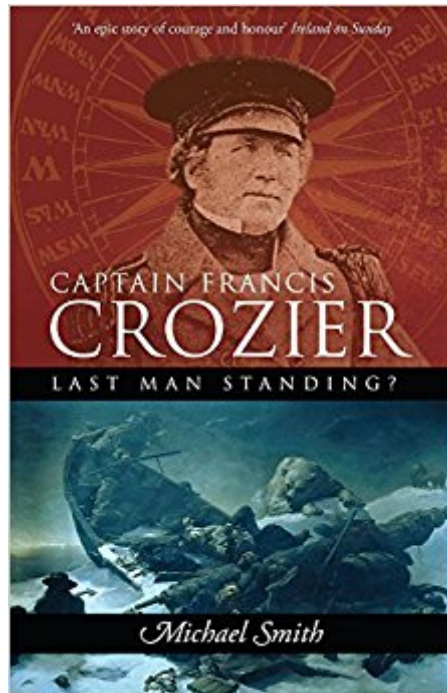




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# Captain Francis Crozier: Last Man Standing?



## Synopsis

Francis Crozier was a major figure in the epic quests of nineteenth-century Polar exploration - navigating the North West Passage, reaching the North Pole and mapping Antarctica. His remarkable story embraces six daring voyages to the world's most hostile regions and extraordinary feats of endurance, tragedy, and failed romance. The groundbreaking expeditions with legendary explorers like Parry, Ross and Franklin lifted the veil from the frozen wastes and were crucial to the exploits of Amundsen, Scott, and Shackleton. Crozier's personal tragedy was an unhappy love affair with Franklin's niece which drove him back to the ice one last time as second-in-command on Franklin's North West Passage expedition in 1845. All 129 men vanished on the ice. Crozier took command when the ships were crushed and the expedition was on the brink of disaster. For several years Crozier led a courageous battle trying to lead his men to safety. According to legend, Crozier was the last to die- the last man standing. But Crozier never received recognition for his great feats and became another of exploration's Irish unsung heroes. With illustrations, maps, and photos.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Excellent." - Irish Mountain Log "An oddly uplifting tale of a true hero." - Ireland on Sunday

"[Michael Smith] is consolidating a reputation as champion of those unsung heroes who deserve greater recognition than history had given them." - Irish Independent "Wonderfully detailed and

graphic account." - Irish Examiner "A valiant attempt to bring Crozier back to heroic life." - Walking World Ireland "A thoroughly enjoyable read." - Irish Mountain Log "Crozier could have asked for no better biographer than Michael Smith." - Arctic Book Review

Michael Smith is an authority on Polar exploration and author of the best-selling biography of Tom Crean, *An Unsung Hero*. His other books are *I Am Just Going Outside*, a biography of Captain Oates (2002), *Polar Crusader* about Sir James Wordie (2004), and *Great Endeavour - Ireland's Antarctic Explorers* (2010). Michael has also written two books for children, *Tom Crean - Iceman* and *Shackleton - The Boss*. He contributes to TV and radio documentaries and lectures frequently on Polar history. Michael was a business and political journalist with *The Guardian* and *The Observer*.

This is a really interesting biography of Captain Crozier, often forgotten polar explorer. Although the *Terror* and *Erebus* have now been located this book gives much insight into polar exploration in the 1880's and Crozier's contributions.

I've always been interested in the story of the Franklin expedition. I'm glad this excellent book about an great explorer was written.

I am interested in the last Franklin's expedition for some years. This book uncovers life of maybe the most important member of this expedition, which took command of it in 1847 after John Franklin's death. And Crozier's unrequited love toward Franklin's niece could be one of causes of the disaster.

I've always been interested in the Franklin Expedition and it was a great read about that historic time and especially about Captain Crozier.

Really enjoyed this. A good read, paced moved along. Didn't put me to sleep :) I feel I learned a lot about the man.

Good book about a much unappreciated man; who lived an adventuresome life.

Francis Crozier made six exploration voyages to both the north and south poles in the 1800s. He traveled with and was respected by many of the well known explorers of his day such as Ross and Parry. Because he was an Irishman of modest means, he was passed over for honors other, lesser, men received. His accomplishments and fascinating history are brought to life in this well-researched story.

This is a good, true story about a major, but overlooked, Arctic and Antarctic explorer, Francis Crozier. It details his life as an Irishman in the British Navy, including the ethnic discrimination that held back his career. It is a nice companion piece to any of the first hand accounts of polar exploration written in the Golden Era of polar exploration. The narrative moves along at a good pace and fills in some missing pieces of the portrait of an officer whose name appears in many places in the biographies of other, more famous (by chance) British naval officers and explorers.

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