The author recounts how Bright Eyes, at first shy and terrified, grew as an orator and began filling halls and churches from Boston to Washington, D.C. She became a powerful and much feted spokeswoman for the Indian cause and included among her admirers such notables as Helen Hunt Jackson, Wendell Phillips, and Oliver Wendell Holmes. In an era when white women were struggling for their political rights, Bright Eyes symbolized the crusading woman at her best. Overcoming the racial and sexual barriers that faced her, she challenged the government bureaucracy and was able to win some substantial concessions for both the Poncas and the Omahas. Later, as the wife of Thomas Tibbles, she lectured in England, fought for Indian citizenship and other reform causes, and was at Wounded Knee during the massacre of 1890. Although she died at the young age of forty-eight in 1902, the struggle for justice far from consummated, her people and the American conscience were enriched by her efforts.

On the whole, the book is quite readable and interesting, although a more scholarly approach would have served the topic better. The themes are often treated in a simplistic manner and solely from the Indian point of view, and there is no attempt at interpretation or analysis. Without footnotes, it is impossible to determine whether the author's statements and quotes are accurate. Nevertheless, because of the need for literature on the Indian experience, a good popular history can make a valuable contribution if it attempts to acquaint the public with the essentials of a historical problem. This, Dorothy Clarke Wilson accomplishes with skill and style.

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As we approach the celebration of the nation's bicentennial, a plethora of volumes dealing with revolutionary America is being published almost daily. Some are written by the specialist for others similarly inclined. The vast majority, however, are designed to appeal to
the general reading public. All too many are not worth the paper they are printed on, let alone the exorbitant prices demanded. Happily, the book under review is both worthwhile and inexpensive.

*Signers of the Declaration* is divided into three parts: a historical survey of the events which led to the adoption by the Second Continental Congress of the Declaration of Independence, short biographical sketches of the men who signed the document, and descriptions of the signers’ homes that have survived the expansion of the United States since 1776.

By far the weakest section is the initial one. It is too brief, oversimplified, and lacking in an appreciation of the complexity of the revolutionary movement. It likewise reflects little of the recent scholarship of the period. Readers willing to persevere, however, will be amply rewarded by the following pages. Therein are found brief accounts of each signer, as well as a portrait. All are depicted in larger than life terms, and several contain minor errors of fact as well as major errors of interpretation. Overall, though, it is a handy summary of the Founding Fathers.

Finally, there is both a pictorial and written record of the houses that have lasted for the past two hundred years. A brief history of each structure, as well as its precise location, is also included.

All told, this book has its faults, but its merits overshadow them. It should contribute to a further appreciation by all Americans of the principles initially endorsed by these supporters of the Declaration of Independence.

*Office of State History*

*State Education Department*

*Albany, New York*


“They are the abject slaves of routine,” Henry James, Sr., acerbically observed of the English in 1856 upon receiving a copy of Emerson’s probing study, *English Traits,* “and no afflatus from above or below ever comes, apparently, to ruffle the surface of their self-