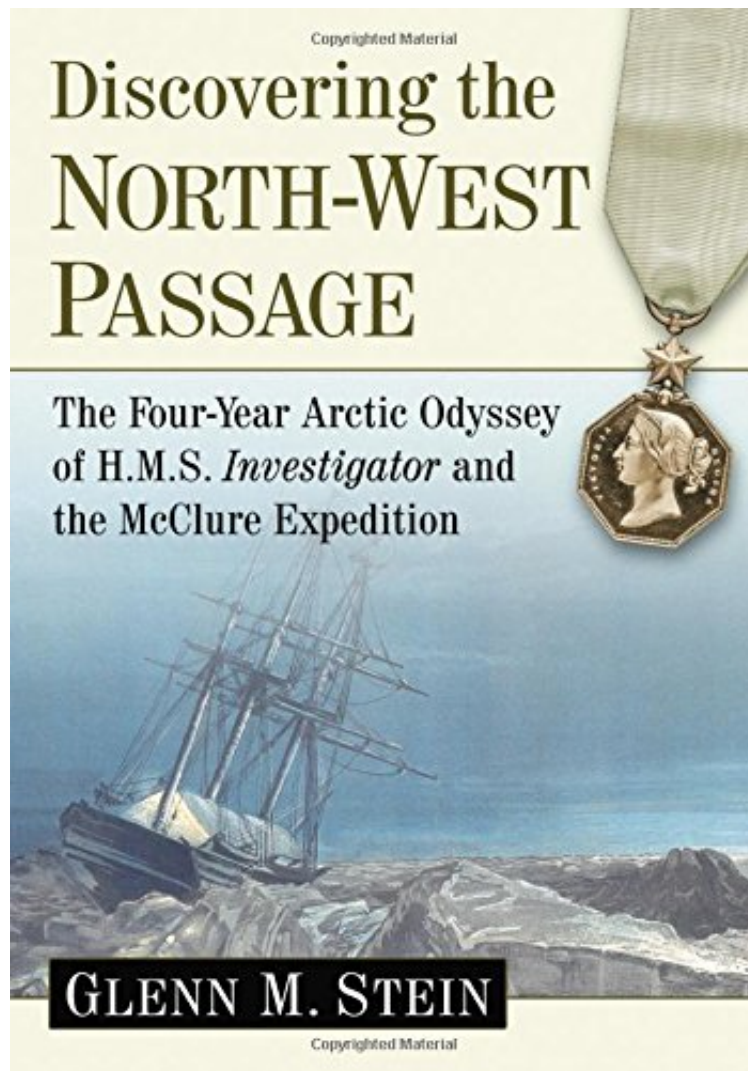


(Mobile ebook) Discovering the North-West Passage: The Four-Year Arctic Odyssey of H.M.S. Investigator and the McClure Expedition

## Discovering the North-West Passage: The Four-Year Arctic Odyssey of H.M.S. Investigator and the McClure Expedition

Glenn M. Stein

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**Glenn M. Stein : Discovering the North-West Passage: The Four-Year Arctic Odyssey of H.M.S. Investigator and the McClure Expedition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Discovering the North-West Passage: The Four-Year Arctic Odyssey of H.M.S. Investigator and the McClure Expedition:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating accountBy GinaIn 1845 Sir John Franklin together with

128 men and the two ships HMS Erebus and HMS Terror set out to find the North-West Passage and vanished. From 1848 a plethora of ships and men were sent so look for the lost expedition and to finish what Franklin had set out to do. Many ended up in just the same dangerous situation as Franklin's expedition. Beset in the ice, scurvy, hunger and cold taking their toll on the men who found themselves soon fighting for survival as well. One of those expeditions left England 1850 in the ships HMS Enterprise under Captain Ricard Collinson and HMS Investigator under Captain Robert McClure. Like Erebus and Terror, both ships were consorts, meant to undertake the journey together, one acting as the insurance of the other. Why Investigator and Enterprise were separated, the Investigator entered the ice alone and what consequences that had is the subject of Glenn M. Stein's book and makes a fascinating reading. In the preface Mr. Stein says that he set out to tell the human story of the HMS Investigator's ordeal and that he does. He takes the reader by the hand and lifts the veil of heroism and myth and shows us a wooden microcosm where contempt and distrust add to the claustrophobic atmosphere, ambition and recklessness play a key role but also bravery and almost inhuman endurance. The book tells a fascinating tale not only about the officers, but the sailors as well who in other works are often regarded only as an anonymous mass. This book tells their story as well and that alone shows how much diligent research went into the writing of the book. A fact also demonstrated by the lush appendix ranging from a short biography of every crew member of the Investigator over the history of the Arctic Medal (a topic Mr. Stein is a renowned expert on) to a very extensive index of sources and notes. Even the fate of the Investigator herself is told in this excellent book that from now on will take its place among the key works on arctic exploration history.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Discovering the North-West Passage By Bradley L Kautz Glenn M. Stein has written a captivating account of the last voyage of HMS Investigator, under the command of Robert McClure, which discovered the 'Holy Grail' of a sea route connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans via passage through the Arctic. The Holy Grail, yet also eminently impractical and with great risk to life and limb. The Investigator left England in 1850 as part of a two-pronged attempt to rescue Sir John Franklin, whose exploration for the Northwest Passage had departed in 1845 and hadn't been heard from since. Sailing around South America McClure commanded one of two ships sent to enter the Arctic from the west in search of Franklin. McClure became separated from his companion ship upon arrival in the Arctic, and the rest of the story, as is said, is history. Stein has given detailed portraits of the key players in the adventure, as well as an excellent chronology of their journey. McClure was an ambitious commander, always with an eye towards his reputation, mindful of his primary mission of searching for Franklin, as well as seeking the sea route long-presumed to exist but as yet undiscovered. The expedition spent four years continually in the Arctic, much more by circumstance than plan, and in spite of McClure's ambition he is to be commended for managing the available resources in such a way that there was only minimal loss of life, and then only near the end of the voyage. I greatly enjoyed this very readable account of a relatively lesser-known bit of Arctic history.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A very compelling read By Leser In It was high time for a comprehensive book about the 1850-55 journey of HMS Investigator, and Glenn M. Stein has done a fabulous job researching and telling this compelling story. Every bit of information that can be found about every crew member is in there, painting a lively picture of the ship's company that had almost met the same fate as the Franklin Expedition but was eventually saved. It's a true story of terrible hardship, starvation, even drama in one of the most remote places on earth and this book does it full justice. Accompanied by several illustrations, many of which I hadn't seen before, it makes for a great read; and it doesn't matter whether you're already an expert on polar history or have never heard about the subject before, you're certainly going to enjoy reading it.

From 1850 to 1854, the ambitious Commander Robert McClure captained the HMS Investigator on a voyage in search of the missing Franklin Expedition, which sailed from England into the Arctic in 1845 to map the last uncharted section of the North-West Passage. The Investigator and her consort the Enterprise were to pass through the Bering Strait from the west but a Pacific storm separated them, never to meet again. Obsessed with traversing the passage, McClure pressed on and HMS Investigator spent three years trapped in pack ice in Mercy Bay before the crew abandoned ship on foot. This book chronicles the voyage in detail. McClure and his relationships with his officers are at the heart of the story of the arduous journey, vividly illustrated by the paintings of Lt. Samuel Cresswell.

"Glenn M. Stein's *Discovering the North-West Passage* gives a stirring account of the perilous journey of Robert McClure and his men, the first ever to pass through the Arctic from the Pacific to the Atlantic. In Stein's words, McClure and his men are fully brought to life in a way no previous account of nineteenth-century exploration has managed." --Russell Potter, author of *Arctic Spectacles: The Frozen North in Visual Culture* "Provides new insights into how geographical discovery received the recognition of a grateful nation. Recommended." --Choice About the Author Glenn M. Stein has researched maritime and polar history since 1975, and regularly publishes in journals and magazines. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, life member of the American Polar Society and a member of the Orders and Medals Research Society and the Life Saving Awards Research Society. He lives in Apopka, Florida.