

nature of the evidence presented creates serious problems regarding both continuity and analysis.

Baxter traces the evolution of the office of the French army intendant during the period from 1630 to 1670. The army intendant's major responsibility shifted gradually from the administration of justice to a far more complex role. He became responsible for the army's finances; he took care of its sick and wounded and also paid the troops. In addition, he supervised work on fortifications and reported to his superior, the secretary of state for war, everything that occurred in his locality. It is clear that the army intendant's real power rested not only on his own administrative ability but also on the kind of support he received from his king. Not surprisingly the king utilized army intendants to try to impose civilian control upon the regions of France.

Despite the book's structural and stylistic weaknesses, there is a great deal of valuable information regarding seventeenth century France to be found in *Servants of the Sword*. Furthermore, a serious effort has been made to write an administrative history about what until now has been a most obscure office.

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Sir William Johnson: Colonial American, 1715-1763. By Milton W. Hamilton. (Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press, 1976. Pp. xiv, 402. Illustrations, notes, note on sources, appendixes, index. \$17.50.)

Within two decades of his arrival in North America Sir William Johnson had become a legend. As a farmer, merchant, soldier, and diplomat, and as a Mohawk sachem, colonial official, and English baronet, Johnson's decisions and activities affected the lives of many Americans, both red and white, during the volatile years of the second half of the eighteenth century. As a result, previous accounts of Johnson's life have often been mired in myth, half truth, and misstatement. In this first of a projected two volume biography, Milton W. Hamilton seeks to rescue Johnson, who "has suffered so much unjust representation over the passage of time . . ." (p. ix). As former editor of the Johnson Papers and retired state historian of New York, Hamilton is emi-

nently equipped to accomplish his task. Perhaps he has succeeded too well.

Hamilton concludes this first volume at 1763 with the construction of "Johnson Hall," the material capstone of Johnson's rise to preeminence in New York and the colonies generally. During the course of the book he details Johnson's accumulation of personal and public influence by concentrating on his activities as frontier entrepreneur, Indian diplomat, and military leader. The amount of detail and Hamilton's grasp of it is prodigious. In fact, for almost one third of the text readers follow Johnson to the successful conclusion of the 1755 Canadian campaign which resulted in a defeat for the French, the capture of Baron de Dieskau, and atonement for Edward Braddock's debacle (pp. 113-200).

For all its precision, however, the book has faults. The emphasis on the particular has precluded real analysis. Johnson does not come to life. For example, in the spring of 1738 Johnson arrived in Boston knowing little "of frontier conditions or needs . . ." (p. 8). In the space of eight years and fourteen pages, "while trade declined, and with it the interest of the English colony [New York] among the natives [Iroquois] . . .," Johnson made himself "a man of affairs, and his trade with the Indians had won him their friendship" (p. 22). But Hamilton does not explain precisely how this immigrant become entrepreneur succeeded where others failed. It is necessary to know more than that he "perhaps . . . at first fell in with the traders' ways," that "he was farsighted," that he "consulted the Indian chiefs," and that he "watched for his opportunities . . ." (p. 22). Did this make Johnson unique, or was it a process often repeated on this and other frontiers? That the data for such analysis exist Hamilton demonstrates through an over abundant use of direct quotations from contemporary sources.

Hamilton's characterization of the American Indian is also open to question. The native American, he writes, "for all his cruel savagery, his lust and greed that frequently led to his corruption and degeneracy, was an ingenious child" (p. 45). Given the significance of the Iroquois Confederacy to Johnson's success the reader might expect Hamilton's description of the red man to have been tempered by recent and available works such as Anthony F. C. Wallace's *The Death and Rebirth of the Seneca* (1969).

Hamilton has indeed presented a precisely detailed account of Johnson's rise to preeminence in colonial America. This reviewer, at least, hopes the legend will achieve flesh and blood in the forthcoming, concluding volume.

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Adams: An American Dynasty. By Francis Russell. New York: American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc., 1976. Pp. 374. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$15.00.)

In 1966 Thomas Boylston Adams, peace candidate for the United States Senate, received eight percent of the Massachusetts Democratic vote. Descendant of two presidents who were defeated after single terms, Adams took an unpopular stand which he thought consistent with the meaning of his name. An Adams, he told a reporter in 1975, should "always be on the side of the rebels" (p. 369).

Adams' view is one permissible way of interpreting a tradition that includes John and John Quincy Adams, the "Novanglus" papers, and unbending opposition to the gag rule. Others who bear that tradition may view it differently; George Caspar Homans, Harvard sociologist, Republican, and "hard-boiled egghead," is no rebel in any obvious sense; and fellow Adamses have been business executives, yachtsmen, and gentlemen farmers more often than leaders of revolt (p. 369). Their tradition, begun by a rebel who was also a founder of American conservatism, is consistently distinguished but not uniformly rebellious.

Francis Russell's deeply respectful history of the Adams family briefly recognizes its living members but properly concentrates on the generations from President John Adams through great grandson Brooks, last of the line to occupy the "Old House" at Quincy, now part of the Adams National Historic Site. Those four generations were united by a sense of place, education at Harvard College, brilliant achievements in politics and literature, deep personal disappointment, and recurrent pessimism about the course of democratic culture. Whether they rebelled against empire or slave power, learned to make and keep money in Jay Gould's unseemly era, or sought refuge in the Virgin, the Adamses were usually out