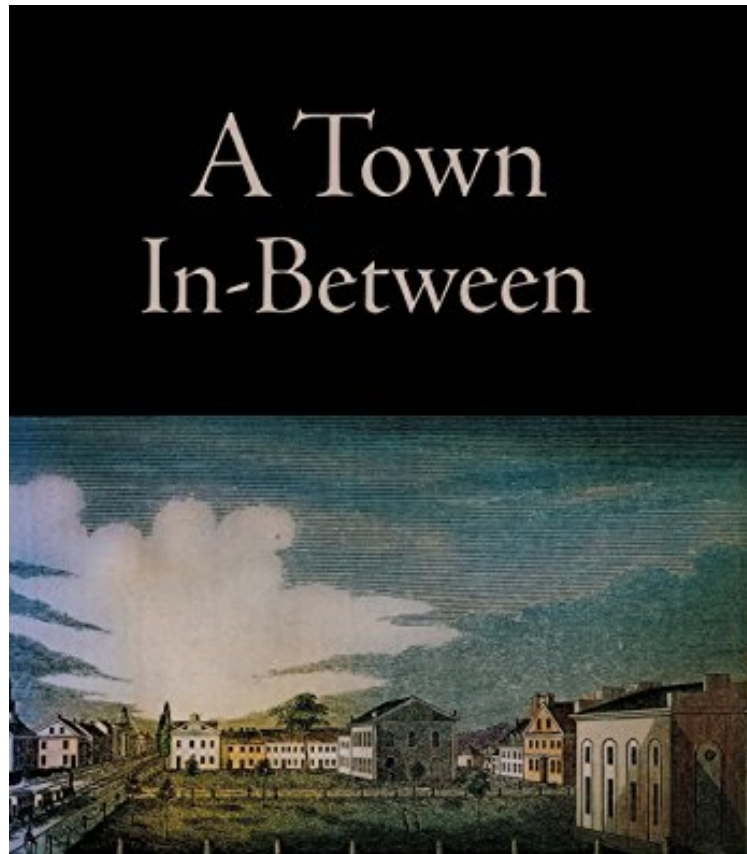


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A Town In-Between: Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and the Early Mid-Atlantic Interior (Early American Studies)

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Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and the Early Mid-Atlantic Interior

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Judith Ridner : A Town In-Between: Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and the Early Mid-Atlantic Interior (Early American Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Town In-Between: Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and the Early Mid-Atlantic Interior (Early American Studies):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: a Unique American PerspectiveBy JudeAlthough I read this book as research in an historical project I'm working on, I found the writing so compelling

that I actually enjoyed it as much as any novel. The subject matter is limited, of course. How many average Americans want to pick up a book on a small and rather obscure city in Central Pennsylvania? But for those interested in Pennsylvania history and the growth of central Pennsylvania from wilderness frontier to mercantile center, then Ridner's book delivers. Ridner argues that Carlisle's unique geographical position between Philadelphia, the growing Pittsburgh and Ohio River Valley, and Baltimore provided it with a unique perspective as "a town between." I was searching for information about the political stance of the citizens of that time and found fantastic evidence to support what I had suspected -- that the Scotch-Irish settlers fought in the Revolutionary War, but did not wholly accept the Founding Fathers' ideals of a national government. An interesting read.

In *A Town In-Between*, Judith Ridner reveals the influential, turbulent past of a modest, quiet American community. Today Carlisle, Pennsylvania, nestled in the Susquehanna Valley, is far from the nation's political and financial centers. In the eighteenth century, however, Carlisle and its residents stood not only at a geographical crossroads but also at the fulcrum of early American controversies. Located between East Coast settlement and the western frontier, Carlisle quickly became a mid-Atlantic hub, serving as a migration gateway to the southern and western interiors, a commercial way station in the colonial fur trade, a military staging and supply ground during the Seven Years' War, American Revolution, and Whiskey Rebellion, and home to one of the first colleges in the United States, Dickinson. *A Town In-Between* reconsiders the role early American towns and townspeople played in the development of the country's interior. Focusing on the lives of the ambitious group of Scots-Irish colonists who built Carlisle, Judith Ridner reasserts that the early American west was won by traders, merchants, artisans, and laborers many of them Irish immigrants and not just farmers. Founded by proprietor Thomas Penn, the rapidly growing town was the site of repeated uprisings, jailbreaks, and one of the most publicized Anti-Federalist riots during constitutional ratification. These conflicts had dramatic consequences for many Scots-Irish Presbyterian residents who found themselves a people in-between, mediating among the competing ethno-religious, cultural, class, and political interests that separated them from their fellow Quaker and Anglican colonists of the Delaware Valley and their myriad Native American trading partners of the Ohio country. In this thoroughly researched and highly readable study, Ridner argues that interior towns were not so much spearheads of a progressive and westward-moving Euro-American civilization, but volatile places situated in the middle of a culturally diverse, economically dynamic, and politically evolving early America.

"Ridner creates a compelling portrait of the physical space of Carlisle, the economic and political activities of its residents, and the conflicting schemes and hopes of the people outside as well as inside the community. *A Town In-Between* conveys a rich sense of the texture of life in early America." Daniel K. Richter, University of Pennsylvania
About the Author Judith Ridner is Associate Professor of History at Muhlenberg College.