

on the information superhighway is enormous. There is no reason, however, to think that Holmes and Evans did anything but get it right. The section introductions, setting battles in some context, will also be useful to those studying for exams and writing lectures. Those doing such work will be happy to have a copy of *Battlefield* on their desks.

Others, however, will find little use for this book. Holmes says on the first page of his Preface that he did not want to do a decisive battles book or "another dictionary of battles." While grouping the contents by a combination of chronology and geography and adding some introductory remarks when shifting from one place or campaign to another does add context and avoids a simple alphabetical listing, he has failed in his latter intention. This book is a dictionary of battles, a useful and well-done dictionary, but a dictionary nonetheless.

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Jeff Broadwater. *George Mason: Forgotten Founder*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006. Pp. 352. Cloth, \$34.95; ISBN 0-8078-3053-4.

In this biography, Jeff Broadwater makes the argument for adding Virginian George Mason to the pantheon of founders. Broadwater adds his voice to a recent trend of restoring men whom some scholars believe have been left behind in the history of the American Revolution and early republic, men such as John Jay, Charles Pinckney, and John Witherspoon. While these scholars have not necessarily argued Mason, Jay, Pinckney, or Witherspoon rose to the level of Washington or Jefferson, they want to make sure we get it right, that government policymakers in this important period get their due.

Broadwater has practice in biography. He previously published biographies of Dwight Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson. Although he successfully, with this biography, moves back in time to the founding era, his book reads like a work by someone contextualizing from scholarly reading rather than a work by someone long immersed in the field. This is not a criticism, however. An argument can be made that scholars working this way can write accessible biographies and bring in new audiences. *George Mason* does not raise new insights about the American Revolution or early republic, but it can teach students and non-historians about the complexities of the late eighteenth century.

Broadwater begins by placing Mason in his eighteenth-century context, explaining Mason's political and religious beliefs and the juxtaposition of Mason's antislavery rhetoric with his slaveholding practices. These themes are highlighted throughout the book to make sure readers understand the differences between twenty-first and eighteenth-century ideologies. This contextualization is the strength of the biography. For students unfamiliar with the era, *George Mason* would bring to light some of the sticky issues historians have grappled with since the Revolution. What exactly did the founding generation mean by republicanism? How did they define civil liberties? How

could they continue to hold slaves while making arguments that slavery was immoral? It would also highlight for students that the acceptance of the war for independence was neither a foregone conclusion nor unanimous. Whereas the myth behind our founding is that great and ordinary citizens rushed to the cause, the reality is that it was a slow process with many coming only reluctantly into the fray.

According to Broadwater, as an individual, Mason did not become a revolutionary due to the forces generally credited with transforming the politics of Virginia gentlemen. He did not actively participate in colonial government, even when elected. The Proclamation of 1763 did not have a clear effect on Mason. Mason did begin to take a prominent role in the 1760s with the protests against British imperial policies. From this time on, Mason debated with other prominent political thinkers and wrote and revised important policy on regional and national levels, including the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the Virginia Constitution, and later the U.S. Constitution. He emerged, at the end of the era, as an opponent of the Constitution, and as such, Broadwater argues, continued to influence politics.

George Mason: Forgotten Founder is strongest in its last chapters on the Constitutional Convention. Because of this, the biography would work best as a supplementary text in a class on the early American republic. Jeff Broadwater makes a strong and convincing argument that George Mason, while "less visionary than Thomas Jefferson," deserves a place at the founding fathers' table.

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Clare A. Lyons. *Sex Among the Rabble: An Intimate History of Gender & Power in the Age of Revolution, 1730-1830*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006. Pp. 432. Paper, \$22.50; ISBN 0-8078-5675-4.

Clare A. Lyons skillfully crafts a book exploring the evolution of power in colonial and early American Philadelphia. The author asserts that sexuality served as a key category in the formation, contestation, and regulation of gender, race, and class hierarchies and that contrary to popular understandings, Philadelphia at this time was not a city of "chaste Quakers." The mid-eighteenth-century city was a complex environment where inhabitants engaged in a variety of nonmarital and extramarital affairs, where women forged spaces in which they could exercise their autonomy, where sex commerce and bastardy proliferated largely unchecked, and where many such acts and behaviors transgressed lines of gender, race, and class. By the nineteenth century, however, the city's elite and emergent middle-class fathers initiated a range of social and legal reforms to restrict women's autonomy and most everyone's sexual behavior. Although this transformation "altered the relationships of gender and sex to power and social control," especially among the least powerful, the shift largely failed to effect the desired behavioral changes.