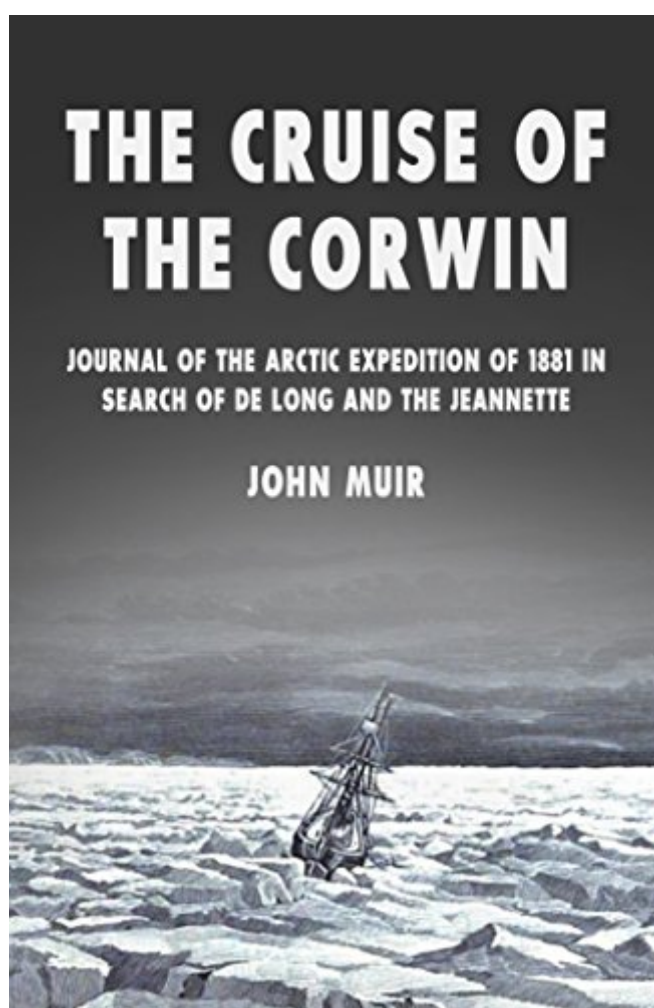


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The Cruise Of The Corwin: Journal Of The Arctic Expedition Of 1881 In Search Of De Long And The Jeannette



Synopsis

On July 8, 1879, the USS Jeanette departed San Francisco for the Bering Strait with the intention of finding a route to the North Pole. With the ship crushed by the pressure of the ice, its captain, George W. De Long, and twenty of its crew never made it back to America. The federal government called upon her captain, Calvin L. Hooper, to venture northwards and find out what happened to the USS Jeanette and the missing men. Built out of the finest Oregon fir, fastened with copper, galvanized iron, and locust-tree nails, the Corwin was the perfect ship for Arctic exploration where her sturdy sailing qualities were to prove of the utmost importance. John Muir, Scottish naturalist and explorer, sensing the possibilities of science and adventure in the exploration of this unknown Arctic land, immediately made himself available for the Corwin's expedition. During the cruise Muir kept a daily record of his experiences and observations, these along with the numerous letters he wrote form the basis of this fascinating account. As well as describing the day by day events of the Corwin in its search for any survivors of the Jeanette, Muir also recorded his encounters with Alaskan natives, describing how they survived this brutal environment. He drew upon his experience as a naturalist to beautifully capture the flora and fauna of this landscape. The Cruise of the Corwin: Journal of the Arctic Expedition of 1881 in search of De Long and the Jeannette remains a fascinating read for anyone interested in late nineteenth century exploration, or for anyone wishing to find out more about the world of the Arctic circle. John Muir's work is particularly relevant to modern times as it depicts a world that is coming increasingly under threat as the effects of global warming threaten the lands through which he traveled. During his lifetime he was particularly passionate in advocating preservation of wilderness in the United States, and he was instrumental in protecting Yosemite Valley, Sequoia National Park and other wilderness areas. This book was published in 1917, three years after Muir had died in 1914.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

We remember John Muir by his wonderful journals of his travels in the Sierras and Alaska. This is a little known book that deserves to be better known. A fascinating read of his voyage in 1881 to find survivors of De Long's ill fated Jeannette Expedition. It is full of wonderful 19th century observations from one who was truly a gifted observer and raconteur.

Great book on 19th century U.S. history ---if you like this book you will also want to read the following books: 1. Jim Bridger "The Grand Old Man of the Rockies" (1922) 2. Journal of a Trapper Or Nine Years Residence among the Rocky Mountains Between the years of 1834 and 1843 (1921) 3. Rising Wolf, the White Blackfoot: Hugh Monroe's Story of His First Year on the Plains (1919) 4. Twenty Years Before the Mast: with the more thrilling scenes and incidents while circumnavigating the globe under the command of the late Admiral Charles Wilkes 1838-1842 (1896) 5. The Evolution of a State or Recollections of old Texas days (1900) 6. Three Years Among the Comanches: The Narrative of Nelson Lee, the Texas Ranger, Containing a Detailed Account of His Captivity Among the Indians, His Singular Escape ... (1859) 7. The Life and Adventures of James P. Beckwourth (1856): Mountaineer, Scout, and Pioneer and Chief of the Crow Nation of Indians 8. Adventures of the First Settlers on the Oregon or Columbia River (1849) 9. My Sixty Years on the Plains: Trapping, Trading, and Indian Fighting (1905) 10. Memoir of Col. Benjamin Tallmadge

I found this book to be incredibly enjoyable. The content was easily digestible, and it was very entertaining and fascinating to see the world through eyes of the past. For those that have any interests in exploring or seeing the "unknown world" I would recommend reading this journal.

Very fascinating book giving a glimpse into an all but forgotten era. The observations of places and peoples, flora and fauna are amazingly accurate to the best of recollection. If you've read about the Jeanette then you have to read this. If you have not read the opinion account of the S.S. Jannette please do so!

This book was excellent! John Muir gives very detailed descriptions of the people, flora and fauna that he saw on a very interesting journey, partly by dog sledge and partly by boat.

This is written in the style of a journal by a botanist who describes the different natives of the Arctic with honesty and compassion but is appalled by the wholesale slaughter of animals by both them and the white men. He also describes the ruin of the natives by being traded alcohol and repeating rifles which reduces them to laziness and careless hunting.

Great read! True adventure.

A classic ecology volume from one of the great natural scientists of his age. Well worth reading.

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