

*Logistics of Liberty: American Services of Supply in the Revolutionary War and After.* By James A. Huston. (Newark, N.J.: University of Delaware Press, with the Associated University Presses of London and Toronto, 1991. Pp. 373. Maps, illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.50.)

In the writing of military history, the "who" and the "why" of warfare normally overshadow the "how." In this book, by contrast, James A. Huston brings to center stage that "how" of hostilities known as logistics.

Huston quotes from an army manual: "Logistics is that branch of administration which embraces the management and provision of supply, evacuation and hospitalization, transportation, and service. It envisages getting the right people and the appropriate supplies to the right place at the right time and in the proper condition" (p. 9). Huston begins with a background description of the American colonial experience with logistics. Advancing to the Revolutionary War, he describes the development of an army organization to address logistical requirements. The paucity of domestic manufactured goods forced the Americans to obtain supplies from overseas. French aid throughout the war was indispensable. Nevertheless, there were major difficulties in acquiring small arms, artillery, gunpowder, and clothing. Food could be obtained locally but was often in short supply. The great hindrances in transporting supplies and troops in eighteenth century America were immense impediments to operations. This also was an era of primitive medical methods and conditions. All of these problems, Huston explains, were compounded by an incredible financial morass.

A large portion of the book details the specific American logistical obstacles presented by Benedict Arnold's Canadian expedition, the Saratoga campaign, George Washington's operations with the main army in the central states, George Rogers Clark's activities in the Old Northwest, John Sullivan's moves against the Iroquois, and southern efforts concluding at Yorktown.

The chapter devoted to George Rogers Clark provides a good summary of his operations in 1778 and 1779. Huston gives special attention to the movement of Clark's troops that culminated in the defeat of Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton at Vincennes. This incredible midwinter trek across the Illinois country is the best known aspect of Clark's campaign so the author is plowing familiar ground. More emphasis instead could have been placed on an in-depth exploration of Clark's efforts to procure food and supplies from Spanish-held New Orleans via the Mississippi River and from the French settlements in the Illinois country. Although merchants Oliver Pollock and Francis Vigo are properly credited for their important assistance to Clark, absent from the notes and bib-

liography are the two most important works on this subject: *Oliver Pollock: The Life and Times of an Unknown Patriot* (1937), by James Alton James, and "George Rogers Clark's Service of Supply," *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* (1921), by James G. Randall.

Overall, Huston's book is an interesting one. The important and critical role of logistics is given its proper due.

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*Gentry and Common Folk: Political Culture on a Virginia Frontier, 1740–1789.* By Albert H. Tillson, Jr. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1991. Pp. 228. Map, tables, figures, notes, index. \$30.00.)

*Gentry and Common Folk* joins a growing list of recent local studies of the backcountry of British North America in the second half of the eighteenth century. Albert H. Tillson, Jr.'s contribution is a portrait of the upper Valley of Virginia—essentially the southwestern corner of the present-day state—as a truncated version of what he calls the deferential world of Tidewater Virginia.

In the upper Valley, wealthy local notables aped the manners of the eastern gentry, governed through the same institutions (courts and vestries), and took advantage of kinship and patronage ties to strengthen both their status and their authority. But they did not command the respect that Tillson believes eastern gentlemen did; problems peculiar to the frontier, such as Indian hostilities and the newness of the social structure, forced would-be great men to compromise with their less affluent neighbors. The rejection of gentry leadership was most noticeable in the militia, perhaps the most important political unit on the frontier. Ultimately, the American Revolution ratified localistic and democratic tendencies by encouraging the development of direct, issue-oriented political campaigns.

Tillson does a good job of describing a backcountry area that is both recognizably Virginia and yet somewhat different. He might have done more with ethnicity and religion. The fact that large numbers of Scotch-Irish and other peoples migrated south from Pennsylvania rather than east from Virginia raises the question of whether a comparison with the Tidewater is the most appropriate one. Similarly, the predominance of Presbyterians suggests a cultural division of some importance from the Anglicans, Methodists, and Baptists to the east.

*Gentry and Common Folk* is valuable mainly for the richness of Tillson's research. His conclusions are conventional, adding de-