

BOOK REVIEWS

Lawmaking and Legislators in Pennsylvania: A Biographical Dictionary. Vol. 3, 1757–1775. Edited by CRAIG W. HORLE, JOSEPH S. FOSTER, and LAURIE M. WOLFE. (Harrisburg: House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 2005. xiii. 1635 pp. Maps and figures, notes, appendices, indices. \$60.)

Well written, exhaustively researched, reasonably priced, and attractively presented, volume three of the collective biography of the Pennsylvania Assembly should be a strong candidate for the award offered by the American Historical Association every four years for the best historical reference work. Several of the essays—on William Allen, General Daniel Roberdeau, Thomas Willing, signer of the Declaration of Independence George Ross, and several members of the Potts and Norris families, to cite only a few examples—are superb historical essays on some of the most important yet neglected figures in the colony's history. Craig Horle's essay on Allen, the proprietary party's leader for the quarter-century before the Revolution—forty-eight small-type pages with 344 footnotes—could easily be a small book. Joseph Galloway and Benjamin Franklin are also treated in lengthy essays that stress their assembly service while summarizing the rest of their careers, an intelligent choice given the abundance of work on them.

Fortunately, people such as Willing, Colonel John Armstrong, and astronomer/revolutionary David Rittenhouse receive full treatment of their lives even though the bulk of their careers came after independence was declared. A supplement to volume three dealing with Robert Morris, Thomas Mifflin, Charles Thomson, and Robert Whitehill among others is eagerly awaited, as are biographies of revolutionaries such as Timothy Matlack when (one hopes) the series continues post-1776.

Furthermore, the editors preface their essays with a lengthy discussion of the assembly's work in the context of Pennsylvania's history. The volume discusses the legislature's role in the French and Indian War, the development of the iron industry, the settlement of the frontier, the improvement of civic life in Pennsylvania, and the coming of the Revolution. Social historians will be pleased by several color graphs, along with charts and essays, discussing the ethnicity, religion, occupations, and social mobility of the representatives. Students of politics will be equally happy that the assembly's committee assignments, turnover rate, and membership session by session are clearly detailed, showing how kinship networks of wealthy farmers and merchants dominated the body during the two decades before independence. Slightly over half the legislators

during this period owned slaves, suggesting that on this point the middle colonies elite were linked more closely to the South than to New England (outside Rhode Island), where slaves were few.

Like the other colonial assemblies from New York to Maryland, Pennsylvania's never endorsed the Revolution: in fact, it coexisted uneasily with the new state government that emerged in the summer of 1776 until it went out of existence in September 1776, condemning the tyranny of the new order as its final action. Assemblymen from the newer counties such as Berks, Northampton, York, and Northumberland, unlike those from the older counties, tended to be ardent revolutionaries. But they remained a small minority in the prerevolutionary body, which grossly overrepresented conservative Philadelphia, Bucks, and Chester counties. Among all the colonial legislatures, Pennsylvania's best illustrates that the Revolution overturned those who ruled at home.

The editors include a huge bibliography—useful for all scholars of colonial and revolutionary Pennsylvania—and additions and corrections to the first two volumes of this series. Every library in the state should ask their representative for a copy of this volume in two parts, and every scholar of eighteenth-century Pennsylvania will be indebted to the splendid work of Horle, Foster, Wolfe, and their colleagues.

Since reviewers must criticize something, why were there no pictures of the legislators and some of the places and incidents (Paxton Boys cartoons, for instance) described?

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WILLIAM PENCAK

The King's Three Faces: The Rise and Fall of Royal America, 1688–1776. By BRENDAN MCCONVILLE. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006. ix, 322 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$39.95.)

The King's Three Faces is an ambitious attempt to rethink important aspects of early American history. Challenging teleological narratives that view colonial politics as mere prologue to a democratic revolution, Brendan McConville argues that British Americans in fact embraced a deeply monarchical political culture. As he puts it, "Americans were not always engaged in somehow becoming what we are" (p. 192).

Central to McConville's story is the period from the Glorious Revolution to the mid-eighteenth-century. These crucial decades saw a number of discrete provincial subcultures (Puritan, Quaker, Dutch Calvinist, and Cavalier) embrace a common allegiance to a Protestant monarch, in the process creating a pan-colonial royalist political culture. In elucidating the origins of "the empire's cult of monarchy" (p. 69), McConville is at his boldest and most innovative. Using a