

the context of an argument for an individual's irresponsibility before the law. A whole new path of research seems to open up when we find out how much tension there was between the judicial authorities in charge of these cases and the "star" teams of medical and psychiatrist experts called to the courts for technical advice. In the end, the marriage between law and medicine was just as intense and troubled as many of the cases of crime and passion recalled for us in this fine book.

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RUTHERDALE, Robert — *Hometown Horizons: Local Responses to Canada's Great War*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2004. Pp. xxiv, 331.

One of the hallmarks of Canada's "Colony to Nation" narrative is the belief that the First World War marked a turning point in the country's national development. The Canadian Corps' battlefield success, we are told, prompted the soldiers atop Vimy Ridge to jettison their British identity in favour of a Canadian one. At the same time, the Canadian government shed its own colonial attitude and demanded greater independence. The result was a Canadian signature on the Treaty of Versailles and full autonomy under the *Statute of Westminster*. Yet, however accurate or desirable an explanation, it remains at its core a national interpretation of the Canadian war experience.

The problem with this nationalist framework, argues Robert Rutherford, is that for most Canadians the Great War was primarily a local event. Drawing upon evidence from Lethbridge (Alberta), Guelph (Ontario), and Trois-Rivières (Quebec), Rutherford portrays the home front as a convergence of imperial, national, and local interests, but dominated and shaped by the latter. Troops enlisted and often trained locally and began their journey to the front lines from local train stations. Local newspapers transmitted news of the war that recast distant events through familiar reference points. Recruitment drives, charitable organizations, and fundraising efforts all relied upon local networks to achieve their goals and further the national war effort. Commemoration and remembrance was also local as communities erected memorials and inscribed them with the names of local boys who did not return from the war and struggled to accommodate those who did.

Unlike Ian Miller's study of wartime Toronto, Rutherford does not view the war as a unifying force. *Hometown Horizons* instead offers a dizzying array of competing interests, hierarchies, and in many cases, the reinforcement of social and cultural boundaries. In the case of Trois-Rivières, the rituals and imagery associated with recruitment failed to attract significant numbers of French Canadians and only served to highlight cultural and ethnic differences. In Lethbridge and Guelph, middle-class interests controlled and directed charitable relief to maintain the existing social structure. Across the country, enemy aliens struggled to prove their loyalty to Canada in the face of public suspicion and exaggerated reports of sabotage and invasion. Con-

scription proved especially divisive, although often for localized reasons. A prominent editor in Trois-Rivières expressed dismay at the government's casual violation of minority rights, while Lethbridge farmers and workers opposed the loss of their labour force and proposed an alternative conscription of wealth to ensure that the affluent contributed as well. Tensions in Guelph centred on the expansion of state control, the fairness of the legislation, and the exemptions granted to students at a nearby Jesuit seminary. On gender issues, Rutherforddale concedes that roles and practices shifted, but suggests that for women, at least, wartime activities "may have acted to strengthen rather than relax perceptions of sexual difference" (p. 214). Even remembrance was initially unfocused, with civilians unsure of how to greet and properly honour returning soldiers, and this perhaps explains why Lethbridge's war memorial was not completed until 1931. Only gradually did an idealized rendering of the war as a noble sacrifice by soldiers and civilians begin to emerge.

Regarding sources, *Hometown Horizons* relies heavily — but not exclusively — upon contemporary newspaper accounts. Newspapers are among the most complete and valuable bodies of evidence for the period and are in many ways ideal for charting the dynamic and shifting local perceptions of the war. However, editorial opinion does not always reflect public opinion even among its target constituency, much less marginalized groups. Although Rutherforddale acknowledges the hazards of using newspaper sources, his attempts to probe their deeper configurations and hidden meanings are not always convincing.

Moreover, *Hometown Horizons* is not a truly comparative work. For example, Lethbridge and Guelph receive more attention than Trois-Rivières, particularly in the second half of the book. This is partially the result of circumstance; for instance, Trois-Rivières was not a site of an enemy alien internment camp, while Lethbridge was. Still, it would be interesting to know whether Trois-Rivières or Guelph experienced the same debate over what form its war memorial should take, along with a host of other issues.

Rutherforddale makes a number of intriguing points, and *Hometown Horizons* offers a compelling glimpse into how the inhabitants of these three cities utilized local sites, settings, and experiences to understand or imagine the Great War. Indeed this local emphasis is the book's most important contribution to the historiography of the Canadian home front during the First World War. It does not completely invalidate the nationalist position, but it does indicate the need for some much-needed revision.

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SHEPHARD, David A. E. — *Island Doctor: John Mackieson and Medicine in Nineteenth-Century Prince Edward Island*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2003. Pp. xxviii, 188 pp.

Island Doctor explores the life of John MacKieson, a Scottish-born doctor who practised medicine from 1821 to his death in 1885. Although this general practitio-