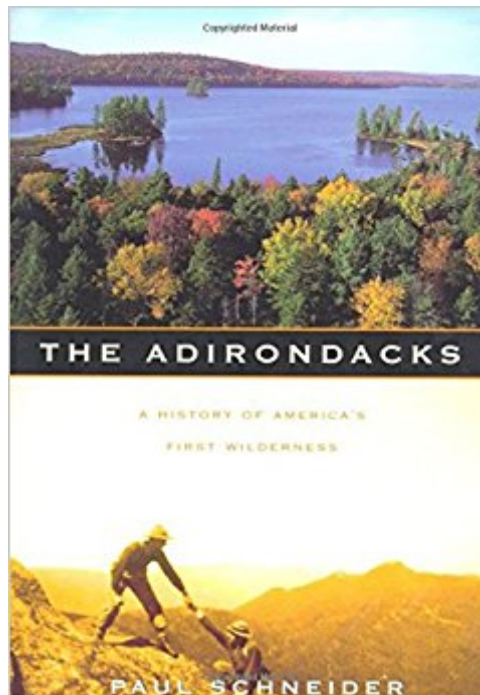




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The Adirondacks: A History Of America's First Wilderness



Synopsis

His book is a romance, a story of first love between Americans and a thing they call "wilderness." For it was in the Adirondacks that masses of non-Native Americans first learned to cherish the wilderness as a place of recreation and solace. In this lyrical narrative history, the author reveals that the affair between Americans and the Adirondacks was by no means one of love at first sight. And even now, Schneider shows that Americans' relationship with the glorious mountains and rivers of the Adirondacks continues to change. As in every good romance, nothing is as simple as it appears.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The vast Adirondack region of upstate New York is very much a wilderness, but one ringed by towns and close enough to major cities that it is heavily traveled. Long viewed as a natural playground, the Adirondacks were a favorite haunt of transcendentalist philosophers Henry Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson, of conservationists such as Franklin Burroughs and Theodore Roosevelt, of bohemians and hippies, and of back-to-the-land types. Still wild enough that wolf reintroduction has been proposed for the Adirondacks, the territory remains a powerfully inspiring place of refuge and recreation. Paul Schneider tells the story of this river-laced, forested land with imagination and a flair for just the right anecdote. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Journalist Schneider has written a poignant, insightful history of New York State's Adirondack region. He relates here the life and lore of these scenic mountains and lakes (Whiteface, Mt. Marcy,

Fulton Chain Lakes) from the region's earliest inhabitants (Haudenosaunee/Iroquois) through the advent of Henry Hudson (1609), the Revolutionary War, abolitionists (John Brown), 19th-century homesteaders, Hudson River School artists, tuberculosis patients to Melville Dewey's Lake Placid Club, the Adirondack Mountain Club, and the present environmental conservation efforts. Schneider duly records that this once wild and untamed region has accommodated the likes of Wil Durant, Paul Smith, Robert Louis Stevenson, James Fenimore Cooper, Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, and Presidents B. Harrison, Coolidge, Hoover, and T. Roosevelt. It is now up to our present legislators, he notes, to preserve what remains. Ann E. Cohen, Rochester P.L., N.Y. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is very well written and cover a lot of ground. Very enjoyable reading. Great stories and a lot of interesting stories and characters. If you love the Adirondacks I think it's a good bet.

Wonderful, eye-opening history of a region and early American history that doesn't shy away from the accepted brutality too too commonplace in those years gone by.

Bought this book as a gift for my husband. We love ADK and frequent the park multiple times a year. The book came in very good condition and arrived quickly. My husband finished it in a couple days, but did remark it was a bit dry.

Best History of the Adirondacks

very helpful, used it for research on a book I'm writing, Rose Sefton

A must read for anyone who loves the Adirondacks. As a transplant (to Florida) from the Adirondack region I learned a lot about the early days.

My reading of this book has been interrupted. But so far as I have read, it is a worthwhile history of the mountain chain.

Schneider's book is well-written, but the title is misleading. "The Adirondacks" is not a history, and Paul Schneider is not a historian. Schneider is a journalist, and his work takes the reader through a series of snapshots and anecdotes about Adirondack history and life in the modern north country.

There are some fascinating stories, for sure, and it helps paint a portrait of one of the country's most storied and special regions. Those seeking an actual comprehensive, researched work of history should look elsewhere, however.

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