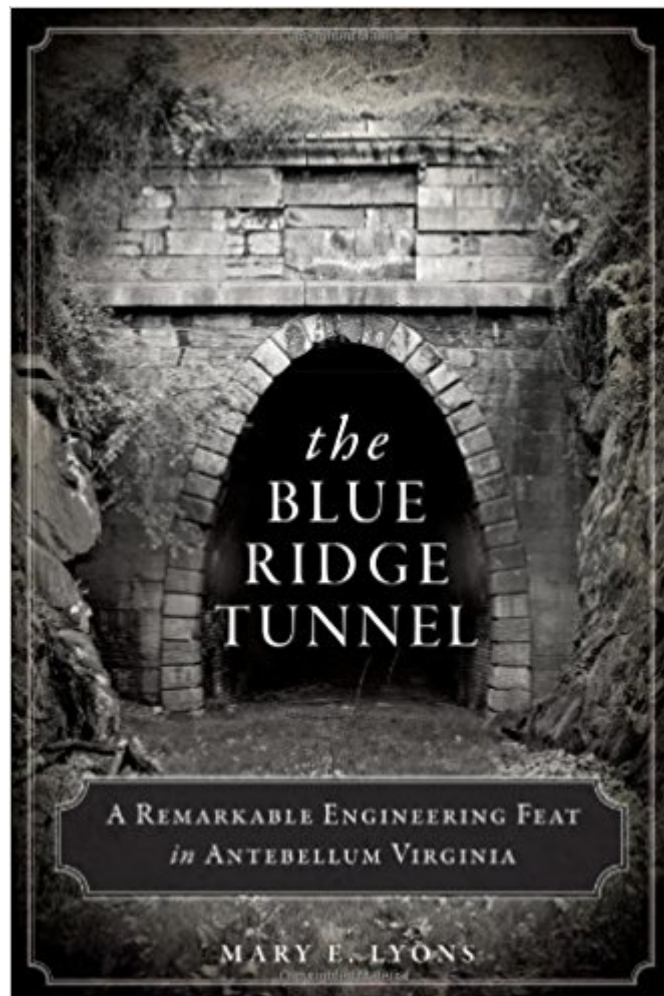




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# The Blue Ridge Tunnel: A Remarkable Engineering Feat In Antebellum Virginia



## Synopsis

In one of the greatest engineering feats of his time, Claudius Crozet led the completion of Virginia's Blue Ridge Tunnel in 1858. Two centuries later, the National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark still proudly stands, but the stories and lives of those who built it are the true lasting triumph. Irish immigrants fleeing the Great Hunger poured into America resolute for something to call their own. They would persevere through life in overcrowded shanties and years of blasting through rock to see the tunnel to completion. Prolific author Mary E. Lyons follows three Irish families in their struggle to build Crozet's famed tunnel and their American dream.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mary E. Lyons, a former teacher and librarian, became a full-time writer in 1993. She is the author of nineteen books for young readers published by Scribner, Atheneum, Henry Holt, Houghton Mifflin and Oxford University Press. Born and raised in the American South, she holds dual Irish and US citizenships. She and her husband, Paul, are members of the Blue Ridge Tunnel Foundation and live in Charlottesville, Virginia.

This is an amazing story that sheds a better understanding of the American push to move west that is not taught in our history books, nor in the cowboy/Indian/Conestoga wagon films. Mary Lyons has thoroughly researched the amazing role of the Irish immigrants (and southern slaves) in digging the train tunnels through the bedrock of mountain chains that opened the pathways to the west. Any

student of Virginia history and any person of Irish heritage should appreciate this amazing account.

Poorly written, nearly all of this book is citations from other's works. Most images stock items, some of them are cited as " like " what it " may" have been like or looked like. I read every word yet learned nothing beyond that which I had heard in history class 35+ years ago.

Very interesting read. Highly recommend. A story about the influence of the Irish on the construction of the tunnel including the hardship

Excellent product and service.

This book is far more a study in genealogy and cultural anthropology than an engineering analysis of the tunnel itself. Who CARES what kind of curtains the laborers hung in their shacks?

A very good read. A lot of effort & sacrifice to build this very important tunnel. Good historical information. Recommended!

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