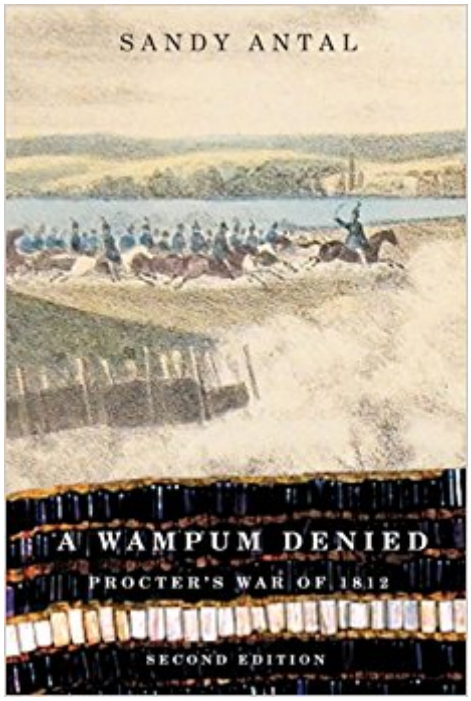
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A Wampum Denied: Procter's War Of 1812, Second Edition (Carleton Library Series)



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Synopsis

A Wampum Denied reassesses the much-maligned career of Henry Procter, commander of the British forces, traces the Canadian/British/Native side of the conflict (amid a literature dominated by the American view), and casts new light on an allied military strategy that very nearly succeeded, but when it failed, failed spectacularly.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A Wampum Denied is a tour de force ... a mature piece of work, well-grounded in primary sources and a significant contribution to the field. This is the best work, by far, that I’ve read on the Northwest campaign in many years." Dr. Larry Nelson, director, Fort Meigs State Memorial, Ohio"In A Wampum Denied, retired Canadian army officer Sandy Antal seeks to rehabilitate Procter’s reputation. His case is compelling. He shows that although Procter was badly served by his superiors in the east ... he did a good job of managing his troops an“AntalÃ¢â ¬â„¢s work is a detailed account of the struggles to preserve what was then the Canadian west, southwest Ontario, and the border with Michigan. Colonists were few and the transportation network limited.Ã¢â ¬Â• British Journal of Canadian Studies

Sandy Antal, co-author of Duty Nobly Done, became a teacher after retiring from twenty years as a major in the Canadian Forces. He now lives in Cameron, Ontario.

An excellent book for those looking to learn more about the War of 1812 as it pertains to the Great Lakes Region. This book focuses extensively on the British efforts in the region. The author's main thesis is that British officer Henry Procter has been unfairly criticized for his conduct of operations in this theater of war. Instead, given the limited supplies, logisitical problems, lack of support from his superiors, and the importance of the alliance with Native Americans in the region limited the choices available to Procter. In fact, Procter's decision to employ an offensive -defensive practice was logical considering the options available to him. Particularly interesting from the American perspective is Antal's portrayal of William Henry Harrison's efforts as sluggish and largely inneffective. This contrasts with other historians who view Harrison's efforts of combined operations on Lake Erie as one of the few examples of a succesful venture between two branches of the U.S. military.

Sandy Antal's book is a superb revisionist study of Major General Henry Procter's defense of Upper Canada during the War of 1812. Unlike most historians, Antal presents Henry Procter as having been a resourceful, intelligent, and daring military leader who provided an excellent defense of Canada despite overwhelming disadvantages. Antal also provides ample evidence that Procter based his military activities on a strategic plan of creating a Native American buffer state to preserve British interests in the North American West.Antal's writing style makes for a smooth and entertaining read. The book is also interesting because it is not a biography of Procter or a traditional campaign history book. Instead, Antal writes about the war by examining the perspectives of all the different types of participants; soldiers, Native Americans, politicians, and local citizens. Antal also explains the socio-economic and ethnic environment in which the war took place. Major General Procter is always at the center of discussion, but Antal's approach provides a broad understanding of Procter's circumstances during the war.The real strength of Antal's argument involves the use of compelling primary source evidence. The letters written by Issac Brock, for example, indicate that Procter ought be credited for preparing the Canadian conquest of the Michigan Territory. The evidence portrays Procter as an extremely credible soldier who was neglected by his superiors during the war. Antal's evidence also provides a compelling argument that Procter fully supported the Native American cause. Antal even provides evidence that Procter admired Tecumseh of the Shawnees. This idea is completely new among scholars and historical fiction writers.Scholars and avocational readers who are primarily interested in Native American history, however, may be disappointed with Antal's approach. Unlike most books written in the last ten years on the subject, Antal's book does not glorify Tecumseh or his cause. Instead, Antal

considers the issues of other Native American leaders on an equal level with Tecumseh. Consequently, readers learn about Tecumseh’s influential limitations from both Procter’s perspective and that of other tribal leaders such as the Wyandotte chief Walk in the Water.The end result is a world in which Henry Procter constantly struggles to fight despite having unreliable Native American and militia support for his small, sick, and starving army. Antal’s telling of the story makes every one of Procter’s successes seem like a spectacular and miraculous victory. Procter’s failure appears to have been nothing short of inevitable. This book ought to read by all those interested in the War of 1812 and the Old Northwest.

I am absolutely delighted with Mr. Antal’s book "A Wampum Denied." This book attracts the many interests embodied within me: The "historian" with a desire to research and learn about events of the past. The "war enthusiast" with a lust for battle, tactics, and strategy. The "reader enthusiast" who rejoices as a well-written narrative comes to life before his eyes. The "student of management" who analyzes the leadership styles and skills of historical leaders to translate into effective leadership for today.Mr. Antal presents the events surrounding Colonel Henry Proctor in a thorough, thoughtful, and objective manner. As I read "A Wampum Denied", I was able to understand the many psychological, logistical, and personality challenges that became significantly influential in both the failures and the successes of Colonel Proctor as he coordinated his military leadership between elements of the British Right Division, the Canadian Militia, and the Indian confederacy. I gained tremendous insight into the "unseen battles" faced by Colonel Proctor, such as cultural concerns of the Canadian citizens and the French Canadien settlers in Michigan; increasing logistical and strategic pressures from the Native Americans under his charge; and especially the political and strategic dichotomy between Colonel Proctor and his superior officers (with the exception of Major General Isaac Brock).As a researcher, I truly appreciate the thoroughness of Mr. Antal’s own research for his book "A Wampum Denied" and the detailed bibliography and notes found within. In my opinion, Mr. Antal was able to take the findings of his extremely comprehensive and exhaustive research and present his information in a delightful narrative that flows smoothly from beginning to end in rich detail. (The illustrations are exceptional!)Mr. Antal’s book "A Wampum Denied" increased my understanding and awareness of the important events that helped to shape the future of the Detroit frontier and has become a permanent addition within my library.I highly recommend "A Wampum Denied: Proctor’s War of 1812", by Mr. Sandy Antal, for anyone who enjoys reading an exciting story for enrichment, entertainment, or both. You will not be disappointed in the added value you will receive.

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