

*Biographical Dictionary and History of Victorian Thunder Bay (1850-1901) Including Prince Arthur's Landing, Port Arthur, Fort William, Neebing, Nipigon, McIntyre, Oliver, Paipoonge, RosSPORT, Savanne, Schreiber, Shuniah, and Silver Islet* by Frederick Brent Scollie

David Ratz

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structures that marginalized some while privileging others in the late-nineteenth century, and the dangers that arise when rights over reproduction are denied and bodily autonomy is criminalized. Consequently, as access to abortion continues to be an impediment in parts of Canada, Radforth's book is a portent reminder of

how debates on and policies surrounding reproductive justice must be informed by the historical realities and experiences of women in the past.

Janet Miron, PhD  
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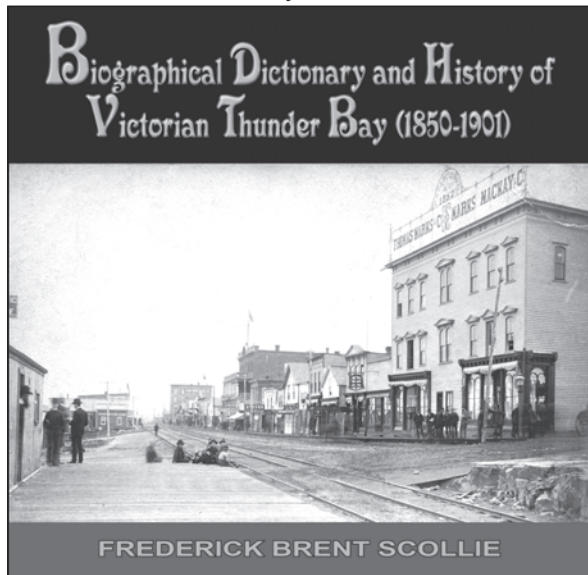
***Biographical Dictionary and History of Victorian Thunder Bay (1850-1901) Including Prince Arthur's Landing, Port Arthur, Fort William, Neebing, Nipigon, McIntyre, Oliver, Paipoonge, Rossport, Savanne, Schreiber, Shuniah, and Silver Islet***

By Frederick Brent Scollie

Thunder Bay, Ontario: Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society, 2020. 376 pages.  
\$30.00 softcover. ISBN 978-0-920119-88-4 ([www.thunderbaymuseum.com](http://www.thunderbaymuseum.com))

Northwestern Ontario, as described by noted historical geographers, W. Robert and Nancy M. Wightman, has been “an important geographical and historical fulcrum in Canada.” (10) Within the region, Thunder Bay is a relatively isolated metropolitan area, which nonetheless has played a part in many national political and economic events. The former cities of Fort William and Port Arthur started off as the inland headquarters and transshipment point for the North West Company during the fur trade and later became inland ports for the movement of grain, coal and freight. The area also played a role in other events of importance including the Red River Expedition of 1870-1871, the movement of the North West Field Force in 1885, the construction of two transcontinental railways, shipping on the Great Lakes, as well as the shaping of mining and northern development policies in Ontario. There was also the Neebing Ho-

tel corruption and patronage controversy, connected to land sales and the Canadian Pacific Railway, which played a part in the defeat of Alexander Mackenzie's Liberal government in 1878. Connections to these events and more can be found in the *Biographical Dictionary and History of Victorian Thunder Bay (1850-1901)*.



Brent Scollie has been a scholar focused for several decades on the history of the Lakehead and the surrounding region, contributing to our understanding of the history of the area through numerous articles and entries in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. The *Biographical Dictionary and History of Victorian Thunder Bay* complements his earlier biographical work on Thunder Bay mayors and councillors. There are some 849 biographical entries in the dictionary which are a representative sample of the individual Americans, Canadians, and Indigenous people, both resident and non-resident, who played in role in the history of Thunder Bay District from 1850-1901. As part of a pioneer society on the northwestern periphery of Ontario, the representatives of the region include notables, politicians, capitalists, promoters, government officials, and ordinary folk such as liverymen, grain trimmers, coal handlers, and women who left a mark in their own right or as wives connected to their husbands. Scollie's selection criteria was based on the individual's length of residence, prominence, and visibility in the historical record.

The biographies are preceded by a history of the district during the last half

of the nineteenth century, covering the political administrative changes, and economic developments associated with farm settlement, mining, forestry, fishing, the grain trade, and manufacturing. There are also sections detailing the social history of Thunder Bay and the surrounding townships and municipalities, with such topics as the Indigenous peoples, ethnic and religious communities, the professional class, education, sport and recreation, theatre and music, women, the local militia, as well as the judiciary and law enforcement among other topics. The history and biographies are well written, meticulously researched and documented with archival material and the latest secondary research on the region. The depth of the information reflects the authors familiarity and love of the history of Thunder Bay. As such, the *Biographical Dictionary and History of Victorian Thunder Bay* is a welcome addition to our understanding of the history of Northwestern Ontario and will be useful to both genealogists and those interested in the history of Northern Ontario.

David Ratz  
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### *Modest Hopes*

#### *Homes and Stories of Toronto's Workers from the 1820s to the 1920s*

By Don Loucks & Leslie Valpy

Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2021. 272 pages. \$29.99 softcover ISBN 9781459745544 (dundurn.com)

Don Loucks and Leslie Valpy have written a thoughtful and unique new book about the experience of Toronto's working class through the eyes of the buildings they lived in. The central thrust of the book revolves around the simple and humble housing inhabited by the workers

of Toronto between 1820 and 1920. Additionally, the book focuses on the architectural origins of those structures and the experience of the workers themselves.

*Modest Hopes* fills a needed gap within the historical literature of the city through addressing a topic largely undiscussed: