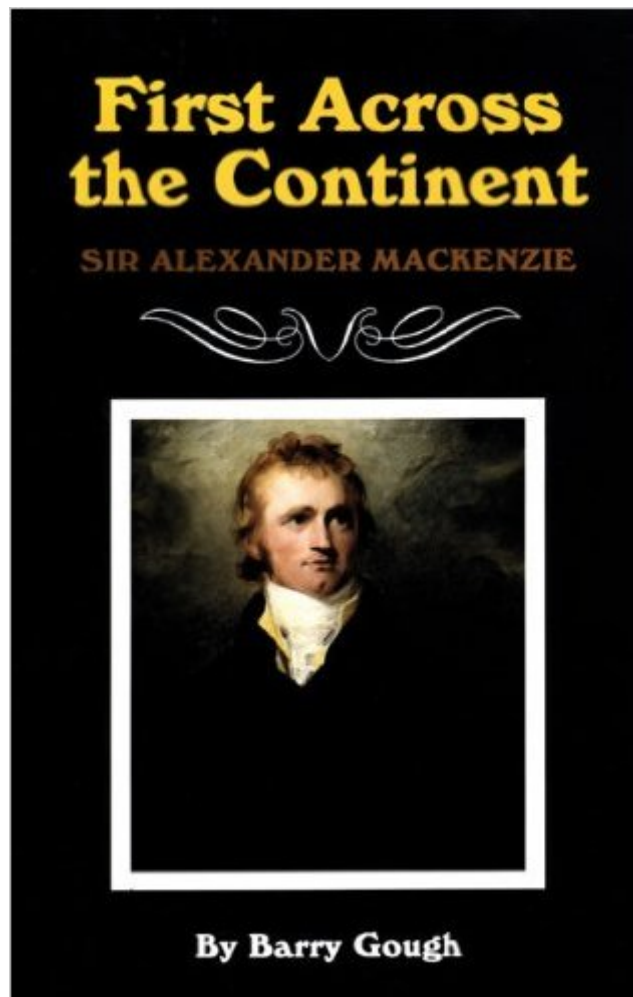


The book was found

# First Across The Continent: Sir Alexander MacKenzie (Oklahoma Western Biographies)



## Synopsis

Seeking the Northwest Passage and the fabled like to Russia, Japan, and Cathay, Alexander Mackenzie drove himself and his men relentlessly, by canoe and portage, across the uncharted rivers, valleys, and mountains of North America. Mackenzie's 1789 journey to the Arctic Ocean and his arduous journey to the Pacific in 1793 predate the Lewis and Clark expedition. By the age of thirty-one Alexander Mackenzie had become the first man to cross North America from the northwestern hub of the interior trade, Lake Athabasca in present-day northern Alberta, to the Pacific Ocean. He had opened the continent to trade and exploration. Mackenzie was a man of enormous ego and overpowering ambition. He left Scotland in search of opportunity in the North American fur trade and achieved success through a combination of bold exploits, grim determination, and business acumen. Mackenzie returned to his homeland late in life to be knighted, marry, and live a more genteel life, leaving behind a Métis family in North America. His celebrated book *Voyages from Montreal* remains an enduring classic of world travel literature. In his research, Barry Gough traveled from Mackenzie's birthplace to his tomb and from Montreal to the Arctic Ocean and to the Pacific. He takes the reader along with Mackenzie on his hazardous travels and voyages, using contemporary accounts to bring to life the problems and perils faced by the young explorer. *First Across the Continent* reveals the international impact of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's expeditions and places him among the elite of New World explorers, illuminating his vital role in the history of the fur trade and the American West. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Series: Oklahoma Western Biographies (Book 14)

Hardcover: 232 pages

Publisher: University of Oklahoma Press; First Edition edition (September 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0806129441

ISBN-13: 978-0806129440

Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 5.7 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,542,830 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in [Books > History >](#)

[Americas > Canada > Exploration](#) #42 in [Books > History > Americas > Canada > 19th Century](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is a well-written, concise (200 pages) biography of Alexander Mackenzie, the great Canadian explorer, best remembered for two important journeys made in western Canada, one to the Arctic Ocean in 1789, the other to the Pacific in 1792-93. Mackenzie was born in Scotland in 1762 and came to America as a teenager. He lived first in New York State around Johnstown, but moved to Montreal in 1778, where he entered the fur trade. By the 1780s, Fort Chipewyan, on the southern shore of Lake Athabasca, had become an important fur trading post, and this became Mackenzie's base of operations for his two explorations. The first, in 1789, took him north to Great Slave Lake and the river that would later bear his name, down which he ventured to the Beaufort Sea. Three years later he journeyed west from Fort Chipewyan along the Peace River and then over the Continental Divide to the Fraser and finally overland to the Pacific near Bella Coola. Thus Mackenzie and his men became the first to travel to the Pacific from an interior post on the continent (basically the first to cross the continent from sea to sea). He wrote an excellent account of his travels in 1801 (Lewis and Clark studied it thoroughly), much of it having to do with the Indians he encountered and which also included a history of the Canadian fur trade. He was knighted in 1802 and settled in Scotland. Although the book is a full biography, Gough focuses on the two journeys, the itineraries of which he has made extensive explorations of his own, and details the routes carefully, explaining much of what the explorers would have seen and experienced. He's a compelling writer and the book is a most interesting one. Highly recommended.

Pretty good book. Gives a rather matter-of-fact account of MacKenzie's life. Not a lot of detail or passion in either of his 2 great voyages. Interesting in all the other people brought into the story. Now I want to read about Peter Pond, MacKenzies' predecessor. Short and a quick read.

An interesting narrative about an interesting man. I am glad to add it to my library and glad to recommend it to others. I have read plenty about US history. It is often refreshing to learn about the exploration and settlement of our Neighbor to the North.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

First Across the Continent: Sir Alexander Mackenzie (The Oklahoma Western Biographies) First Across the Continent: Sir Alexander MacKenzie (Oklahoma Western Biographies) First Across the Continent: Sir Alexander Mackenzie First Crossing: Alexander Mackenzie, His Expedition Across

North America, and the Opening of the Continent Journals and Letters of Sir Alexander Mackenzie  
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight; Pearl; [and] Sir Orfeo Madame Alexander Dolls: 4th Collector's  
Price Guide (A. Glenn Mandeville's Madame Alexander Dolls) La invención de la naturaleza: El  
mundo nuevo de Alexander von Humboldt / The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's  
New World (Spanish Edition) Alexander: [Alexander Trilogy Book Two] LINDA HOWARD: SERIES  
READING ORDER & CHECKLIST.: SERIES LISTINGS INCLUDE: SPENCER-NYLE CO,  
RESCUES, MACKENZIE'S, PATTERSON-CANNON, WESTERN LADIES & MUCH ... Authors  
Reading Order & Checklists Book 27) Cruising the Southern and Western Caribbean: A Guide to  
the Ships & the Ports of Call (Cruising the Southern and Western Caribbean) (Cruising the Southern  
& Western Caribbean) The Augusta National Golf Club; Alister MacKenzie's Masterpiece King:  
William Lyon Mackenzie King: A Life Guided by the Hand of Destiny North of Athabasca: Slave  
Lake and Mackenzie River Documents of North West Company, 1800-1821 (Rupert's Land Record  
Society Series) MacKenzie Fire: A Sequel to Shine Not Burn MacKenzie's Lass (Scottish Lassies  
Book 3) Anne Frank (Graphic Biographies (Gareth Stevens Paperback)) American Indian Jewelry I:  
1200 Artist Biographies (American Indian Art Series) Fidel Castro (Sutton Pocket Biographies) The  
New Grove Masters of Italian Opera: Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini, Verdi, Puccini (New Grove  
Composer Biographies)

[Dmca](#)