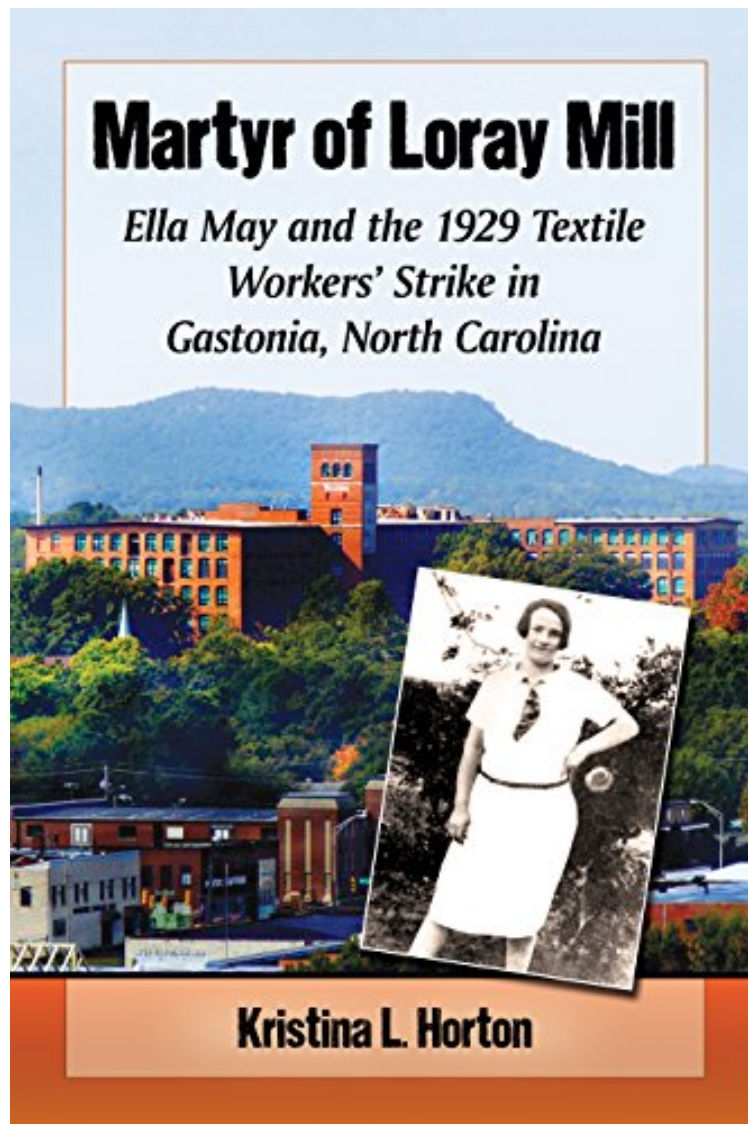


(Free read ebook) Martyr of Loray Mill: Ella May and the 1929 Textile Workers' Strike in Gastonia, North Carolina

Martyr of Loray Mill: Ella May and the 1929 Textile Workers' Strike in Gastonia, North Carolina

Kristina Horton

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#477913 in eBooks 2015-07-23 2015-07-23 File Name: B012E9G0W6 | File size: 55.Mb

Kristina Horton : Martyr of Loray Mill: Ella May and the 1929 Textile Workers' Strike in Gastonia, North Carolina before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Martyr of Loray Mill: Ella May and the 1929 Textile Workers' Strike in Gastonia, North Carolina:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Poignant account of a mill mother's passionate struggle for fair treatment
By Frank Rubio
Review by Kathy Rubio: This book surrounds local history of the area in which I grew up,

western Gaston County, NC. Gaston County was at one time the textile capital of the world. My own grandparents worked at the "Osage" textile mill in Bessemer City, NC all of their adult lives, until they retired. However, I never heard from them, my parents, school history textbooks, (or any other source) about the part of this county's past, as explored in Kristina Horton's book about her great grandmother, Ella May Wiggins. Ella May was a poor mountain woman, married at age 17, mother of nine children who came to Gaston County to work at American Mill #2 in Bessemer City. She fought for textile workers' rights, as salary cuts and failure of management to maintain the mill villages took a toll on the families that depended on the mills for their livelihood. She was also a pioneer of sorts in that she campaigned for black and female workers to be treated as equals to white male workers, which made her very unpopular not only with mill management, but with many in the community in the white-male-dominated society of the early 1900's. When then 8-months' pregnant Ella May was murdered at age 29 during Gastonia's infamous Loray Mill strike of 1929, her death was never prosecuted. Now that Kristina Horton has researched, written, and published a book chronicling her great-grandmother's life and death, this important part of my area's past has come to light. The book is well and factually written, and is very interesting even if you are not from Gaston County. It is a look back into a time just before the Great Depression when labor unions made a determined attempt to establish a presence in the textile mills in the southern United States. This book is a work of love by its author, an impassioned woman who I have met and spoken to on a couple of occasions, to shed light on the reason behind Ella May's fiery determination to make things better for the textile workers -- her family. As the breadwinner for her five surviving children (four had died very young from complications of a life of poverty), she could not provide even the most basic of necessities for them despite working long hours and nights. For a woman who deeply loved her children, she would not rest until she had given everything to improve their lives. This is Ella May's legacy, and I am so glad to see her story finally being told!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An important story finally comes to light!

By Mary Courtney
This is a thoroughly enjoyable read, and it not only gives the reader the lost history and accounting of Ella May, the author's great grandmother and union organizer in 1929 North Carolina textile mills, but it offers a thorough and comprehensive history of the labor movement and union organizing of the time. From the start, I was drawn into the tale, a true one exploring labor relations, the interracial climate of the period, and the sad and violent murder of this strong and determined mother struggling to provide for her family and living in poverty. A troubadour of the early union organizing movement, the author includes Ella May's lyrics and an important chapter on music of the period as well. I expected a story about someone's great grandmother, but this book offered so much more. Bravo!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. While the end is sad, the story is solid

By Amanda Cronin
This well written book tells a sad story of history. The book explores both sides of the story as well as the shocking details of the heroine's murder and the lasting impact on her family. I was transformed to her time and I understood her choices in the moment. It is truly a captured historic moment and so well written you can't put it down. I read this in a weekend and was truly overwhelmed. If you are a history buff or looking for a compelling feminist story, read this. It's a quick, well written read on this country's history of mill labor with a little bit of a personal touch.

Union organizer and balladeer Ella May became a martyr for workers nationwide when she was murdered on her way to a union meeting in Gastonia, North Carolina, at age 28. A mother of nine and bookkeeper for the communist-led National Textile Workers Union, May worked to organize fellow mill workers in Gaston County. Her efforts to organize black workers—along with her brash, outspoken manner—incensed the local community and she was shot by an anti-union vigilante group on September 14, 1929. Written by her great-granddaughter, this book tells Ella May's story, including her involvement in the Loray Mill Strike, the largest communist-led strike on American soil. Her most famous ballad, "Mill Mother's Lament," reveals her motivation: "It is for our little children."

"fascinating and recommend[ed]"--Northern of Books.
About the Author
Kristina Horton, the great-granddaughter of Ella May, is a public elementary teacher in Asheville, North Carolina.