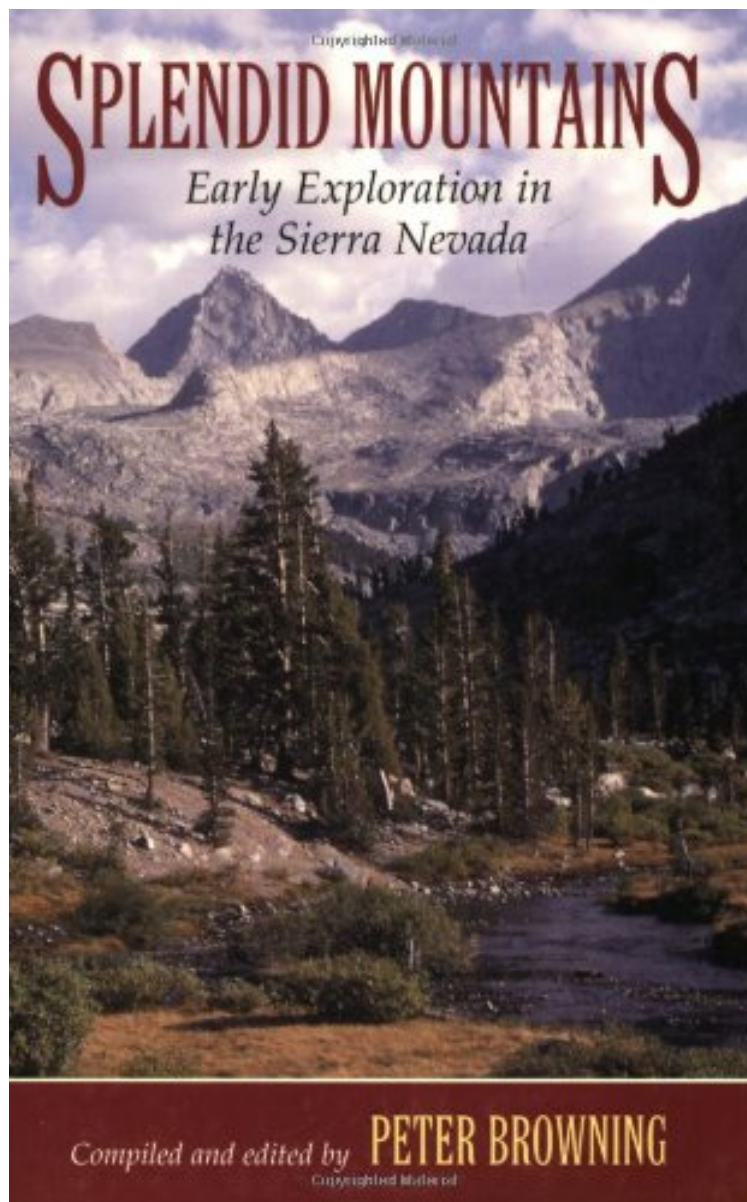


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Splendid Mountains

Peter Browning

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Peter Browning : Splendid Mountains before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Splendid Mountains:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Routes They Followed Need Modern MappingBy George D. SmithAnyone interested in the history of the Sierra Nevada mountains will enjoy this good collection of notes written

by early, lesser-known explorers and climbers, describing their adventures in the then largely unexplored regions of the Sierras. Most of these are reports culled from early Sierra Club Bulletins. But be forewarned, readers will have to surround themselves with a sea of modern topo maps to follow the routes described by these turn-of-century adventurers. I found it almost impossible to trace some routes, even with 7 1/2 minute USGS topographic maps at hand. The editor occasionally identifies a location with the modern topo designation, but many locations are described with old names no longer in use. A few good maps showing the paths taken by these intrepid and amazing men and women would improve the book to a rating of 5 stars. I think the editor or publisher might profitably put up a web-based associated map site and offer it to all purchasers. This is a fine collection, despite the lack of modern maps, and I feel indebted to Peter Browning for putting it together. The biographical information on these early explorers is skimpy, but the reader can google their names and find out more about many of them. Some, such as Bolton Coit Brown, are fascinating characters, worthy subjects of book-length biographies. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Essential for any who regularly seek California history source materials. By Midwest Book Review Libraries strong in California history will welcome **SPLENDID MOUNTAINS** a survey of the mountains to the north and east of Paradise Valley, which uses first-person observation to reveal early explorations, observations, and adventures in their exploration. It's an excellent survey for any library strong in California's pioneer history and provides a host of first-person experiences under one cover, essential for any who regularly seek California history source materials. Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch

Most of the less well known early explorers of the Sierra Nevada were private individuals, rather than government expeditions or cartographers. The more literate ones had accounts of their achievements, adventures, and mishaps published in newspapers and journals, often accompanying them with photographs, drawings, and hand-drawn maps. Most of these wilderness travelers have been immortalized by having their names placed on mountains, lakes, and streams: Frank Dusy; Wales, Wallace, and Wright; Theodore S. Solomons; Bolton C. and Lucy Brown; Joseph N. and Marion LeConte; Lt. Nathaniel Fish McClure; Cornelius Beach Bradley; James E. Hutchinson. These are foremost among the few who pioneered the routes that are followed by so many at the present day. Bolton Coit Brown in 1895 wrote: . . . all the splendid mountains away off north and east of Paradise Valley, where the map shows nothing, were beautiful exceedingly In 1896 Brown made the first ascent of Mount Clarence King, and wrote: The top of the summit block slopes northwest, is about fifteen feet across, and as smooth as a cobblestone. If you fall off one side, you will be killed in the vicinity; if you fall off any of the other sides, you will be pulverized in the remote nadir beneath.