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For Church and Confederacy: The Lynches of South Carolina

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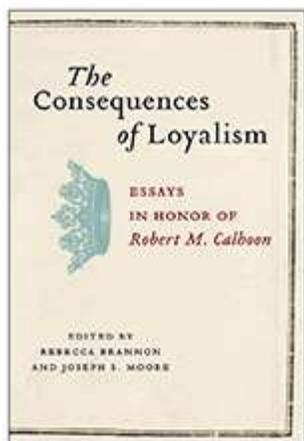
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The Consequences of Loyalism: Essays in Honor of Robert M. Calhoun. Edited by Rebecca Brannon and Joseph S. Moore. Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1-61117-950-7 (Hard.) \$59.99. 344 p.



This book, as the title indicates, is a collection of essays written by Robert M. Calhoun's graduate students to share Calhoun's vision of Loyalism and Loyalists. What was loyalism and who were the loyalists?

Calhoun's students were challenged to examine a variety of questions such as: were those who called themselves loyalists desirous of continuing in the service of the "crown", were they those who did not want to take up arms and fight the "crown", were they hopeful of finding peaceful ways of insuring freedom from unfair taxation, etc., were they those who thought the revolutionaries were moving to take away their land and their means of life, were they white, black, Indians?

To shed light on some of these questions, Calhoun's students contributed essays inspired by his lectures and research, such as "The Politics of Loyalty in the Revolutionary Chesapeake", "Reexamining Loyalist Identity during the American Revolution", "Quaker Women Writers of the American Revolution", "To be Parts and Not Dependencies of the Empire".

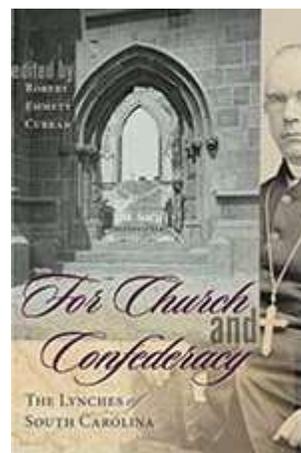
Interestingly, Calhoun led his students to examine the concept of the revolutionary war as a civil war. A civil war in which loyalists and revolutionaries held differing opinions about separating from the British government. Those opinions became obvious when it was shown that Loyalists were counted in the thousands—possibly 500,000 individuals of the white population. Paul Smith (p.1) also says 19% of all citizens at the time of the war were Loyalists. What happened to Loyalists when the Revolutionary War ended, Smith says "the longer-term effect of the Revolution on the Loyalists—the exile experiences of perhaps 80,000 Loyalists and their dependents who departed or the adaptation of as many as 400,000 who remained in the US" (p.3).

The jewel of this book is the raising of our consciousness toward those in early America who wished to remain loyal to the "crown". Also the essays give us the option to begin to learn more about the Revolutionary War as a "civil war".

This is a good book for public and academic libraries. Also recommended for archives and historical collections. The book contains 250 pages, Notes from page 251 to List of Contributors on 319 and an Index on Page 321. List of illustrations on pages 45 125,127 and 131.

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant

For Church and Confederacy: The Lynchs of South Carolina. Edited by Robert Emmett Curran. Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1-61117-917-0 (Hard). \$69.99. 456 p.



Robert Emmett Curran tells of 1600 letters written by members of the Lynch family. He transcribed and annotated 561 of those letters and placed them in chronological order for us, 1858-1865. These letters were meticulously presented as a life story of the Lynch family in South Carolina during the Confederate War years. Patrick Lynch became the third Catholic Bishop of Charleston, his brother, Francis, established tanneries that supplied shoes to the troops of the Civil War, and his sister, Ellen, established a school for young girls as a protection for them during the War.

Patrick Lynch became a highly respected and much loved Bishop and was selected by Jefferson Davis to represent the Confederacy to the Papal States in hopes of securing support of Europe for the Confederacy. While Bishop Lynch was a slave owner and a secessionist, his reputation with inclusion of black free slaves was well known.

The outstanding elements of this research are the 561 beautifully transcribed and annotated Lynch family letters written to each other during the years of 1858 to 1865. The readability and clever language in each letter along with the inclusion of local and regional happenings helped me as a

reader to see the beginning, the development and the ending of a family story that was deeply involved in the War.

An excerpt from one letter is an example of the beautiful prose and sensitivity to each family member:

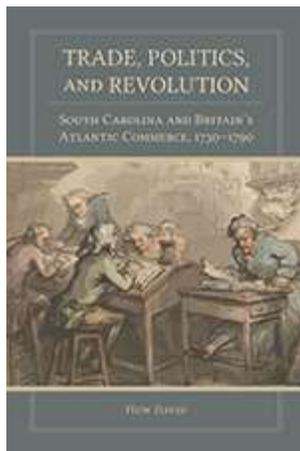
“My dearest brother, I leave it to others to congratulate you on the honor and dignity you have received if any I will bless God for having extended your sphere of usefulness and placed you in a position where you may affect the good....How is your cold and cough? I am very anxious about it for none of us have stentorian lungs and I am afraid you will not resort to effectual remedies...”

As this example shows, you can be assured of reading letters both informative and filled with the love and good feelings within the Lynch family!

Recommended for public, academic and archival libraries. There are a List of illustrations beginning on page vii, Acknowledgements on page ix, a helpful introduction on page xi and the Lynch Family Genealogy on page xxiii. The text covers pages 1 to 365.

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant

Trade, Politics, and Revolution: South Carolina and Britain's Atlantic Commerce, 1730-1790. Huw David. Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1-61117-894-4 (hard). \$59.99. 280 p.



Huw David brings to this manuscript a background, as he describes himself, driven by “historical detective work”. Today Huw holds a Ph.D. in History from Lincoln College, Oxford. He was awarded the 2015 Hines Prize by the College of Charleston for the best first manuscript relating to the Carolina lowcountry and the Atlantic world. That manuscript led to this book which is beautifully organized and complete with biographical sketches of his characters, illustrations of particular people, seascapes, unique

buildings and scenes, along with data tables – all highlighting his detective work.

The story Huw David tells is of an early Atlantic seaport town where a few transatlantic white merchants devised an economic trade system that propelled them to fame and fortune. Utilizing their knowledge of trade, their political acumen, and seeing unique economic opportunities, these men entered a variety of business and political ventures within the pre-revolution colony known as George Town.

Prior to the Revolutionary War, through trade with England in the 1730s, these merchants sent ships back and forth from Charles Town to London. They secured clients and opportunities to buy and sell goods. The products such as rice, hemp, and indigo were prized by the British. The opportunity to use the British slave trade to acquire slaves for the plantation workforce to produce goods was of great benefit to the colonists in and around Charles Town. One data chart shows that between 1706 and 1776, 69,765 slaves were imported to Charles Town on British vessels (p. 33).

The author tells us that the merchants grew very wealthy, acquired land and property in both the Carolina territory and in England. Yet as the Revolutionary War erupted and the loyalties of the merchants were questioned, many of these merchants returned (fled?) to England and tragically lost or became debt ridden over their investments in the colony.

This fascinating manuscript gives a chronology that is very helpful in placing the history of the relationships between the maritime merchants and the Charleston citizens. Also there is a brief but informative sketch of many of the merchants and their investments and families. The Notes section begins on page 188. There is a Bibliography on pages 229 (Primary Sources), an Index on 249. Illustrations are set throughout the manuscript.

This is a fascinating and very readable manuscript and one which I highly recommend for academic libraries and archival collections. (Charles Town was renamed Charleston in 1783) p.xviii

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant