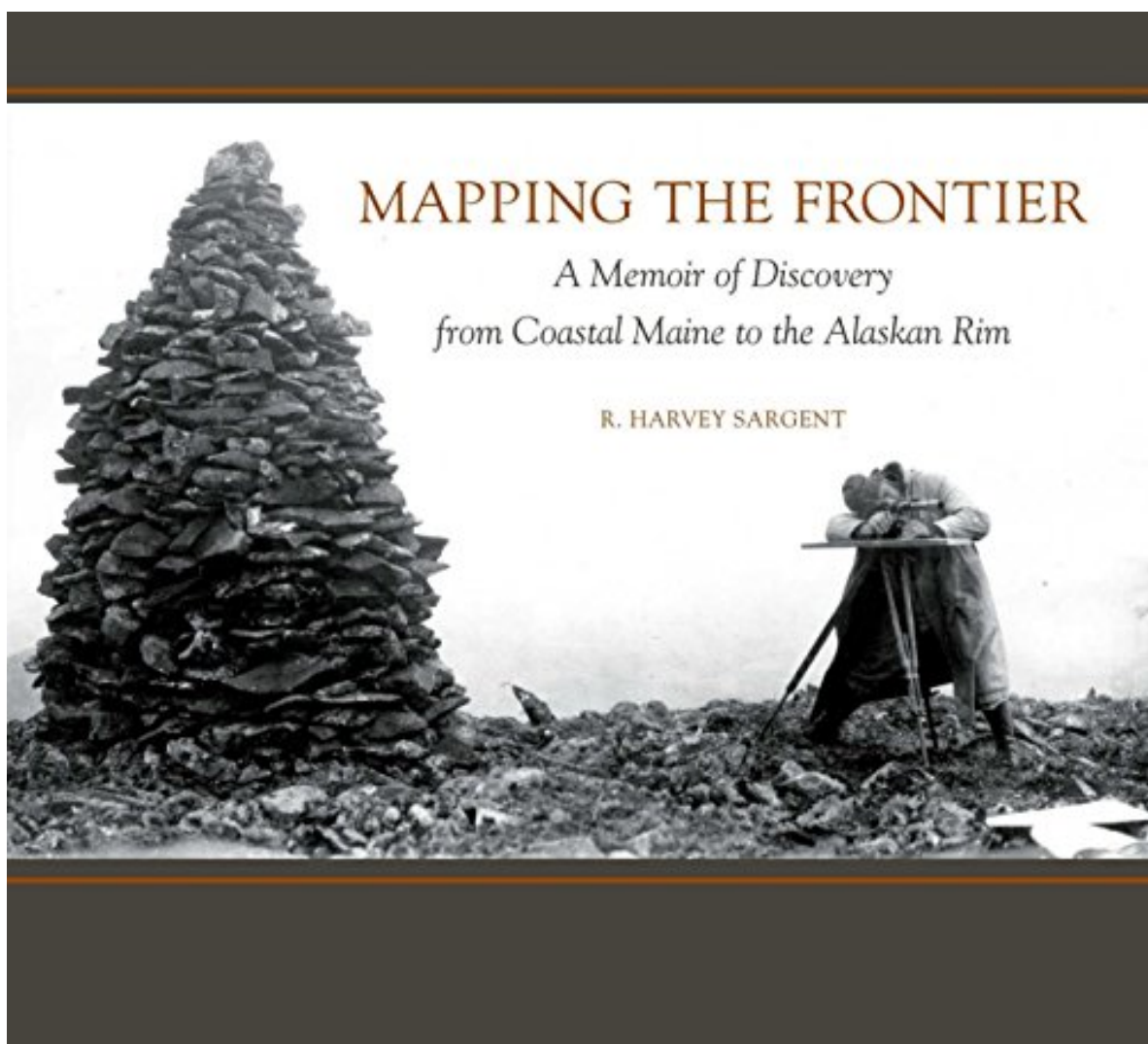


Mapping the Frontier: A Memoir of Discovery from Coastal Maine to the Alaskan Rim

by
Plato



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Synopsis

Alaska in 1900 was unexplored frontier, a land where risk, danger, and ultimate adventure made teamwork essential. Maine native R. Harvey Sargent led the U. S. Geological Survey in Alaska for over three decades, 1901-1936, charting the vast expanses of this remarkably beautiful and treacherous land. A pioneer of modern mapping, Sargent introduced 20th-century “firsts”: photogrammetry and aerial surveys in Alaska, and the first professional surveys of China’s mountainous interior. *Mapping the Frontier: A Memoir of Discovery from Coastal Maine to the Alaskan Rim* publishes for the first time Harvey Sargent’s diary of his explorations in the world’s outer edges, from China to Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Montana, and Alaska. He was the son of a sea captain, born with exploration and adventure in his veins. Grounded in the foundations of his childhood home of Sedgwick, Maine, to his family residence for a half-century with USGS in Washington, D. C., Sargent’s lively narrative is beautifully illustrated with period maps and photographs. The reader will experience the breathtaking majesty of the Grand Canyon; the deadly harsh winters of Utah’s dessert; misty fjords and dramatic icebergs of Glacier Bay National Park; and Sargent’s discovery of Alaska’s Aniakshak crater, today the country’s most remote National Monument and Preserve.

What people say about this book

HMS Warspite, "Mapping the frontier.... What could the future be for a boy born in the small town of Sedgwick, Maine, in 1875? In the case of Rufus Harvey Sargent, an excellent boyhood in a small town surrounded by relatives and friends could lead to just enough education to qualify as a surveyor. A job as a surveyor with the U.S. Geological Survey could lead to a lifetime of adventure, surveying the wilds of the American West, Alaska, and China."Mapping the Frontier" has been put together by R. Harvey Sargent's grandson. It is built around Harvey Sargent's own vivid memoirs, supplemented by a few explanatory notes and a terrific collection of period and modern photographs and maps. R. Harvey Sargent mostly tells his own story, of a modest but capable man able to spend months surveying in the most austere of conditions, and getting more adventure into the bargain than can be easily imagined. "Mapping the Frontier" is a terrific read, and may appeal especially to those familiar with some of the places he lived and worked. Highly recommended."

tiderocker, "Awesome description of personal and professional commitment to a goal.. A window into the life of someone committed to a difficult but important line of work. A testament to what one can accomplish if they find some thing they like to do and is important to the progress of man."

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