

**THE PLAINS AND THE ROCKIES,
A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ORIGINAL
NARRATIVES OF TRAVEL AND
ADVENTURE, 1800-1865**

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The plains and the Rockies, a bibliography of original narratives of travel and adventure, 1800-1865 by Henry R. Wagner

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HENRY R. WAGNER

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By

HENRY R. WAGNER

SAN FRANCISCO
JOHN HOWELL

1921

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PREFACE

This book was first printed in the summer and fall of 1920 here in Berkeley while I was in New York. Owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding it finally appeared with a very great number of errors and quite a few copies passed into circulation before I saw it. I immediately stopped the sale but as I am lead to believe that there is really a demand for the volume, I have concluded to reprint it, taking advantage of the opportunity to add a few items and also to amplify somewhat and rewrite the notes of some of the numbers.

With few exceptions I only describe books containing personal experiences of the authors, as my aim is to present the fact and fiction of the period between 1800 and 1865 as written and printed during the same period.

The notes contain in most cases, partial digests of the contents of the book described and frequently reference to other works covering the same ground printed after 1865, although in general I have made no attempt to make a complete bibliography of the subject but only one of original editions. In the case of the rarer books I have also noted where copies can be found, it being understood that the others are accessible in any large library.

In view of the fact that the book is designed principally for the use of collectors, I should have been pleased to give some indication as to market values, but owing to the rapid advance in the value of all western books except the commonest, and the present somewhat chaotic state of the market, I have not felt competent to adventure in this field. In recent years we have seen extraordinary advances in the value of books, prints, pictures, and generally all objects which appeal to collectors, and in no field has this advance been more remarkable, nor, some people would say, more exaggerated than in that of books on the "West." For a long period these books were entirely neglected and books which now bring \$100 twenty-five years ago were unsalable at \$1.50. The high prices now being paid will no doubt bring to light more copies, but on the whole, my experience indicates that those which can now be called rare will continue to be so to the end of time. Certain books which were published and

circulated in literary centers like London, New York, and Cincinnati in the forties and fifties, have survived in considerable number but the paper covered pamphlet issued for reasons of local authorship or local pride in some out of the way place in the West was issued in a limited number to start with and went into the waste paper basket in most cases very shortly. Furthermore the very small commercial value which most of them had at the time when they were printed and for a long time afterwards did not conduce to their preservation.

No general historical work of which I have any knowledge attempts to cover in any comprehensive manner this period. The two most important books dealing with the period before the gold rush are "Chittenden's Fur Trade" and "W. L. Marshall's Acquisition of Oregon." For the subsequent period there is nothing except Bancroft's Works. These latter are very uneven in character; the volumes relating to Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Utah being the least useful and most fragmentary of any of Mr. Bancroft's works. His history of California contains very important and extended references to the early overland expeditions. Mr. Bancroft collected an immense amount of material relating to this early period which still remains in manuscript in the Bancroft Library. Undoubtedly he made use of it in writing his history and therefore it is to be doubted whether the publication of the many diaries and reminiscences would prove any substantial contribution to our knowledge of the period. The Missouri Historical Society and Kansas Historical Society also possess considerable material still in manuscript of great interest and their publications contain much of prime importance. The same can be said of the publications of the Historical Societies of Montana, Oregon and South Dakota, and also of the annual publications of the Oregon Society of Pioneers. The New York Historical Society possesses a considerable portion if not all of the records of the American Fur Company's operations on the upper Missouri. A large number of the books of Ft. Union are there, books of account, letter books, etc., together with a large mass of correspondence which to my knowledge has never been examined, or, if at all, only casually. The Archives of the Hudson Bay Company in London probably contain the greatest amount of material relative to the Northern Rocky Mountain region, but so far, very little work has been done on them. Agnes C. Laut has made some explorations therein and extracted some valuable documents; especially the journals of Peter Skeene Ogden of

his expeditions into the Snake River country, subsequently published in full by the Oregon Historical Society. Just as I am writing this I have received the latest contribution to Fur Trade literature, "Journal Of A Fur-Trading Expedition On The Upper Missouri 1812-1813" By John C. Luttig Clerk Of The Missouri Fur Company Edited By Stella M. Drumm, St. Louis Missouri Historical Society, 1920. A goodly portion of miscellaneous information will be found in the notes to Dr. Elliot Coues' editions of Pike, Lewis and Clark, Alexander Henry and Jacob Fowler, the various notes to the reprints of western books by R. G. Thwaites and in those by W. B. Douglas to the reprints by the Missouri Historical Society of James and Wislizenus.

References to Sabin are to Sabin's Dictionary of Books relating to America and to Raines to Raines' Bibliography of Texas. The references to Hasse are to Adelaide R. Hasse's Reports of Explorations, etc. Washington, 1899, a very useful work.

The abbreviations used, I think, in all cases can easily be understood without the necessity of making a list, but I may say that—

P. P. signifies privately printed.

P. P. W. signifies printed paper wrappers.

HENRY R. WAGNER.

Berkeley, California, March, 1921.

The PLAINS AND THE ROCKIES

MACKENZIE, ALEXANDER

Voyages From Montreal, On The River St. Laurence, Through The Continent Of North America, To The Frozen And Pacific Oceans; In the Years 1789 and 1793. With A Preliminary Account Of The Rise, Progress, And Present State Of The Fur Trade Of That Country. Illustrated With Maps. By Alexander Mackenzie, Esq.

London: Printed For T. Cadell, Jun. . . . M. DCCC. I.
4^o Half title, title, pp. VIII; CXXXII; 412; Err. (2);
3 maps, portrait Mackenzie.

Maps:

Map of America between latitudes 40 and 70 north, and longitude 45 and 180 west, exhibiting Mackenzie's Track from Montreal to Ft. Chipewyan.

Map of Mackenzie's Track from Ft. Chipewyan to the North Sea.

Map of Mackenzie's Track from Ft. Chipewyan to the Pacific, 1793.

After a preface, pp. (III)-VIII there follow CXXXII pages of a General History of the Fur Trade and examples of the *Kuisteneaux* and *Algonquin* Tongues and *Chipewyan* language. This account of the fur trade constitutes the first printed account of the development of this trade in the Northwest by the Northwest Company. According to J. B. Tyrrell it was written by Roderick Mackenzie. However, very considerable information had been obtained in the United States regarding the Northwest territories and the fur trade from Peter Pond, a native of Connecticut, who, in 1773, embarked in the trade and opened the Athabasca country in 1778. Pond returned to the United States before 1795 and at the time of the discussions over Jay's treaty in 1795 he appeared as an authority on northwest affairs. Pond's journal was still in existence some years ago and its publication was begun in *Journal of Am. Hist. Ass.* Vol. 1 1907 pp. 89 and 357, but was discontinued for some reason. Pond's map in Hudson Bay archives in London and Kohl Coll. Lib. Cong. Also see Canadian archives for 1890.

Mackenzie was the first white man to cross the continent according to our best knowledge and his journal of this expedition from May 9, 1793 to his arrival at the Sea July 30, 1793, and

return to the fort on the Peace River August 24, is of surpassing interest.

The fine engraved portrait of Mackenzie is after a painting by T. Lawrence. 1

MACLAURIES, MR.

A Narrative, Or Journal Of Voyages And Travels Through The North-West Continent Of America; In The years 1789 And 1793. By Mr. MacLauries.

London: Printed For J. Lee, . . . 1802.

12° 2 p. l., 91 pp.

This must be an extract from Mackenzie. I have never seen a copy of it. Collation above from Lib. Cong. copy. 2

PERRIN DU LAC, M.

Voyage Dans Les Deux Louisianes, Et Chez Les Nations Sauvages Du Missouri, par les Etats-Unis, l'Ohio et les Provinces qui le bordent, en 1801, 1802 et 1803: Avec un aperçu des Mœurs, des Usages, du Caractère et des Coutumes religieuses et civiles des Peuples de ces diverses Contrées. Par M. Perrin Du Lac.

A Paris, Chez Capelle Et Renand, Libraires-Commis-sionnaires, rue J.—J. Rousseau, Et, à Lyon, chez Bruyssel aîné et Buynand. 1805.

8° Half title and title, leaf of dedication, N of preface, 479 pp. text, map, and plate of the Mammoth.

Map:

Carte Du Missouri Levée ou Rectifiée dans toute son Etendue, Par F.^{ois} Perrin du Lac l'An 1802.

In Chapter 24 Perrin du Lac gives an account of a trading expedition up the Missouri to the Kansas, up the Kansas 240 miles and return and up the Missouri to the Riviere Blanche, leaving St. Louis May 18, 1802, and returning there September 20th. Besides the Osages and Kansas Indians, he visited the Otoes on the Platte, and the Republican Pawnees farther up the same river. He says there was an old fort of the "Company of the High Missouri" opposite the mouth of the Platte. Continuing up the Missouri they found the Mahas. At the L'Eau qui Court (3 miles distant) they found the Poncas. At the Riviere Blanche they found a village of Cheyennes of 120 men, most of whom he says had never before seen a white man.

In chapters 25 and 26 he gives an account of the Missouri fur trade in which he says the traders go only to the Ricaras; and that the Mandans, Cheyennes and Minnetares participate very little in the trade, receiving most of their goods from other