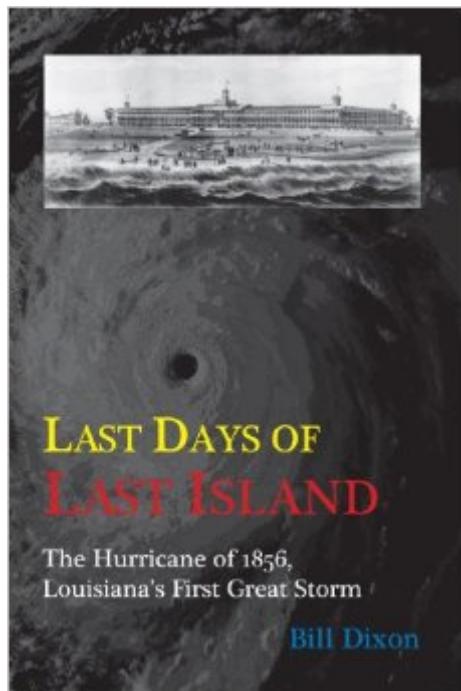


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Last Days Of Last Island: The Hurricane Of 1856, Louisiana's First Great Storm



Synopsis

Last Days of Last Island is the most comprehensive account of the great 1856 Isle Derniere hurricane, its aftermath, and its legacy. Dixon includes a complete listing of victims and survivors, numerous firsthand and primary source accounts, a thorough examination of the poetry and literature inspired by the tragedy, and thirty-two pages of illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is very informative. It clears up many of the inaccuracys that have plagued this event. It keeps your interest, yet remains true to the facts of the event. As a resident of Lafourche Parish, La. I was impressed with the knowledge of the author about this and the surrounding areas. The maps and photos made it all the more interesting. I would recomend this book to anyone. I wish that they would put it in the schools and make it required reading. Survival is not always for the fittest, but the fortunate, who happen to be in the right place at the right time.

The story of Last Island has occasionally resurfaced over the years; however, this is the first thoroughly researched and historically accurate full length version. Parts of the story are very suspenseful, especially the part that deals with the life or death struggle when the storm surge and high winds hit the island and its 400 visitors. Much of the story is told by the survivors in their own words. If you ever wanted to know what it is like to be in a major hurricane during a storm surge, pounded by crashing waves, stung by blowing rain, breathing and swallowing sea water and watching people being swept out to sea, you will be told all the horrible details. This great antebellum

tragedy claimed the lives of many members of some of the wealthiest families in the U.S. The struggle for survival against the elements and the role of luck, quick thinking or determination make this a story of universal interest. It also give the reader some insight into life in the South during the 1850s.

I recently purchased "Last Days of Last Island" after it was highly recommended to me by another reader. I found this book to be a fascinating, detailed account of this 1856 disaster. The author really did his homework in researching all aspects of the storm's impact, from the Louisiana coast to the ships at sea caught up in the storm's path. I especially like how the author told the story from the perspective of those who witnessed the hurricane. Anyone who has ever been along the Gulf Coast in August can attest to how horrible the heat, humidity, and mosquitos can be. To survive this hurricane and to be left to fend for yourself as a survivor is a feat in itself. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in Louisiana history, survival stories, or in the grit and determination of the American spirit.

I can relate. I am reading the book right now. Growing up, I always heard the story about the tragedy, but it was always hearsay. I have actually been on what's left of the island, years ago. This is bringing out many of the facts. If ever there was a book looking for a movie, and if anyone in Hollywood knew HOW to make a movie that wasn't all special effects; this would be the book.

This was a great book. I would have not known about this Hurricane that pretty much destroyed the whole island and killed hundreds of people if my sister hadn't told me about this book. I couldn't put it down. I think now Louisiana only has one inhabited island left.

While many people are aware of the Galveston hurricane in 1900, few - myself included - had ever heard of Last Island. This is a well-written history of the island, the people who lived and worked there, and the massive storm which almost destroyed the island. I read a lot of disaster books and this is one of the better ones.

A little-known American tragedy from the 1800's comes to life with historical accuracy. Writer Bill Dixon has documented the events that lead up to the natural disaster and has put human faces on the very people that fell victim as it occurred. This book is as much an account of human nature as it is a historical account. Slaves risking their own lives to save the wealthy vacationers, families

witnessing the loss of members, frantic efforts to survive the water's wrath bring this true story into focus as never before. One cannot fully know the story of Last Island without recognizing the human factor that existed then and still exists today.

[Last Days of Last Island] by [Bill Dixon] shows that being rich doesn't always come with common sense. In the mid 1800 in America the rich were looking for new ways to enjoy their wealth. In Louisiana the plantation owners found a beautiful island off the coast. It had great views and fishing. Also the breezes were a nice change from the temperatures inland in the South. The catch is this "island" was little more than a large sandbar. What we know as barrier islands. This did not deter them from building it up as a resort for the well to do. What could go wrong? There was no weather forecasting as there is today and the Gulf Coast was as prone to hurricanes then as it is now. There also was no easy escape since the only way to the island was by boat. [Dixon] tell the tragic story of life and death on Last Island during the Hurricane of 1856. The research is well done and the narrative makes the saga of the inhabitants real in this pre Civil War natural disaster. Although he does get quite repetitive with details it was still a very informative read.

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