

BOOK REVIEWS

R. William Weisberger, Dennis P. Hupchick, and David L. Anderson, eds. *Profiles of Revolutionaries in Atlantic History, 1700–1850*. (Boulder: Social Science Monographs, 2007. Pp. vi, 338, notes, index. Cloth, \$40.00.)

R. William Weisberger and his fellow editors have cast a very wide net in defining Atlantic history. The inclusion of American, Haitian, Mexican, Irish, and French revolutionaries, among others, will strike many as appropriate. Profiles of those from Hungary, Poland, and Russia may be more unexpected. While this ambitious attempt to combine biography with Atlantic studies is a worthwhile effort, not all the chapters are at the same level. Still, this journal's readers will find several essays that deal directly with the Mid-Atlantic and others that provide a global perspective to topics relating to the region.

Weisberger opens the work with an introduction that identifies a number of major themes that link the profiles. These include consumerism, nationalism, republicanism, liberalism, and the role of printers and freemasons in promoting revolutionary

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ideas. The following fifteen chapters, written by various scholars, span one hundred and fifty years and three continents, and can be grouped into broad overlapping categories. The first of these is printers and writers, demonstrating the power of words. One of the book's best profiles is William Pencak's thoughtful "Benjamin Franklin: The Many Faces of an American Revolutionary." Pencak portrays Franklin as a "Trickster," who adopted multiple literary personas—"men, women, blacks, whites, and people from different classes and continents"—to draw attention to social prejudices and foibles (59). Franklin had common men and women, such as Obadiah Plainman and Silence Dogood, speak sensibly, while elites raved tyrannically while defending such institutions as slavery. Pencak concludes, however, that later in life Franklin and his heirs became the very aristocrats that he so frequently mocked as a young man. Roy E. Goodman's chapter on Hezekiah Niles fits well with the one on Franklin. According to Goodman, during an era when most newspapers were short-lived and financially risky, Niles's influential *Weekly Register* stood apart. From 1811 to 1849 its four thousand subscribers read about domestic political issues, revolution in the Atlantic world, and a variety of technological innovations on its pages. The *Register* reached even more people as other newspapers frequently quoted its strong content. While Franklin poked fun at aristocrats and Niles reported news, John Mitchel's incendiary writings helped provoke revolution in Ireland in 1848. Mitchel and other members of Young Ireland blamed Britain for the Great Famine and its tragic results. Arrested and banished, Mitchel eventually settled in the United States, started a newspaper, and supported the southern cause during the Civil War. Others writers who appear in this volume include the revolutionary-minded poets Lord Byron and Alexander Pushkin. The latter's profile contains an interesting analysis of how the image of Pushkin and freemasonry have changed in Russia, especially following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Other chapters focus on military leaders, including George Washington, Toussaint Louverture, Padre Miguel Hidalgo, and José Francisco de San Martín. Readers will find parallels and major differences in their portrayals. Richard A. Rutyna's characterization of Washington as a republican nationalist who helped free the United States from Great Britain is similar to Joan E. Suppee's description of San Martín's campaigns in Argentina, Chile, and Peru. Interestingly, both men possessed prior military service with the same colonial power against which they later led successful

operations. Beyond that, both men then voluntarily laid down the sword, unlike the enigmatic Louverture. David Greggus provides a strong account of Louverture's complex role in Haitian independence. This aristocratic former slave both cooperated with and fought against France, Spain, and England to achieve his goals. He also played an important but indirect role in abolishing slavery, yet at times favored reviving the slave trade. Greggus concludes that Louverture was a "strange type of radical" who "Haitians remember ... as the architect of their freedom from slavery and colonial rule, and as the first of a long line of dictators" (131). Conversely, Mexican Padre Hidalgo, the most revolutionary of the four soldiers, truly sympathized with oppressed Indians and mestizoes and fought for their freedom, but was a disastrous military commander.

A final group of essays can be generally classified as those dealing with diplomats and politicians. The best of these are Seymour Drescher's study of Alexis de Tocqueville and Steven Béla Várdy's take on Louis Kossuth. Remembered in the United States for his *Democracy in America*, the conservative Tocqueville came to believe in universal male suffrage. While drafting the 1848 French constitution, Tocqueville unsuccessfully attempted to end the cycles of revolution and repression that swept France and finally concluded that both the right and the left threatened stability. Várdy provides a fascinating account of Kossuth's 1851–1852 visit to America to gain support for Hungarian independence. Although initially welcomed by many, Kossuth alienated Americans by suggesting that they abandon George Washington's warning about intervening in Europe. Kossuth also earned the enmity of abolitionists for not condemning slavery, because he did not want to alienate Southerners to his cause.

This book possesses a number of strengths. Nearly every essay contains a historiographic section that discusses the changing interpretations of the subject. Furthermore, the editors have included a broad range of revolutionaries including conservatives, radical ideologues, and participants in the scientific and industrial revolutions. Still, *Profiles of Revolutionaries in Atlantic History* suffers from a few shortcomings. The volume would have benefited from the inclusion of several maps and illustrations. These would give readers a visual sense of the people and places mentioned in the chapters, especially those narrating military campaigns. The book also needs greater coverage of women revolutionaries. It contains only one chapter on a woman, Molly Pitcher, and it is a scant two pages.

Perhaps the author should have broadened the essay to include Deborah Sampson and other American Revolutionary women. Furthermore, the inclusion of additional chapters on women, such as Mary Wollstonecraft or Lucretia Mott, would have given the work another dimension. Finally, the book contains a number of typographical mistakes, even in the table of contents. Despite these criticisms, this eclectic selection of revolutionaries has something to offer those interested in Atlantic studies or comparative revolutions.

MICHAEL P. GABRIEL

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

Paul B. Moyer. *Wild Yankees: The Struggle for Independence along Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Frontier*. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007. Pp. xvi, 216. Maps, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth, \$39.95.)

Wild Yankees: The Struggle for Independence Along Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Frontier is a highly readable account of the turmoil in Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley from the 1750s to the early 1800s. Paul B. Moyer characterizes the events as a farmer's revolution, and his key argument is that the contest over control of northeastern Pennsylvania (commonly referred to as the Yankee-Pennamite Wars) was part of a larger pattern of agrarian unrest that paralleled the Regulator Movement in North Carolina in the 1770s, Shays's Rebellion in western Massachusetts in the mid-1780s, and the Whiskey Rebellion in southwestern Pennsylvania in the 1790s. In the upper Susquehanna Valley, however, the resistance lasted far longer than the others and, in fact, evolved over time from merely a fight for land between Connecticut settlers (Yankees) and Pennsylvania pioneers (Pennamites) to a well-organized response that included using the judicial system to undermine the Pennsylvania government's efforts to assert control over the region.

Throughout the volume, Moyer argues that this battle for the control of the soil was a "power struggle" that "ultimately hinged on a battle over allegiance" (39). In addition, the Wyoming Controversy was both a "straightforward jurisdictional dispute between Pennsylvania and Connecticut" and a clash "fueled by contention between backcountry inhabitants who wished to exercise power locally and outside officials who