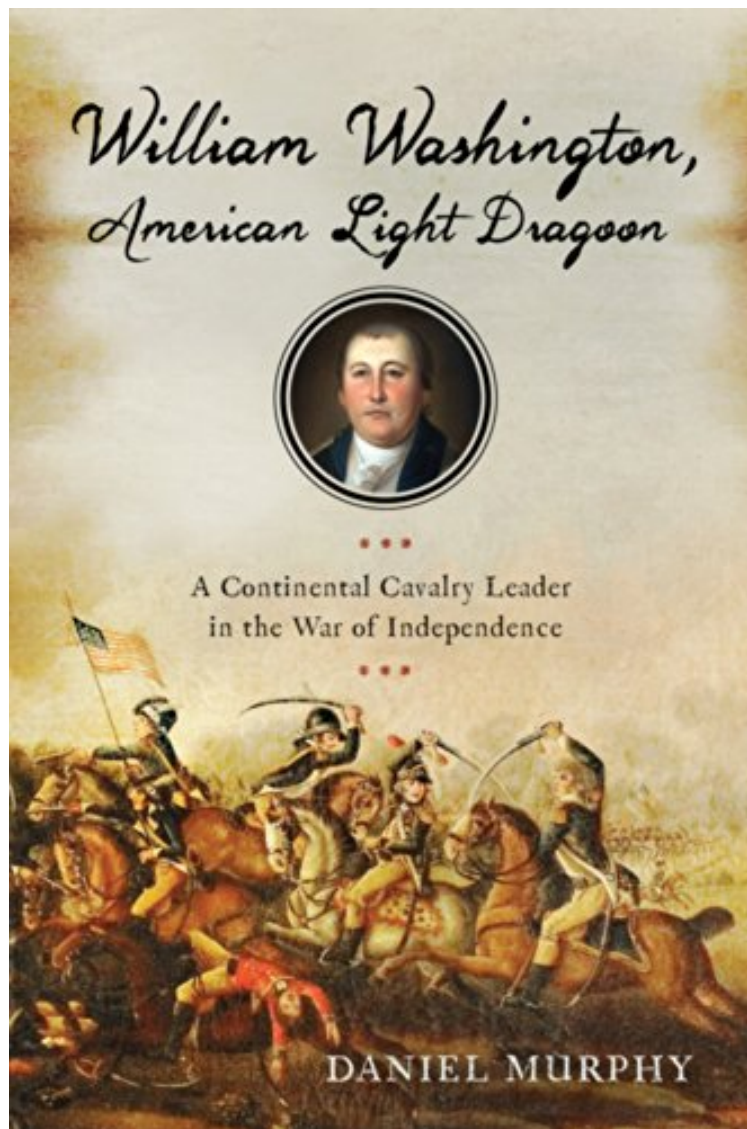


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## William Washington, American Light Dragoon: A Continental Cavalry Leader in the War of Independence

*Daniel Murphy*

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**Daniel Murphy : William Washington, American Light Dragoon: A Continental Cavalry Leader in the War of Independence** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised William Washington, American Light Dragoon: A Continental Cavalry Leader in the War of Independence:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. But this book is one of the best books I've read regarding the

American Revolutionary War

By Sam I do not usually write reviews. But this book is one of the best books I've read regarding the American Revolutionary War. First, the biography of William Washington is one of the most interesting biographies I've read. Washington led an exciting life during the American Revolutionary war. And the author writes Washington's story in such a way that it's a page turner. You don't want to stop reading. Researched very well by the author, who lists his sources and provides many quotes. But this book covers more than just William Washington's biography. This book explains- so anyone can understand- the use and make up of the cavalry. It also explains in detail battles that Washington participated in; with the most coverage of the battles in the southern campaign, especially the Battle of Eutaw Springs. The author writes in a way that you can imagine each part of the battle and what both the Patriots and the British experienced and why they made the choices they did during the various battles. As you read, you feel as if you are there, experiencing what the soldiers experienced. Incredible writing by this author with good solid research. There are many quotes that tie into the action of the battles and regarding the personalities of Washington and his contemporaries. This book is slammed pack with facts that I have not read in other books including such details as the speed of cavalry horses charging and the various theories of why Lee's men did not charge when ordered during the battle of Eutaw Springs. The author also discusses the differences in Colonels Lightfoot Harry Lee and William Washington regarding their leadership of the cavalry and their personalities. And what these colonials thought of each other. This author makes history come alive. This is an incredible telling of real facts from Washington sneaking past British sentries to court the daughter of a plantation owner to the battles which had men lying flat on the ground to avoid being sliced by the sword. The author is an outstanding writer that makes every chapter a pleasure to read. I have read many books on the American revolutionary war. For myself I would rate it as one of the top 5 that I've read. The reason I'm writing this review is I am very glad that I didn't miss reading this book. I am not a historian but enjoy learning about American revolutionary history. And this book was a great teacher. From all the facts presented, I learned a lot! And learned from a very enjoyable read.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent biography

By T. Floyd Given the dearth of primary sources, Daniel Murphy's story of William Washington is an entertaining depiction of one of the great cavalry officers of all time. A must read for those interested in the Revolutionary War, especially the Southern Campaign.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great history read

By lady stirling Great History, Fast paced for a historical biography

A Relative of George Washington, the Greatest American-Born Cavalry Leader of the American Revolution William Washington, perhaps the best American cavalry officer of the War of Independence, has yet to receive the recognition he merits. In this comprehensively researched volume, Daniel Murphy provides a detailed and engaging account of Washington's life and battlefield exploits that restores this gifted commander to his rightful place among the outstanding military leaders of the Revolution.

Jim Picuch, author of *Light Horse Harry Lee in the War for Independence* Murphy has combined all currently known written sources on William Washington with his vast experience as a mounted reenactor to produce a study of Nathanael Greene's cavalryman. This is a very good read and sheds lights on a man who should be much better known.

Lawrence E. Babits, author of *A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens* William Washington began the war as a captain of Virginia Militia, was commissioned a junior officer in the Continental Infantry, and slowly rose to field command in the Continental Light Dragoons where he built one of the hardest hitting cavalry regiments to serve in the war. His chief adversary Lord Cornwallis commented, There could be no more formidable antagonist in a charge, at the head of his cavalry, than Colonel William Washington. Despite his connection to the commander-in-chief, he suffered his fair share of setbacks, and his relationships varied with not only his legendary cousin George, but many well-known figures of the Revolution including, Henry Lee, Casimir Pulaski, Nathanael Greene, and Daniel Morgan. Relying largely on firsthand accounts and period letters, in *William Washington: American Light Dragoon: A Continental Cavalry Leader in the War of Independence*, author and avid equestrian Daniel Murphy blends these primary sources with his own working knowledge of period drill, tactics, and terrain to deliver a more complete view of William Washington's actions throughout the conflict. This perspective traces the often overlooked role of cavalry in the American Revolution and sheds new light on many pivotal battles in of the war, including Trenton, Cowpens, Guilford Courthouse, Hobkirks Hill, and William Washington's final action at Eutaw Springs.

About the Author DANIEL MURPHY is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University with a B.F.A. in Cinematography and Art History. He has worked in the film industry for twenty-five years with a specialty in lighting and stage rigging. He is a classically trained fencer, avid equestrian, and eighteenth-century living historian. He has authored numerous articles on mounted combat and eighteenth-century warfare and has served as a cavalry coordinator and historical advisor on films for the National Park Service. He lives in Edneyville, North Carolina.