

Eva Emery Dye: Romance with the West



By Sheri Bartlett Browne

2004. 6 x 9 inches. 192 pages. Notes. Bibliography. Index.
ISBN 0-87071-008-7. Paperback, \$24.95.

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Writing in the early years of the twentieth century, novelist Eva Emery Dye captured the imagination of American readers with her epic accounts of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Oregon Trail, and the conquest of the American West. Brimming with adventure, drama, and romance, her books helped to shape an entire generation's understanding of American history and Manifest Destiny.

In this first biography of Dye, Sheri Bartlett Browne chronicles the life of one of Oregon's most successful early writers. Drawing on previously unknown letters and diaries, Browne examines Dye's determination to write historical fiction, the history of her involvement in the suffrage movement, and her lifelong promotion of education through the Chautauqua movement.

Dye is best remembered for *The Conquest*, one of the first fictional works to popularize (and romanticize) the Lewis and Clark Expedition, in which she introduced a new American heroine, Sacagawea. Although the book's portrayal enhanced the young Shoshone's role, it was Dye's later efforts to memorialize her with statues and speeches that turned Sacagawea into an American icon.

Dye's most extensive project was a historical novel recounting the achievements of nineteenth-century American missionaries in Hawaii. Completed in the 1920s but never published, her manuscript promoted a controversial view of American influence in Hawaii. Dye wrote one last book, *The Soul of America*, which examined the accomplishments and perseverance of pioneer women.

Eva Emery Dye: Romance with the West offers a fascinating look at a figure once prominent in literary and suffrage circles in the Pacific Northwest, and highlights the significance of family and education in women's lives at the turn of the twentieth century.

“Eva Emery Dye was a woman of remarkable abilities, who played a major role in the construction of the persona of Sacagawea, in the Oregon suffrage movement, and in the development of popular culture in the Pacific Northwest. Sheri Bartlett Browne's biography brings to center stage a major figure in the literary life of the first half of the twentieth century in the Pacific Northwest.”

—Stephen Dow Beckham, Pamplin Professor of History at Lewis & Clark College

About the Author

Sheri Bartlett Browne is Assistant Professor of History at Tennessee State University.

Biographical sources: Eva Emery Dye Papers, MSS 1089, Oregon Historical Society Research Library; Sheri Bartlett Browne, *Eva Emery Dye: Romance With the West*, (Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2004); "The Conquest: Tale of Lewis and Clark," *Oregonian*, November 2, 1902, 25; "Mrs. Eva Emery Dye, Oregon Author, Dies," *Oregon Journal*, February 26, 1947, 1; Alfred Powers, *History of Oregon Literature* (Portland: Oregon Historical Society Press, 1910), 100-101; Sheri Bartlett Browne, "Eva Emery Dye: Romance with the West," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, 30 (Jan 2004), 1-10. Prime members enjoy fast & free shipping, unlimited streaming of movies and TV shows with Prime Video and many more exclusive benefits. > Get Started. There's a problem loading this menu at the moment. Learn more about Amazon Prime. Back to top. *Eva Emery Dye* book. Read reviews from world's largest community for readers. Early 20th-century novelist Eva Emery Dye was one of the first writers to popularize (and romanticize) the Lewis and Clark Expedition and introduce a new American heroine, Sacajawea. This first biography of Dye chronicles the life of a writer whose books on the conquest of the American West helped to shape an entire generation's understanding of American history and Manifest Destiny.more. G