

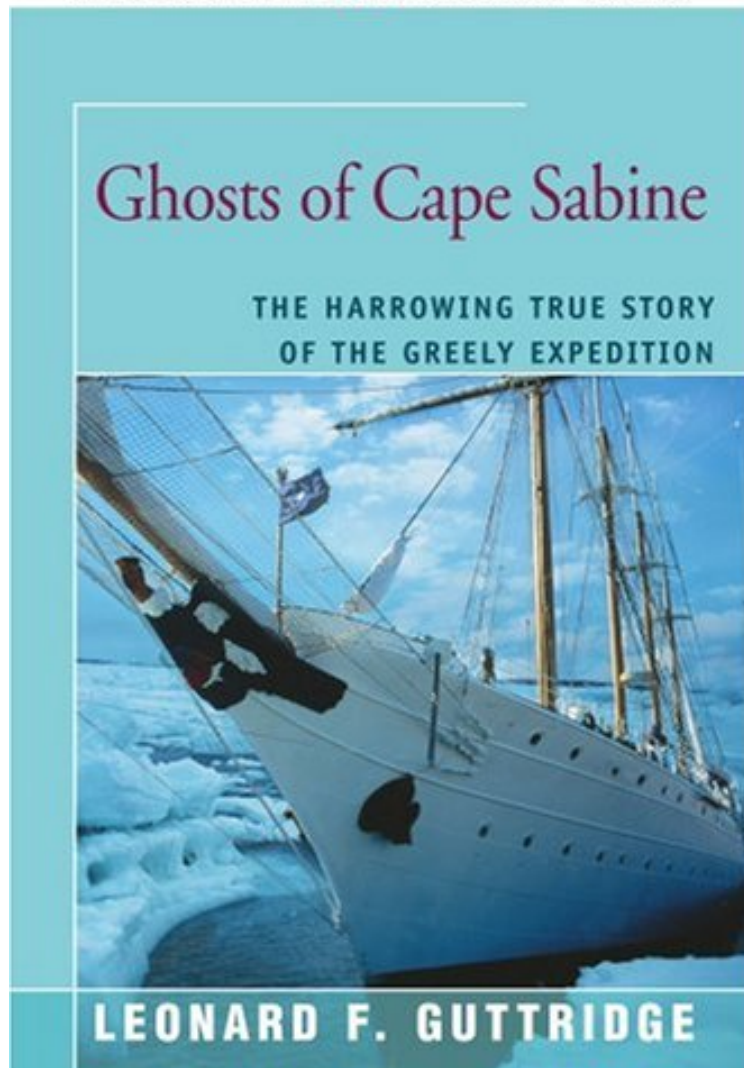
[Read ebook] Ghosts of Cape Sabine: The Harrowing True Story of the Greely Expedition

# Ghosts of Cape Sabine: The Harrowing True Story of the Greely Expedition

*Leonard Guttridge*

*ebooks / Download PDF / \*ePub / DOC / audiobook*

An Authors Guild **Backinprint.com** Edition



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2616951 in Books Backinprint.com 2006-10-18Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .97 x 6.00l, 1.26  
#File Name: 0595409695388 pages | File size: 55.Mb

**Leonard Guttridge : Ghosts of Cape Sabine: The Harrowing True Story of the Greely Expedition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ghosts of Cape Sabine: The Harrowing True Story of the Greely Expedition:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Cold Explorers and Cold BureaucracyBy Wayne A. SmithIn the 1880's Americans set the record for the farthest penetration north toward the pole.The Greely Expedition set that

record, from a camp established on far north Ellsworth Island in Canada. That was one of the few positives that saw an expedition of a dozen and a half men whittled down to six shoe eating survivors who were finally rescued two years and many tragedies later. Greely's was an American military expedition -- though set off without the full or enthusiastic support of General Sherman or Sec. of War Lincoln (the President's son). In fact, Sec. of War Lincoln is one of the chief villains in the story -- the archetype cold bureaucrat who worries about everything but the lives of the men and their succor during their years of peril and while totally dependant on annual relief ships that never make their landing as agreed. Although Greeley's first year went rather smoothly and the failure to find a relief ship worrisome thought not disastrous, the second absence forced the men to march through the frozen artic to an agreed upon rescue point some two hundred miles from their camp (Ft. Conger). Pre-positioned supplies were not there in quantities promised nor was an anticipated ship to take them home. The men had to winter in tents with few provisions, little game, and lessening hope. Most would die, cannibalism would become an element of survival and bureaucratic ineptitude would continue to prevent an organized and serious effort to help these men go forward. The author has written a well researched and interesting book. He gives good concise backgrounds on Greely and the other principal players in the drama. Throughout the book she intersperses scenes from above the Arctic Circle with farcical scenes from Washington as the Army Department, Navy Department and the Army Department's Signal Bureau send memos, blame, investigations and poorly organized, manned and planned relief ships. Although sometimes the bureaucratic parts of the book drag, the glimpse it provides of an inept officialdom has to be told to be believed. And Greely's men suffered for it. This is a good and exciting tale of arctic exploration and survival. The author uses the many diary entries the existed from men who were part of the expedition to recreate a believable first-person account of this strange and sad saga from our past. 43 of 46 people found the following review helpful. Hurrah! for a book on the Lady Jane Franklin Bay expedition By Susan R. Matthews If you're interested in the adventure literature of polar exploration you may already have noted that though intriguing references to the Lady Jane Franklin Bay expedition keep cropping up, nothing seems to be available in the literature to explain what it was -- how it came about -- what happened, and how the story survived to be told. Existing references were out of print or otherwise unavailable . . . until now! The Ghosts of Cape Sabine tells the complete story of the Greely expedition to Lady Jane Franklin Bay. The ghastly mismanagement of the relief and rescue expeditions must be read to be believed, but it is all true. Guttridge's research uses previously unconsulted archival information to present a deeply affecting picture of the emotions and aspirations of the men of the expedition. Of particular interest to me was his exploration of the ways in which Greely's own perhaps over-careful instructions for relief and reprovisioning can be said to have contributed to the disaster that befell the expedition. Under conditions of appalling stress and privation Greely's leadership was tested more severely than it had been even under fire, and it can be said that it was found wanting to an extent. Not every man can be a Shackleton. And still he brought every man in his command alive to Cape Sabine, and could have brought them all back home again -- if only, if only. Guttridge is a fair and sympathetic historian who declines to either idolize or demonize, treating the personalities involved with compassion and respect. This book is an invaluable contribution to the literature of polar exploration. He writes well and with persuasive conviction, and does an altogether too effective job of communicating the horrors of Cape Sabine without stooping to sensationalism. My thanks to Leonard Guttridge for making this story available one again -- and now I have to go look up his story about the Jeanette! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "How we gloated over the harvest, gazed upon the box of Durham tobacco and wished it was meat" --- Private Henry By mwreview "Ghosts of Cape Sabine" is one of those books this reader was sad to finish because it is such an exciting story with so much incredible intrigue that another 300 pages would be welcomed. The story of Adolphus Greely's Arctic expedition was mentioned in Leonard Guttridge's "Icebound: The Jeannette Expedition's Quest for the North Pole." The Jeanette was deemed missing by the time Greely set out on the Proteus in 1881. As much as this reader enjoyed "Icebound," "Ghosts of Cape Sabine," written by the same author, is better. In fact, there is a lot in common between the Jeanette expedition and the Greely expedition. Both were dripping in controversy and intrigue from the top down and inside and outside. With the Greely expedition, though, these illicit affairs are magnified. Captain Henry Howgate championed a scientific research team (with sights on the North Pole) at Lady Franklin Bay led by his friend Greely; but, as Property and Disbursing Officer for the Signals Corps, Howgate embezzled as much as \$700,000 and became a wanted man. De Long had a few troublesome members of his crew on the Jeanette, but some members of Greely's crew were almost mutinous. Second in Command Kislingbury was such a thorn in Greely's side that he fired him from the expedition but, because the Proteus, which had brought them to their research camp, had already left, they were stuck with him. The ship's doctor Octave Pavy would end up being arrested. The ship's engineer was a habitual drunkard who stole lamp fuel. There was also a murder of a crew member. More trouble for Greely's team came from outside the expedition. Supply ships were supposed to bring Greely relief in 1882 and take them back home in 1883. Neither arrived nor, it can be argued, fulfilled their duty in leaving stores for the Greely party escaping on foot. What's more, the lack of cooperation and interest by Secretary of War Lincoln (son of the president) had a hand in the tragedy that unfolded. Then there was a cover-up after the survivors were found. This story has it all and is well-researched and well-written by Guttridge who is, at times, critical of Greely and the whole make-up of the expedition and those assigned to make the decisions. "Ghosts of Cape Sabine" is highly recommended

to readers interested in stories of exploration, adventure, political intrigue, and Arctic survival. The hardcover version is 356 pages which includes notes and index and a middle section with black and white glossy photos.

As fascinating and exciting as any adventure novel.-The Atlantic Monthly"Adventure aplenty here, not to mention execution, mutiny, starvation, suicide, and cannibalism."-Salon.com"Will easily net the aficionados of adventure and disaster tales."-Booklist"Shares the elements of the bestsellers Into Thin Air and The Perfect Storm. Guttridge chillingly recreates it all."-P.O.V.

.com In May 1884, huddled in a tent on the northwest coast of Greenland, Private Roderick R. Schneider looked around at his companions and wrote in his journal: "It is horrible to see eighteen men dying by inches." One month later, Schneider was dead, a victim of starvation. Schneider was one of 24 men sent to establish a scientific base in Lady Franklin Bay in 1881. A combination of poor planning, bad weather, weak leadership, and a lack of support from the government that had sent them north caused all but six men to perish. Historian Leonard F. Guttridge tells the story of the ill-fated Greely expedition in *Ghosts of Cape Sabine*. The expedition got off to a rocky start, underprovisioned and manned with soldiers who had never been to the Arctic. Still, once established at Lady Franklin Bay, the team performed its scientific studies and even made a foray north, breaking the British record. Personality conflicts between Lieutenant Adolphus Greely and several of his men were intensified by the fact that the ships supposed to resupply and, after two years, relieve them, never came. Dangerously low on food and supplies, the party was forced to attempt to retreat on its own. After weeks of travel, much of it spent drifting on the ice pack in Kane Basin, the party arrived at Cape Sabine and made camp. As the weeks passed and the food ran out, the men subsisted on leather from their boots, miniscule shrimp, bits of moss scraped from the rocks, and--as the days grew longer and the party grew smaller--the bodies of their fallen comrades. "In the wan light of an unsetting sun during those early Arctic summer weeks, one or more of the desperate men at Cape Sabine had been up on the ridge of the dead, busy with scalpel or hunting knife." Guttridge utilized journals, reports, and personal correspondence to create an almost day-to-day account of the expedition, and he excels at bringing to life those desperate months waiting for rescue ships that came too late for most of the Greely expedition. Juicy details and a mastery of the subject make *Ghosts of Cape Sabine* read like a suspenseful novel. --Sunny Delaney  
From Publishers Weekly  
Mutiny, shipwreck, a new farthest north, bureaucratic ineptitude, cannibalism. A story that features all these elements promises more than enough excitement, but Guttridge (*Icebound*, etc.) doesn't corral all the pieces of his story into a coherent narrative until the end, when the stark and tragic facts take on their own momentum. The Greely Expedition set out in 1881 to conduct scientific observations at Lady Franklin Bay, a remote spot on Ellesmere Island in the Canadian Arctic. Under the command of U.S. Army Lieut. Adolphus Greely, the expedition was part of a multinational research effort in which several countries were making scientific observations. But funds were hard to obtain for the expedition and, more importantly, for the relief parties that were sent out the following year to cache supplies in the event the Greely party had to retreat southward. The events themselves are gripping, and Guttridge shows how Greely's men steadily lost faith in their commander. Greely's most dependable sergeant wrote in his journal: "Why does the United States government persist in sending a fool in command of an Arctic expedition?" But Guttridge delves too deeply into the details of bureaucratic infighting and provisioning and fails to successfully evoke the rigors and beauties of the Arctic climate. He relies heavily on the words that the officers and men wrote in their journals, which give readers a sense of the inexorable breakdown of discipline and morale in the face of poor leadership, but don't offer any lingering sense of the men who wrote them or of the conditions to which they ultimately succumbed. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From School Library Journal  
YA-The Greely expedition was the American component of an international effort to establish outposts for the purpose of scientific observation and exploration in the Arctic region. In 1881, the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition (as the Greely expedition was known) set up a base camp at the northern part of Ellesmere Island, and waited for the planned resupply ship to come in 1882. None came. Greely and company hunkered down for another winter, hoping that a ship would arrive in the spring of 1883. None came. At that point, they began a retreat south where at last, in 1884, a third rescue party found what remained of the expedition at Cape Sabine, at the southern part of the island. In alternating chapters, the book follows events over the course of these three years, both with the Greely party and with the expedition's handlers in Washington. Inexperience, incompetence, and ignorance compounded by rivalries and bureaucratic wrangling both in the Arctic and in Washington, DC, wrought near mutiny, courts of inquiry, starvation, execution, and cannibalism. Blame for the near annihilation of the party can be placed in both camps, as Guttridge shows. He notes that few expeditions included more prolific writers than this one and his adherence to primary sources both enhances and personalizes the narrative. YAs are sure to be moved by this painful account of men tested to the extreme by an "unforgiving Arctic."-Dori DeSpain, Fairfax County Public Library, VA  
Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.