

a southern concern. On a similar note, the failure to include any mention of such contentious, but historically important issues in the book's unduly sparse index may suggest a desire by the publisher to downplay controversial aspects of the Murphy's story.

In making his argument about the importance of Murphy's as a window into American business history, Togyer uses a strong, though somewhat dated, secondary source base to connect the evolution of the company to broader social and cultural changes. The author's analysis may have benefitted also from the inclusion of recent urban history scholarship on the links between retailers and the evolution of the central business district. Alison Isenberg's *Downtown America: A History of the Place and the People Who Made It* (University of Chicago Press, 2004), for example, argues that chain stores such as Murphy's were instrumental in refashioning the form and function of downtowns around the perceived interests of middle-class white female shoppers.

In the end, Togyer provides compelling evidence that were it not for the particular political economy of the 1980s, G. C. Murphy's brand of service-oriented salesmanship may have weathered financial difficulties and perhaps provided competition for Walmart, Target, and the like. *For the Love of Murphy's* is a timely addition to the literature of American retailing that bridges the divide between the coffee table and the college library. Its blend of excellent writing, wonderful images, and an extensive grounding in oral history will please scholars, former employees, and nostalgic customers alike.

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John A. Nagy. *Rebellion in the Ranks: Mutinies of the American Revolution*. (Yardley, PA: Westholme Publishing, 2008. Pp. xix, 386, illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth, \$29.95.)

John A. Nagy does not claim that his history of mutinies during the American Revolutionary War is exhaustive, but rather representative of hundreds of mutinous incidents, both large and small. At the outset, he indicates that "Hollywood history has led us to think that mutinies are strictly a naval event." However, states Nagy, "[g]roups of men, usually armed, acting

in defiance of authority happened both on land and at sea" (xv). With the exception of two chapters that describe uprisings on patriot naval vessels, the bulk of this volume focuses on soldier mutinies, in most instances involving Continentals.

At the outset, Nagy takes note that about six percent of all recorded patriot courts martial involved allegations of mutinous behavior. He observes that the largest-scale mutinies occurred later in the war when essential supplies, especially food and clothing, too often were lacking or non-existent. Early on, by comparison, mutinies were usually smaller in scale and involved some type of defiance toward command authority. Nagy's first chapter, "Break Open the Guardhouse," thus recounts command and control mutinies while eight chapters (65–166), more than a third of the text, narrate in some detail the famous uprising of the Pennsylvania line in January 1781. Other chapters look at mutinies during the southern campaigns of 1780–83, the threatened Newburgh Conspiracy coup of 1782–83, and a smattering of British and Hessian mutinies, among many other instances of insubordinate soldierly behavior during the Revolutionary War.

In regard to primary sources, Nagy points out that surviving records are often not only incomplete but also make little or no distinction between what might be depicted as minor cases of soldierly disobedience and insubordination, on one hand, and more consequential acts of mutinous behavior, on the other hand. Rather than offering a clear definition of what he means by the term *mutiny*, Nagy seems to add to this descriptive muddle by not making basic distinctions among the large number of incidents that he presents, most of which fell well below the mark of forcible attempts to overturn constituted command authority. Had Nagy offered some form of a working definition, he might have saved his readers the annoyance of trying to separate so many trivial acts of disobedience from mutinous clashes serious enough to have affected the direction and outcomes of the Revolutionary War.

With rare exception, such as the 1781 Pennsylvania line mutiny, readers will find themselves wading through incident after nasty incident in what is largely a catalogue-like listing of soldierly flare-ups, all with little attempt to construct some level of interpretive significance. Chapters rarely feature conclusions, and Nagy's closing remarks more or less repeat points made at the outset of the book. Certainly, the author has the prerogative to eschew analysis, but he could have offered his readers so much more had he consulted the published works of Charles Van Doren, Charles Neimeyer, Mark Edward Lender, Charles Royster, and others, including this reviewer, that have sought

to derive broader meaning from what all this soldierly protest and defiance meant in regard to comprehending the true character and nature of the American Revolution.

In the old but worthy *Dragnet* television series, the late actor Jack Webb, playing Sergeant Joe Friday of the Los Angeles Police Department, would often repeat his famous investigatory phrase, "Just the Facts, Ma'am." For readers wanting just the unadorned facts, lots and lots of them, *Rebellion in the Ranks* will prove to be a satisfying volume. For those seeking something more, they might well begin with Van Doren's enduringly valuable *Mutiny in January*, originally published in 1943, and go forward from there.

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Susannah Ural Bruce. *The Harp and the Eagle: Irish-American Volunteers and the Union Army, 1861–1865*. (New York: New York University Press, 2006. Pp. xiii, 309, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth, \$75.00; Paper, \$23.00.)

Susannah Ural Bruce has produced a fascinating study by situating the Civil War military service of Irish volunteers in the Union Army within the broader context of Irish Catholic immigrants' tortuous position in American society. Bruce asserts that while loyalty to America influenced Irish Catholics, changes in their support for the Union cause over the course of the war can best be explained by tracing soldiers' and their communities' changing assessments of the war's impact on Irish interests. It must be noted that Bruce conflates loyalties to personal kin and community networks with loyalties to an Irish-Catholic ethnic collectivity in the United States and a commitment to the struggle to free Ireland from English control.

Bruce commences her study by reviewing Irish Catholic immigrants' experiences up to 1860. While noting the presence of Irish Protestants in America and a degree of variation in the circumstances of the Irish Catholic population, she emphasizes both the poverty and the anti-Irish Catholic prejudice that the newcomers so commonly endured. In response, some Irishmen had joined the American military—finding little relief from prejudice but at least securing a rough livelihood. Thus, as the Civil War loomed, service in the U.S. Army was already a known option among the Irish. Having set the context, Bruce addresses Irishmen's motives for volunteering