



## Ethan Allen: His Life and Times

By Willard Sterne Randall

Download now

Read Online ➔

**Ethan Allen: His Life and Times** By Willard Sterne Randall

**The long-awaited biography of the frontier Founding Father whose heroic actions and neglected writings inspired an entire generation from Paine to Madison.**

On May 10, 1775, in the storm-tossed hours after midnight, Ethan Allen, the Revolutionary firebrand, was poised for attack. With only two boatloads of his scraggly band of Vermont volunteers having made it across the wind-whipped waters of Lake Champlain, he was waiting for the rest of his Green Mountain boys to arrive. But with the protective darkness quickly fading, Allen determined that he hold off no longer.

While Ethan Allen, a canonical hero of the American Revolution, has always been defined by his daring, predawn attack on the British-controlled Fort Ticonderoga, Willard Sterne Randall, the author of *Benedict Arnold*, now challenges our conventional understanding of this largely unexamined Founding Father. Widening the scope of his inquiry beyond the Revolutionary War, Randall traces Allen's beginning back to his modest origins in Connecticut, where he was born in 1738. Largely self-educated, emerging from a relatively impoverished background, Allen demonstrated his deeply rebellious nature early on through his attraction to Deism, his dramatic defense of smallpox vaccinations, and his early support of separation of church and state.

Chronicling Allen's upward struggle from precocious, if not unruly, adolescent to commander of the largest American paramilitary force on the eve of the Revolution, Randall unlocks a trove of new source material, particularly evident in his gripping portrait of Allen as a British prisoner-of-war. While the biography reacquaints readers with the familiar details of Allen's life—his capture during the aborted American invasion of Canada, his philosophical works that influenced Thomas Paine, his seminal role in gaining Vermont statehood, his stirring funeral in 1789—Randall documents that so much of what we know of Allen is mere myth, historical folklore that people have handed down, as if Allen were Paul Bunyan.

As Randall reveals, Ethan Allen, a so-called Robin Hood in the eyes of his dispossessed Green Mountain settlers, aggrandized, and unabashedly so, the

holdings of his own family, a fact that is glossed over in previous accounts, embellishing his own best-selling prisoner-of-war narrative as well. He emerges not only as a public-spirited leader but as a self-interested individual, often no less rapacious than his archenemies, the New York land barons of the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys.

As John E. Ferling comments, “Randall has stripped away the myths to provide as accurate an account of Allen’s life as will ever be written.” The keen insights that he produces shed new light, not only on this most enigmatic of Founding Fathers, but on today’s descendants of the Green Mountain Boys, whose own political disenfranchisement resonates now more than ever. 16 pages of illustrations

 [Download Ethan Allen: His Life and Times ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ethan Allen: His Life and Times ...pdf](#)

# Ethan Allen: His Life and Times

*By Willard Sterne Randall*

**Ethan Allen: His Life and Times** By Willard Sterne Randall

**The long-awaited biography of the frontier Founding Father whose heroic actions and neglected writings inspired an entire generation from Paine to Madison.**

On May 10, 1775, in the storm-tossed hours after midnight, Ethan Allen, the Revolutionary firebrand, was poised for attack. With only two boatloads of his scraggly band of Vermont volunteers having made it across the wind-whipped waters of Lake Champlain, he was waiting for the rest of his Green Mountain boys to arrive. But with the protective darkness quickly fading, Allen determined that he hold off no longer.

While Ethan Allen, a canonical hero of the American Revolution, has always been defined by his daring, predawn attack on the British-controlled Fort Ticonderoga, Willard Sterne Randall, the author of *Benedict Arnold*, now challenges our conventional understanding of this largely unexamined Founding Father. Widening the scope of his inquiry beyond the Revolutionary War, Randall traces Allen's beginning back to his modest origins in Connecticut, where he was born in 1738. Largely self-educated, emerging from a relatively impoverished background, Allen demonstrated his deeply rebellious nature early on through his attraction to Deism, his dramatic defense of smallpox vaccinations, and his early support of separation of church and state.

Chronicling Allen's upward struggle from precocious, if not unruly, adolescent to commander of the largest American paramilitary force on the eve of the Revolution, Randall unlocks a trove of new source material, particularly evident in his gripping portrait of Allen as a British prisoner-of-war. While the biography reacquaints readers with the familiar details of Allen's life—his capture during the aborted American invasion of Canada, his philosophical works that influenced Thomas Paine, his seminal role in gaining Vermont statehood, his stirring funeral in 1789—Randall documents that so much of what we know of Allen is mere myth, historical folklore that people have handed down, as if Allen were Paul Bunyan.

As Randall reveals, Ethan Allen, a so-called Robin Hood in the eyes of his dispossessed Green Mountain settlers, aggrandized, and unabashedly so, the holdings of his own family, a fact that is glossed over in previous accounts, embellishing his own best-selling prisoner-of-war narrative as well. He emerges not only as a public-spirited leader but as a self-interested individual, often no less rapacious than his archenemies, the New York land barons of the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys.

As John E. Ferling comments, "Randall has stripped away the myths to provide as accurate an account of Allen's life as will ever be written." The keen insights that he produces shed new light, not only on this most enigmatic of Founding Fathers, but on today's descendants of the Green Mountain Boys, whose own political disenfranchisement resonates now more than ever. 16 pages of illustrations

**Ethan Allen: His Life and Times** By Willard Sterne Randall Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #141310 in Books
- Brand: W. W. Norton & Company

- Published on: 2011-08-22
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.60" h x 1.70" w x 6.60" l, 2.34 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 640 pages

 [Download Ethan Allen: His Life and Times ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ethan Allen: His Life and Times ...pdf](#)

### Editorial Review

#### Review

Starred Review. The definitive biography of the frontier hero and founder of Vermont....Authoritative, vivid.... Colorful, well-written and nuanced. (Kirkus Reviews)

This is the first biography of Ethan Allen in half a century, and the only one to render him a psychologically complicated, fully flawed hero of the American Revolution. (Joseph J. Ellis, author of *Founding Brothers* and *American Sphinx*)

Willard Sterne Randall has few equals as a writer. A careful and meticulous historian, and an esteemed biographer, Randall has marshaled his many talents to produce the definite biography of Ethan Allen, one of the most fascinating figures in the founding of the American nation.... a must read. (John Ferling, author of *Independence*)

This is the powerful story about an essential and little-understood figure in American history. Willard Randall writes with grace and insight, and *Ethan Allen* is an engaging biography. (Jon Meacham, author of *American Lion*)

#### About the Author

**Willard Sterne Randall** is the author of *A Little Revenge: Benjamin Franklin and His Son*, *Benedict Arnold: Patriot and Traitor*, *Thomas Jefferson: A Life*, *George Washington, A Life*, *Alexander Hamilton, A Life* and *Ethan Allen: His Life and Times*. Randall is a retired professor of history at Champlain College, holds as permanent appointment as Visiting Professor of History at John Cabot University in Rome. He co-authored *American Lives and Forgotten Americans* with his wife, the poet Nancy Nahra. Six times nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, he received the Award of Merit from the American Revolution Round Table, only awarded three times in its 50-year history. As an investigative reporter, in a 17-year journalism career in Philadelphia he received the National Magazine Award for Public Service from Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, the Hillman Prize, the Loeb Award and the John Hancock Award for Excellence in Business Writing before undertaking graduate studies in history at Princeton University and writing biography. He resides in Burlington, Vermont.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Raymond Llamas:

This *Ethan Allen: His Life and Times* are reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The main reason of this *Ethan Allen: His Life and Times* can be one of the great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple examining food but feed you with information that probably will shock your preceding knowledge. This book is actually handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed people. Beside that this *Ethan Allen: His Life and Times* forcing you to have an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that could it useful in your day action. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

**Garnet Veach:**

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the entire day to reading a book. The book Ethan Allen: His Life and Times it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

**Lester Gibbons:**

The book untitled Ethan Allen: His Life and Times contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains the girl idea with easy method. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read this. The book was published by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice go through.

**Eugene Williams:**

A lot of publication has printed but it takes a different approach. You can get it by web on social media. You can choose the most effective book for you, science, comedy, novel, or whatever through searching from it. It is known as of book Ethan Allen: His Life and Times. You can contribute your knowledge by it. Without causing the printed book, it could add your knowledge and make an individual happier to read. It is most important that, you must aware about book. It can bring you from one destination to other place.

**Download and Read Online Ethan Allen: His Life and Times By Willard Sterne Randall #H386LAVOG4I**

## **Read Ethan Allen: His Life and Times By Willard Sterne Randall for online ebook**

Ethan Allen: His Life and Times By Willard Sterne Randall Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Ethan Allen: His Life and Times By Willard Sterne Randall books to read online.

### **Online Ethan Allen: His Life and Times By Willard Sterne Randall ebook PDF download**

**Ethan Allen: His Life and Times By Willard Sterne Randall Doc**

**Ethan Allen: His Life and Times By Willard Sterne Randall Mobipocket**

**Ethan Allen: His Life and Times By Willard Sterne Randall EPub**

**H386LAVOG4I: Ethan Allen: His Life and Times By Willard Sterne Randall**