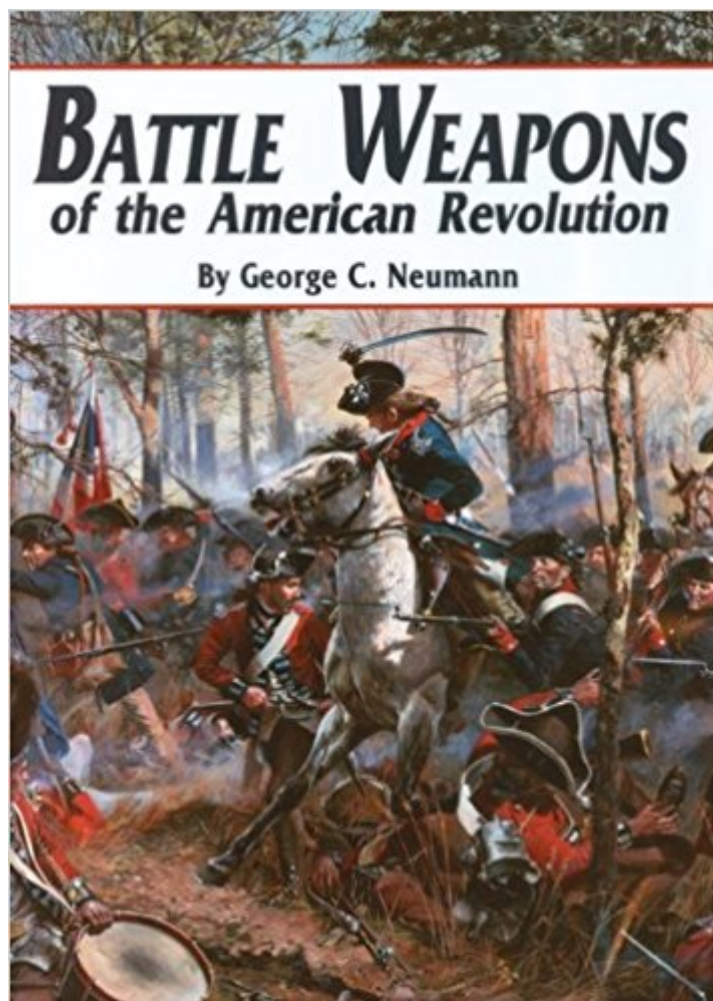


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# Battle Weapons Of The American Revolution



## Synopsis

Understanding the battles and events of the Revolutionary War means understanding the weapons. *Battle Weapons of the American Revolution* brings you the most extensive photographic collection of Revolutionary War weapons ever in one volume. Over 2,200 photographs with captions detailing the muskets, rifles, pistols, swords, bayonets, pole arms and other weapons used by both sides in America's War for Independence. The book measures 8.5x11 inches and is printed on coated paper.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If one picture is worth a thousand words, this 2.5 million-word book is pretty spectacular... Never before have so many large, clear illustrations on this subject appeared in one book. It must be classed as a primary source book; a manual of identification which will see considerable use in any collector's hands and will be invaluable as a tool of identification. --S. James Gooding, *Arms Collecting* magazine

A+, as described

Good book. I wish the book covered the Fredericksburg Gunnery and Rapahannock Forge arms, in more detail as there are some surviving muskets available. Overall, good book, good descriptions, and lots of pictures. There is something here for novices and experts alike. Like most who study these arms, more than one resource is necessary, and this book should fit nicely in their library.

Great book for the historian or flintlock gun builder like myself. Lots of great info and photos.

Good book, given as a gift.

Good

BATTLE WEAPONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION GEORGE C. NEUMANN MOWBRAY PUBLISHING, 2011 QUALITY SOFTCOVER, \$39.99, PHOTOGRAPHS, GLOSSARY OF TERMS, NOMENCLATURE SUMMARY, BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, SPECIFICATIONS, INDEX

The American Revolution was a very personal war. Weapons were hand-made and had relatively short effective ranges, and most battles were decided in direct hand-to-hand combat with bayonet, sword, axe, or spear. Each soldier could usually see his opponent as a person, not a faceless statistic in the distance. In the colonial period, the basic ammunition for small arms was lead. The ammunition for almost all the guns was a solid iron ball and a charge of black powder sufficient to propel it. By far the most common weapon on both sides was the smoothbore flintlock musket. The British style "Brown Bess" muskets were .75 caliber and French patterns were .69. The Americans used a mixture of both. These muskets were fired by striking a piece of flint against a piece of steel. This produced a shower of sparks that ignited priming powder in the flash pan beneath the steel, and the priming, in turn, set off the main charge inside the barrel. The soldier carried his ammunition in the form of paper cartridges, each holding a charge of powder and a bullet. A competent soldier could fire four shots a minute, and he could hope to hit a man-sized target at 80 to 100 yards. Usually he didn't aim, however. Battle techniques called for laying down a field of fire with as many bullets in the air as possible, then charging or defending against a charge with the bayonet. Both sides used the same tactics. Some Americans had rifles instead of smoothbored muskets. These were superbly accurate weapons with effective ranges of four to five hundred yards. It took longer to load a rifle with loose powder from a powder horn and a tight-fitting ball wrapped in a piece of cloth. One or two shots a minute were maximum, and the rifle was too weak for bayonet fighting. When protected by men with muskets or used for sniping or scouting however, riflemen were very effective. Still, Washington preferred the musket for the majority of his soldiers. Cavalrymen carried pistols or short versions of the musket called carbines or musketoons. These were effective only at very close quarters, and cavalry leaders considered the saber or broadsword their primary weapon. Swords were also used by officers and so were spears called "spontoons". Washington felt that a firearm would take too much of an officer's attention away from

his troops, and so he ordered all officers serving on foot to carry spontoons about 6 1/2 feet long. The officers complied and actually fought with these spears. Other spears used during the American Revolution included long trench spears for defending fortifications and boarding pikes used by seamen. The book has the following chapters: Chapter 1-The Flintlock Evolves Chapter 2-Weapons Determine The Tactics Chapter 3-Smoothbore Shoulder Arms: Up Close By Volley Chapter 4-Rifles: The Precision Weapon Chapter 5-Pistols: One Shot, Man-To-Man Chapter 6-Bayonets: The Moment Of Truth Chapter 7-Swords: Of Honor And Daring Chapter 8-Polearms: Traditions Of Rank And Combat

**BATTLE WEAPONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION** gives the reader over 2,200 photographs with captions detailing all the weapons used by all sides. This detailed and well-researched account can be used by both the collector and student of the American Revolution. The quality of both the photographs and information within this book is nothing short of outstanding. The author, George C. Neumann, should be commended for writing such a much needed book to help every American understand the weapons used in our War of Independence.

Lt. Colonel Robert A. Lynn, Florida Guard  
Orlando, Florida

Within the covers of this book, one can find detailed descriptions of not only a vast array of firearms but also bayonets, pole arms, swords, cartridge boxes, and powder horns. It's an encyclopedia of Revolutionary War arms from both the American and British sides found in a single volume. I have to disagree strongly with the reviewer who sharply criticized the quality of the photos. I have the soft cover edition and admittedly a glossy paper might have given a slight improvement on photo quality, but still I found the detail offered in the more than 2200 photos entirely satisfactory for research and identification purposes. Mr. Neumann is widely known for his dedication to the study of Revolutionary War weapons and this volume demonstrates that knowledge. The book is a classic on the topic.

Having gotten my feet wet with Mr. Neumann's book, *Swords and Blades of the American Revolution*, I decided to purchase this book as well. I was very impressed with the *Swords and Blades* book as it is very well written. Upon receiving the *Battle Weapons of the American Revolution* I quickly realized that Mr. Neumann had done it again. This book is fantastic. Very well done with clear and concise descriptions, measurements, weights, and very good pictures of the specimens. As well written as the swords book, but even more detailed, and covering an even more expansive topic that now includes firearms, this is the book to own if you want to learn about American Revolutionary War weapons. I highly recommend this book as it is the gold standard for

this field.

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