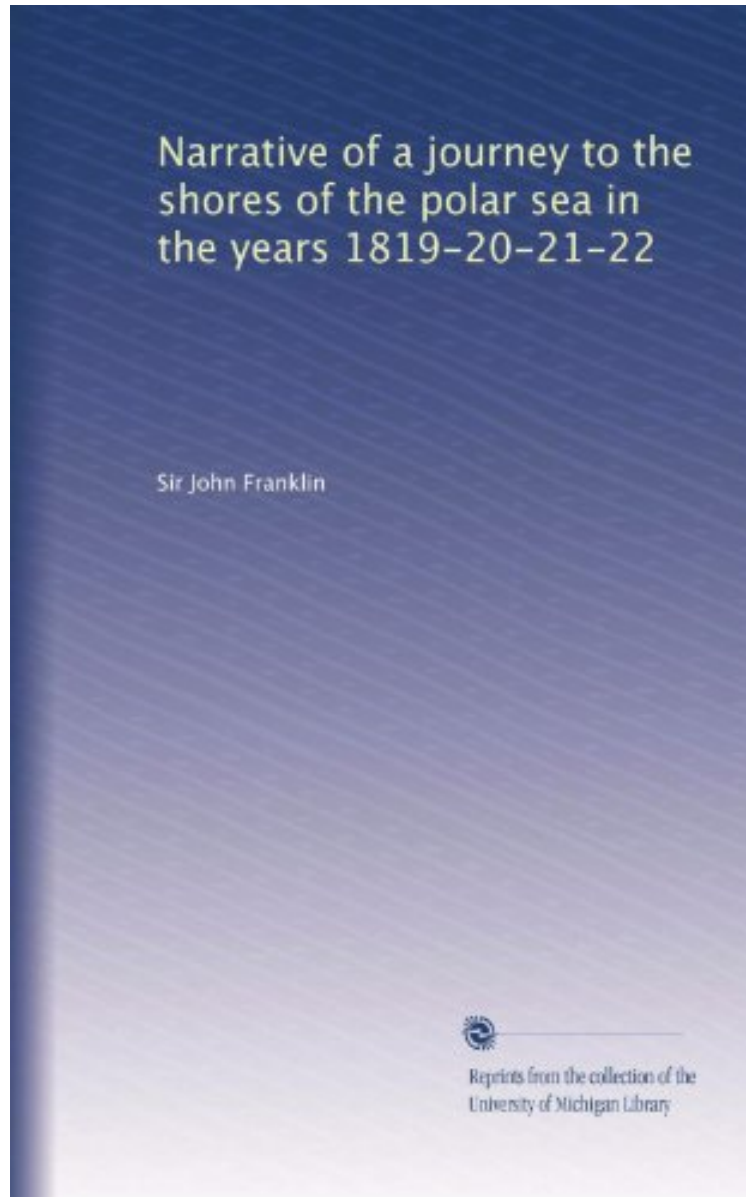


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Narrative of a journey to the shores of the polar sea in the years 1819-20-21-22

John Franklin

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Instead, it is an edited compilation of journal entries, including some accounts written by other members of the expedition. The only drawback for a modern reader is the faithful inclusion of detail which can seem irrelevant or repetitious. For each day of journeying, we read where they went, what they saw and experienced, what they ate, and how cold it was at night. I actually enjoyed this, taken in small doses, because it is so well written, but I can see how others might get tired of it. One advantage of this format is that it takes you into their world very effectively. You get a good sense of the landscape, weather, flora and fauna, as well as their clothing, tools and implements, and how they found food and fuel, traveled over rough and snowy country, arranged logistics, and organized their party.Of course, people also figure into this journal. Franklin was a British naval officer, and was closest to the other officers who accompanied him. Dr. Richardson, the surgeon and naturalist, appears to have been a particularly interesting character. The "men" are acknowledged, but not (for the most part) with the same degree of warmth shown for the officers. As another reviewer noted, Franklin did not seem to care too much for the Canadians. He did, however, have a lot of sympathy and appreciation for the local Indians, on whom his party relied for assistance with hunting and, in the end, for survival. The journal goes into a lot of detail about these Indians, including some anthropological observations by Dr. Richardson. I particularly enjoyed these accounts, which were fresh and respectful, and treat the Indians as interesting people with their own strengths and weaknesses.The final part of the book, describing the privations the party suffered on its return from the Polar Sea, is a page turner and a remarkable human drama, so even if you skim the middle parts of the book, be sure to read the conclusion. Franklin was obviously deeply touched by the kindness of the Indians who ultimately rescued the survivors in his party.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Chilling ReadBy David HIn 1819, The Lords Commissioners of the British Admiralty appointed John Franklin, whose many experiences in the British Navy included Trafalgar, to lead an expedition in northern North America. Known as the Coppermine Expedition (1819-1822), its object was to explore the Northern Coastline from the mouth of the Coppermine River to its eastern terminus, wherever that might be found. A few trappers and traders had pioneered the headwaters of the Coppermine, but only the Inuit people, hostile to Europeans and other Native Americans, inhabited the Northern Coast. Franklin hoped to make contact with them, convince them of the white man's peaceful intentions, and gain useful information regarding the geography of the coast. The party included several other Englishmen, a few voyageurs, and a fluctuating number of Indian hunters and guides.This book is his narrative of that long and tragic journey, written in journal form by Franklin himself. Incredible struggles and hardships are related in a direct, matter-of-fact way (I was particularly struck by a casual reference to the expedition members eating old shoes, as if this were a normal part of their rations); injuries, canoe accidents, perfidious voyageurs and near starvation are described in detail as the adventurers slowly move farther north. The latter part of the narrative contains enough hair-raising occurrences to satisfy anyone's need for vicarious excitement.Journey to the Polar Sea is not light reading, but it's a treat for connoisseurs of the English language. Franklin's style, like that of many writers of his period, is stately and cadenced, with impeccable grammar and a knack for the striking phrase. The Kindle text is refreshingly free of typos and misspellings. Readers accustomed to the more expansive nature of Nineteenth Century non-fiction will find this work engaging and enjoyable, especially those who wish to learn more about the original inhabitants of these remote regions.Though the book may be interspersed with passages of strictly technical relevance, such as the results of Franklin's solar and lunar observations, `Journey to the Polar Sea' deserves its place on the shelf with the great narratives of Polar exploration. Readers would do well to provide themselves with a map of the region, since none accompanies the text. A fine article on John Franklin in Wikipedia provides references for further reading.

Franklin.

About the Author"John Franklin is a pastor and a nationally known speaker in the area of prayer and spiritual awakening. He is the author of *And the Place Was Shaken: How to Lead a Powerful Prayer Meeting* " coauthor of *By Faith: Living in the Reality of God* " and *Spiritual Warfare: Biblical Truth for Victory* " compiler of *A House of Prayer: Prayer Ministries in Your Church* " and contributor to numerous books and articles. " "He founded John Franklin Ministries to resource churches in prayer and spiritual awakening and has served as prayer specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources and the minister of prayer at First Baptist Church of Woodstock Georgia. Franklin earned a doctorate of ministry from Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham Alabama; a master of divinity degree from

the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville Kentucky; and a BA in international relations history and Spanish from Samford University in Birmingham Alabama. " "He is married to Kathy and they have three children: Daniel Nathan and Susanna. "