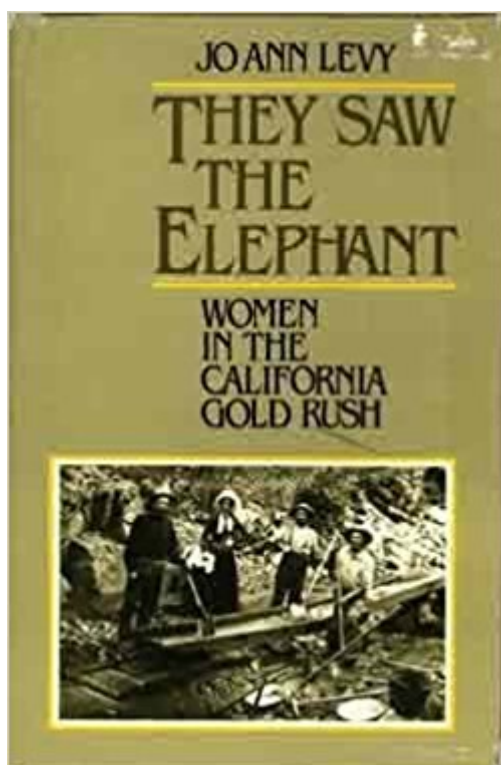


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# They Saw The Elephant: Women In The California Gold Rush



## Synopsis

"The phrase 'seeing the elephant' symbolized for 49 gold rushers the exotic, the mythical, the once-in-a-lifetime adventure, unequalled anywhere else but in the journey to the promised land of fortune: California. Most western myths . . . generally depict an exclusively male gold rush. Levy's book debunks that myth. Here a variety of women travel, work, and write their way across the pages of western migrant history."-Choice  
"One of the best and most comprehensive accounts of gold rush life to date" --San Francisco Chronicle --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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Education & Reference > History > United States > 19th Century #38590 in Books > History > Americas

## Customer Reviews

In the literature of the Gold Rush, women have been generally neglected. Freelance writer Levy here corrects that oversight with a colorful account of intrepid female argonauts--with and without men. She draws on letters, journals and reminiscences for a fresh view of western history. The women traveled overland, by ship round the Horn (one family survived three burning ships); they crossed the Isthmus of Panama by mule, and Nicaragua by steamship and mule. In California they ran boardinghouses, provided meals and laundry service for miners, and organized schools and churches. The cast of characters includes actresses and prostitutes, a stagecoach driver and ordinary women seeking to make a new home. Levy does for the Gold Rush what Lillian Schlissel did for the Plains emigrants in *Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey*. The book is a welcome addition to regional history as well as to women's studies. Illustrated. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

YA-- In this exciting and inspiring account of the women who helped settle California, Levy explores the leadership roles of those who contributed to the founding of businesses, towns, and mining camps. Photographs, letters, and diary accounts contribute to the realism of these adventures. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

An amazing, detailed history of the Gold Rush time period in California. Even though the book's theme is the participation of women in the Gold Rush, this book is a surprisingly complete look at the travel to California and as well as the entire society and living conditions during this energetic time with significant growing pains. If you want to know how the people lived as they rushed to California then found a place to live and work, this is your book. Interesting and entertaining read.

I enjoyed learning about women in the gold rush era. These women were mostly wives, daughters, and sisters of the men who were miners. The author got direct quotes from letters and diaries written by women. These women had a hard life and they coped remarkably well. They had a strong influence in shaping California. This book is worth reading.

The condition I ordered was "used-very good.". My expectations were blown away. The quality of this book is practically new! I am very happy with this order.

A little bit slow but I am still reading it so we shall see. I like the courage of the gold mining people, especially the women, and their stories of hardship and adventure are pretty inspiring.

Gives an interesting insight on Gold Rush women but the characters and storyline is all over the place.

This is an amazing account of the women's experiences from starting the journey to being established in California. The author has taken great pains to document their stories while keeping the reader fascinated. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in history.

Excellent Item and Shipping!

I really liked the book, it told a lot of the history of women taking part in the development of the

West, during the Gold Rush, and the hardships they had to endure.

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