1788  
(The British Museum)



THE LAST SHIFT.

“THE LAST SHIFT”  
by Carington Bowles c. 1793  
(The British Museum)



Dutch Woman Hanging Laundry  
by Johannes Pieter de Frey after Jacobus Lauwers c. 1790  
(Philadelphia Museum of Art)



Hanging the Laundry  
by George Morland (1763 - 1804) Late 18th Century  
(Manor Auctions)



“Washing with Ashes”  
by Julius Caesar Ibbetson Late 18th Century  
(Yale Center for British Art)



French Washerwoman  
by Augustin de Saint-Aubin, Engraved by J. Laurent Late 18th Century  
(Private Collection)



The Laundresses  
by Louis Marc Antoine Biltog c. Late 18th Century  
(The Worcester Art Museum)



An Austrian Laundress

c. 1775

(Private Collection)



A Woman with Wash Tubs  
by John Varley (1778 - 1842) c. Late 18th - Early 19th Century  
(Tate)



A Woman with Wash Tubs  
by John Varley (1778 - 1842) c. Late 18th - Early 19th Century  
(Tate)



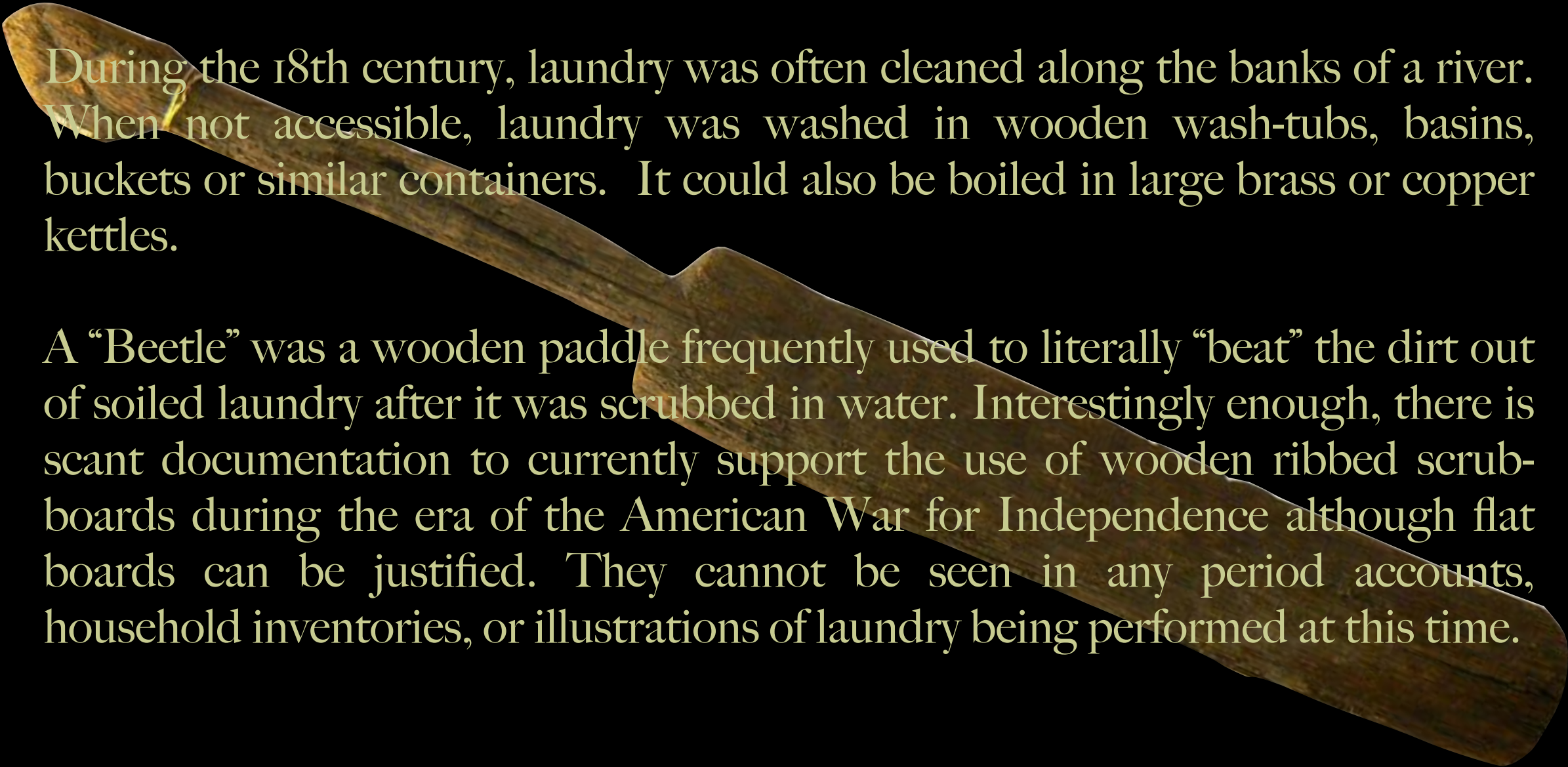
"One Who Washes the Light ..."  
by Per Hillström  
(Tate)



English Steel Snuff Box Depicting the Wringing out of Laundry "Wringing the Change"  
18th Century  
(Wooley & Wallis)

# Beetles / Bats

# Beetles / Bats

A long, narrow wooden paddle with a flat, slightly curved head and a long handle. The wood is dark and shows signs of use. The paddle is positioned diagonally across the page, with the head pointing towards the top left and the handle extending towards the bottom right.

During the 18th century, laundry was often cleaned along the banks of a river. When not accessible, laundry was washed in wooden wash-tubs, basins, buckets or similar containers. It could also be boiled in large brass or copper kettles.

A “Beetle” was a wooden paddle frequently used to literally “beat” the dirt out of soiled laundry after it was scrubbed in water. Interestingly enough, there is scant documentation to currently support the use of wooden ribbed scrub-boards during the era of the American War for Independence although flat boards can be justified. They cannot be seen in any period accounts, household inventories, or illustrations of laundry being performed at this time.



Lignum Vitae Laundry Bat  
Late 17th Century  
(Bonham's)



Dutch Fruitwood Laundry Bat Marked "ADW 1715"

1715  
(Bonham's)



English Elm Laundry Bat  
c. 1700 - 1800  
(Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery)



French (?) Laundry Bat  
Dated 1771  
(Knotty Pine Antiques)



Laundry "Beetle" Bat Revealing Lye Soap Erosion (63x7cm)  
18th Century  
(Lichfield Heritage Centre)



Laundry "Beetle" Bat  
Late 18th Century  
(Lichfield Heritage Centre)



Laundry "Beetle" Bat  
Late 18th - 19th Century  
(Private Collection)

# Wringers



Clothes Wringer  
c. 1780  
(New Hampshire Historical Society)

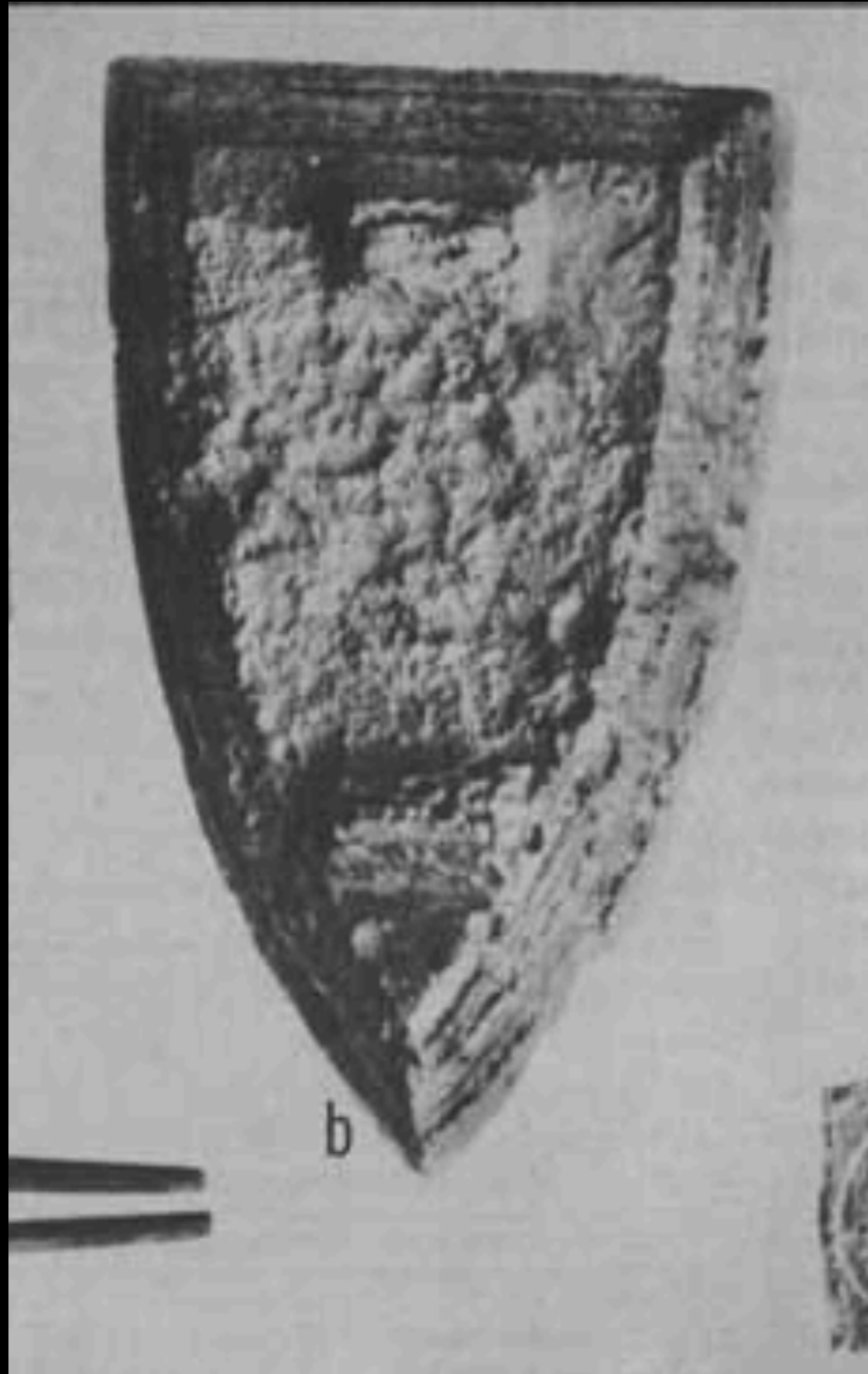
# Irons & Ironing



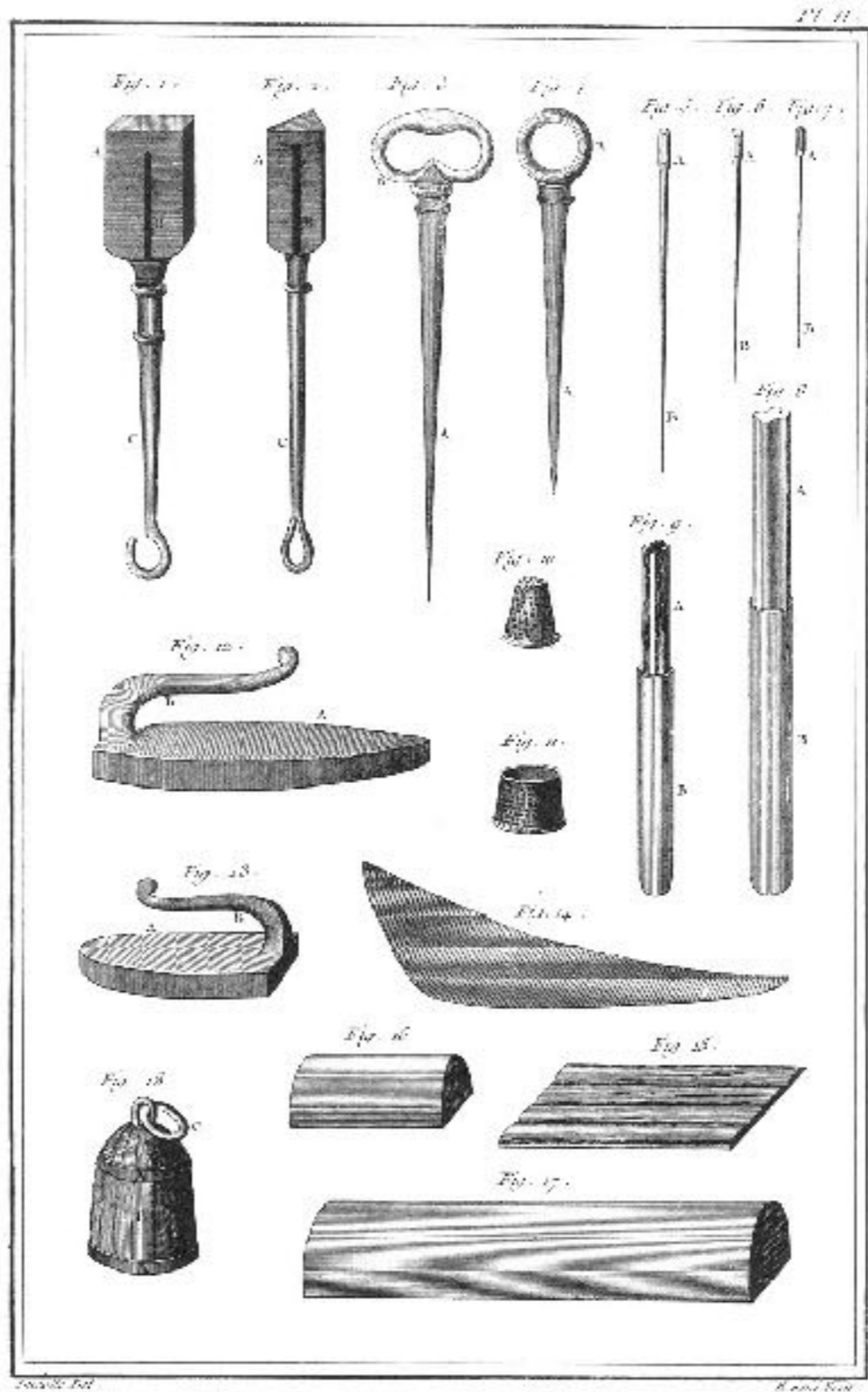
A Flat or "Sad" Clothes Iron  
Excavated at Jamestown Settlement



A Flat or "Sad" Tailor's Iron  
18th Century



A Flat or "Sad" Iron Cast Base  
Excavated from Fort Stanwix



Leveillé del.

A. and B. sculp.

*Tailleur d'Habits, outils.*

Examples of Flat or "Sad" Irons  
Diderot c. 1771



A Maid Ironing with a Box Iron  
by Henry Robert Morland  
(University of Waterloo)



A Maid Ironing with a Box Iron  
by Henry Robert Morland  
(University of Waterloo)



A Maid Ironing with a Box Iron  
by Henry Robert Morland  
(University of Waterloo)



An 18th Century Box Iron  
(Neal Hurst Collection)



An 18th Century Box Iron  
(Neal Hurst Collection)



An 18th Century Box Iron  
(Neal Hurst Collection)



An 18th Century Box Iron  
(Neal Hurst Collection)



Late 18th to Early 19th Century Goffering Irons



Iron Goffering Iron  
18th Century



English Brass, Iron, & Wood Goffering Iron  
Late 18th Century  
(Skinner)



English Brass & Iron Goffering Iron  
c. 1760

# Military Laundry



*The CAMP Laundry.*

London, Printed and Sold by Sayer & Bennett, in Pall Mall, in the Year 1782.

“The CAMP Laundry”  
Published by Sayer & Bennett, London 1782  
(The British Museum)



Flourish Text

The Laundress

A distant View of Lord Peter's House by from Hyde Park 1780  
Engraved on the ditto sheets by P. Sandby 1780

VIII

“The Laundress”  
by Paul Sandby 1780  
(The British Museum)



"The Laundress"  
by James Malton, After Paul Sandby 1785  
(The British Museum)



Private, H.M. 16th Light Dragoons  
by Paul Sandby c. 1780  
(John Nicholsons)



"The Jolly Landlady in Hyde Park 1780"  
A Female Sutler Booth by Paul Sandby  
(The Royal Collection)



"The Jolly Landlady in Hyde Park 1780"  
A Female Sutler Booth by Paul Sandby  
(The Royal Collection)



Sutler Booth in Hyde Park 1780  
by Paul Sandby  
(Private Collection)



"A Military Encampment in the Green Park"  
by Edward Eyre 1780  
(Ann S.K. Brown Collection / Brown University)



"A Military Encampment in the Green Park"  
by Edward Eyre 1780  
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*Encampment of the Loyalists at Johnston, a New Settlement, on the Banks of the River St. Lawrence in Canada, taken from the Plan*

Encampment of the Loyalists at Johnston, A New Settlement on the Banks of the River St. Lawrence in Canada  
June 6 1784  
(Public Archives of Canada)



Encampment of the Loyalists at Johnston, A New Settlement on the Banks of the River St. Lawrence in Canada

Encampment of the Loyalists at Johnston, A New Settlement on the Banks of the River St. Lawrence in Canada  
June 6 1784  
(Public Archives of Canada)

# Acknowledgements

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