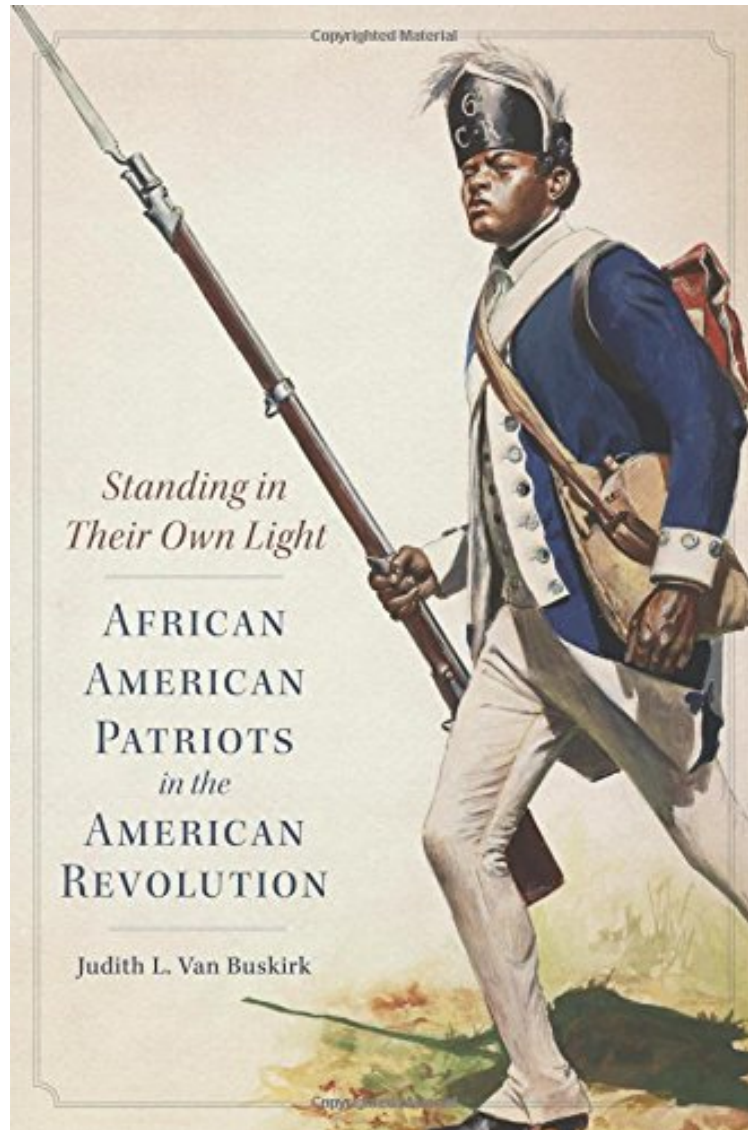


(Mobile ebook) Standing in Their Own Light: African American Patriots in the American Revolution
(Campaigns and Commanders Series)

Standing in Their Own Light: African American Patriots in the American Revolution (Campaigns and Commanders Series)

Judith L. Van Buskirk

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Judith L. Van Buskirk : Standing in Their Own Light: African American Patriots in the American Revolution (Campaigns and Commanders Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Standing in Their Own Light: African American Patriots in the American Revolution (Campaigns

and Commanders Series):

The Revolutionary War encompassed at least two struggles: one for freedom from British rule, and another, quieter but no less significant fight for the liberty of African Americans, thousands of whom fought in the Continental Army. Because these veterans left few letters or diaries, their story has remained largely untold, and the significance of their service largely unappreciated. *Standing in Their Own Light* restores these African American patriots to their rightful place in the historical struggle for independence and the end of racial oppression. Revolutionary era African Americans began their lives in a world that hardly questioned slavery; they finished their days in a world that increasingly contested the existence of the institution. Judith L. Van Buskirk traces this shift to the wartime experiences of African Americans. Mining firsthand sources that include black veterans' pension files, Van Buskirk examines how the struggle for independence moved from the battlefield to the courthouse—and how personal conflicts contributed to the larger struggle against slavery and legal inequality. Black veterans claimed an American identity based on their willing sacrifice on behalf of American independence. And abolitionists, citing the contributions of black soldiers, adopted the tactics and rhetoric of revolution, personal autonomy, and freedom. Van Buskirk deftly places her findings in the changing context of the time. She notes the varied conditions of slavery before the war, the different degrees of racial integration across the Continental Army, and the war's divergent effects on both northern and southern states. Her efforts retrieve black patriots' experiences from historical obscurity and reveal their importance in the fight for equal rights—even though it would take another war to end slavery in the United States.

“In Judith Van Buskirk's *Standing in Their Own Light*, black soldiers wage their own American revolution. They liberated themselves and helped to start slavery's long and difficult destruction, only to be scorned, forgotten, and excluded from the new republic's blessings. This thoughtful, deeply researched, well-written book makes a big contribution to understanding the Revolution in its liberating but tragic ambiguity.”—Edward Countryman, author of *Enjoy the Same Liberty: Black Americans and the Revolutionary Era*