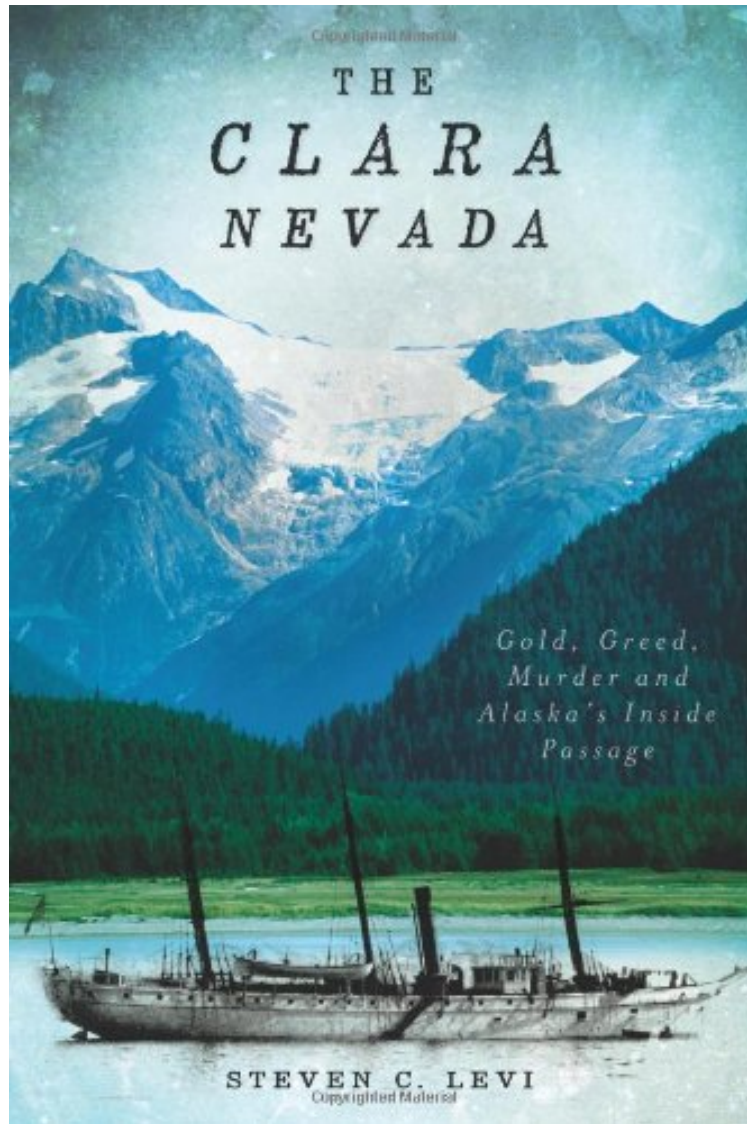


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# The Clara Nevada: Gold, Greed, Murder and Alaska's Inside Passage

*Steven C. Levi*

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#2292323 in Books The History Press 2011-05-14 2011-05-14 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .31 x 6.00l, .50 #File Name: 1609492889108 pages | File size: 40.Mb

**Steven C. Levi : The Clara Nevada: Gold, Greed, Murder and Alaska's Inside Passage** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Clara Nevada: Gold, Greed, Murder and Alaska's Inside Passage:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Research By Gary L. Goette I bought this book because one of my great great uncles, Bruce Banks, was supposedly on this ship when it sank (he is listed as one of the passengers in

the appendix). I was hoping to find more specific information about him. The most interesting thing about this book was the description of how much trouble the author went through to research it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GoodBy Gordon L. Good7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Articulate and Fascinating HistoryBy Grady HarpTHE CLARA NEVADA is one of those rare books that on the surface seems to be a thesis, an academic investigation of an event of significance in history complete with photographs, immaculate documentation, and reportage by a fine reporter. And it is most assuredly all that. But that does not begin to explain the fascination author Steven C. Levi brings to this book. He makes this exploration of an event as fine as any mystery novel or suspense thriller, and it is about something of which very few of us are familiar. How many readers have heard of the ship Clara Nevada and its sole voyage in Alaska's Inland Passage? Levi opens his book about the mysterious ship Clara Nevada with a solid description of the 1896 discovery of gold in the Yukon River and the subsequent goldrush fever that swept the nation, bringing thousands of gold seekers to Seattle and points north to claim instant wealth. His discussion (and photographs) of the condition of these people willing to sacrifice all manner of comfort to pan gold is as colorful as any film would be! And those who owned the businesses of the newly discovered area of gold jumped into the fray and produced boats and means of travel etc to benefit from the madness. Among the ships was a 'reconditioned' wreck named the Clara Nevada and after boarding many passengers and supplies she set sail in bad weather in 1898 to take greedy men to the gold nuggets of the Yukon and Klondike rivers - and disappeared. The book then explores all of the witnessed events, the newspaper reports and the tall tales that filled the country - including the history of one CH Lewis who happened to survive leaving questions unanswered to this day. What happened? Where did the bodies go, where did the gold on board go, where did the fate of a ship that eventually was spotted as a ghost ship become a fairytale? as the author states, 'The discovery of a survivor of the Clara Nevada disaster - and a significant individual at that - led to two obvious questions: how did C.H. Lewis survive and what happened to the \$165,000. in raw gold? I was haunted by those questions. For two years, I checked archive holdings, government reports, diaries, personal correspondence, business records and court files and sent letters to genealogical societies and maritime museums.' Levi has spent years preparing his investigation and the results are here in this immensely readable book. It is a bit a Americana but it is also a vital document about a period in history we have all but forgotten. Steven C. Levi is a scholar but he is also an imaginative writer who has provided us with a brief but completely engrossing little book that is better than most fiction created around this subject. It is a fine read! Grady Harp, May 11

February 5, 1898. Witnesses report a giant orange fireball reflected in the glacial waters of Alaskas Lynn Canal. At the height of Klondike gold fever, the Clara Nevada disappeared into an epic storm taking passengers and priceless cargo with her. Was the explosion an accident or a robbery gone wrong? Did Captain C.H. Lewis make off with \$165,000 (\$13.6 million in today's currency) in raw gold? Or was the sinking a case of a sea-weary steamer meeting an untimely end? Alaska historian Steven C. Levi combs the archives to piece together the true account of the Clara Nevadas final voyage, attempting to solve the riddle of the lost steamer that resurfaced ten years after that tragic night and became known as Alaskas ghost ship.

About the AuthorSteven C. Levi is a historian and freelance writer based in Anchorage, Alaska. Levi has lived in Alaska for thirty-three years and has more than thirty books in print, ranging from Alaska history to Westerns, how-to and self-help to poetry and aviation to biography. Levi has also developed educational software, written screenplays and developed creative media presentations using poetry and history, a sample of the last being on his website, [parsnackle.com](http://parsnackle.com) (See the Phantom Dogsled). Levis scholarly articles have appeared in such publications as Journal of the West, Pacific Historian, East Texas Historical Quarterly, Western Folklore, Southern California Quarterly, California and Labor History.