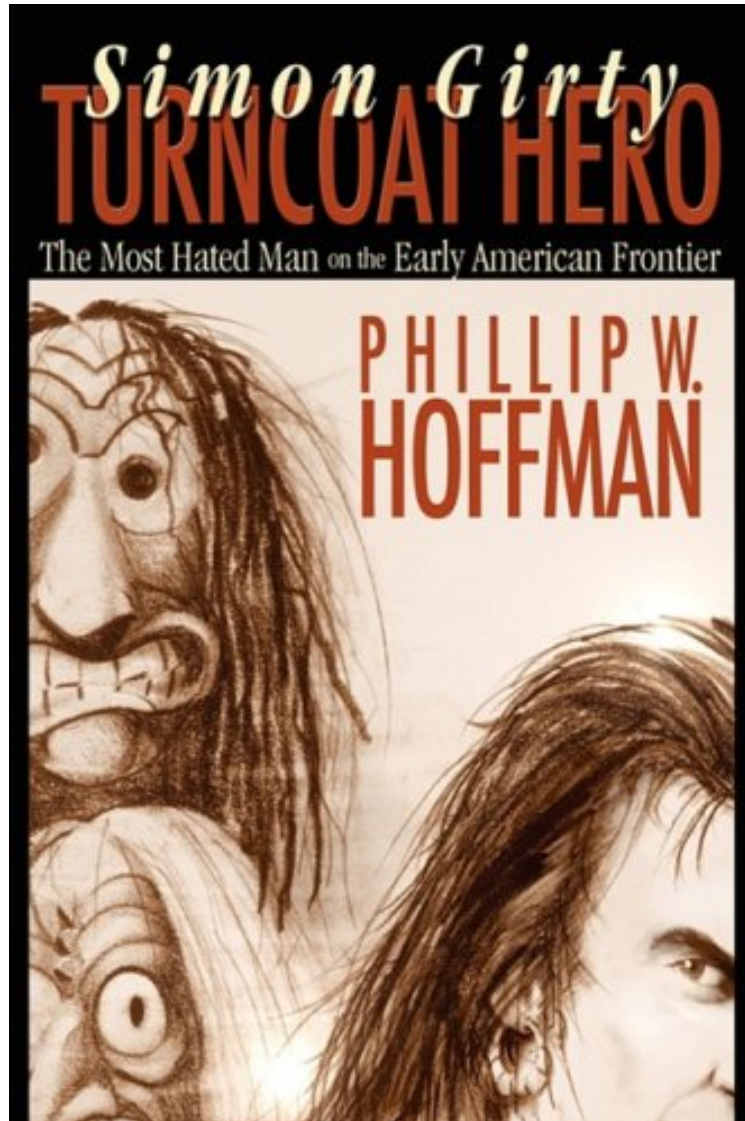


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Simon Girty Turncoat Hero

Phillip W. Hoffman

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Phillip W. Hoffman : Simon Girty Turncoat Hero before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Simon Girty Turncoat Hero:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. The Most Hated Man ExplainedBy B. R. MorrisLike author Phillip Hoffman, I too first became aware of Simon Girty when I read Allan W. Eckert's books "The Frontiersmen" and "Wilderness War" some thirty years ago. My curiosity piqued, I went to the library and found only 150 year old, prejudiced, American accounts of Girty's exploits during this tumultuous and troubled period in American history.

Hence, in my mind, Simon Girty remained only a shadowy, renegade figure who flourished in the chaos of the frontier on the knife's edge of encroaching civilization. Then I discovered Simon Girty Turncoat Hero. In Simon Girty Turncoat Hero, Phillip Hoffman removes the veils of distorted myth to reveal the man and his motives. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that Eckert and Hoffman had worked so closely together while Hoffman researched Simon Girty. Hoffman's account of Simon Girty's childhood is substantially different from that portrayed by Eckert in Wilderness War. This difference no doubt stems from and reflects the nineteen years of independent research conducted by Hoffman wherein he discovered new facts not available to Eckert so many years ago. It is research that Eckert heartily acclaims: Hoffman "has shown this very remarkable individual [Simon Girty] as neither renegade nor traitor; rather as a man of principal and courage that he truly was." Hoffman also carefully reconstructs a compelling tale of Simon Girty as a husband and father. Frequently absent to conduct business as a trader or as a translator or spy conducting the king's business, Hoffman describes Girty as a man who drove away two common law wives yet struggled to maintain relations with his mother, brothers, and his children. In addition to Hoffman's purposeful account of Simon Girty, I enjoyed the anecdotal historical gems he spread throughout his book. Whereas it is common knowledge that German immigrants settled in and had a vital influence on the development of Pennsylvania, few authors have ever so clearly ascribed to the Pennsylvania Dutch the origins of the Pennsylvania Rifle. Hoffman makes frequent use of personal diaries, letters and public documents to describe or account for Girty's actions. A series of excellent maps serve to keep the reader grounded geographically while reading. The endnotes and bibliography are likewise excellent. Hoffman discusses, sometimes superficially and sometimes in great detail, important skirmishes, wars, and treaties to create context for Simon Girty's decisions and actions. Hoffman recounts how Pontiac's Rebellion was answered with the King's Proclamation of 1763; which, in turn, created dissension among colonial land speculators, i.e., George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry, et al. Eventually, this would lead to another war, a war in which Girty chose to defend his adopted people, the Seneca, and the rights and privileges of the king he'd sworn allegiance to, King George III. Like Robert Rogers, Girty fought for the side that lost, and his reputation suffered a similar, degrading experience. Hoffman's monograph does much to burnish and restore that tarnished reputation. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book. The book showed the Real Man that ...By Kindle Customer Great book. The book showed the Real Man that was Simon Girty. Simon was his own man. He went with his own Hart. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great history but it is best read with a map ...By Joseph M. Logan Great history but it is best read with a map so you can see the locations as you read the story.

Simon Girty Turncoat Hero: The Most Hated Man on the Early American Frontier by Phillip W. Hoffman The subject of this panoramic biography is one of the most mysterious, misunderstood icons of early American history. Simon Girty was a sharp-witted, rascally, many-tongued frontiersman whose epic adventures span the French and Indian War, Dunmore's War, the American War for Independence, the Indian Wars, and the War of 1812. After defecting from the Patriot cause to serve the British in March 1778, Girty achieved instant infamy. To understand his motivation one must discover, as he did, that the real, underlying cause of the American Revolution was the unquenchable thirst for Indian land of many of our so-called founding fathers - including George Washington - and their unrelenting dissatisfaction with the restrictions imposed upon their land speculation ambitions by the King's Proclamation of 1763. Like a detective doggedly combing through old evidence, author Phillip Hoffman spent seventeen years studying every detail of Girty's life. By exploring microfilm, ledgers, military records, congressional records, newspaper and magazine articles, and dozens of early American and Canadian fiction and non-fiction works, Hoffman was able to peel away the mythic legend that has hidden Girty's real persona for two and a half centuries. Little in Simon Girty's life was conventional or predictable. Raised by an Irish Indian trader who had settled near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Simon's earliest experiences quickly isolate him from the majority of the colonists in the region. During the French and Indian War, Simon and his family are captured by hostile Indian warriors, and Simon is carried north and adopted, emerging eight years later as a gifted linguist and a trained interpreter fluent in eleven native languages. Girty begins his career as a spy-interpreter-intermediary, serving both English and Native American leaders. Girty's contacts include the great Seneca sachem Guyasuta, Sir William Johnson, merchant George Morgan, businessman John Connolly, William Crawford, Matthew Elliott, Lord Dunmore, Simon Kenton, and George Rogers Clark. He also interacted with Mingo chief John Logan, Mohawk chief Joseph Brant, Half King of the Wyandots, Captain Pipe of the Delawares, Moravian missionaries David Zeisberger and John Heckewelder, Shawnee chiefs Blue Jacket and Tecumseh, Miami war chief Little Turtle, Detroit Governor Henry Hamilton, U.S. general Anthony Wayne, and Daniel Boone. Through Girty's eyes we relive the ill-fated Squaw Campaign, his rescue of Simon Kenton, the deadly ambush of Rogers' Flotilla, the Battle of Sandusky, William Crawford's trial and death by fire, the conquest of Martin's and Ruddle's Stations, the disastrous American defeat at Blue Licks, and the incredible victories over Harmar and St. Clair by a confederation of Western and Northern Tribes. Finally, with Girty and his companions Alex McKee and Matthew Elliott, we witness the climactic defeat of the Indians by "Mad" Anthony Wayne at Fallen Timbers. Hoffmans dedication to detail, combined with his superb talent as a storyteller, brings us an intimate view of the full sweep of early American frontier conflicts, as experienced by a devoted adventurer whose heart was as much Indian as

it was white. The author's erudite, yet accessible style makes this book a pleasure to read and savor. Simon Girty Turncoat Hero is American history at its best.