
As indicated by the above caption, the context of this book involves only 117 pages, or less than one-half of the total pages of the volume. But this does not mean that it is a small and unimportant work. The Appendixes, Notes and Lists are of high historical value. They enrich and fortify the relatively brief context.

The organization of the context is in seventeen chapters, the first eleven of which are basically chronological, and the last six chapters topical.

On the jacket, the publishers print a brief but satisfying statement about the author. Its validity is apparent from a close reading of the publication here reviewed. The first paragraph of this jacket statement summarizes the more lengthy presentation found in the Foreword. Since in libraries the jackets are commonly removed, it may be cited in full as follows:

“Mr. Knollenberg gives four reasons for writing this new biography of George Washington: to present an account of Washington’s life based solely on contemporary evidence; to provide a history based on the same critical approach to Washington’s own statements as to other evidence; to refrain from unique glorification of Washington; to bring together topically, scattered evidence formerly obscured by chronological arrangement.”

These “four reasons” are noteworthy and the author is valiant and somewhat successful in his effort to accept and be guided by them, but it may be said that no one of them is new nor is their conjunction an unique discovery. Probably the second reason is the particular contribution. The other three reasons have been pursued by biographers for many decades, if not for some centuries.

While it may be said that the author has very successfully presented the biographical facts along with comment, it appears that he did not avoid shortcomings. He himself refers to secondary works many times. His treatment is “obscured by chronological arrangement” in his first eleven chapters and within each of the last six. In fact, biography without chronological perspective is literature and not history. Another shortcoming is the exact repetition in footnotes of statements in the context. And there is frequent use of an oddity in reference. It consists in the words “As to,” in disregard of other traditional devices.
It is regrettable that one finds in this *George Washington* a number of inaccuracies, vaguenesses and omissions. Involved as such, are statements about Ohio Company surveys, the naming of Fort Pitt, advice to Braddock, and the letters to Sally Fairfax.

The merits of this publication outweigh its demerits. It is, in some respects, a considerable contribution to the subject. It has both professional and popular value. And it is well worth the modest price put upon it.

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General von Riedesel commanded the Brunswick mercenaries who served under the British against the Colonists in the war for American independence. The Baroness, his wife, with her little daughters, followed him to Canada to share the fortunes of war. As the title suggests, the journal and letters in this volume give a running account of her experiences on this tour of duty.

The present translation by Marvin L. Brown with the assistance of Martha Huth is the first English translation in a hundred years. It is evidently more exact and more nearly complete than the previous editions. Mrs. Huth visited the owner of the original Riedesel papers at Schloss Neuenhof and was given permission to transcribe the manuscripts including letters and passages that had been omitted from previous editions. The footnotes — usually such a bore to the lay reader — are interesting and stimulating because they give so many cross references from passages in the *Journal* to appropriate spots in the letters.

The volume itself is beautiful. The reproductions of the family portraits increase the charm. Maps tracing the route of the Convention army are attractive as well as useful.

The book opens with an introductory chapter by Professor Brown. This gives a chronological account of the events described in the