

sion to Christianity while at the same time allowing them to maintain parts of their culture considered consistent with Christian ethics. Also evident are Zeisberger's attempts to differentiate the Moravians from other Europeans who saw the Native Americans as resources to be exploited rather than as persons with eternal dignity. Even though the world was being "turned upside down" by the American Revolution, Zeisberger kept the Moravian missionaries focused on their perceived mission and took a stand for neutrality in the conflict, as British-American politics were not on their agenda.

Students of Pietism and early North American missionary strategy will welcome this addition to the field. But a wider audience will also benefit from this contribution. Students of Native American culture and politics will profit from Zeisberger's careful recording. Those interested in the events surrounding the American Revolution will appreciate the insight provided by this "disinterested bystander." Colonial historians will welcome Zeisberger's commentary on life on the frontier, and genealogists can make good use of the helpful register of persons provided. Wellenreuther and Wessel's work has made available a valuable resource for a wide range of scholars.

*Evangelical School of Theology*

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*Army and Empire: British Soldiers on the American Frontier, 1758–1775.* By MICHAEL N. MCCONNELL. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2005. xix, 211p. Illustrations, maps, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95.)

Americans holding traditional hostility toward British soldiers who had been stationed in the American colonies may be surprised to learn from Michael N. McConnell's *Army and Empire* that, as A. A. Milne's Alice told Christopher Robin, "A soldier's life is terribly hard." Redcoats, sometimes vicious toward colonists, were themselves trapped and abused in the isolated forts west of the Appalachians. McConnell describes the culture and daily experiences of fort garrisons, mixing anthropological evidence with insightful analysis of written primary sources.

Opening the first chapter with Robert Rogers's 1760 expedition to occupy the surrendered French Great Lakes forts, McConnell examines details of time, distances, and circumstances of many later journeys from eastern departure points to the western forts. The British gradually reduced the number of fortified areas between 1763 and 1775, from three frontier regions with forts—Great Lakes, Ohio and Mississippi river valleys, and gulf coast—to two by the late 1760s as they completely withdrew from the Ohio-Mississippi. They also abandoned smaller forts in the other regions and downsized the remaining citadels, kept up to control major routes.

The second chapter describes the fort structures, emphasizing the extent to which military functions, costs, and wilderness isolation circumscribed the living routine of the soldiers. Because most forts were constructed of wood and earthworks they were constantly disintegrating. Maintaining bare minimum defensive perimeters became the onerous duty of the garrison. This upkeep was so demanding that defensive features originally of sophisticated design were often replaced by the simplest stockades.

Subsequent chapters deal with special aspects of soldiers' lives: the sociology of the garrison; materials for living as demonstrated by artifacts; diet and health; and—most oppressive—the “world of work” imposed on the soldiers just to preserve “body and soul” and to conform to military status. Repeatedly, McConnell compares garrisons with small, contemporary, isolated civilian communities within the British Atlantic world. In general, he finds garrisons more like villages than different. Both were held together with a high degree of deference; functioned with considerable ethnic, racial, and religious heterogeneity; and had gender-specific roles for their female contingents. Garrisons, like British villages, participated in the eighteenth-century consumer revolution and relied on the artisan skills of community members because full-time craftsmen, located in the cosmopolitan population centers, could not be lured to such isolated locations.

The heavy work demands imposed by military command wore cruelly on the health of enlisted personnel. For example, ruptures (hernias) frequently resulted from required lifting and were permanently disabling. But McConnell suggests that such demands were not much different from those imposed by the period's increasing civilian regimentation, brought on by machinery and the beginning of the factory system. The unrelenting work regime and large numbers of soldiers always sick and disabled meant that the basic military function of drilling was eliminated.

Presented thus, we have a picture of very unhappy soldiers. Occasionally, however, McConnell suggests that the common soldiers found reconciliation in the embrace of their loving families.

As a specialized study of the culture of an army occupying wilderness territory, this book is superb. Perhaps because of its brevity it does not draw conclusions about the broader consequences of these garrison years. Summing up, McConnell writes, “the network of garrisons and routes *evolved* between 1760 and 1774 . . . ; at no moment could its development be considered fixed or complete. Neither did western garrisons represent a contiguous line of fortifications. Rather, soldiers found themselves inhabiting enclaves . . . small symbols of Britain's claim to sovereignty” (p. 21).