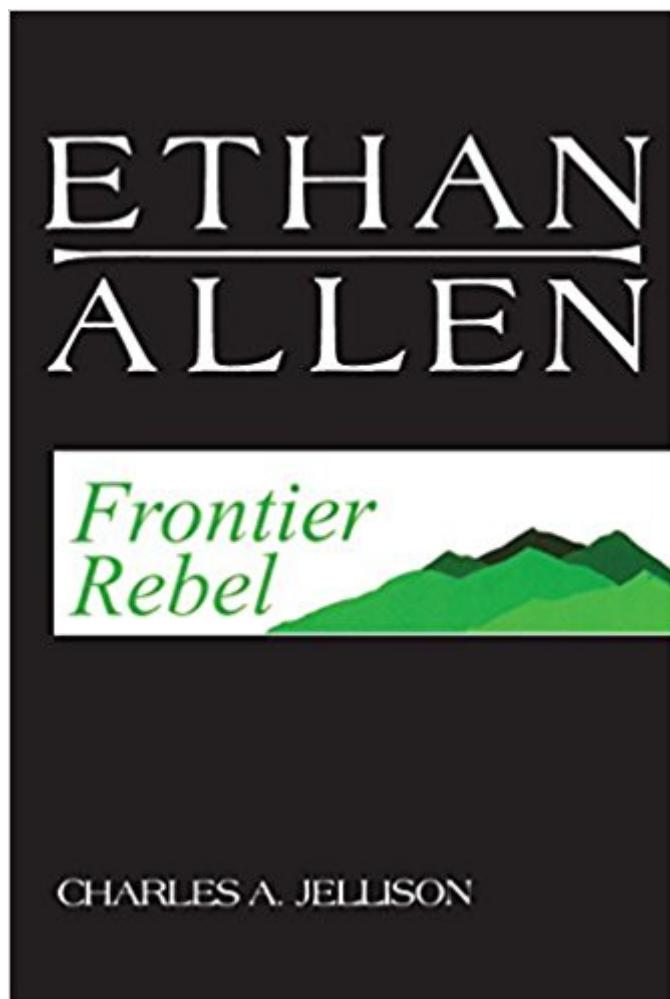


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Ethan Allen: Frontier Rebel



Synopsis

Controversial then and now, the powerful, brawling, tempestuous Ethan Allen is generally conceded to have played a dominant role in the affairs of early Vermont and the American Republic. Allen was a man of many parts who, whether fighting the British, frustrating the Yorkers, or exploring the mysteries of God, and the Universe, invariably gave a good account of himself. This lively biography, based on sound but unobtrusive scholarship, examines and assesses that many-faceted career. Under Allen's belligerent leadership the farmers of the New Hampshire Grants formed a militant guerilla band in 1770 known as the Green Mountain Boys to protect their holdings in lands that were the subject of disputes between New York and New Hampshire. Upon the outbreak of the American Revolution, the farmer-fighters turned with enthusiasm against the British. Under the official command of Benedict Arnold, but actually obeying only their boisterous leader, Allen, the little band took Fort Ticonderoga in a bold engagement. Allen's unwise and unlucky attack on Montreal resulted in his capture by the British. Finally released three years later, he was commissioned a brevet Colonel by the Continental Congress. Professor Jellison examines with particular care Ethan Allen's political activities following his return home, especially his "treasonous" dealings with the British, his vigorous support of the new self-declared Republic of Vermont, and his role in the continuing rivalries - into which Massachusetts and Connecticut had entered - over the New Hampshire Grants. After the close of the Revolution, Allen retired to his lands in Burlington to farm and to write. True to character even in his career as author, Allen produced a book that was the subject of many hot discussions: *Reason the Only Oracle of Man*, later called "Allen's Bible." Allen's Life ended in 1789, but his legend continues to this day. The book contains a two-page map, extensive bibliographical notes for each chapter, and a complete index.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author presents Allen as a study in contrasts: courageous, intelligent, forgiving, strong of body, and at the same time crude, ruthless, avaricious, self-advertising, and treacherous. The good qualities have secured Ethan Allen's recognition as an American folk-hero; the defects have delighted a small group of debunkers.

very pleased

A great read, well researched, well written, with powerful and compelling material. Unafraid to paint Ethan Allen as the bully and the scoundrel that he was (he had good qualities as well, but those are widely known). The author told me on one occasion a few years ago (before his death last year) that he had wanted to call the book "Ethan Allen: Frontier Bully" but the publisher nixed the title because it was perceived that this title would make the book less marketable in pro-Ethan Allen areas, i.e., Vermont. Having just finished the book, I now fully understand how appropriate that title would have been.

Recently transplanted to Vermont, I wanted to know more about the man whose namesake is lent to everything from tourist motels to air guard squadrons to think-tanks. Jellison's narrative paints a balanced portrait of a man whose legacy among latter-day Yankees approaches sainthood. This book tells the complete story (with due reverence where applicable) while resisting the urge to canonize. Jellison provides ample historical context to help armchair historians understand the motives and context behind the events. Very readable...a scholarly work unburdened by tangential footnotes and obscure allusions. Includes an index, a map, and a chapter-by-chapter bibliography.

This is a very good book and also an excellent source for a research paper. I am a senior history major, and I found it to be very informative as well as entertaining.

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