

Not Self But Country



By David C. Perry

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

This is a story of the Continental Navy during the American Revolution. Based on real life events and historical figures, the story concludes with John Paul Jones commanding Bon Homme Richard in battle against HMS Serapis.

The author deftly explores the relationships between many of the principal personalities, lesser known historical characters, and subtly introduced fictional individuals. Of interest might be the career and switch in loyalties Richard Dale. He also goes into some detail regarding more minor naval engagements and skirmishes. The final battle is described in exciting detail as viewed from both ships engaged in the epic duel.

Perry is a knowledgeable writer, well versed in naval operations during the age of sail. However, this reviewer, also a sailing navy enthusiast, would dispute the author's description of HMS Serapis as a frigate. This ship carried forty-four guns as did many frigates, but carried them on both upper and lower decks, while frigates carried guns on the upper deck only.

Over all this is a well written story that blends history with exciting action and insightful views of the early United States. It is well worth reading. This reviewer looks forward to reading more historical fiction from David C. Perry.