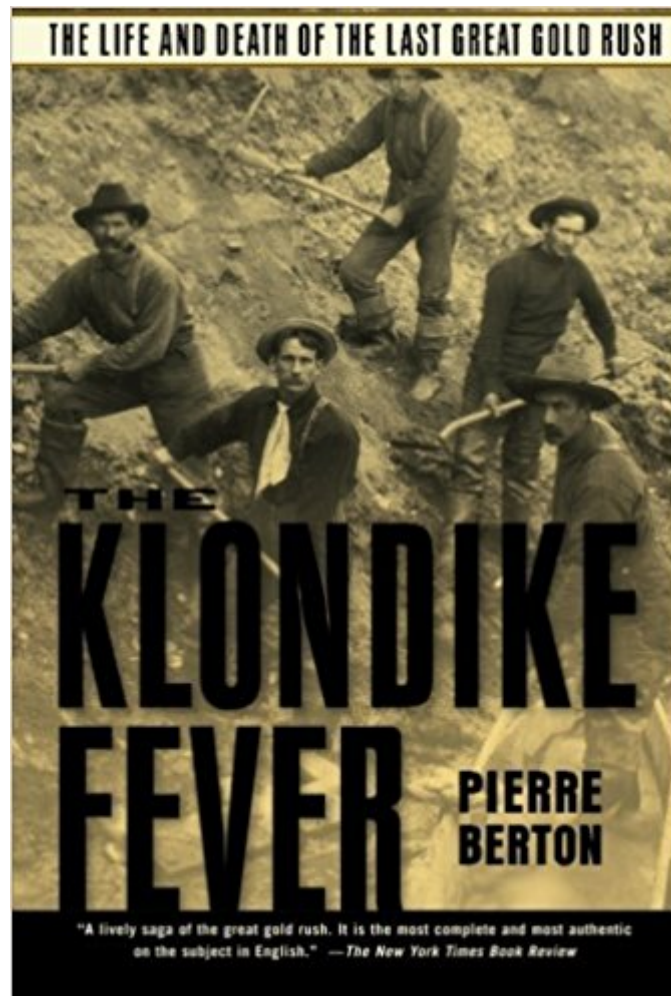




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# The Klondike Fever: The Life And Death Of The Last Great Gold Rush



## Synopsis

In 1897 a grimy steamer docked in Seattle and set into epic motion the incredible succession of events that Pierre Berton's exhilarating *The Klondike Fever* chronicles in all its splendid and astonishing folly. For the steamer *Portland* bore two tons of pure Klondike gold. And immediately, the stampede north to Alaska began. Easily as many as 100,000 adventurers, dreamers, and would-be miners from all over the world struck out for the remote, isolated gold fields in the Klondike Valley, most of them in total ignorance of the long, harsh Alaskan winters and the territory's indomitable terrain. Less than a third of that number would complete the enormously arduous mountain journey to their destination. Some would strike gold. Berton's story belongs less to the few who would make their fortunes than to the many swept up in the gold mania, to often unfortunate effects and tragic ends. It is a story of cold skies and avalanches, of con men and gamblers and dance hall girls, of sunken ships, of suicides, of dead horses and desperate men, of grizzly old miners and millionaires, of the land's exploitation and revenge. It is a story of the human capacity to dream, and to endure.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The definitive account of an affair as wildly improbable as any in North American history."

Pierre Burton is the internationally renowned bestselling author of fifty books and the recipient of over thirty literary awards including the Governor-General's Award for Creative Non-Fiction (three times). He was raised in the Yukon, served almost four years in the army, was an editor at the *Toronto Star*, and a writer and host of a series of CBC programs. He is a member of the *Newsman's*

Hall of Fame. Pierre Berton passed away in 2004. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I ordered this Kindle edition to get more of an understanding of the experience of the Klondike gold rush after reading my grandfather's diaries that he kept while mining for gold on the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska between 1898-1903. After reading this, it is clear that he made a wise choice in going where he did, rather than over the Chilkoot or White Pass trails into the Yukon. He came out if it with expenses barely covered and a stock certificate, now in my possession, entitling him to 300,000 shares of stock in his mining company at \$1 per share, which he never saw a dime of. But back to the book - I thoroughly enjoyed it from beginning to end. The author's personal connection to the locale and the times, plus his extensive research and his engaging writing style, really conveys the intensity - and insanity - of this last great gold rush, and the people who put everything on the line to be a part of it, for better or worse (mostly worse). I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to know more about this time in our history.

I haven't finished the book yet - about three-quarters of the way through. But this is a real page-turner, and it does a terrific job bringing the Klondike Gold Rush to life for the reader. All of the stories are there that would be familiar to the casual student of that period, but there is so much more detail for the reader, plus any number of interesting "side stories" to the central Gold Rush narrative that one might be familiar with.

This is the 3rd time we've purchased this book (keep giving them away!) If you are even marginally interested in the Klondike goldrush, Alaskan history or the settlement of the Northwest, you will find this book fascinating. It is simply unbelievable what human beings can do if they are so inspired! Give it a read; you won't be sorry.

A lively, well researched and fact filled account of a crazy time and the men and women who lived it. It seethes with life and stories of incredible persistence, failure, optimism and success. Even if success was only staying alive in the Yukon. This is my second read of this magnificent piece of history. For incurable romantics, travel buffs and those who love a good story

Very good book, but got a little boring towards the end.

I purchased this book for research and honestly did not expect such an interesting read. Very

enjoyable! Even if you're not a long time fan of facts from the Klondike gold rush this is entertaining enough to capture your interest.

Wow. Really cool stories of travelers to the Yukon gold rush: the burdens, trials, tribulations, scams, characters, takers, helpers, winners, and losers. Clear eyed descriptions of what it was like on the trails and in the ditches. Highly recommend.

All Berton's books are excellent Canadian stories. But this one is special. Berton, the journalist/historian, is recounting the events that included his father and of the Klondike area where Berton himself grew up and worked in the mines as a teenager. I can't imagine anyone who knows more about this subject. It is in his blood. Then add to that his storytelling skills and you have a great book!

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