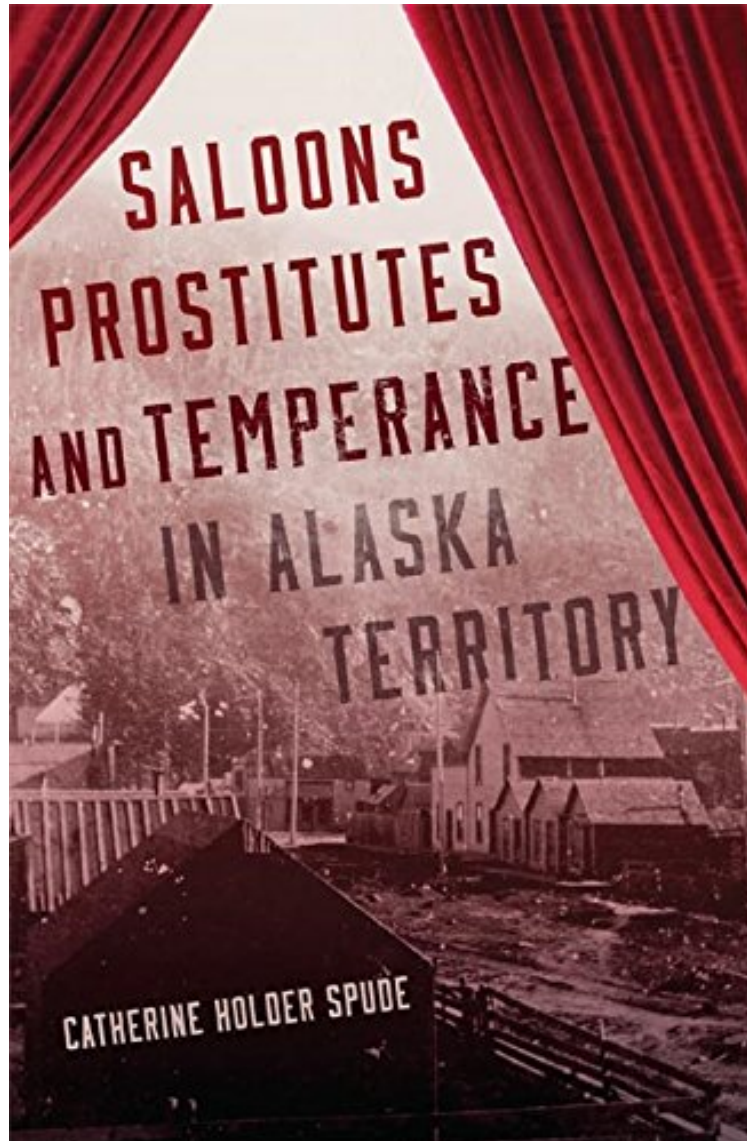


(Ebook pdf) Saloons, Prostitutes, and Temperance in Alaska Territory

Saloons, Prostitutes, and Temperance in Alaska Territory

Catherine Holder Spude

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Catherine Holder Spude : Saloons, Prostitutes, and Temperance in Alaska Territory before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saloons, Prostitutes, and Temperance in Alaska Territory:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy DanielleAn excellent collection of tales of the women of that time.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. awesomeBy GoddessI learned so much from this book about the history of social movements and politics - and the style, while academic, isn't boring.

Prostitution, gambling, and saloons were a vital, if not universally welcome, part of life in frontier boomtowns. In *Saloons, Prostitutes, and Temperance in Alaska Territory*, Catherine Holder Spude explores the rise and fall of these enterprises in Skagway, Alaska, between the gold rush of 1897 and the enactment of Prohibition in 1918. Her gritty account offers a case study in the clash between working-class men and middle-class women, and in the growth of women's political and economic power in the West. Where most books about vice in the West depict a rambunctious sin-scape, this one addresses money and politics. Focusing on the ambitions and resources of individual prostitutes and madams, landlords and saloon owners, lawmen, politicians, and reformers, Spude brings issues of gender and class to life in a place and time when vice equaled money and money controlled politics. Women of all classes learned how to manipulate both money and politics, ultimately deciding how to practice and regulate individual freedoms. As Progressive reforms swept America in the early twentieth century, middle-class women in Skagway won power, Spude shows, at the expense of the values and vices of the working-class men who had dominated the population in the town's earliest days. Reform began when a citizens' committee purged Skagway of card sharks and con men in 1898, and culminated when middle-class businessmen sided with their wives—giving them the power to vote—and in the process banned gambling, prostitution, and saloons. Today, a century after the era Spude describes, Skagway's tourist industry perpetuates the stereotypes of good times in saloons and bordellos. This book instead takes readers inside Skagway's real dens of iniquity, before and after their demise, and depicts frontier Skagway and its people as they really were. It will open the eyes of historians and tourists alike.

I REALLY LIKE IT. You have written a really detailed, well-justified book about Skagway. And what you have done is remarkable ... to "get to the bottom" of social change in an area by getting right down to the personal level and seeing how it all took place--at church, in the saloons, at the election booth--in a very well-documented small town. Frank Norris, *Alaska Historian*. "Saloons, Prostitutes, and Temperance in Alaska Territory is one of the best books to address the topic of vice before and after the gold rush that I have read. It wipes away many of the often repeated myths and misconceptions about the subject. it is a good read and I think readers will enjoy it."--Michael Gates, *Yukon Historian*. "Anyone with an interest in the truth behind the myth of saloon girls and the rise of prohibition will no doubt find "Saloons, Prostitutes, and Temperance" full of interesting perspectives and worthy analysis, whether said interest be academic or purely for entertainment." -- Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. When most people think Skagway and Alaska history, they think 1898 and then head for Nome. Spude's book explores what followed as the 20th century dawned and a town founded on the exploitation of passing prospectors struggled to become a lasting community. This involved taming its active vice district, which meant confronting some of Skagway's most prominent and theoretically respectable citizens. In Spude's hands, this little-known chapter in Alaskan history proves every bit as fascinating as the Gold Rush itself.--David A. James, *Alaska Dispatch News*. About the Author Catherine Holder Spude is author of *That Fiend in Hell*; *Soapy Smith in Legend and Sin* and *Grace: A Historical Novel of the Skagway, Alaska, Sporting Wars* and coeditor of *Eldorado! The Archaeology of Gold Mining in the Far North*.