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THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY REVIEW

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From the Editors

It may seem obvious to some, and heresy to others, but sometimes history can feel "old," repeating over and over the same plots, heroes, and facts. Then there are times, such as the wide-ranging collection of articles in this issue, when fresh material, techniques, or questions lead to new insights from even the most oft-told stories.

Laurence Hauptman challenges the popular myth that Indigenous people "disappeared" from the lower Hudson Valley in the face of expanding colonialism, and he reminds us that they also were subject to enslavement. Historians have written much about the two major Revolutionary War campaigns of 1777, Saratoga and Philadelphia, but no one has considered how they were managed by just one Commander-in-Chief. Mark Edward Lender appraises General Washington's strategy, influence, and effectiveness across multiple warfronts throughout that pivotal year. Authors Amanda Malmstrom and Kate Menconeri present the social, political, and other cultural aspects of "landscape" before introducing thirteen contemporary women artists and their work that challenges and expands this term. Philip DuBois Bevier was a Huguenot and veteran of the American Revolution. He also was the father of eight young children when he died, leaving his widow, Ann DeWitt Bevier, to manage the family's affairs. Natalie Serkowski DeStrange shares the details of Ann's life as revealed in the account book she kept from 1802 to 1813. Finally, the Hudson River Valley has been called "the landscape that defined America," but when is the last time you considered its "soundscape"? Whether it is the timing, diversity, and volume of birdsong in spring, or the ambient sounds of people, pets, music, and commerce at a farmer's market, the sounds around us reflect a dynamic and ever-evolving phenomenon that informs and often enriches our lives. Joshua Groffman urges us to engage with our soundscape and provides examples for doing so.

With its collection of diverse topics and voices from the prehistoric to the present, we hope that you, too, will feel refreshed by the articles, book reviews, and New & Noteworthy titles presented in this issue.

On the cover: Marie Lorenz, *Wave Chime*, 2021, video and installation with wood, steel, sea glass, and marine debris, 96 x 168 x 168 in. Courtesy of the artist and Jack Hanley Gallery, New York, NY. Photo: Peter Aaron/OTTO

THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY REVIEW

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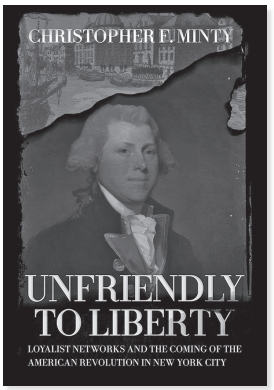
Notes and Documents

Book Reviews

Book Reviews



Unfriendly to Liberty: Loyalist Networks and the Coming of the American Revolution in New York City
By Christopher F. Minty
(Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2023), 318 pp.

New York City has featured significantly in studies of loyalism during the American Revolution. As the headquarters for the British Army, loyalist refugees flocked to the city after it was occupied by the British in 1776. Moreover, many historians believe that New York had more loyalists than any other colony. Despite the plethora of scholarship on this topic, Christopher F. Minty provides a novel contribution in *Unfriendly to Liberty,* which examines the political origins of loyalism in New York City before the Revolutionary War. This book deepens our understanding of loyalism not only in New York City, but across the American colonies.

Minty focuses on New York City in the years before 1776, arguing that "the interplay between political culture and organizations shaped and, in some cases, determined allegiances during the Revolutionary War." (5) He begins with the New York Colonial Assembly election of 1768, which "kick-started a process through which New Yorkers became increasingly involved in public political affairs." (36) The election was contested between the two major political factions of the day: the DeLanceys and the Livingstons. To win, the DeLanceys pioneered new methods of political mobilization, using spaces such as coffee houses and taverns to marshal voters for their ticket. They also utilized print culture, publishing poems, broadsides, and longer political essays carefully targeted to both elites and non-elites. The result was a decisive victory for the DeLanceys. After Governor Henry Moore dissolved the assembly for discussing the Massachusetts Circular Letter, there was another election in 1769, which the DeLanceys also won. Yet, as Minty explains, the broad-based support the DeLanceys had established was challenged soon after by upstart merchant Alexander McDougall. The key issue was the decision of the DeLancey-controlled assembly to comply with the Quartering Act by funding British troops stationed in the city. Even at this early date, many DeLancey supporters would later become loyalists.

Most of the book from chapter four onward details the political battle in New York City between the DeLancey and McDougall factions. Minty identifies differing political economies as central to the conflict between them, with the DeLanceys embracing a more commercial and imperial-oriented vision. Conversely, McDougall supporters wanted to sharply curtail Parliament's authority in America and saw the

DeLanceys as selling out the interests of New Yorkers. The two groups fought over nonimportation, the merits of the Tea Act, and how to respond to the Coercive Acts. By 1774, the DeLanceys' stranglehold on city politics had weakened as McDougall's ranks swelled from his mobilization tactics and support for firm resistance against British policy. Meanwhile, the DeLanceys' moderate position on the imperial crisis led to an erosion of support. Ultimately, their power would dissolve further as city radicals, led by McDougall, helped establish the New York Provincial Congress in 1775. This congress effectively became the revolutionary government of the colony in place of the assembly, where the DeLanceys had wielded more influence.

The most important contribution of *Unfriendly to Liberty* is fleshing out the origins of loyalism in New York City. Minty centers what he calls "associationism," showing how many future loyalists were an organized political faction under the DeLancey banner for years before the war. The book persuasively demonstrates how the connection between the DeLanceys and loyalism grew over time. For example, Minty identifies the 1769 assembly election as a critical moment that "cultivated a group consciousness" (60), with the number of future loyalists voting for the DeLanceys increasing substantially from the previous year's election. Polarization heightened further in the early 1770s, often driven by local as opposed to imperial issues and leading to a longstanding divide in the city by the start of the war. (Most loyalist scholarship focuses on the war or postwar years, as opposed to the beginnings of loyalism.) Minty then provides a case study of how loyalist communities were created, finding in this instance that the roots long predate the military conflict. It seems likely that prewar associationism among future loyalists was greater in urban centers like New York City, where the debate over imperial policy was much more pronounced than in rural areas. Further studies of loyalist origins across a wider geographic landscape would show whether New York was typical or exceptional.

Minty additionally demonstrates that these future loyalists were not out-of-touch, backward elitists. Rather, they "laid the groundwork for the establishment of an expansive and more inclusive political republic." (6) This is a particularly important point because there is a tendency to think of loyalists as conservative and reactionary, rather than innovative and democratic. Minty is careful to note that the DeLanceys considered themselves republicans. Moreover, he shows how they made creative use of print culture and public spaces to mobilize their supporters from all ranks of society. In this account, we see future loyalists as using democratic forms of mobilization earlier than future revolutionaries, contrary to what one would expect.

Another strength is Minty's focus on "political economy," which was central to popular politics in New York City. The DeLanceys pushed their own political economy, which stressed autonomy, economic prosperity, and commerce. Consequently, they favored resuming trade with Great Britain in 1770, supported the Tea Act, promoted the issuance of paper money, established the city's chamber of commerce, and pursued

a moderate response to the Coercive Acts. This approach led future loyalists to clash with McDougall's supporters, who framed the DeLanceys as having imperial ambitions and instead wanted more aggressive measures against British policy at the risk of local economic well-being. Both sides became convinced that the other was working against the interests of New Yorkers. This emphasis adds another layer in considering urban politics in the years leading up to the Revolutionary War. Other historians might benefit from Minty's findings in thinking about the place of varying political economies in revolutionary politics, particularly in cities like Boston, Philadelphia, and Charleston.

One issue that Minty might have explored more thoroughly is when these people began self-identifying as loyalists. He shows that they formed a group consciousness years before the war, but they did not describe themselves as loyalists in the 1760s or early 1770s. The book contains phrases such as "future loyalists" and people who "would become loyalists." But when did they begin identifying as loyalists? And at what chronological date is it appropriate to call them loyalists? Mary Beth Norton has argued that 1774 is when loyalism became a concept and the term "loyalist" first appeared. However, it is not clear in *Unfriendly to Liberty* when this shift in group identification took place in New York City. It seems that Minty may see loyalism as forming later than 1774 because he refers to it as "what later became loyalism" (197) even after the outbreak of fighting at Lexington and Concord. Readers would benefit from a better understanding of the transition from a DeLancey to a loyalist identity.

In sum, Minty has produced an important and original book. Even among the surge of loyalist scholarship in recent years, *Unfriendly to Liberty* should stand out as a crucial contribution. All historians of loyalism would benefit from reading it and reflecting on Minty's findings.

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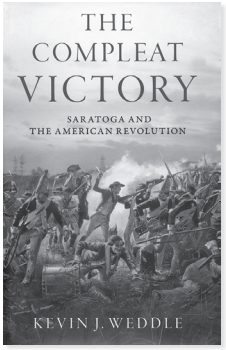

The Compleat Victory:
Saratoga and the American Revolution.
By Kevin J. Weddle
(Oxford University Press, 2021), 544 pp.

Kevin Weddle's study of the Battle of Saratoga is simply entitled *The Compleat Victory: Saratoga and the American Revolution*. There is, however, a second subtitle that should be attached to this outstanding and insightful work: "A Study in Command." For beyond a pure study of the American Revolution in the Northern Department during the first years of the conflict, the analytical theme in which Weddle truly excels is his examination of the leadership exhibited at all levels during these campaigns. This work is a well-organized, balanced, and easy-to-navigate account of not just the Saratoga Campaign, but of the operations of the Northern Department from the conflict's beginning through the events of 1777. It is also a consistent and nuanced analysis of the leadership exhibited by the rival command teams, from the strategic to the tactical levels, in that same context.

Weddle's thesis is straightforward and laid out clearly in his introduction: that British failure was the result of flawed strategy conceived at the outset of 1777, based on events of the previous two years. These flawed strategic concepts were augmented by British errors at the operational level during the conduct of the 1777 North American campaigns, most prominently by the British commander at Saratoga, General John Burgoyne. Weddle utilizes the concept of "grip" to analyze the leadership abilities of the combatant forces, best articulated by Sir Bernard Montgomery as "the ability to anticipate how operations might unfold and how to react to change, something closer to what Carl von Clausewitz called 'genius'" (5). While Montgomery's conception concerned primarily the tactical level of the battlefield, Weddle applies it to all levels of war.

The organization and trajectory of Weddle's narrative is consistent and forthright, beginning with his assessment of British operations in northern New England during the second half of 1776 and the strategic challenges that each side faced. In these early chapters, the reader is introduced to many of the key leaders who would play crucial roles in the 1777 campaigns, such as Generals Guy Carleton, Horatio Gates, Benedict Arnold, Burgoyne, and, of course, George Washington. Within this contextual development, however, Weddle also devotes important energy to examining the strategic situation for each antagonist and sets the foundations of relationships between the key leaders for each side: King George III, George Germain (Lord Sackville), Carleton, General William Howe, and Burgoyne for the British, and Congress, Washington, Philip Schuyler, and Gates for the Americans. Weddle assesses that while time and space may have been important factors favoring the Americans, the colonial effort was also facilitated by a more consistent and closely-

aligned effort than the British, whose leaders were frequently guilty of fostering divergent goals and objectives. Here, we see the first instances of the Americans better exemplifying Weddle's "grip."

When considering the opening moves of 1777, Weddle dedicates a number of chapters to early maneuvers focused on Burgoyne's successful attempt to capture Fort Ticonderoga. While the author consistently points out the many blunders of the American leaders (from Washington and Congress down to Arthur St. Clair and Schuyler) during the spring, the significance of these early moves was the aftermath of the fort's nearly bloodless fall, with the Americans learning and applying valuable lessons. Conversely, British operations started to stagnate.

The middle section of the book considers a number of particular situations and aspects of the Saratoga campaign as Weddle introduces key thematic considerations that reached fruition between the fall of Fort Ticonderoga and the operations around Saratoga itself. Shorter chapters consider issues such as the operational decision-making challenges Burgoyne faced; the associated strategic divergence between Burgoyne's operations and Howe's corresponding campaign against Philadelphia; frustrations in leadership of the colonial Northern Department by Philip Schuyler; and the role of Burgoyne's Native allies and the public perception of their atrocities, both real and perceived. In each of these sections, Weddle introduces key themes that, when combined, formed the foundational intelligence and perspectives that each side's leadership considered when planning and executing the final stages of the campaign.

One episode during the summer of 1777 that often receives short shrift in historical accounts but that Weddle tackles in relative depth is the supporting British operations conducted by Barry St. Leger against Fort Stanwix in the Mohawk Valley. Weddle not only places these operations in the full context of the Saratoga campaign as a whole, but he analyzes the leadership exhibited by those on each side with the more prominent commanders noted above. During operations in the Mohawk Valley, which included the brutal Battle of Oriskany, Weddle assesses that American success was not so much due to the poor quality of the British command, but of the high quality of colonial leadership, best exemplified by Peter Gansevoort and Marinus Willett, two individuals relatively little-known in revolutionary studies. The success of the Americans around Fort Stanwix allowed Gates to focus his full energy and resources against Burgoyne.

The final aspects of the campaign are those that are more well-known: the delay in Burgoyne's advance as he considered his precarious logistical situation; the disastrous Battle of Bennington; Gates' assumption of American operational command; and the Battles of Freeman's Farm and Bemis Heights, the latter of which directly led to the British army's surrender. What Weddle adds to his accounts of these events is, again, the consistent application of leadership assessment based on grip. For example, he

does not solely look at the events of the Battle of Bennington, but assesses Burgoyne's decision to dedicate the force that he sent, under the leadership that he appointed, on that mission. Weddle evaluates Washington's appointment of Gates to command the Northern Department, and the overall commander's realization that Gates' strengths would be the most valuable given the existing conditions, despite a strained personal relationship between the two men. He also considers Gates' relationship with Benedict Arnold, and how the ever-changing dynamics between those two key leaders shaped American operations. And perhaps most insightfully, Weddle stresses British strategic challenges presented by the aforementioned disconnect between Burgoyne and Howe's Philadelphia campaign, as exemplified by General Henry Clinton's choices and decisions leading his forces in New York City.

Much of the final quarter of the book is an overall assessment of Burgoyne's conduct during the Saratoga campaign and the leadership exhibited during its execution. While Weddle discusses post-battle events in ample detail, he centers his narrative on why those events occurred. He maintains consistency with consideration of grip as the determining factor in assessing those episodes. To Weddle, much of the failure of the British effort was due to the overwhelming disconnect in strategic guidance given to its operational leaders in the field by London, which was exacerbated not only by the failure of British commanders to coordinate effectively, but also by the many significant errors made by Burgoyne in the spring, summer, and fall of 1777. The colonists were not immune to error, particularly prior to the fall of Ticonderoga, but at all levels they exhibited flexibility and were able to overcome challenges they encountered due to leaders across the board having better grip. While a flawed commander in a number of ways, Gates was at his best when placed in a role where he could manage resources in an operation requiring less dynamic oversight. Washington realized this fact and therefore supported his northern commander with aggressive and talented subordinates, such as Arnold, Daniel Morgan, and Benjamin Lincoln, along with gifted militia leaders such as John Stark of Vermont. And while acknowledging that Schuyler achieved dreadful results as the commander of the Northern Department in the early weeks of the campaign, when placed in a supporting administrative role, Weddle emphasizes the valuable contributions he made to the overall success of American operations.

Not only is *The Compleat Victory* an outstanding account of the Saratoga campaign, it is an exemplary study of leadership — at all levels — with a methodology and logic that can be applied to any historical or modern situation. Weddle has produced a work that will serve as a standard on the topic for the foreseeable future.

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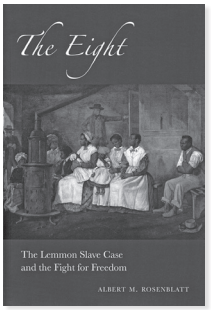


The Eight: The Lemmon Slave Case and the Fight for Freedom
By Albert M. Rosenblatt
(SUNY Press, Excelsior Editions, 2023), 248 pp.

The Eight tells the story of a high-profile legal case that began when seventeen Virginians, due to an unexpected quirk in maritime travel, stopped for a night in New York on their way to Texas in the fall of 1852. Eight of the passengers — twenty-three-year-old Emeline, her three children, and her two younger brothers, plus another woman, Nancy, and her two-year-old daughter — were enslaved to two other passengers, Jonathan and Juliet Lemmon. Slavery was legal in Virginia, while New York had abolished it a quarter-century earlier. But did that mean that Southern slave owners visiting the state could not bring with them the property that their own states recognized as no different from chairs or sheep? The key question, as Albert Rosenblatt, a former judge on the New York State Court of Appeals, frames it, was "whether someone entering New York could carry with them not only their shoes and overcoats but also their *law*s."

When a young Black steward on their New York-bound steamship told the enslaved travelers that if they landed in New York they could sue for their freedom, the Eight, as Rosenblatt calls the petitioners, decided to seize the opportunity. Thanks to the help of abolitionists alerted to their arrival, the Eight soon found themselves "in court seeking, legally, to *become* people — to change their status under law from objects into human beings," writes Rosenblatt.

Local abolitionists helped argue the slaves' case, including John Jay II, grandson of the former New York governor and first chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Weighing the arguments for and against allowing slavery to exist, even for a moment, on the soil of a free state, Elijah J. Paine, Judge of the Superior Court of New York, granted the slaves freedom. From the courtroom, the newly-freed former servants were taken by supporters to carriages, "and rode off," *The New York Times* reported, "as free as if they had never known bondage."

But the decision could always be overturned on appeal, so agents with the active Underground Railroad network in New York sprang into action and spirited the enslaved people to safety in Canada. Winning support from pro-Southern elements in New York's business community, the Lemmons accepted a crowd-sourced indemnity much higher than what they likely would have made had they sold their human property. Instead of proceeding to Texas, the family decided to return to Virginia. Officials there saw that, given the crucial issues raised by the case, the court's ruling in *Lemmon v. New York* could not be permitted to stand. Virginia appealed the decision as a violation of the U.S. Constitution. They hoped to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which would rule in the notorious Dred Scott case of 1857

that Scott, because he was Black, had no standing to sue for his freedom *and* that federal territories had no right to bar slaveowners from bringing their chattel with them. If that was true for territories, why should it be different for states? Though the immediate issue had already been decided years earlier, though the Eight were in Canada and the owners had removed themselves from the proceedings, the Lemmon case loomed in the background of American politics in the 1850s, threatening to upend the fraying Union's already tenuous status quo. The governor of Georgia called Paine's decision "a just cause of war."

In the clipped, economical prose of a jurist, straightforward but by no means lifeless — "How astute," Rosenblatt writes of one of Judge Paine's questions to counsel — the author adeptly situates the case in the legal context of the time. He admires the creativity of the lawyers and judges who used every opening they could find to bend the law toward freedom. Recounting one New York judge's response to a pro-slavery lawyer's motion to move the case to federal court — acceding to the request "would not be a proceeding to my taste," the judge huffed, thereby allowing an alleged fugitive slave to go free — Rosenblatt endearingly writes, "One wishes to have met him." His praise for judges who used their discretionary power for good is matched by a rueful exasperation at those like Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney, author of the Dred Scott decision, who went out of their way to defend and entrench the slave regime.

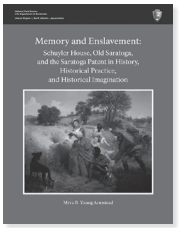
A problem with Rosenblatt's book, though one can hardly blame the author, is that the Lemmon case ended up being somewhat anticlimactic, if not inconsequential. Judge Paine's ruling against the Lemmons was sustained in two subsequent appeals in New York courts, and Virginia — rather inexplicably, as Rosenblatt notes, echoing other commentators — never took the case to the Supreme Court. Amid the turmoil of John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry and the fractious 1860 election, somebody either dropped the ball or chose not to pursue what had seemed a critical point only a short time earlier. There would be no satisfying conclusion at the federal level. Yet Rosenblatt shows that the mere possibility that the case *might* have led to the effective nationalization of slavery contributed to the tense political atmosphere of the 1850s and to the stiffening of Northern spines that played at least as crucial a role in the crisis of the Union as the increasing radicalization of Southern whites. If Virginia succeeded in overturning *Lemmon v. New York*, one New York Congressman warned, it would again become common in Northern states to hear "the crack of the overseer's lash." Fear of that scenario fueled Northern support for Abraham Lincoln's presidential bid. South Carolina cited the case among the reasons for breaking up the Union in its 1860 Declaration of Secession.

Drawing on court records, newspaper accounts, and legal and historical scholarship, *The Eight* is well researched and packed with interesting illustrations, portraits, and documents. Rosenblatt keeps a brisk pace throughout, and is perhaps

at his best comparing the Lemmon case with others in New York and elsewhere. However, in some places the pace is too brisk. The history of slavery in New York State is dispatched far too quickly, with much interesting and pertinent information relegated to endnotes. Attentive not only to the legal aspects of the case but also to the underlying human drama, Rosenblatt does make a noble effort with the limited evidence at hand to bring the eight enslaved petitioners to life — poignantly noting how difficult it would have been to resist the in-court importuning of their former mistress to return to the supposed comforts of bondage. "She must have felt a dizzying mixture of liberation and fear," he writes of the moment when Emeline, bequeathed to Juliet Lemmon when she was just seven years old, replied to her mistress with what Rosenblatt rightly calls "breathtaking" boldness. Yet others in the book remain vague and indistinct. Rosenblatt quotes a witness relating how the slave owner Jonathan Lemmon was at one point surrounded "by a hundred colored people, who said he had no business there." Those free Black people who rallied to help the Eight seize their liberty never become more than blank faces in a crowd. A rich and well-told legal history, *The Eight* leaves one wishing for a fuller portrayal of the social and cultural context of New York in the period, especially the Black community.

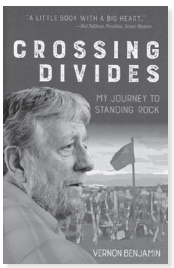
Richard Kreitner lives in Beacon and is the author of a forthcoming book about American Jews, slavery, and the Civil War.

New & Noteworthy Books



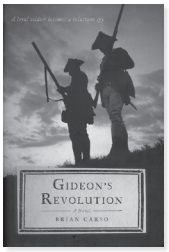
Memory and Enslavement: Schuyler House, Old Saratoga, and the Saratoga Patent in History, Historical Practice, and Historical Imagination
by Myra B. Young Armstead
(Organization of American Historians/National Park Service, May 2023) 192 pp. This Resource Study is available online at: https://www.oah.org/the-oah-nps-collaboration/cumulative-list-of-projects/

Myra Young Armstead has been researching and writing about the historic Black American experience in Saratoga for more than three decades, and her expertise is clear in this report. Armstead's reconsideration of the lives of the enslaved at the Schuyler House, located within the Saratoga National Historical Site, is addressed as a series of three "imprints" left by episodes of historic occupation and actions: from wilderness to homestead, 1702–1745; from homestead to plantation, 1763–1777; and reconstructing that plantation after the war, 1787–1837. The chapters covering each era address "laboring," while two additional chapters address "Living" and "Leaving." Armstead guides the reader through her work of "historical detection" to look beyond the surface of a biased and incomplete historic record to cross-examine letters, journals, and business documents that tease out the lived experience of those who left no written documentation of their actions.



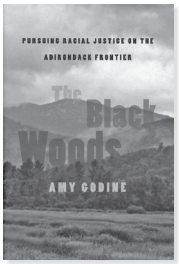
Crossing Divides: My Journey to Standing Rock
by Vernon Benjamin
(Bushwack Books, 2023) 56 pp. $12.95 (softcover)
www.woodstockarts.com

Most of the external action in this book does not take place within the Hudson River Valley. However, Benjamin's inspiration and internal journey that is the work's focus is rooted in the region he called home for more than seventy years and where he excelled as an artist, journalist, historian, political staffer, and public servant before becoming an activist who piloted his pickup truck across America loaded with hay for the horses of the Water Protectors of Standing Rock. Looking back, Benjamin (1945–2022) shares a meditation on his experiences in the varied roles that led him to make his westward journey and the "new facts" with which he returned. Benjamin left behind an archive of research and unpublished writing that may someday be shared, but for now this poetic essay is perhaps his last humble offering, softly spoken and pointing the reader's attention to the elemental importance of water and humanity.



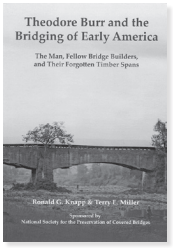
Gideon's Revolution,
by Brian Carso
(Cornell University Press, 2023) 258 pp. $27.95 (hardcover)
www.cornellpress.cornell.edu

Author Brian Carso's debut is a captivating work of fiction steeped in historic research and the moral ponderings of a legal scholar. Reported as memoir — or confessional — Captain Gideon Wheatley recounts being wounded at the Battle of Saratoga, the horrors and graces experienced in the military hospital where he befriends Benedict Arnold, and the conflicted role he could not refuse when General Washington enlists him as a spy. Shot through with questions about loyalty and betrayal, Wheatley's story also illustrates the "fog" of war and its aftereffects for those who survive. Scholars of the American Revolution and general readers alike will appreciate Carso's efforts to unveil the motives behind actions that have become historical fact.



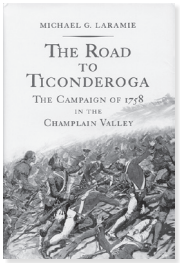
The Black Woods: Pursuing Racial Justice on the Adirondack Frontier
by Amy Godine
(Cornell University Press, 2023) 488 pp. $35.95 (hardcover)
www.cornellpress.cornell.edu

While John Brown's memory continues to generate exhibitions, books, and even television mini-series, Gerrit Smith remains unfamiliar to most. Hoping to combine land and suffrage reform, in the mid-nineteenth century Smith gave Brown land in Timbuctoo (in upstate North Elba) and comparable acreage to 3,000 Black New Yorkers. Author Amy Godine spent over twenty years researching Smith's plan, the Black and white "agents" who helped him recruit individuals and families to take advantage of it, the results that it did and did not achieve, and how it has been largely neglected in the history of the Adirondacks and the nation. Throughout this expansive volume, Godine manages to artfully weave historic fact with the sort of "historical detection" that has been urged by leading scholars of Black American history.



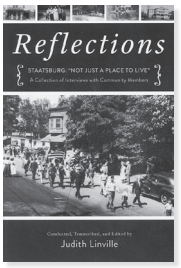
Theodore Burr and the Bridging of Early America: The Man, Fellow Bridge Builders, and Their Forgotten Timber Spans
by Ronald G. Knapp & Terry E. Miller
(National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, 2023)
518 pp. $58.00 (softcover) www.coveredbridgesociety.org

This is the first extensive review of archival and secondary sources on Burr (1771–1822) and other early bridge builders who enabled the development of the American colonies and young nation. The authors present an overview of Burr's life in Oxford, New York, before addressing examples of his bridges and their context throughout New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland in eight chapters leading up to his 1817 patent for the "Burr Arch-Truss" bridge. Two notable chapters for our region discuss the Old Mohawk Bridge at Scotia and the Union Bridge across the Hudson at Lansingburgh. The final three chapters address Burr's legacy and include later bridges using his design and recognition of those known and unknown others who contributed to the development, building, and maintenance of the spans.



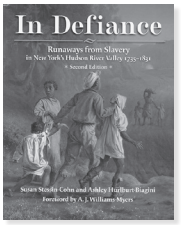
The Road to Ticonderoga: The Campaign of 1758 in the Champlain Valley
by Michael G. Laramie
(Westholme Press, 2023) 238 pp. $34.95 (hardcover)
www.westholmepublishing.com

There are lessons in any experience that transcend the immediate context. Author Michael Laramie establishes this in his introduction before revealing how individuals' character and experience informed their strategies and abilities to manage the ensuing conflicts throughout the French and Indian War. Actions require reactions. Who's in command is often in contention and strategy is hard to predict. Intelligence is difficult to obtain and prone to error. All of which led to campaigns of compromise by both the British and the French. Laramie introduces the players and a detailed narrative of the events before interrogating their results and the reasons behind them to produce a history driven equally by plot and character. He has also included appendices with detailed information on the armies, casualties, and eyewitness accounts.



Reflections: Staatsburg "Not Just a Place to Live"; A Collection of Interviews with Community Members
conducted, transcribed, and edited by Judith Linville
(Epigraph Publishing, 2019) 134 pp. $18.00 (softcover)
www.epigraphps.com

One part universal — a small-but-vibrant nineteenth-century village that withers once the highway bypasses Main Street — and one part hyper-specific — Staatsburg was largely a center of housing and support for a series of Gilded Age estates along the Hudson River. This collection of interviews captures the spirit of lost times from community elders who have all since passed. Whether your interest is place- and time-specific or simply "yesteryears," the voices and stories in this collection will edify and delight.



In Defiance: Runaways from Slavery in New York's Hudson River Valley, 1735–1831, Second Edition
by Susan Stessin-Cohn and Ashley Hurlburt-Biagini
(Black Dome Press, 2023) 472 pp. $35.00 (softcover)
www.blackdomepress.com

Runaway Notices provide a glimpse into the lives of an enslaved population that could create no formal record of themselves. These advertisements often provide age, origins, appearance, skills, and sometimes the experience, associates, and social networks of the individuals being sought. The forward by A.J. Williams-Meyers provides a thorough example of the methods that researchers have developed to parse and aggregate this information and return humanity to their subjects. Authors Susan Stessin-Cohen and Ashley Hurlburt-Biagini sought, scanned, transcribed, and notated nearly 800 examples from which the reader and researcher can begin to do the same. This revised edition includes more than 250 additional notices, all sorted by purpose: "runaway," "taken-up" (captured), "sale," and "wanted to purchase." It also includes tables sorting the data by gender, ascribed color/complexion, age, month of escape, origin of escape, items taken, skills, and languages, as well as a currency conversion table, the dates and content of "key points of New York's Emancipation Laws," a glossary of antiquated terms, bibliography, and index. Overwhelming in every sense, this expanded edition is indispensable to any regional history collection.

Call for Essays

The Hudson River Valley Review will consider essays on all aspects of the Hudson River Valley — its intellectual, political, economic, social, and cultural history, its prehistory, architecture, literature, art, and music — as well as essays on the ideas and ideologies of regionalism itself. All articles in *The Hudson River Valley Review* undergo peer review.

Submission of Essays and Other Materials

HRVR prefers that essays and other written materials be submitted as a double-spaced manuscript, generally no more than thirty pages long with endnotes, as an electronic file in Microsoft Word, Rich Text format (.rtf), or a compatible file type. Submissions should be sent to HRVI@Marist.edu.

Illustrations or photographs that are germane to the writing are also welcome. Illustrations and photographs are the responsibility of the authors. Scanned photos or digital art must be 300 pixels per inch (or greater) at 8 in. x 10 in. (between 7 and 20 mb).

Since HRVR is interdisciplinary in its approach to the region and to regionalism, it will honor the forms of citation appropriate to a particular discipline, provided these are applied consistently and supply full information. Footnotes rather than endnotes are preferred. In matters of style and form, HRVR follows *The Chicago Manual of Style.*