huge sacrifice in lives and material. Beginning with Birth of a Nation, movies perpetuated this idea of the Lost Cause through much of the twentieth century. Movies such as Glory and Cold Mountain in recent times have dispelled some of these ideas, but not entirely. The public, for better or worse, receives much of its historical information from movies. For public historians interpreting the war, knowledge of the movies and the messages they send is very important.

Wars Within a War, while not written for the general public, is a valuable work for public historians seeking to understand the current historiography of Civil War thought and the role of memory of the war. Focusing on topics not typically seen in works on the war, the historians in the book offer useful ideas to public historians interpreting the conflict to the general public.

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Crown Jewel of the North, Volume 2 (2008) by Frank Norris is an administrative history of Denali National Park and Preserve, the central portion of which contains Alaska’s oldest national park—Mt. McKinley National Park. Denali National Park and Preserve encompasses the arcing spine of the Alaska Range, its Outer Range of rolling highlands, and a broad open plain dotted by lakes and wetlands that stretches to the north and south of this rugged mountain massif. The grand scenic spectacle of the twin-peaked Mt. McKinley, North America’s highest mountain, rises to over 20,000 feet near the heart of the park and serves as a breathtaking visually dominating icon symbolizing the vast, exposed, and rugged Far North. Norris’s two-volume tome, together nearly 800 pages long, is a history of how the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) has managed this expansive 6,000,000-acre, ninety year-old park—its natural and cultural resources as well as the visitors who have journeyed to view and experience the park since its creation. Volume 1 of Crown Jewel of the North (2006), also written by Frank Norris, examined the first sixty-two years of the park’s history, when it was known as Mt. McKinley National Park. This first volume is a general park history that covers a full range of park topics in eight chapters that progress chronologically from 1917 to 1979.

Volume 2 of Crown Jewel of the North begins in 1980 when Mt. McKinley National Park was greatly enlarged after President Jimmy Carter signed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and renamed De...
nali National Park and Preserve. ANILCA profoundly transformed the former Mt. McKinley National Park (along with many other vast areas of public land throughout Alaska) into a park unit that now encompassed over 6.1 million acres and substantially altered the park’s purpose. This new park and preserve broadened the protection of natural resources to include a large spectrum of fish, wildlife, and land features. It also permitted cultural activities inside certain areas of Denali such as historic methods of human harvesting (hunting, fishing, trapping, and picking) of natural resources for subsistence.

This volume contains six chapters (chapters 9 through 14) that closely examine the last twenty-five years of this re-created parkland. The first two, chapters 9 and 10, continue the general historical approach taken in Volume 1; they examine key topics about the park’s operation within a ten-to-fifteen-year time period. Winding through the wide array of topics highlighted in these two chapters—legislative and political battles, controversial management issues, and getting along with neighboring landowners and interest groups—is one central theme. Since 1980 intensifying pressures on the park’s resources and increasing numbers of visitors (sightseers, snowmobilers, all-terrain vehicle users, mountaineers, and miners) have created numerous challenges for the National Park Service and caused it to re-examine and sometimes re-shape management strategies. The last four chapters focus on specialized park management themes related to the general history presented in the first ten chapters. These include interpretation, resources (natural and cultural) management, mountaineering, and minerals management; these specialized themes cover the entire ninety-year history of the park.

Frank Norris, a seasoned National Park Service historian who has written numerous histories about Alaskan parks and park issues, has tackled the problems inherent in writing a complex history of Denali admirably. His research is thorough and wide-ranging. Public historians will find the array of NPS and other government documents listed in the “Selected Bibliography” of great interest. In addition, he has interviewed several NPS employees, examined numerous archival collections, and mined dozens of primary, secondary, and unpublished sources for information. Norris has also been somewhat successful organizing great quantities of information into both chronological periods (in the first ten chapters) and specific themes that cut across time periods (the last four chapters). His melding of historic periods and themes in a way that will be most useful to Denali park managers—Norris’s target audience—is thoughtful. Additionally, Norris’s merging of these two organizational approaches in the two-volume *Crown Jewel of the North* is especially instructive for public historians, who often wrestle with questions related to balancing chronological narrative with thematic interpretation.

It is in the organization of this administrative history of Denali that Norris

2. The word “Denali” is derived from Native groups’ words (such as Deenaalee, Deenaalheet, Dghelay Ka’a, and other similar words) meaning Big One, Tall One, The Mountain, and similar words suggesting a mighty land mass.
confronts problems. He struggled with redundancies in Volume 2, signaled by the author’s often-used phrase “as noted [somewhere] above.” More significantly, in his organization of this history Norris missed an opportunity to expand the understanding of park managers and also to interest a broader audience in Denali’s administrative history. Norris’s history provides little context pertaining to, for example, U.S. environmental history or even National Park Service history in which the nearly hundred-year history of Mt. McKinley/Denali unfolded. Park managers would have benefited from learning that their park’s history did not exist in a vacuum. The meaningful presentation of some comparisons and broader context in the Denali history might give park administrators useful insights into better managing their park. Without any contextual backdrop, Norris is unable to provide any interpretation of why Denali confronted certain issues and options for dealing with them. He further neglects to interpret the salient points and overarching themes presented in each chapter in a summary paragraph or two. *Crown Jewel of the North, Volume 2* is useful reading for public historians, since it will spark thoughtful consideration of how to organize and present the history of organizations, agencies, and businesses.

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The twenty-five-acre DeSoto National Memorial at Shaw’s Point, near the entrance to Tampa Bay, is one of the smallest of the national parks, but it is one that draws many thousands of visitors each year, more visitors than are drawn by some national parks encompassing thousands of acres. It is a visit that acquaints one with an episode of early American history that has been and still is notably contentious for both scholars and laymen. All agree that De Soto led a large expedition through what is now the American Southeast in 1539–43. But where, exactly, did they go? And how are contemporary Americans to think about this bloody episode? Easy questions about the De Soto expedition do not find easy answers.

In their administrative history for the National Park Service, *Small Park, Large Issues: DeSoto National Memorial and the Commemoration of a Difficult History*, David and Anne Whisnant trace the development of the De Soto National Monument from its initial impetus from Florida citizens in the 1920s to the publication in 1939 of John R. Swanton’s *Final Report of the United States De Soto Expedition Commission*, which placed the landing place at Bradenton’s Shaw’s Point, and to the transfer of a parcel of land to the National Park Service in 1949. And they document the formidable difficulties