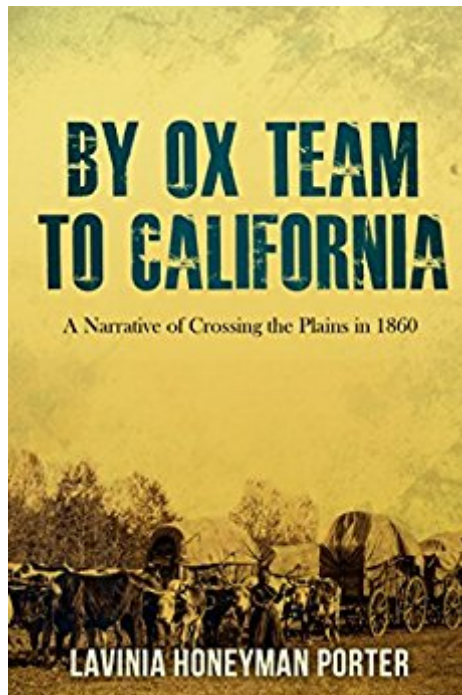




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By Ox Team To California: Crossing The Plains In 1860



Synopsis

•We then determined to use the small remnant of our fortune to provide a suitable outfit for a lengthy journey toward the setting sun. •Like so many others Lavinia Honeyman Porter and her husband decided to make the treacherous journey across the continent of America to find a better life. This is their story. Although very young, as they were both in their twenties, their decision had been made and there was no turning back. Through barren plains, treacherous mountain passes, dangerous foreign lands, they led their young oxen onwards. As they continued their emigration westwards they met a variety of people, from Native Americans to Mormons, assisting where they could and being assisted in turn. Porter and her husband travelled through varied lands of the Midwest and West, stopping at camps and trading posts where they could get some rest. Porter's By Ox Team to California is a moving piece of social history which documents the struggles and hopes of ordinary Americans in the mid-nineteenth century. After arriving in California after six months Porter set down her story in this book. She would go on to enjoy a further fifty years in California before passing away in 1910.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Having read many fictionalized versions of wagon train adventures, I reveled in this true account because no one but the person who made the journey can truly provide the little details of real life on the trail - and this was REAL life. I was surprised that this couple traveled alone to California, as all books I have previously read were in wagon trains. In this account they felt far safer than when they briefly traveled with a wagon train. This book is for those who enjoy the little details of what it was really like to make such a journey. There were many things that I read in this book that contradicted common lore in fictional accounts. The author was pregnant throughout and walked the majority of the way, giving birth soon after they arrived in CA. Yes, there are lots of typos and wrong words, but it is worth the effort to push past these for this is a story recorded primarily for the author's grand children and is not written by a professional author, and it is a wonderful and revealing account of a great adventure. I am sure I will re-read this account in the future for its inspirational value. It is a rare treasure and I thank the family for making it available to a wider audience.

For anyone who enjoys stories of 'how they did it' in historical times in the U.S., this is a fascinating read. I found it amazing that a woman could walk so incredibly far over dry, dusty and trackless lands (as this woman did, although she could have chosen to ride in the wagon). Interesting to read of what the travelers cooked and ate along the way, and heartening to see them finally reach their goal.

Very interesting:some real history of the old west, with a human interest twist. Liked the writers personal style of presenting a true picture of the hardships, joys, dangers and personalities of that era.

I'll admit, I really like authentic stories about pioneers and others who faced danger and the unknown for a better life. This was an interesting story mostly in the fact that not much really happened. That long slow journey across this entire country was relatively uneventful. Amazing. Their courage and self reliance is incredible.

Eye opening view of life on the emigrant trail. Gutsy couple driven by hope for a new life. Intriguing read.

An excellent background piece to a family story of a 19th century trek from the midwest to

California.

Simply written and full of interesting information. Although the hardships of such travel must have been great, she approached it with a positive attitude, not dwelling on the ardors of the trip.

The book takes you back to a place when life was much harder but this couple was so determined to get to California they endured all the hardships and were able to reach their destination.

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