

women and children were President George Washington's primary targets for capture. Finally, chapter 8 touches on many well-known events and figures: Fallen Timbers, Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa at Prophetstown, and the Battle of Tippecanoe. This final chapter demonstrates that this region and its communities, environments, and histories need to be revisited by scholars who can see further than the tropes of inevitable Indian demise and American conquest.

There are problems with this work that should be noted. The Ohio River Valley is a geographic region that stretches from western Pennsylvania to Illinois. The Indian women discussed in this book are, for the most part, from the Wabash River Valley and the trade towns located in proximity to that region—not the geographic expanses suggested by the title. Chapter 6 offers nothing new about the military campaigns against native tribes, and women are absent from the narrative. However, the author does

put forward an environmental focus on the intentional destruction of animals, crops, and towns by U.S. military forces. Her claim that this was a new tactic that Washington unleashed on the Native communities in the Ohio River Valley is problematic, as this was a long-held British practice within the colonies.

Without question, Sleeper-Smith's contribution to indigenous women's history and regional history during this period remains invaluable. Her archival sources, including archeological data and environmental studies, are expansive. She argues clearly and consistently that indigenous women were pivotal to the prosperity and success of Native communities in the region. Their authority, skills, and voices must be considered, and their continued absence in the histories of this region should be a serious warning sign.

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doi: 10.2979/indimagahist.116.1.03



Unlikely General: "Mad" Anthony Wayne and the Battle for America

By Mary Stockwell

(New Haven, Ct.: Yale University Press, 2018. Pp. ix, 363. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$35.00; paperbound, \$25.00.)

The 1783 Treaty of Paris may have led to the formal end of hostilities between Great Britain and the United States, but no one at Versailles consulted the Indian tribes residing north of

the Ohio River. Winning the peace in the Northwest Territory proved much more difficult for the fledgling United States, as conflicting interests between land speculators, settler colonialists,

and native tribes led to a brutal low-intensity conflict in the 1780s. Subsequent defeats of U.S. Army commands under Generals Josiah Harmer in 1790 and Arthur St. Clair in 1791 by a confederacy of Ohio Indian nations rendered the immediate prospect of U.S. control over the region unlikely. In this moment of national challenge, Anthony Wayne's Legion of the United States won a decisive victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794, and the subsequent Treaty of Greenville opened up the Northwest Territory for American settlement.

Mary Stockwell's *Unlikely General* is a beautifully written biography of Anthony Wayne that treats his life as one that was built towards these moments of national triumph in the mid-1790s. Stockwell has effectively mined the Wayne manuscripts at the William L. Clements Library and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, not to mention several other collections pertaining to his immediate contemporaries. Stockwell's deep read of the Wayne manuscripts allows her to present her subject in full, detailing not only Wayne's military career but his experiences as a Nova Scotia land surveyor, Pennsylvania tanner, and Georgian plantation owner—not to mention his various intimate relations with his wife and other women. Unlike most histories and biographies that present their subject matter in a chronological fashion, Stockwell weaves in episodes from Wayne's Revolutionary War experience with aspects of his campaign against the Ohio Indian nations. Thus, a chapter

on organizing and training of the Legion in 1792 is bisected with a treatment of George Washington's Fabian strategy, Wayne's experience in the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777, and the Valley Forge winter. While some readers may find this organization distracting, it serves Stockwell's larger goal of demonstrating how Wayne's life experiences made him uniquely qualified for the exigencies of frontier warfare.

Unlikely General succeeds in its goal to relate the life of Anthony Wayne in the context of his victory of Fallen Timbers and is likely to be the standard reference work on Wayne for a generation. The book does, however, have some limitations as an academic work of history. Stockwell has done little to situate her account of Wayne's life within the larger historiographies on American military institutions and the settlement of the Great Lakes region. Both classic and recent works, including monographs and scholarly journal articles, are neglected. This is too bad, as *Unlikely General* clearly has important things to say relating to the professionalization of the U.S. Army officer corps and settler colonialism (and, perhaps, the nature of the link between the two). Additionally, while Stockwell has researched deeply in the relevant manuscripts, the primary source base is not as broad as it ought to be in order to properly contextualize Wayne's life and military service. For example, Stockwell infrequently engages with the copious documents printed in the various modern documentary editions available for

free through *Founders Online* or the relevant military manuscripts made available through the *Papers of the War Department, 1784-1800*. These academic critiques aside, Stockwell's book should be well received by those readers interested in the American Revolution, the Northwest Indian War,

and the settlement of the Northwest Territory.

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doi: 10.2979/indimagahist.116.1.04



River, Reaper, Rail: Agriculture and Identity in Ohio's Mad River Valley, 1795-1885

By Timothy H. H. Thoresen

(Akron, Ohio: University of Akron Press, 2018. Pp. xii, 279. Maps, notes, bibliography, index. Paperbound, \$59.95.)

Timothy Thoresen's study of settler society in Ohio's Mad River Valley is a straightforward account of those who made a living on the land and developed the towns, businesses, and industries in the region. An anthropologist and historian, Thoresen describes the changes that Euro-Americans wrought on the land between the 1790s and the 1880s, focusing on adaptation in farming techniques and access to markets via rivers, canals, and railroads. Readers learn about the farming practices settlers brought to what became Champaign County, and how farmers sought new productive techniques, tools, and transportation infrastructure to ensure easy market access. Farmers, in Thoresen's telling, were "fundamentally conservative," and endured change only "to preserve what otherwise would be at risk" (pp. x-xi). This appears to be the lesson

about the identity of agrarian society in the Mad River Valley that the author wishes to convey—although that is not entirely clear. Thoresen engages a wide variety of source material to tell this settler story, ranging from Ohio Board of Agriculture reports to post-Civil War pioneer histories of the region. Most impressive is the author's work utilizing local newspapers to create a detailed account of the changing fortunes of settlers and settlement.

For a book that is so rooted in place, however, the absence of a meaningful map of Champaign County and the Mad River Valley is a serious shortcoming. Thoresen opens the book with a small state map that shows Ohio's major rivers (including the Mad River in west central Ohio), but the towns, railroads, and tributaries that are cited in the text are not located on this map—not even Champaign