

Mapping the American Revolutionary War. J.B. HARLEY, BARBARA BARTZ PETCHENIK, and LAWRENCE W. TOWNER. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978. viii, 187 p. ill. maps. (The Kenneth Nebenzahl Jr., lectures in the history of cartography at the Newberry Library) ISBN 0 226 31631 9 \$25.00.

This volume is the publication of the fourth series of Nebenzahl Lectures on the History of Cartography originally given in November 1974. Inevitably it reflects the strengths and weaknesses of these lectures: the opportunity to encourage papers from scholars who have already done considerable research on maps in an area and period but also the necessity sometimes to settle for papers giving an overview of the subject since no major work has yet been done. The first three lectures by J.B. Harley on contemporary mapping fall into the first category, while the papers on the historical cartography of the Revolution in the nineteenth and twentieth century fall into the latter category.

Harley's three excellent chapters on the contemporary mapping of the war are one of the first attempts to bring together information on the mapping, its methodology and its European background. This is clearly shown by the enormous number of footnotes which reveal the extensive, diverse sources used and the lack of much work relating specifically to the mapping of the Revolution. In the first chapter he discusses the types of maps being produced, generally manuscript maps of movement and reconnaissance, fortification plans, and battle plans after the event. He describes the various textbooks of military mapping that were available, what they explain of the legends, colour and content of the maps and includes discussion on the training of cartographers. Scales on maps are analyzed and some attempt is made to classify them. The difficulties of mapping, particularly of producing reconnaissance maps and maps of fortifications are also described.

Since the map-makers and their skills were still mainly being imported from the old world at this time, the second chapter on the spread of cartographical ideas between the armies skilfully discusses the source of innovation in the area of cartographic techniques and its movement from the continent both to England and America via personnel and translations of the very large number of textbooks available on military subjects. He notes that "maps reflected not differences in national origins but affinities in eighteenth-century military organization and practice". Both sides were hampered by the lack of headquarters mapping establishments at the beginning of the war and although he would agree that the British produced more maps than the Americans (perhaps 20,000) he notes that it was odd that the British did not have a professional map-making organization at the start of the revolution. In conclusion, he notes that both sides had to rely on civilian surveyors and that British mapping according to the surviving maps (530) was distributed evenly among headquarters, engineers and line regiments, whereas most of the American maps surviving (295) were made by their map-making corps.

In his final chapter Harley plunges into a topic which he has been developing recently—the question of finding out what use was made of contemporary maps to aid either side in conducting the war. He notes here that much research to date has been on the map-maker as he prepares his product but not on the often more important user. In discussing this he focuses particularly on the availability of maps at a crucial moment, the operational limitations of certain maps—particularly printed ones, and the attitudes of military map users towards maps. An interesting point made here is that the British had more maps but often of the wrong area and that well-known printed maps of the era by Jefferys, Faden, & Des Barres were indispensable to both sides but were not always available when needed. There were however many flaws in the printed maps; some were at too small a scale to be useful or several years out of date and as Harley notes accuracy studies would help here. He also notes that bad decisions were often

made from reasonably useful maps and that it is difficult to form conclusions about the role maps played in decision-making though they were not always used alone but supplemented by guides and local knowledge.

Lawrence Towner's article is a preliminary analysis of the historical mapping of the Revolution in the nineteenth century, most of these were in books published around the Civil War and were on the whole poor and badly referenced illustrations to the text. He notes that three historians did go further in their use of maps and analysis of them in relation to the Revolution: B.J. Lossing, H.B. Carrington and Justin Winsor. The latter did cartobibliographical work on contemporary maps and produced some in facsimile in his works. Barbara Petchenik in the last chapter continues the theme in analyzing twentieth century mapping of the American revolution and comments on the inadequacies of the maps in the major periods of publishing. Most maps, as she notes, were place name maps, maps indicating troop movements or battle plans. The latter with their dashed lines, arrows and blocks of troops "are the maps that everyone expects to see and that hardly anyone understands". She summarizes what map archivists and librarians have known for years that historians have not treated maps as valid sources of data, or as more than illustrations for a text, with the result that they have generally produced illegible and often useless maps. She goes further in discussing her own research for the *Atlas of Early American History* (Princeton, University Press, 1976) and suggests that the earlier historians were not in fact mapping the real spatial picture.

As a result for her atlas she established maps of the arenas of war and then a series of time-sequence maps showing the events occurring at the same time in different places which reflected the actual actions of the Revolution more satisfactorily than isolated battle plans and confusing maps of troop movements.

The book is well printed but the use of illustrations reflects the varied nature of the contents. The illustrations in the last chapter are well integrated with the text analysing the 20th century maps. However, there are no illustrations for the chapter on 19th century mapping; while those for the first 3 chapters are grouped together after chapter one, and although roughly in the order of discussion, are seldom referred to in the text.

This is an important book mainly for its comments on eighteenth century manuscript and printed military mapping of North America. The American Revolution stimulated mapping in both the new United States and Canada and the maps prepared for the Revolution influenced styles and content of mapping for the next several decades, thus eastern Canadian map collections and archives particularly cannot afford to be without this volume.

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Sternwheelers and Sidewheelers: The Romance of Steamdriven Paddleboats in Canada. PETER CHARLEBOIS. Toronto: N.C. Press, 1978. 144 p. ill. ISBN 0 919600 73 5 bd \$20.00 ISBN 0 919600 72 7 pa. \$9.95.

Nostalgia surrounding the steamers that plied Canada's network of inland and coastal waters about a century ago has prompted a recent rash of publications, and corrects a long neglected part of our transportation history. *Sternwheelers & Sidewheelers* is the most ambitious publication to date, dealing with vessels from practically every region, not just a specific one as other recent publications have done. Charlebois obviously searched diligently in archival institutions for the right photographs to portray his selection of some 200 steamers. The juxtaposition of these well reproduced photo-