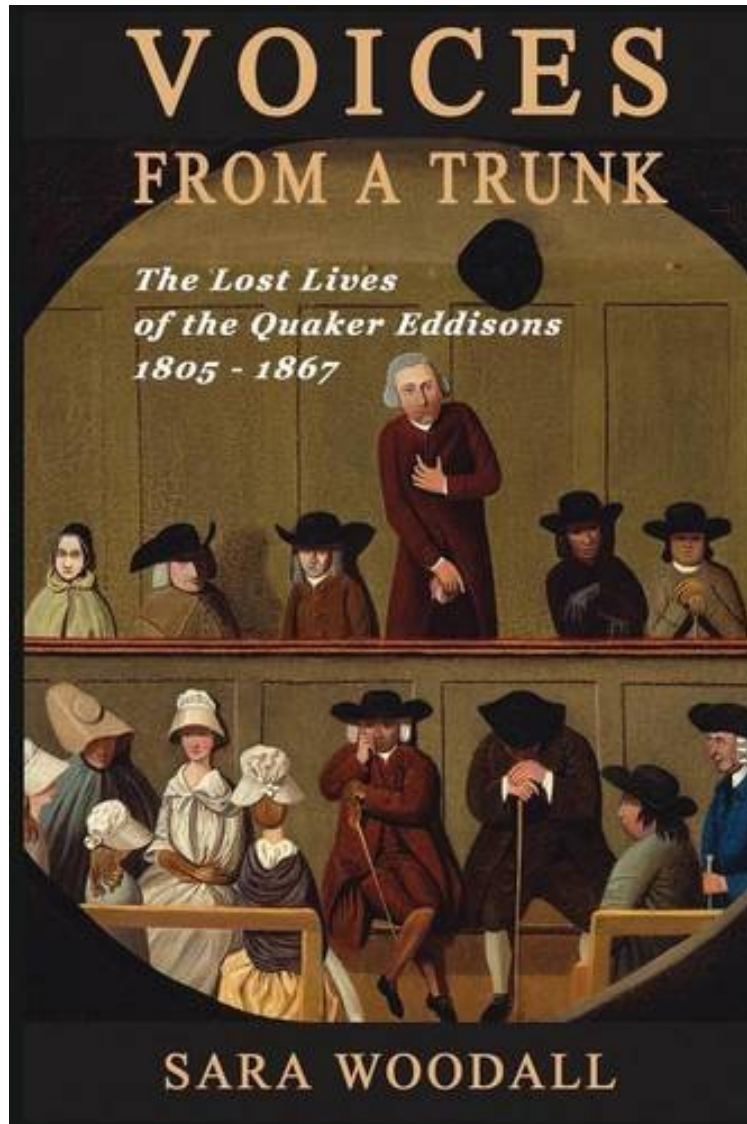


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Voices From a Trunk: The Lost Lives of the Quaker Eddisons 1805-1867

Sara Woodall

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Both scholarly and a page turner By Brian P. Turnbull When she came across a trunk full of old documents in her grandparents attic, the author of this book quickly realised its

significance. It was a comprehensive collection of Georgian and Victorian diaries and records telling the fascinating story of her Eddison ancestors. It is the tale of an enterprising and successful family, originally from a Quaker background, who were actively involved in key moments of the Industrial Revolution. As well as providing a fascinating insight into the momentous events of their public and private lives as they occurred, it includes a vivid description of a trip to North America just after the Civil War. Sara Woodall has taken full advantage of her remarkable discovery, and done justice to her ancestors. This book is entertainingly written, generously illustrated, and manages to be both scholarly and a page turner. Highly recommended.

A chance discovery of a trunk of documents by author Sara Woodall opened up a window onto the rapidly expanding cities of Leeds and London in the nineteenth century. Cholera epidemics, Luddite disruptions, hopeless medical interventions, the birth of the railways, a discovery of a murder, the mystery of an ancestor believed to be the unknown great-great grandfather of renowned inventor Thomas Alva Edison, an unsettling great Quaker bank crash and travel in America newly recovering from the Civil War - all were intertwined with the painful life of Leeds lawyer Edwin Eddison. Format: 6" x 9" perfect bound paperback, color cover and interior on permanent paper, printed in the United States Pages 294, including Acknowledgments, Family Tree, Prologue, twenty chapters of text, Bibliography, Index and About the Author. Illustrations: 173, including period photographs, engravings, newspaper images, etchings and Eddison/Edison family trees ISBN 13: 978-1-939995-16-2 Library of Congress Number: 2016031061

"An extraordinary piece of research and book production, covering a vast range of social religious and medical history, in America and Australia as well as Britain." - Richard Seebohm (Brussels Representative of the Quaker Council for European Affairs) "Sara Woodall has an eye for the telling detail that brings alive the whole. Her prose throughout sparkles, added to which she has a good eye for anecdote. Anyone interested in the social fabric of the 18th and 19th centuries, and, more specifically, Quaker existence, will find this book an invaluable guide." - Marius Kociejowski, (poet and author of Gods Zoo, Artists, Exiles and Londoners. etc) "It is a quite different book to anything I have read before and I became completely absorbed, and now have a very enriched view of the second half of the nineteenth century." - Anne Ullman (author of "Wood Engravings of Tirzah Ravilious") "A fascinating read from start to finish, 'Voices from a Trunk' spans the continents and generations. Elegantly written and carefully researched." - Edward Stileman "This book is an extraordinary work of love and art bringing together the history of the author's family in contemporary England and America, from letters, documents and paintings that record the lives, deaths and especially illnesses of her forebears. I enjoyed the book from beginning to end and it is quite different from any other book that I have read. It is written clearly and with sensitivity, and despite the difficulty of the subject, the continuing tales of the family run like a thread though the different chapters." - Professor Sir Roy Calne FRS (surgeon) "Sara Woodall has written a book both full of charm and at the same time with a wealth of very extensive information on the lives of the Eddison family a prominent Quaker family in the 19th century." - Lucilla van den Bogaerde "This book is entertainingly written, generously illustrated, and manages to be both scholarly and a page turner. Highly recommended. When she came across a trunk full of old documents in her grandparents' attic, the author of this book quickly realised its significance. It was a comprehensive collection of Georgian and Victorian diaries and records telling the fascinating story of her Eddison ancestors. It is the tale of an enterprising and successful family, originally from a Quaker background, who were actively involved in key moments of the Industrial Revolution. As well as providing a fascinating insight into the momentous events of their public and private lives as they occurred, it includes a vivid description of a trip to North America just after the Civil War." - Brian Turnbull "It is a fascinating account and I congratulate you on persevering with the record and bringing it to life in the way that you have so successfully done." - Sir David Walker, (Chairman of Barclays Bank) About the Author Sara Woodall was born in Thirsk, Yorkshire, England. She was a teacher before concentrating on portrait painting. Later, in Cambridge, she was a partner with David and Lida Kindersley at Cardozo Kindersley Editions. In 1995 she set up her own book business and was asked to select books for 10 Downing Street, the home of the British Prime Minister, to give as gifts to visiting heads of state. She is married and lives outside of Cambridge.