



Long Knife

James Alexander Thom

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Two centuries ago, with the support of the young Revolutionary government, George Rogers Clark led a small but fierce army west from Virginia to conquer all the territory between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Here is the adventure, the romance, the struggle, and the betrayal of his life. Rich in the heroic characters, meticulously researched detail and grand scale that have become James Alexander Thom's trademarks, LONG KNIFE, his first historical epic, is simply unforgettable.

Long Knife Details

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Author : James Alexander Thom

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From Reader Review Long Knife for online ebook

DaveS says

My personal favorite story by Thom. Great historical novel telling us the stories of the less famous Clark brother. George is probably more important to our history than any of the others in the (famous) Clark family.

Meg says

Beautifully written, exquisitely detailed- historical fiction at its best. This is a side of the American Revolution that I knew little about. The story of George Rogers Clark captivated me. I was awed by this commitment and integrity and passion for defending Virginia and the fledgling colonies against England, as he strove to take over British forts in the Midwest. His efforts to treat the natives with respect and dignity provided were inspiring. Here is a real hero! And he was so young. It gave me new appreciation for the unsung heroes of our country's not so distant past.

Amy says

Fascinating! This is a good read about a very inspiring hero. I had never given much thought to this part of American History. Great fictional love story mixed in with the true stuff too.

Judith Wrinkle says

One of the best books I have ever read.....the only book I have ever read where I shed tears when I finished. Fiction, based on truth.....it makes me sad to think of the sacrifices and truths of making this country.....and now where we have come. I have some Native American in my blood and I felt passion, fear, hope and sadness for both sides fighting. A book that I shall keep.

Joe Stack says

This is a captivating historical novel. The author gets and keeps your attention. Some of the conditions the characters go through would seem to be something only a storyteller could conceive, but - in fact - are real and not made up.

Eileen says

This historical novel is based on the life of George Rogers Clark, a soldier and frontiersman during the

Revolutionary War (and brother to the Clark of Lewis & Clark fame). What an amazing man George was-- principled, courageous, honorable, and devoted to family, friends and country. His physical strength and fortitude, and that of his soldiers, was almost unbelievable. Thom's writing style is engaging and the story is gripping, with plenty of action and fascinating characters. This book really gave me insight into, and appreciation of, the brave men who helped establish and defend our country against incredible odds and often at the expense of their own wellbeing and happiness.

MostlyHarmless says

Excellent work of historic fiction. The author can be a bit wordy, but his attention to detail tends to draw the reader in rather than repel them in boredom. Having great material to work with always helps, and the exploits (often forgotten and neglected) of George Rogers Clark and his brave band of men are a story that anyone who wishes to understand the founding days of the United States should study. The incredible leadership of Colonel Clark in leading a small group of men to victory against superior numbers in multiple battles is impressive enough. The fact that he was able to achieve those triumphs with so little bloodshed and destruction is astounding.

Justin says

This was a fantastic book. I thoroughly enjoyed it. It's made all the better that the author was scrupulous in sticking to known history. Highly recommended.

Robert Melton says

Covered history

GRC a great soldier so mistreated by government, it could be a story written today. Enjoy some real history now.

Monica G says

Beautifully written and historically rich!

Joe Spoto says

A good story about an American hero that has not gotten much notoriety. I am a pretty fast reader, and it did take me quite a while to finish this book

Jim says

Fantastic Novel

This is one of the best historical novels I have ever read. It is well written and tells the story of one of America's earliest heroes in great detail. The author has done a wonderful job of telling the story of George Rogers Clark.

Amber says

I learned that there are so many more people in our history than what we learned about in school. George Rogers Clark is the older brother of William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Mary JL says

This is an excellent, well-written and enjoyable historical novel. It tells of the years from 1777 to 1779, when George Rogers Clark played a pivotal role in defending the northwestern Colonies during the Revolutionary War.

While the battles were going on along the Atlantic Coast, the British were also trying to gain a foothold in the Northwest Territories. They had forts in Detroit, in Kaskaskia, Illinois and Vincennes, Indiana. Of course, these were not states then--they were all together referred to as the "Northwest Territory". Besides building forts on land claimed by the newly formed United States, they also stirred up trouble, encouraging the Indians to attack American settlers for bounties.

George Rogers Clark, as told in this excellent novel, captured two of the forts--Kaskaskia and Vincennes. The latter was especially difficult as it was a winter campaign.

The author has done excellent research. Except for a handful, noted in the author's note at the end, all the letters and proclamations in this novel are genuine.

One scene I particularly liked was describing the Vincennes assault. For over a week, the men marched (only a few packhorse and horses for a scout or two were available) all day. Eating parched corn and strips of dried meat, they would march all day, with cold wind and often drizzle. At night, they could not build a large fire--it might be seen by enemies. Sometimes it was too wet for any kind of fire. They would drop on the ground, wrap themselves in a blanket, fall asleep from exhaustion; get up and begin the next day--and the next and the next...

Reminds me of what I had read about Marines in the Pacific---severe weather; scant rations due to supply issues; day to day exhaustion.

This novel really shows the hardships our frontiersmen suffered in the Revolutionary times.

Alas, Clark's successes came early in his life. All these events occurred before he was 30.

In later life--I found this particularly sad--he was plagued by poverty. During his campaigns, he himself had often borrowed money for supplies for his troops. Yet, the state of Virginia--and later the US Congress--refused to acknowledge these debts. Clark had kept careful records, but it was claimed they had never been received. Finally, in 1812, Virginia granted George Rogers Clark a pension and acknowledged his services. He died six years later. (Oh--and many of the receipts and vouchers Clark had sent WERE found--in 1913!)

Not nearly as well known as his younger brother, William Clark of the 'Lewis and Clark' expedition, this novel introduced me to a fascinating character. After you read this novel, when some says "George Rogers Clark", you'll think--"yes, quite a unique man"and not "Who?"

Historically accurate, exciting, a bit long--500 pages--but usually well paced, this kept my interest. Recommended for fans of historical fiction; especially recommend if the Colonial-Revolutionary War era is of interest to you. Fans of regular history would probably enjoy this as well.

Edited 12-6-12 to fix typos.

Kelly says

AMAZING! I don't know which order you should read these books in...but I read 'From Sea To Shining Sea' first and completely fell in love with the history, the Rogers Clark family, etc. and was so saddened when the book ended. I was so affected by that book that I wrote the author, himself, to tell him what a wonderful piece of work I thought 'From Sea To Shining Sea' was. The author informed me that this book was not the end of the story. He had also written 'Long Knife' which fills in a lot of the gaps regarding the life of George Rogers Clark. I ordered it immediately.

Thom told me that he had received a letter from a Marine who told him this book made him a better military leader and a better person. It's easy to see why someone would praise this book so highly. George Rogers Clark was a tragic hero of the frontier who showed brilliant military leadership and in Long Knife, you get to experience his thoughts, the excitement of battle, the pain of loss, and the bitterness of a hard life's work gone unappreciated. I literally shed tears reading this book.

I know a lot of people will look at this book and judge it by its cover and declare it boring, but they don't know what they are missing. I've read all the popular fiction out there today and I have to tell you that this book is every bit as exciting as Harry Potter, the Hunger Games, etc...but the difference is that this was based on real events and well...you can't say the same for those other books. If you want history to come alive, Thom is the author for you. His books are like taking a time machine back to when life was REALLY challenging and finding yourself right in the middle of the action. Highly fascinating read.
