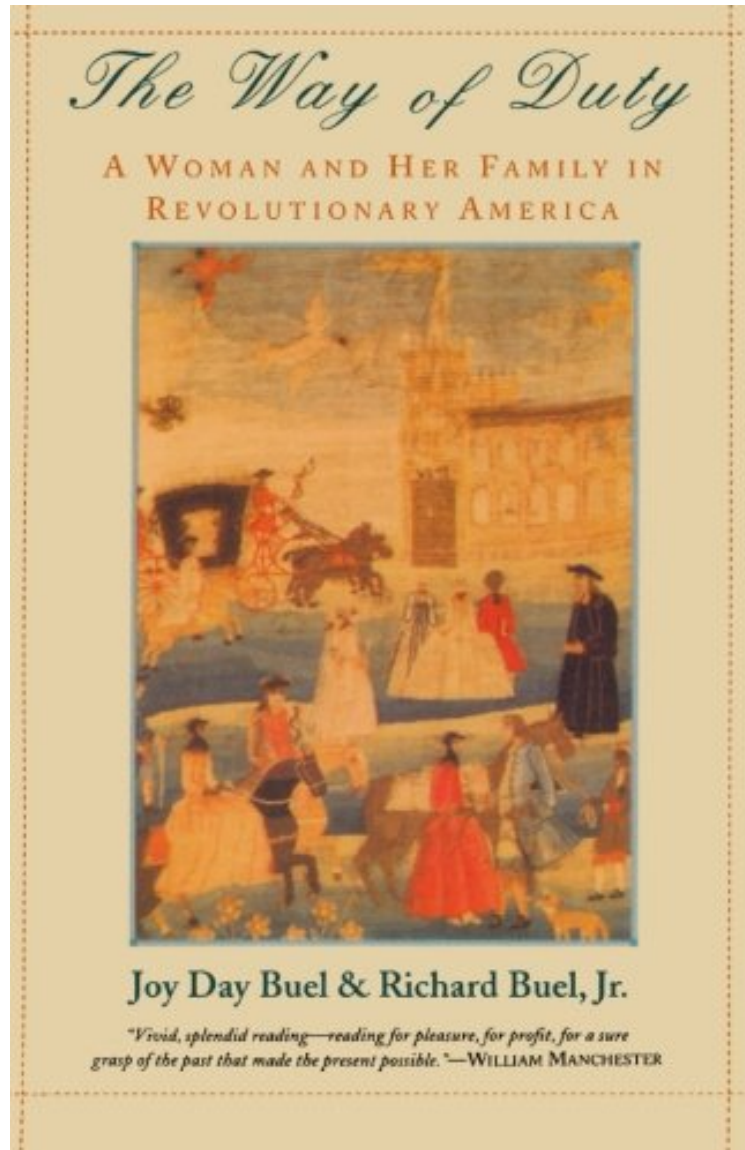


## The Way of Duty: A Woman and Her Family in Revolutionary America

Joy Day Buel, Richard Buel Jr.

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**Joy Day Buel, Richard Buel Jr. : The Way of Duty: A Woman and Her Family in Revolutionary America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Way of Duty: A Woman and Her Family in Revolutionary America:

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contribution of this volume is that it lays out the domestic side of the American Revolutionary War and post-war period for families as well as for returning combatants. It is not often that women are as prominent in history books as Mary Silliman is here. That she wrote letters that were kept as well as extensive diaries has permitted us to view what it was like to live on fought-over land throughout the war. The picture is not the romantic, pretty picture of the American Revolution that I studied in a high school history class in the 1950s. Not only was domestic life hard during this period, but many jurisdictions did not treat their soldiers well either. This well-sourced and well-written biography provides convincing detail of what war does to the human spirit, demonstrates that taken-for-granted moral principles of honesty may actually be provisional. Some fairly shocking events revealed here. This is not your dried and purified view of history. It's lively, disturbing, and also fascinating. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Essential read for the family historian with early Connecticut genealogy! By Long term customer I enjoyed it greatly, and even more so after finding the subject and her family on my own family tree as distant cousins The book provides a lot of details about the daily lives of our pre-Revolutionary War forbearers, especially the women. In particular, I enjoyed the religious controversies evoked by the Great Awakening as experienced by Mary's father. Super book! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An American Patriot By D. Swayne She was a woman of integrity and courage. She fought the war of survival and won the freedom of her husband from British captivity. She sewed no flags, fed no canons and was no one's mistress. She was a mother, a wife and the reason American independence was won. Well written historical narrative, very interesting and well researched.

Combining the skills of a gifted writer and a scholar's grasp of early America, *The Way of Duty* draws readers into a vividly evoked world. The Buels have used a rich trove of documents to tell the story of a Connecticut woman, Mary Fish Silliman (1736-1818), whose adventures illuminate the day-to-day realities of living through the American Revolution.

Engrossing family history, very well told. - Kirkus sAn admirable book about an admirable person. . . . Thoroughly engrossing. - Jonathan Yardley, *Washington Post Book World* A poignant, even heart-wrenching story. The Buels make clear just how disruptive the Revolution was in the private lives of families. It is a beautifully written, irresistible story that tells a lot about what the Revolution really meant. - Richard L. Bushman, *Columbia University* Vivid, splendid reading reading for pleasure, for profit, for a sure grasp of the past that made the present possible. - William Manchester About the Author The late Joy Day Buel was an editor and freelance writer. Richard Buel, Jr., is professor of history at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.