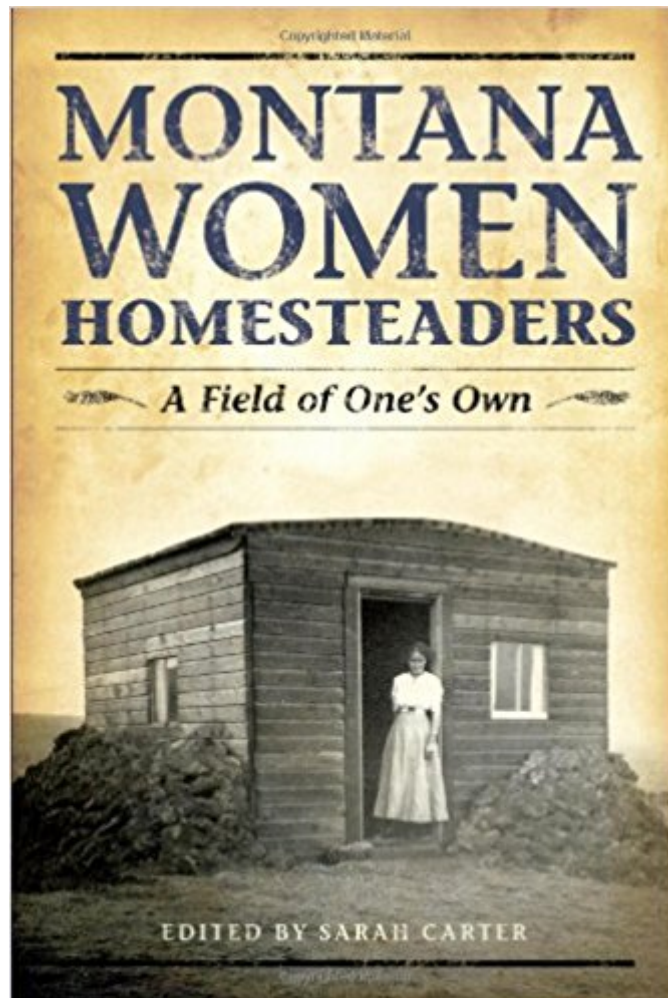




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Montana Women Homesteaders: A Field Of One's Own



Synopsis

In *Montana Women Homesteaders: A Field of One's Own*, author and historian Sarah Carter introduces the voices and images of women who filed on 160- or 320-acre homestead plots in Montana. Single, widowed, divorced, or deserted, women varied in ages, educational levels, and ethnic backgrounds, but all proved up on their homesteads. In published accounts, scrapbooks, personal reminiscences, and photographs, the women recorded their remarkable journeys. Carter reveals inspiring stories filled with joy, tragedy, and redemption. Silver medal, WILLA Literary Awards, scholarly nonfiction, 2010 For more information, visit FarCountryPress.com.

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Customer Reviews

An absorbing, often deeply personal account...highly recommended --Midwest Book Review

Sarah Carter is a professor and H. M. Tory Chair at the University of Alberta's history and classics department and a member of the faculty of Native studies. A specialist in western Canadian history, she crossed the forty-ninth parallel to compare land policies in the western United States and western Canada. Her books include *The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada*, *Aboriginal People and Colonizers of Western Canada*, and *Capturing Women: The Manipulation of Cultural Imagery in Canada's Prairie West*. The winner of the 2006 Joan Jensen Darlis Miller Prize for the best article published about women in the Trans-Mississippi West, Carter became a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2007.

I just finished this book, and really loved it. The book devotes a chapter to each of a dozen or so women who filed claims on free land in Montana in the late 1800s to the 19-teens. They were required to live on the land and improve it (with crops, fencing and a house) for five years before getting the title to it. They were also required to be single, divorced, abandoned or otherwise heads of their households, as married women didn't qualify for land. The book contains quite a few pictures of these tough women and their homesteads, and diary entries and letters from several of them. I am amazed that anybody could "prove up" a claim in that terribly dry, isolated place. The hunger, heat, cold, wind, sand, lack of water, crop failure, loss of livestock, lack of feminine companionship, and lack of medical care caused so many homesteaders to give up, and yet these women stayed and flourished. If you enjoy books about the settling of the American West and the pioneer spirit, you will love this book!

The book: "Montana Women Homesteaders; A Field of One's Own" is a subject that needed to be explored. These women were resourceful, adventurous and brave. Especially eastern Montana has to be seen and experienced to begin to understand what these women faced. One of them, Catherine Calk McCarty, was well known to us. It was her sharing her stories (being caught in a blizzard and having to give the horses their 'head' that got them safe to shelter. Or, being followed to her homestead by a lone rider who stayed in her corral for most of the night.) that led to our encouragement for her to write her story. I recommend this book to those who wish to learn about the settling of the west and the courage required to be one of the settlers, especially the women who came.

This was an amazing book. I read parts of it over and over. I think about these women and their struggles. Who knew these homesteading women even existed? We think we struggle today until you read about the pioneer women who helped settle this country.

This book has some fascinating accounts of the hardships endured by early 20th century single women homesteaders. Some of the writing is rather dry; others are very well written. Overall an interesting topic which I knew nothing about.

love this book

My great grandma is one of the women in this book. An incredibly good read!!

Ok read, kind of boring...

Very good book. I will be reading it again - interesting stories of how life was for these homesteading women.

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