

author should be complimented on her scrupulous identification of all persons, places, and aircraft (*Canada's Aviation Pioneers* is a veritable "Who's Who" in Canadian aviation), her bureaucratic penchant for full and precise titles for everyone hinders the flow of her narrative. Some events are excessively detailed and repetitive; irrelevant information about the lives of her subjects could have been omitted, and the organization of her material is often weak.

Over-simplification and inaccuracies crop up in many places. For example, in crediting J.A. Wilson with the drafting of the Air Board Act (p. 145), a host of interested parties and persons equally involved in this controversial and important endeavour are ignored. Then too, an account of the Canadian Pacific Railway's involvement in aeronautical activities after 1919, but prior to the establishment of Canadian Pacific Air Lines (p. 161), is inaccurate and misleading. The Canadian Pacific Railway cooperated closely with a number of bush operations during the twenties. It was also an anonymous partner in "Vickers Syndicate" in the late twenties and through this held shares in International Airways, Canadian Transcontinental Airways Limited, Quebec, and Fairchild Aircraft Limited. In 1930, both CPR and CNR contributed \$250,000 for 10,000 shares each in Canadian Airways Limited. Philip G. Johnson did not reluctantly resign his Presidency of United Aircraft and Transport Corporation (p. 110) to come to Canada in 1937 to organize Trans Canada Air Lines for the government. Johnson, along with a number of other important American airline executives, was blackballed by President Roosevelt at the time for participation in the famous "spoils conference" at which representatives of the major airlines met to divide up the lucrative air mail contracts in the United States among themselves. Juan Trippe of Pan American Airways suggested his name to C.D. Howe as Johnson was eminently qualified and available. When asked, Johnson very willingly emigrated to Canada for his five years of exile to assist in the organization of TCA.

Sutherland had the raw material to provide an excellent reference tool; yet this ambitious book has limited historical value. Executed with little order and even less art, it will appeal to aviation buffs and few others. It ought to have been good and it ought to have been referable, but it is neither. This is unfortunate.

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The Dalhousie Journals. Edited by MARJORY WHITELAW. Ottawa: Oberon Press, 1978. 212 p. ISBN 0 88750 290 3 \$17.50.

Keeping a journal was fairly common practice in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, particularly as a record of trips and voyages. These journals were not diaries and lacked that private intimate quality we associate with diaries. The journals kept by public men often had an administrative purpose; to be used as an *aide mémoire* for writing reports or later taking action. Such a journal is that of George Ramsay, ninth Earl of Dalhousie, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia 1816-1820, and afterwards Governor General of Canada until 1828. His journals for the years he was governor of Nova Scotia have now been edited for publication by Marjory Whitelaw, a well-known radio and literary journalist and writer.

Dalhousie's journals are part of his quite voluminous papers held by the Scottish Record Office. Transcripts of his papers, but not of his journals, were made for the Public Archives of Canada, calendared and later published in *Report of the Public Archives*, 1938. In 1961 all the Dalhousie papers relating to British America, including his journals from 1816 to 1828, were microfilmed by the P.A.C. The Scottish Record Office in its *Source List of Manuscripts Relating to the U.S.A. and Canada in the Scottish Record*

Office included a fairly detailed inventory of the Dalhousie papers. Dalhousie was a meticulous administrator and perhaps for this reason a near complete record of his correspondence seems to have survived. The holdings of the Scottish Record Office include probably all his letter books, most of which are indexed. His "official" correspondence is in the Public Record Office, London; his letter books served as his personal record and were transcribed in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Calendars of this correspondence appeared in the *Reports on Canadian Archives* in its series for the state papers of Nova Scotia and Lower Canada. His official correspondence did not include the many letters he wrote and received from British North Americans and these with his journals provide insight into the thoughts and aspirations of our native elite in the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

The records of his official correspondence have been most used by historians. His British North American correspondence and particularly his journals have hardly been used. Kathleen (Cogswell) Killiam in 1931 wrote a thesis "Lord Dalhousie's Administration in Nova Scotia" (University of Toronto) relying mostly upon his official correspondence. An article in the *Dalhousie Review* in 1938 by V.P. Kelleher provided some interesting material on his military career and a brief summary of his governorship in British America. Dalhousie deserves a first class biography and perhaps the publication of his Nova Scotian journals will serve as an inspiration.

His Nova Scotian journals are primarily a record of his observations when making visits to various parts of the province. He was the only colonial governor, with the exception of Sir John Wentworth, who could claim to have made regular forays into the province at large. A foremost objective of his administration was to improve agriculture and his journals are full of his exasperation at the lack of initiative shown by farmers in improving their lands and farming methods. He saw Nova Scotia "as a country in its infancy, shewing in every corner the promise of becoming one day a valuable and powerful state", however "the people are very poor and indolent; fond of rum, they appear generally half drunk and wasting their time; they loiter about their houses and their field work, and seem content in raising a sufficiency of potatoes for winter" (p. 73). He traced this indolency to the land granting system which had resulted in large acreages being held for speculation and the availability of virtually free land. Proprietors who had invested in opening up lands could not hold tenants. Dalhousie's class instincts were somewhat shocked as he found that "Every man . . . is a laird here, and the classes of the community known in England as Tenantry and peasantry do not exist in these Provinces and probably will not be formed until a full stop is put to the system of granting lands" (p. 62). His observations are a mine for the historical geographer and to a lesser extent for the social and economic historian.

The journals are well edited by Marjory Whitelaw. However, a more comprehensive introduction might profitably have included a discussion of land holding and population distribution to provide background to Dalhousie's trips and observations. There is only one map and an unsuitable one too, since the place names cannot be read. For a book as expensive as this one and subsidized by the Ontario Arts Council, a map graphically presenting Dalhousie's many trips should have been included. The seven sketches by Major Elliot Woolford, who travelled with Dalhousie in his service, add much to the book and they are well selected to provide a pictorial view of the province. All Woolford's Nova Scotian sketches have recently been purchased by the Nova Scotia Museum with the assistance of a grant from the Secretary of State's fund. The lack of an index must be the main criticism of this book. There are also some minor errors in the notes; for example, Dr. William Cochran of King's College spelt his name without an "e", although Dalhousie in his journals spelt it both ways.

One can only welcome this publication of Lord Dalhousie's Nova Scotian journals and

thank Marjory Whitelaw for undertaking this task. *The Dalhousie Journals* is already on the best seller list and this should encourage others to embark on similar ventures.

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Random Descent. KATHERINE GOVIER. Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1979.
228 p. ISBN 0 7705 1719 6 \$12.95.

Genealogy has been with us a long time, and in French Canada, especially, has enjoyed a vogue, perhaps now in decline, as a prime component of individual and national identity. Though other preoccupations now fuel the passions of our nationalists, genealogy is still an important part of the private consciousness of Canadians, as the volume of inquiries of this sort to our Archives will attest. The "Roots" phenomenon has, of course, revived interest in family history and given it again a higher sense of drama and purpose. Katherine Govier's novel *Random Descent* hangs on a genealogical framework, but neither sanctifies the family nor whiggishly charts its triumph over social oppression. Govier's exploration of family roots celebrates a simple gossipy curiosity and quiet sense of possession.

Govier gives us a number of interesting characters whose lives are essential to the family's history; the one closest to the reader is Jennifer Beecham (Anderson), a woman in her mid-twenties in the late 1970's, and about to be divorced. Jennifer has harboured a peculiar curiosity about the family and its secrets since childhood. It is not surprising, then, that when she sets out to re-direct her life, she makes one more definitive effort to put the whole story together. She drives to California to visit her paternal grandparents and quizzes them. What she finds out is presented by the author as a pleasing rambling narrative that meanders back and forth in time and space, moving ever westward from England to Vancouver and finally south to California.

Jennifer uncovers the history of a family whose fortunes declined in England and took root in Canada in the first decade of the twentieth century in the prairie West—boom years before the Depression. Faces, names, postcards, photographs, mannerisms, memories are all part of Jennifer's jumbled inheritance. These bits of evidence reveal a gradual accumulation of deals and gambles, successful and not, endless voyages—at sea, by train and car on land—all set against the history of the West, but not attempting to make prolonged comment on it. Not for a moment do we lose sight of the actors in the story.

By keeping the focus on the random bits that the family itself thought of as its history, Govier gives us a rich fabric indeed. And, perhaps a little too readily, the most forcefully presented symbol in the book is an extravagant needlepoint Davenport created by the *doyenne* of the family in her old age early in the century. Great great great Grandmother Submitta's handiwork is illustrated with a vine of roses that twist and bloom into the faces or her progeny in generations not yet born. The davenport passes from hand to hand until it reaches Jennifer near the end of the novel: as the last chapter closes the young woman mystically comes upon the square bonneted old lady (she would have been 169) putting the finishing stitches on her masterpiece. Govier comes close to saying that Jennifer and the Davenport are much the same thing. But not quite. The novel's complex structure, low-key mood and impressionistic ending never allow anything that simple to emerge as the answer to Jennifer's inquiry.

Jennifer's inheritance is a surprising one. She uncovers secret after secret, the drinking, infidelity and suicide whose meaning in her own life is not assessed, and rightly so. When