Cross Dressing in Early America: A Course in Transgressive Figures Before 1865

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This essay, included in Curricular Innovations: LGBTQ Literatures and the New English Studies, provides a sample undergraduate course featuring narratives about cross-dressing figures, both real and fictionalized, from early America. Utilizing contemporary queer theory and a variety of genres of early American texts (biographies, visual depictions, sea shanties, and fictionalized "pulp" narratives), this essay contributes a historic, pre-20th century LGBTQ+ perspective to undergraduate American literature surveys or seminars.