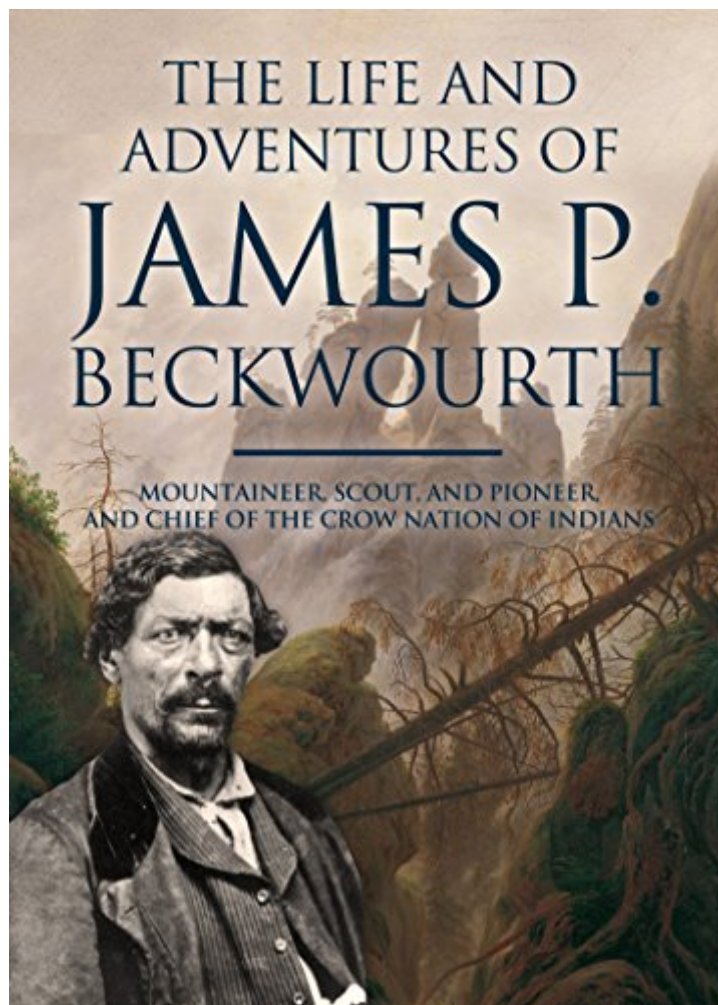


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# **The Life And Adventures Of James P. Beckwourth: Mountaineer, Scout, And Pioneer, And Chief Of The Crow Nation Of Indians**



## Synopsis

Born into slavery in 1798, James P. Beckwourth would go on to become one of the most remarkable mountain men to have ever lived. In 1824 Beckwourth left Missouri to head to the Rocky Mountains to work for William Ashley's Rocky Mountain Fur Company. He would never turn back. In his fascinating life, spent in the mountains and plains of the West, he lived as a trapper, hunter, guide, horse thief and Indian fighter. What is particularly fascinating about Beckwourth's book is his insight into the culture of the Native Americans, as for many years, this son of a slave and a slave owner, lived with the Crow Nation, trapping, hunting, marrying two of their women and raiding alongside them. It is even stated that he rose to the position of Chief of the Crow Nation. First published in 1856, *The Life and Adventures of James P. Beckwourth* is a unique account of life in pioneer America in the early-nineteenth century. "This is a book of great importance to an understanding of the mountains, plains, and Great Basin West." *California Historical Quarterly* "It remains what it always has been since its first appearance in 1856—a rousing adventure story in which Jim Beckwourth plays the leading role." *San Francisco Chronicle* James Beckwourth was the only African American in the West to have his life story published. He was credited with the discovery of Beckwourth Pass which aided pioneers in reaching their destination in the West. He died in 1866.

## Book Information

File Size: 1972 KB

Print Length: 542 pages

Publisher: Maple Books Publishing (July 18, 2016)

Publication Date: July 18, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01IQAA7RG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #8,005 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #3 in Books >

Sports & Outdoors > Mountaineering > Mountain Climbing #3 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

History > Americas > United States > State & Local > Southwest #6 in Kindle Store > Kindle

## Customer Reviews

Bonner's autobiography gives the reader full insight to the life style of both the mountain men and the native Americans. His ability to survive in the extremes and perils of the plains and mountains is amazing. He provides the reader with a detailed picture of the western tribes.

Mr. Beckworth as an Afro-American gives a unique view inside Native American life having been taken as a lost son of a Crow Indian mother. The book does not talk about any discrimination from white men and since it was written in the 1850's that is not surprising. While some of it may well be a mountain man's tall tales, it is fascinating reading and recommended to the student of Old West history.

The author personal background is particularly interesting - yet, he does not see fit to dwell on it . So, far we are concerned, his parents were loving, he was free and an American above all. His life account is simply fascinating and the ending is particularly moving.

Enjoyed learning about Mr. Beckwourth. Good overall history, interesting expressions, but difficult to follow geographically. I couldn't find most of the landmarks he mentioned. The details on his tactics to overcome engagements with his adversaries are lacking. Other than that, enjoyed it

Interesting, detailed, repetitive and too long. The author provided a great amount of information, but did not know how to make it interesting. It's probably as factual as he could make it, but he didn't try to make it interesting or personal for the readers. Extremely dry and repetitive in the indian raids being repeated over & over with the number of scalps taken being primary. He obviously was an intrepid man & superior to his peers.

I am an avid reader of this era and understand these men were good story tellers. Therefore, I'm somewhat skeptical of all that he mentions. Nonetheless, entertaining narrative of Beckwourth's life. Does give insight into trials and tribulations of First American warrior attitudes and willingness to defend their territorial claims. All Mountain Men enjoyed good story tellers and he doesn't disappoint.

What can one say, it is a Journal from James Beckwourth. Some interesting reading, but I would not accept everything he said as true. He tends to exaggerate numbers as well as his involvement in situations. However, it gives a good feel for the life of a mountain man serving the fur trade among the Crow Indians. It also gives interesting insight into the habits and lifestyle of the Sparrow Hawk (Crow) people.

Fantastic life of adventure. Beckwourth should rank higher in the historical index of characters from the 1800s than he apparently does (I never heard of him until coming across this book). Obvious exaggeration aside, his life is as remarkable and varied as that of Sam Houston. Sam's life as told in "The Raven" and Beckwourth's as told in this text are equals in my opinion for adventure and fascinating historical detail.

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