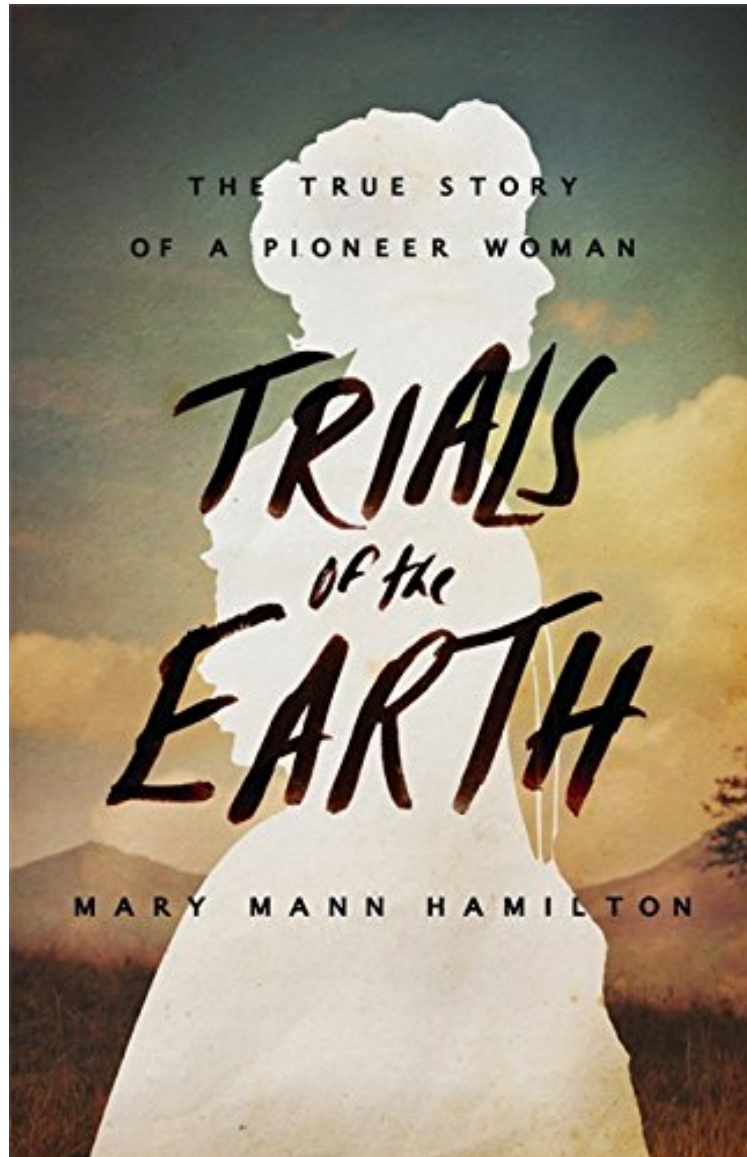


(Download pdf) Trials of the Earth: The True Story of a Pioneer Woman

## **Trials of the Earth: The True Story of a Pioneer Woman**

*Mary Mann Hamilton*

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**Mary Mann Hamilton : Trials of the Earth: The True Story of a Pioneer Woman** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trials of the Earth: The True Story of a Pioneer Woman:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Remembering the past,looking forwardBy KathleenBeing interested in history I really enjoyed this book. I have read different books by Laura Ingals Wilder and always learned from her

experiences. Hamilton, though her style is different would be a good read for Wilder fans. Made me proud of how far life in America has evolved. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Jaw dropping history By De Lane D. Earegood From the moment I opened this book I was completely fascinated and kept reading straight thru til I finished it. How our ancestors endured this type of life is almost beyond comprehension.....I am going to re-read it this fall and then lend it to my daughter. Excellent, excellent book !0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good history lesson; not a page turner though By FourBoyMom An excellent look at pioneering. Like the TRUE stories of Little House on the Prairie. I wish I could give it 3.5 stars. It reads almost like fiction when you account for the numerous trials this family faced. Also, it is almost unfathomable the grit and hard work required to make a living during this time. I'm glad I read the book for that reason. However, I must say it was somewhat of a chore to read. It took me a while to really get into the characters, but I eventually did. I cried when there were deaths. Frank probably had the most dimension of any of the characters. I never quite knew what he was going to do next. I didn't trust him but did trust him at the same time. I'm sure that's how Mary felt too. For most of the book it was an endless cycle of move the family, suffer tragedy, move the family, suffer tragedy, and on and on. Also, I did not care for the titles of the chapters as they gave away what was going to happen in that chapter. The ending was really good and made up for some of the tedious middle of the book.

The astonishing first-person account of Mississippi pioneer woman struggling to survive, protect her family and make a home in the early American South Near the end of her life, Mary Mann Hamilton (1866 - c.1936) began recording her experiences in the backwoods of the Mississippi Delta. The result is this astonishing first-person account of a pioneer woman who braved grueling work, profound tragedy, and a pitiless wilderness (she and her family faced floods, tornadoes, fires, bears, panthers, and snakes) to protect her home in the early American South. An early draft of *Trials of the Earth* was submitted to a writers' competition sponsored by Little, Brown in 1933. It didn't win, and we almost lost the chance to bring this raw, vivid narrative to readers. Eighty-three years later, in partnership with Mary Mann Hamilton's descendants, we're proud to share this irreplaceable piece of American history. Written in spare, rich prose, *Trials of the Earth* is a precious record of one woman's extraordinary endurance and courage that will resonate with readers of history and fiction alike.

Best Books of 2016, The Chicago Tribune "It's the backstory that will first grab a reader, but it's Hamilton's gift for storytelling in her blunt voice that makes this memoir such a standout. . . . Beyond everything else, this memoir impresses on readers just how easy it was to vanish in an earlier America.... How fortunate that the manuscript of *Trials of the Earth* didn't meet that same fate." Maureen Corrigan, NPR's *Fresh Air* "A riveting and instructive read.... Hamilton is a natural-born storyteller.... [Her] first-person accounts are important testimonials about what used to be." Melanie Kirkpatrick, *Wall Street Journal* "Magnificent. Told with precision and searing honesty, Hamilton's captivating and cinematic autobiography deserves to be a classic." Ann Weisgarber, author of *The Personal History of Rachel DuPree* and *The Promise* "Wherever there is men's work, you can bet women's work is happening invisibly in the background. *Trials of the Earth* is a firsthand account of this backbreaking labor.... It's impossible not to root for this woman." Amy Gentry, *Chicago Tribune* "A reminder of how punishing the physical struggle could be, and how unspeakably lonely a woman's life was when men were clearing the land." Rosellen Brown, *New York Times Book Review* "This compelling, no-frills posthumous memoir...reveals the hidden nature of late 19th century American life.... Mary's unsentimental story crackles with personality, putting a face on the unsung, nameless tillers of the soil." Publishers Weekly "Draws the reader right into the hardscrabble minutiae of the daily struggle for survival on an untamed and unforgiving frontier.... Hamilton's rich personal tapestry is a testament to endurance and to the indomitable spirit of the often overlooked American pioneer woman." Margaret Flanagan, *Booklist* "A unique story." Crystal Goldman, *Library Journal* "Hamilton's matter-of-factness wins you over almost immediately, and unexpectedly.... Most remarkably, this book somehow enables a reader not to feel abject guilt at complaining about the temperature of their latte, but only a genuine gratefulness and admiration for those who went before." Kim Ode, *Minneapolis Star Tribune* "Fast-paced, inspirational and fascinating.... Mary Mann Hamilton's life was an endurance test and *Trials of the Earth* is her remarkable story.... Modern women will marvel at Hamilton's grueling daily schedule.... There are valuable lessons to be gleaned from Hamilton's pioneer code of conduct." Patricia Dawn Robertson, *Toronto Star* "Much has been written about the bold, gritty women who helped settle the American West. Much less attention has been paid to the female pioneers who muscled their way into other unsettled regions during the late 1800s. *Trials of the Earth*...goes far in filling that gap.... [and] underscores the huge power of unvarnished storytelling.... This is an unblinking narration of a life hard-lived by a woman who never lost her strength, humor or morality." Sharon Peters, *USA Today* (3/4 stars) About the Author Mary Mann Hamilton was one of the only women to write about homesteading in the Mississippi Delta. Her legacy lives on in her children and their descendants, many of whom still live in the area Hamilton writes about in these pages.