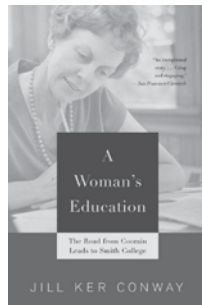


Jill Ker Conway (1934-2018)

Former University of Toronto professor and Vice-President of Internal Affairs, Jill Ker Conway, died on 1 June 2018 in Boston. Born in outback New South Wales, Australia, she later attended the University of Sydney and made a decisive break with her homeland after being turned down for a position in the Department of External Affairs by an all-male committee. Subsequently, she moved to the United States to pursue a doctorate in American history at Harvard. (See volume one of her memoirs, *The Road from Coorain*, Knopf, 1989). Her research focused on American women social reformers triggering her life-long fascination with biography and autobiography. There she met Canadian professor John Conway for whom she was a teaching assistant; they married in 1962. In 1964 she was hired by the University of Toronto to teach history while her husband was recruited to become master of Founder's College at the brand new campus of York University. As she recounts in volume two of her memoirs, *True North* (Knopf, 1994), she encountered "a more rigid adherence to Oxbridge models and, beneath the genuine courtesy of Canadian manners, a distrust of anyone who taught American history..." (122). As one of the few women in the Department at the time she remembered that her interest in women's history was not thought to be an important area. All that would change with her collaboration with the early modern historian, Natalie Zemon Davis, with whom she developed a close professional relationship and a friendship. The two would initiate one of the first women's history courses in Canada, "Topics in the History of Women from the 15th to the 20th Centuries" based largely on original sources produced by women. I still have a copy of the original syllabus from 1971-72. In its first year, the course unexpectedly attracted several hundred students and some faculty members from various programs at the University of Toronto. Like courses in labour and working-class history, social history, immigration history and African-American history, women's history signaled a turning point in the history curriculum and the expansion of research interests away from more traditional preoccupations.

Conway's interest in women's history was inspired by intellectual curiosity but also by her growing awareness of the differential treatment of women faculty who earned lower salaries and were promoted more slowly, a situation she worked to change. She and Natalie Davis intervened in the occupation of a building on the University of Toronto campus by students and employees as part of a campaign to pressure the university to provide day-care thus helping women students and employees. As the first woman president of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts from 1975 to 1985 she also made changes beneficial for women faculty and students, spearheading changes in academic



programs such as women's studies, literature and engineering. She initiated a number of programs—the Smith Executive Education program, the Project on Women and Social Change and the Ada Comstock Scholars Program, an innovative program for women beyond the usual age for college education. (See her third volume of memoirs, *A Woman's Education*, Knopf, 2001). As a scholar she wrote or edited a dozen books and received over three dozen honorary degrees, the Order of Australia and the National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama. After she left the presidency of Smith she wrote her three-volume memoir, advocated for environmental issues as a visiting professor at MIT, served on important educational, corporate and non-profit boards, and worked to alleviate homelessness especially among veterans, a cause shared with her husband who died in 1995. Jill Ker Conway led a full and purposeful life dedicated to many important issues but specially to supporting women's education and the liberal arts, and preserving, teaching and researching women's history. As I wrote in "Scholarship and Activism" for the *Canadian Historical Review* (March 2014), Conway was one of the most important people to encourage my return to school and eventual PhD in History. As she noted in her 2014 presentation to the Berkshire Women's History conference held in Toronto, mentorship was an important component of her life; there are many of us who thank her for that commitment.

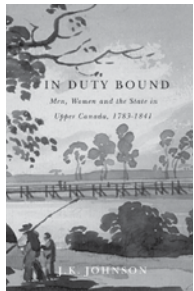
Linda Kealey,
Professor Emerita,
University of New Brunswick

J.K. Johnson

'J.K.' Born in Sydenham Township, Ontario in 1930, James Keith Johnson died suddenly on April 13, 2018.

The son of George Milford and Mary Louise Johnson, both of Sydenham Township; he was predeceased by his sister, Marjorie Woodhouse; and his brother, Tom. Keith was the partner, husband, and best friend of Dr. Jill Vickers for 49 years; loving father of Mary and Elizabeth 'Bobby' Johnson, Michael Vickers and Matthew Johnson; and affectionate 'Grampa' of Alec, Calum, Leo, and Miles. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Marjorie; nieces, Nancy, and Marilyn Plaumann, and nephews, Russell and David Johnson; nephew, Peter Woodhouse and nieces, Kathryn Taylor, Barbara Fawcett, and Margaret Hamilton.

Keith studied history at the University of Toronto, graduating from Victoria College with the Class of 53. He worked for the Public Archives of Canada and then taught in Carleton University's Department of History, specializing in Upper Canadian history. Retiring from teaching in 1995 as Emeritus Professor, he continued his research and writing right up until the day he died. Keith was honoured with many academic awards including the Canadian Silver Jubilee Medal and the Ontario Historical Society's Cruikshank Gold Medal. His contributions to Canadian history include editing the Canadian Directory of Parliament and Affectionately Yours: The Letters of Sir John A. Macdonald and his Family and his books *Becoming Prominent: Regional Leadership in Upper Canada* and *In Duty Bound: Men, Women and the State in Upper Canada*.



Keith was known for his wry humour and for his gentleness, kindness, generosity, and humility. He was an enthusiastic supporter of all things Canadian, a longtime Toronto Argonauts fan, and an ardent and knowledgeable classical music lover. His daily pleasures included Jeopardy! and the Globe's Cryptic crossword.

Bruce Elliott
Carleton University
History Department

**Jean Martin**

M. Jean Martin, Ph. D., historien militaire de la Direction – Histoire et patrimoine, a succombé à une crise cardiaque alors qu'il faisait du jogging le 3 avril dernier.



Jean révisait des articles en français pour le bulletin *Argonauta*, et un grand nombre de nos lecteurs auront pris connaissance de ses travaux sur la géographie militaire, la Première Guerre mondiale et la participation du Canada à la première Force d'urgence des Nations Unies (1956–1967) en Égypte, entre autres sujets. Il a servi en tant qu'historien du Commandement régional Sud de la Force internationale d'assistance à la sécurité (FIAS), en Afghanistan, et, plus tard, comme formateur principal auprès des guides d'Anciens Combattants Canada, à Vimy et à Beaumont-Hamel. Dans le cadre de cette dernière fonction, il a reconnu les liens particuliers entre le Corps canadien et la population locale. Par la suite, il a remis en question les interprétations traditionnelles concernant l'enrôlement des francophones au cours de la Première Guerre mondiale. Jean était particulièrement actif au sein de l'International Association for Military Geosciences.

Jean est né à Alma, au Québec, en 1956 et il a obtenu un diplôme en histoire à l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi en 1982, puis un doctorat en géographie à l'Université Laval en 1995. Il nous manquera.

Dr. Jean Martin, a military historian at the Directorate of History and Heritage, suffered a heart attack while jogging and passed away this year on 3 April.

Jean edited French articles for *Argonauta* and many of our readers will know of his work on, among other topics, military geography, the First World War, and Canada's participation in the first United Nations Emergency Force (1956–1967) in Egypt. He served as a Command Historian for the Regional Command South of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and later as a lead trainer for Veterans Affairs guides at Vimy and Beaumont-Hamel. During this latter work, he recognized the special bonds between the Canadian Corps and the local population. He later challenged orthodox interpretations about francophone enlistment during the First World War. He was especially active with the International Association for Military Geosciences.

Jean was born in Alma, Quebec in 1956 and completed a history degree at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi in 1982 and a doctorate in geography from Laval University in 1995. He will be missed.

Isabel Campbell, Historian at the Department of National Defence

The obituary was first published in *Argonauta*, Vol. 35, no. 3 (summer 2018)