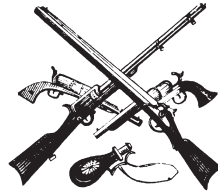


Bethlehem Books' Treegate Series



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Among the many fine books by Leonard Wibberley are an exceptional series of historical fiction books about Colonial/New Republic America. Besides having an obvious relish for depicting life at sea, he also provides clear insights into the importance of sea travel and commerce to the times in general and to the development of a new country in particular. Mr. Wibberley's writing is notable for its non-stereotyped characterizations and in his presentation of little known aspects of American history. He succeeds in portraying familiar events with a freshness of perspective which lend them new life and meaning.

John Treegate's Musket is the first in this excellent series. It introduces young Peter Treegate and his father, John. The latter is a wealthy merchant and veteran of the battle of the Plains of Abraham in which Britain won dominion of Canada in 1759. It is now ten years later and many colonists are angry with England's unjust taxation. Peter is about to be apprenticed to a manufacturer of barrel staves; his father is about to leave for England to appeal to the government for more sense in their handling of the American Colonies. Already there is great unrest in Boston, yet John Treegate, fiercely proud to be British, is certain that agreement can be reached between the colonies and their mother country; hence his journey. As 11-year-old Peter enters the rough and ready life of the apprentice, he feels somewhat abandoned by his father.

His master is not severe, but the senior apprentice is a vicious bully and worse. A chain of events leads to trouble for Peter—murder, shipwreck, loss of memory, adoption by a strange and bitter Scotsman, until finally he is reunited with his father on the eve of America's battle for independence. Of interest for grades 7-12.

Peter Treegate's War is told in the first person by young Peter Treegate, now 16 years old. The story picks up both the course of the Revolutionary War after Breed's Hill and the ongoing conflict in Peter because he must divide his loyalty between his real father, John, and his foster father, the Maclaren of Spey. There is capture, escape and the unraveling of a mystery which began many years before in Scotland at the 1745 Battle of Culloden. Best of all, the reader is introduced to Peace of God Manly, one of the most appealing characters to appear in the history of children's literature. Of interest to grades 7-12.

Sea Captain from Salem (not yet published) is a story filled with all the glee derived from seeing the underdog biting the tiger's tail. Captain Peace of God Manly shines forth in all his glory as the commander of the sloop Hornet. He is sent first to Benjamin Franklin in France and from there to harry the British in their own waters. It is hoped that this show of audacity will encourage the French to send the help needed by the struggling American Colonies. Mr. Wibberley is no

doubt using his writer's prerogative to assign victories to his literary character which belong to such real life people as Captain John Paul Jones, but the reader should not quibble. To scoffers, Peace of God Manly may seem too good to be true, but to those who admire humility and courage, he is undeniably too good to miss. Of interest for grades 7-12.

Treegate's Raiders (not yet published) tells of Peter's recruitment of Scottish settlers in the Carolina mountains. It is difficult for these mountaineers to forget clan loyalties and feuds long enough to help defeat the British. "Treegate's raiders see action at King's Mountain and Cowpens, two of the smallest but most significant battles of the Revolution..." (From the original jacket) Peter finally visits Peace of God's home in Salem, Massachusetts and meets his daughter, Nancy. After this one brief encounter there is no mention of their relationship until the last few pages, but that with happy purpose. Of interest for grades 7-12.