

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier is more than just a recounting of battles; it's a deeply personal journey through hardship, hope, and the unyielding spirit of individuals who dared to forge a new nation. This article delves into the multifaceted experiences of a common soldier during the American Revolutionary War, exploring their motivations for enlisting, the brutal realities of camp life, the psychological toll of conflict, and the profound impact of their service on the birth of the United States. We will examine the daily struggles, the camaraderie forged in adversity, and the enduring legacy of these ordinary men and women who became extraordinary heroes in the fight for liberty.

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The Call to Arms: Why Revolutionary Soldiers Fought

The decision to join the Continental Army was rarely a simple one for the average individual. For many revolutionary soldiers, the impetus stemmed from a potent mix of ideological conviction and practical necessity. The ideals of liberty, self-governance, and resistance to perceived tyranny resonated deeply with colonists who felt their rights as Englishmen were being systematically eroded by British policies. Philosophies of the Enlightenment, espousing natural rights and the social contract, provided intellectual justification for rebellion. Beyond abstract principles, however, tangible grievances fueled enlistment: oppressive taxation without representation, the quartering of British troops, and the curtailment of economic freedoms. The promise of a better future, free from monarchical control, served as a powerful motivator, drawing men from farms, workshops, and burgeoning towns to the cause of American independence. Some sought adventure, others escape from debt, but a significant portion were driven by a profound belief in the righteousness of their struggle, a willingness to sacrifice for the principles upon which a new nation would be built.

Life in the Continental Army: Beyond the Battlefield

The existence of a revolutionary soldier was a far cry from the romanticized image often portrayed. The daily life within the Continental Army was a constant battle against the elements, hunger, disease, and the gnawing uncertainty of war. Far from the thunder of cannons, soldiers endured long marches, arduous labor in constructing fortifications, and the sheer monotony of camp life, punctuated by periods of intense, terrifying engagement. Their experiences painted a stark picture of the sacrifices made to secure independence, highlighting the resilience and endurance required of those who served.

Daily Rations and Regimented Life

Sustenance was a perpetual concern for the Continental soldier. Rations were often meager and monotonous, consisting primarily of salt pork or beef, hardtack (a dry, unsalted biscuit that could last for long periods but was notoriously difficult to chew and digest), and perhaps some peas or beans. Fresh provisions were a luxury, often dependent on foraging, local support, or the luck of supply wagons. The lack of variety and nutritional value led to widespread malnutrition and weakened immune systems. Discipline was rigid, enforced through drills, inspections, and a strict hierarchical structure. Soldiers were expected to maintain their equipment, obey orders without question, and participate in daily routines that ranged from guard duty and fatigue duties to training exercises, all aimed at maintaining order and readiness amidst the chaos of war. The regimented nature of camp life, while sometimes stifling, was essential for maintaining a cohesive fighting force.

The Ever-Present Threat of Disease

Disease proved to be a more insidious and deadly enemy than the British Redcoats for many revolutionary soldiers. Overcrowded and unsanitary camp conditions, coupled with poor nutrition and exposure to the elements, created a breeding ground for illness. Smallpox, dysentery, typhoid fever, and influenza swept through encampments with devastating regularity, claiming more lives than were lost in combat. The lack of understanding of germ theory meant that preventative measures were rudimentary at best. Soldiers often lacked adequate medical supplies and trained personnel, leaving them vulnerable to infections and chronic conditions. The constant threat of sickness added another layer of hardship to an already challenging existence, underscoring the immense physical toll of military service during this era.

Forging Bonds: Camaraderie and Mutual Support

Amidst the hardship and suffering, a powerful sense of camaraderie often developed among the soldiers. Sharing common experiences of hunger, cold, and the ever-present danger of death fostered deep bonds between men from diverse backgrounds. They relied on each other for support, comfort, and a sense of belonging in an often-brutal environment. Soldiers would share meager rations, mend each other's clothing, and offer words of encouragement during moments of despair. This shared struggle and mutual dependence were crucial for maintaining morale and the will to continue fighting. The bonds forged in the crucible of the Revolutionary War were often lifelong, a testament to the human capacity for connection and resilience in the face of adversity.

Facing the Enemy: The Crucible of Combat

The true test of a revolutionary soldier's mettle came when they faced the enemy. Combat was a brutal and terrifying experience, demanding immense courage and a willingness to confront death. The nature of warfare in the 18th century meant that battles, while often decisive, were also chaotic and bloody affairs. Soldiers, thrust into the heart of the conflict, had to contend with not only the physical dangers of musket balls and bayonets but also the psychological impact of witnessing death and destruction firsthand.

Tactics and Engagements

Battles during the Revolutionary War were typically fought in linear formations. Soldiers would stand shoulder-to-shoulder in long lines, delivering volleys of musket fire at close range. This tactic, while seemingly straightforward, required incredible discipline and nerve, as men were exposed to enemy fire for extended periods. Cavalry played a supporting role, and artillery was used to soften up enemy lines or

bombard fortifications. Ambushes and skirmishes were also common, particularly in the more irregular warfare that characterized certain theaters of the conflict. The effectiveness of tactics often depended on the terrain, the training of the troops, and the leadership on the field, all contributing to the unpredictable and often brutal nature of engagements.

The Fear and Courage of Battle

The psychological impact of battle was profound. The deafening roar of cannons, the crackle of musket fire, the shouts of men, and the sight of fallen comrades created an atmosphere of sheer terror. Soldiers were trained to stand their ground, but the primal instinct of self-preservation was a constant battle. Courage was not the absence of fear, but the ability to act in spite of it. This courage was often fueled by a sense of duty, loyalty to their comrades, and belief in the cause for which they were fighting. The resolve to face down death, to advance into the fray rather than retreat, was a testament to the extraordinary mental fortitude displayed by these soldiers.

Wounds and Recuperation

Wounds sustained in battle were often severe and treatment rudimentary. Musket balls, while inaccurate, could inflict devastating injuries. Amputations were common for limb wounds, carried out with primitive surgical tools and often without anesthesia. Infection was a constant threat, and many soldiers succumbed to their wounds in the aftermath of battle due to the lack of effective medical care. Those who survived faced a long and painful recovery, often in makeshift hospitals or back in their communities if they were fortunate enough to be discharged. The physical and mental scars of combat often lingered long after the war concluded, a silent testament to their service.

The Soldier's Perspective: Hopes and Hardships

Beyond the grand narratives of independence and nation-building, the lived experience of a revolutionary soldier was a tapestry woven with individual hopes and profound hardships. Each man carried his own burdens and dreams, colored by the stark realities of war. The promise of a free America was a powerful beacon, yet the daily grind of survival often overshadowed lofty ideals. Their letters, diaries, and later recollections offer invaluable glimpses into the personal sacrifices made, the emotional toll of prolonged separation from loved ones, and the enduring flicker of hope that sustained them through the darkest days. The soldier's perspective reveals the human cost of revolution and the immense resilience required to endure such an ordeal.

A Legacy of Freedom: The Soldier's Enduring Impact

The collective narrative of the revolutionary soldier is inextricably linked to the very foundation of the United States. Their willingness to endure immense hardship, to face down a global superpower, and to believe in the radical notion of self-governance laid the groundwork for a nation founded on the principles of liberty and democracy. Though often unsung heroes, their sacrifices were the bedrock upon which American freedom was built. The legacy of these soldiers is not merely found in history books or monuments; it lives on in the democratic institutions they fought to create and the ideals of freedom they so bravely defended. Their story serves as a perpetual reminder of the courage and conviction required to challenge oppression and forge a new path, a narrative that continues to inspire generations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the most challenging aspect of being a revolutionary soldier, beyond the battlefield?

The constant scarcity of resources – food, clothing, and adequate shelter – was a persistent and often debilitating challenge, impacting morale and physical well-being as much as any skirmish.

How did revolutionary soldiers maintain morale and hope in the face of overwhelming odds?

Shared belief in the cause of liberty, strong bonds of camaraderie forged through hardship, and the inspiring leadership of figures like Washington were crucial for maintaining morale and pushing forward.

What were some unexpected skills or knowledge a revolutionary soldier might have possessed?

Beyond military tactics, many possessed practical skills vital for survival, such as farming, blacksmithing, tailoring, or even basic medical knowledge for treating wounds and illnesses.

How did the concept of 'freedom' evolve for a revolutionary soldier throughout the war?

Initially, 'freedom' might have been a more abstract ideal of breaking from tyranny. As the war progressed, it often became tied to tangible realities: the freedom to own land, to govern themselves, and to secure a future for their families.

What was the most significant fear a revolutionary soldier grappled with, aside from death?

The fear of failure and the potential return to British rule, meaning all their sacrifices and losses would be in vain, was a profound and ever-present anxiety.

How did the revolutionary soldier's perspective on the 'enemy' change over time?

Initially, the British might have been seen as an abstract oppressive force. Through direct conflict and shared humanity discovered in rare moments, some soldiers may have developed a more nuanced, albeit still adversarial, view of individual British soldiers.

What role did family and home play in the motivations of a revolutionary soldier?

The desire to protect their families, secure a future free from monarchical interference, and preserve their way of life was a primary driving force for many, fueling their determination to fight and endure.

Beyond the official narrative, what personal dreams or aspirations did a revolutionary soldier carry?

Many dreamed of returning home to rebuild their lives, to farm their land in peace, to see their children grow up in a free nation, and to simply enjoy the quiet stability that the war had disrupted.

How did the experience of war shape a revolutionary soldier's view of government and authority?

Having fought against distant, unelected authority, these soldiers likely developed a deep appreciation for representative government and a skepticism towards absolute power, valuing individual rights and local governance.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles and descriptions related to a narrative of a revolutionary soldier:

1. The Scarlet Tide's Echo

This gripping tale follows a young farmer thrust into the heart of the American Revolution. Haunted by the loss of his home and family, he finds solace and purpose in the fight for liberty. His journey is one of survival, betrayal, and the dawning realization of his own courage in the face of overwhelming odds. The

narrative explores the personal cost of revolution, etched in the memories of those who lived through it.

2. Beneath the Tattered Banner

Experience the harrowing winter encampments and brutal skirmishes through the eyes of a seasoned soldier. He battles not only the enemy but also disease, hunger, and despair. This story delves into the camaraderie forged in hardship and the unwavering loyalty that binds men together. It's a testament to the resilience of the human spirit against the backdrop of a nation's birth.

3. Whispers of Valley Forge

This introspective novel centers on a scholar who joins the Continental Army, seeking to document the ideals of the revolution. He witnesses firsthand the sacrifices made and the unwavering resolve of ordinary men. His journal entries become a powerful chronicle of the struggle, revealing the intellectual and emotional turmoil of the era. The narrative offers a unique perspective on the birth of a nation.

4. The Last Stand of Captain Thorne

Follow the exploits of a charismatic and respected officer as he leads his men through a series of desperate battles. His strategic brilliance and unwavering bravery inspire hope in the darkest of times. The story culminates in a legendary last stand that solidifies his place in history. This is an epic account of leadership and sacrifice.

5. From Farmhand to Freedom Fighter

This is the rags-to-riches story of a simple farmhand who discovers an inner fire for freedom. He learns to wield a musket and strategize on the battlefield, transforming into a formidable soldier. The narrative highlights his personal growth and the profound impact of revolutionary ideals on an individual's life. It's a story of transformation and unwavering patriotism.

6. The Spy in the Bluecoat

Uncover the thrilling world of espionage and intrigue during the Revolution. A loyal soldier is secretly tasked with gathering vital intelligence behind enemy lines. His double life is fraught with peril, testing his courage and his convictions. This book offers a suspenseful look at the unseen battles that shaped the outcome of the war.

7. The Musket's Lullaby

This poignant narrative explores the emotional landscape of a young soldier grappling with the realities of war. He writes letters home filled with both hope and unspoken fears, chronicling his experiences in vivid detail. The story emphasizes the enduring power of love and connection in the midst of conflict. It's a deeply personal account of wartime life.

8. Rally the Scattered Patriots

This saga follows a determined soldier tasked with unifying disparate militias and continental regulars. He faces internal strife and external threats, striving to forge a cohesive fighting force. His efforts are crucial to turning the tide of the war. The book is an inspiring account of leadership and the challenge of building an army from scratch.

9. Sunrise Over Yorktown

Concluding the soldier's epic journey, this novel depicts the pivotal events leading up to the final victory. He fights with renewed ferocity, driven by the vision of a free nation. The story is a powerful testament to perseverance and the culmination of years of struggle. It offers a triumphant look at the birth of American independence.

[A Narrative Of A Revolutionary Soldier](#)

A Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier

Dive into the heart of a forgotten war, where courage clashed with despair, and loyalty was tested to its breaking point. Are you tired of historical fiction that glosses over the brutal realities of revolution? Do you crave a story that truly captures the grit, the fear, and the unwavering determination of those who fought for freedom? Do you yearn for a narrative that explores not just the battlefield, but the inner turmoil and moral complexities of a soldier caught in the crucible of war? Then prepare to be transported to a world of fire and fury in A Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier.

This ebook offers an unflinching and deeply personal account of revolution from the perspective of a common soldier, revealing the human cost of conflict often overlooked in grand historical narratives. We delve into the psychological toll of war, the struggles with conscience, and the enduring bonds of camaraderie forged in the face of unimaginable hardship.

Author: Elias Thorne

Contents:

Introduction: Setting the Stage - Introducing the time period, the conflict, and our protagonist, Thomas Ashton.

Chapter 1: The Call to Arms: Thomas's reasons for joining the revolution, his initial training, and first experiences of war.

Chapter 2: The Crucible of Battle: Detailed descriptions of several key battles, highlighting the brutality and chaos of combat, and focusing on Thomas's evolving perspective.

Chapter 3: Shadows of Doubt: Exploration of Thomas's inner conflicts, moral dilemmas faced on the battlefield, and the psychological impact of violence.

Chapter 4: Bonds of Brotherhood: The importance of camaraderie amongst the soldiers, the development of close friendships, and the impact of loss.

Chapter 5: A Turning Point: A pivotal moment in the war that irrevocably alters Thomas's life and beliefs.

Chapter 6: The Aftermath: The aftermath of the war, the transition back to civilian life, and the lasting impact of the conflict on Thomas and his comrades.

Conclusion: Reflections on the human cost of revolution and the enduring legacy of those who fought.

A Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier: An In-Depth Look

This article delves into the planned content of the ebook, "A Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier," providing a detailed exploration of each section. The SEO structure utilizes relevant keywords throughout and aims for high search engine ranking.

Introduction: Setting the Stage

This introductory chapter sets the scene for the entire narrative. We will establish the historical context, providing background information on the specific revolution the story is set within (the specific revolution will be chosen based on research and target audience appeal – potentially the American Revolution for broad appeal). The introduction will immediately grab the reader's attention with a powerful opening scene, perhaps depicting a specific event or image that encapsulates the spirit of the revolution. It will introduce our protagonist, Thomas Ashton, a relatable ordinary individual thrust into extraordinary circumstances. Crucially, we will establish Thomas's background and motivations – his reasons for joining the fight. This section needs SEO optimization with keywords like "American Revolution," "Revolutionary War," "Historical Fiction," "Military History," and "Soldier's Life."

Chapter 1: The Call to Arms

This chapter focuses on Thomas's journey from civilian life to soldier. It will depict his recruitment process, initial training, and early experiences within the army. This is where we establish the daily realities of a soldier's life – the physical demands, the discipline, and the camaraderie. The description will use sensory details to paint a vivid picture of the time, incorporating descriptions of the weaponry, uniforms, and living conditions. SEO keywords for this chapter would include "Military Training," "Enlistment," "Revolutionary War Soldier," "Camp Life," and "Early Battles."

Chapter 2: The Crucible of Battle

Here, the story delves into the heart of the conflict. The narrative will describe several significant battles, focusing on the sensory experience of combat, the brutality and chaos of war. This section will avoid glorifying war, instead highlighting the terror, the suffering, and the psychological toll on the soldiers. We will illustrate specific battles through Thomas's eyes, highlighting his emotional and physical struggles, showcasing bravery and fear, using vivid descriptions to immerse the reader. SEO-relevant keywords for this section include "Battle of [Specific Battle Name]," "Revolutionary War Battles," "Combat," "Warfare," and "Military Tactics."

Chapter 3: Shadows of Doubt

This chapter explores the internal struggles of Thomas. It moves beyond the battlefield to examine his moral dilemmas, the psychological consequences of violence, and the growing disillusionment that may develop over time. The chapter will showcase the internal conflict between ideals and reality, faith and doubt, portraying the human cost of war. Thomas's evolving perspective will be central, showing how war can challenge one's beliefs and values. SEO terms relevant here are "PTSD," "Moral Dilemmas," "War Trauma," "Psychological Warfare," and "Inner Conflict."

Chapter 4: Bonds of Brotherhood

This chapter delves into the crucial relationships between soldiers. It emphasizes the power of camaraderie, highlighting the deep bonds formed between men facing death together. This will include detailed descriptions of friendships, the support system they create, and the devastating impact of loss. The story will focus on the human connections forged in adversity. Keywords for SEO would include "Camaraderie," "Friendship," "Soldier Bonds," "Support System," and "Loss in War."

Chapter 5: A Turning Point

This pivotal chapter focuses on a specific event that irrevocably alters Thomas's life and perspective. This could be a significant battle, a personal tragedy, or a moral decision with lasting consequences. The event will serve as a catalyst for change, showcasing the evolution of the character and his understanding of the war and its impact. SEO terms could include "Turning Point," "Critical Moment," "Decisive Battle," "Moral Decision," and "Character Development."

Chapter 6: The Aftermath

This chapter examines the period after the war's conclusion. It delves into Thomas's transition back to civilian life, highlighting the challenges he faces, including physical and psychological wounds. It will show the lasting impact of the war on his life and the lives of his comrades, emphasizing the long-term consequences of conflict. SEO terms: "Post-War Trauma," "Reintegration," "Veteran's Life," "Civilian Life," and "Long-Term Effects of War."

Conclusion: Reflections on the Human Cost

The conclusion summarizes Thomas's journey and offers broader reflections on the human cost of revolution. It will synthesize the themes explored throughout the book, emphasizing the lasting

legacy of those who fought, and the importance of remembering their sacrifices. It aims to leave a lasting impact on the reader, prompting contemplation on the complex realities of war and its impact on individuals and society. Relevant SEO keywords: "Human Cost of War," "Legacy of Revolution," "War Remembrance," "Historical Reflection," and "Conclusion."

FAQs:

1. Is this book suitable for all ages? No, due to the graphic depictions of war, it's best suited for mature readers (16+).
2. Is the story based on a true story? While fictional, the story draws inspiration from historical events and the experiences of real revolutionary soldiers.
3. What kind of revolution is depicted in the book? The specific revolution will be clearly stated in the book's description and introduction.
4. Are there romantic elements in the story? While the focus is on the war experience, there may be some romantic subplots to add depth to the characters.
5. How long is the book? The approximate length will be specified in the book description.
6. What makes this book different from other historical fiction? This book focuses on the deeply personal experience of a common soldier, going beyond the grand narratives often found in historical fiction.
7. Will there be a sequel? The possibility of a sequel will depend on the reception of the first book.
8. What are the main themes explored in the book? War, brotherhood, sacrifice, loyalty, and the psychological impact of conflict.
9. Where can I purchase the ebook? The ebook will be available on [Insert Sales Platforms Here].

Related Articles:

1. The Psychological Impact of War on Revolutionary Soldiers: Explores the mental health challenges faced by soldiers during and after revolutionary wars.
2. The Role of Ordinary Soldiers in Revolutionary Wars: Focuses on the contributions of common soldiers, often overlooked in traditional historical accounts.
3. Camaraderie and Brotherhood in Revolutionary Armies: Examines the importance of friendship and support systems within military units.
4. Weapons and Warfare in the [Specific Revolution]: Details the military technology and tactics used during the revolution.
5. The Moral Dilemmas Faced by Soldiers in Revolutionary Wars: Discusses the ethical challenges faced by soldiers caught in the conflict.
6. The Transition from Military to Civilian Life After Revolutionary Wars: Explores the difficulties veterans faced readjusting to peacetime.
7. Women's Roles in Revolutionary Wars: Examines the contributions of women in supporting the war effort.
8. The Impact of Revolutionary Wars on Civilians: Discusses the effects of war on the non-combatant

population.

9. The Legacy of [Specific Revolution]: Explores the lasting effects of the revolution on society and culture.

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a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: Memoir of a Revolutionary Soldier Joseph Plumb Martin, 2006-05-26 Originally published in 1830 under title: A narrative of some of the adventures, dangers and sufferings of a Revolutionary soldier, in 1962 under title: Private Yankee Doodle, and in 2001 under title: A narrative of a Revolutionary soldier.

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a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: Memoir of a Revolutionary Soldier Joseph Plumb Martin, 2019-03-14 Much is known of George Washington, Nathanael Greene, the Marquis de Lafayette, and other leaders of the Continental Army. Yet, relatively little is known of the ordinary soldiers who fought and died during the American Revolution. It is incredibly rare that we are able hear what an ordinary soldier thought and saw through the course of this conflict. The memoir of Joseph Plumb Martin is therefore an invaluable document that can shed light onto an aspect of the war that is frequently hidden. Following the battles of Lexington and Concord, sixteen year old Martin joined the Connecticut Militia just before the opening of the British Long Island Campaign. Serving under the leadership of General James Varnum he, and his regiment, saw action at Brooklyn, White Plains, Fort Mifflin, Monmouth and Yorktown. For eight years he fought for the cause of the Revolution, risking is life in countless engagements and in terrible conditions. His memoir provides fascinating insight into the life of an ordinary soldier and is a perfect book for anyone interested in finding out more about the American Revolutionary War. Joseph Plumb Martin was a soldier in the Continental Army through the course of the American War of Independence. For most of the war he served as a private but by the end of the war he had risen to the rank of sergeant. His memoir, originally titled A Narrative Of Some Of The Adventures, Dangers And Sufferings Of A Revolutionary Soldier was first published in 1830. Joseph Plumb Martin passed away in 1850.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: A Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier Joseph Plumb Martin, 1830

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *The Adventures of a Revolutionary Soldier* Joseph Martin, 2017-08-31 Joseph Plumb Martin was a soldier in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, holding the rank of private for most of the war. His published narrative of his experiences, re-discovered in the 1950s, has become a valuable resource for historians in understanding the conditions of a common soldier of that era, as well as the battles in which Martin participated. Martin's narrative of the war has been frequently cited by scholars as an excellent primary source for the American Revolution. His narrative is considered one of the major primary sources for historians, researchers and re-enactors of the American Revolution.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: The Adventures of a Revolutionary Soldier. (1830)

by Joseph Plumb Martin, 2016-12-05 Joseph Plumb Martin (November 21, 1760 - May 2, 1850) was a soldier in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, holding the rank of private for most of the war. His published narrative of his experiences, re-discovered in the 1950s, has become a valuable resource for historians in understanding the conditions of a common soldier of that era, as well as the battles in which Martin participated. Martin was born in Becket, Massachusetts on November 21, 1760 to the Reverend Ebenezer Martin and Susannah Plumb. At the age of seven, he was sent to live with his grandparents in Milford, Connecticut. Because his family was well-to-do (his father studied at Yale), Martin was able to receive a well rounded education, including reading and writing.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: A Narrative of Some of the Adventures, Dangers and Sufferings of a Revolutionary Soldier Joseph Plumb Martin, 2001

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a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: A Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier Joseph Plumb Martin, 2001 An American colonial soldier presents an account of his experiences fighting for freedom during the Revolutionary War, in a narrative featuring a new introduction by Thomas Fleming.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: A Revolutionary People At War Charles Royster, 2011-02-01 In this highly acclaimed book, Charles Royster explores the mental processes and emotional crises that Americans faced in their first national war. He ranges imaginatively outside the traditional techniques of analytical historical exposition to build his portrait of how individuals and a populace at large faced the Revolution and its implications. The book was originally published by UNC Press in 1980.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: The Soldier's Two Bodies James M. Greene, 2020-01-13 In *The Soldier's Two Bodies*, James M. Greene investigates an overlooked genre of early American literature—the Revolutionary War veteran narrative—showing that it by turns both promotes and critiques a notion of military heroism as the source of U.S. sovereignty. Personal narratives by veterans of the American Revolution indicate that soldiers in the United States have been represented in two contrasting ways from the nation's first days: as heroic symbols of the body politic and as human beings whose sufferings are neglected by their country. Published from 1779 through the late 1850s, narrative accounts of Revolutionary War veterans' past service called for recognition from contemporary audiences, inviting readers to understand the war as a moment of

violence central to the founding of the nation. Yet, as Greene reveals, these calls for recognition at the same time underscored how many veterans felt overlooked and excluded from the sovereign power they fought to establish. Although such narratives stem from a discourse that supports centralized, continental nationalism, they disrupt stable notions of a unified American people by highlighting those left behind. Greene discusses several well-known examples of the genre, including narratives from Ethan Allen, Joseph Plumb Martin, and Deborah Sampson, along with Herman Melville's fictional adaptation of the life of Israel Potter. Additional chapters focus on accounts of postwar frontier actions, including narratives collected by Hugh Henry Brackenridge that voice concerns over populist violence, along with stranger narratives like those of Isaac Hubbell and James Roberts, which register as fantastic imitations of the genre commenting on antebellum racial politics. With attention to questions of historical context and political ideology, Greene charts the process by which veteran narratives promote exception, violence, and autonomy, while also encouraging restraint, sacrifice, and collectivity. Revolutionary War veteran narratives offer no easy solutions to the appropriation of veterans' lives within military nationalism and sovereign violence. But by bringing forward the paradox inherent in the figure of the U.S. soldier, the genre invites considerations of how to reimagine those representations. Drawing attention to paradoxes presented by the memory of the American Revolution, *The Soldier's Two Bodies* locates the origins of a complicated history surrounding the representation of veterans in U.S. politics and culture.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *Soldiers' Revolution* Gregory T. Knouff, 2010-11-01
The *Soldiers' Revolution* offers us a rare glimpse into the everyday world of the American Revolution. We see how the common experience of war drew soldiers together as they began the long process of forging an identity for a fledgling nation.--Jacket.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *A Narrative of Some of the Adventures, Dangers and Sufferings of a Revolutionary Soldier* Joseph Plumb Martin, 1968

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *Don Troiani's Soldiers of the American Revolution*, 2007 - Vibrant color paintings illustrate soldiers and battles of the war - Color photos of seldom-seen period artifacts such as uniforms, weapons, and other equipment In this collection, renowned artist Don Troiani teams up with leading artifact historian James L. Kochan to present the American Revolution as it has existed only in our imaginations: in living color. From Bunker Hill to Yorktown, from Washington to Cornwallis, from the Minute Men to the Black Watch, these pages are packed with scenes of grand action and great characters, recreated in the vivid blues and reds that defined the Revolutionary era. Troiani's depictions of these legendary fife-and-drum soldiers are based on firsthand accounts and, wherever possible, surviving artifacts. Scores of color photographs of these objects--many of them from private collections and seen here for the very first time--accompany the paintings. Items range from muskets and beautifully ornate swords to more unique pieces such as badges with unit insignia or patriotic slogans and Baron von Steuben's liquor chest. More than just a glimpse into a world long past, this is the closest the modern reader can get to experiencing the Revolutionary War firsthand.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: I Survived the American Revolution, 1776 (I Survived #15) Lauren Tarshis, 2017-08-29 Bestselling author Lauren Tarshis tackles the American Revolution in this latest installment of the groundbreaking, New York Times bestselling *I Survived* series. Bestselling author Lauren Tarshis tackles the American Revolution in this latest installment of the groundbreaking, New York Times bestselling *I Survived* series. British soldiers were everywhere. There was no escape. Nathaniel Fox never imagined he'd find himself in the middle of a blood-soaked battlefield, fighting for his life. He was only eleven years old! He'd barely paid attention to the troubles between America and England. How could he, while being worked to the bone by his cruel uncle, Uriah Storch? But when his uncle's rage forces him to flee the only home he knows, Nate is suddenly propelled toward a thrilling and dangerous journey into the heart of the Revolutionary War. He finds himself in New York City on the brink of what will be the biggest battle yet.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: British Soldiers, American War Don N. Hagist, 2014

Nine Rare and Fascinating First-Person Profiles of Soldiers Who Fought for the British Crown Much has been written about the colonists who took up arms during the American Revolution and the army they created. Far less literature, however, has been devoted to their adversaries. The professional soldiers that composed the British army are seldom considered on a personal level, instead being either overlooked or inaccurately characterized as conscripts and criminals. Most of the British Redcoats sent to America in defense of their government's policies were career soldiers who enlisted voluntarily in their late teens or early twenties. They came from all walks of British life, including those with nowhere else to turn, those aspiring to improve their social standing, and all others in between. Statistics show that most were simply hardworking men with various amounts of education who had chosen the military in preference to other occupations. Very few of these soldiers left writings from which we can learn their private motives and experiences. *British Soldiers, American War: Voices of the American Revolution* is the first collection of personal narratives by British common soldiers ever assembled and published. Author Don N. Hagist has located first-hand accounts of nine soldiers who served in America in the 1770s and 1780s. In their own words we learn of the diverse population--among them a former weaver, a boy who quarrelled with his family, and a man with wanderlust--who joined the army and served tirelessly and dutifully, sometimes faithfully and sometimes irresolutely, in the uniform of their nation. To accompany each narrative, the author provides a contextualizing essay based on archival research giving background on the soldier and his military service. Taken as a whole these true stories reveal much about the individuals who composed what was, at the time, the most formidable fighting force in the world.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *War & Society in the American Revolution* John Phillips Resch, Walter L. Sargent, 2007 The War for Independence touched virtually every American. It promised liberty, the opportunity for a better life, and the excitement of the battlefield. It also brought disappointment, misery, and mourning. In this collection of original essays that highlight the variety and richness of recent research, eleven leading historians investigate the diverse experiences of Americans from North to South, from coast to backcountry, from white townsfolk to African American slaves. Revolutionary ideology may have inspired some soldiers in the Continental Army, but as the case studies in this volume document, the men of New England also weighed family commitments, economic concerns, and local politics when deciding whether or not to enlist in the militia. Slaves joined the army believing the war would bring them personal freedom while women served as auxiliaries or as camp followers. Those left behind defended the homefront--unless the war took their homes and made them refugees. On the frontier, politically astute Native Americans weighed the relative advantages to themselves before deciding to support the patriots or the Crown. By bringing together the perspectives of soldiers, women, African Americans, and American Indians, *War and Society in the American Revolution* gives readers a fuller sense of the meaning of this historical moment. At the same time, these essays show that instead of unifying Americans, the war actually exacerbated social divisions, leaving unresolved the inequalities and tensions that would continue to trouble the new nation.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *The Diary of Joseph Plumb Martin, a Revolutionary War Soldier* Joseph Plumb Martin, 2002-01-15 The diary of a young Connecticut farmer, who fought against the British in the Revolutionary War.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *Soldiers of Revolution* Mark Lause, 2022-01-18 How war gave birth to revolution in the 19th century The Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 introduced new military technologies, transformed the organization of armies, and upset the continental balance of power, promulgating new regimented ideas of nationhood and conflict resolution more widely. However, the mass armies that became a new standard required mass mobilization and the arming of working people, who exercised a new power through both a German social democracy and popular insurgent French movements. As in the Russian Revolution of 1917, the Paris Commune of 1871 grew directly from the discontent among radicalized soldiers and civilians pressed into armed service on behalf of institutions they learned to mistrust. If this militarized class conflict, the brutality of the Commune's subsequent repression not only butchered the tens of thousands of

Parisians but slaughtered an old utopian faith that appeals to reason and morality could resolve social tensions. War among nations became linked to revolution and revolution to armed struggle.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *Our First Civil War* H. W. Brands, 2022-09-13 A fast-paced, often riveting account of the military and political events leading up to the Declaration of Independence and those that followed during the war ... Brands does his readers a service by reminding them that division, as much as unity, is central to the founding of our nation.—The Washington Post From best-selling historian and Pulitzer Prize finalist H. W. Brands comes a gripping, page-turning narrative of the American Revolution that shows it to be more than a fight against the British: it was also a violent battle among neighbors forced to choose sides, Loyalist or Patriot. What causes people to forsake their country and take arms against it? What prompts their neighbors, hardly distinguishable in station or success, to defend that country against the rebels? That is the question H. W. Brands answers in his powerful new history of the American Revolution. George Washington and Benjamin Franklin were the unlikeliest of rebels. Washington in the 1770s stood at the apex of Virginia society. Franklin was more successful still, having risen from humble origins to world fame. John Adams might have seemed a more obvious candidate for rebellion, being of cantankerous temperament. Even so, he revered the law. Yet all three men became rebels against the British Empire that fostered their success. Others in the same circle of family and friends chose differently. William Franklin might have been expected to join his father, Benjamin, in rebellion but remained loyal to the British. So did Thomas Hutchinson, a royal governor and friend of the Franklins, and Joseph Galloway, an early challenger to the Crown. They soon heard themselves denounced as traitors—for not having betrayed the country where they grew up. Native Americans and the enslaved were also forced to choose sides as civil war broke out around them. After the Revolution, the Patriots were cast as heroes and founding fathers while the Loyalists were relegated to bit parts best forgotten. *Our First Civil War* reminds us that before America could win its revolution against Britain, the Patriots had to win a bitter civil war against family, neighbors, and friends.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *Revolutionary* Alex Myers, 2014-01-14 “A remarkable novel” (The New York Times) about America’s first female soldier, Deborah Sampson Gannett, who ran away from home in 1782, successfully disguised herself as a man, and fought valiantly in the Revolutionary War. At a time when rigid societal norms seemed absolute, Deborah Sampson risked everything in search of something better. Revolutionary, Alex Myers’s richly imagined and carefully researched debut novel, tells the story of a fierce-tempered young woman turned celebrated soldier and the remarkable courage, hope, fear, and heartbreak that shaped her odyssey during the birth of a nation. After years of indentured servitude in a sleepy Massachusetts town, Deborah chafes under the oppression of colonial society and cannot always hide her discontent. When a sudden crisis forces her hand, she decides to escape the only way she can, rejecting her place in the community in favor of the perilous unknown. Cutting her hair, binding her chest, and donning men’s clothes stolen from a neighbor, Deborah sheds her name and her home, beginning her identity-shaking transformation into the imaginary “Robert Shurtliff”—a desperate and dangerous masquerade that grows more serious when “Robert” joins the Continental Army. What follows is a journey through America’s War of Independence like no other—an unlikely march through cold winters across bloody battlefields, the nightmare of combat and the cruelty of betrayal, the elation of true love and the tragedy of heartbreak. As The Boston Globe raves, “*Revolutionary* succeeds on a number of levels, as a great historical-military adventure story, as an exploration of gender identity, and as a page-turning description of the fascinating life of the revolutionary Deborah Sampson.”

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: Cornwallis Richard Middleton, 2022-02-22 The first biography of Charles Cornwallis in forty years—the soldier, governor, and statesman whose career covered America, India, Britain, and Ireland Charles, First Marquis of Cornwallis (1738–1805), was a leading figure in late eighteenth-century Britain. His career spanned the American War of Independence, Irish Union, the French Revolutionary Wars, and the building of the Second British Empire in India—and he has long been associated with the unacceptable face of Britain’s colonial

past. In this vivid new biography, Richard Middleton shows that this portrait is far from accurate. Cornwallis emerges as a reformer who had deep empathy for those under his authority, and was clear about his obligation to govern justly. He sought to protect the population of Bengal with a constitution of written laws, insisted on Catholic emancipation in Ireland, and recognized the limitations of British power after the American war. Middleton reveals how Cornwallis' rewarding of merit, search for economy, and elimination of corruption helped improve the machinery of British government into the nineteenth century.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *Scar* J. Albert Mann, 2016-04-05 On a hot summer day in a quiet frontier settlement, a bloody raid leads to an even bloodier conflict. A young Mohawk warrior and a patrotic farm boy have survived the battle, but can they survive the night? Sixteen-year-old Noah Daniels wants nothing more than to fight in George Washington's Continental Army, but an accident as a child left him maimed and unable to enlist. He is forced to watch the Revolution from his family's hard scrabble farm in Upstate New York—until a violent raid on his settlement thrusts him into one of the bloodiest battles of the American Revolution, and ultimately, face to face with the enemy. In *Scar: A Revolutionary War Tale*, J. Albert Mann takes readers deep into the woods of northern New York, where two young enemies meet face to face. Based on actual events and exhaustive research, this gripping, dramatic tale of courage and honor will prove impossible to forget.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: Citizen Soldier Mark Edward Lender, James Kirby Martin, 2017-10-27 A New Edition of the Eyewitness Account that Introduced Readers to the Experience of the Continental Army About sunset we made a stand, when I was wounded, having a Ball with the Wad shot through my left forearm & the fuse set my coat and shirt on fire. So wrote Major Joseph Bloomfield in his journal on September 11, 1777, describing his experiences during the hard-fought battle of Brandywine. Bloomfield was an officer in the 3rd New Jersey Regiment from 1776 to 1779. His service took him from Fort Stanwix to Fort Ticonderoga in New York, to the battle of Brandywine in Pennsylvania, and to the battle of Monmouth in his native state. He later served as governor of New Jersey from 1801 to 1812. A compassionate officer admired by his men, Bloomfield carefully recounted the hardships of military campaigns--the swings of morale, the shortage of supplies, the ever-present illnesses--and the intensity of combat. Of special interest are Bloomfield's important notes on the culture and behavior of the Iroquois tribes known collectively as the Six Nations, which played a crucial role in revolutionary New York. Unpublished and all but unknown when the first edition--skillfully edited by historians Mark Edward Lender and Joseph Kirby Martin--appeared, Bloomfield's wartime journal was praised for providing both scholars and general readers with new information on the Continental soldier; the revolution's impact on society; warfare in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania; and the motives and actions of the revolutionary generation. Soldiers and civilians, Patriots and Tories, come alive in this fascinating eyewitness narrative. This new edition of *Citizen Soldier: The Revolutionary War Journal of Joseph Bloomfield*--the first in thirty-five years--includes a new introduction and bibliographic essay by the editors.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: Winning Independence John Ferling, 2021-05-11 Co-Winner of the 2022 Harry M. Ward Book Prize From celebrated historian John Ferling, the underexplored history of the second half of the Revolutionary War, when, after years of fighting, American independence often seemed beyond reach. It was 1778, and the recent American victory at Saratoga had netted the U.S a powerful ally in France. Many, including General George Washington, presumed France's entrance into the war meant independence was just around the corner. Meanwhile, having lost an entire army at Saratoga, Great Britain pivoted to a "southern strategy." The army would henceforth seek to regain its southern colonies, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, a highly profitable segment of its pre-war American empire. Deep into 1780 Britain's new approach seemed headed for success as the U.S. economy collapsed and morale on the home front waned. By early 1781, Washington, and others, feared that France would drop out of the war if the Allies failed to score a decisive victory that year. Sir Henry Clinton, commander of

Britain's army, thought "the rebellion is near its end." Washington, who had been so optimistic in 1778, despaired: "I have almost ceased to hope." Winning Independence is the dramatic story of how and why Great Britain--so close to regaining several southern colonies and rendering the postwar United States a fatally weak nation ultimately failed to win the war. The book explores the choices and decisions made by Clinton and Washington, and others, that ultimately led the French and American allies to clinch the pivotal victory at Yorktown that at long last secured American independence.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: The Revolution's Last Men Don N. Hagist, 2015 Biographical sketches of six veterans of the American Revolutionary War still alive during the American Civil War : Samuel Downing (2nd New Hampshire Regiment) -- Daniel Waldo (Connecticut Militia) -- Lemuel Cook (2nd Dragoons) -- Alexander Milliner (1st New York Regiment) -- William Hutchings (Massachusetts Militia) -- Adam Link (Pennsylvania Militia).

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: Ordinary Courage Joseph Plumb Martin, 2008-05-13 Enriched by James Kirby Martin's expanded and updated introduction, this classic memoir provides a compelling history of the Revolutionary War as seen through the eyes of one courageous soldier. Includes an expanded and updated introduction, annotations, and suggestions for further reading New maps give an overview of Joseph Plumb Martin's travels Brief headnotes introduce each chapter

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: 'They Were Good Soldiers' John U. Rees, 2019 The role of African-Americans, most free but some enslaved, in the regiments of the Continental Army is not well-known; neither is the fact that relatively large numbers served in southern regiments and that the greatest number served alongside their white comrades in integrated units. 'They Were Good Soldiers' begins by discussing, for comparison, the inclusion and treatment of black Americans by the various Crown forces (particularly British and Loyalist commanders, and military units). The narrative then moves into an overview of black soldiers in the Continental Army, before examining their service state by state. Each state chapter looks first at the Continental regiments in that state's contingent throughout the war, and then adds interesting black soldiers' pension narratives or portions thereof. The premise is to introduce the reader to the men's wartime duties and experiences. The book's concluding chapters examine veterans' postwar fortunes in a changing society and the effect of increasing racial bias in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. 'They Were Good Soldiers' makes extensive use of black veterans' pension narratives to 'hear' them and others tell their stories, and provides insights into their lives, before, during, and after the war.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: Battles of the Revolutionary War, 1775-1781 William J. Wood, 2012-05-21 The Americans didn't simply outlast the British, nor was the war just a glorified guerrilla action with sporadic skirmishes, says W. J. Wood. Americans won their independence on the battlefield by employing superior strategies, tactics, and leadership in the battles of Bunker Hill, Quebec, Trenton, Princeton, Saratoga, and Cowpens, among many others. Here in this groundbreaking book are detailed accounts of attempts by commanders to adapt their forces to the ever-shifting battlefield of the Revolutionary War, as well as analyses of the factors that determined the eventual American victory. Battles of the Revolutionary War is designed for armchair strategist, with dozens of illustrations and maps--many specially prepared for this volume--of the weapons, battle plans, and combatants. It's an insider's look at the dramatic times and colorful personalities that accompanied the birth of this country.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: The Blind African Slave Jeffrey Brace, 2005-02-16 The Blind African Slave recounts the life of Jeffrey Brace (né Boyrereau Brinch), who was born in West Africa around 1742. Captured by slave traders at the age of sixteen, Brace was transported to Barbados, where he experienced the shock and trauma of slave-breaking and was sold to a New England ship captain. After fighting as an enslaved sailor for two years in the Seven Years War, Brace was taken to New Haven, Connecticut, and sold into slavery. After several years in New England, Brace enlisted in the Continental Army in hopes of winning his manumission. After five years of military service, he was honorably discharged and was freed from slavery. As a free man, he

chose in 1784 to move to Vermont, the first state to make slavery illegal. There, he met and married an African woman, bought a farm, and raised a family. Although literate, he was blind when he decided to publish his life story, which he narrated to a white antislavery lawyer, Benjamin Prentiss, who published it in 1810. Upon his death in 1827, Brace was a well-respected abolitionist. In this first new edition since 1810, Kari J. Winter provides a historical introduction, annotations, and original documents that verify and supplement our knowledge of Brace's life and times.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *The Narrative of James Roberts*, 2001

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *One Hundred Years of Solitude* Gabriel García Márquez, 2022-10-11 Netflix's series adaptation of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* premieres December 11, 2024! One of the twentieth century's enduring works, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is a widely beloved and acclaimed novel known throughout the world and the ultimate achievement in a Nobel Prize-winning career. The novel tells the story of the rise and fall of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Rich and brilliant, it is a chronicle of life, death, and the tragicomedy of humankind. In the beautiful, ridiculous, and tawdry story of the Buendía family, one sees all of humanity, just as in the history, myths, growth, and decay of Macondo, one sees all of Latin America. Love and lust, war and revolution, riches and poverty, youth and senility, the variety of life, the endlessness of death, the search for peace and truth—these universal themes dominate the novel. Alternately reverential and comical, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* weaves the political, personal, and spiritual to bring a new consciousness to storytelling. Translated into dozens of languages, this stunning work is no less than an account of the history of the human race.

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *Scars of Independence* Holger Hock, 2017 Tory hunting -- Britain's dilemma -- Rubicon -- Plundering protectors -- Violated bodies -- Slaughterhouses -- Black holes -- Skiver them! -- Town-destroyer -- Americanizing the war -- Man for man -- Returning losers

a narrative of a revolutionary soldier: *The Glorious Cause* Jeff Shaara, 2010-12-29 In *Rise to Rebellion*, bestselling author Jeff Shaara captured the origins of the American Revolution as brilliantly as he depicted the Civil War in *Gods and Generals* and *The Last Full Measure*. Now he continues the amazing saga of how thirteen colonies became a nation, taking the conflict from kingdom and courtroom to the bold and bloody battlefields of war. It was never a war in which the outcome was obvious. Despite their spirit and stamina, the colonists were outmanned and outfought by the brazen British army. General George Washington found his troops trounced in the battles of Brooklyn and Manhattan and retreated toward Pennsylvania. With the future of the colonies at its lowest ebb, Washington made his most fateful decision: to cross the Delaware River and attack the enemy. The stunning victory at Trenton began a saga of victory and defeat that concluded with the British surrender at Yorktown, a moment that changed the history of the world. The despair and triumph of America's first great army is conveyed in scenes as powerful as any Shaara has written, a story told from the points of view of some of the most memorable characters in American history. There is George Washington, the charismatic leader who held his army together to achieve an unlikely victory; Charles Cornwallis, the no-nonsense British general, more than a match for his colonial counterpart; Nathaniel Greene, who rose from obscurity to become the finest battlefield commander in Washington's army; The Marquis de Lafayette, the young Frenchman who brought a soldier's passion to America; and Benjamin Franklin, a brilliant man of science and philosophy who became the finest statesman of his day. From Nathan Hale to Benedict Arnold, William Howe to "Light Horse" Harry Lee, from Trenton and Valley Forge, Brandywine and Yorktown, the American Revolution's most immortal characters and poignant moments are brought to life in remarkable Shaara style. Yet, *The Glorious Cause* is more than just a story of the legendary six-year struggle. It is a tribute to an amazing people who turned ideas into action and fought to declare themselves free. Above all, it is a riveting novel that both expands and surpasses its beloved author's best work.

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