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# So Much to Be Done: Women Settlers on the Mining and Ranching Frontier (Women in the West)

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#2496816 in Books University of Nebraska Press 1990-05-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 6.00 x .751, #File Name: 080328165X326 pages Frontier Christiane Fischer Dichamp Susan H. Armitage women in history | File size: 28.Mb

**From Brand: University of Nebraska Press : So Much to Be Done: Women Settlers on the Mining and Ranching Frontier (Women in the West)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised So Much to Be Done: Women Settlers on the Mining and Ranching Frontier (Women in the West):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Great Look at Women's Lives By Liz Clark So Much To Be Done is one of my favorite books of women's diaries, letters, and memories. Because each section has place notes, the entries become both overall context, and specific regional research. There's nothing better that first-hand accounts to really get you into the mindset and attitudes of specific historic women. You'll fall in love... these are women you'd want to know! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read By robert Suffolk Easy read very good information.

The genuine creative achievements of nineteenth-century western women have often been obscured by sentimental tributes to their devotion and diligence, while men are praised as pathfinders, entrepreneurs, and community builders. But the nineteen narratives in So Much to Be Done by women of diverse status and background reveal women's

involvement in every aspect of settlement. Their part in making hard decisions, producing essential income, and developing new communities was as important as their flexibility, humor, and sense of adventure. This collection describes the experiences of pioneer women responding in individual ways to the challenge of frontier hardships. The letters, diaries, and memoirs presented here offer glimpses of women's courage, physical strength, and independence that were the equal of any man's, even as they also reveal the failures, weaknesses, and tragedies that beset both sexes during the complex settlement process. Women describe their multiple daily tasks, the ingenuity by which they asserted themselves or circumvented patriarchal authority, the networks of relatives and friends who made the survival of both men and women possible. Such information is seldom found in men's narratives. Women's words provide rich veins of new material for social historians.

From Publishers Weekly Challenges, defeats and triumphs of the harsh 19th-century American frontier are portrayed vividly through the words of 19 women who wrote of their experiences. Mrs. Lee Whipple-Haslam, whose father died in a barroom fight, describes hard-drinking miners and frontier justice in 1850s California. Mrs. J. W. Likins supports herself and her daughter by traveling to different towns as a "lady agent" selling engraved pictures of General Grant. A particularly intrepid woman, Mrs. Nat Collins, is captured by Indians and loses her possessions in a fire but ultimately triumphs to become "Cattle Queen of Montana." Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, daughter of a Piute chief, recalls the forced midwinter relocation of her tribe from their Nevada homeland to the Yakima reservation in eastern Washington. In Colorado territory, Sister Blandina Segale (a nun) stops a lynch mob and prevents an illegal attempt to take over a mine. Moynihan wrote *Rebel for Rights: Abigail Scott Duniway*; Armitage is co-editor of *The Women's West*; and Dichamp edited *Let Them Speak for Themselves: Women in the American West, 1849-1900*. Illustrations not seen by PW. BOMC, QPB and History Book Club selections. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Including the memoirs, letters, and diaries of women who settled in California, Nevada, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Washington, New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas, these 19 excerpts reflect the diversity of pioneer life in the second half of the 19th century. The first-person accounts vividly evoke both the conditions and the personalities of the women experiencing and interpreting them. Thus, although intended primarily for an academic audience, this collection will interest general readers as well, particularly those in the states and territories represented here. The introductory remarks of the editors provide helpful context; one wishes only that they were longer. BOMC summer selection. - Cynthia Harrison, Federal Judicial Ctr., Washington, D.C. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. "So Much to Be Done brings to life the diversity of women's lives on the mining and ranching frontiers of the American West. It shows the degree to which women involved themselves in every detail of the work at hand 'men's work' or women's work' it hardly mattered which. The note that rings most clear is the women's voice, sometimes humorous, sometimes sad, or eager, but always unshrinking. This is the best collection of its kind I know." Lillian Schlissel, author of *Womens Diaries of the Overland Trail*