

This book is comparable with archival literature in that it is concerned with heritage. Although solely focusing on our natural heritage, the authors raise issues that are analogous to many of the issues faced by the archival profession. For instance, they stress the need for an ecological approach to the environment; Hugh Taylor made the same arguments in *Archivaria* 18 when he called for a “non-aggressive stewardship, a sensitive interplay, and an ongoing enrichment of resources” (p. 25). Other archivists have recently shared this vision. As the Alberta pamphlet, “Archives: Information Ecology,” demonstrates, “ecology” is a term that applies just as well to archives as to nature. Furthermore, some provincial governments’ forays into heritage tourism have assumed that archives are part of a greater cultural ecosystem. Fortunately, the belief that the archival document can only support the evidence provided by artifacts and the like is decreasing and being replaced with appreciation for the intrinsic value of the document.

At another level, the book makes good, but insufficient, use of historical information. Even though the entries are comprehensive, use of archival information would have enhanced their contents. In the entries for the various species of whales, for instance, the publication of one of the many visual documents demonstrating how human practices led to the decline of that species would have communicated the atrocity of the practices in a more direct and powerful fashion. Finally, the addition of suggested readings would have been helpful to those readers interested in pursuing the issues raised.

The absence of archival sources in the book points in part to our shortcomings in describing or providing access points for less traditional areas of research. This is mostly the result of our educational background (that is social, intellectual, and political history) and the fact that there is little training available in proper descriptive approaches and practices. In fact, the finding aids we create reflect the research areas with which we are most familiar. Instead, we should be developing descriptive tools that describe the records themselves, including their structure, and provide efficient access — as well as point to areas of current research interest. In the case of environmental history, few archivists have surveyed their records for such information. Yet private diaries, scientific records, fur trade records, etc., provide vivid descriptions of the lives and habits of species that are now extinct, and whose extinction provides invaluable patterns and evidence for modern-day scientists.

Archival issues aside, the book is appealing because of its timeliness. Easy to read, it cannot but raise consciousness about the fragility of the environment and the delicate balance that must be maintained.

Gabrielle Blais

National Archives of Canada

Toil and Trouble: Military Expeditions to Red River. GEORGE F.G. STANLEY. Dundurn Press: Toronto, 1989. Canadian War Museum Publication No. 25. 303 p. ISBN 1-55002-059-5 \$29.95 (cl.).

George F.G. Stanley’s new book *Toil and Trouble* is a welcome addition to his long list of military publications. This book is a detailed and authoritative account of the Metis Resistance and the Red River Expedition of 1870, with a distinct emphasis on its military aspects. Because it also covers, in brief, the event leading up to the disorders at

Red River and the logistics of the subsequent rotation of the troops at Fort Garry, it is, in effect, a military history of western Canada from the arrival of Lord Selkirk and the veterans of the Des Meuron Regiment in 1816 until the march west of the North West Mounted Police in 1874.

The main emphasis is on the military experience of both the troops and their commanders. The book belongs to the growing genre of military social history, rather than the academic tradition of politico/military history, the “who fought whom and why, and who won” school. It will be of considerable value to those interested in military material culture studies, such as military curators, militaria collectors, amateur historians, and re-enactment units, a client group whose needs are often neglected by the conventional military historian.

Like Stanley’s other military books, *Toil and Trouble* is written in a reader-friendly style and contains many useful illustrations of the participants, the terrain, and military activities. However, longer captions providing details of uniforms and similar data would have enhanced the value of the pictures. It is to be regretted that Wolseley did not take along a photographer in 1870, perhaps William Notman, whose studio portrait of Wolseley adorns the frontispiece.

The Red River Expedition is covered in the greatest depth, and covered with much personal detail providing a very fascinating story of the hardships and logistical problems of the campaign. Garnet Wolseley’s career is also treated in some depth, but, as in his autobiography, his inner character escapes the writer. This is hardly a criticism. Recklessly brave as a young officer and morally courageous throughout his career, Wolseley was a chillingly efficient administrator who was probably only capable of revealing his inner feelings to his much loved wife.

Toil and Trouble is extensively and efficiently footnoted. There are a large number of interesting explanatory paragraphs among the notes. The bibliography is long and wide-ranging. For example, no less than twenty-eight authors are listed under “accounts by participants,” including a surprisingly large number of soldiers, since the purely military importance of the Red River Expedition was minimal. Its real significance was that it provided a launching pad for Wolseley’s successful reforming career in the British Army, and enabled him, while in Canada, to observe the US Civil War first hand. The expedition itself more closely resembled a voyage of exploration than a military campaign.

The listings in the bibliography indicate extensive use of archival sources and personal accounts of all kinds. The latter in particular give the narrative a compelling human interest. Reading the bibliography, one is struck by the importance to the historian (and to the archivist) of the contributions of the individuals and historical societies who have published the private journals of ordinary men and women.

No review would be complete without the reviewer triumphantly finding a tiny error. This one is no exception. Prince Arthur, third son of Queen Victoria, served in the Rifle Brigade in Canada, not the Royal Engineers (p. 105), as his photo by Notman in 1870 shows. But this is a very minor blemish. *Toil and Trouble* presents a very readable and accurate account of military events. It will be of considerable use and value to the growing number of people interested in military history and military material culture.

David Ross
Canadian Parks Service