

2-7-2017

## The Ides of War: George Washington and the Newburgh Crisis

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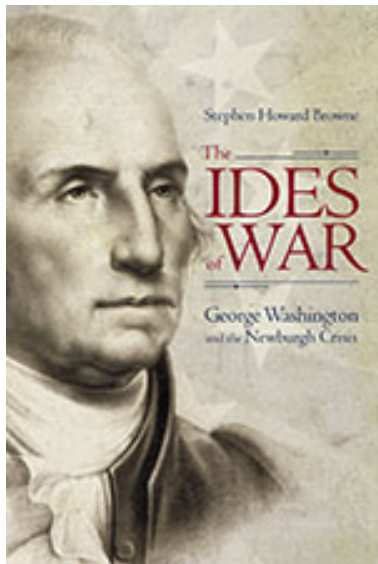
### Recommended Citation

Jordan, Carol Walker (2017) "The Ides of War: George Washington and the Newburgh Crisis," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 64 : Iss. 4, Article 8.

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**The Ides of War : George Washington and the Newburgh Crisis** by Stephen Howard Brown Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2016. ISBN 978-1-61117-659-9 (hard); 978-1-61117-660-5 (ebook). \$44.99. 168 p.



In this dramatically small and powerfully written book by Stephen Howard Browne, we are treated to behind the scenes actions and activities of a few historic days in March 1783 in Newburgh, New York.

Browne reminds us that George Washington was the Commander in Chief of the Army of the United States in the Spring of 1783. Browne says that encamped along the banks of the Hudson River in Newburgh, the soldiers under Washington's command were suffering from disease and hunger and ill-equipped with clothing, weapons and supplies, had no opportunity to go on home visits and were not receiving their pay as was promised. Browne says the men were at the point of a coup d'etat under Washington's command. To Browne the possibility of a coup d'etat of American troops under Washington in those days in Newburgh, New York, would have been a singular situation in all of America's military history.

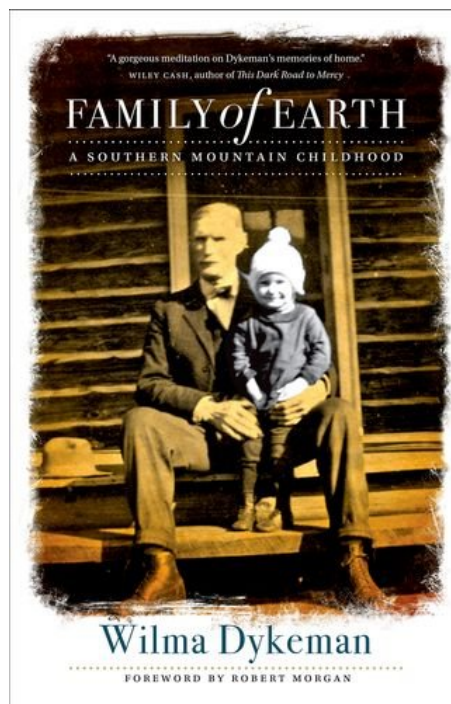
As the men and their frustrations gained obvious momentum, we learn Commander in Chief George Washington utilized the one act that we consider a diplomacy initiative: rhetoric and the spoken word. Washington appealed to the soldiers' belief in the principles of the government for which they fought to preserve and to the vision they dream to achieve by their dedication and sacrifice in past days and forward.

As you know, Washington's appeal was successful and a coup d'etat was avoided. In Appendix C, page 115, we find the speech that was written and delivered by Commander in Chief George Washington to his troops. This is the highlight of Browne's book.

See Appendix A: Memorial from the Officers of the Army, Appendix B: The Newburgh Circulars, Appendix C: George Washington's Speech at Newburgh, Notes 119, Bibliography, 127 and Index, 137. A recommended resource for Archives and History Centers, College and University Libraries.

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**Family of Earth: A Southern Mountain Childhood** by Wilma Dykeman. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-1-46962-914-8. \$75.00 (hard), \$18.00 (pbk.). 177p.



In her memoir, *Family of Earth: A Southern Mountain Childhood*, the late Wilma Dykeman (1920-2006) wrote with tender affection of her early years, describing her immersion in the natural world around her, encouraged and supported by her parents. The manuscript, written after her graduation from Northwestern University and discovered by her son after her death, is an account of a bucolic childhood spent in the North Carolina mountains, the sole offspring of a local Appalachian woman and her husband from New York. Later celebrated as an author, lecturer, historian and social activist, Dykeman's explorations of the natural world and her interactions and relationships with the unique individuals around her, provide a glimpse of recurring themes in her later works: protection of natural resources, loss of cultural heritage, race and class disparities, and women's roles in society.

Each of the fourteen chapters corresponds to a single year in her life and illuminates the natural beauty of her surroundings and her desire to investigate and understand