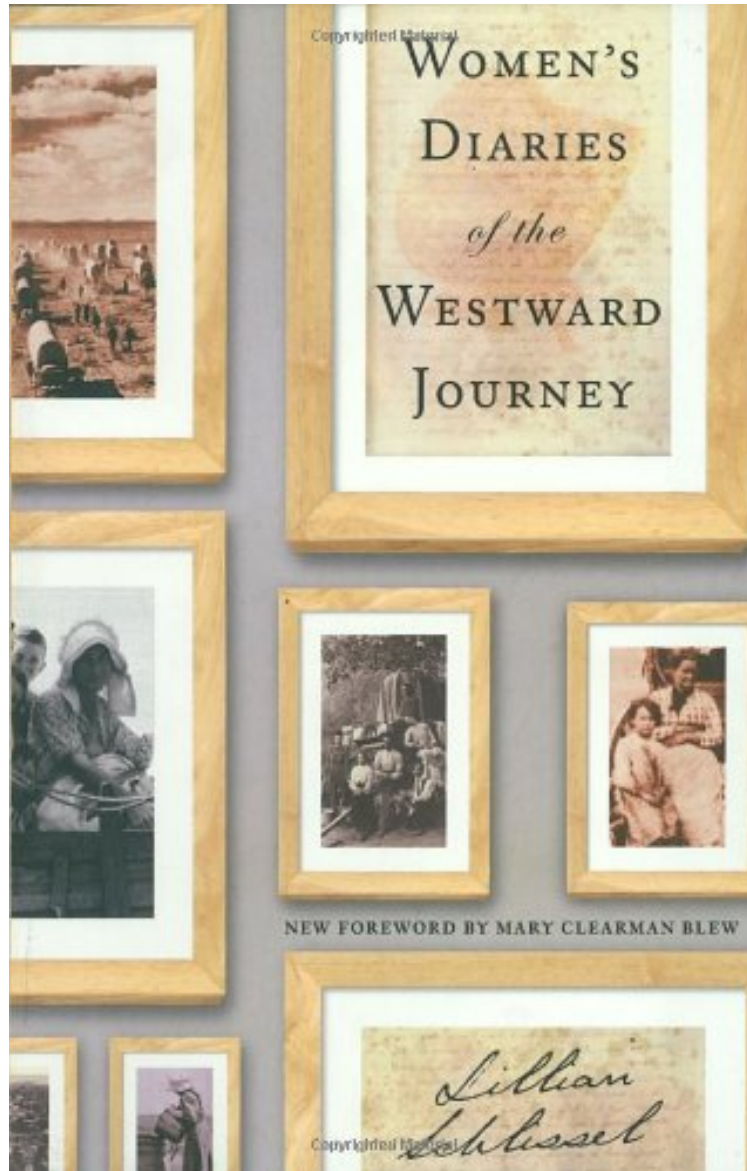


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## Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey

*Lillian Schlissel*

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#120788 in Books Schlissel, Lillian (EDT)/ Blew, Mary Clearman (FRW) 2004-07-06 2004-07-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .90 x 6.00l, 1.12 #File Name: 0805211764288 pages miscellaneous, Thanksgiving | File size: 25.Mb

**Lillian Schlissel : Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. highly informative, but somewhat academic By MKEgal This is a slightly more academic book (which is why it didn't get 5 stars), but should be interesting for a range of adult or older

teen readers. There are several extended quotes of diaries at the back of the book (definitely not the whole diary), and snippets throughout the chapters, but most of the writing is the author explaining things to the reader. There are also pictures of some of the diary writers who are quoted. (Why do they always look stern?) The hardships these women (families) went through are incredible, physical and mental. Think of camping on the open plains for 5 months, finding food water from the land (or sometimes indians), being sick (and for many people, dying) with no doctor, medicine, or hospital around, and since many women travelled while pregnant - giving birth in a covered wagon, then moving on the next day. Many travelled with children, some of whom died had to be buried, never to visit their grave again. In some cases, people were buried under the trail, so the grave would be obliterated and the indians wouldn't know where to dig to get their clothing. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely stunning collection of journal entries. By Daisy1 The stark simplicity of diary entries, written by pioneer women and edited by Lillian Schlissel, is breathtaking. I can't imagine how these ladies (and ladies they were!) survived such an ordeal: hard work, physical discomfort, frequent illness, injury and even death, often scanty food and water. Imagine, being so overwhelmed with endless chores that you lose track of one or more of your own children! Unfortunately, it happened, and the little ones didn't always get found again. Schlissel fills in some of the omissions in the stories of the prim and proper Victorian ladies: how did they deal with things like childbirth, periods, or relieving oneself when there wasn't a privy to be had for hundreds of miles? These are the kinds of things they don't teach you in history classes. For some of the diarists, going West was a marvelous adventure. For others, it was an ordeal they had to endure because their husbands or fathers wanted to go, and the women did not feel they had any other choice. This book is a marvelous window into the thoughts and feelings of our pioneer fore-mothers. The journal entries, combined with photographs from this period, make for a fascinating read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book. By Nancy Lyle Excellent book written from women's actual diaries. Pioneer women that traveled westward about 1820-1850. History and stories that are interesting and give one a unique view of life during that time in the US.

More than a quarter of a million Americans crossed the continental United States between 1840 and 1870, going west in one of the greatest migrations of modern times. The frontiersmen have become an integral part of our history and folklore, but the Westering experiences of American women are equally central to an accurate picture of what life was like on the frontier. Through the diaries, letters, and reminiscences of women who participated in this migration, *Womens Diaries of the Westward Journey* gives us primary source material on the lives of these women, who kept campfires burning with buffalo chips and dried weeds, gave birth to and cared for children along primitive and dangerous roads, drove teams of oxen, picked berries, milked cows, and cooked meals in the middle of a wilderness that was a far cry from the homes they had left back east. Still (and often under the disapproving eyes of their husbands) they found time to write brave letters home or to jot a few weary lines at night into the diaries that continue to enthrall us. In her new foreword, Professor Mary Clearman Blew explores the enduring fascination with this subject among both historians and the general public, and places Schlissel's groundbreaking work into an intriguing historical and cultural context.