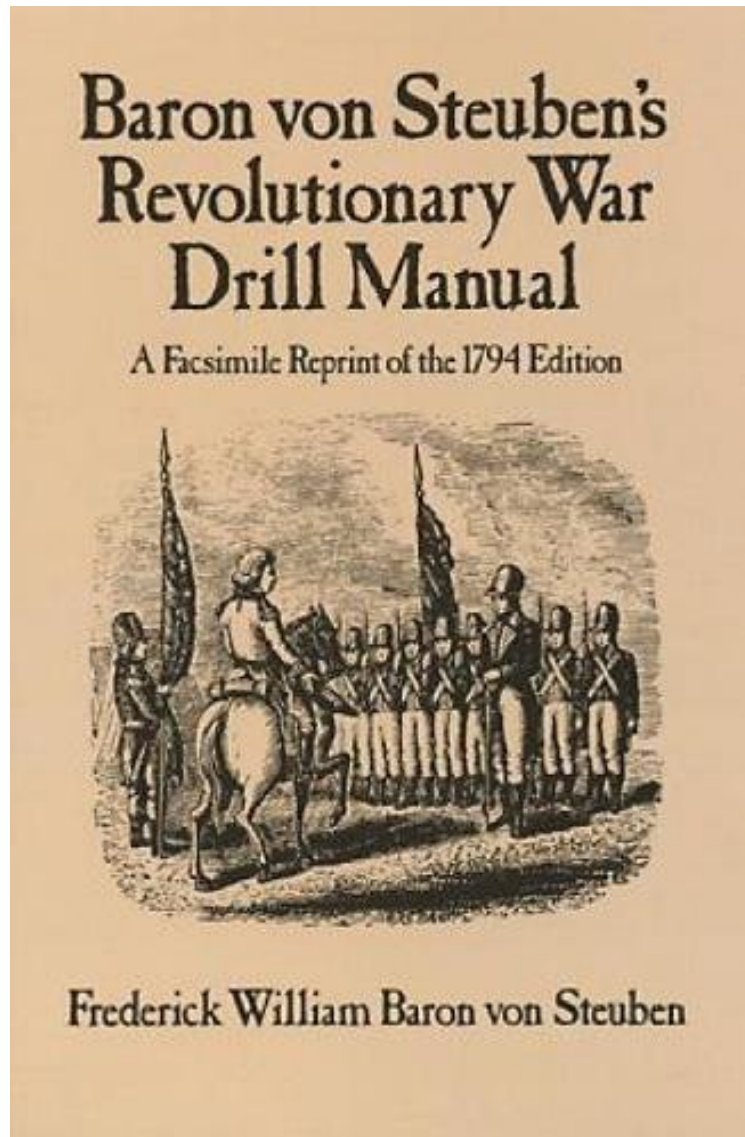


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Baron Von Steuben's Revolutionary War Drill Manual: A Facsimile Reprint of the 1794 Edition (Dover Military History, Weapons, Armor)

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Baron Von Steuben's Revolutionary War Drill Manual: A Facsimile Reprint of the 1794 Edition (Dover Military History, Weapons, Armor):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good history, odd lettering, with a bonus. By Bookworm64 Not just the drill manual reproduced, but also with the engraved plates showing what was being instructed. Also has the Militia Act of 1792, which should be in any rational discussion of the Second Amendment these days (all able-bodied men, 18-45, are in the militia, must provide own weapon and equipage to certain specifications, and train with everyone else). It also gives basic knowledge of what the duties of most ranks and specialists are; hospitals, camps, marches are covered in a very basic sense for the part-time soldier. The only problem I have with the book is it's such an exact reproduction, it uses the uncrossed lowercase 'f' instead of 's', which takes a lot of not quite getting used to when reading. It also covers only infantry, as I would guess the average person would not have the funds to be cavalry and artillery is probably the regular army's field of expertise. Note: there was an advice book that I had long ago, for British army officers that I got from Jockey Hollow in NJ. The instructions given to all the ranks in this book certainly make clear what was being parodied in the other one (old school army humor). I wish I had both of them, but I gave away the other one for the exact reason that I have a problem with this one...the odd 's' symbol used.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good Reference Book By LtCol ret E. Kennedy, Jr. This is an excellent mark-up reference but it is very different from the original. I don't like the illustrations in the book as they are incomplete (not as many as the original) and split between pages rather than the fold-outs from the originals. Since it is a copy, but not facsimile version, it would be nice if the letters were typed in modern script to make it easier to read. Overall, it is a good academic reference since the wording is virtually identical to originals.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Incredible historical document By E. M. Van Court Von Steuben's drill manual is of extraordinary importance for several reasons. At the shallowest level, it is a primary source for Revolutionary War and War of 1812 reenactors. For 34 years, (1778-1812) this was THE book for the U.S. Army, so any reenactor interested in this period should start here. Pertaining to the history of the U.S. Army, this was the first manual, the first set of standards in place in the army. The first of anything sets the tone for later developments, and any serious research about the U.S. Army or Army doctrine should start here. As an enduring framework, the "Instructions" section is still echoed in U.S. Army leadership doctrine. The roles, responsibilities, and relationships of officers and non-commissioned officers haven't changed that much, especially when compared to the changes in tactics and technology in the intervening centuries. A regimental commander's "first and greatest care" should be "the preservation of the soldiers health", "A captain cannot be too careful of the company the state has committed to his charge", "the discipline and order of a company" depend upon the non-commissioned officers. All these ideas ring true whether the army was outfitted with flintlocks or thermal-sighted gas-operated selective fire rifles. This continuity is of tremendous value to the spirit of a successful army. This manual was also the instrument of a military transformation for the U.S. Army. Von Steuben arrived at the Continental Army's encampment, and popular legend in the U.S. Army is that he was so shocked by the lack of discipline and disorder that he sat down and wrote the first copy of this manual that very night. This is not true, as mentioned in the publisher's note, but by bringing military discipline to the Continental Army, a bunch of farmers and store clerks were able to turn the tides and defeat the premier ground forces of the era. Again, a significant event in the history of military science as well as American history. As a fencer, I was a little disappointed. Although in the first chapter it mentions that officers and NCOs are to be armed with swords, there is no further mention of the use of swords. Other than this one shortcoming, this was a very enlightening book about the period, and is an influential manual with continuing significance to military science and U.S. Army history.

On February 23, 1778, Frederick William Baron von Steuben reported to General George Washington at the Continental Army's bleak winter encampment at Valley Forge. Speaking virtually no English and at an unexpected ebb in his professional fortunes, Steuben nevertheless brought a depth of military training and grasp of command techniques sorely needed by the bedraggled, ragtag army. With his lofty military reputation, forceful bearing, and colorful personality, the Prussian commander had an immediate galvanizing effect on the disorganized insurgents. He soon became one of Washington's most valued officers an essential figure in the success of the American War of Independence. Commissioned to mold the troops into an efficient fighting force, Steuben formed a model drill company of one hundred men, transformed it into a precision unit copied throughout the ranks, and captured the imagination of the entire army. His record of drill instructions, written in brief installments, grew into the Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States. Commonly known as the army's "blue book," this basic manual of military training and procedures remained the official U.S. military guide until 1812. This inexpensive facsimile reproduces the extremely rare 1794 edition of Steuben's drill manual, published in Boston by I. Thomas and E. T. Andrews. It describes in detail the arms and accoutrements of officers and soldiers, formation and exercise of a company, instruction of recruits, formation and marching of columns, disposition and firing of fieldpieces, laying out of a camp, inspection, treatment of the sick, reviews of parade, and other essentials. The volume is further enhanced by

reproductions of the eight copperplates from the 1794 edition and an Appendix (the United States Militia Act of 1792).