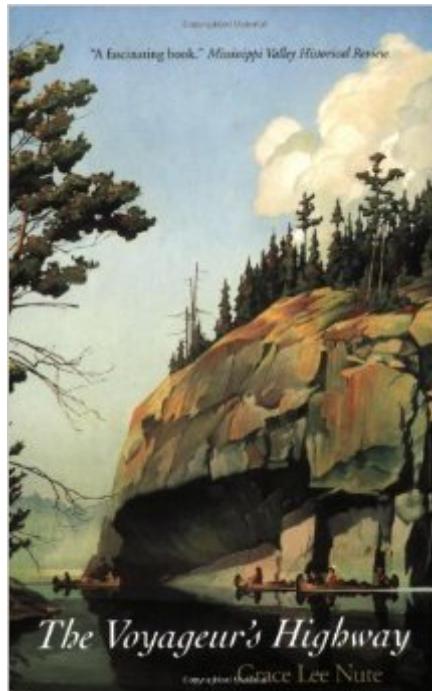


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The Voyageur's Highway: Minnesota's Border Lake Land



Synopsis

The voyageur's highway was the route from Lake Superior along inland waterways to the Minnesota North Country. Countless people—explorers, fur traders, missionaries, map makers, lumberjacks, miners, naturalists—were drawn to the region's woods and lakeshores. Indians, French Canadians, Scandinavians, and Slavs all used the rich resources of the land to follow an old way of life or to find a new one. In a lively, clear style, Grace Lee Nute tells the fascinating story of their adventures and love of the land. The Voyageur's Highway serves as a dependable source of historical information on the fur trade era, the opening of the Iron Range, and the loggers' way of life.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I read this book and enjoyed it so much that I read The Voyageurs soon thereafter. Both are well written and combined, they provide so much interesting information about the history of Canada and the United States. I recommend both as supplemental reading for avid students of history who want more detail than what we were typically taught in school decades ago. My only regret is that I did not have a map of North America at my side when I was reading these books to highlight key places and timelines for later review.

American history buffs are often not familiar with how Canada and the USA's borderline was established amid three centuries of fur-trading, (17th, 18th and 19th) that took place around Hudson's Bay, the Great Lakes region and northern Minnesota. Historian author, Grace Lee Nute, is

a graceful, accessible writer who spent a lifetime doing the research and writing several books. The famous Canadian Voyageurs are what make her stories so fascinating - those burly French-Canadian canoemen who swung through the northern woods toting their great bundles of furs and trade goods and plunged their fat cargo canoes through endless white water rapids, singing at the top of their lungs! They are to Canadian history what cowboys are to America: national icons. Also amazing are the stories of several of the key explorers like La Verendrye, Alexander MacKenzie and that great exploring map-maker, David Douglas, who, in the late 1700s, travelled 55,000 miles over 27 years, surveying everywhere he went. The end result was his creation of two enormous maps, as exquisitely beautiful today as they were incredibly accurate and influential in their time. Nute also takes the story into the 20th century, up to 1941. The reader is dismayed by early twentieth century environment destruction wreaked by lumber and iron ore mining industries but also heartened by the way Canada and the US have continued to cooperate to preserve much of the original deep forest as well as the pristine lakes that make up the border lakes region. This is indeed a worthy read!

I can't comment personally because I got this as a gift for my father, but he loved it and gives it 5 stars.

excellent history to be learned from this book, it is amazing that it was busier up there then compared to now

Just ok. Nothing special.

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