9-1-2011


George W. Geib  
*Butler University, ggeib@butler.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/las_bookreviews](http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/las_bookreviews)

**Recommended Citation**  
[http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/las_bookreviews/87](http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/las_bookreviews/87)

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Digital Commons @ Butler University. It has been accepted for inclusion in LAS Faculty Book Reviews by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Butler University. For more information, please contact omacisaas@butler.edu.
Because Ideas Matter...

The faculty and staff of Butler University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences presents

Recommended Readings

**Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse**

by Lawrence A. Babits & Joshua Howard, University of North Carolina Press, 2009

Reviewed by George Geib

In recent years we've seen a number of new approaches to the history of combat, called by some a "new military history." The old emphasis upon great commanders and heroic incidents has slipped away. It's been replaced by the dynamics of small units, the sociology of recruitment and training, the psychology of violent combat, the role of military medicine, and a careful attention to the memories and the points of view of the authors of our surviving documents. Babits and Howard offer a good example in their study of the American revolutionary battle of Guilford Courthouse in North Caroline, 15 March 1781. The battle is a good choice. In earlier studies it featured two famous commanders, Nathaniel Greene and Lord Cornwallis, and a famous artillery fire incident. It was extensively documented by participants, many of whom were common soldiers writing later pension applications. It was fought in at least four very distinct stages, involving identifiable soldiers, companies and small regiments. Causalities were high. Leadership, morale, and violence itself can be studied in detail. And the battle decided control of much of the American South in the War for Independence. The conflict is better known than the hype on the dust jacket suggests, but the new military history is here at its best.

- George Geib is Professor of History at Butler University.