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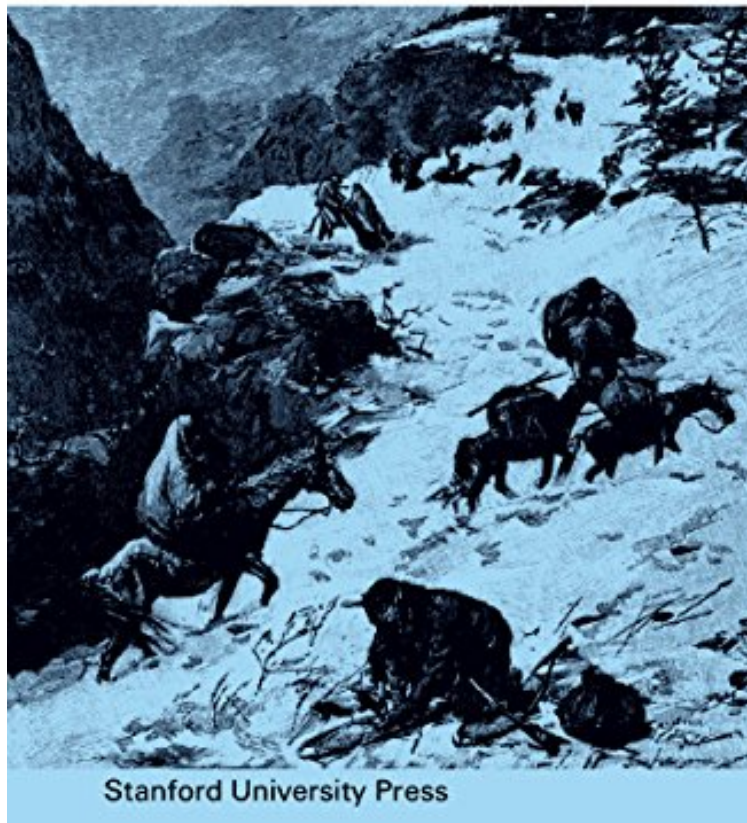
# History of the Donner Party: A Tragedy of the Sierra

*C. F. McGlashan*

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## History of the **DONNER PARTY** A Tragedy of the Sierra

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**C. F. McGlashan : History of the Donner Party: A Tragedy of the Sierra** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised History of the Donner Party: A Tragedy of the Sierra:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A good read with some distractionsBy \\_()\\_/I've read a few books on the Donner Party and have found the cast of characters daunting and the number of rescue missions difficult to sort out. Charles Fayette McGlashan lays out the general travel of the Donner party most clearly and provides the best overview.McGlashan at times writes in a very melodramatic fashion, sometimes peppered with exclamation marks to

drive home the plight of the travelers. At one point, he defends the need for the Donner Party to kill some Indian guides for food. Not politically correct for today, it sheds light on the attitude towards Indians at the time. Included are excerpts from letters and diaries written on the trail, and interviews made afterward. I found the interview with Lewis Keseberg most fascinating. He is so often characterized as a willing cannibal. I have never read his account of the story before and it is well worth downloading this book just to read his interview. The last part of the book recounts a short biography of John A. Sutter, who helped supply the rescue operations, and also the fate of each survivor. Some might find that interesting, but the cast of characters is so huge that I found it time consuming and a bit of a drag. The Kindle version does not sport a clickable table of contents. The chapters are numbered, followed by a curious string of words which look like they could be a mass of titles jumbled together in a paragraph. For instance, the first chapter begins with, "Donner Lake A famous Tourist Resort Building the Central Pacific California's Skating Park The Pioneers The Organization of the Donner Party Ho! for California! A mammoth Train The Dangers by the Way . . . ." It went on for another five lines. I made sure to skip it but found it distracting. Altogether, it was a good read with some distractions. For a more personal tale of the Donner party, I recommend *The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of a Donner Party Bride* of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating account of an American tragedy. By catlover First published some 30 years after the Donner party's horrific winter tragedy in the Sierras, this well-researched account of the events surrounding the participants and their four separate rescue parties relied on eyewitness interviews with actual survivors and family members of those who died, newspaper reports of the time, diary excerpts, and other primary sources. The language of the author became a bit flowery and overly sentimental at times (as most writing of the 1880's appears to modern readers), especially in the introductory chapter or when lamenting over the trials of some of the mothers or young women. But as a whole, this book still has the power to reach over the years and give a real sense of the unbearable hardships, agony, endurance, and courage these early California-bound settlers endured on the bleak and unforgiving flanks of the Sierras in the dead of winter as well as the super-human efforts made by a number of brave members of the party and courageous Californians to save them. While most male Californians had joined Fremont in what is now San Francisco to face off against the Mexican army in the battle for California, John Sutter of Sutter's Mill fame, and other Californians rallied to send help to the 87 souls suffering in the frozen mountain valley. The book's use of firsthand accounts from several of those involved really brought home to me the incredible level of endurance these poor people were forced to experience. My thanks to for making these old non-fiction books available for free for kindle users. I love being able to read these amazing books that have been so long out of print. It really brings history alive. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unforgettable. By Grand T This was an amazing read. One that you couldn't put down. To really read what these people went through, what they did and how they did it. Unforgettable. Glad I read it and did recommend it to another read. Seen the monument that was placed for the Donner party. It takes your breath away.

Originally published in 1880, McGlashan's *History of the Donner Party* remains in steady demand as an authoritative account of the tragic episode. The editors have added newly discovered information and photographs to their foreword, which is based on material in family documents and on the authors own recollections. The name of the Donner Party has come to symbolize the struggle of all pioneers, for the Donner experiences were the acme of horror, despair, and suffering. This chronicle is a towering tribute to the band of pioneers who struggled over deserts and the High Sierra toward California during the rugged winter of 1846-47. The disasters they endured form a bold contrast to the comfort and safety of the present-day Donner Lake region. Mr. McGlashan was a contemporary of the Donner Party's children. From the many survivors of the expedition whom he knew and interviewed, from a personal knowledge of the route followed, from more than a thousand letters written to him by survivors, and from consultations with still-living authors of older works on the subject. McGlashan was able to verify the facts and write a book from the point of view of the survivors themselves.

"[*History of the Donner Party*] is now reprinted with excellent editorial notes and foreword by George H. and Bliss McGlashan Hinkle. Increasing its value for collectors of western Americana, the text is a photographic reproduction of the standard 1880 edition." (Salt Lake Tribune) "Though first published over 60 years ago, McGlashan's notable book on the Donner party has been in constant demand, and this facsimile republication, with definite bibliography, additional maps, photographs and notes, together with an extensive foreword on McGlashan by George H. and Bliss McGlashan Hinkle constitutes the finest edition yet offered. . . . [McGlashan's] book is still a source on one of the west's greatest epics, and is here presented in a thoroughly satisfying edition." (San Jose Herald) "This is a great item of Americana." (Saturday of Literature) "McGashan expended tremendous energy in amassing historical evidence about the tragic fate of the party. . . . The firsthand information endowed his writing with immediacy and vitality. As a description of what happened, the book stands alone." (Choice) "The author's account is still the best available on that famous expedition." (Lake Charles American Press) No book in recent years has given us so much pleasure as *The History of the Donner Party*, by C. F. McGlashan. . . . Seldom does a book written so long ago have the power of transporting one back through the years to that far-off day. But *The History of the Donner Party* does. *The Grizzly Bear*

Magazine"One of the most important sources of information concerning perhaps the best known, because it is the most sensational and horrifying, episode in western American history. . . . The History of the Donner Party is a splendid piece of work." (Utah Humanities )"It remains supreme in its field." (The Argonaut)"An item of Americana in general and of California's history in particular, this is an account of a tragic episode in the vast westward migration of the 19th century. . . . A reasonable and authentic version. The lengthy introduction, the editors' notes, the maps and bibliography, contribute a great deal to the factual matter in the body of the works. . . . It is gripping and heart-rending and can be read by those interested in adventure as well as by the students of history." (Kliatt)"Historians owe much to the patient industry of McGlashan, who brought together the facts of the tragic Donner episode. . . . McGlashan's work will remain the standard, as well as the pioneer, presentation of facts. The editors have made a notable contribution in their lengthy introduction as well as in the maps, editors' notes, and bibliography." (The American Historical )From the Back CoverHistorians owe much to the patient industry of McGlashan, who brought together the facts of the tragic Donner episode. . . . McGlashan's work will remain the standard, as well as the pioneer, presentation of facts. The editors have made a notable contribution in their lengthy introduction as well as in the maps, editors' notes, and bibliography.The American Historical The authors account is still the best available on that famous expedition.Lake Charles American Press