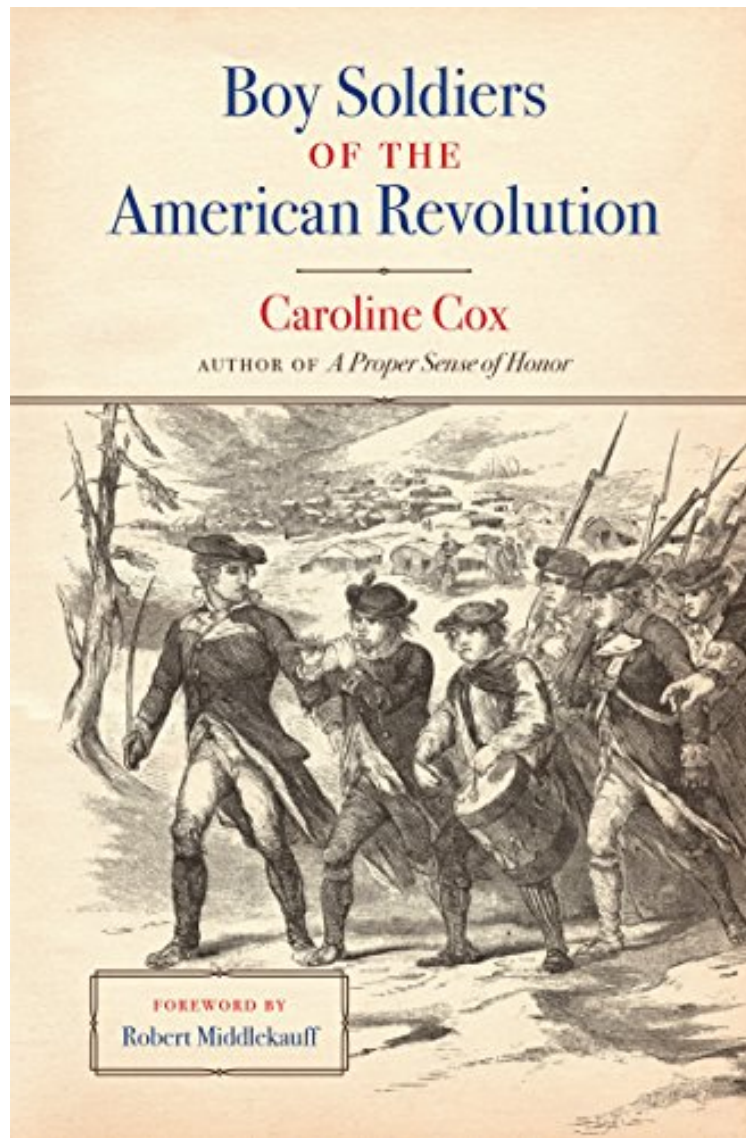


[Download ebook] Boy Soldiers of the American Revolution

Boy Soldiers of the American Revolution

Caroline Cox

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Caroline Cox : Boy Soldiers of the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boy Soldiers of the American Revolution:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well written.By Nico VelaI find that the subject of Children in War isn't as talked about as it should be. When this book came up, I bought it to read in conjunction with my course on Colonial and Revolutionary U.S. History.It is well researched, and an interesting read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Dr. Robert L. HampelFascinating stories about young men who fought in the

Revolution...1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Boy soldiers weren't common but there were some and did more than play fife and bang the drum. By Lyndon Brent This is the kind of book I really like, in that it concerns a topic I knew nothing about and, after reading, I now know something. There's a sad note as well; Cox died before the book was published. It's not clear how much Middlekauff did, aside from introductory comments, but he is among the most prominent American historians (and one of the best writers). Most readers will have seen at some point an illustration of a Revolutionary War trio of fife, drum and flag, the drum usually featuring a drummer boy. That drummer boy did exist, but because drummers customarily wielded the whip when a soldier was punished, that very hard work usually required an adult (in the British army a sizable number of punishments were 1,000 strokes but in the American, 100, Cox says). There is a fascinating discussion of the drum, usually a snare drum, and its use in communicating commands--and it's worth remembering that the drum, and other aspects of military music, originated in European copying of Ottoman Turkish army originals. Cox explored an unusual resource: pension applications. In the 1830s, the Congress passed a bill authorizing pensions for surviving Revolutionary War veterans, and applications sometimes had details on service, and dates given on the application allow knowing the age of the veteran at the time of service. Cox provides details, and also in each chapter a sort of fictionalized version of one veteran's story, beginning "Perhaps it was like this." These sections are clearly identified, so the problem of identifying history and fiction does not arise, as it does in some contemporary "history" writing. Cox offers some background on the rarity of boys in the military prior to the Revolution. Many soldiers' tasks required adult strength: a longbow required a 75 to 100 pound pull, swords and other edged weapons required strength. Presumably there were boys among the camp followers of the era, which usually included families. Changes in weapons made boy's service more likely (I should mention that "boy" in the book is defined as under 16), such as the reduction in weight of firearms. The introduction of the socket bayonet made pikes obsolete--pikes required adult strength. Boys were not common in the Revolutionary forces, but were not rare, either. Chapters in the book consider boys' desires to enlist, the role of fathers in the process, and related topics. Among the reasons boys might try to enlist were escaping from domineering fathers, poverty (a boy's wages and enlistment bonus would have gone to the family), or service with a father or other relative as a sort of servant. There's another reason, a fascinating topic in itself; while a sort of draft required service, a man could hire a substitute. Cox says there was no moral judgment about hiring a substitute, and that a substitute would be paid by the man avoiding service, useful money for some families. A young son also might go to substitute for a father, an ailing brother, or replace a sick or injured family member. Some boys saw combat, some were drummers, some experienced camp and little more.

Between 1819 and 1845, as veterans of the Revolutionary War were filing applications to receive pensions for their service, the government was surprised to learn that many of the soldiers were not men, but boys, many of whom were under the age of sixteen, and some even as young as nine. In *Boy Soldiers of the American Revolution*, Caroline Cox reconstructs the lives and stories of this young subset of early American soldiers, focusing on how these boys came to join the army and what they actually did in service. Giving us a rich and unique glimpse into colonial childhood, Cox traces the evolution of youth in American culture in the late eighteenth century, as the accepted age for children to participate meaningfully in society--not only in the military--was rising dramatically. Drawing creatively on sources, such as diaries, letters, and memoirs, Caroline Cox offers a vivid account of what life was like for these boys both on and off the battlefield, telling the story of a generation of soldiers caught between old and new notions of boyhood.

Expertly detail[s] the social fabric of the founding era. . . . Highly recommended for readers interested in the American Revolution and children's history, as well as those seeking a different perspective on why people fight in wars.--Library Journal, starred review This exemplary volume is required reading for anyone interested in the history of childhood and the American Revolutionary War. Essential.--Choice [This book] has a place on myriad bookshelves, especially of any American sociologist or historian.--On Point An impeccable work of scholarship that fills an important gap in the historiography of many fields, including military history and the history of childhood and colonial America.--North Carolina Historical Vividly re-creating both the lived experience and shifting cultural significance of boy soldiers, Caroline Cox offers a rich account of what military service meant to boys and those around them. Persuasive and effective, this book will become the standard work on boy soldiers in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.--Corinne T. Field, University of Virginia *Boy Soldiers of the American Revolution* explores, both narratively and analytically, questions surrounding the service of boys in the Continental army during the Revolutionary period. The stories are wonderful, and they leap out of the chapters to help make the period come alive. This book is a testament to Cox's prowess as a scholar.--Holly Brewer, University of Maryland About the Author Caroline Cox (1954-2014) was professor of history at the University of the Pacific and author of *A Proper Sense of Honor: Service and Sacrifice in George Washington's Army*.