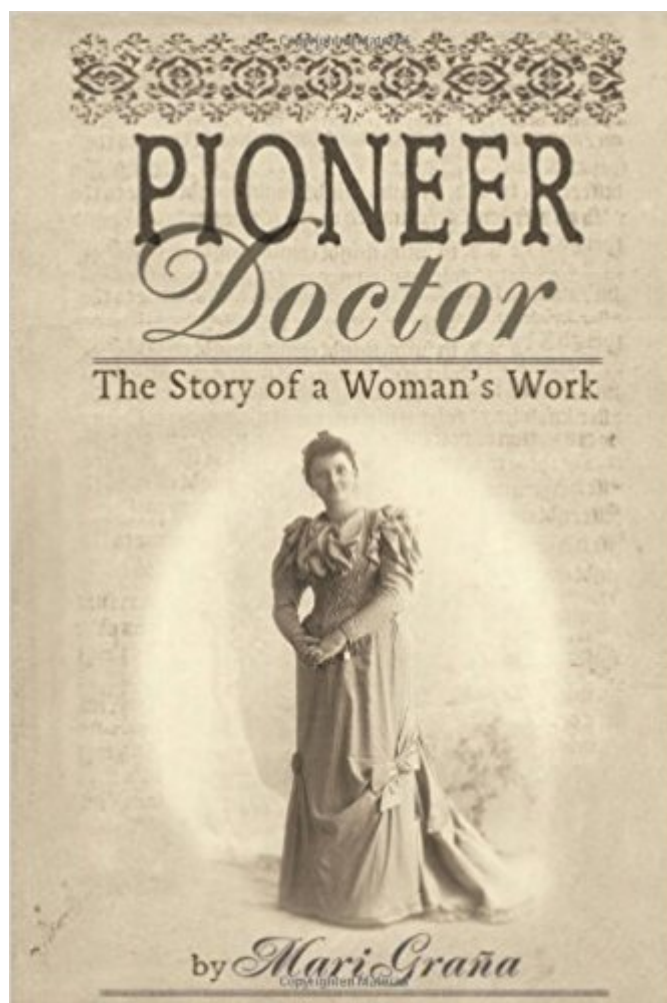


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Pioneer Doctor: The Story Of A Woman's Work



Synopsis

When Mollie Babcock stepped off the train in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1890, she knew she had to start a new life. She'd left her husband and their medical practice in Iowa, and with only a few hundred dollars in her pocket and a great deal of pride, she set out to find a new position as a physician. She was offered a job as doctor to the miners at Bannack, Montana, and thus began her epic adventures in the Rocky Mountain West. The true story of a medicine woman who found opportunity in the wide-open spaces of America's frontier west, *Pioneer Doctor: The Story of a Woman's Work*, is not just a beautifully written and thoroughly researched story of a fascinating woman's life. It is also the story of an era when daring women ventured forth and changed history for the rest of us.

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Customer Reviews

When Mollie stepped off the train in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1890, she knew she had to start a new life. She'd left her husband and his medical practice behind in Iowa, and with only a few hundred dollars in her pocket and a great deal of pride, she set out to find a new position as a physician. She was offered a job as a doctor to the miners in Bannack, Montana, and thus began her epic adventures as a pioneer doctor, a suffragette, and a crusader for public health reform in the Rocky Mountain West. *Pioneer Doctor: The Story of a Woman's Work* is the true story of Dr. Mary (Mollie) Babcock Atwater, a medicine woman who found freedom and opportunity in the wide-open spaces of America's frontier west. This remarkable tale has been creatively retold here by her granddaughter, award-winning author Mari Grana. Blending information from historical records as

well as interviews with family and friends, the author has reconstructed Mollie's steps into a dramatic narrative that brings to life the doctor's struggles, her accomplishments, and the times in which she lived. Beautifully written and thoroughly researched, this is not just the biography of a fascinating woman. It is also the story of an era when daring women ventured forth and changed history for the rest of us.

In 1988 Mari Grana left a career as an urban planner in California and retreated to New Mexico to write. Her recent book of New Mexico regional history, *Begoso Cabin*, won the 2000 Willa Cather award from *Women Writing the West*. She works as a freelance editor in Santa Fe.

This woman was a true pioneer in so many ways. If you have any interest in the lives of women in the old west, or the beginning of the civil rights movement (women's rights, in this case), read this book. I had nights where I read it until I was so tired my eyes couldn't stay open. This is based on the life of a real woman, one of the first female doctors, who travelled to the West in order to establish her own practice and live as a respected professional. Her road was difficult, frustrating, and often lonely, but she persevered and made great gains for all women. Written by her granddaughter, from research and personal interviews with her grandmother's friends, this combines fact with storytelling.

This is a fairly interesting story, but quite a pedestrian writing style. And toward the part of the book when the doctor is falling in love with her second husband? Oh my God, three passages talking about how she was in the throes of desire. Oh spare me. This book needed an editor. Read it for my book club, and we had an interesting discussion about women's rights, but is it too much to ask for a little literary quality.

A wonderful recounting of one woman's life that made a difference in medicine and opened doors for professional women today.

A friend of mine read this book, and it sounded interesting, so I thought I'd try it out. I really enjoyed reading about many of the struggles of the pioneer doctor as well as struggles of women in general during this time. The author of the book is the pioneer doctor's granddaughter, and I admire her for wanting to tell her grandmother's story. That said, the book is not "great literature," it's a bit harsh on religion and a bit biased toward "women's rights." But despite all that, I still think there is

enough good in the book to weigh out the bad.

Excellent book. Gives true to life information on physicians in early times in our country. Good example of how uplifting and important it is to follow your dreams. Also tells the importance of letting people in your life and how to balance what you want while being in touch with what is best for you in your life. The story shows the hardships and rewards of being true to yourself and those around you.

Grana has captured the intelligence, drive and strong spirit of Dr. Mary Babcock Atwater in a very dynamic manner. The endurance and strength of Dr. Atwater shines through the pages of this book. Mary C. Virginia

Good

If you have an interest in Montana pioneer life....you will enjoy this book. It is written by a grand daughter and seems to be very realistic. I can't imagine the guts that this woman doctor had to have to pursue her dream.

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