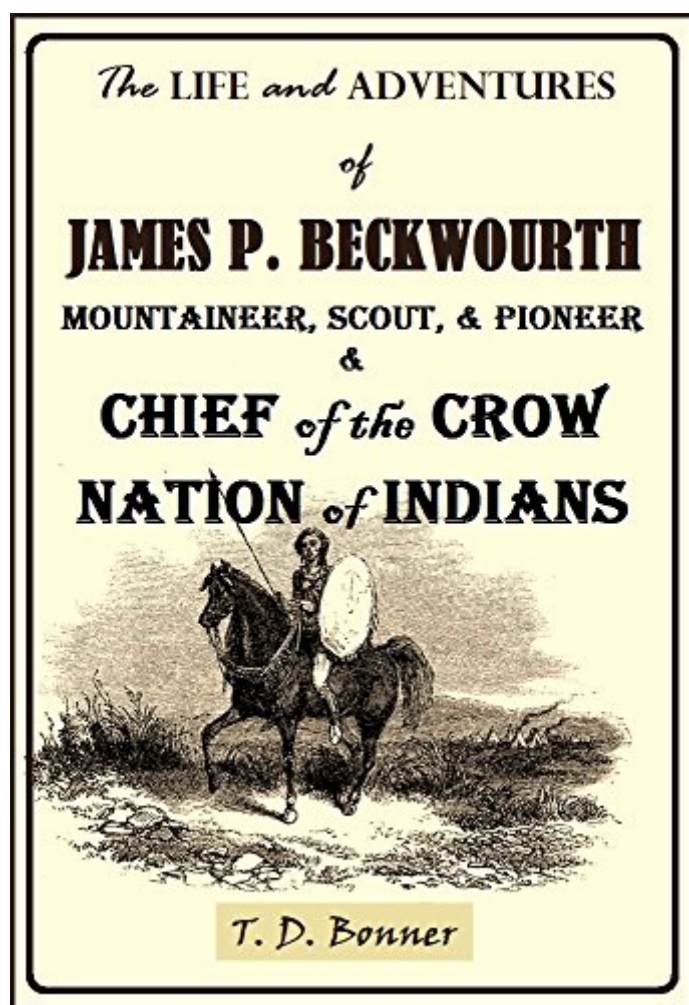


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# The Life And Adventures Of James P. Beckwourth (1856): Mountaineer, Scout, And Pioneer And Chief Of The Crow Nation Of Indians



## Synopsis

James Pierson Beckwourth (1798 - 1866) was an American mountain man, fur trader, and explorer. An African American born into slavery in Virginia, he was freed by his father (and master) and apprenticed to a blacksmith; later he moved to the American West. As a fur trapper, he lived with the Crow for years. He is credited with the discovery of Beckwourth Pass through the Sierra Nevada (U.S.) Mountains between present-day Reno, Nevada and Portola, California during the California Gold Rush years, and improved the Beckwourth Trail, which thousands of settlers followed to central California. He narrated his life story to Thomas D. Bonner, an itinerant justice of the peace. The book was published in New York and London in 1856 as *The Life and Adventures of James P. Beckwourth: Mountaineer, Scout and Pioneer, and Chief of the Crow Nation of Indians*. This pre-1923 publication has been converted from its original format for the Kindle and may contain an occasional defect from the original publication or from the conversion.

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## 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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