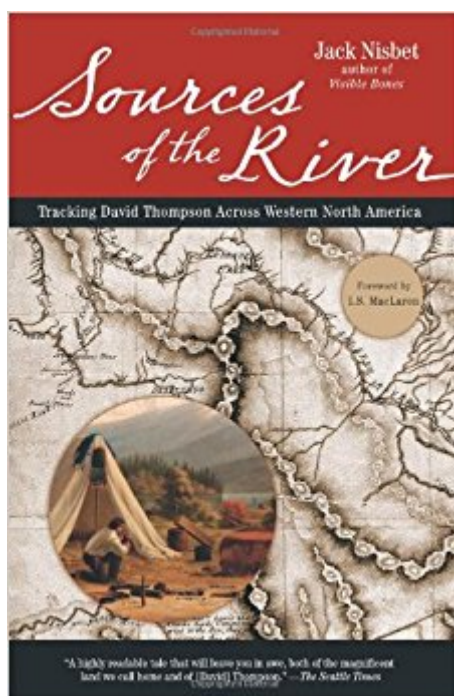


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Sources Of The River, 2nd Edition: Tracking David Thompson Across North America



Synopsis

In this true story of adventure, author Jack Nisbet re-creates the life and times of David Thompson—fur trader, explorer, surveyor, and mapmaker. From 1784 to 1812, Thompson explored western North America, and his field journals provide the earliest written accounts of the natural history and indigenous cultures of the what is now British Columbia, Alberta, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Thompson was the first person to chart the entire route of the Columbia river, and his wilderness expeditions have become the stuff of legend. Jack Nisbet tracks the explorer across the continent, interweaving his own observations with Thompson's historical writings. The result is a fascinating story of two men discovering the Northwest territory almost two hundred years apart.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Jack Nisbet tells Thompson's story superbly . . . Sources of the River goes immediately onto my short shelf of best books about the Pacific Northwest." —Murray Morgan

Field biologist and natural history teacher Jack Nisbet lives in Spokane, WA.

Sources of the River, 2nd Edition: Tracking David Thompson Across Western North America by an award-winning author, Jack Nisbet is an exciting, delightful read you will not want to put down once started. It is truly a great book about David Thompson in the Pacific Northwest during the 1800s by a Pacific Northwest writer. Step back in time and experience traveling with young David as he learns

to talk with the Indians, grasps the trapping trade, suffers with a broken leg, keeps company records, and masters the art of map making. From the Hudson's Bay Company to NW Co. of Merchants from Canada, Jack Nisbet presents the facts in a magical way. Nesbit has a way with words painting a picture--almost poetic in style. A Chronology at the back of the book shows dates and events from 1607 to 1916 so the reader can see just how David Thompson's life fits into the larger picture. There are Further Reading suggestions. Chapter Notes are extensive. There is also an Index. A must-have book for those who love true adventure stories and the history buff. Visit www.jacknisbet.com to learn about: Upcoming Events; About The Author; and to view a video as he speaks about his research and writing for *The Collector*, another fine book. "In historic times the falls marked a summer fishing place; when David Thompson arrived here in the early 1800s, he found a large village of Colville Indians drying salmon in long cedar sheds. Succeeding traders beat down a portage trail for their cones and fur packs, and built a small fort on a bluff above the river. White missionaries soon followed with Bibles and primers, and prospectors rushed in to grub for ore around every little cliff and outwash. Turn-of-the-century homesteaders plowed and planted, froze and flooded, dried out and blew out and burned out, and some still hung on."

For those interested in adventure of the likes of Lewis and Clark, especially those who live in the Northwest, this is a fascinating book about a fascinating individual. His ingenuity, tenacity and ability to endure unimaginable hardships, all in a day at work, impresses me. This book is a real winner.

Did not put it down. It was great.

I read this for myself, and then bought another copy for my brother-in-law. It's the first book I have ever read which describes the first meeting with the Native Americans, describes all the native tribes encountered between Hudson's Bay and the Pacific, and has true primary source material. It reads like a good novel, and describes early trading practices, rugged living in the wild.

really well written and interesting book

Good book, great at showing the differences between David Thompson, Mackenzie, Fraser, Lewis and Clark, Vancouver and Robert Grey.

I read a previous biography of David Thompson. I was impressed by the subject, but not the writing

style. Imagine how delighted i was to read this bio. The author makes Thompson, his times, and his labors come alive. The subject matters because Thompson was a truly great man. He ran circles around Lewis and Clark, yet most have never heard of him. Wish more Americans would read this book.

I like the way the author, Jack Nisbet, has taken the journals of David Thompson and woven the information in them (sometimes using quotation marks, sometimes not, as fitting) into a fascinating narrative about the life and incredible exploration feats of David Thompson. The narrative is made even more interesting by Nisbet's present-day [early 1990s] retracing of the steps of David Thompson. The author weaves his observations into the text here and there, in clearly marked sections, and he explains the things that we know now based on Thompson's explorations, as well as the things that Thompson didn't know, but we do.

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