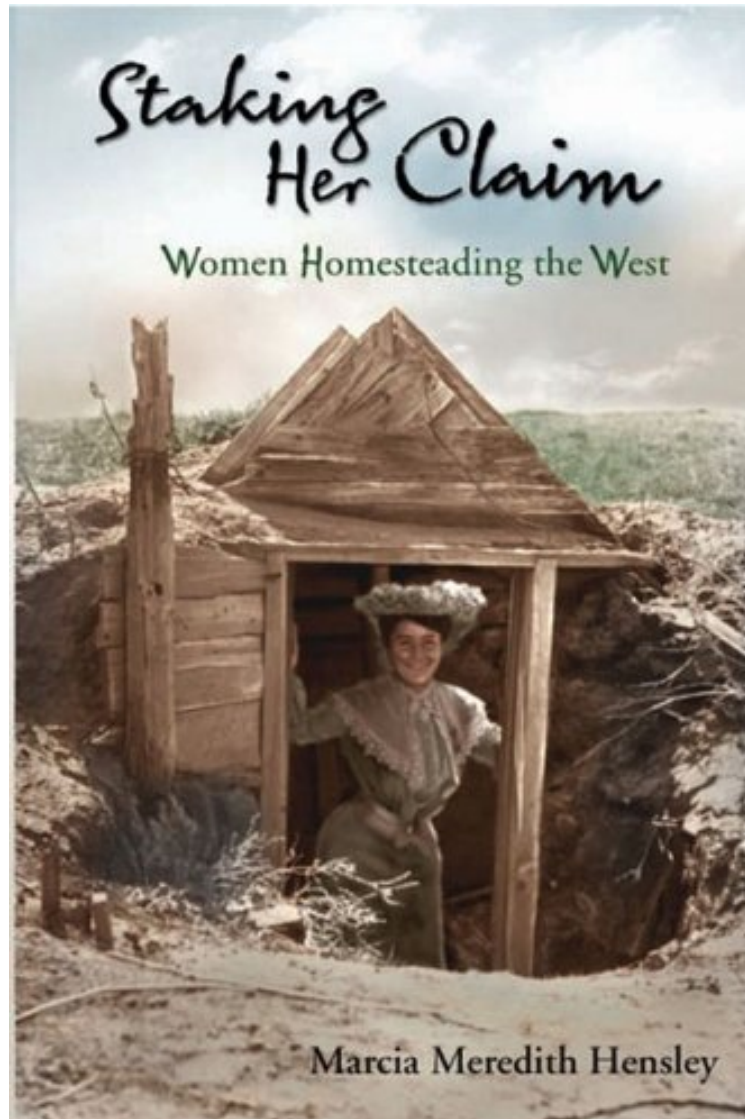


[FREE] Staking Her Claim: Women Homesteading the West

Staking Her Claim: Women Homesteading the West

Marcia Meredith Hensley

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Marcia Meredith Hensley : Staking Her Claim: Women Homesteading the West before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Staking Her Claim: Women Homesteading the West:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy tommixxdoes not get the stories to much of nothing36 of 36 people found the following review helpful. Grandma's WorldBy Mary ScriverIf it's a cold snowy winter where you are (as it is here -- thirty below last night) and you're a single female out West (as I am) and you live alone because you love it (as I do), then I've got a book for you. It's "Staking her Claim: Women Homesteaders in the West,"

partly letters, partly memoir, and partly scholarly reflection, with a nice little sprinkling of photos, this book is produced by the High Plains Press with its special sympathy for women. Reading it, one realizes that this is not something that just happened on the American Frontier at a certain point in time, but a kind of attitude and resourcefulness that persists on the fringes of conformity everywhere. One has to grant that homesteading on the American prairie was a special case, a way for women to escape from housewife drudgery or other scut work disguised as a career in nursing or teaching. As well, some of these tales speak of second generation homesteaders, young women who had grown up on the family homestead. They knew quite well what they were getting into and what it would take to survive. Now the stories come to us as though new, unworn by familiarity: homesteaders with pianos who painted watercolors to pin on walls they had plastered themselves. Good reminders that bad times can be survived, land can be lost and gained, community can be built and rebuilt in the most unpromising places. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting history perspective By Carol K. Page The author had an interesting history perspective, telling the story of female homesteaders in Wyoming, North and South Dakota and Montana, I did not know how late the Homesteading opportunity lasted. The women worked hard, and were quite brave to set up a little cabin on the prairie and set about to improve the land. My Great Grandmother Green set up a homestead in Nebraska and built a sod house there. She also was a schoolteacher, and that paid for some of the improvements to the land. The book is very well researched and photos are fascinating!

Instead of talking about the rights of women, these frontier women grabbed the opportunity to become landowners by homesteading in the still wild west of the early 1900s. Here they tell their stories in their own words—through letters and articles of the time—of adventure, independence, foolhardiness, failure, and freedom.

Reading these accounts by women homesteaders is like discovering a dusty trunk in the attic of a beloved grandmother, where you sift through stacks of letters bound by faded ribbons, open brittle pages of a diary, or leaf through yellowing magazines. Time will suspend as you are transported to another era, and you may not want to return. --Susanne George Bloomfield, author of *The Adventures of The Woman Homesteader Staking Her Claim* is doubly rewarding for its wealth of data about women who stepped outside the picture-frame of myth on the Western homestead frontier, and for the pure pleasure of hearing the stories of these women in their own words. --Mary Clearman Blew, author of *Jackalope Dreams: A Novel* This book is an invaluable gift. Marcia Meredith Hensley achieves here what no other writer or historian has done in gathering and explaining the important writings of dozens of single women homesteaders in the interior northern West. Hensley stakes her own claim as a new authority in this rewarding collection. --Richard W. Etulain, author of *Beyond the Missouri: The Story of the American West* This book is an invaluable gift. Marcia Meredith Hensley achieves here what no other writer or historian has done in gathering and explaining the important writings of dozens of single women homesteaders in the interior northern West. Hensley stakes her own claim as a new authority in this rewarding collection. --Richard W. Etulain, author of *Beyond the Missouri: The Story of the American West* *Staking Her Claim* is doubly rewarding for its wealth of data about women who stepped outside the picture-frame of myth on the Western homestead frontier, and for the pure pleasure of hearing the stories of these women in their own words. --Mary Clearman Blew, author of *Jackalope Dreams: A Novel*