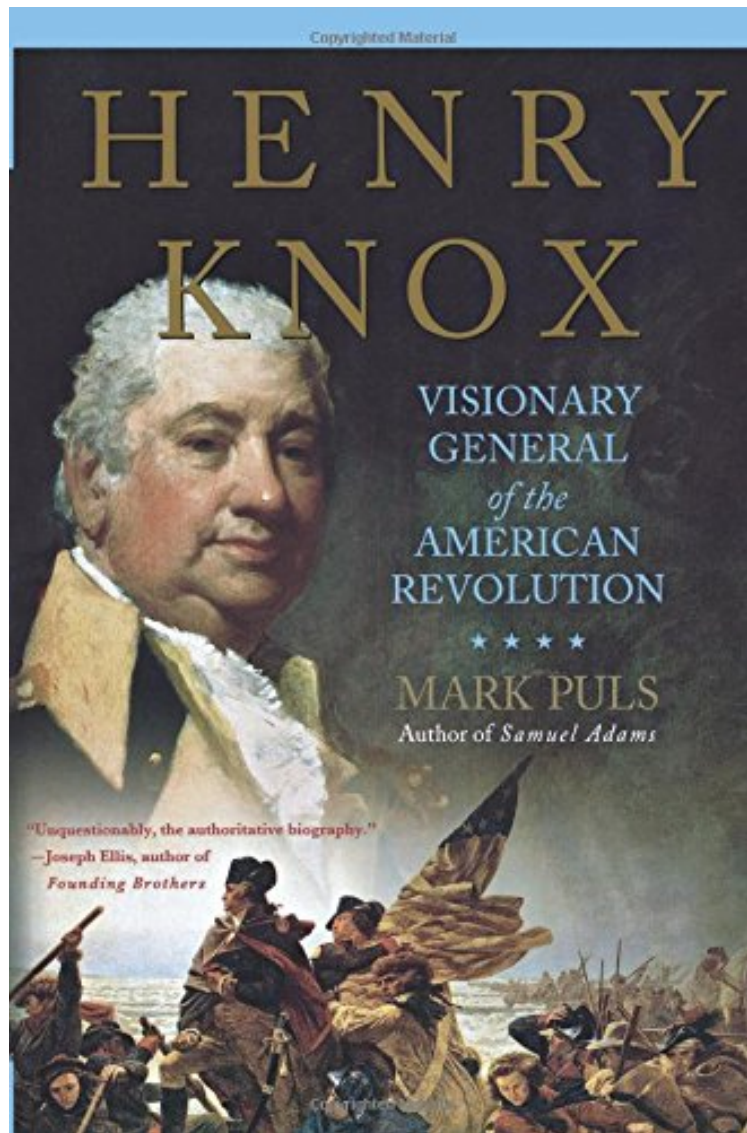


Henry Knox: Visionary General of the American Revolution

Mark Puls

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Mark Puls : Henry Knox: Visionary General of the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Henry Knox: Visionary General of the American Revolution:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The artillery masterBy Daniel PutmanHenry Knox has often been overlooked in popular history books. His time as Washingtons first Secretary of War was not impressive and he is often casually mentioned as one of Washingtons better generals. But, as Mark Puls demonstrates, Knox was a critical part of the Revolutionary War. Knox pulled off two feats that are still hard to believe given the technology of the time.

One was moving sixty tons of artillery over 300 miles from Ticonderoga to Boston through the wilderness, a move which made the siege of Boston possible early in the war. As Puls notes, without that, there would almost certainly have been no early American victory that forced the British to evacuate the city. Equally impressive was Knox's extraordinary feat of moving artillery across the Delaware River prior to Washington's attack on Trenton. Puls spells out in some detail how Knox preformed that feat in a tiny window of time in incredibly difficult circumstances. Knox made mistakes like deciding to attack the British in a fortified house near Germantown which held back critical troops and may have turned a victory into a loss (or tie). But overall Henry Knox was one of the best generals the Americans had in the Revolution. Puls's description of the battle scenes are page-turners and the overall organization of the book is very good. Having read both this book and Puls's biography of Sam Adams, I found this book much better. Perhaps the reason was that the military exploits of Knox make more compelling reading but I also found Knox's personality more completely developed than that of Adams. The book's subtitle, *Visionary General*, refers among other things to Knox's work to found a military academy well ahead of the establishment of West Point and, after the war, his draft for a new constitution which mirrored in remarkable fashion the document which came later. This is an excellent biography that gives the reader real insight into both Knox's personality as well as the strategy of the war and Knox's deep friendship with Washington. I highly recommend it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A brief history of Gen Knox

By RETIRED Chef I thought the author did a faithful job on this this book, but description on most of the engagements fought where lacking, and actually a few where not even mention, his description on how Knox and Washington retreated out of NYC was written in a couple pages or less. You would thought he would of written more about most of the Battles as most of them depended on Knox knowledge and ability in moving his artillery like at Trenton. But it did cover a lot of time in Knox'S life so I guess if he had went into more detail the book would three time thicker, but it maintain a good flow and was an enjoyable read, 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Henry Knox- An Incredible Leader

By Mimi Coffey Henry Knox was not only a jack of all trades, he was its master too. He was Washington's Chief General on artillery. He helped beef up the Navy (convincing Congress to buy 6 cheap but cutting edge ships when it could afford none), he came up with the 3 tiered government of checks and balances and communicated this with Constitutional Congress delegate Gouverneur Morris who made it happen. He was loyal to Washington when Conway's Cabal almost replaced Washington with General Gates. Always a man of action, impeccable smarts, a visionary and of good character, the country owes much to this one incredible man. He was the Ben Franklin of diplomacy in both the congressional and military arenas. Yet it all started when he started working as an understudy at the age of 12 in a bookstore (reading voraciously) to help put food on the table for his mother and brother. A man of good heart achieves much, a fantastic and inspiring read. Mark Puls not only captured Henry Knox's spirit but mine too (as the reader) over such a marvelous hero's story well told

Mark Puls delivers a compelling portrait of the Revolutionary War general who played a key role in all of George Washington's battles. During the Siege of Boston, Henry Knox's amazing 300 mile transport of forty nine cannons from Ticonderoga saved the city. Building upon his talent for logistics, Knox engineered Washington's famous Christmas night passage to safety across the Delaware River. And it was the general's tactical successes that made the final victory at Yorktown possible. With riveting battle scenes, inspiring patriotism, and vivid prose, Puls breathes new life into the American Revolution and firmly re-establishes Knox in his deserved place in history.

From Publishers Weekly In this brisk, informative biography, journalist and author Puls (Samuel Adams: Father of the American Revolution) celebrates Gen. Henry Knox, a remarkably ubiquitous presence during America's founding generation, who has been curiously overlooked by historians. At age 18, Knox (1750-1806) joined the local Boston militia and became a self-taught skilled engineer and military tactician. Once the American Revolution began, General Washington appointed Knox to build and lead the army's artillery corps. Knox remained at Washington's side and supervised the 1776 Christmas Day crossing of the Delaware. He went on to command the Yorktown artillery in 1781. The then youngest major general in the American army retired to become secretary at war and to lay the basis for a visionary citizen army. Knox later sanctioned the American navy and promoted the creation of a military academy at West Point. His private life was burdened by years of separation from his wife and the untimely deaths of nine of their 12 children. In 1806 Knox died unexpectedly from an infection caused by a chicken bone lodged in his throat. Puls's authoritative and absorbing account of Knox's life is a fitting tribute to General Washington's indispensable man. (Feb.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Mark Puls gives us an action-packed account of Knox's life in uniform and in government service and provides a fitting portrait of one of America's greatest leaders. Truly this was an amazing man -- a man to whom Americans owe a great debt for his willingness to forgo personal riches for the common good. It was a pleasure to experience this story of his remarkable life. The Roanoke Times [A] brisk, informative biography... Puls's authoritative and absorbing account of Knox's life is a fitting tribute to General Washington's 'indispensable man.' Publishers Weekly Competent biography of Washington's talented young protg, who commanded the artillery throughout the American Revolution and served as the nation's first Secretary of War... a solid rsum of everything anyone would want to know about this undeservedly neglected not-

quite founding father. KirkusGreat man though he was, George Washington did not win American independence by himself. Henry Knox, a self-taught artillery commander, was one of the the Revolution's great figures, and this book explains why we should know more about him. In the hands of Mark Puls, Knox and his beloved wife Lucy come to life in a way that reminds us of the debt we owe the men and women of the Founding generation. Terry Golway, author of Washington's GeneralAt last, Henry Knox has been discovered by a historian capable of appreciating his contributions as a soldier and statesmen, and who also, no small matter, can write. Knox's attempt to create a just policy toward Native Americans that avoided Indian removal is a poignant story worth the price of admission. This is unquestionably the authoritative biography. Joseph Ellis, author of Founding Brothers and the forthcoming American Creation: Triumph and Tragedy at the FoundingBringing 18th Century America to life is no easy task, particularly when military leaders from the Revolutionary War are at center stage. In Henry Knox, General of the American Revolution, however, Mark Puls does that smoothly and even superbly, making the reader feel familiar and comfortable with all of them, particularly the hero. And hero he truly was, as Puls so well records. This is clearly a masterful work. Tom Carhart author of Lost Triumph: Lees Real Plan at Gettysburg -- and Why It Failed Any Founding Father who ends his days in such a fighting spirit deserves still more of our attention. Samuel Adams is a good place to start. The Wall Street Journal on Samuel AdamsHere, at last, is a new life of the man that recovers his crucial role as the Lenin of the American Revolution. Joseph J. Ellis, author of Founding Brothers, on Samuel AdamsAmerican history buffs will enjoy Puls' fine study. Publishers Weekly on Samuel AdamsA sharply focused biography of the mastermind behind the American colonies' break with England. Kirkus on Samuel AdamsAbout the AuthorMark Puls is the author of Samuel Adams: Father of the American Revolution, winner of the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award, and co-author of Uncommon Valor: A Story of Race, Patriotism and Glory in the Final Battles of the Civil War with Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Melvin Claxton. Puls has worked as a journalist for The Detroit News. He lives in Hawntanck, MI.