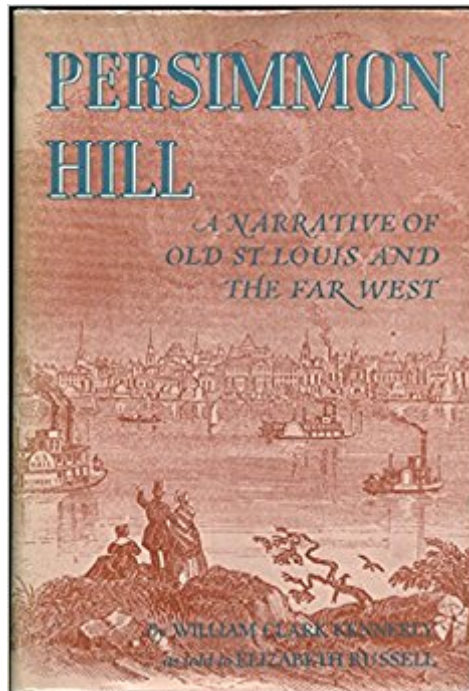




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Persimmon Hill,: A Narrative Of Old St. Louis And The Far West



Synopsis

Norman: Univ of Oklahoma Press , 1948. good hardcover in fair dustjacket, jacket is faded at spine and edgeworn, signed Elizabeth K. Russel on front endpaper, previous owner

Book Information

Hardcover: 273 pages

Publisher: Univ. of Oklahoma Press; 1st edition (1948)

Language: English

ASIN: B0007EYROY

Package Dimensions: 8.6 x 6 x 1.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

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Customer Reviews

Norman: Univ of Oklahoma Press , 1948. good hardcover in fair dustjacket, jacket is faded at spine and edgeworn, signed Elizabeth K. Russel on front endpaper, previous owner

What a good book. The book covers one man's life of adventure, and life of adventure it is, from shortly after the Louisiana Purchase to the end of the American Civil War. The adventurer is William Clark Kennerly. He knew and may have been related to William Clark of Lewis and Clark fame...he did make a trip into the then Western Wilderness with a famous Scottish adventurer, William Drummond Stewart, and he met or knew many of the famous people of the era who came through St. Louis during those years. He went with a volunteer artillery unit as a part of the Army of the West during the Mexican War. He went with Alexander William Doniphan on his famous march from Santa Fe, to El Paso, to Chihuahua, Mexico, He then went onto the Mexican coast, to Mobile, Ala., and then on to a glorious welcome home in St. Louis. He was not long home before he joined the throngs rushing to California to find gold. He a little later on describes the real life and person of Dred Scott, from the famous legal case that preceded the American Civil War. He talks a bit of his own experiences as a soldier for the Confederacy. Oh, what a nice, wonderful book to read. If you have read anything of this period in American history, you will recognize many of the characters and many of the events. Yet, there is a personal touch to this book that makes it more than history.

Some of the really personal notes make it exceptional, for example the mention that people of the time sipped chicken bullion to give them the strength to dance late in to the light. He talks of steamboat travel and how at night steamboats tied up to the bank because obstructions in the river made it too dangerous to travel at night. He talks of the several plagues that killed many people in St. Louis, including the famous cholera and yellow fever epidemics. What an interesting man William Clark Kennerly was and what a good book about him that his daughter Elizabeth Kennerly Russell has written about him.

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