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Reviews, Critiques, and Annotations

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Reviews, Critiques, and Annotations

A Guide to Civil War Maps in the National Archives. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1986. Pp. xv, 139. Illustrations, index. \$30.

A Guide to Civil War Maps in the National Archives, published in 1986, is not a reissue of the 1964 edition published as a part of the Civil War Centennial. In the preface, the editors state that there are three significant changes in this edition: Maps from the War Department Collection of Confederate Records (Record Group 109) are included, file numbers for individual maps are inserted for those from the Office of the Chief Engineers (Record Group 77) to facilitate reference retrieval, and more illustrations are used to show the type and variety of maps available.

The volume is divided into two parts, with the first part being a general index to records in the government hierarchy. A total of eight thousand Civil War maps are contained within the records of Congress, Department of the Treasury, Department of War, Department of Navy, Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, the War Department Collection of Confederate Records, and the gift collection which comprises private papers "appropriate for preservation by the Government as evidence of its organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, and transactions." These private records are those of William Henry Paine, a captain and topographical engineer for the

Maps in this section are described by series, including titles, dates, numbers of items, and descriptive annotations. A description of each record group as to its organization and function during the Civil War precedes the series description within the record group.

The second part of the volume contains detailed descriptions of 267 maps deemed to be of exceptional interest. Five criteria were considered for selection purposes, and those maps chosen represent major geographical areas in the Civil War, possess intrinsic historic value, contain the highest concentration of information, are easier to read than maps covering the same area, and are of artistic value. These sections are arranged by United States and then by individual state. Descriptions for each map usually include the map title in bold face print; the name of the surveyor, compiler, draftsman, or producing agency; date; scale, dimensions to the nearest inch; a brief description of the map; and the appropriate record group and file designations. Information supplied by archivists is in brackets.

The thirty-three illustrations of maps are useful and visually depict the variety of maps, including watercolor views, manuscript maps, published maps with annotations, sketches, and "birds-eye views."

A detailed index to proper names, places, and battles complements the text. A random check of the text against the index verifies its completeness.

The *Guide* is a useful addition to any research collection of Civil War or cartographic materials. Archivists and researchers will find the volume helpful in documenting place and action for Civil War research as well as an excellent source for appropriate illustrative materials.

Anthony R. Dees

Georgia Department of Archives and History

Our Family, Our Town: Essays on Family and Local History Sources in the National Archives. Compiled by Timothy Walch. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1987. Pp. xvi, 223. Illustrations, bibliographies, index. \$30.

This is an attractive collection of essays previously printed in the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) popularly oriented quarterly journal *Prologue*. Since 1980 this magazine has regularly included essays on "Sources in the National Archives for Genealogical and Local History Research." The compiler has grouped these essays into seven well-illustrated and somewhat contrived sections (general overview, citizen soldiers, citizenship, the frontier, tax and census enumeration, immigration and case files) and written a short introduction for each section. Historian Thomas J. Schlereth provides a general introduction to the volume which argues that the monumentality of the archives, both as institution and building, prevents America from seeing it as a place where its families and towns can also be found. While the archives is national, it also is next door.

The strength of these essays is their useful description of particular record series. Anyone familiar with NARA's preliminary inventories will appreciate the much more "user friendly" discussion of arrangement, content, and limitations of these records written by users or custodians who have consulted them on a regular basis over the years. Keith R. Schlesinger's article on ways to find names in urban census records, for instance, should be read by every custodian of census population schedules, including those having "accelerated" or "Soundex" indexes. Constance B. Schulz on Revolutionary War Pension Applications, Cynthia Fox on Civil War Income Tax records, Frank H. Serene on Ship Passenger Lists, and Sarah Larson on War of 1812 papers and Southern Claims Commission records provide helpful analyses of particular series, especially of the process of records creation as defined by law and administrative practice.

Equally significant, although perhaps of less interest to the archivist, are the several case studies that grow out of the new social history. In these generally academic essays (John P. Resch on Revolutionary War pensioners in Peterborough, New Hampshire; Jane F. Smith on land use patterns in Iowa County, Wisconsin; and Sarah Larson on the census and local history in Virginia City, Nevada), readers learn how particular record groups can help the scholar piece together the social fabric of a community.

Less successful are the essays seeking to provide an overview of available NARA sources on genealogy (James D. Walker) and state and local history (Richard S. Maxwell on civil and Elaine C. Everyly on military records). These read like laundry lists of NARA record groups. Other essays deal with records that would only be of value for narrow research questions (Ira Dye on Seamen's Protection Certificates, James W. Oberly on Mexican War bounty claims, Barry A. Crouch and Larry Madaras on Texas Freedmen's Bureau records, Cynthia G. Fox on Eastern Cherokee claims, Thomas E. Wiltsey on New Mexico Territory court records, and Leonard Rapport on Interstate Commerce Commission case files).

The central problem with this collection is its lack of focus as to content and intended audience. Some articles have footnotes and take an academic approach; others are more journalistic with eye-catching illustrations. The chief audience ranges from the genealogist and the local historian to the academic historian and the archivist, but it is doubtful that there is enough here to appeal to any one of these groups. This is frankly due to magazine-column source of the essays. As a consequence, there is little reason for anyone to acquire this volume, especially if *Prologue* is already on the shelves.

Ben Primer

Maryland State Archives

The Personal Papers of Supreme Court Justices: A Descriptive Guide. By Alexandra K. Wigdor. New York: Garland, 1986. Pp. xiii, 226. \$32.

Echoes of the Watergate controversy still reverberate in the scholarship surrounding the ownership of the papers of federal officials. While public attention has focused upon the ownership of the papers of the executive branch, particularly those of Richard Nixon, there always has been a reasonable amount of interest displayed towards the papers of congressmen. The judiciary has received less attention from archivists. This slim volume summarizes the current status of papers of the justices of the United States Supreme Court. It complements the guides to the papers of United States senators and representatives.

The information contained in this volume is in large part the outcome of the activities of the National Study Commission on Records and Documents of Federal Officials (Public Documents Commission). After a short introduction, the work is divided into three parts of unequal length: a short essay regarding past practice and current attitudes towards the preservation of the papers of the justices of the Supreme Court, a short analytical description of the characteristics of the collections of Supreme Court justices, and a detailed guide to the location of papers of members of the Court. Survey work done as part of the original activities of the commission has been supplemented by information provided by the Library of Congress and Professor Paul A. Freund.

This publication permits greater accessibility to information about the location and availability of Supreme Court justices' papers. Organized alphabetically by the name of the justice, it is an excellent guide. Like the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections*, this work has the strength of a national effort to identify manuscript collections. In addition, it also covers justices for whom no, or only

fragmentary, collections of material exist. A unique feature is the judicious use of commentary by informed scholars concerning the historical value of some collections of papers in relation to their documentation of the activities of the Supreme Court. In a number of instances, these commentaries provide particular insight regarding the research value of the collection.

The section on the description of collection characteristics provides both useful information and distressing documentation of the tremendous losses of the justices' papers. With one exception, there are no significant collections from the Court's formative years under the direction of Chief Justice John Marshall from 1801 to 1835. An equally dismaying discovery is that for over half of the justices of the Supreme Court (fifty-one of ninety-two), there are either no papers or only collections of less than one thousand items. It is possible to speculate about how history would be written if the executive and legislative branches had suffered comparable losses.

The examination of collection contents includes not only the collection's size, but also the amount of correspondence and working papers related to the Court. This is particularly helpful as a ready reference for researchers who might be misled by size alone. For example, the guide states that there are over a hundred shelf feet of James F. Byrnes papers in existence, but the content analysis indicates that there is only a small amount of working papers and correspondence related to his short tenure on the Court (1941 to 1942).

This work's first section, "Past Practice and Current Attitudes Towards the Preservation of Judicial Collections," provides an historical overview of how justices' papers came to be preserved. It focuses primarily upon the influence of Chief Justice John Marshall who strove for secrecy and unanimity with regard to the Court's decisions. He had a tremendously negative influence upon the preservation of the

Court's documentary record. The raising of this dead hand is briefly discussed. The inclusion of more examples similar to how Justice Frankfurter saved the papers of Justice Brandeis would have provided a better concept of how the justices' papers eventually began to be preserved during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Overall this is an excellent guide to the papers of the justices of the Supreme Court, although it does suffer from a number of annoying weaknesses: there is no index, no listing of repositories with papers, and no discussion of other primary sources documenting the Supreme Court, which would have been a great help to researchers. Some mention of the recommendations of the Public Documents Commission concerning the judicial branch would have placed this work in context with its original purpose. Nevertheless, this guide does serve its major purpose of identifying the location and composition of the justices' papers. As such, it will be a welcome addition in the reference section of any research or law library.

Michael Kohl

Clemson University Libraries

Soldiers and Civilians: The U. S. Army and the American People. Edited by Garry D. Ryan and Timothy K. Nenner. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1987. Pp. xi, 210. Bibliographies, index, and illustrations. \$25.

In recent years, scholars have begun to look beyond the standard concepts of military history to explore the historical and sociological role of the military presence in American life. Ever mindful of the vast array of military and related

records in the National Archives, that agency brought together historians, army officers, archivists, and other government officials for a scholarly conference to discuss the interrelationship between the United States Army and the American people during the past 150 years. The presentations from this conference have been published as *Soldiers and Civilians: The U. S. Army and the American People*.

The volume, which was edited by Garry D. Ryan and Timothy K. Nenninger, compresses the essays or commentaries of seventeen program participants into 210 pages of text, notes, illustrations, and an index. General Andrew J. Goodpaster set the tone for the volume with an introductory essay that effectively analyzes the interaction between American society and the development of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. Goodpaster contends that the armed forces are supported, accepted, and respected in accordance with the degree to which the nation sees the military as an inherent societal component. The nation's view primarily is molded "by the extent to which it perceives that the military institution mirrors the larger society." The remaining essays are grouped into four topical sections that are concerned with the roots of American military policy, the social world of the "people of the Army," the impact of the army on local communities, and the army as an agent of social change and as an instrument of social control.

On balance the authors have presented stimulating, well-documented, and highly commendable studies on a variety of topics, reflecting the crucial interaction of the army with the civilian populace. Essays by Jerry M. Cooper on the use of the army as a strikebreaking tool in late nineteenth century labor disputes in Idaho and by Joan M. Jensen on the army's involvement in domestic surveillance on college campuses are particularly provocative, as is Jack C. Lane's reexamination of early American attitudes toward the military.

The greatest frustration for the reader and certainly the most noticeable weakness of the volume is the brevity of many of the articles. The section on the "People of the Army" contains six papers that vary in length from three to ten pages, including notes and illustrations. To attempt to place the composite of the American soldier, the noncommissioned officer, or the army family into any type of perspective in only three pages of text must have been highly vexing to the authors. Were it not for the promise that the topics still hold for future historical and sociological study, the reader would come away disappointed by these brief introductions that raise complex issues but lack the depth to satisfy even a modest curiosity. This volume can be recommended not only for the scholarly, readable, and well-executed articles that it contains but also for the possible avenues for future study and research on army history that are suggested by some of the briefer commentaries.

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Keeping Archives. Edited by Ann Pederson. Sydney: Australian Society of Archivists, 1987. Pp. vii, 374. Illustrations, bibliographies, index. Paper. Available from the Society of American Archivists; \$27 members, \$29 nonmembers.

This collaborative publication by members of the Australian Society of Archivists has been written, the editors state, "as an introductory manual for those who are interested in or have been given responsibility for the keeping of archives." The choice of the word "or" is crucial,

but the Australian archivists succeed well in meeting the needs of persons who need to learn "on the job" as well as university students preparing to enter the profession. This is true even for archivists in North America, where it is serving as the basic text for introductory archives courses.

With two introductory chapters--on the profession and on getting organized--plus chapters on acquisition and appraisal, accessioning, arrangement and description, finding aids, access and reference services, conservation, using computers and micrographics, documentation programs, and user education and public relations, along with a glossary, the book is comprehensive in its scope. The first two chapters are particularly noteworthy. The first places the profession in the context archivists share with librarians and museum curators, noting differences and similarities. The second brings home directly the point that archival work involves administrative procedures, from policy statements to hiring workers to space planning. The chapters on acquisition and appraisal and on arrangement and description place a high priority on the writing of administrative (or agency) histories or the equivalent biographical sketch for individuals. The chapter on conservation emphasizes strongly the point that this aspect of archival work covers the entire gamut of archival work. The chapter on documentation, one of two written by editor Pederson, explains this archival interest well even as archivists in this country are stretching the concept further than the essentially localized biases seen in the book.

There are, however, some problems of unevenness in the book. The chapter on micrographics, for example, could well have distinguished the differences between the cine and comic modes for filming rather than merely mentioning them. And the case scenarios employed so well in some of the early chapters might also have been used in others such as the chapter on public programs.

In technical terms, the book has several useful features. The pages are laid out so important points or lists are highlighted with dots at the left margin. And the book has a plethora of well-conceived tables and charts, many done very effectively. See, for example, the table with components for a descriptive inventory (p. 161), the chart with components for a brochure (p. 211), and the table with basic yet simple ideas for exhibits (p. 321). The type style chosen, however, does not lend itself well to a good quality photocopy. The book also does not indicate whether the paper is acid neutral. The fact that the book uses a British Commonwealth spelling style (e.g., artefact, programme) should not present a problem to readers this side of the Pacific.

This publication is of special interest for Society of Georgia Archivists members since the editor-in-chief is Ann Pederson, formerly of Georgia. *Keeping Archives* compares favorably with Ken Duckett's *Modern Manuscripts*, a very readable book, and *A Modern Archives Reader*, edited by Maygene Daniels and Tim Walch. It should do well as the text for introductory graduate level archival courses. Practicing archivists need to examine the book, particularly the first two chapters, for parts that can be useful on those occasions when archivists have to provide a quick study on what an archives is and what archivists do.

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