Guyasuta and the Fall of Indian America. By Brady J. Crytzer. (Yardley, PA: Westholme Publishing, 2013. 352 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. $29.95.)

In *Guyasuta and the Fall of Indian America*, author Brady J. Crytzer offers a general study of the Indian wars that swept throughout the Ohio and Great Lakes borderlands during the eighteenth century. In telling this familiar story, Crytzer mostly synthesizes the current works of historians Fred Anderson, Colin Calloway, Daniel Barr, and David Dixon, as well as older studies by C. Hale Sipe, Randolph C. Downes, and Paul Kopperman, to recount the epic struggle of Indian nations to survive imperial wars, an American Revolution, and the territorial expansion of the new United States. Topics including George Washington's travels to the Ohio Valley, Edward Braddock's catastrophic defeat in 1755, racial strife in the Pennsylvania backcountry, the Iroquois civil war, and the Indian wars of the 1790s are handled with competency, clarity, and flair.

While Crytzer does a superb job of keeping the pace of his narrative fast and exciting, the overall concept of *Guyasuta and the Fall of Indian America* is problematic at times. The author attempts to use the life of the western Seneca leader Guyasuta as the backdrop for the historical events presented. Crytzer presents Guyasuta, a notable Seneca of the Allegheny country, as a messenger, war leader, or diplomat. The author traces Guyasuta's role in a series of historical events, including his first meeting with George Washington (1753), his role as a leader of the Ohio Indian nations during Pontiac's War (1763), and his meeting as an aged diplomat with General Anthony Wayne on the eve of Wayne's victory over the Northwest Indian coalition at Fallen Timbers (1794). Guyasuta's life, however, is poorly documented. This fact forces Crytzer to contemplate or reconstruct scenarios that might or might not have taken place. From a scholarly perspective, the primary research is at times sparse and fails to give Guyasuta a substantial presence in these events.

Crytzer ably demonstrates Guyasuta's role as the "primary orator" during the Bouquet peace talks in November 1764. Through his use of *The Papers of Henry Bouquet*, Crytzer demonstrates Guyasuta's diplomatic skill, authority, and elegance as a spokesman for the Indians of the Ohio (135–40). In other instances, however, he speculates on Guyasuta's thoughts and actions without offering primary sources to support these speculations. Guyasuta's meeting with Wayne is interesting, but Crytzer must look to the much-documented rhetoric of Seneca leader Cornplanter to give substance to the meeting (246–50). The interaction between Guyasuta and Wayne is established only through Thomas Abler's biography of Cornplanter. Readers may wish to know Guyasuta better through his own words. In these instances a closer inspection of primary sources, *The Papers of Sir William Johnson* in particular, might have better anchored the Seneca leader to the historical narrative. The lack of primary sources on Guyasuta also predisposes the author

to introduce his subject into a chapter only to have him quickly disappear, not to turn up again until midchapter. An example of this pattern occurs in Crytzer's discussion of Guyasuta's role in the Battle of the Monongahela (1755).

What this book lacks in its primary source investigation, Crytzer makes up for by giving readers an entertaining, lively, and engaging story. This book will serve as an indispensable introduction for members of the general public unfamiliar with this era of Native American and colonial history, and it will perhaps become a companion piece for such classic works on Pennsylvania history as Walter O'Meara's *Guns at the Forks* and Paul A. W. Wallace's *Indians in Pennsylvania*. Finally, with the publication of *Guyasuta and the Fall of Indian America*, Crytzer has also paid an enduring homage to his distinguished teacher, the late David Dixon.

La Roche College RICHARD S. GRIMES

Robert Morris's Folly: The Architectural and Financial Failures of an American Founder. By RYAN K. SMITH. (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2014. 368 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. $40.)

By all rights, Robert Morris of Philadelphia should occupy a central place in the pantheon of founding fathers. One of only a handful of men who signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, Morris earned his title as "financier of the American Revolution" by using his personal wealth to secure loans to pay George Washington's troops in the later years of the war, when Congress had difficulties supporting them. As a backroom power broker, Morris was instrumental in strengthening the national government at the Constitutional Convention and actively participated in shaping its early direction as a senator from Pennsylvania. He even moved out of his own house in order that his close friend Washington could occupy a suitable dwelling when the federal government moved to Philadelphia. Yet, this well-earned reputation was sullied when his extensive business schemes turned sour in the 1790s. Despite warnings about his overextended commitments, Morris failed to rein in his affairs, believing that the next deal would turn his way and restore his financial equilibrium. He continued to speculate heavily in land, currency, and other ventures before sinking inextricably into a morass of debt.

Despite his business misfortunes, Morris did little to trim his family's extravagant living standards. Just before his creditors forced him into bankruptcy, the merchant hired Pierre L'Enfant to design one of the most extraordinary houses ever to be built in the city. Not content with a rowhouse typical of the city's housing stock, Morris commissioned the architect to erect a freestanding mansion that encompassed an entire city square on Chestnut Street, two blocks west of