

archivists. As keepers of memory as well as active creators of it, archivists will find this important book very thought provoking.

**Tim Cook**

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**Warpaths: Travels of a Military Historian in North America.** JOHN KEEGAN. Toronto: Key Porter Books Limited, 1995, xiv, 370 p. ISBN 1-55013-621-6.

I approached this work with great apprehension, for as much as I admire the author I was not in the mood for a clinical approach to North America's military history or for discussions of musket balls expended vs. native casualties or the soil displacement of specific artillery shells. I found to my great amazement an engaging, entertaining, informative book on North American military history. Interspersed with his personal observations, rooted in childhood memories of American Western movies, American aircrews occupying Britain, and thirty years of travelling America's transportation corridors, Keegan's book takes the reader on a very personal guided tour of North America's military history. Using as a focus the system of fortifications in America, Keegan discusses Quebec, Yorktown, the Peninsula campaign of the Civil War, and, finally, the forts of the United States's western frontier. Each chapter contains a general discussion of his first encounter with the location, a description of his memories, a commentary on the culture and diversity of American society, past and present, and a general overview of the importance of the location and the events which have made the place famous.

The book is not a scholarly work. Keegan does not cite one source or bring forward one unique point or aspect of any historical record. For archivists, he makes no contribution to the practices or theory of information management. However, there are several interesting points for Canadians and for archivists contained in this work.

Of interest to Canadians, Keegan does make generous remarks about the differences between Canadians and our southern cousins. He finds "British" Canada to be "gentler in speech, in manners, in bureaucracy" when contrasted with the United States which is "tough country, where the individual must shift for himself." French Canada he acknowledges as "having a distinctive way of life which is felt to be under threat of extinction by pressure of preponderant and surrounding numbers." His admiration for the French history of discovery and exploration is very strong as he indicates that "the distances covered by those whose base rested at Quebec or Montreal ... were then unprecedented for journeys into unrecorded territory and were scarcely equalled later by the explorers of Australia or rainforest Africa."

For archivists and librarians, Keegan singles out the contributions of West Point cartographer Ed Kasnoborski for his publication *The West Point Atlas of American Wars*, the library at the United States Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the archivists at the United States Air Force Tactical School in Montgomery, Alabama. He does not acknowledge the contributions which archivists, librarians, and other information managers have made in our understanding of the past. One must imply such a sentiment when reading.

Although Keegan speaks glowingly of the US Park Service and their efforts at Yorktown, he does not mention the difficulties of preserving and accessing archival records. Again, as above, no comment is made of the fact that archival records support all such heritage endeavours.

As an archivist, I wish Keegan had taken a few lines to describe the archival record and its place within the context of historical writing, as well as the very real issues of conservation and access which are confronting modern historians and other users of archives. An opportunity to enlighten was missed.

I recommend the book, for no other reason than to discover more about John Keegan, historian and writer. His personal views and memories make his commentary on North American history, topography, culture, and spatial orientation more interesting and entertaining than many of the current histories written. But, ultimately, the greatest contribution is that Keegan allows us to gaze through a window and discover the inner thoughts of one of our generation's eminent historians.

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