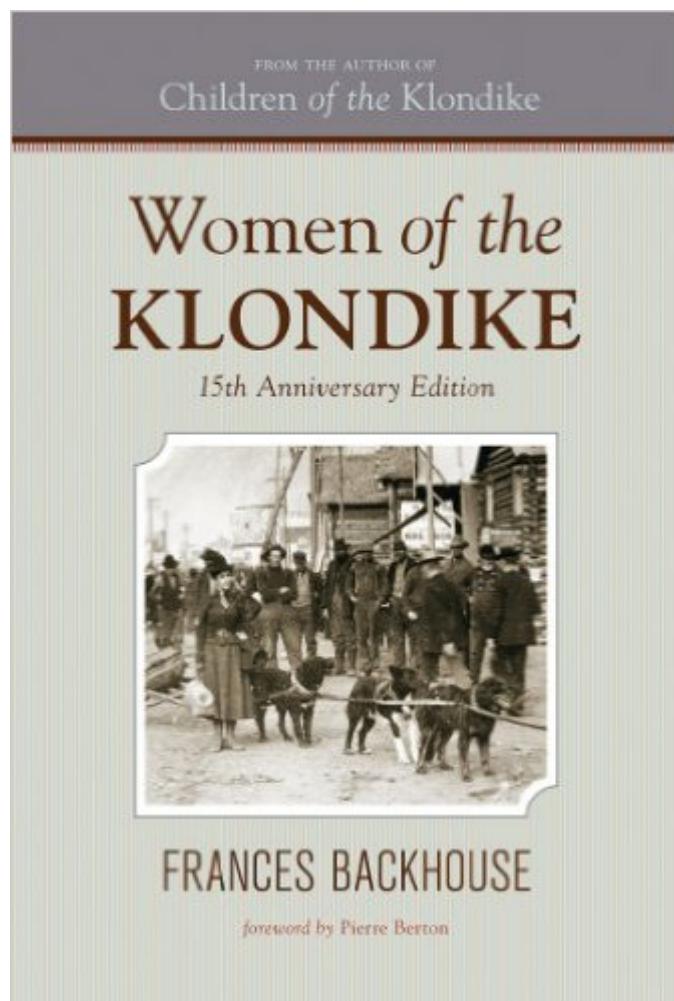


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# Women Of The Klondike



## **Synopsis**

Women played a critical role during the gold rush, and this is the only book that brings to light the stories of these diverse women. Backhouse delves into the lives of women-entrepreneurs, nuns, doctors, nurses, journalists, and dancehall entertainers among them-who were caught up in the gold rush and lived amazing lives. Through letters, journals, newspaper accounts, and personal interviews, Backhouse explores all of their untold stories. Some were reckless dreamers who headed north alone. Others were looking for fortunes, or husbands. Still others went to the Klondike to gain professional recognition. Many women found that conditions were vastly worse than they had expected-Lillian Oliver noted that scarcely a day passed during her trip to Dawson when she did not see a wooden cross marking the grave of a fellow traveller. Other women found success in the Klondike-Mrs. John N. Horne struck gold and commissioned a gold washboard broach in honour of the profession that had once supported her.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

If you think at all about prospectors or gold miners, you most likely picture scruffy men down by the creekbed. But you'd overlook the history of one group, which "Women of the Klondike" sets out to correct. Here you'll find out about the mix of journalists, teachers, entertainers, entrepreneurs and miners, whose stories are evoked through research of letters, diaries, newspaper accounts and photo archives. A hardy number of them had taken their spots in the Klondike well before the discovery of gold in 1896 but once word of the find reached the lower states, the floodgates opened for both men and women. The latter were betting correctly that their domestic skills would soon be in

need. We are introduced to such people as Frances Dorley, a Seattle dressmaker and milliner who headed to the Klondike in 1898, eager to make her fortune, and a Mrs. A. Wilson, who ran the Stockholm Baths for grimy miners, charging them \$1 for access to a real bathtub. Among the first group of successful gold miners arriving in Seattle toting their riches was Ethel Berry. Not surprisingly, women were welcomed but not always held in high regard, especially if they were identified as single, and there were attempts to limit what roles they could take. But the women, though vastly outnumbered by the men, for the most part prevailed at their chosen occupations and established themselves as key players in the Klondike's growth. This collection of stories ensures that a piece of history won't be lost.

The book description states that "this is the only book that brings to light the stories of these diverse women." Three of several others covering the same topic are "Gold Rush Women" by Claire Rudolf Murphy, "Rebel Women of the Gold Rush" by Rich Mole, and "Klondike Women: True Tales Of 1897-1898 Gold Rush" by Melanie J. Maye, all three of which received 5-star ratings from readers. Shame on Whitecap for either ignorance or intentional deception.

This was very helpful to me when researching the genealogy of one of our local pioneer families herein Southern California. I discovered her maternal aunt was famous in the Klondike area of Alaska and was mentioned in this book several times.

Ok for the price.

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