

Swamp Fox: The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion

Robert Bass

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One of the most fascinating figures of the American Revolution, General Francis Marion slipped in and out of the Carolina swamps to strike sudden, devastating blows against the British. Cutting through the Swamp Fox legend, Robert D. Bass has arrived at a realistic and fascinating appraisal of this military genius with this 1959 literary work.

“[A] close but spirited chronology of the raids and routs [General Francis Marion] led against the British. A humane man, a dedicated soldier with a devotion to duty and a worship of liberty, [he] was also a taciturn, moody and introverted character. With an intuitive sense of strategy, particularly that of the swift advance and the rapid retreat, he became a sound and savage fighter [...] rose from the ranks as an unknown captain to become a Brigadier General. Here, bivouac by bivouac, are the lashes and the sieges in which he engaged; the daring rescue of 150 Rebel prisoners from Sumter’s house; the bedevilment and the destruction of the British in small diversionary actions; and the indefatigable endurance of that gaunt, ill-kempt, gallant fighter who became a nemesis to Cornwallis and the entire British Army....”—Kirkus Review

Swamp Fox: The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion Details

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Joe Vonnegut says

After reading the author's biography of Banastre Tarleton earlier this summer, I did not have high hopes regarding this biography of an American hero that who has always fascinated me since my youth. I was pleasantly proven wrong. In this book, Bass has a better narrative style and does not rely so heavily on long quotations from primary sources as he did with "The Green Dragoon;" perhaps it's because that Marion's life is not as well documented as Tarleton's. In any event, I thoroughly enjoyed this book and recommend it to anyone who wants to learn more of the what happened in the Carolinas during the American Revolution. I'm preparing to start John Oller's "The Swamp Fox," the first new major biography on Marion since 1973.

Robert says

I liked this one better than The Gamecock. But this one has fewer maps. It is sometimes difficult to understand the geography, as alot of the names have changed and a portion of the setting currently sits under lakes Marion and Moultrie. You can really tell that the Author has admired Gen. Marion since childhood, but he is mostly unbiased.

Ryan says

This is really good. I've lived in the areas of South and North Carolina where Marion was most engaged in his campaigns, so I'm familiar with the geography. But the reader unfamiliar to the lower state of South Carolina may get a bit lost in this book. The inclusion of some maps would have been very helpful for such person, I believe.

Douglas Wilson says

Really good.

Kam says

A good, straightforward account of Francis Marion's campaigns in the South Carolina Lowcountry during the Revolutionary War. This book deals extensively with troop movements and tactics without looking at the broader context of the war. At the heart of the book lies the author's deep admiration for Francis Marion, the man; by the end, I found myself enthralled by his modesty, honor and ultimate desire for peace. With a name as mysterious and suggestive as "Swamp Fox," I did not expect to find such a noble citizen and forgiving politician. This is the kind of "old school" historical monograph that makes one reconsider the merits of deconstructionist (i.e. post-modern) cultural studies.

