

**NOTE:** This bibliography has been compiled by Compatriot Paul Chase, a member in good standing of the Col. James Wood II Chapter. It is being shared here in the fraternal spirit to increase our collective knowledge on the Revolutionary War. It is not endorsed by the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution; The Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution or any of their collective chapters.

Leake, Isaac Q. **Memoir of the Life and Times of General John Lamb**

Applewood Books, Bedford, Mass 01730 ISBN 978-142-9017527

1857, 431 Pages. **Reviewer Comments:** This book was written in 1857 without the benefit of sources currently available, but it is still an excellent work on a little known but significant player in the American Revolution. John Lamb was from New York City and was an early and huge instigator of mob violence by the “Liberty Boys”. In modern terms he would be called a street thug or terrorist because he could and did organize and assemble on quick notice mobs that would beat, threaten, intimidate, tar and feather and destroy the homes of Loyalists, and British officials who administered unpopular decrees. He raised the passions of Americans to the point of armed revolt. As a soldier there was hardly any other who was more courageous and tougher than he was. At the Battle of Quebec he had half his face blown off by grape shot from a cannon which disfigured him horribly. Lucky to survive he was unconscious for eleven days and required painful surgery just to use his jaw again. He was held as a POW in Canada for eleven months. As a Colonel of Artillery in Washington’s Army he was feared by the British. After the British occupied NYC he moved his family to Connecticut and fought with General Benedict Arnold at the Battle of Richfield CT where he was again seriously wounded by grapeshot. He was Commander of the Continental Second Artillery Regiment stationed just north of NYC to threaten British forces in the city and allow Washington a free hand to move forces south towards Yorktown. His artillery shelled the British ship VULTURE in the Hudson River which was

key in upsetting Benedict Arnold's betrayal of the American cause and the capture and execution of his co-conspirator John Andre'. After the War he became a strong supporter of Federalism and helped pass the Constitution in 1789. Unfortunately he died in poverty in September 1800.

Rae, Noel. **The Peoples War, Original Voices of the American Revolution.** Lyons Press, Guilford, Connecticut 06437, 614 pages, 2012, ISBN: 978-0-7627-7070-0. **Reviewer Comments:** This book has a unique format: description of a historical event with actual letters and documents from the participants. This humanizes the war in all its ugliness: how common suicide was among German and British soldiers (they just could not take it any more); how common it was for American women to be "ravished" (raped) by German and British soldiers; how common summary execution was by American and Loyalist militia; how common it was for American Indians to commit horrific atrocities against American soldiers and innocent settlers; the retribution against the Indians by the American General Sullivan expedition in 1779; the debauchery of the British during their occupation of Philadelphia and NYC and the multiple lost opportunities of the British commanders to crush the Revolution because of their laziness, indolence, unprofessionalism, careerism and petty jealousies. This is certainly not the first book a reader of the Revolution should undertake but it should be a valuable addition to the library of any serious student of the War.

Fowler, William M. Jr. **Rebels Under Sail: The American Navy during the Revolution.** Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, NY 1976. 320 pages. **Reviewer Comments:** This book starts slowly with the first 86 pages dedicated to dull political infighting about where to build the American ships, what kind, how many, how to fund and equip and man them. From then forward the book contains a continuous stream of interesting information about the fledging American Navy, which despite a few striking successes by Captain John Paul Jones and Captain Gustavus

Conyngham was a signal failure and colossal waste of scarce resources and funds. It gives an excellent account of **Army General Benedict Arnold's** (not the Navy's) successful action to frustrate and delay the British assault down Lake Champlain in the late summer of 1776 which gave the Americans one year of time to prepare and defeat British General Burgoyne's almost identical assault down the lake which met with his extraordinary and war changing defeat at Saratoga in October 1777. Despite attempts to explain nautical terms, the book assumes a degree of naval knowledge most individuals, like myself do not have. However, the book was a significant education in many things nautical which filled a void in my knowledge base. The book is a valuable learning instrument and should be an addition to the library of any serious reader of the Revolution.

Brown, Wallace. **The Good Americans, The Loyalists in the Revolution.**

William Morrow and Company, New York City, NY 10016, 1969. 302 pages. **Reviewer Comments:** This book catalogues the motivations of those who remained loyal to the Crown during the Revolution. These reasons were; (1) Financial – they were likely to be more economically advantaged under the Crown than under the Rebels (2) Religion – They were more Anglican and Catholic and comfortable with these faiths than the Congregationalists, Methodists and Presbyterians (3) They were more comfortable with the structured and orderly British systems than they were with the strong arm and uncontrolled and riotous behavior of the American Rebels (4) They were highly confident British arms would prevail over the American Rebels which were poorly trained and equipped. The author blames the loss of the war on the failure of the British to effectively organize, support and equip loyalists to fight American Rebels. The British disrespected Loyalist Militia as much as it disrespected American Militia. The book also interestingly shows the damaging effects of the British counterfeiting of American currency to debase its value. This counterfeiting was so damaging that counter fitters were summarily hanged when caught. The book also details the

very significant costs to the British to relocate tens of thousands of Loyalists to Canada, England and the Caribbean and compensate them for their losses after the War.

Mattern, David B. **Benjamin Lincoln and the American Revolution.**

University of South Carolina Press, 1995 ISBN: 1-57003-260-2, 307 pages. **Reviewer Comments:** This is a wonderful biography about this under-appreciated individual who made hugely important contributions to the success of the American Revolution and the subsequent passage of the Constitution. He grew up in Hinton, Massachusetts with no formal education, strong religious beliefs, and a speech impediment and suffered from narcolepsy (falling into deep sleep during waking hours) and who through his youth developed into a successful businessman, exceptional leader and organizer and combat general. He was badly wounded at the Battle of Saratoga almost resulting in the amputation of his leg and causing him to have a painful limp for the rest of his life. He was famously and inappropriately maligned for losing the Battle of the City of Charleston, SC the largest American battle loss of the War. He was thrust into an impossible situation to defend the city and ended up as a POW from the fall of the city on May 12, 1780 to November 1780 at which time he was exchanged for British Major General Phillips who was captured by the Americans in October 1777 at the Battle of Saratoga. Washington always recognized his talents and made him his second in command at the Battle of Yorktown, VA which effectively won the War for the Americans. He went on to successfully serve as America's first Secretary of War and took on the unpleasant task of crushing Shay's Rebellion, which threatened to unravel the new American Confederation. Lastly he was key in the successful passage of the American Constitution. This is a four star book about a four star contributor to the American Revolution.

Tucker, Glenn. **Mad Anthony Wayne and the New Nation, The Story of Washington's Front-Line General.** Stokepole Books, Cameron and

Kelker Streets, Harrisburg, PA. 17105, 1973 ISBN: 0-8117-0958-2 287 pages. **Reader Comments:** This book should be required reading for all officer candidates at our Nation's service academies. Wayne's officer and soldier standards and professional expectations were so high as to be intimidating. He led from the front such that he was wounded five times in battle. A superb battlefield tactician and strategist he was called "Mad" not because of any craziness but for his temper brought on by anything less than excellence in all things military by his subordinates. He was known as "Black Snake" and "The Chief that Never Sleeps" by his Indian adversaries because of his constant alertness to enemy surprise attacks. He was literally worked to death by General Washington who tasked him to defeat Indian and British attacks on American westward settlers. He decisively defeated them at the Battle of Fallen Timber on August 20, 1794 and died of exhaustion and war weariness enroute back to Washington DC from the battle. This is a four star book about a Revolutionary War General who should have been promoted to four stars.

Cutter, William. **The Life of Israel Putnam Major General in the Army of the American Revolution.** John Philbrick, 62 Hanover Street, Boston, MA., 1854, 383 pages. **Reviewer Comments:** This reprint of the original 1854 biography was compiled from the notes and papers of Putnam's Aide-de-camp Colonel David Humphries. His excellent generalship, leadership and battlefield courage resulted in significant contributions to the success of the Revolution and are greatly under-rated in part because of his age and pudgy appearance. He was as tough as nails in league with the toughest of American's battlefield leaders such as: Daniel Morgan, Benedict Arnold, John Lamb, Ethan Allen and Seth Warner. Known affectionately as "Old Put" he out fought, out generalled, out marched. out rode and out smarted his opponents throughout the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars. This is a good read and another book any serious reader of America's Revolutionary War leaders should undertake. The only **serious** criticism

I have of the book is the almost total lack of year/month/day notations for the events and battles described in the book. You have to refer to other books for this information.