



Mountaineers of the Rocky Mountains: Marcy's Account of Early Mountain Men Bridger, Gore, Goodale, Baker, Mariano, and Clyburn

Randolph Barnes Marcy

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Randolph Barnes Marcy (1812 – 1887) was an officer in the United States Army, chiefly noted for his frontier guidebook, the *Prairie Traveler* (1859), based on his own extensive experience of pioneering in the west. In 1857, Marcy accompanied Brigadier General Albert Sidney Johnston on the expedition against the Mormons in Utah. Here he distinguished himself on a forced march through the Rockies in midwinter, when he led his troops to safety after they had run out of provisions for two weeks.

In this book Marcy writes:

"Scattered here and there throughout the wilds of the Rocky Mountains are still remaining a few of those semicivilized white men called "mountaineers," who wandered from their homes in the Border States early in life, and enlisted in the service of the different fur companies. Many of these peculiar and interesting people have spent the greater portion of their lives and grown gray in the rough and adventurous life incident to their occupations as hunters and trappers, and the history of their experiences teems with thrilling incident and reckless personal adventure.

"At the time the American and Northwest Fur Companies were at the height of their prosperity, and when beaver fur was worth ten dollars a pound, these men were employed in Montreal, St. Louis, and other places on the frontier for a term of years, and from the time they left the settlements until their return they seldom tasted bread, sugar, tea, coffee, or vegetables. Like the prairie Indians, almost their only subsistence from one year's end to another consisted of fresh meat, and even this was only supplied by the precarious results of the chase. The rifle furnished their entire commissariat, and, as a necessary consequence in a locality where game did not abound, they were often subjected to great suffering from hunger.

"Notwithstanding the privations and perils to which these people were constantly exposed, and the slender pecuniary profits which they derived from their avocations, strange as it may appear, I have yet to see the first one of them who did not become fascinated with the life, and it is seldom if ever they can be prevailed upon to abandon it. It seems to possess- for them a charm of excitement and romance which no other occupation can supply."

Contents:

Jim Bridger.

His Troubles with the "Danites."

Sir George Gore

Tim Goodale

Jim Baker.

Bear Fight

Singular Duel.

Mariano.

Mr. Clyburn

His Adventures in the Mountains

His Return to the Settlements
Narrow Escape on Rock River.
Indian Law.

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