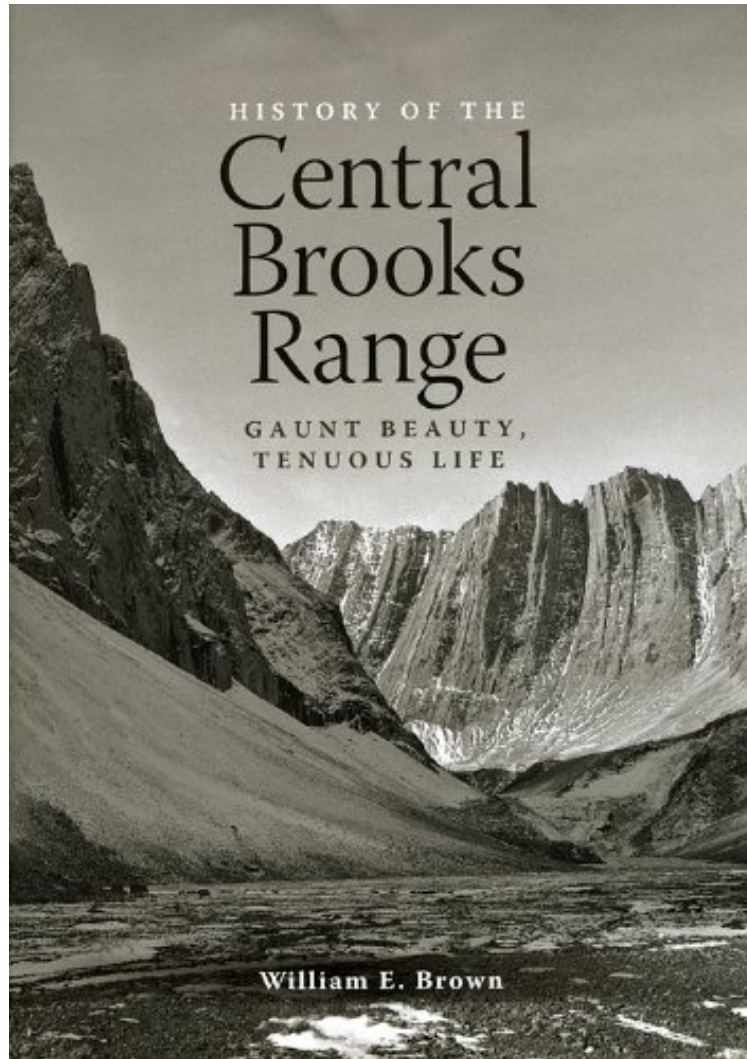


(Read now) History of the Central Brooks Range: Gaunt Beauty, Tenuous Life

History of the Central Brooks Range: Gaunt Beauty, Tenuous Life

William E. Brown

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William E. Brown : History of the Central Brooks Range: Gaunt Beauty, Tenuous Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised History of the Central Brooks Range: Gaunt Beauty, Tenuous Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. " provided great insight into previously formed questionsBy JSI read this book after spending time in the area on roadtrips to the Far-North on the various roads such as the Dalton and Steese Highways. Also, I visited and explored areas around Coldfoot , Wiseman, and Anaktuvuk Pass AK. The side-trip to Anaktuvuk Pass require a flight-seeing trip between Coldfoot and Anaktuvuk Pass (Central Brooks Range). Also visited the Museum of the North in Fairbanks as well as the smaller Simon Paneak Memorial Museum in

Anaktuvuk Pass. Hence, with this experience, "History of the Central Brooks Range:Guant...." provided great insight into previously formed questions. I felt the text was a great read for my experiences and great store of local history. Initially I worked my way through the book using the great briefs provided on the side of various pages and viewing the many images. I am now reading the text completely and feel I gain more insight into the social history of the Central Brooks Range with every chapter. The book has expanded the enjoyment of my travels tremendously and I value the book as an addition to my library on the Far-North. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Lots of good historic photographs but a disappointing text

By Arthur Digbee
This book tells the human story of the Central Brooks Range in Alaska, the core of which makes up Gates of the Arctic National Park. It combines a fairly dry narrative with a remarkable number of historic photographs from various collections around the country. It includes some *historic* maps but, annoyingly, never gives us a modern map of the region at a useful scale. As a result, the geographic relations between many settlements (some of which no longer exist) remain unclear. The first chapters of book tell the story of pre-contact Alaskan natives and the European explorers who first met them. The narrative here is dry, and presented without context. Brown is clearly most interested in the material in the middle chapters, when Euro-Americans and Native Alaskans make fuller contact and begin to live and work together. Now the facts become a real narrative, and Brown begins to tell the story of Alaska in a wider context. The final chapters briefly cover the years since statehood, culminating in creation of the national park. Brown focuses on what Natives have lost from this process, which makes their participation in the process a bit mysterious. I would have liked to see more coverage of national park management and challenges (given my other interests) but this received only a couple of pages. Overall, the text of this book only gets two stars from me. In contrast, the historic photographs are first rate - - if that's what you're looking for, you'll enjoy the book. All the photos are in black and white, of course. I would have appreciated a series of color plates in the middle of the book in order to show the full beauty of the region.

The History of the Central Brooks Range uses rare primary sources in order to provide a chronological examination and history of the Koyukuk region including anthropological descriptions of the Native groups that make the Central Brooks Range and its surroundings their home. The history of early exploration, mining, and the Klondike all overflow into the story of the Koyukuk region and its rich cultural heritage, and William E. Brown provides a fascinating history of the extraordinary ways of survival employed by pioneers in this rugged northern land. Supplemented with detailed descriptions by Robert Marshall, The History of the Central Brooks Range is further enhanced by over 150 beautiful full-color illustrations from early exploration to the creation of the Gates of the Arctic National Park making this an essential volume for anyone interested in Alaska Native studies.

About the Author
William E. Brown served as historian for the National Park Service Region for ten years before he came to Alaska in 1975. He later served as key man on the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve proposal, as well as adjunct history professor for the University of Alaskas Arctic Environment Information and Data Center and park historian at Gates of the Arctic National Park and Denali National Park.