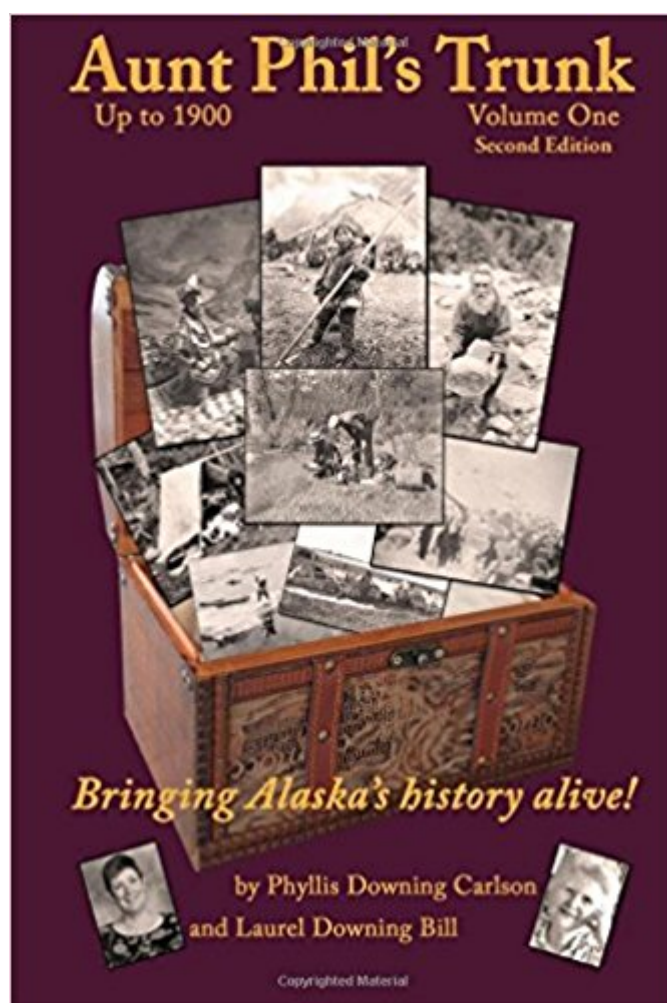


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# Aunt Phil's Trunk, Vol. 1: An Alaska Historian's Collection Of Treasured Tales



## Synopsis

Alaska history decoded! Â Aunt Phil's Trunk Volume One will keep you spellbound! Â If you enjoy reading entertaining nonfiction short stories, then you will love Aunt Phil's Trunk Volume One. Not only do these easy-to-read pages keep you hooked to see what happens next, they also offer a window into the past through hundreds of historical photographs. Â Did you know? Mysterious petroglyphs dot Alaska's coastlines? The last shot of the American Civil War boomed in the Bering Sea? The Klondike Gold Rush began after a man dreamed of salmon with golden scales? Â These and dozens more little-known stories fill the pages of Aunt Phil's Trunk Volume One and share Alaska's colorful past up to 1900. Â Anyone interested in Alaska history will love this book. It is full of interesting and little-known facts about the state. The stories behind these facts are colorful and entertaining. - *Writer's Digest* Â Richly assembled with historic photos and rarely told tales, Aunt Phil's Trunk is an engaging addition to Alaska's storytelling legacy. - Alex DeMarban, Editor, *First Alaskans* magazine Â What an amazing treasure. I pride myself on being a historian, with a minor in Alaska history; but I can truly take a quick backseat to this marvelous work. - John Gailey, tour director, John Hall's Alaska Â More than 20,000 copies sold worldwide! Â Order your copy of Aunt Phil's Trunk Volume One now! Â Read More Here: The Aunt Phil's Trunk Alaska history series is noted for its easy-to-read short stories and hundreds of historical photographs that complement the entertaining nonfiction writing. Suitable for ages 9 to 99, the first book in the series shares stories from early Alaska up to 1900. Volume 1 kicks off the series by showcasing the arrival of Alaska Natives thousands of years ago. Anthropologists theorize the Natives traveled from Asia across the Bering Sea Land Bridge and settled in various parts of Alaska. Stories in this section include mighty shaman, mysterious petroglyphs and fierce battles against Russian fur traders, who arrived in the mid-1700s. After Alaska became a possession of the United States in 1867, Americans began streaming into the Last Frontier. Explorers, businessmen, miners and crooks came north and changed Alaska forever. The discovery of gold brought even more people. Gold Rushes Juneau-DouglasCook InletKlondike Gold RushPLUS photo essay of the various routes the gold-crazed stampeder forged Other stories in this volume include how Catholic nuns mingled with rough-and-tumble adventurers on the banks of Nome, the last shot of the Civil War boomed in the Bering Sea and infamous conman Soapy Smith served as an angel of mercy before he became the undisputed king of crime in Skagway. This volume is a treasure trove of short stories about Alaska's colorful past and is filled with close to 350 rare historical photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Review by David James â Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Aunt Phil's Trunk Volume One was an unexpected gem â |. deserves to be snatched up by anyone with an interest in our state's rich past. Review by Tania Staley, Readersâ â 5 Stars I highly recommend this book for history buffs and anyone wanting to know more about Alaskaâs heritage â | I look forward into to delving into Phyllis Downing Carlson and Laurel Downing Billâs volumes 2-5 of Aunt Philâs Trunk, as well. Review by Michelle Stanley, Readersâ â 5 Stars Laurel Downing Bill did a remarkable job writing this book and illustrating it with hundreds of historical photographsâ |. Review by Kathryn Bennett, Readersâ â 5 Starsâ | I love the format that Laurel Downing Bill uses to tell the history of Alaska â | I am looking forward to reading more books in this series and I would give this book a big recommendation for history lovers. â | Review by Jack Magnus, Readersâ â 5 Stars Phyllis Downing Carlson and her niece, Laurel Downing Bill's pictorial history, Aunt Phil's Trunk: Volume One Bringing Alaska's History Alive, does what it sets out to do â it really does bring Alaska's history alive â | and is highly recommended. Review by Anne-Marie Reynolds, Readersâ â 5 Stars Aunt Phil's Trunk Volume One by Laurel Downing Bill was a fascinating read â | the book has been written in a wonderfully narrative way that makes you feel as though you have been transported there â | Praise to Laurel Bill for a fantastic journey, one I want to continue.

Third-generation Alaskan Laurel Downing Bill has turned her Alaska historian aunt's work into a lovely series of books that highlight Alaska's colorful past. Downing Bill earned a degree in

journalism from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2003 and wrote several award-winning articles while employed as a reporter for the Anchorage Chronicle newspaper from 2002-2004. Her weekly Alaska history column, titled "Aunt Phil's Trunk," was a favorite with the paper's subscribers. Bill's award-winning stories have appeared in newspapers throughout Alaska, as well as Alaska Magazine, Mushing magazine and First Alaskans magazine.

After a visit to Alaska, I wanted to know more about the History of Alaska. When I saw this book, not only was it filled with History, but, there were tons of pictures to go along with the written History!! I couldn't rest with just one volume,,,I had to have all four volumes! On my second trip to Alaska, I attended the Alaska State Fair in Palmer, Alaska. As we were strolling down the many booths, I looked up and there she was,,,,,Laurel Downing Bill,,,,the author of my four Volume set!!! I was thrilled to death! I begged her to write a 5th Volume and she said it was a work in progress! I was thrilled to meet her and then met her again in Anchorage. We talked for a long time and have been friends ever since. If you love Alaska, then you need all 5 Volumes of this wonderful book!

AUNT PHIL'S TRUNK, VOL. 1, by Phyllis Downing Carlson and Laurel Downing Bill, is a wonderfully written, eminently readable, and richly illustrated narrative of Alaska's history up to 1900. Ensuing volumes "including one expected to be released within the coming year" continue the story through the 20th century. I especially loved the wealth of vintage photographs in these pages that made frontier Alaska spring to life. So many cultures and so many characters populate this book: native tribes, Russian and American explorers and fortune hunters, trappers, prospectors, merchants, heroes, shamans, and scalawags. They are all here in their wild and woolly glory, pitting themselves against one of the most beautiful and forbidding landscapes in the world. In pre-1900 Alaska, fortune and disaster are never more than a hair's breadth apart. AUNT PHIL'S TRUNK is full of well-researched tales both wonderful and tragic. Written in a clear, coherent, and evocative voice, it is a fascinating window to Alaska's wild past. Highly recommended!

Just started reading, but so far, so good.

I love history, especially about Alaska, my home state. Quite a few historical pictures as well. Easy to read and informative.

Interesting and amazing. I will be reading all the others soon.

More of a collection of short articles, perhaps from other sources, than memoirs. Still interesting. Had been planning on getting the "series," but am not sure I will... Seems like a good thing to have around your cabin to read on long, quiet evenings.

Length: Print, 344 pages. Target Audience/Genre: Aunt Phil's Trunk is a series of five books regarding the history of Alaska. Volume One details the period up to 1900. Q - What was the Rank on the date this review was published? A - 1,337,585 among print editions. The Kindle version is ranked 359,797. Q - How was this book obtained? A - I was provided a copy by the author in exchange for an honest review. Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first? A - Yes. Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures? A - No, this is well written and well edited. Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read? A - Aunt Phil's Trunk is an engaging leisure read, chock full of interesting stories, tidbits, and photographs. Q - What sort of language does this writer use to amplify the points made? A - Plain English. Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment? A - I loved the detail of the history and the precious photographs of people and places. I am attaching one photograph of I've included a small excerpt below, so readers can peruse the style of presentation utilized by the author.

EXCERPT RAMPART

Two hundred and thirty miles downstream from Fort Yukon is the almost deserted village of Rampart, once an important trading post and supply center for thousands of miners on Minook and Hess creeks. A half-Russian and half-Native prospector named John Minook was searching for gold about 700 miles down river from Dawson at the mouth of Minook Creek around 1893 when he found gold. "Were it not for the Klondike, Minook would itself have caused a stampede from the United States," said Pierre Berton in his book, The Klondike Fever. The village was established as a river supply point for gold placer mines in the hills and creek valleys south of the Yukon, and its name refers to the range of low mountains through which the river runs and forms the "ramparts" of the Upper Yukon. By 1897, the village of Rampart swelled to 1,000, including the famous writer Rex Beach, who landed in town with a fur-lined sleeping bag, a rifle, a dog-skin suit and a mandolin. Dilapidated cabins brought \$800 and lots fetched up to \$1,200. Now, when one walks up and down its deserted paths, it's difficult to imagine busy scenes of the 1890s when eager gold-seekers jumped ashore from busy riverboats and crowded into the stores open day and night, or into the saloons alive with men entering and leaving through their swinging doors.

Bottom Line: Simply put, I wish every state had someone preserving their history with

the same skill and dedication as Aunt Phil (Phyllis Downing Carlson) and her niece Laurel Downing Bill. I've glanced at each of the five books, but will be writing separate reviews, in order to do them the justice they deserve. I have not yet checked the kindle editions, but, so enamored with the print versions am I, that I am sure to add each of the Kindle copies for my library. Why? Because I can enlarge the photographs and illustrations and because I can adjust the type size to a size that I do not need my reading glasses to read. I rate this first volume five stars out of five. Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite. Thank you.

I had originally wanted this book for reference and research I was doing about Alaska, but after reading it, finding out the rich history, I have to say it is a very good book. Most of what I read was unknown to me prior to reading. I would recommend this book to anyone wanting to know more about how Alaska came to be, the Russian and Japanese influences and the gold rush. Easy and quick read but full of great information. "I was provided with a complimentary copy of this book so I could give an honest review." i

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