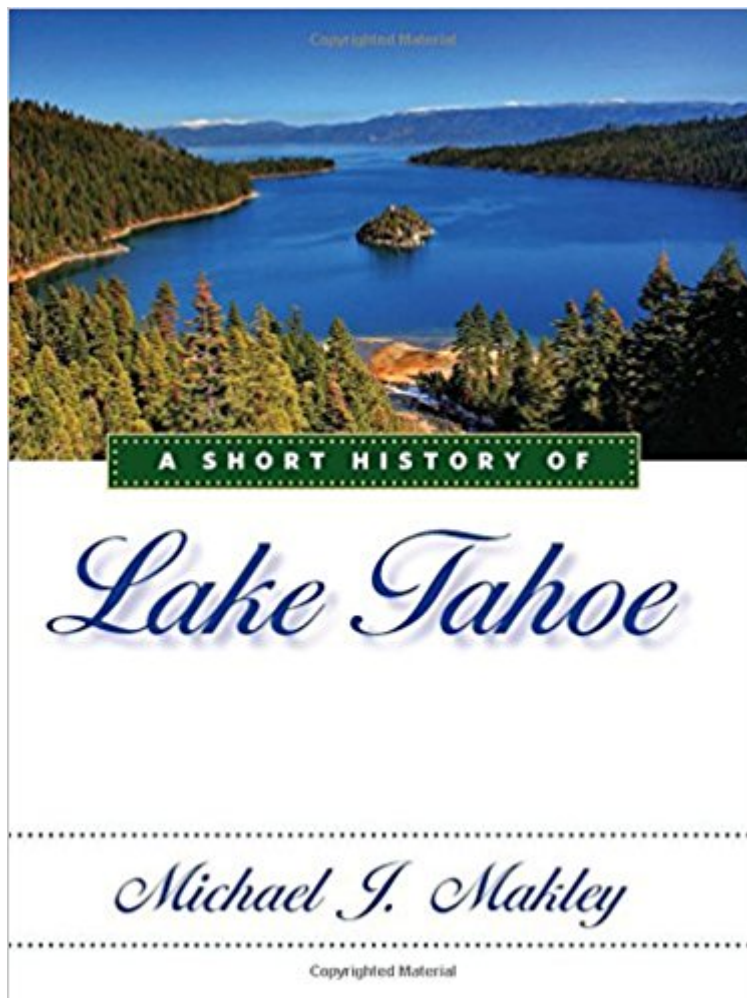


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# A Short History Of Lake Tahoe



## Synopsis

Lake Tahoe is one of the scenic wonders of the American West, a sapphire jewel that attracts millions of visitors each year. But the lake drew Native Americans to its summer shores for millennia, as well as more recent fortune hunters, scientists, and others. *A Short History of Lake Tahoe* recounts the long, fascinating history of Lake Tahoe. Author Michael J. Makley examines the geology and natural history of the lake and introduces the people who shaped its history, including the Washoe Indians and such colorful characters as Mark Twain and legendary teamster Hank Monk, and later figures like entertainer Frank Sinatra and Olympic skier Julia Mancuso. He also covers the development of the lake's surrounding valley, including the impacts of mining, logging, and tourism, and the economic, political, and social controversies regarding the use and misuse of the lake's resources. Generously illustrated with historic photographs, this book is an engaging introduction to one of the most magnificent sites in the world. It also illuminates the challenges of protecting natural beauty and a fragile environment while preserving public access and a viable economy in the surrounding communities.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Makley's erudite, eminently readable brief history of Lake Tahoe is a polished gem." -- Booklist  
"I am spellbound by the indigenous people, lumberjacks, rusticators, bureaucrats, and conservationists all colliding at the intersection of Mike Makley's story of Lake Tahoe." -- Bill Watson, manager and curator of the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society  
"Mike Makley proves it

is possible to present history in a way that's interesting, concise, and readable. He is a thorough researcher who clearly knows his stuff when it comes to Lake Tahoe and writes about it with a strong, clear voice. This book belongs on the shelf of anyone who has ever visited, lived at, or read about Lake Tahoe--and wanted to know more about its history and development." -- Richard Moreno, author of *A Short History of Carson City*

Michael J. Makley is the author of several studies of Nevada history, including *The Infamous King of the Comstock: William Sharon and the Gilded Age in the West* and *John Mackay: Silver King in the Gilded Age*, and coauthor of *Cave Rock: Climbers, Courts, and a Washoe Indian Sacred Place*, all from the University of Nevada Press. He lives in the eastern Sierra Nevada.

Very well done. The history is presented in a way that keeps my attention and leaves me wanting more. Having grown up on the South Shore made it that much more intriguing for me. Many amazing stories and photographs that enhance them. Lake Tahoe is one of the most beautiful places on earth. It's story is the story of man's triumphs and defeats in the management and mismanagement of one of God's most precious gifts to us all. Thank you, Mike Makley, for telling her story so thoughtfully for us now and for future generations.

Bought a place up in Tahoe a couple of years ago. Read this book at the library and needed to have a copy at the house to share with visitors. Lots of interesting anecdotes and information. If you have a connection to Lake Tahoe I recommend this book to learn about it's history.

Despite some minor errors, which the author assures me will be corrected in future editions, I believe this to be an important work. Although it does not contain end notes, it does have an index and selected bibliography. The book reads smoothly and easily and is the only readily available source I know of clearly describing the environmental controversies of the last fifty years, continuing right up to the present day. It is written in a style that respects the players and the reader. Even more important to me is the objective and dispassionate tone of the book. The author lets the facts speak for themselves without telling the reader how he/she should feel about them.

A very entertaining book, full of fun stories about Tahoe characters that you might not find elsewhere. Easy to read and enjoyable. The reason I took two stars away is that there are some GLARING errors. Some of the people he made mistakes about are alive and available for the

correct information, but apparently it wasn't important enough to the author to bother checking. Mostly not a big deal, but to my mind, if someone publishes a book with obvious faulty facts, it makes the rest of the work questionable as well.

Having lived in South Lake Tahoe (and explored Desolation Wilderness) on-and-off for many years, I was pleasantly surprised by the easily accessible and captivating history and stories contained in this book. The battles between the TRPA, League to Save Lake Tahoe ("Keep Tahoe Blue"), and various local and federal authorities was very fascinating. Highly recommended.

Makley's book on Tahoe should be required reading for every twelfth grader within 200 miles. No, make that every adult within four hundred miles...

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