

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910728392703321
Autore	Hockey Thomas
Titolo	America's First Eclipse Chasers : Stories of Science, Planet Vulcan, Quicksand, and the Railroad Boom / / by Thomas Hockey
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2023
ISBN	9783031241246 9783031241239
Edizione	[1st ed. 2023.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (461 pages)
Collana	Popular Astronomy, , 2626-8779
Disciplina	509 523.78
Soggetti	Physics - History Astronomy United States - History Science - History History of Physics and Astronomy Astronomy, Observations and Techniques US History History of Science
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. Introduction: "The Rush of this Black Wing of Night" -- Chapter 2. A TRANS-AMERICAN ECLIPSE -- Chapter 3. SOME LIGHT UPON THIS DARK SUBJECT -- Chapter 4. NAVY ASTRONOMERS 2,000 KILOMETERS ASHORE -- Chapter 5. THE VAST BLACK ORB -- Chapter 6. NEW ASTRONOMY IN THE OLD WEST -- Chapter 7. OBSERVING IN STYLE -- Chapter 8. MEETING OF THE GRAYHAIRS -- Chapter 9. Overhanging Monster Wings:" The Philadelphia Photographic Corp -- Chapter 10. SURVEYING A SOLAR ECLIPSE -- Chapter 11. The Canadians: Toques on the Frontier -- Chapter 12. Chasing the Umbra through Time and Space -- Chapter 13. A DARKNESS THAT CAN BE FELT -- Chapter 14. STANDING OF THE EDGE LOOKING UP -- Chapter 15. VULCAN -- Chapter 16. AMERICANS IN TOTALITY -- Chapter 17. IN THE SHADOW OF BENJAMIN BANNEKER and "EVEN THOUGHTLESS WOMEN AND

CHILDREN HUSH . . ." -- Chapter 18. FIRE CLOUD -- Chapter 19. WHAT DID IT ALL MEAN? -- Chapter 20. . . . AND WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?.

---

## Sommario/riassunto

In 2017, over 200 million Americans witnessed the spectacular total eclipse of the Sun, and the 2024 eclipse is expected to draw even larger crowds. In anticipation of this upcoming event, this book takes us back in history over 150 years, telling the story of the nation's first ever eclipse chasers. Our tale follows the chaotic journeys of scientists and amateur astronomers as they trekked across the western United States to view the rare phenomenon of a total solar eclipse. The fascinating story centers on the expeditions of the 1869 total eclipse, which took place during the turbulent age of the chimerical Planet Vulcan and Civil War Reconstruction. The protagonists—a motley crew featuring astronomical giants like Simon Newcomb and pioneering female astronomers like Maria Mitchell—were met with unanticipated dangers, mission-threatening accidents, and eccentric characters only the West could produce. Theirs is a story of astronomical proportions. Along the way, we will make several stops across the booming US railroad network, traveling from viewing sites as familiar as Des Moines, Iowa, to ones as distant and strange as newly acquired Alaska. From equipment failures and botched preparations to quicksand and apocalyptic 'comets', welcome to the wild, western world of solar eclipses.

---