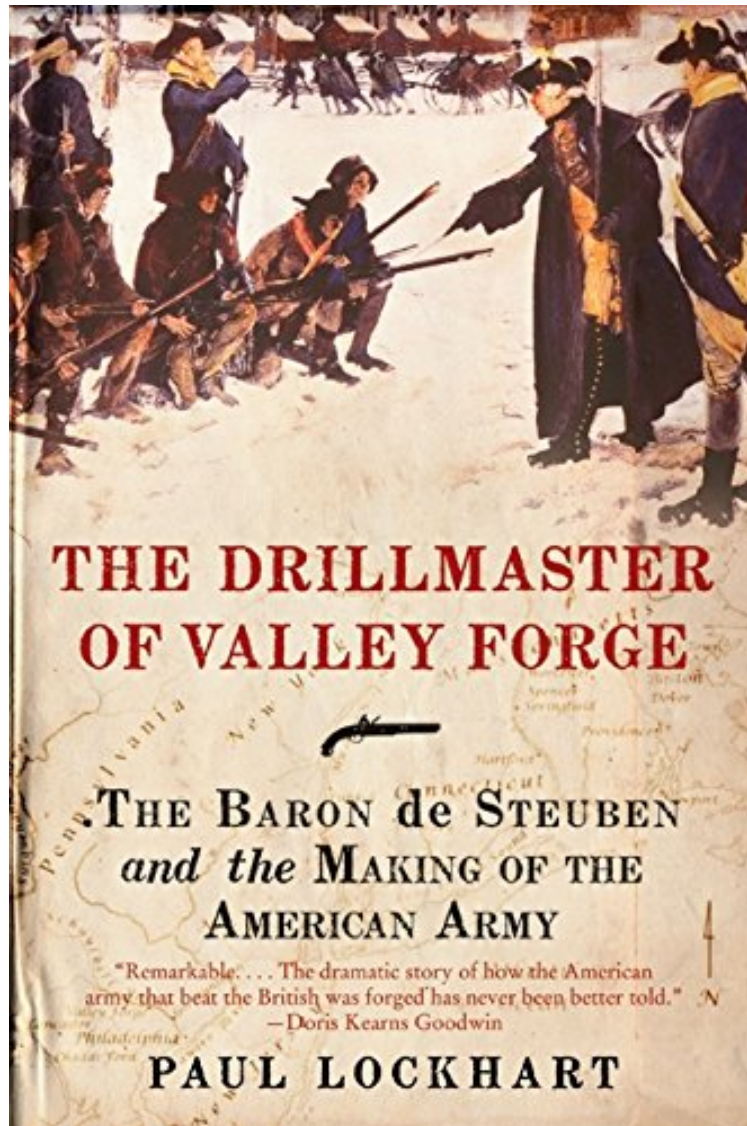


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The Drillmaster of Valley Forge: The Baron de Steuben and the Making of the American Army

Paul Lockhart

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#651251 in Books Paul Douglas Lockhart 2010-02-02 2010-02-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .79 x 5.311, .57 #File Name: 0061451649352 pages The Drillmaster of Valley Forge The Baron de Steuben and the Making of the American Army | File size: 58.Mb

Paul Lockhart : The Drillmaster of Valley Forge: The Baron de Steuben and the Making of the American Army before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Drillmaster of Valley Forge: The Baron de Steuben and the Making of the American Army:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Von Steuben, the 18th century top-kick Drill Instructor! By Mike E. A fine book about the Prussian General who taught the raw American Continentals how to fight the well trained European armies. Americans did not lack the will, but they were stubbornly independent and had to be schooled in military discipline, formations, drilling and use of weapons and tactics. Baron Von Steuben was the man that taught them the essentials during that terrible winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge, and much more. He cared about his men, and though he was an officer, he knew the privations of the ordinary infantryman, and drilled them like a Marine D.I. or an Army Drill Sergeant. And the troops loved him for it! He learned one English curse word that served him well - "God-Damnit!" I have both the Audible and the print edition of this book, and the audio version is fascinating; I learned much more about the American Revolution from this book than I had in high school. It also taught me once again that we are a nation of immigrants, and we need every one to make this country work and grow.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History Comes Alive! By jwolf69 Very informative and a delight to read. History really comes alive with a sense that you are there to watch. Only disappointment was to find the author concluded in the last pages that very few people visited the gravesite of the Baron. The author unfortunately did not mention where that site is located. He did make a vague remark about the resting site being near, Rome, NY. Researching the location myself I found it is located in Remsen, Oneida County, NY at the Steuben Memorial State Historic Site. However, I thoroughly enjoyed the author's personal approach into the man who was instrumental in not only the outcome of the American Revolution but who also left his mark on the foundations of many other aspects within the military. A wonderful addition to any library and a must read for history enthusiasts.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Book By Allan W. Marcotte I enjoyed the book very much, I didn't know that much about the good Baron. His service under the King of Prussia during the Seven Years War was interesting and well as the fact that he was wounded in combat. To learn that the stories of him being a fraud were not entirely his responsibility proved interesting. If you enjoy the Rev War it is a great read.

A terrific biography. The dramatic story of how the American army that beat the British was forged has never been better told than in this remarkable book. Doris Kearns Goodwin, New York Times bestselling author of *Team of Rivals* The true story of the Baron de Steuben and the making of the American Army, *The Drillmaster of Valley Forge* is the first biography in half a century of the immigrant Prussian soldier who molded George Washington's ragged, demoralized troops into the fighting force that eventually triumphed in America's War of Independence. Praised by renowned historian Thomas Fleming as an important book for anyone interested in the American Revolution, *The Drillmaster of Valley Forge* rights a historical wrong by finally giving a forgotten hero his well-deserved due.

From Publishers Weekly Lockhart, professor of history at Wright State University, has written the first modern scholarly biography of one of the American Revolution's iconic figures. Friedrich von Steuben is regularly described as the man whose drilling and discipline made an army out of the demoralized men camped at Valley Forge in the winter of 1776. Lockhart makes solid use of primary and secondary sources to present a more complete picture of the Continental Army's inspector-general. Steuben exaggerated his rank and status in order to secure employment, but was fully justified in asserting mastery of the techniques of war as practiced in Europe. Steuben learned his craft during 17 years of service in the army of Frederick the Great. There was no better school. Lockhart demonstrates the importance of European-style tactics to a war that could not be won by ambush and skirmishing alone. He shows how clearly Steuben understood the differences between American citizen-soldiers and the outcasts and conscripts that filled Europe's ranks. And he describes Steuben's contributions after Valley Forge to creating an army that won battles from Monmouth to Yorktown. Illus., maps. (Sept.) "Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved." From Booklist History professor Lockhart uses a conventional chronological approach to reveal the deeds and character of a man whose life was full of surprises and frustrating failures but ultimately crowned with success. The molding of the Continental Army into a disciplined fighting force was largely the work of Prussian immigrant the Baron de Steuben. Like other heroes of the Revolution, Steuben left his homeland as a failure, despite his efforts to embellish his military exploits. However, Steuben understood the necessity of Prussian-style discipline and the ability to change rapidly from one battle formation to another under fire. As the letters of George Washington and others reveal, the American army after Lexington and Concord was not much of an army and was no match for the well-trained British troops and their hired mercenaries. However, under Steuben's command, grumbling but willing troops drilled and drilled until they became a fighting force that could stand up to a European army. This well-written biography is aimed at general readers and sheds light on the career of an important but relatively obscure figure. --Jay Freeman The author generally treats [Steuben] with balance, understanding and great good humor. (Wall Street Journal) [An] informative biography. . . . Even readers who care little about the details of Revolutionary War battles may well find Steuben's maneuvers captivating. . . . Unusually well-written. . . with incisive character sketches of Washington, Jefferson, and other patriots complementing Lockhart's full-blooded portrait of Steuben. (Kirkus) This entertaining, enlightening, and objective volume is highly recommended. (Library Journal) Lockhart makes solid use of primary and secondary sources to present a more complete picture of the Continental Army's inspector-general.

(Publishers Weekly)[A] biography that delves into more detail about the man than any other piece of literature to date. (Quincy Patriot Ledger)At last, a good look at a great man. Paul Lockhart clears up all the puzzles of Steubens early life. He also tells an archetypal American story: an immigrant, ambitious, blustering, insecure, who gives his talents and his passion to his new-found home. (Richard Brookhiser, author of *George Washington on Leadership*)Paul Lockhart not only tells us the forgotten story of how this German volunteer transformed the American army. He has also made him an appealing human being. This is an important book for anyone interested in the American Revolution. (Thomas Fleming, author of *The Perils of Peace: America's Struggle for Survival After Yorktown*)Baron de Steuben has finally found the biographer he so richly deservesand what a terrific biography this issplendidly written with narrative sweep, deeply researched with colorful details that bring the Baron to vivid life. (Doris Kearns Goodwin)Lockhart writes a lively, incisive biography that exposes the inner workings of the Barons mind and highlights the critical role that he played in winning the Revolutionary War. (Edward Lengel, author of *THIS GLORIOUS STRUGGLE*)