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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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Bloomfield, Elizabeth and Stelter, Gilbert A. *Guelph and Wellington County: A Bibliography of Settlement and Development since 1800*. Guelph, Ontario: University of Guelph, 1988. Pp. 329. \$22.50 (ppd.) paper.

This bibliography is the first published product of the Guelph Regional Project. Established in early 1987 under Chairman Gilbert Stelter and Project Manager Elizabeth Bloomfield (both at the University of Guelph), the project is to explore and analyse the evolution of a particular Ontario region, the Upper Grand Valley. Its principal task has been to establish a comprehensive databank of all primary and secondary material pertaining to Guelph and Wellington County. Records of published and secondary documents have been extracted from this databank to form the printed bibliography. A second research tool, also to be extracted from the databank, will constitute an inventory of primary and archival sources and is scheduled for publication in 1989.

A lengthy two-part introduction by Stelter and Bloomfield provides some background to the project's approach and methodology. Stelter first examines some of the issues relating to academic studies of regions (especially Guelph/Wellington). He then reviews the various sources that may be of use to those studying the history of this region. Bloomfield's part of the introduction is a detailed description of the methodology involved in establishing and manipulating a databank in regional history. This section not only serves as a cogent introduction to the format of the bibliography, but more important, provides some valuable information to researchers planning to emulate this type of approach.

The bibliography is organized in broad subject areas, covering social, demographic, economic, political, and administrative concerns. Material cited includes more than 1,700 monographs, periodicals, theses, and other items written or published inside and

outside Canada. All entries are sequentially numbered and generously annotated. Each annotation includes a "period" note (to indicate the approximate period covered), as well as a location code to any of eight institutions — museums, libraries, and archives situated in Guelph, Toronto, and London. Five indexes provide additional points of access: author, place, subject, personal subject, and corporate subject. It should be noted that cross-references are not included in these indexes: this might be a handicap to researchers not sufficiently acquainted with, for instance, various forms of personal names.

According to Dr Bloomfield, the bibliography is expected to "benefit not only teachers and students at secondary and post-secondary levels, but also local historians, genealogists, archivists, municipal and museum staff, and heritage groups." This approach is commendable: as well as serving the research interests of professional historians, it will also inspire more individuals from all age groups, backgrounds, and affiliations to pursue regional/urban history on their own or as part of an organized program of study.

The usefulness of the bibliography and the forthcoming inventory will be greatly enhanced if they can be made publicly available as an online database or on CD-ROM. (The project team is intending to offer at least one of these options soon.) The enormous popularity of CD-ROMs in public and university libraries suggests that the project's target audience (students, historians, archivists, etc.) would be extremely receptive to searching a CD version of the bibliography. What is particularly attractive about an online or ondisc product is, of course, its support of Boolean logic, a distinct advantage over printed indexes and bibliographies.

In the mean time the printed bibliography will be an asset both to individuals researching

Ontario's regional history and to institutions supporting studies in this area.

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One Woman's Charlottetown features three of the more than thirty diaries written by Margaret Gray Lord (1845-1941), a member of one of Charlottetown's most prominent families, during the latter half of the 19th century. MacLeod's selections reflect an appreciation of the utility of a life-cycle approach to the study of women's experience of the past. Through Margaret Gray Lord's diaries we glimpse three significant stages of an upper-class woman's life in a late Victorian British North American city. The first, written in 1863 when Lord was a young, unattached woman of 18, is also the earliest diary of the larger collection held by the Prince Edward Island Heritage Foundation. The remaining two, dating from 1876 and 1890, record her life as a busy young wife and mother at the age of 31 and as a mature woman of 45 who, once relieved of child-rearing responsibilities, gradually expanded her role outside the domestic sphere.

MacLeod's title is well chosen. Lord's diaries provide us not only with rare snapshots of one upper-class woman's course through life from young womanhood to middle-age but also with a compelling portrait of the development of her urban environment and of the political and social ruling class of which she was a member. The cultural ramifications of urbanization are apparent in the expansion of Lord's social activities; by

1890 the church activities and family visits of the 1860s could be supplemented by concerts, lectures, and exhibits. Similarly, Lord's diaries reflect the effect of transportation developments on the Island. Although, as the daughter of a military officer, Lord was accustomed to travel (she was born in South Africa), the coming of the railway to PEI in the 1870s and steamer transportation on and off the Island in the 1890s greatly increased the mobility of many Island residents. MacLeod's choice of maps and photographs, which, like the diaries, highlight three stages of Charlottetown's development, chronicle visually the changing urban context of Margaret Gray Lord's own changing personal circumstances.

As a daughter of Colonel John Gray, one of Charlottetown's most prominent military and political personalities as well as a "Father of Confederation," she was also well situated to observe the evolution of Island society. Her marriage in 1869 to Artemus Lord, a shipping merchant and later the Island's federal agent of marine and fisheries, secured her place in the social hierarchy of Charlottetown. MacLeod's annotations unravel the many obscure references to local personalities and political events, and it is through her editorial diligence that the changing shape of Charlottetown's elite society emerges from her diaries. It is with an awareness of this privileged vantage point that we must view her own domestic experience, as well as her portrayal of the city itself.

Although, as MacLeod observes, the diaries reveal little of Lord's own personality, they richly detail her domestic activities and her participation in a variety of church and community organizations, such as the King's Daughters, the WCTU, and the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Kirk of St James. In this way the historical importance of these diaries transcends the personal circumstances of their author. As Pat Jalland has observed for Britain, in *Women, Marriage and Politics 1860-1914*, upper-class women, who like Lord were often energetic diarists

and letter writers, constituted an unusually articulate female minority. Upper-class women's written legacy provides an unparalleled tool with which to reconstitute their family and public lives. The family-centred world of social rounds, servant-mistress relations, wifehood and motherhood, and the ever-present fear of infant mortality revealed in the pages of *One Woman's Charlottetown* contrasts markedly with historians' often exclusive preoccupation with the public careers of the male political and commercial elite.

In conclusion, MacLeod's presentation of Margaret Gray Lord's diaries is useful as a source both for the urban historian interested in 19th-century Charlottetown and for the historian of gender interested in the role of women in the city's elite society.

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Dear, M. J., Drake, J. J. and Reeds, L. G., eds. *Steel City: Hamilton and Region*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987. Pp. 308. 91 black and white diagrams and photographs. \$35.00 cloth, \$15.95 paper.

This broad-ranging book, from geographers formerly or currently associated with McMaster University, is a commemorative volume published to celebrate both McMaster's centennial and the Geography Department's 40th anniversary. Its 16 essays and 19 participants focus on "growth and change in both the physical and human landscapes of Hamilton." The approach is selective rather than comprehensive, but the whole provides a useful appreciation of Hamilton and its nearby region through a series of independent essays.

There is overlap and repetition, as when the city of 1891 is covered twice, and when its soils are discussed both in physical terms

and under farming. Omitted themes include Hamilton within the regional context of the "Golden Horseshoe," its relationships with Toronto, and the nature of the smaller communities absorbed by Hamilton's expansion. Also, no attempt has been made to define the extent of the Hamilton region: the physical geographers present their arguments within the context of southern Ontario whereas the human geographers restrict themselves to either the city or the Hamilton-Wentworth region. However, these are minor irritants. The book provides a series of competent essays that examine a range of selected themes with a common focus on the Hamilton area.

Part I, on the natural environment, contains five essays: "Landform" by S. B. McCann, "Climate" by W. R. Rouse and A. F. Burghardt, "Soils" by B. T. Bunting, "Forests" by G. M. MacDonald, and "Hydrology of Beverly Swamp" by Ming-Ko Woo. The more interesting points made in these assessments include the progressive infilling of Hamilton harbour, the impact of land and lake breezes, the seeping of pollution from a landfill site, the impact of sod farming on moisture storage, and the increasing acidity of some 8,000 hectares of idle land awaiting development, about which the author notes: "Any future user of such land, be it a private or commercial concern, is faced with fertilizer, insecticide, and pesticide use of a vast scale."

The four essays in Part II examine the built environment. R. L. Gentilcore takes us from the formative survey lines of the town site through forceful advocacy to become the centre of the newly created District of Gore, and then to creating a port by cutting through the Burlington bar. The written account focuses on 1820, 1842, and 1893, but the accompanying maps are unreadable as part of the text. H. A. Wood carries the story to 1950, with consistent and clear maps of urban form at 1891, 1914, 1938, and 1950. Together, these two chapters provide a clear and succinct account of the changing