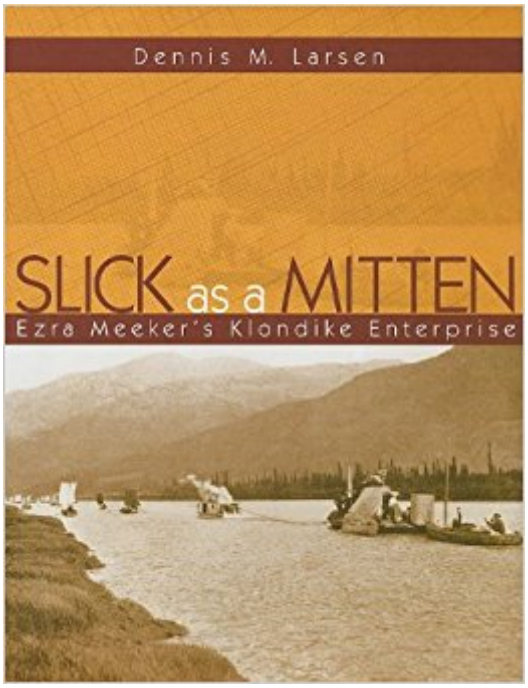
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Slick As A Mitten: Ezra Meeker's Klondike Enterprise



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Synopsis

Ezra Meeker braved the Oregon Trail in 1852 and accumulated a fortune in the Puyallup hop-growing business. Suddenly, at the dawn of the new century, he lost his wealth, and despite his advanced age, ventured to Alaska and the treacherous Klondike. Four years of letters, most from Ezra to his beloved wife Eliza Jane, relay the details of his risky scheme to transport and sell more than 60 tons of groceries to Yukon gold miners.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anyone who is interested in the Klondike gold rush, and/or the history of Washington State, will find this book very interesting. It reproduces the records of Ezra Meeker, a very important person in this history, as he traveled into and out of the Yukon. Many others will also find this book interesting, as most Yukon gold rush books describe the actions of stampeders, but this one involves a merchant who took foodstuffs into the Yukon for sale. Dennis Larsen provides many interesting facts and comments to fill in the gaps.

Traveling the Oregon trail in 1852, Ezra Meeker built his fortune in hop farming and brokering in Puget Sound country. Platting Puyallup, Meeker served as the town’s first mayor and was a key businessman. A scourge of hop aphids hit in the 1890s, followed by a national economic depression which wiped out Meeker’s assets. When the Puyallup bank was on the verge of failure, Meeker came to the aid of his friends and neighbors by using his own greatly diminished finances to return funds to the depositors. 1898 saw the Alaskan Klondike gold rush and, even though he was now in

his 60s, Meeker went north four times transporting and selling one hundred tons of vegetables, dried foods and canned goods in mining camps, primitive inns and restaurants while his wife Eliza Jane stayed behind to manage the family business. To put it mildly, Ezra Meeker led an interesting life and "Slick As A Mitten: Ezra Meeker's Klondike Enterprise" is his fascinating story superbly compiled with historic black-and-white photos by Dennis M. Larsen. An engaging and entertaining read from beginning to end, "Slick As A Mitten" is a splendid and enthusiastically recommended addition to academic library American History and American Biography collections.

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