

The bibliography is divided into three series, a core bibliography on town planning and two short bibliographies on related themes of housing and public health. The planning bibliography includes a brief historical sketch of the 'town planning movement' in Canada from 1900 to 1930 and a chronological outline of significant developments in the field of Canadian town planning for this period. In collecting data for the bibliography the authors limited their search to engineering, municipal and public health journals they thought would contain planning material. The introduction lists the key periodicals consulted. In addition, they include some material from British and American sources though caution that no systematic search of these foreign sources was made. Also included in the introduction is a useful list of other bibliographies on town planning. All citations are arranged in chronological order by year and then alphabetically within each year. Each series includes a detailed and systematic index by subject, place name and author.

Short historical sketches of housing and public health as they pertain to town planning introduce their respective bibliographies. The authors point out that neither work is comprehensive as they only include citations collected while assembling the main bibliography on town planning. Nevertheless, they feel that both bibliographies contain a good sample of material on these topics published in Canada before 1930. The housing bibliography lists publications on such problems as "slums, land speculation and the high cost of housing, haphazard and inefficient housing divisions, housing shortages and overcrowding and the need for improved government housing programs". In compiling material for the public health bibliography, the authors restricted listings to "policy-related rather than technical literature".

The attention to detail and accuracy and the logical presentation of data make all three bibliographies accessible and informative. They will stimulate further research and archival activity in the field of Canadian town planning and in the broader discipline of urban history.

Danny Moore
Ottawa

Men of Colour: An Historical Account of the Black Settlement on Wilberforce Street and in Oro Township, Simcoe County, Ontario 1819-1949. GARY E. FRENCH. Stroud, Ontario: Kaste Books, 1978. 182 p. illus., ISBN 0 9690838 0 7 \$8.50.

Gary French is a genealogist and local historian. There is, however, no cause for the collective archival sigh for the time and energy often wasted on genealogical pursuits and local history publications.

Men Of Colour traces the Black Settlement on Wilberforce Street and in Oro Township from "its conception in the minds of the Upper Canadian oligarchy in 1819, to the removal, almost 130 years later, of the last Negro descendant in the Township." It details Oro Township to 1819, Sir Peregrine Maitland and the Oro Settlement 1819-1929, Exodus from Ohio 1829, Schemes for the settlement of Negroes in Upper Canada 1828-1830, Peter Robinson and the Oro Settlement 1827-1831, the O'Briens, and the township's eventual decline. Gary French documents the case that the Oro Blacks were not slaves escaping north on the Underground Railroad. The Settlement has suffered under this legend which applies to a much later period in the heritage of Blacks in Ontario. The Oro Blacks were Loyalists, British soldiers, free Canadians and refugees fleeing from suppression in the United States. This community was the official response to the circumstance of these Blacks, and was the only one designed and encouraged by the government of Upper Canada.

The account of the Settlement is only half of the 182 pages. There are two appendices—the history and regimental list of Runchey's Colored Corps who served in the War of 1812, and genealogical records for each of the original petitioners. Given the twenty five pages of footnotes and exhaustive use of archival sources, French's argument is difficult to dispute. His methodical, somewhat legal style is not particularly attractive, but his concern for accuracy is commendable. Perhaps owing to the inexperience of the publisher, the format lacks some of the professional details of a quality production. It is, nevertheless, well structured and offers all of the elements of a scholarly study. He includes an almost extinct phenomenon, an index.

In the preface, Gary French expresses "the hope that this book will be found useful, not only to the local historian, but to those interested in the history of Blacks in Ontario and the United States." One might add the wish that the quality of the research in *Men of Colour* would set the standard for all local history publications.

Su Murdoch
Simcoe County Archives

Ontario and the Canadian North. WILLIAM F.E. MORLEY. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, © 1978. xxxii, 322 p. ill. maps. (Canadian local histories to 1950: A bibliography; v.3) ISBN 0 8020 2281 2 \$25.00.

Local Histories of Ontario Municipalities, 1951-1977: A Bibliography. BARBARA B. AITKEN. Toronto: Ontario Library Association, 1978, 120 p. ISBN 0 88969 012X pa. \$5.95.

With the publication of these two volumes almost simultaneously mid-way through 1978, archivists, librarians, and researchers of whatever stripe have ended their long safari through the jungle of Ontario local histories. Admittedly at times the jungle has almost closed in and re-grown around these two heroic bibliographers, for both volumes represent a long and trying journey, with many tempting side-excursions which, if followed, would have led the authors into various Bunyanesque pitfalls. Perhaps Aitken or Morley could be tempted to write the history of their endeavours and some of the more fascinating and delightful aspects of the state of bibliography.

The "Great Divide" in Canadian bibliography the start of *Canadiana* in 1950 is observed in the chronological division between the two books. The effect of both volumes on the sources and treatment of Ontario's history will be profound, for the hitherto uncollected waifs and strays of bibliography, the local and parish histories, are finally collected, catalogued, and thereby enshrined in printed immortality. To merely say that these volumes are useful would be the banal understatement of the year; the toll of years of work extracted from each author will be repaid over the years by a continual demand for copies of the books and, in the case of the Aitken book, possibly a periodic update and revision.

Morley's book must be considered the definitive work on the period covered which, in effect, is one of the "closed" or finite periods in Canadian bibliography. Within the genre described, it is likely that nearly everything has been discovered which can be. One must avoid dogmatism on these matters, however, for Canadian bibliography is full of surprises, some of them pleasant, showing how truly lively and varied the book arts really were. Despite mechanization of the book production industry during most of the period covered by Morley, the book did not remain a static object. While there was any chance of human interference with the mechanical procedure of book making, which in letter press work could occur at almost any step of the way, the possibility of variants exists, to an extent which only Morley has truly plumbed. The best illustration