



Peter's War: A New England Slave Boy and the American Revolution

Written by Joyce Lee Malcolm

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War: A New England Slave Boy and the American Rev

By Joyce Lee Malcolm

Peter War And Peace

A boy named Peter, born to a slave in Massachusetts in 1763, was sold nineteen months later to a childless white couple there. This bookÂ recounts the fascinating history of how the American Revolution came to Peter's small town, how he joined the revolutionary army at the age of twelve, and how he participated in the battles of Bunker Hill and Yorktown and witnessed the surrender at Saratoga.

Peter Alonso War

Joyce Lee Malcolm describes Peter's home life in rural New England, which became increasingly unhappy as he grew aware of racial differences and prejudices. She then relates how he and other blacks, slave and free, joined the war to achieve their own independence. Malcolm juxtaposes Peter's life in the patriot armies with that of the life of Titus, a New Jersey slave who fled to the British in 1775 and reemerged as a feared guerrilla leader.

Peter Attia War On Insulin

A remarkable feat of investigation, Peter's biography illuminates many themes in American history: race relations in New England, the prelude to and military history of the Revolutionary War, and the varied experience of black soldiers who fought on both sides.

This was a good attempt to reconstruct the life of a colonial slave who didn't leave much of a paper trail, similar to Jill Lepore's reconstruction of Jane Franklin, Benjamin's sister, in her *Book of Ages*. But unlike Jill Lepore, when neo-con Joyce Lee Malcolm finds a gap, she just makes up her own facts. While she has a bibliography, she took the lazy person's route of omitting footnotes.

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The book is riddled with fake history, but what struck home for me was what she said about British General Charles O'Hara. As a historian myself, I know a fair amount about him. Malcolm said: "Tears rolled down O'Hara's portly cheeks as he rode along" to the Yorktown surrender. That sounds good, but it's just plain made-up. The truth is that contemporaries of O'Hara talked about his handsomeness, and the only portrait of O'Hara we're aware of shows a tough hombre in his prime—unlike rebel generals Henry Knox and Benjamin Lincoln who both portraits and contemporaries say were fat. Just 10 months before the Yorktown surrender, O'Hara fought a pitched battle at Cowan's Ford, NC, and he would have drowned if he hadn't been the in-shape, tough soldier that he was.

More than that, eyewitness accounts of O'Hara at Yorktown (from French and American officers, who later dined with him) marvel at his comportment, professionalism, and charm.

Malcolm has made a name for herself among right-wing circles with her distorted interpretation of the Second Amendment. It's fine to have a different interpretation, but it's not fine to make up your own facts and call yourself a historian. But then that's what right-wingers do.

...more

Peter McIntyre War Artist

Narrative of two slaves on opposite side of the American Revolution. Peter lived in Lincoln, Massachusetts and argued his way into the militia though only 12 years old. Titus, from New Jersey, took up the British offer of freedom by joining their forces and rising to prominence as a military leader. The author, a Professor of Law at George Mason University, dug deeply into primary sources to write her book.

A great book to read about Northern slavery and slaves during the American Revolution. Given the disparate facts about Peter Nelson, the author does a masterful job using source documents, to weave a story of this obscure character in the larger context of select portions of American history in and around the time of the American Revolution

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