

journals of the enterprise. And, at the same time, the Arctic Institute of North America in Calgary and the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, England, have joined forces to edit Franklin's own original journals and correspondence of the expedition, most of which are housed at the latter Institute. We may never learn the true story of the more unpleasant aspects of Franklin's First Land Expedition, but, within a few years, we may have as complete a record as can be hoped for.

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Mount Allison University: A History to 1963. Vol. I: 1843-1914; II: 1914-1963. JOHN G. REID. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984. I, xi, 391 p., II, 500 p. ISBN 0-8020-3396-2 (Vol. I), -3397-0 (Vol. II) \$37.50 ea.

The past decade has seen the publication of several histories of Canadian universities: C.M. Johnston on McMaster, the late Hilda Neatby on Queen's to 1917, F.W. Gibson's sequel taking Queen's to 1961, S.B. Frost on McGill, and Michael Hayden on the University of Saskatchewan. To this list we now add John G. Reid's two-volume history of Mount Allison. And what a fine addition it is! Reid has written a solid interpretive study which is probably our best example of university biography as an instrument for studying the development of higher education in this country.

It is so for several reasons. Reid draws on a wide range of college, church, and government records, private papers, and an extensive body of scholarly literature on the local and Maritime communities. This provides him with much information about the society upon which the ancillary academies and university depended for many of their staff members, most of their funding, nearly all their students, and, as important, their identity and sense of social responsibility. The writing is clear and well organized. Documentary evidence is smoothly integrated with carefully considered assessments of character and circumstance. These qualities, plus the range of subject matter, periodization, and continuity of themes through two large volumes, reflect Reid's mastery of both his sources and the difficult art of university biography. The result is a scrupulously researched, highly readable, thoughtful, and balanced study.

Reid pays due regard to the labours, for good or ill, of benefactors, leading trustees, presidents, and influential instructors while at the same time considering the external societal structures that both helped to build Mount Allison's institutions up to their 1905-1910 "golden age" and, in the decades after the Great War, imposed severe limits on the university's aspirations and attainments. In acknowledging these external foundations and constraints Reid moves his narrative significantly beyond the traditional bounds of his literary form. The happy result is, to use his words, "an endeavour in social and intellectual history."

Reid sees the Mount Allison story not as a chronicle of leading personalities (though there is a great deal on such men and women) and incremental growth (there is some of that too) but as a series of adaptations, some permanent, some not, to both the "internal dynamics" of change and those external forces referred to earlier. Thus, the commercial prosperity of the mid-nineteenth century, the demographic stagnation and out-migration that developed after the 1860s, the industrial expansion of the 1880s, the gradual decline

in Maritime economic and political power at the national level as the Canadian West and industrial Ontario developed, the long, painful era after 1918 of de-industrialization, social dislocation, and regional impoverishment are made relevant to the central motif: the struggle to provide sound economical instruction to the regional Methodist community and the rural Maritime population. Of course, the impact of new intellectual currents which challenged traditional elements in Maritime Wesleyan Methodism, whether they be higher Biblical criticism or post-Darwinian science, the Methodists' Social Gospel or United Church theology, Canadian nationalism or Maritime regionalism, are also part of the story.

If there are shortcomings in Reid's account they are largely those of the genre and the sources. Mount Allison's social constituency throughout the decades is sketched too thinly to satisfy. Similarly, the rise and fall of enrolments in the academies, the university, and particular programmes are assessed less frequently and with less confidence or success than are many other dimensions of Mount Allison's development. Accordingly, the impact of external regional factors is more asserted than proven. All the same, given the near-total absence of student records, Reid has been extraordinarily resourceful with the limited material he has located on the students' backgrounds and careers. Both specialists and general readers will find Reid's *Mount Allison* enjoyable and highly instructive. It is arguably the best Canadian university biography to date.

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William Stewart Herron: Father of the Petroleum Industry in Alberta. DAVID H. BREEN, ed. Edmonton: Historical Society of Alberta, 1984. 359 p. ISBN 0-88864-959-2 \$19.95.

During the energy crisis of the 1970s, the oil industry forced its way into the national consciousness as a contentious economic miracle identified almost exclusively with Alberta. It was therefore only a matter of time before the subject emerged as a major element in the historical scholarship of that province. Recent years have witnessed a profusion of theses, articles, monographs, and historical conferences devoted to various issues involving Alberta's oil wells, from their precarious turn-of-the-century beginnings, through the epoch-inaugurating strikes at Turner Valley (1914) and Leduc (1947), to the world famous mega-projects of the Athabasca tar sands.

A compendium of source documents for the career of William Stewart Herron should be of particular interest, especially to the historians of the Turner Valley period. David Breen, who has contributed much to the recent scholarship on the oil industry, has selected a wealth of pertinent material from several collections held in the Public Archives of Canada, the Provincial Archives of Alberta, and the Glenbow-Alberta Archives. These concern the exploration and development of the oil fields between 1911 and 1930 as reflected in the career of one of their most ardent, if not most successful, exploiters. It is the fifth in a series of primary source collections published by the Historical Society of Alberta.

Of course, compendia of historical documents are seldom intended for a general readership, and it is unlikely that Breen's assemblage will draw much cover-to-cover perusal,