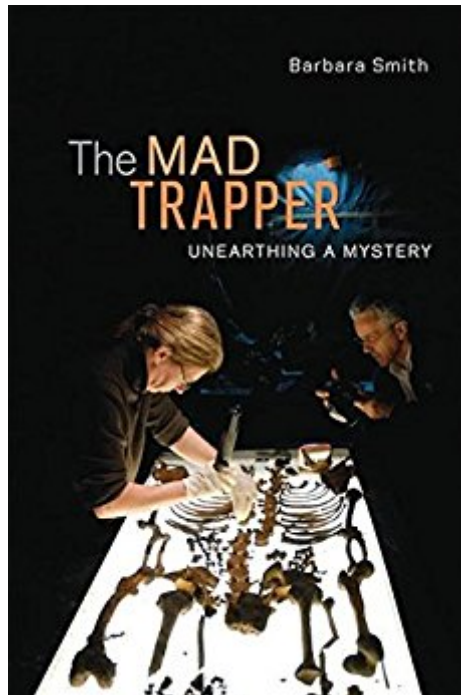


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The Mad Trapper: Unearthing A Mystery: 1



Synopsis

When Albert Johnson, the Mad Trapper of Rat River, was gunned down in February 1932, he went to his death without anyone knowing who he really was. Most people believed the name "Albert Johnson" was an alias. He'd eluded a well-organized, well-equipped posse for seven weeks, surviving solely on wits and determination in the bitter cold of a Canadian Arctic winter. Some 75 years later, he was being pursued again, this time by a team of filmmakers and forensic scientists bent on determining his identity once and for all. In this age of DNA testing and leading-edge forensic techniques, would the decades-old mystery finally be solved? Myth Merchant Films' Michael Jorgensen and Carrie Gour hoped so. Armed with a television production crew and a group of top forensic scientists, they headed to Aklavik, Northwest Territories. The team exhumed Johnson's body, examined the remains and harvested samples for further testing and DNA comparison with potential kin. The results were broadcast in a Discovery Channel documentary, *Hunt for the Mad Trapper*. Author Barbara Smith was on hand to witness it all. In this book she takes readers to the isolated northern community of Aklavik, where the legend began, recounts the tale of the manhunt that mesmerized the world, describes the exhumation and subsequent scientific analyses and shares the astonishing information unearthed in Myth Merchant's investigation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was written as a companion to the Discovery channel documentary about the search to identify Albert Johnson, the so-called "Mad Trapper of Rat River". It tracks the progress of assembling the forensics team and their discoveries along the way. Ms. Smith does cover the actual story of the manhunt, although the main focus is on the modern researchers' efforts and findings, as well as the author's own fascination with the story. She provides a lot of details about Johnson, who was a larger-than-life, yet real-life, historical character. Good photo inserts, though in the Kindle they come out in black and white so it's difficult to decipher the color-coded maps.

Ms. Smith did a fine job of recording the details of the ongoing saga of "The Mad Trapper." Her skills as a writer really saved the tale from the basic boring details of a research book.

I was surprised how close the movie followed the story in the Book. Charles Bronson & Lee Marvin, in the movie, did a fine job of portraying the characters outlined in the book. Bill Kurtz

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