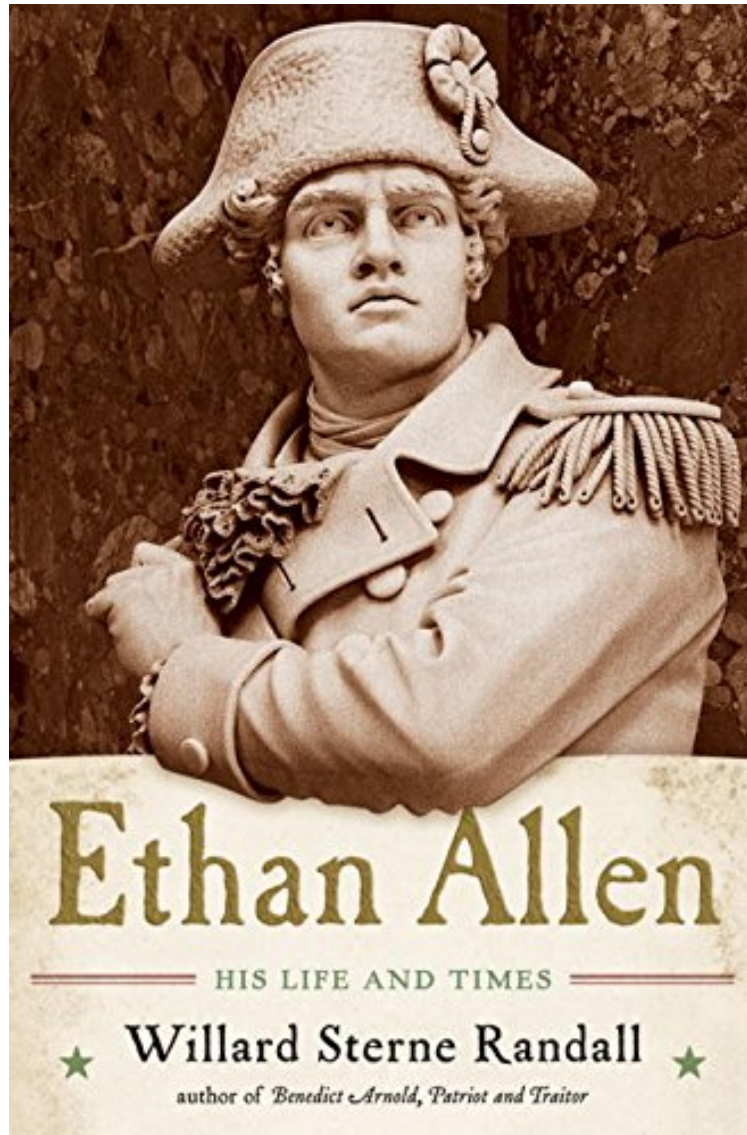


[FREE] Ethan Allen: His Life and Times

Ethan Allen: His Life and Times

Willard Sterne Randall

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#963519 in Books W. W. Norton Company 2011-08-22Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.60 x 1.70 x 6.60l, 2.34 #File Name: 0393076652640 pagesGreat product! | File size: 59.Mb

Willard Sterne Randall : Ethan Allen: His Life and Times before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ethan Allen: His Life and Times:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Political yearBy tc50At first, I had a hard time following the story but then I got into the author's style. What I find interesting is reading this book during an election year. If there is truth in this book, then believe me, history repeats itself. In the 1700, and as a developing country, we broke many English laws. Smuggling and trading illegal goods was at the top of the list. What developing economies are doing

today, early Americans did back then. That being said, Ethan Allen was a very interesting man who challenged fundamental religious views as well as revolted against a demanding government. I recommend this book to any one interested in understanding early Americans and the challenges a developing country faces. 32 of 34 people found the following review helpful. An excellent read!

By Joseph C. Benning
As an avid student of Vermont history, I thought I had read everything there was to read about Ethan Allen. I was therefore apprehensive about buying another book on the subject, but I'm certainly glad I did. This book is one of the best! Randall weaves Allen's life around the many forces that were in play during the latter part of the eighteenth century, providing context to what made Allen tick. Thoroughly researched and laden with first-hand accounts from Allen's contemporaries, the book makes it is easy to understand his dynamic personality. Randall's writing style made it an absolute pleasure to digest several chapters in one sitting and would then leave you anxious to return for more. I was so taken with the charming account of Allen's meeting of the woman who would become his second wife that I read the chapter out loud to my own wife- something I have never done with a book before. If you are looking for a wonderful book about a true American hero, this is it.

Joe Benning
Vermont State Senator
Caledonia-Orange District
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Fascinating portrait of truly American "founding father"

By Stella Mather
I found the information in this biography extremely enlightening about pre-Revolutionary Connecticut, Vermont and New York. I live near where Ethan Allen was born, and my sister near where he died in Vermont, and I never knew how hard it was for those first emigrants from Connecticut who went North searching for land. Even by mid-18th Century, the population had run out of room in the newly settled Litchfield County. I also had no idea how the Royal Governor of New York New Hampshire tried to make ordinary farmer pay twice (or become sharecroppers) to build homesteads in Vermont. I always had an impression of Ethan Allen as a bit of a braggart, but he was very well-read (self-educated). He was ambitious, but also a hard worker as pioneer, statesman and soldier. He really was a "common" man who earned his revolutionary status without wealth or patronage. He single-handedly made Vermont the first truly independent state -- not just ex-colony -- in America. I see other reviewers mention details that are wrong about Bennington, VT, but I have to say everything I read about this part of CT was accurate, informative. The book is truly original for its broader portrait of how Americans became citizens rather than just British subjects. This is a perspective I have not read elsewhere before -- and I read a lot of New England history.

The long-awaited biography of the frontier Founding Father whose heroic actions and neglected writings inspired an entire generation from Paine to Madison. On May 10, 1775, in the storm-tossed hours after midnight, Ethan Allen, the Revolutionary firebrand, was poised for attack. With only two boatloads of his scraggly band of Vermont volunteers having made it across the wind-whipped waters of Lake Champlain, he was waiting for the rest of his Green Mountain boys to arrive. But with the protective darkness quickly fading, Allen determined that he hold off no longer. While Ethan Allen, a canonical hero of the American Revolution, has always been defined by his daring, predawn attack on the British-controlled Fort Ticonderoga, Willard Sterne Randall, the author of Benedict Arnold, now challenges our conventional understanding of this largely unexamined Founding Father. Widening the scope of his inquiry beyond the Revolutionary War, Randall traces Allens beginning back to his modest origins in Connecticut, where he was born in 1738. Largely self-educated, emerging from a relatively impoverished background, Allen demonstrated his deeply rebellious nature early on through his attraction to Deism, his dramatic defense of smallpox vaccinations, and his early support of separation of church and state. Chronicling Allens upward struggle from precocious, if not unruly, adolescent to commander of the largest American paramilitary force on the eve of the Revolution, Randall unlocks a trove of new source material, particularly evident in his gripping portrait of Allen as a British prisoner-of-war. While the biography reacquaints readers with the familiar details of Allens lifehis capture during the aborted American invasion of Canada, his philosophical works that influenced Thomas Paine, his seminal role in gaining Vermont statehood, his stirring funeral in 1789Randall documents that so much of what we know of Allen is mere myth, historical folklore that people have handed down, as if Allen were Paul Bunyan. As Randall reveals, Ethan Allen, a so-called Robin Hood in the eyes of his dispossessed Green Mountain settlers, aggrandized, and unabashedly so, the holdings of his own family, a fact that is glossed over in previous accounts, embellishing his own best-selling prisoner-of-war narrative as well. He emerges not only as a public-spirited leader but as a self-interested individual, often no less rapacious than his archenemies, the New York land barons of the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys. As John E. Ferling comments, Randall has stripped away the myths to provide as accurate an account of Allens life as will ever be written. The keen insights that he produces shed new light, not only on this most enigmatic of Founding Fathers, but on todays descendants of the Green Mountain Boys, whose own political disenfranchisement resonates now more than ever. 16 pages of illustrations

Starred . The definitive biography of the frontier hero and founder of Vermont....Authoritative, vivid.... Colorful, well-written and nuanced. - Kirkus sThis is the first biography of Ethan Allen in half a century, and the only one to render him a psychologically complicated, fully flawed hero of the American Revolution. - Joseph J. Ellis, author of Founding Brothers and American SphinxWillard Sterne Randall has few equals as a writer. A careful and meticulous

historian, and an esteemed biographer, Randall has marshaled his many talents to produce the definite biography of Ethan Allen, one of the most fascinating figures in the founding of the American nation.... a must read. - John Ferling, author of *Independence* This is the powerful story about an essential and little-understood figure in American history. Willard Randall writes with grace and insight, and Ethan Allen is an engaging biography. - Jon Meacham, author of *American Lion* About the Author Willard Sterne Randall is the author of *A Little Revenge: Benjamin Franklin and His Son*, *Benedict Arnold: Patriot and Traitor*, *Thomas Jefferson: A Life*, *George Washington, A Life*, *Alexander Hamilton, A Life* and *Ethan Allen: His Life and Times*. Randall is a retired professor of history at Champlain College, holds a permanent appointment as Visiting Professor of History at John Cabot University in Rome. He co-authored *American Lives and Forgotten Americans* with his wife, the poet Nancy Nahra. Six times nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, he received the Award of Merit from the American Revolution Round Table, only awarded three times in its 50-year history. As an investigative reporter, in a 17-year journalism career in Philadelphia he received the National Magazine Award for Public Service from Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, the Hillman Prize, the Loeb Award and the John Hancock Award for Excellence in Business Writing before undertaking graduate studies in history at Princeton University and writing biography. He resides in Burlington, Vermont.