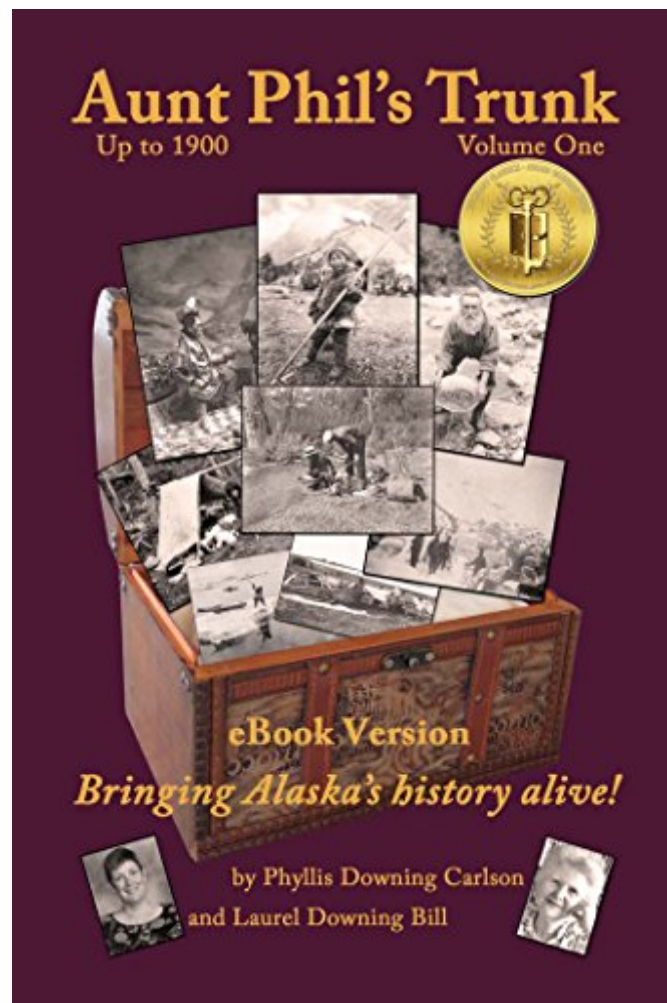




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Aunt Phil's Trunk: Bringing Alaska's History Alive!



Synopsis

The critically acclaimed Aunt Phil's Trunk Alaska history series by Laurel Downing Bill is noted for its easy-to-read short stories and hundreds of historical photographs that complement the entertaining nonfiction writing. Suitable for ages 9 to 99, the first book in the series shares stories from early Alaska up to about 1900.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After a visit to Alaska, I wanted to know more about the History of Alaska. When I saw this book, not only was it filled with History, but, there were tons of pictures to go along with the written History!! I couldn't rest with just one volume,,,I had to have all four volumes! On my second trip to Alaska, I attended the Alaska State Fair in Palmer, Alaska. As we were strolling down the many booths, I looked up and there she was,,,,Laurel Downing Bill,,,,the author of my four Volume set!!! I was thrilled to death! I begged her to write a 5th Volume and she said it was a work in progress! I was thrilled to meet her and then met her again in Anchorage. We talked for a long time and have been friends ever since. If you love Alaska, then you need all 5 Volumes of this wonderful book!

AUNT PHIL'S TRUNK, VOL. 1, by Phyllis Downing Carlson and Laurel Downing Bill, is a wonderfully written, eminently readable, and richly illustrated narrative of Alaska's history up to 1900. Ensuing volumes will include one expected to be released within the coming year which will continue the story through the 20th century. I especially loved the wealth of vintage photographs in these pages that made frontier Alaska spring to life. So many cultures and so many characters populate this book: native tribes, Russian and American explorers and fortune hunters, trappers, prospectors, merchants, heroes, shamans, and scalawags. They are all here in their wild and woolly glory, pitting themselves against one of the most beautiful and forbidding landscapes in the world. In pre-1900 Alaska, fortune and disaster are never more than a hair's breadth apart. AUNT PHIL'S TRUNK is full of well-researched tales both wonderful and tragic. Written in a clear, coherent, and evocative voice, it is a fascinating window to Alaska's wild past. Highly recommended!

Just started reading, but so far, so good.

I love history, especially about Alaska, my home state. Quite a few historical pictures as well. Easy to read and informative.

Interesting and amazing. I will be reading all the others soon.

More of a collection of short articles, perhaps from other sources, than memoirs. Still interesting. Had been planning on getting the "series," but am not sure I will... Seems like a good thing to have around your cabin to read on long, quiet evenings.

Length: Print, 344 pages. Target Audience/Genre: Aunt Phil's Trunk is a series of five books regarding the history of Alaska. Volume One details the period up to 1900. Q - What was the Rank on the date this review was published? A - 1,337,585 among print editions. The Kindle version is ranked 359,797. Q - How was this book obtained? A - I was provided a copy by the author in exchange for an honest review. Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first? A - Yes. Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures? A - No, this is well written and well edited. Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read? A - Aunt Phil's Trunk is an engaging leisure read, chock full of interesting stories, tidbits, and photographs. Q - What sort of language does this

writer use to amplify the points made?A - Plain English.Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment?A - I loved the detail of the history and the precious photographs of people and places. I am attaching one photograph of Rampart. I've included a small excerpt below, so readers can peruse the style of presentation utilized by the author.

EXCERPT RAMPART

Two hundred and thirty miles downstream from Fort Yukon is the almost deserted village of Rampart, once an important trading post and supply center for thousands of miners on Minook and Hess creeks. A half-Russian and half-Native prospector named John Minook was searching for gold about 700 miles down river from Dawson at the mouth of Minook Creek around 1893 when he found gold. "Were it not for the Klondike, Minook would itself have caused a stampede from the United States," said Pierre Berton in his book, *The Klondike Fever*. The village was established as a river supply point for gold placer mines in the hills and creek valleys south of the Yukon, and its name refers to the range of low mountains through which the river runs and forms the "ramparts" of the Upper Yukon. By 1897, the village of Rampart swelled to 1,000, including the famous writer Rex Beach, who landed in town with a fur-lined sleeping bag, a rifle, a dog-skin suit and a mandolin. Dilapidated cabins brought \$800 and lots fetched up to \$1,200. Now, when one walks up and down its deserted paths, it's difficult to imagine busy scenes of the 1890s when eager gold-seekers jumped ashore from busy riverboats and crowded into the stores open day and night, or into the saloons alive with men entering and leaving through their swinging doors.

Bottom Line: Simply put, I wish every state had someone preserving their history with the same skill and dedication as Aunt Phil (Phyllis Downing Carlson) and her niece Laurel Downing Bill. I've glanced at each of the five books, but will be writing separate reviews, in order to do them the justice they deserve. I have not yet checked the kindle editions, but, so enamored with the print versions am I, that I am sure to add each of the Kindle copies for my library. Why? Because I can enlarge the photographs and illustrations and because I can adjust the type size to a size that I do not need my reading glasses to read. I rate this first volume five stars out of five. Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite. Thank you.

I had originally wanted this book for reference and research I was doing about Alaska, but after reading it, finding out the rich history, I have to say it is a very good book. Most of what I read was unknown to me prior to reading. I would recommend this book to anyone wanting to know more about how Alaska came to be, the Russian and Japanese influences and the gold rush. Easy and

quick read but full of great information."I was provided with a complimentary copy of this book so I could give an honest review." i

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