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## Main content

Article Preview :

Joyce McCart, On the Road with Captain Palliser, 1857-1860. Victoria: First Choice Books, 2011, 277 pages ISBN 978-1-77084-133-8, \$18.95 (paperback)

In this book, Joyce McCart sets out two major objectives. First, she wants to provide the growing cadre of "historical tourists" with a guide to the ground covered by the British North American Exploring Expedition, better known as the Palliser Expedition. Second, she seeks to provide a short version of the narrative story of the expedition, which is accessible to the general reader. She achieves these limited objectives with panache.

For the "arm-chair geographers" and travellers among us who want to add a historical dimension to our journeys, the book provides twelve clearly drawn maps covering each section of the expedition. These maps are based on contemporary road maps and show both selected modern settlements and historic forts. They also indicate the drainage pattern of rivers and lakes, and the general locations of mountains and hills. At the outset, I was surprised that the route taken by the expedition was not marked, but I was not far into the account before I realized that this would have been impossible. There were simply too many sub-groups exploring in different directions and taking different trails. However, by reading the text and referring to the map which accompanies it, one can picture the general path taken, and place the graphic descriptions of the land, which are often...

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The British North American Exploring Expedition, commonly called the Palliser expedition, explored and surveyed the open prairies and rugged wilderness of western Canada from 1857 to 1860. The expedition was led by John Palliser, and accompanied by a party of four

other men: James Hector, Eugène Bourgeau, Thomas Blakiston and John W. Sullivan. With the support of the British government and the Royal Geographical Society it became an official expedition that provided research and information on the Journal of a voyage on the Bahr-Abiad or White Nile, with some general notes on that river, and some remarks on the District of Atbara, made in a tour from Hartoum. Translated and partially abridged from a report addressed by M. Adolphe Linant to W. M. Leake, Esq., Secretary of the Association for promoting the discovery of the interior parts of Africa. Warekauri or Chatham Islands to illustrate Dr. Dieffenbach's paper, 1841 (2.1MB). An account of the Chatham Islands. Communicated by Dr. Ernest Dieffenbach, M.D., Naturalist to the New Zealand company, a printed with its concurrence. Volume 12, 1842. Frobisher Strait, from the journals of his voyage, Commander A.B. Becher R.N.; Northumberland Inlet, Captain Warham of the Whaler Lord Gambier, 1841 (2.1MB). SIDELIGHTS: Joyce McCart told CA: "I was born in Montreal and raised in North Vancouver. My husband Peter was born and raised in Vancouver. We were married while he was still a sophomore at the University of Oregon, and over the next fifteen years we moved from Oregon to Wisconsin to northern British Columbia to Vancouver, working at any jobs we could find to keep us (and our two children) in school. "By 1973 we were living on the prairies, where we incorporated a biological consulting firm to assess the effects of industrial development on fish populations. Peter was the scientist and I was secretary, bookkeeper, librarian, and general factotum. With the semi-mutinuous help of two teenagers, we raised horses and sheep and a few chickens. Joyce Victoria McCart, beloved wife of Peter, died October 7, 2015 at the Red Deer Hospice, her family at her bedside. She was seventy-nine years of age and in her sixtieth year of marriage. In the late nineties, while semi-retired, Joyce wrote and had published two books -On the Road with David Thompson and On the Road with Captain Palliser - as guides to the history and whereabouts of these early explorers of Western Canada. Joyce is survived by her loving husband, Peter, daughter Susan Joyce, son Peter David, brothers Alan (Jane) and Bruce Cassidy, mother-in-law Dorothy McCart, daughter-in-law Mary Ann and numerous nieces and nephews.