Brothertowns retained it, demonstrating that even under the law, Indians could not attain equal status with whites.

*Red Brethren* is an excellent book that offers historical context for understanding the ways in which race undermined tribal sovereignty, unity, and land ownership. Its rich research in primary and secondary sources makes it useful for the expert scholar, and its readable narrative assures that it should find a place in both the undergraduate classroom and on the avocational historian’s bookshelf.

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The study of colonial American law, a topic of perpetual interest to U.S. legal historians, has been undergoing something of a renaissance in recent years through the efforts of such scholars as Mary Bilder, Daniel Hulsebosch, and the editors of this splendid series. In these two volumes, Daniel Coquillette and Neil Longley York now provide an annotated reprint of one of this field’s principal sources, the Law Reports of Josiah Quincy Jr. Coquillette, York, and the Colonial Society of Massachusetts are to be congratulated for producing this exemplary model of both scholarship and bookmaking.

Josiah Quincy Jr. was one of the most talented and fascinating figures of the late colonial period. The son of a successful Boston merchant and the father of one of the most distinguished presidents of Harvard College, Quincy began compiling his Law Reports while he was still an undergraduate student. He accomplished more during his brief life than many did who lived decades longer. The Law Reports, however, remain his greatest legacy.

These volumes provide American legal historians with four important resources. First among these is the reprint of the text and notes of Samuel Quincy’s 1865 edition of his grandfather’s Law Reports. This edition, while not a rare text, is not easily available; WorldCat
lists only 129 physical copies of the book in American and British libraries (although others have it in microform), and I was able to find only one copy for sale online, at a price of $300. Second, this reprint edition features a marvelously learned and instructive introductory essay by Daniel Coquillette, one of the greatest living masters of eighteenth-century colonial legal history. The third invaluable resource contained in these volumes lies in the editors’ extensive annotations on the cases, in which they provide information on lawyers and judges, sources cited, and the later history of the cases. The latter notes are of major scholarly and legal significance, for they demonstrate the importance of many of these colonial cases to the modern legal system. The editors’ notes make these volumes crucial reading not only for legal historians but for every lawyer who may have issues for which the reported cases may serve as precedent. Discussions of the sources used are also of great utility for legal historians; moreover, they help to clarify the extent to which colonial lawyers and judges utilized English cases and treatises as well as the extent of their willingness to abandon English practice in the colonial courts. Finally, these volumes contain a number of highly useful appendices. My favorite among these is the “Catalogue of Books Belonging to the Estate of Josiah Quincy, Jr.,” for this list both provides legal historians with insight into the reading of a young lawyer in colonial Massachusetts and helps to explain the citations in many of the reported decisions.

There have been very few volumes of colonial legal sources reprinted in the past century that can compare favorably to the two volumes under review. They are well produced, well edited, and profusely annotated. They must stand on every American legal historian’s shelves as an essential source for the history of our nation.

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If you look carefully, you will see that Paul Wainwright opens this book of extraordinary photography with the prophet Isaiah. In the first of the book’s images, a scene from the Old Meetinghouse in Sandown, New Hampshire (1773), a Bible lies open in the foreground. Across from the pulpit, a half-open doorway stands filled with light,