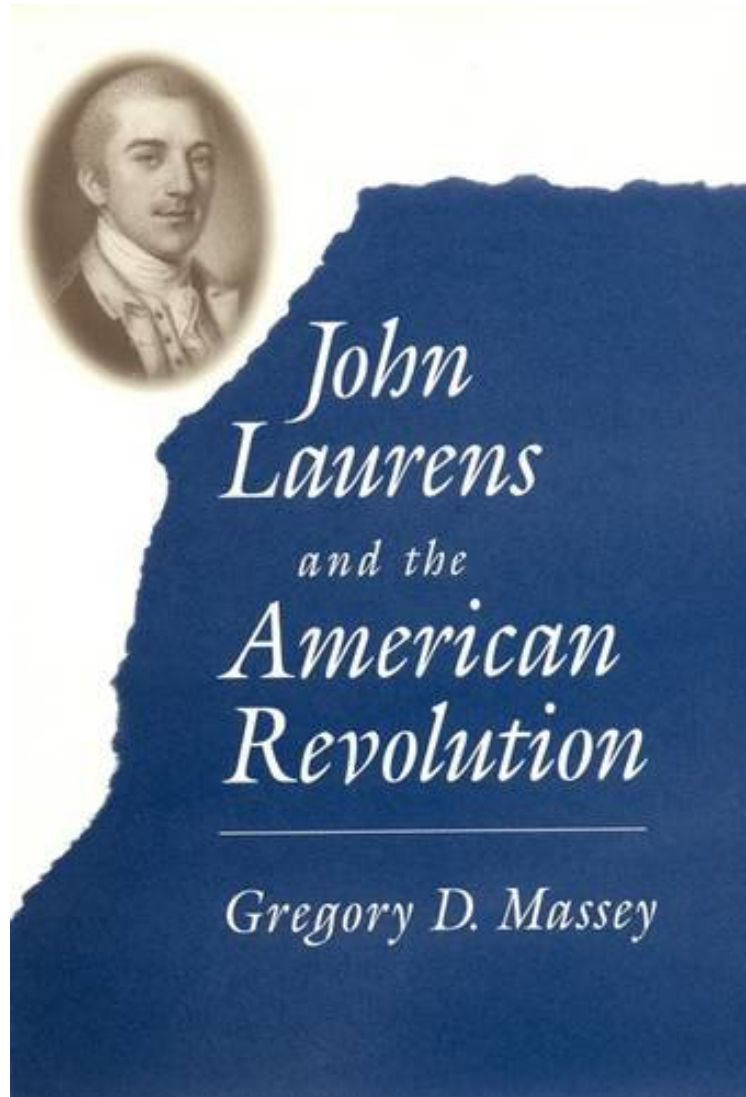


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John Laurens and the American Revolution

Gregory D. Massey

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Gregory D. Massey : John Laurens and the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Laurens and the American Revolution:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A mostly forgotten hero
By Jessica Atwater I read this book primarily as research for some historical fiction I am writing, but I found myself engrossed well beyond the scope of my research. It is a humane and intriguing portrait of an idealist ahead of his time. Highly recommended.
4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Biography of the "Revolutionary Manumission Abolitionist" John Laurens -- Ignore the 1-Star Reviews
By J. Anderson This is an EXCELLENT biography of a true American hero of the Revolutionary War by an outstanding historian. Pay no attention to all the 1-star reviews by a bunch of slacktivists

with a particular socio-political agenda. This book -- which is the definitive biography of the "revolutionary manumission abolitionist", Lt. Col. John Laurens, deserves a far-better rating from those reviewing it than it currently enjoys at the hands of a smattering of aggrieved SJWs. Lt. Col. Laurens has recently come to the attention of a far wider audience than might normally be expected because of the portrayal of him in *Hamilton: An American Musical*. Interestingly, given that the socio-political views of the show's creator align with those of these 1-star reviewers, the musical makes no mention of an alleged sexual relationship between Hamilton and Laurens. It is no doubt the cause of much consternation to many of this biography's erstwhile reviewers that even a pro-LGBT liberal like Lin-Manuel Miranda -- who had sole artistic and creative license over *Hamilton: An American Musical* and could have done anything he wanted -- was not willing to go out on that particular limb based on an interpretation of the Hamilton-Laurens correspondence that calls for conjecture not otherwise supported by the historical record. So, why should the historian who wrote this outstanding biography -- with far less leeway for speculation and conjecture than what Lin had to work with -- be expected to make that leap? Read this book. But also read the primary sources. Explore the cultural context in which the primary record was created. Then decide for yourself based on the historical record, not based on an agenda. John Laurens deserves to be known and -- apart from primary sources -- this definitive biography is the best means to accomplish that. **5-PLUS STARS *******. 78 of 108 people found the following review helpful. listen up pal By Mark H Terris John laurens wasnt straight my man. listen. he was Gay and i wont stand for him being disrespected and slandered like this.

A historical figure's attempts to secure freedom for America and her slaves Winning a reputation for reckless bravery in a succession of major battles and sieges, John Laurens distinguished himself as one of the most zealous, self-sacrificing participants in the American Revolution. A native of South Carolina and son of Henry Laurens, president of the Continental Congress, John devoted his life to securing American independence. In this comprehensive biography, Gregory D. Massey recounts the young Laurens's wartime record a riveting tale in its own right and finds that even more remarkable than his military escapades were his revolutionary ideas concerning the rights of African Americans. Massey relates Laurens's desperation to fight for his country once revolution had begun. A law student in England, he joined the war effort in 1777, leaving behind his English wife and an unborn child he would never see. Massey tells of the young officer's devoted service as General George Washington's aide-de-camp, interaction with prominent military and political figures, and conspicuous military efforts at Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Newport, Charleston, Savannah, and Yorktown. Massey also recounts Laurens's survival of four battle wounds and six months as a prisoner of war, his controversial diplomatic mission to France, and his close friendship with Alexander Hamilton. Laurens's death in a minor battle in August 1782 was a tragic loss for the new state and nation. Unlike other prominent southerners, Laurens believed blacks shared a similar nature with whites, and he formulated a plan to free slaves in return for their service in the Continental Army. Massey explores the personal, social, and cultural factors that prompted Laurens to diverge so radically from his peers and to raise vital questions about the role African Americans would play in the new republic.

But Massey's intimate familiarity with the life and exploits of John Laurens makes for a wonderful read, the style eminently accessible for the casual reader and academic historian alike. -- Carolina Chronicles Magazine About the Author Gregory D. Massey is an associate professor of history at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee. A native of Wilmington, North Carolina, he holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of South Carolina in Columbia.