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Trade, Politics, and Revolution: South Carolina and Britain's Atlantic Commerce, 1730-1790

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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:

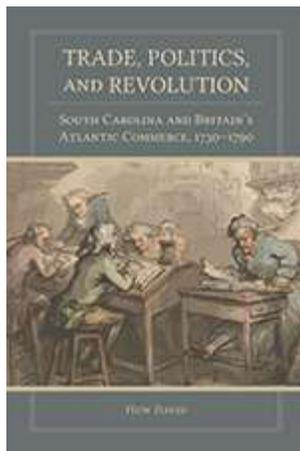
“My dearest brother, I leave it to others to congratulate you on the honor and dignity you have received if any I will bless God for having extended your sphere of usefulness and placed you in a position where you may affect the good....How is your cold and cough? I am very anxious about it for none 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
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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

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