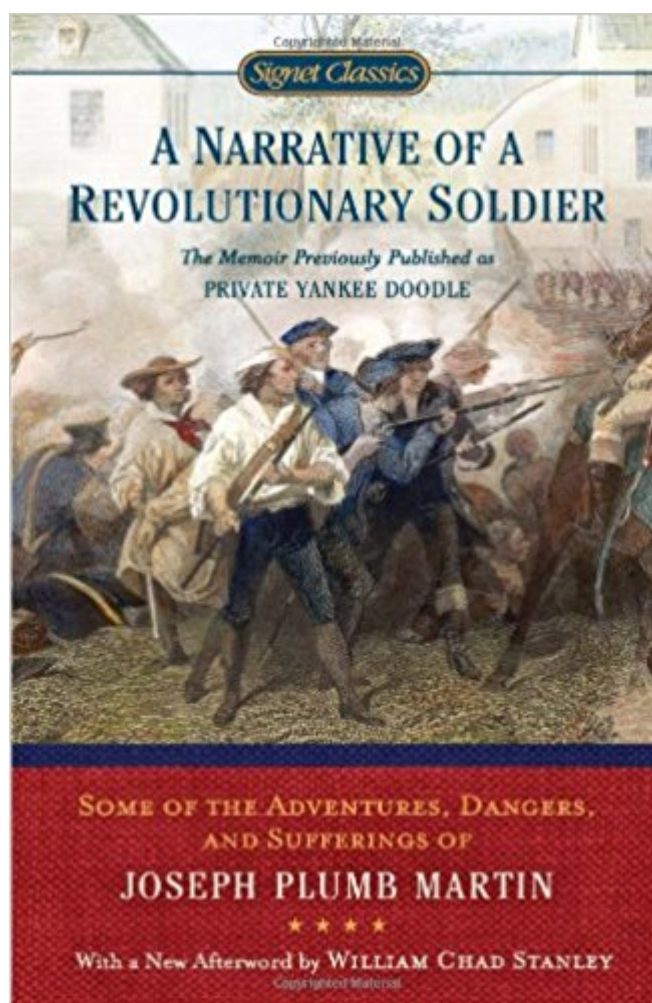


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A Narrative Of A Revolutionary Soldier: Some Adventures, Dangers, And Sufferings Of Joseph Plumb Martin (Signet Classics)



Synopsis

With a new afterword by William Chad Stanley Here a private in the Continental Army of the Revolutionary War narrates his adventures in the army of a newborn country.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Thomas Fleming is a distinguished historian and the author of numerous critically acclaimed and bestselling novels. His masterpiece, *The Officers' Wives*, was an international bestseller with over two million copies sold. His novels *Time and Tide* and *Liberty Tavern* were both New York Times bestsellers. He is also the author to the award-winning PBS mini-series *Liberty! The American Revolution*. A decade ago Fleming was elected a Fellow of the Society of American Historians. He writes frequently for *American Heritage Magazine* and is contributing editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Military History*. His most recent non-fiction novel is *Duel: Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, and the Future of America*. Thomas Fleming lives in New York City.

This was a fun book to read. While there are those who may harp about things the writer probably didn't see and what not, the main gist of the ordinary soldier's life is very true. I thoroughly enjoyed the humorous parts and was sufficiently dismayed by the conditions the soldiers had to endure. The last chapter seems to be directed to everyone who's ever disparaged service veterans. "But I really hope these people will not go beside themselves. Those men whom they wish to die on a dung-hill;

men, who, if they had not ventured their lives in battle, and faced poverty, disease and death for their country, to gain and maintain that Independence and liberty, in the sunny beams of which, they like reptiles are basking, they would, many or the most of them, be this moment, in as much need of help and succor as ever the most indigent soldier was before he experienced his country's beneficence." He could easily be addressing many of today's most vocal citizens.

An excellent read giving one insight into the daily life of a regular army soldier during the Revolutionary War. If one hasn't done much previous reading from this period the style may seem a little difficult and odd, but don't let that distract you, Plumb's wit and subtle sarcasm are terrific and worth the effort. It would be great if an edition with footnotes by a period historian or linguist was put together as many of the terms and phrases Plumb uses won't be understood by most people today (for example, if I wasn't a regular viewer of 18th century cooking on YouTube I would never have known "sauce" refers to vegetables when he talks about food). Plumb's narrative reminds us that regular folks had a part in the war for independence too and not just the flowery speechified gentry who commanded the army and drafted the constitution (as important as they were). Also, despite having heard about the common soldier's plight and sacrifice by countless second hand accounts, it is sobering to hear about them from a person who endured them himself. Even with Plumb downplaying much of the suffering, I was amazed at what they put up with and one is not surprised at all why the Continental Army had difficulties retaining soldiers and the militias. When the option is to stay enlisted and be as likely to die of starvation or exposure than from a musket ball or to go back home where there is food and warmth, how many of us would choose the former? That being said, don't worry about the whole narrative being a grim recollection, Plumb supplies us with plenty of stories about mischief and shenanigans (anyone for pitching a canteen full of gunpowder under their Captains cot while he's in it?) and his back and forth with the enemy forces is very entertaining. Well worth the price.

Overall a very intimate portrait of one soldier's experience of the Revolutionary War. Don't expect to learn anything about leaders, strategy, or, the bigger issues of the war, this is one soldier's story. What you won't find in this book: Maps Overview of the larger war Anecdotes of famous or well-known leaders What you will find in this book: What it was like for the soldiers that served in the Continental Army How they dealt with everyday issues What they wore, what they ate, how they coped with the weather

I had this book many years ago and lost it when I lend it to a friend and never got it back. I guess he wasn't that good of a friend. I was telling a coworker about this book and how much I enjoyed it so decided it was time to read it again. This time its not going anywhere. The details of all the battles, the landscapes and the different people the author met during the revolutionary war really makes you curious to find out more about it. When I first read the book many many years ago, my wife and I decided to go on a historic ride following the different revolutionary war battles and scenes described in the book. We brought the book with us and it made for a really fantastic historical tour.

This book was an excellent narrative of a common soldier in the American Revolutionary war. I find it astonishing that this man suffered tremendous deprivations and remained loyal to the cause of the American revolution. He withholds nothing of the hard times the fright pain and death of battle. The grinding agony of marches without any rest or sleep in days of belly twisting hunger followed him throughout his service. However, there are personal incidents that he relays that provide humor and insight to the life and times of the people of that era.

Although history from the common soldier's point view I was somewhat disappointed. Martin certainly gives an indication of the hardships face by the Continental soldier. He does mention some of the famous battles and some indication what happened at Yorktown, overall the information was short. This can forgiven since the narrative is from a common soldier. The book is very big on hardships face and telling of longing for home. Having served, myself, I found sympathy with those narratives. Overall a good book, but written in the style of the day and sometimes difficult to translate to today's English. Good narratives on different attitudes of Patriots and Tories.

I have always wanted to read Joseph Plumb Martin's Memoirs and as the first purchase for my Kindle Fire HD that is exactly what I set out to do. I have read many military memoirs and was stunned to find that the deprivations our troops in the Continental line suffered through during the American Revolution rivaled any our soldiers have suffered up to today. Martin also draws attention to the poor supply of the army and the general feeling of disgust by he and his fellow soldiers towards the poor attention to their needs. All in all this is a very good account of a foot soldier during the birth of our nation.P.S. Another very good biography that follows the trail of supply problems in the Continental Army is

http://www..com/Nathanael-Greene-Biography-American-Revolution/dp/0230620612/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1357483643&sr=1-1&keywords=nathanael+greene

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