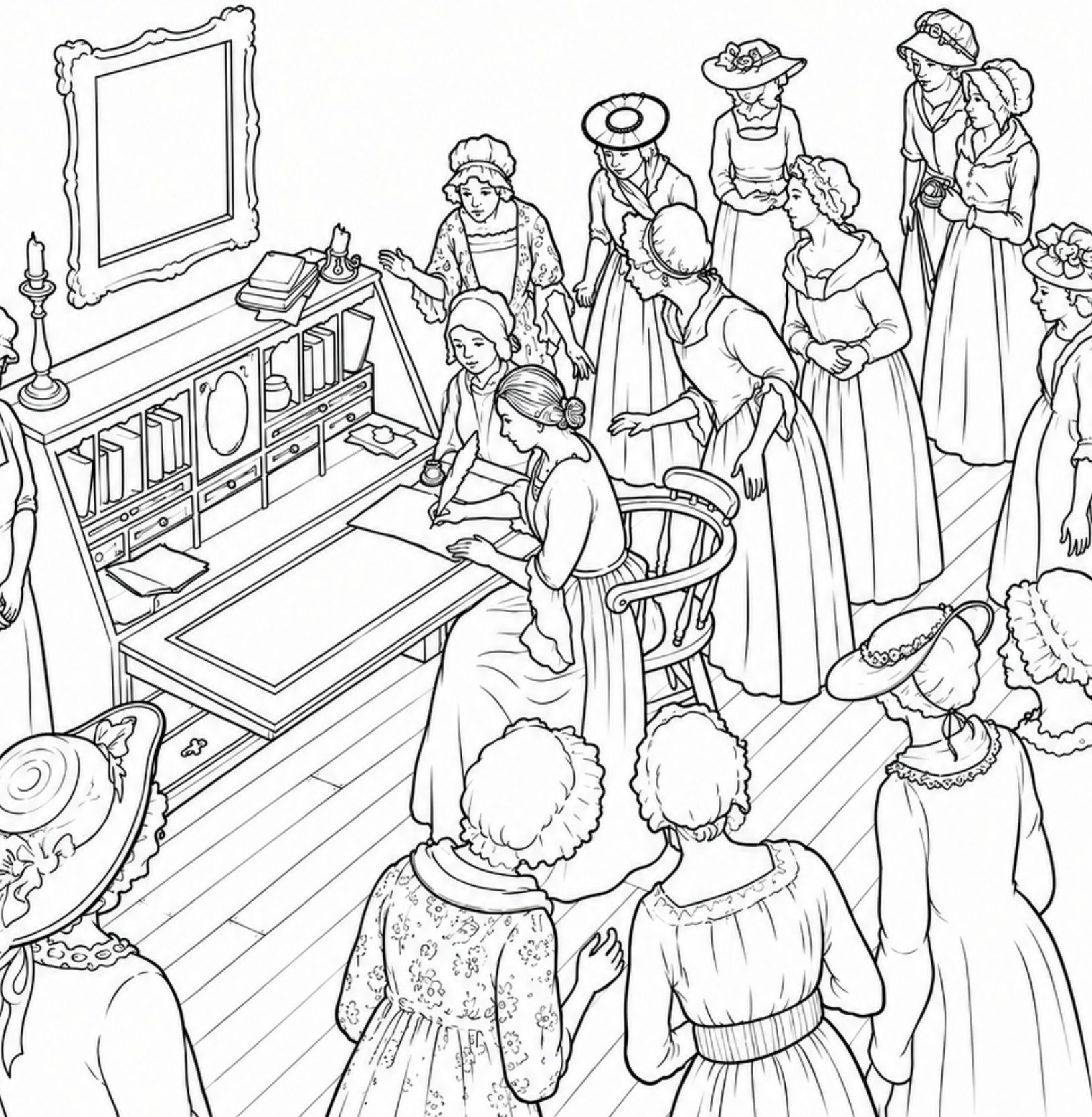


Within Our Power

The Story of the Edenton Ladies' Tea Party

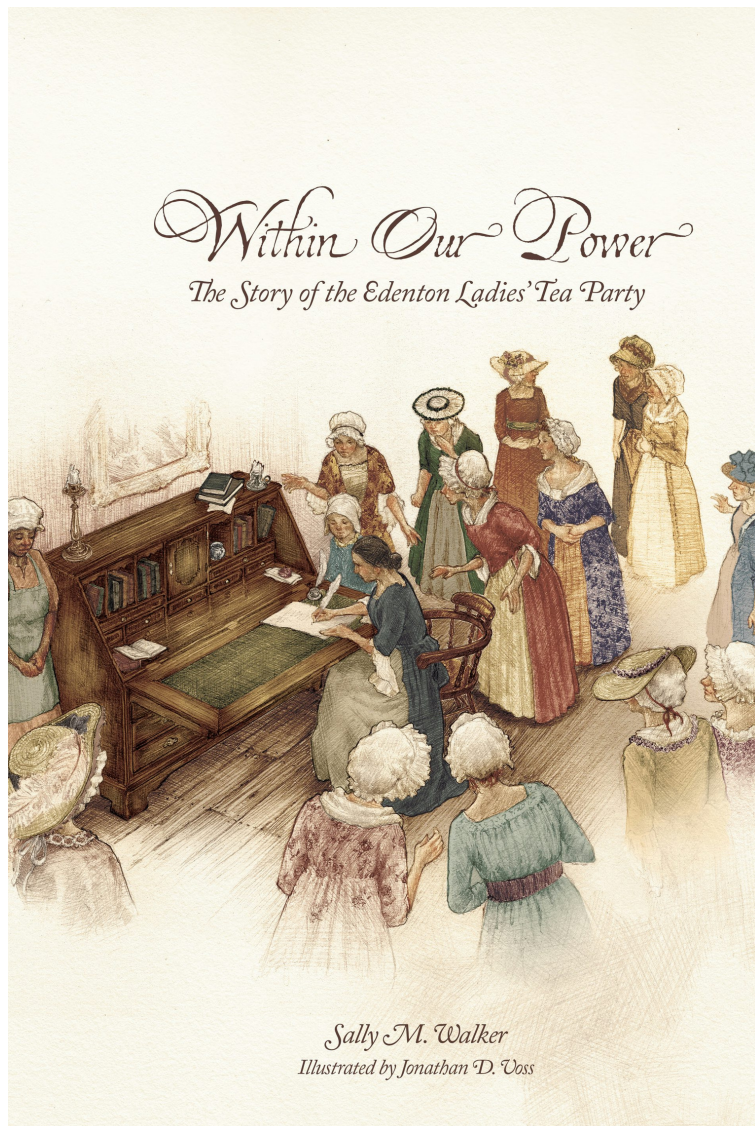


The History Behind *Within Our Power*

Inspired by the true story of the Edenton Resolves

Before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, many colonists were upset at Britain's taxes, rules, and regulations. One famous protest was the **Boston Tea Party**. In December 1773, disguised colonists threw imported tea into Boston Harbor. This action showed that colonists would boycott taxed goods. However, the **British Parliament** only tightened the rules on the colonists.

In October 1774, 51 North Carolina women took a stand against **taxation without representation**. They wrote their own **resolves** to boycott all British goods until they felt fair treatment. Britain treated the colonists fairly. The ladies signed their own names on the document and sent it to London. Some British newspapers printed the demands and ridiculed the colonists.



Did you know?

The Edenton Tea Party is one of the earliest documented political actions organized by colonial American women.

Despite often being called the **Edenton Tea Party** the women did not actually host a party. There is no evidence of a large gathering, and it is much more likely that the women signed the resolves at different times, over days or even weeks. Perhaps the best-known image of the Edenton “Tea Party” comes from **British cartoonist Philip Dawe**. His art was meant to make fun of the women.



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