

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.

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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

attempted to direct affairs along the frontier" (39). Possession of the land empowered the Connecticut settlers to respond to threats to their sovereignty, and the response often was bloody and violent—including assaults on people, attacks on property, and the destruction of crops and livestock. The Yankee-Pennamite Wars, then, were more than military conflicts; they were part of a larger social and economic upheaval along Pennsylvania's frontier in the late eighteenth century.

During the War for Independence, according to Moyer, the unrest in the Wyoming Valley became more than a fight for land ownership. This region saw racial violence with the Battle of Wyoming (in which Natives and Loyalists killed or captured hundreds of Connecticut claimants, destroyed their homes and crops, and chased away their livestock) and Sullivan's Expedition (which responded by destroying native villages and killing women and children). Yankees viewed the Pennamites as loyal to England because they did not oppose the attacks on Connecticut villages (overlooking the fact that some of the Pennamites were pacifist Quakers who did not support either side). Additionally, ethnic divisions among the colonists (the Yankees were English, the Pennamites were German and Scots-Irish) contributed to the animosity, as did differences in types of local government (town in Connecticut, county in Pennsylvania). Still, according to Moyer, the conflict over authority and allegiance took a back seat to maintaining control over the soil.

Following the Revolution, lawyers hired by Connecticut and Pennsylvania argued over jurisdiction in the region before a national court in Trenton, New Jersey. The verdict, known as the Trenton Decree, supported Pennsylvania's claims to the region, mainly because Pennsylvania officials produced a series of legitimate purchases from the Natives Americans to substantiate their claim. This decision, according to Moyer, merely reinforced the Yankees' desire to hold onto the territory and led to greater tension. In fact, he argues, the Susquehannah Company changed from an agency intent on settling people in Pennsylvania to one that instigated frontier violence and encouraged land speculation following this decision. Settlers who came after the 1784 Trenton Decree purchased tracts that were half the size of previous allotments (and thus became known as "Half-Share" men), and it was this group that Moyer calls "Wild Yankees" as they fought to hold onto their illegal land claims.

By the turn of the nineteenth century, Yankee resistance depended on the combined efforts of Connecticut settlers and Susquehannah Company

speculators to resist the attempts of the Pennsylvania government to remove them. From 1787 to 1801, the Pennsylvania Assembly passed a series of laws designed to recognize the deeds of Connecticut settlers who arrived before the Trenton Decree and to provide a way for the Yankees to purchase Pennsylvania titles to their land. These laws, according to Moyer, further aggravated the “Wild Yankees,” whose titles were not legitimized, and it was these settlers who continued the violence along the frontier. The resistance, on the other hand, also included influencing the outcome of lawsuits related to land titles, as these settlers served on Luzerne County juries and supported pro-Connecticut candidates in elections. With the passage of the Territorial Act in 1801, which prohibited individuals holding Connecticut titles from serving as judges or jurors in cases related to the Connecticut claims, the Pennsylvania Assembly stripped the “Wild Yankees” of their most common mechanism to disrupt Pennsylvania’s attempts to assert control over its territory. The notion of agrarian independence that spurred the Yankees’ resistance waned following the passage of the Territorial Act, and the Susquehannah and Delaware Companies became advocates for accommodation instead of proponents of resistance, although Connecticut claimants who cooperated with Pennsylvania officials still experienced intimidation.

Overall, Paul B. Moyer’s *Wild Yankees* is a vivid account of the turmoil along Pennsylvania’s northeastern frontier from the mid-eighteenth century into the early nineteenth century. One of the strong points of this volume is its effective use of primary sources, most notably *The Susquehannah Company Papers*, to tell the stories of the Connecticut settlers who chose to make this region their new home during this era. In addition, Moyer personalizes the violence along the frontier by relating the experiences of individuals, most notably Northumberland County magistrate David Mead and Luzerne County county clerk Timothy Pickering, as they confronted the attacks of the “Wild Yankees”—Mead’s property was destroyed and his farmhands assaulted, while the “Wild Yankees” kidnapped Pickering, hoping to exchange him for John Franklin, one of their leaders who Pennsylvania authorities had imprisoned in Philadelphia. *Wild Yankees* certainly is an important contribution to the literature of the American Revolution in Pennsylvania, and it is a volume that anyone interested in frontier settlement, ethnic conflict, and Pennsylvania history should read.

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