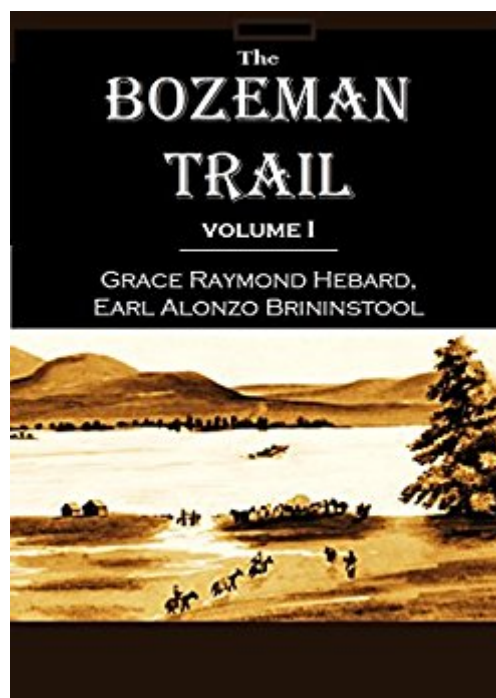




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The Bozeman Trail: Historical Accounts Of The Blazing Of The Overland Routes Into The Northwest, And The Fights With Red Cloud's Warriors, Volume 1



Synopsis

"The Bozeman Trail", the latest of Dr. Hebard's works dealing with the history of Wyoming, is a distinct contribution to the historical literature of this country, based as it is upon original sources before untouched, and telling the story of a heretofore neglected but important and picturesque step in the development of the Far Northwest. The subject of the Indian wars in the West is one usually passed over with little comment by writers of history. The stories of the Santa Fe Trail through the Southwest and of the Oregon Trail are familiar to all readers of our history, but about the other routes, opening the section to the north of the Oregon Trail little has been known. If the Santa Fe Trail was a road of commerce, the Oregon Trail the path of the homesteader, the Overland Trail the route of the mail and express, the Bozeman Trail was the battle ground of the fighting Sioux. It led through the very heart of the territory granted to the Indians by treaties which, unhappily, were kept by neither white man nor red. Here the Indians under Red Cloud, the famous Sioux chief, made a last stand against the white invasion of their hunting-grounds. The hardships and dangers of the pioneers and gold-seekers in this land, and of the soldiers sent to protect them, are among the most interesting and thrilling in the opening of the Far Northwest, told as many of them are in this book in the words of the participants themselves. The ride of John Phillips over two hundred miles in snow and blizzard and through the lines of hostile Indians to bring relief to Fort Phil Kearney can scarcely be equalled in our history for danger and daring. The Wagon-box and Haystack fights are among the most extraordinary encounters between Indians and white men. The picture given by Red Cloud, the Red Napoleon of the plains, by Captain Cook, for more than thirty years his intimate friend, shows the Indian chief as a steadfast friend, a great student of Nature, as well as a noted Indian statesman and fighter. The introduction is by General Charles King, himself a veteran of the Indian wars and a participant in the struggle along the Bozeman Trail. The illustrations are by no means the least interesting and valuable part of the work. Most of them have never before been reproduced and are from original drawings made by soldiers while on duty on the Trail. Others were drawn by Dr. Hebard from information furnished by men who took part in the events depicted. These are supplemented by photographs, some of them taken by the authors on their trips over the old trail. This book originally published in 1922 has been reformatted for the Kindle and may contain an occasional defect from the original publication.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Bozeman Road was critical to the settlement of Montana and mining Montana's mineral treasures especially gold. The emigrants cried out for military protection, but their cries were met with a paucity of troops led by Colonel Henry Carrington and the naive political belief that Red Cloud's Sioux and his allies were at peace with the United States to the point that General William T. Sherman encouraged wives to accompany their husbands to the most dangerous duty in the West. Red Cloud waged an unrelenting guerrilla war to defend his peoples last hunting grounds against the three undermanned forts and particularly Ft. Phil Kearny built to provide safe journey to Montana on the Bozeman Road. Red Cloud brought about 3000 militants together and on December 21, massacred Captain William Fetterman and his 80 soldiers and civilians decimating the fort's man power. Colonel Carrington was unjustly made the scapegoat. His report was suppressed until 21 years later when his report was published, and he was finally vindicated. A good page turning read for all who love American history and especially the history of the government's conflict and attitudes toward the First Nation peoples in the west. It is a true story of the emigrants and soldiers' bravery and courage, the political ineptness of the government, and the determination of Red Cloud and his allies to rid the Powder River area of Wyoming from white encroachment upon their hunting lands and protect their nomadic way of life.

I thought it was well written

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