

#### BOOK REVIEWS

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.

MATTHEW C. WARD  
*University of Dundee*

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.

Readers of *Revolutionary Mothers* briefly receive an introduction to some of the concepts that frame current research on early American women: gender, republicanism, feme covert legal status, the ambiguities of female citizenship, separate and overlapping spheres, the salience of race, the rise of refinement, the creation of public opinion, and the emerging feminism of post-war women intellectuals. Still, this book has an old-fashioned feel, despite the quick glosses of current methodology, and it is the lives, experiences, gendered roles, and changing attitudes of urban, elite white women that drive the narrative. Despite the claim that “their stories are told separately in order to avoid treating them as detours, or deviations (p. xvii),” Berkin examines poor women, rural women, enslaved and newly freed women, and Native American women in separate chapters, though their wartime decisions, thoughts, and activities are counterpoints rather than central to book’s trajectory. The narrative’s basic plot line was from the “ideal woman of the [seventeenth-century] farmhouse—obedient, faithful, frugal, fertile, and industrious—[to] the ideal woman of the eighteenth-century parlor—obedient, charming, chaste, and modest” (p. 9). After the revolution, rational, but still decorous, “republican mothers would nurture republican children” (p. 155). There is no doubt that these changes occurred and were important to many women, but it is also the case that large numbers experienced the events of the late eighteenth century quite differently. Some were unaffected or negatively affected by expectations of gentility and republican motherhood.

Berkin draws primarily on the standard secondary literature, so that historians who have read the works of Mary Beth Norton, Linda Kerber, Marylynn Salmon, Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Elaine Crane, Ira Berlin, or even Elizabeth Ellet will find little new in this book. Even the cited primary sources are likely to be familiar. There are no references to such prominent scholars of the period as Jan Lewis, Susan Stabile, Cathy Davidson, Darlene Clark Hine, Susan Branson, or Karin Wulf. The chapter on African Americans could have benefited from the work of Debra L. Newman (Ham) on Philadelphia women and the women who absconded from their masters during the war, as well as some of the interesting recent dissertations on women in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City. The material on Native American women is also thin. Readers of this journal and its supplements could point to the valuable work of Alison Duncan Hirsch on Madame Montour and Jane Merritt on women’s relationships across cultural boundaries, among other articles, that add considerable depth to the study of Native American women and the Revolution.

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*Revolutionary Mothers* is an easy read, a good quick introduction to some of the prominent women activists, writers, and American and British patriots of the late eighteenth century. It is a welcome synthesis of some of the scholarship of the last quarter century, particularly of the older works. It would work well in high schools and perhaps as one supplementary text in the first half of the U.S. survey. *Revolutionary Mothers* also points to the need for a new scholarly synthesis of women and revolution—a history that will recapture the full diversity of early America's women and the complicated consequences of an organized political and military war for independence and an inadvertent social and cultural revolution.

SUSAN E. KLEPP  
*Temple University*

Kent Masterson Brown. *Retreat from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics & the Pennsylvania Campaign*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005. Pp. x, 534, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth \$45.00)

To most students of the Civil War the battle of Gettysburg ends with Pickett's Charge and a defeat for Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Ken Masterson Brown presents a slightly different interpretation. Brown contends that when Lee invaded Pennsylvania he may have had thoughts about European intervention, Northern unrest, and the destruction of the Army of the Potomac, which, he hoped, would end the war, but "his objectives for the invasion of Pennsylvania appear to have been nothing more complicated than to feed and equip his army and to keep it intact" (p. 16). Though Lee suffered a costly tactical defeat at Gettysburg, Brown argues that, in reality, he achieved a general success. The successful retreat of the Army of Northern Virginia, with the vast fodder, stores, and food, enabled the Southern Army to survive. Brown further contends that "Gettysburg cannot be viewed as the turning point of the Civil War or even a turning point of the eastern theater of war after Lee's remarkable retreat" (p. 390).

Although the author's contentions are somewhat controversial he does an outstanding job of proving his thesis. This book is the culmination of 20 years of research and Brown uses many newly uncovered records documenting material confiscated by the Army of Northern Virginia. He presents a graphic picture of the heroic work done in Confederate hospitals and the Herculean