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Preface

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Preface

This issue of the SAHS Review contains articles and reviews providing new insights into three different eras of Swiss and Swiss-American history. In "The Battles over Swiss Liberty," Mr. Marc H. Lerner of Columbia University examines the development of political culture and the changing understanding of freedom and liberty in the Swiss cantons of Schwyz, Zurich and the pays de Vaud from 1798 to 1847. He argues that the political developments in Switzerland at that time reflect the developments of European liberalism as a whole between the time of the French Revolution and the Revolutions of 1848.

In his review essay, "What Did You Do in the 'Good War'?" Professor Robert Messer of the Department of History at the University of Illinois at Chicago examines three books, Klaus Urner's *"Let's Swallow Switzerland": Hitler's Plans Against the Swiss Confederation*, Stephen Tanner's *Refuge from the Reich: American Airmen and Switzerland During World War II*, and Angelo M. Codevilla's *Between the Alps and a Hard Place: Switzerland in World War II and Moral Blackmail Today*, which present a powerful rebuttal to the recent wave of criticism of Swiss neutrality and the accusation of Swiss collaboration and profiteering during the Second World War.

In her article, "Novelist tracks early settlers," in the June, 2002 issue of the *Lake Murray Magazine*, Sue Duffy highlights the work of novelist Carol Williams, an independent writer residing in Lexington, South Carolina who tells the story of eighteenth century Swiss immigrants in South Carolina beginning with the Cherokee War and concluding with the American Revolution.

Finally, the author herself, Carol Williams responds to Kristina Marcy's "Review Essay" on her trilogy of novels, *The Switzers*, *Brightness Remembered* and *By Wonders and by War*, which appeared in the February, 2002 issue of the SAHS Review. The author explains that her response is dictated by her desire to assure the readership of our journal of the historical integrity of her work. Carol William's Flaubertian dedication to the creation of serious and well documented historical fiction is most welcome at a time when the recent release of the film *Patriots* has disseminated grave misconceptions about events in the Revolutionary War Carolinas and has generated great resentment in both Britain and the United States because of its careless distortion of historical figures and events. Carol Williams' meticulous and eloquent style of writing sets an example to be emulated by other writers of this genre.

Dwight Page, Editor, SAHS Review
Madisonville, Tennessee, September, 2002