

Footprints under the Pines  
Dawn Batterbee Miller

## Extended Press Materials

### Author Bio

Dawn Batterbee Miller hales from Mancelona, Michigan—logging country. Suffering the loss of her mother to tuberculosis, she overcame many challenges in her young life as she lived with twelve different families by the time she was nine years old. She married at an early age and dropped out of school but eventually received her GED, went on to college, and was awarded a Bachelor's Degree and two Master's Degrees (education and communication arts) from Michigan State University. Ms Miller reared five children, worked as an elementary and middle school teacher in Mason, Michigan and, after twenty-four years in the classroom, she is now retired and divides her time between Lansing, Michigan and Avon Park, Florida.

In addition to her fruitful career in public education, Ms Miller has developed an even more rewarding second career as a writer. Beginning with the hand-published *Pioneer Potpourri*, she has also authored *God's Family Tree*, published in 1994 by Church Growth Institute. In addition, Ms Miller has had numerous articles featured worldwide in Christian periodicals produced by World Vision, Guidepost, and Focus on the Family among others. For several years she also served as editor and publisher of *Women in Ministry*, a denominational women's newsletter.

Dawn Miller is uniquely equipped to write about nineteenth-century lumber camps. Augmenting her extensive research on the lore of the lumberjack, she incorporated true accounts of life in the deep woods as told to her by her grandfather who sustained his family by this dangerous and difficult line of work and an aunt who published a newspaper column about life in deep woods territory.

### Book Recap

Katherine Bains lost everything when her parents died of consumption in England and she was shunted off to Canada to live with an aunt she had never known. Once she met and married Frank McLean, however, she thought her pain and sadness were gone forever. Then a tragic fire destroys her house and takes the life of her precious infant son. Katherine, Frank, and their two daughters must leave their home and start over in frigid, rough lumberjack territory. Long ago, she'd abandoned any faith in a God who would allow such devastation and despair to happen. But when catastrophe and heartbreak follow the family and a series of events finds Katherine frightened and hopeless in the deep north wilderness, she discovers she has never been alone. God's mercy is always near, and help comes in the most unexpected ways. *Footprints under the Pines* tells the story of one woman's loss and recovery, heartbreak and renewal, defeat and ultimate victory—and her long journey home to a loving Father.

### Catalog Description

After losing her infant son, her new house, and her beloved husband, Katherine McLean abandons her faith in God. Can she survive in the rough world of the lumberjack and overcome her heart's bitterness to find her way back home?

## Interview Questions with Answers

1. Why an 1800s lumber camp? *To give a true glimpse into daily life of the camp itself.*
  2. What are your qualifications? *Grandfather was a logger.*
  3. Does Katherine's personality reflect yours? *Both of us didn't belong.*
  4. Why place a woman here? *Although uncommon, not unheard of.*
  5. Is our perception of the brawling 1800s lumberjack correct? *In some ways, however, inside the camp men were simply too tired or too busy.*
  6. What didn't get included?
    - a. *1875 Silas Overpack invented the big wheels. It was a device that made it possible to do logging in the summer.*
    - b. *I'd have liked to include more about the river drive.*
    - c. *And then there was the Cruiser who was sent to remote places looking for new stands of timber.*
    - d. *And the summer watchman who spent long summers alone watching over the camps. So very much that couldn't be included in a single book.*
  7. Did early lumberjacks ravage the forest? Why glorify it? *They did but we have learned from their example.*
  8. How did they impact today's industry? *Selective cutting instead of clean cutting*
  9. What is your message to a world in turmoil? *Rise to the occasion and overcome.*
  10. Is there hope for young people? *Conquer treachery by looking forward and doing what needs to be done.*
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