

BOOK REVIEWS

Charles Morse Stotz. *Outposts of the War for Empire: The French and English in Western Pennsylvania: Their Armies, Their Forts, Their People, 1749–1764*. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005. Pp. ix, 203, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth \$65.00)

With the 250th anniversary of the Seven Years' War now arrived, the University of Pittsburgh Press has taken the opportunity to republish the original 1985 edition of Charles Morse Stotz's *Outposts of the War for Empire*, with a new foreword by Andrew E. Masich and David F. Halass. Stotz, an architect rather than an historian by trade, became the leading expert in the design of frontier forts through his participation in the excavation and reconstruction of Fort Ligonier and Fort Pitt, and his expertise is clearly revealed in this work.

The first section of the work provides a chronological overview of the conflict in western Pennsylvania, from the arrival of the French in 1749 to the end of Pontiac's War in 1764. It begins

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with a discussion of Céloron's expedition to the Ohio country in 1749 and then studies the growth of the Ohio Company and the fur trade, and the role of the two in promoting the conflict between England and France. There follows a relatively brief narrative of the major military campaigns on the frontier, liberally illustrated with contemporary maps of the west. The section ends with a discussion of Pontiac's War and Bouquet's 1764 march to the Muskingum River.

The second part of the work provides a detailed discussion of the construction and nature of the frontier forts built during this period. Stotz begins by considering European ideas of fortification and demonstrates how these influenced the design of frontier forts in Pennsylvania. He then illustrates the planning and the labor used to construct Pennsylvania's forts. Perhaps the most important part of this work is where Stotz provides a detailed analysis of the major, influential frontier forts in western Pennsylvania and the surrounding region—for instance Stotz provides detail of Fort Niagara in New York and Fort Cumberland in Maryland. This includes French, British, and provincial forts, and that range in size from the substantial fortifications at Fort Pitt to the more modest construction of Fort Necessity. Stotz, however, examines only three Pennsylvania provincial forts, Burd, Augusta, and Allen, and there is no mention of the many private fortified blockhouses which dotted the frontier. This section contains a mass of impressive detail about the layout, construction and history of each of these posts and is illustrated with both contemporary drawings and large full-page aerial reconstructions of the forts.

The third and final section of the work is devoted solely to the reconstruction of Fort Ligonier. Stotz details his personal experiences in uncovering the fort's original layout and the struggle to reconstruct it. This section is profusely illustrated with photographs of the modern reconstruction and eighteenth century architectural plans.

Unfortunately, the historiography has changed greatly in the years since the work's original publication and some of Stotz's general comments now seem now rather dated. This is especially true in his description of Native American relations. Stotz, for instance, views the fur trade almost exclusively in economic terms and argues simply that the French were "temperamentally better able than the English to understand the Indians" (18). It is a particular shame that the press did not update the bibliography to reflect the recent flurry of scholarship on the Seven Years' War. Nevertheless, the text still contains much valuable material. In particular, Stotz makes many important conclusions about the day-to-day lives of troops and the problems of

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supplying a frontier army. It is in these details that this work remains unsurpassed. The work portrays exactly how Pennsylvania's frontier forts looked, their construction techniques, and what life was like for the men who garrisoned them. It also demonstrates that these forts were much more than purely military installations. They also served as centers for local trade, commerce and farming.

The other great importance of this work lies in its wonderful illustrations. With several color maps and illustrations, eighteenth-century maps and engravings, original engineer's drawings, Stotz's own detailed architectural reconstructions of the forts, and photographs from the 1960s and 1970s, the illustrations provide as much information as the text. This still remains an important work and certainly worthy of republication. For those with either an interest in the French and Indian War on the Pennsylvania frontier, or more specifically in the nature of life in the colony's frontier forts, this is a work worthy of study.

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Carol Berkin. *Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. Pp. xviii, 194, notes, acknowledgments, index. Cloth \$24.00).

This is one of the more recent entries in the publishing phenomenon called founders' chic: an outpouring of popular biographies and group portraits of the heroic founding generation, the fathers of the new nation. Women get short shrift in most of these new accounts of the politically prominent. Carol Berkin, however, has written a lively addition to this genre in a mass-marketed book on women aimed at a popular audience. Despite the title, it is not about mothers or motherhood, except in the sense that Berkin has identified heroic female equivalents to those virtuous founding fathers. The book has short chapters and little scholarly apparatus to interfere with what is essentially an inspiring, upbeat story of women's experiences in the war and of their contributions to the new nation. It is more serious than Cokie Roberts' similarly titled volume, *Founding Mothers* (2004), and thankfully omits the recipes that close that book.