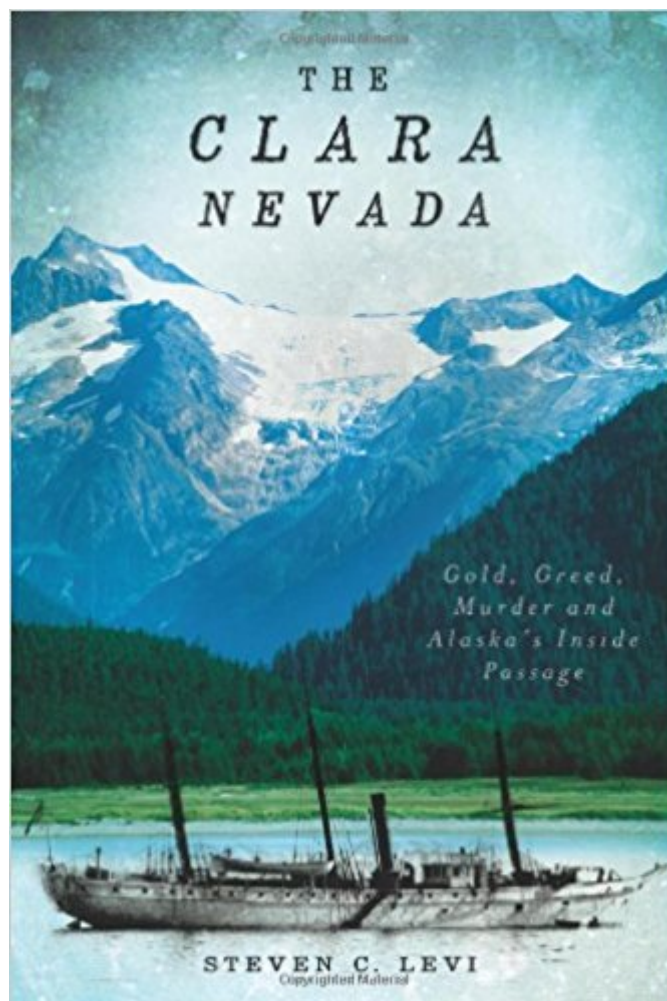


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The Clara Nevada:: Gold, Greed, Murder And Alaska's Inside Passage



Synopsis

February 5, 1898. Witnesses report a giant orange fireball reflected in the glacial waters of Alaska's Lynn Canal. At the height of Klondike gold fever, the Clara Nevada disappeared into an epic storm--taking passengers and priceless cargo with her. Was the explosion an accident or a robbery gone wrong? Did Captain C.H. Lewis make off with \$165,000 (\$13.6 million in today's currency) in raw gold? Or was the sinking a case of a sea-weary steamer meeting an untimely end? Alaska historian Steven C. Levi combs the archives to piece together the true account of the Clara Nevada's final voyage, attempting to solve the riddle of the lost steamer that resurfaced ten years after that tragic night and became known as Alaska's ghost ship.

Book Information

Paperback: 108 pages

Publisher: The History Press; 1st edition (May 14, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1609492889

ISBN-13: 978-1609492885

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.3 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

THE CLARA NEVADA is one of those rare books that on the surface seems to be a thesis, an academic investigation of an event of significance in history complete with photographs, immaculate documentation, and reportage by a fine reporter. And it is most assuredly all that. But that does not begin to explain the fascination author Steven C. Levi brings to this book. He makes this exploration of an event as fine as any mystery novel or suspense thriller, and it is about something of which very few of us are familiar. How many readers have heard of the ship Clara Nevada and its sole voyage in Alaska's Inland Passage? Levi opens his book about the mysterious ship Clara Nevada with a solid description of the 1896 discovery of gold in the Yukon River and the subsequent goldrush fever that swept the nation, bringing thousands of gold seekers to Seattle and points north to claim instant wealth. His discussion (and photographs) of the condition of these people willing to

sacrifice all manner of comfort to pan gold is as colorful as any film would be! And those who owned the businesses of the newly discovered area of gold jumped into the fray and produced boats and means of travel etc to benefit from the madness. Among the ships was a 'reconditioned' wreck named the Clara Nevada and after boarding many passengers and supplies she set sail in bad weather in 1898 to take greedy men to the gold nuggets of the Yukon and Klondike rivers - and disappeared. The book then explores all of the witnessed events, the newspaper reports and the tall tales that filled the country - including the history of one CH Lewis who happened to survive leaving questions unanswered to this day. What happened?

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