

were major determinants shaping different histories. Although the editors are sensitive enough to include examples of women from varying socio-economic backgrounds in each of the chapters, there is no attempt to discuss the effects or implications of different class positions in their historical context. These accounts warrant much more interpretation if women's experience as part of the historical and social fabric is to be more fully understood.

Each chapter in the book represents a period in women's lives and records the diversity of their experiences. Chapter two, for example, entitled "Neither Child Nor Wife," explores the various ways in which young women spent the transition period between childhood and marriage. Examples include an urban domestic, rural school teacher, Maritime missionary, Quebec factory worker, prairie homesteader, and industrial labourer. While the chapters are prefaced with general historical narratives which provide a context for the subsequent selections, the life cycle framework is not sufficiently substantial for analysis of the impact on women of larger processes of change such as immigration, urbanization, and industrialization. Regional and class differences are evident from the documents but they are given little explanation and consequently offer insight which is of limited value.

The wealth of information gathered in this book is a valuable and welcome contribution to the history of Canadian women. However, a compendium of documents does not constitute history. Historical scholarship requires contextual analysis to provide meaning. While this book provides observations, and challenges certain assumptions, further elaboration and interpretation would have enhanced its contribution to women's history.

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Dictionary of Canadian Biography, V: 1801 to 1820. FRANCES G. HALPENNY and JEAN HAMELIN, eds. Toronto: University of Toronto Press; Québec: Les Presses de l'université Laval, 1983. 1044 p. ISBN 0-8020-3398-9 (regular edition).

Volume V is the eighth volume of the *DCB* to be published; four volumes are still to come. The selection and editing of the 502 biographies (death dates between 1801 and 1820) must have been the most challenging task yet faced by the *DCB* editors and staff. Tumultuous change and insecurity governed the lives of the chosen entries. The Seven Years' War, the American Revolution, the twenty-year war with revolutionary France, and the War of 1812 brought in their wakes traumatic change. Out of this turmoil of war, British North America emerged as a recognizable political and economic entity. Although its destiny as a northern transcontinental state was still in the future, explorers such as Alexander Mackenzie and Peter Pond had penetrated to the Arctic and Pacific Oceans by 1820. The initiative for western and northern expansion came from fur trade barons such as Simon McTavish and James McGill. Their entrepreneurial skill and energy gave shape to the economic development of the fledgling colonies along the St. Lawrence and shores of the Great Lakes; and on the

Atlantic coast, a “merchantocracy” arose based on the West Indian fish and lumber trades. Compared to the period up to 1820, the continued expansion of British North America in the remainder of the nineteenth century took place in tranquillity and security. It is this fact that makes Volume V the watershed of the series.

Most of the biographies in this volume are of men and women who were not born in what is now Canada; and many of them did not die here. Some, such as the successful Richard Cartwright, the acerbic Edward Winslow, and the poet and clergyman Jacob Bailey, came as Loyalist exiles. Others were sent as French or British military officers, surveyors, and officeholders: notably Samuel Holland, Sir Isaac Brock, François Baby, John Graves Simcoe, and Sir John Wentworth. Most, however, were settlers simply hoping to better themselves in a dauntingly challenging wilderness. Even the Indian entries portray this movement into a new land.

Except for a brief introduction, the editors chose not to have introductory essays similar to the ones on the Seven Years’ War and the Acadians in past volumes. One wishes that an historian such as Wallace Brown had provided an essay on Loyalist settlement; for if there is an underlying theme which complements that of violent upheaval, it is settlement. The general bibliography and indexes are to the same high standard as we have come to expect from the other volumes. Based on frequently used sources quoted in the individual biographies, the general bibliography is broken down into five parts: archival, printed primary sources, reference works, studies (books and theses), and journals and studies (articles). The one on archival sources is particularly well done, listing the sources by name of archives in Canada, Great Britain, France, and the United States. These lists supplement the bibliographical notes at the end of each biographical entry which vary greatly in comprehensiveness. A geographical index listing the entries by place of birth is a welcome addition to the index by occupations provided in Volume IV.

The standard of research and writing remains high; the volume contains major biographies of Sir Guy Carleton, Sir Frederick Haldimand, and, to a lesser degree, Tecumseh. One of the best written is the biography of Sir George Prevost by Peter Burroughs. The editorial staff, however, have regrettably not adhered to a standardized format for the introductory paragraph. Too often essential biographical detail, such as that on marital status, is missing, although the desired information may appear later in the article. What is most annoying is not to find the biographical detail one wants and to be uncertain whether the author left it out from carelessness or lack of information. If the latter, then the editors should insist that this be stated.

The *DCB* is the largest and most challenging national project ever attempted in the field of Canadian history. That the editors have managed to maintain the necessary momentum and continued to improve on past volumes is no mean achievement. Volume V is a credit both to the authors and the editors.

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