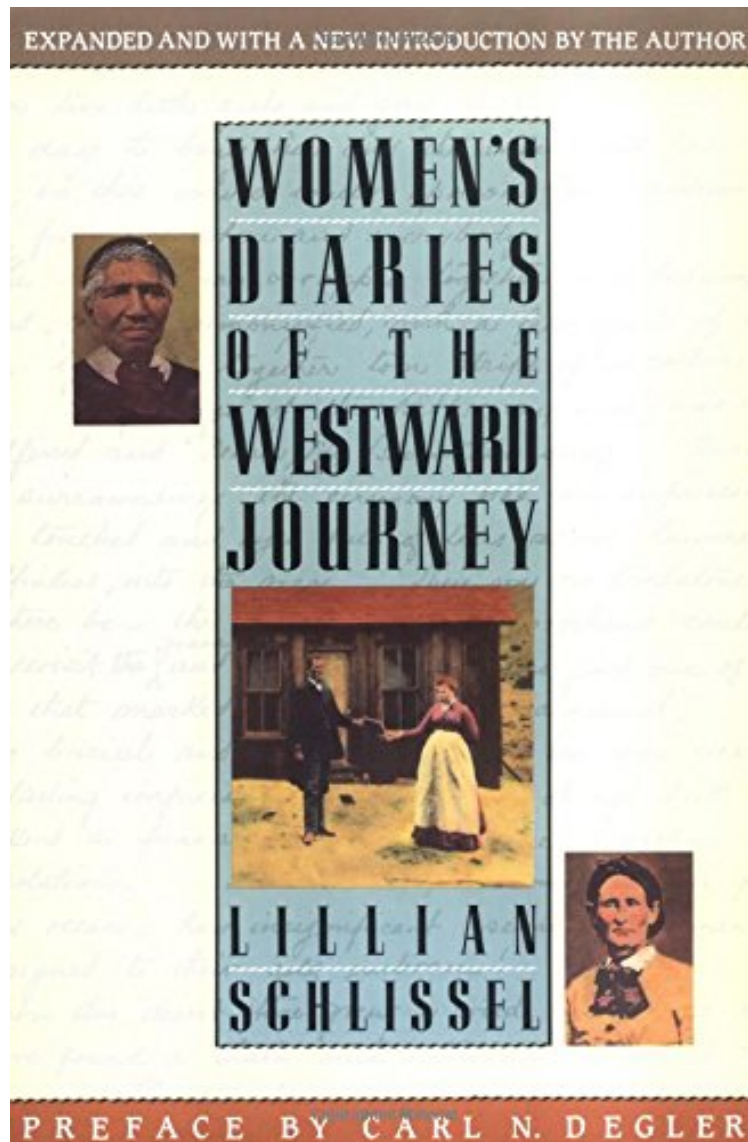


[Download ebook] Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey

Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey

Lillian Schlissel

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Lillian Schlissel : Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. highly informative, but somewhat academicBy MKEgalThis is a slightly more academic book (which is why it didn't get 5 stars), but should be interesting for a range of adult or older teen readers. There are several extended quotes of diaries at the back of the book (definitely not the whole diary), and snippets throughout the chapters, but most of the writing is the author explaining things to the reader. There are also

pictures of some of the diary writers who are quoted. (Why do they always look stern?)The hardships these women (families) went through are incredible, physical and mental.Think of camping on the open plains for 5 months,finding food water from the land (or sometimes indians),being sick (and for many people, dying) with no doctor, medicine, or hospital around,and since many women travelled while pregnant - giving birth in a covered wagon, then moving on the next day.Many travelled with children, some of whom died had to be buried, never to visit their grave again. In some cases, people were buried under the trail, so the grave would be obliterated and the indians wouldn't know where to dig to get their clothing.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely stunning collection of journal entries.By Daisy1The stark simplicity of diary entries, written by pioneer women and edited by Lillian Schlissel, is breathtaking. I can't imagine how these ladies (and ladies they were!) survived such an ordeal: hard work, physical discomfort, frequent illness, injury and even death, often scanty food and water. Imagine, being so overwhelmed with endless chores that you lose track of one or more of your own children! Unfortunately, it happened, and the little ones didn't always get found again.Schlissel fills in some of the omissions in the stories of the prim and proper Victorian ladies: how did they deal with things like childbirth, periods, or relieving oneself when there wasn't a privy to be had for hundreds of miles? These are the kinds of things they don't teach you in history classes.For some of the diarists, going West was a marvelous adventure. For others, it was an ordeal they had to endure because their husbands or fathers wanted to go, and the women did not feel they had any other choice. This book is a marvelous window into the thoughts and feelings of our pioneer fore-mothers. The journal entries, combined with photographs from this period, make for a fascinating read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book.By Nancy LyleExcellent book written from women's actual diaries. Pioneer women that traveled westward about 1820-1850. History and stories that are interesting and give one a unique view of life during that time in the US.

An expanded edition of one of the most original and provocative works of American history of the last decade, which documents the pioneering experiences and grit of American frontier women.

From School Library JournalYA-- A revised edition of Schlissel's 1982 book (Schocken) about the journey westward in mid-19th-century America from the point of view of the women involved. Readers will find first-person narrations by the women themselves after an extensive (160 pages) introduction that not only sets the scene, but also adequately describes the trials and tribulations on this difficult journey. The author has added an entry from the diary of a 16-year-old bride that presents a lighter side of the trek. A worthwhile addition not only for frontier studies but also for its perspective on women's issues.Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. After the depression of 1837, the prospect of "free land" and gold prompted more than 250,000 people to emigrate to Oregon and California between 1840 and 1870. History, relying predominantly on men's writings, often presents this journey in terms of mythic adventure. But what was it like for women? After studying the writings of 103 women, Lillian Schlissel determined that "If ever there was a time when men and women turned their psychic energies toward opposite visions, the overland journey was that time." In *Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey*, she explores her findings, quoting at length from her sources and including a selection of diaries and reminiscences at the end. Although unmarried adolescents were often exuberant about their experience, for the married women, particularly those with young children, the trip was fraught with danger and fear. Children could fall under wagon wheels or be left behind in the confusion of traveling with as many as one hundred other wagons. There were buffalo stampedes, Indian attacks, snakebites, dysentery, starvation, and cholera - many women note individual graves, sometimes one per mile. In addition, one of every five women was pregnant when the journey began or became so in the course of a trip that guidebooks said would take three to four months, but often took six to eight. Through Lillian Schlissel's fascinating and extremely readable account, we gain a fuller understanding of the journey few of these women wanted to take. -- For great reviews of books for girls, check out *Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14*. -- From *500 Great Books by Women*; review by Erica BauermeisterFrom the Publisher6 1.5-hour cassettes