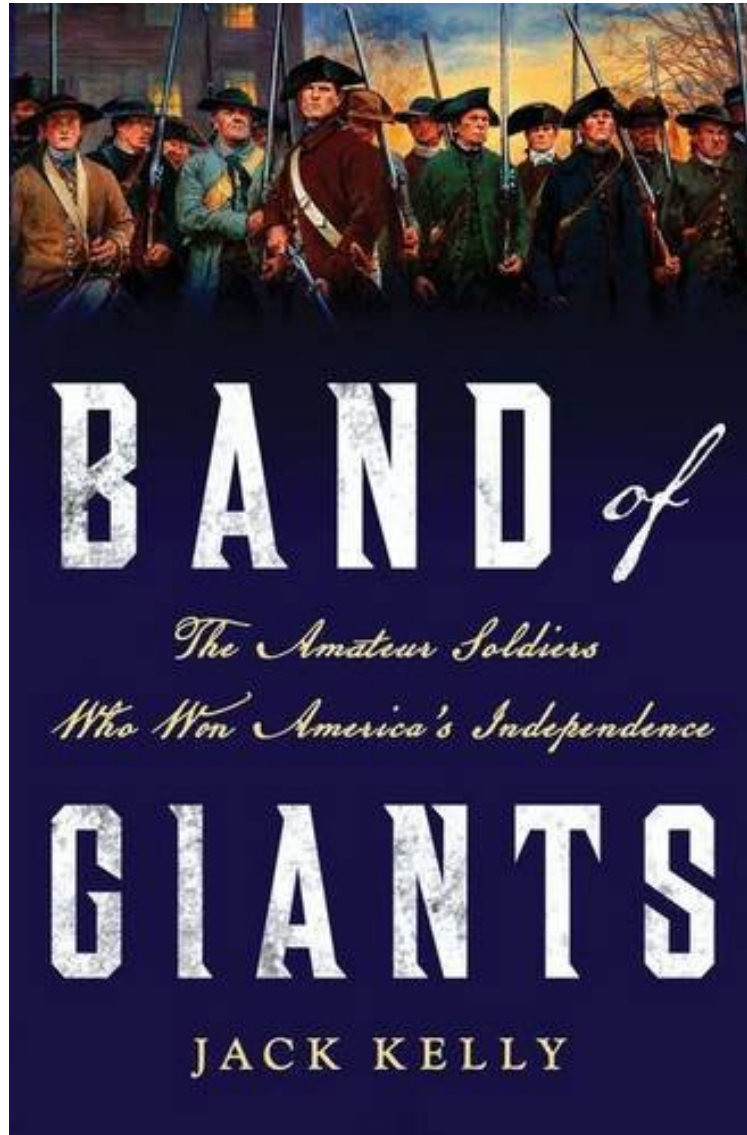


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## Band of Giants: The Amateur Soldiers Who Won America's Independence

Jack Kelly

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**Jack Kelly : Band of Giants: The Amateur Soldiers Who Won America's Independence** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Band of Giants: The Amateur Soldiers Who Won America's Independence:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. No dusty, dry history here!By Mary Jane StoltzWe sometimes

believe our country and our political system were inevitable. A few images of brave and noble citizen-soldiers at Lexington and Bunker Hill, frost-bitten and shivering troops at Valley Forge, and George Washington standing in the prow of a row-boat are all we know of the Revolutionary War. Jack Kelly has given us a concise history of that war and the people who fought it. Of course we know how the story ends but travelling the tenuous path as it happened with all its missteps and mistakes makes for an engrossing read. I especially enjoyed getting to know the heroes and villains of our history as real people with complex personalities and motivations.<sup>3</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. Liberty, Passion, Bravery and BloodBy TwndggysI'm halfway through the book, but can say it is superbly written and researched. With great detail and historical style, Kelly weaves a reader friendly narrative of the violent rebellion that gave birth to our Nation. The story is about the gentleman Generals and citizen Officers thrust into the unfamiliar role of war and leadership often with little qualification other than the will to serve and die along with the men they led. The book chronicles the campaigns and battles highlighting various Patriot leaders, most you've never heard of. The ultimate gentleman General, George Washington figures prominently in the timeline. This should be required reading in our schools. Most Americans don't have a clue about the passion and bravery of our founding fighting citizens willing to die for the Freedom we enjoy today.<sup>4</sup> of 4 people found the following review helpful. It reads like a thriller whose heroes are constantly on the precipice ...By William L WatermanBand of Giants is a fascinating take on the American revolution. It reads like a thriller whose heroes are constantly on the precipice of disaster but who prevail in the end. It made me realize what a cliffhanger the American War of Independence really was. Band of Giants illuminates the immense contributions of several little-known American heroes who now, hopefully, will get their historical due. It's a must-read for American history buffs or just anyone who loves a good page-turner. William

Band of Giants brings to life the founders who fought for our independence in the Revolutionary War. Jefferson, Adams, and Franklin are known to all; men like Morgan, Greene, and Wayne are less familiar. Yet the dreams of the politicians and theorists only became real because fighting men were willing to take on the grim, risky, brutal work of war. We know Fort Knox, but what about Henry Knox, the burly Boston bookseller who took over the American artillery at the age of 25? Eighteen counties in the United States commemorate Richard Montgomery, but do we know that this revered martyr launched a full-scale invasion of Canada? The soldiers of the American Revolution were a diverse lot: merchants and mechanics, farmers and fishermen, paragons and drunkards. Most were ardent amateurs. Even George Washington, assigned to take over the army around Boston in 1775, consulted books on military tactics. Here, Jack Kelly vividly captures the fraught condition of the warthe bitterly divided populace, the lack of supplies, the repeated setbacks on the battlefield, and the appalling physical hardships. That these inexperienced warriors could take on and defeat the superpower of the day was one of the remarkable feats in world history.

A highly engaging read. Library JournalLively narrative of the Revolutionary War realistically assesses the motley collection of men who led the military struggle against Britain, revealing both their strengths and weaknesses. The Wall Street JournalWith vivid details and incisive characterizations, Jack Kelly tells how unlikely young Americans--an asthmatic Quaker with a limp, an overweight bookseller, a barely literate backwoods wagon master--discovered in 1776 an ability to outthink and outfight the generals and soldiers of the best army in the world. Readers will finish this fascinating book with a sense of awe--and a renewed faith in America's ability to overcome daunting challenges. Thomas Fleming, author of Liberty! The American RevolutionJack Kelly has written a superb account of the American soldiers who won our independence against great odds. Band of Giants is a masterfully descriptive account of their experiences that tells us, in his wonderful style, who these remarkable men were. This is a must read for all Americans who want to truly know those who forged our magnificent nation. General Anthony C. Zinni USMC (Retired)Armed with the latest research burnished by a bright, brisk writing style, Jack Kelly has done a masterful job of retelling the story of the Revolutionary War by focusing on the key figures and battles of the long-protracted military struggle that undergirded the political war for independence. His cast of Cincinnatus-like amateurs put aside their plows, lock up their shops, kiss their wives goodbye and strap on their shields and bucklers. Facing the hangman's noose if they fail, they outfight, outmaneuvered and outlast the thousands of professional killers and bungling courtier-generals arrayed against them. This book is highly recommended for anyone seeking to understand the birth of the United States. Willard Sterne Randall, award-winning Founding Fathers biographer-historianJack Kelly has managed to accomplish something remarkable in Band of Giants: to give a concise and accurate overview of the Revolutionary War without losing the intimacy and detail that go into a good yarn. And in doing so, Kelly shows us the essence of the Revolutionary miracle -- that America owes its independence to a group of military amateurs...talented and tough, but amateurs all the same. Paul Lockhart, author of The Whites of Their EyesJack Kelly's Band of Giants is a sprightly and illuminating history of the Revolutionary War. It captures the terror of battle, the ecstasy of victory, the character of the leading generals, and the travail of the ordinary soldiers. Readers will take from this engaging book a better understanding of the true nature of America's struggle to win independence. John Ferling, author of Jefferson and Hamilton: The Rivalry that Forged a NationJack Kelly's superb writing enhances this

fast-paced account of the Revolutionary War. Kelly doesn't just narrate a series of events. Instead, he reveals the war's most compelling dramas and personalities, giving the reader a sense of what it was like to experience the Revolution firsthand. *Band of Giants* is both entertaining and informative. Edward G. Lengel, author of *General George Washington: A Military Life* Jack Kelly's shrewd novelist's eye and the narrative velocity that propels his writing should make any student of history delighted that he is turning his formidable gifts to telling the great founding tale of the American republic. Richard Snow, former editor-in-chief, *American Heritage*, author of *I Invented the Modern Age: The Rise of Henry Ford* ". . . mandatory reading for anyone who seeks to understand the true nature of the Revolutionary era in American history." -*Army Magazine* About the Author Jack Kelly is a journalist, novelist, and historian. He has contributed to *American Heritage*, *American Legacy*, *Invention Technology*, among other national periodicals, is a New York Foundation for the Arts fellow in Nonfiction Literature, as well as author of *Gunpowder: Alchemy, Bombards, and Pyrotechnics: The History of the Explosive That Changed the World*. He has appeared on The History Channel, been interviewed on National Public Radio, and conducted book signings across the country. He lives near Kingston in New York's Hudson Valley, where much of the action of the Revolutionary War took place.