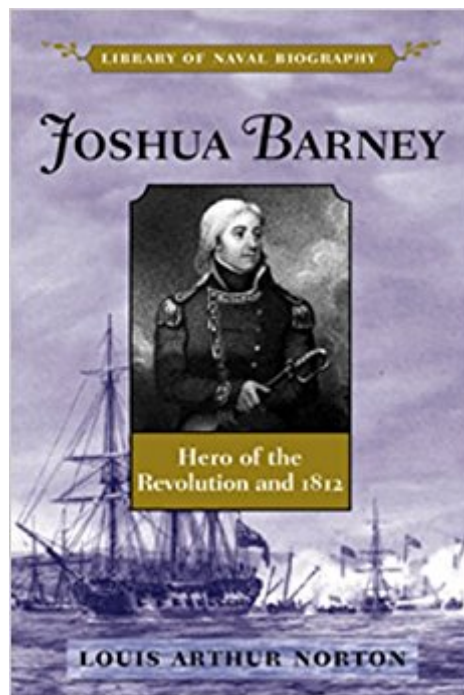




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Joshua Barney: Hero Of The Revolution And 1812 (Library Of Naval Biography)



Synopsis

General Series Editor: James C. Bradford Little has been published about the life of Baltimore's Commodore Joshua Barney, a man who earned a commission in the nascent Continental Navy, sailed as a privateer, and served as a commodore in both the French and American navies. Louis Norton's biography scrutinizes Barney's colorful life and critically analyzes events that forged his character. Although largely forgotten, he was one of the most clever, competent officers of the American sailing navy. Based on primary and secondary sources, this biography contains many of Barney's quotes and some charming contemporaneous verse written about him that describes the changing fortunes of his life. A natural seaman and leader with extraordinary courage, Barney took part in thirty-five Revolutionary War naval engagements and was imprisoned three times, but escaped twice using resourceful disguises. In his later years Barney became a national hero defending the Chesapeake during the War of 1812. Author Norton elaborates on Barney's remarkable history with the American flag: he was among the first to use it for naval recruitment, sailed under the banner on the first American vessel to receive a cannon salute from a foreign nation, and carried the stars and stripes into the French National Assembly as the new republic received American diplomatic recognition. Finally the commodore served on the committee that ordered the Fort McHenry flag which became the "Star Spangled Banner." With this fascinating biography, Norton has polished Joshua Barney's image to the brighter luster that many historians believe it deserves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Commodore Joshua Barney took part in 35 Revolutionary War naval battles and was captured by the British three times. Twice he was exchanged for a British officer. The third time he was sent to the Old Mill Prison in Plymouth, England, from which he escaped. He was shipwrecked twice, and he put down one mutiny. Later Barney became a hero for his distinguished service during the War of 1812. In addition to his naval service, he commanded privateers flying the American and French flags, traded in the war-torn waters of the Caribbean and Europe, held various government offices, twice ran unsuccessfully for Congress, and made and lost several fortunes. Despite his impressive accomplishments--and this list touches on only a few of them--Barney's exploits have largely been forgotten. Norton's biography, the latest volume in the publisher's Library of Naval Biography series, is a much-needed retelling of the commodore's remarkable life and times. George CohenCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Very good read about the life of a forgotten Naval hero of both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

According to the author, the Chasseurs Britannique regiment was present and participated in the burning of Washington in 1814. According to the author the regiment then moved on to attack Baltimore. Unfortunately the book is not foot noted as to the source information.

This is a well written and organized book about one of the most fascinating naval officers to serve America during the crucial years of the formation of our nation. His biography involves crossing the paths of many of the great figures of the Revolution, including Washington, Franklin, Morris, Adams, Napoleon, Madison, Monroe, and John Paul Jones among others. Norton has brought the long neglected history of the Continental Navy to life in this work. The adventures of Barney as a young seaman, lieutenant, privateer and ultimately captain and commodore from captive of the British to clever businessman make for fascinating reading. It is a story that is so exciting, it is difficult to put down. I highly recommend it those who are interested in naval history, Revolutionary War history and those who simply like a good adventure story. It is remarkable that is a work of non-fiction. It reads as well as the best of the Hornblower novels.

Author Norton has done an excellent job of bringing an otherwise long-forgotten American hero back to life. His attention to detail is impressive, and his descriptive powers were so powerful that he inspired me to write my own fictional account of Joshua Barney. Thank you, Mr. Norton, for giving the reading public a well-researched and thoroughly enjoyable biography.

I was born in Maryland and spent a good part of my life in and around Baltimore. Until I read this biography I was not aware of Joshua Barney. He makes me proud to be a Marylander. The book is very well written, fast moving and gives a overview of maritime warfare plus the history of the time in which the commodore lived. I would especially recommend the book to anyone from the tidewater area who is interested what happened, particularly at sea, during of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and times in between.

This is a thoughtful, intelligent, yet unsentimental biography of one of the most fascinating American naval officers of the Revolutionary War as well as the War of 1812. The author's depiction of Barney is one of maritime adventure and he couples it with the the contemporary history of of the time. Barney's incredible bravery and resourcefulness are balanced by problems of ego and vulnerability. I found the book engrossing and excellent reading.

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