

sis of their composition, printing, and rhetorical strategies, or discussion of the treaty as theater, but she does none of this. Kalter instead devotes a great deal of attention to the question of Iroquois influence on the United States Constitution. Surprisingly, she never cites James Merrell's Bancroft Prize-winning *Into the American Woods: Negotiators on the Pennsylvania Frontier* (2000), although readers wishing to better understand the context of the treaties ought to consult this important work. Yet however flawed the introduction may be, the real value of the volume is in the treaties themselves and the new apparatus Kalter has provided, particularly the new index. Readers with an interest in Pennsylvania's colonial history or early American literature will be grateful for this attractive and affordable new edition of the treaties.

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*Blooding at Great Meadows: Young George Washington and the Battle that Shaped the Man.* By ALAN AXELROD. (Philadelphia: Running Press, 2007. 270 pp. Notes, index. \$22.95.)

The 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War has stimulated a number of scholars to revisit that struggle that led directly to the American Revolution and was an important learning experience for the nation's greatest hero, George Washington. Alan Axelrod's volume focuses on this latter point, arguing that Washington's strengths as a diplomat, soldier, and political leader were very much shaped by the challenges he confronted on the Pennsylvania frontier in 1753 and 1754, culminating in his defeat at Fort Necessity.

Drawing his information largely from Washington's papers, Axelrod revisits the familiar story of Washington's youth, his dependence on his half-brother, Lawrence, and his alliances with the Fairfax family and Virginia's lieutenant governor, Robert Dinwiddie. He portrays Washington as a very ambitious young man who went to great lengths to promote his own interests.

Washington's life was dramatically changed by the growing controversy between England and France over which nation would control the Ohio Country. Washington had considerable interest in the area for business as well as patriotic reasons. By the early 1750s the French had built a line of forts from Lake Erie to the Allegheny River to enforce their claims. In response, Governor Dinwiddie in 1753 dispatched George Washington as an emissary to the French forces in northwest Pennsylvania.

Axelrod provides extensive detail on Washington's remarkable winter expedition from Williamsburg to Fort La Boeuf and back. Along the way, the twenty-one year old learned his first lessons about Indian diplomacy and demonstrated a keen eye for describing French military assets. Escaping death on two occa-

sions, Washington returned home where his report was promptly published by the governor and widely distributed.

In the spring of 1754 Washington and the Virginia Regiment were sent to protect militia troops erecting a fort at the Forks of the Ohio. Even before reaching Cumberland, Washington learned that a French army had evicted the Virginians and was building Fort Duquesne. Although his original mission was unattainable, Washington sought to bolster the morale of pro-British Indians in the area by attacking a small French detachment and killing the commanding officer, the *Sieur de Jumonville*. Unintentionally, the young Virginian had ignited a great world war that would last many years.

Expecting a French counterattack, Washington built Fort Necessity in the Great Meadows. The fort's poor location and inadequate defenses betrayed the young Virginian's lack of experience. A large French and Indian force, aided by terrible weather conditions, soon forced the British forces to capitulate. Washington compounded his mistakes by signing a surrender document written in French that said he had murdered *Jumonville*, who was described as a diplomat.

Axelrod, who has written on topics as diverse as business ethics, leadership, and Queen Elizabeth I has penned a readable volume. However, he does not include a bibliography, and his notes reflect little use of secondary works. Although he appends a brief final chapter on Braddock's campaign of 1755, he does not fully explore the importance of that campaign to Washington's participation in the Revolution. There is no analysis of Washington's role in the Forbes expedition of 1758 that did finally secure the Forks of the Ohio for the British. As a result, Axelrod is not able to assess completely the broader impact of the French and Indian War on Washington's evolution as a political and military leader.

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*Souls for Sale: Two German Redemptioners Come to Revolutionary America: The Life Stories of John Frederick Whitehead and Johann Carl Büttner.* Edited by SUSAN E. KLEPP, FARLEY GRUBB, and ANNE PFAELZER DE ORTIZ. (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006. xvi, 272 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth, \$75; paper, \$25.)

*Souls for Sale* is a companion book to *The Infortunate: The Voyage and Adventures of William Moraley, an Indentured Servant* (ed. Klepp and Billy G. Smith, 2nd ed., 2005), the latter the tale of fortunes and misfortunes of a young Englishman indentured as a servant in the Delaware Valley in the eighteenth century, the former the stories of two German speakers whose lives happen to