

BOOK REVIEWS

Pennsylvania's Revolution. Edited by WILLIAM PENCAK. (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2010. 408 pp. Illustrations, appendix, index. \$85.)

Bill Pencak has again brought together a veritable diaspora of early Pennsylvanianists with something to say about the state and the American Revolution. The volume starts with a big bang as Nathan Kozuskanich draws out the neglected links between the ideology of the Paxton Boys and the populist localism at the center of support for the Revolution in 1776. The notion of “safety against all belligerents” secured through participation in militias characterized both movements, much as we prefer to distance ourselves from Paxton while wrapping ourselves in the 1776 version of “Don’t Tread on Me.” Patrick Spero and Phillip Munch argue for the importance of English- and German-language almanacs; their research is thorough but their arguments hardly surprising. John Frantz provides a brief survey of how religion informed the attitudes and actions of Germans during the Revolutionary War. (A translation of some of Henry Miller’s newspaper writings, with commentary by Pencak, appears as an appendix to the volume.) Pencak’s own essay on the loyalist clergy breaks some stereotypes in its fascinating explanation of the pressures on Anglican clergyman to oppose the Revolution and the differences in the ways ten of eleven of them did so.

If there is an overall theme that emerges, it seems to be the familiar but important messiness of the Revolution in Pennsylvania, especially the war. Russell Spinney, writing about Centre County between 1769 and 1778, acknowledges the frontier standoff and polarization but finds intriguing evidence in the archive for the continuance of a “middle ground” of coexistence between Indians and Europeans. Douglas MacGregor writes sensitively and compellingly about some of the most hated loyalists of the “middle frontier,” like John Connolly and Simon Girty. Owen Ireland brings Esther DeBerdt Reed to life, showing how her evolving political independence set the stage for her famous activism as leader of the Ladies Association and author of “Sentiments of an American Woman,” now a classroom standard. A briskly written essay by Meredith H. Lair on the British occupation of Philadelphia focuses on the army’s theatrical productions as an epitome of their failure to win the hearts and minds of most Philadelphians.

The let-a-thousand-flowers-bloom spirit of this collection has especially impressive results in these essays on particular people. We ought to be able to sympathize with all the very human players in this drama. After a time, though,

one wonders whether the contradictions—sympathy for the loyalists in one essay, for the patriots in another—means avoiding the tough issues such as those Kozuskanich raises in the first chapter. This becomes glaring by the time we get to Robert Guy Jr.'s paean to brave "William Thompson and the Pennsylvania Rifleman" and Melissah Pawlokowski's more evenhanded treatment of the social mobility of carpenter and army veteran Isaac Craig. I had had enough of successful and patriotic Pennsylvanians' wisdom by the time I got to Elizabeth Lewis Pardoe's recounting of federalist "imaginative" brilliance against the antifederalists' fearful localism in 1787. With Anthony Joseph's argument that Pennsylvanians only gradually came to hate taxes I found myself wishing for a little less supposed Pennsylvanian tolerance for diversity and effective government and a more rigorous reckoning with common themes. I also found myself musing about why historians with Big Ideas about the Revolution tend to stay away from both the war and Pennsylvania.

The volume's last two essays do help remind us why such an overall reckoning is so difficult. James S. Bailey compares winter conditions at two Continental Army encampments, Jockey Hollow (near Morristown, 1779–1780) and Valley Forge, and finds that wishful thinking encouraged a heroic memory of the latter and an almost utter neglect of the former, which was both harsher and less inspiring as a result of mutinies and military failures. And Karen Guenther catalogs Pennsylvania's Revolution on the silver screen, giving cursory treatment to a remarkable number of films, including *1776*, perhaps most people's favorite evocation of the Revolution in any medium. *Pennsylvania's Revolution* is, in sum, an interesting and somewhat taxing cornucopia. Like the state itself, it resists summation but has grist for many mills.

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The Philadelphia Stock Exchange and the City It Made. By DOMENIC VITIELLO, with GEORGE E. THOMAS. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010. 256 pp. Illustrations, appendix, notes, index. \$45.)

"Triumph and Tragedy" could well have been a subtitle of this history of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. The triumph came in the exchange's first century, beginning in 1790 when merchant-financiers organized the Board of Brokers, the first stock exchange in the United States. New York also traded securities at the time, but its traders would not form a similar securities trading club, the forerunner of the New York Stock Exchange, until 1792.

Until the 1830s, the exchanges of the two cities were peers. Philadelphia's exchange benefited from the city being the capital of the country in the 1790s and the headquarters of the two Banks of the United States, while New York's