



Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library



NH BOOK BAG

November 2023

Adult Nonfiction Titles

Alcott, Louisa May. *Hospital Sketches*. The author of *Little Women* documents her brief time as a Civil War nurse in a Washington, D.C. hospital.

Alvord, Lori A. *The Scalpel and the Silver Bear: the first Navajo woman surgeon combines western medicine and traditional healing*. Dr. Alvord's memoir of adapting her medical training to her practice on a New Mexican tribal reservation.

Ansary, Tamim. *West of Kabul, East of New York: an Afghan American story*. Ansary is the son of an Afghan father and American mother who left Afghanistan as a youth to attend school in the United States. An autobiography of life and family in two cultures.

Ayers, Edward L. (editor) *America's War: talking about the Civil War and Emancipation on their 150th anniversaries*. An anthology of writings about the Civil War.

Baker, Russell. *Growing Up*. Pulitzer Prize-winning autobiography by writer Baker about growing up poor during the Great Depression.

Ball, Edward. *Slaves in the Family*. National Book Award winner. The author explores the history of his family as slave-owners on their southern plantations before the Civil War.

Bates, Laura. *Shakespeare Saved My Life*. An uplifting, inspirational story of the strong connection between two unlikely friends, united by the power of books.

Bauby, Jean-Dominique. *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly: a memoir of life in death*. Editor Bauby suffered a stroke that paralyzed all but his left eye, yet he was able to dictate this memoir.

Booth, Philip. *Selves: new poems*. Winner of the Lamont Prize. Eighth collection of poems by Booth, who was born in Hanover, NH, and graduated from Dartmouth College. Booth also lived in Maine for many years.

Braestrup, Kate. *Here If You Need Me: a true story*. Braestrup, a mother of four, becomes a chaplain for Maine search and rescue missions, following the tragic death of her husband.

Brooks, Geraldine. *Nine Parts of Desire: the hidden world of Islamic women*. Foreign correspondent Brooks explores the everyday lives of women in the Middle East.

Brown, Rosellen. *Cora Fry: poetry*. Poems that tell the story of a housewife in Oxford, NH.

Brox, Jane. *Here and Nowhere Else: late seasons of a farm and its family*. The author returns to her family's New England farm to help care for her aging parents and troubled brother.

Bryson, Bill. *I'm a Stranger Here Myself: notes on returning to America after twenty years away*. After living in Great Britain for 20 years, writer Bryson moves to New Hampshire, and humorously describes his reintegration into American life.

Calloway, Colin G. (editor). *Dawnland Encounters: Indians and Europeans in Northern New England*. Collected historic documents recording the first interactions between Native Americans and Europeans during the colonial era.

Carroll, David M. *Swampwalker's Journal: a wetlands year*. Warner naturalist and artist Carroll explores the vibrant wetlands near his home, with beautiful drawings by the author.

Cary, Lorene. *Black Ice*. Memoir of an African American girl from Philadelphia who attended St. Paul's School in Concord (NH) on scholarship in the 1970's.

Coe, Alexis. *You Never Forget Your First: a biography of George Washington*. A whimsically irreverent portrait of America's first President includes coverage of Washington's entitled upbringing by a single mother, his dog "Sweetlips," his numerous military defeats and the partisan nightmares that spun from his back-stabbing cabinet.

Coles, Robert and Randy Testa (editors). *A Life in Medicine: a literary anthology*. A collection of writings about the medical profession and the many issues facing it.

Cook, Ann Mariah. *Running North: a Yukon adventure*. A New Hampshire family moves to Alaska to train for and compete in the Yukon Quest dogsled race.

Cronon, William. *Changes in the Land: Indians, colonists, and the ecology of New England*. A different approach to history, when first published in 1983. Professor Cronon examines the impact of European settlers on Native Americans and their environment.

Dinesen, Isak. *Out of Africa*. Dinesen (pen name for Danish aristocrat Karen Blixen) described her life as a coffee plantation owner in Kenya in the early 20th century.

Dobbs, David and Richard Ober. *The Northern Forest*. The authors profile the forest that covers the northern tiers of New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and New York – and the people who live and work there.

Dunbar, Erica Armstrong. *Never Caught: the Washingtons' relentless pursuit of their runaway slave, Ona Judge*. A revelatory account of the actions taken by the first president to retain his slaves in spite of Northern laws. Profiles one of the slaves, Ona Judge, describing the intense manhunt that ensued when she ran away.

Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed: on (not) getting by in America*. The author goes undercover as a low-wage employee to see if Americans can survive on minimum wage salaries.

Eiseley, Loren. *The Immense Journey*. Anthropologist and naturalist, Dr. Eiseley reveals life's endless mysteries in his own experiences, departing from their immediacy into meditations on the long past, wandering – intimate with nature – along the paths and byways of time, and then returning to the present.

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Elder, John. *Reading the Mountains of Home*. Elder describes his wild, mountainous Vermont home, with reference to the poet Robert Frost.

Elliot, Jason. *An Unexpected Light: travels in Afghanistan*. Elliot's account of two trips to Afghanistan (1979 and 1989).

Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: a Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures*. Winner of several literary awards, Fadiman's first book chronicles the tragic story of an epileptic child in an immigrant Hmong family and their struggle with American healthcare.

Frost, Robert. *Selected Poems*. Poems by New Hampshire resident and four-time recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

Gagne, Ty. *The Last Traverse*. The events that led up to a rescue attempt in severe and dangerous winter conditions in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. *Stony the Road: Reconstruction, white supremacy, and the rise of Jim Crow*. A profound rendering of the struggle by African Americans for equality after the Civil War and the violent counterrevolution that resubjugated them.

Getty, Sarah S. (editor) *Yankees and Strangers: the New England town from 1636 to 1992*. A New England Foundation for the Humanities guide/anthology.

Ginsburg, Ruth Bader. *My Own Words*. A collection of engaging, serious, and playful writings and speeches from the Supreme Court justice on a range of topics.

Haddock, Doris and Michael Burke. *Granny D's American Century*. Doris Haddock ("Granny D") became a national celebrity when, from age 88 to 90, she walked across the country to advocate for campaign finance reform. This is her account of an eventful life.

Hall, Donald. *Fathers Playing Catch With Sons: essays on sport (mostly baseball)*. Hall, former New Hampshire and United States Poet Laureate, is also a gifted essayist, here with essays on sports.

Hall, Donald. *Here at Eagle Pond*. Poet Laureate (New Hampshire and United States) reflects on returning to live at his grandparents' rural New Hampshire farm.

Hall, Donald. *Life Work*. Poet Hall reflects on his life as a writer, as he ages and deals with cancer.

Hall, Donald. *String too Short to be Saved*. Essays about summers spent visiting his grandparents on their New Hampshire farm.

Hall, Robert (editor). *Making a Living: the work experience of African Americans in New England*. Accounts of how African Americans earned a living from colonial days to World War II.

Hareven, Tamara and Randolph Langenbach. *Amoskeag: life and work in an American factory-city*. Oral histories of life in Manchester's Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, once the largest textile mill in the world.

Hays, David and Daniel Hays. *My Old Man and the Sea: a father and son sail around Cape Horn*. Story of a father and son who together build a boat, then sail it around Cape Horn.

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Epic poem of Odysseus' journey home following the Trojan War.

Huntington, Cynthia. *We Have Gone to the Beach*. Collected poems by a former New Hampshire Poet Laureate.

Keefe, Patrick Radden. *Say Nothing: a true story of murder and memory in Northern Ireland*. Documents the notorious abduction and murder of I.R.A. Troubles victim Jean McConville in 1972 Belfast, exploring how the case reflected the brutal conflicts of Northern Ireland and their ongoing repercussions.

Kidder, Tracy. *Mountains Beyond Mountains*. Boston doctor and specialist in infectious diseases Paul Farmer starts a clinic for the poor in Haiti.

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Braiding Sweetgrass: indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants*. As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers.

Kincaid, Jamaica. *My Garden (Book)*. Vermont transplant (and Antiguan native) Kincaid explores her love of gardening.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: a year of food life*. For one year the author and her family agree to eat only food that was locally grown or raised.

Kirkpatrick, Kate. *Becoming Beauvoir*. Kirkpatrick draws on previously unpublished diaries and letters to offer a unique insight into Beauvoir's relationships, her philosophy of freedom and love, and the complex struggle it was to become herself.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into the Wild*. Chris McCandless, a good student from a wealthy family, gives away everything and hitchhikes to Alaska to live in the wilderness, only to be found dead four months later.

Kurson, Robert. *Shadow Divers*. Two divers discover the remains of a World War II U-boat in deep waters. This commences a long and dangerous quest to identify the sunken wreck.

Landdeck, Katherine Sharp. *The Women with Silver Wings: the inspiring true story of the women airforce service pilots of World War II*. Tells the true story of the daring female aviators who helped the United States win World War II—only to be forgotten by the country they served.

Lansing, Alfred. *Endurance: Shackleton's incredible voyage*. Incredible story of Sir Ernest Shackleton's doomed plan to cross the Antarctic in 1914/1915, only to be stranded on the ice for several months.

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Larcom, Lucy. *A New England Girlhood*. Autobiography of Larcom's youth spent working in the textile mills of Lowell, Massachusetts in the 1800's. Larcom later became a popular poet and editor.

Lindbergh, Reeve. *No More Words: a journal of my mother, Anne Morrow Lindbergh*. Reeve is the daughter of famous aviator Charles Lindbergh and his accomplished author wife, Anne Morrow Lindbergh. She chronicles the last years of her mother's life when she was incapacitated by strokes.

Lipscomb, Benjamin J.B. *The Women Are Up to Something: How Elizabeth Anscombe, Philippa Foot, Mary Midgley, and Iris Murdoch Revolutionized Ethics*. Tells the inspiring story of four philosophers who triumphed over the limitations set on women in mid-20th century England, which are relevant to the challenges women in the academy continue to face today.

Lopez, Barry. *Arctic Dreams*. Winner of the National Book Award. Lopez made several visits to far northern Canada, and writes about the wild land and its inhabitants.

Markham, Beryl. *West With the Night*. Markham grew up in Kenya and was an adventurer and aviatrix, becoming the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from east to west.

Matthiessen, Peter. *The Snow Leopard*. The author travels to the Himalayas in search of the rare snow leopard. It is also a spiritual quest for the Zen Buddhist author.

McBride, Mekeel. *Wind of the White Dresses*. A poetry collection by the University of New Hampshire professor of English.

McPherson, James M. *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam*. A Civil War historian describes the 1862 Battle of Antietam, where more than 6,000 soldiers were killed. It was an important victory for the Union Army, which had been losing ground in the war.

Mead, Margaret. *Blackberry Winter: my earlier years*. The autobiography of the famous anthropologist and author of *Coming of Age in Samoa*.

Merchant, Carolyn. *Ecological Revolutions: nature, gender, & science in New England*. Professor Merchant's study of how the Native Americans, then the European settlers, interacted with the land in colonial New England.

Mitchell, John Hanson. *Ceremonial Time: fifteen thousand years on one square mile*. The author traces the history of a small tract of land in Massachusetts from the last ice age to the present encroaching industry.

Neihardt, John G. *Black Elk Speaks*. Nicholas Black Elk (1863-1950) was a Lakota healer. He shared his life story, and that of the Sioux people, with famous poet Neihardt. It is not just the story of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, but also Black Elk's spiritual vision of the world.

Neihardt, John G. *Black Elk Speaks: The Complete Edition*. Reveals the life of Lakota healer Nicholas Black Elk as he led his tribe's battle against settlers who threatened their homes and describes the victories and tragedies at Little Bighorn and Wounded Knee. This edition features a new introduction, annotations, maps, illustrations and appendices.

Newby, Eric. *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush*. In 1956, fashion industry worker Newby impulsively departed England for a trek in a remote and mountainous area of Afghanistan.

Oliver, Mary. *New and Selected Poems*. Winner of the National Book Award for Poetry. Oliver, who also won the Pulitzer Prize, has lived in New England for many years.

Paulsen, Gary. *Winterdance: the fine madness of running the Iditarod*. Acclaimed children's author Paulsen enters the grueling Iditarod dogsled race in Alaska.

Philbrick, Nathaniel. *In the Heart of the Sea: the tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*. National Book Award winner. A Nantucket whaling ship was attacked and sunk by a sperm whale in 1820. The surviving crew set out in small boats to try and reach land 3,000 miles away. Their story was the inspiration for Melville's *Moby Dick*.

Pigliucci, Massimo. *How to Be a Stoic: using ancient philosophy to live a modern life*. How can we lead a life worth living? Stoicism is pragmatic, focused on achieving the possible and recognizing what's unimportant. This book presents a powerful approach to life's biggest (and smallest) questions.

Pike, Robert E. *Spiked Boots*. True stories of New England loggers and the dangerous river log drives of the early 20th century.

Rankine, Claudia. *Citizen: An American Lyric*. Collects essays, poetry, and images that expose the racial tensions in twenty-first century life, highlighting the slights, slips of the tongue, and intentional offensives that pervade the home, school, and popular media.

Rankine, Claudia. *Just Us: An American Conversation*. As everyday white supremacy becomes increasingly vocalized with no clear answers at hand, how best might we approach one another? Claudia Rankine, without telling us what to do, urges us to begin the discussions that might open pathways through this divisive and stuck moment in American history.

Rich, Louise Dickinson. *We Took to the Woods*. Rich tells the true story about living in the backwoods of rural Maine in the 1930s.

Rutledge, Lyman. *The Isles of Shoals in Lore and Legend*. Rev. Rutledge was a Unitarian minister and involved in the Star Island Corporation. He wrote about the history of the islands off the coast of New Hampshire and Maine.

Saint-Exupery, Antoine de. *Wind, Sand and Stars*. By the author of *The Little Prince*, recipient of the Grand Prix of the Academie Francaise. The author disappeared while flying in 1944. In this book he describes stories of flying during the early years of aviation.

Sanders, Scott R. *Hunting for Hope: a father's journeys*. Environmental author Sanders has written essays sharing his hope for the future of people and nature.

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Sarton, May. *Journal of a Solitude*. Sarton's journal of living alone in a small New Hampshire town one year.

Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. Tragic play about Prince Hamlet who avenges the murder of his father, the king, who was killed by his brother.

Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest*. Tragic play. Prospero has been forced from power and stranded on a remote island with his daughter. He is a magician and creates a huge storm to lure his traitorous brother and the current Duke of Milan to the island.

Sleigh, Tom. *Waking*. A collection of poetry by Sleigh, an English professor at Dartmouth College.

Thesiger, Wilfred. *Arabian Sands*. Thesiger traveled around Arabia in the 1940's amongst the desert-dwelling Bedouins, before the great changes brought by the discovery of oil.

Uchida, Yoshiko. *Desert Exile: the uprooting of a Japanese-American family*. The author narrates the story of her family, sent from California to an internment camp in Utah during World War II.

Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. *A Midwife's Tale: the life of Martha Ballard, based on her diary, 1785-1812*. A winner of the Pulitzer Prize by a former University of New Hampshire professor. Ulrich writes about the life of colonial women, using the diary of a Maine midwife.

Vallier, Jane. *Poet on Demand: the life, letters, and works of Celia Thaxter*. Literary biography of 19th century New Hampshire poet Celia Thaxter.

Verghese, Abraham. *The Tennis Partner*. A New York Times Notable Book. Verghese, a doctor, moves to Texas to start a new job and a new, divorced life. He begins a regular tennis game with a medical student and recovering addict.

Weiss, Elaine. *The Woman's Hour: the great fight to win the vote*. An uplifting account of the 1920 ratification of the constitutional amendment that granted voting rights to women traces the culmination of seven decades of legal battles and cites the pivotal contributions of famous suffragists and political leaders.

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. Wiesel survived the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps as a teenager. This is his vivid memoir of survival and of losing his family during the Holocaust.

Winchester, Simon. *The Professor and the Madman: a tale of murder, insanity, and the making of the Oxford English Dictionary*. Begun in 1857, the creation of the great dictionary took 70 years. An important contributor of definitions and usage was an American doctor imprisoned in London for a murder.

Wood, William. *New England's Prospect*. This was originally published in 1634 England, to provide information to prospective colonists to New England. It is full of descriptions of the natural environment and accounts of daily life in the colonies.