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Nota di contenuto	Introduction : bachelors in early America -- "Unmarried men are best friends, best masters, best servants" : singles in early colonial America -- "If a single man and able he shall make satisfaction" : the bachelor laws -- "Every one of them shall be chained about the middle to a post like a monkey" : literary representations of the bachelor -- "I resolve to live a bachelor while I remain in this wicked country" : living single in early America -- "The bachelor is the only free man" : the single man and the American Revolution -- Epilogue : bachelors since 1800 -- Appendix : singles' laws, 1500-1800.