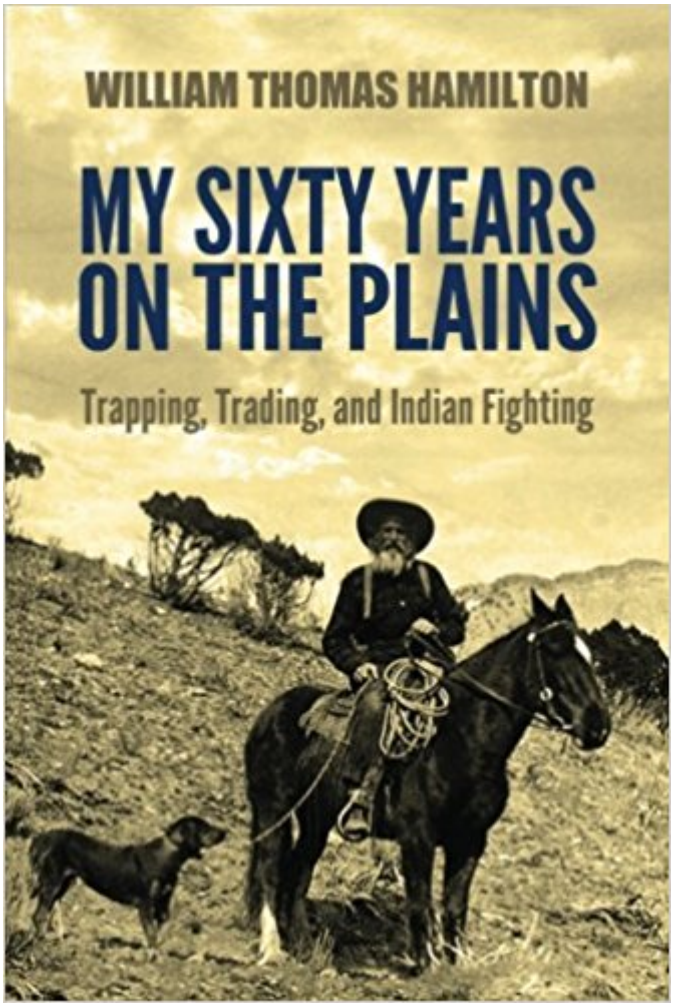
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My Sixty Years On The Plains: Trapping, Trading, And Indian Fighting



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Synopsis

In writing this book the author had only one end in view, that of relating in a simple way his experiences as a mountaineer. In these days, when such experiences are fast becoming a thing of the past, the story is of special interest.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

William Thomas Hamilton was born into a wealthy family in England but was brought to American when he was two years old. A sickly youngster, he was sent west by his father in 1842 with a trapping party headed by “Old BillÃ¢â ¬Â• Williams (who would gain notoriety as the guide of General John C. FrÃƒÂ©montÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fourth expedition into the Western territories) to improve his health. Hamilton remained in the West for the rest of his life. He died in Missoula, Montana.
--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I thoroughly, and somewhat unexpectedly, enjoyed this book. What I mean is, while I was interested in the subject matter going in (otherwise, why buy the book?), I wasn't really prepared for just how much enjoyment I would get from it. I ended up reading it virtually straight through, over the course of a couple of days, whereas normally a book like this would stretch out to a week or more, with me picking away at it steadily from my perch in the bathroom or before sleeping. In this case, other activities had to make way for the book.The contents are too perfectly well described by the title to require much comment, although I will say that, having reached the end, I am disappointed that more attention wasn't paid to describing and explaining the art of trapping to us moderneers who haven't much of a clue beyond the obvious broad outlines. While many incidents are mentioned, it is

often passed over so cursorily that, in hindsight, I'm not sure I always even knew,what the particular animal being trapped was. Since much of the history takes place in the northwest, from Montana to Washington, beavers are often mentioned as being the prey, but what was being trapped in other places is less clear to me--and in any case, I would have liked to have been told how the work was actually carried out in more detail. Much of that, however, can no doubt be put down to the reader of Mr. Hamilton's time being more familiar with such things than we are today, so my disappointment isn't with the author's skill as a writer and historian so much as with his rudimentary facility at predicting the future.The same might be said of his many interactions with Indians, both in war and peace, but to a lesser degree because he does devote more space to the details of such encounters. But I want more, so I'll have to seek out another book more single-mindedly devoted to Indian-dealing to help flesh out the picture.Have no fear, though. These are relatively minor niggles. As I said, I enjoyed the book very much and don't regret the money spent on it one bit, and if I had to bet I'd bet that you won't, either. Five stars for enjoyment, four for completeness and detail, averaging to 4 1/2 with 1/2 a star tacked back on for future prediction failure allowance, resulting in five stars overall for this exciting and entertaining read.

I liked this book. It was an easy read, well-written memoir, and I couldn't stop reading until I finished into the night. Indians and fur-trappers, the Old West. 'Wildcat Bill'. I didn't like what happened to poor CrawfordÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ypes. No spoilers here. Great add to my classic collection.

Enjoyed the book very much reading this book almost felt like you were there and see what was described and feel the emotions that they felt in the story line. I felt that is was a true story. And the price was outstanding these true stories are very much history could feel the progress of the people at the times I felt sad to see the future come and change the times.

Anyone interested in American history, must read this book. I could not put it down until I finished it. I wish W.T. Hamilton would have written a sequel. Reading his words were like sitting down with him and a good glass of whiskey. Then just leaning back and listening to a great story teller. Book construction is beautiful and is a proud addition to my library.

This book is an interesting read especially as one considers that this is a nonfiction account of one man's journey through time in a bygone era. The author isn't a literary genius, but he does a fine job conveying some very interesting tales. This book paints a 19th century mountain man/trapper's

experience in vivid detail at times; at other points the storyline became truncated and rushed. I assume these were the boring points in his chronological journey. Nevertheless, difficult to put down once you start reading. Recommended for the "lore of yesteryear, adventure seeking, nature lovers".

The mere fact that this man survived and retained fine faculties into his eighties amazes me. The era alone had men of such hard times limited in life expectancy but to have been through everything he remembers is fantastic. I enjoyed reading about places I have visited and visualizing the scenes from the book. Highly recommended reading.

An historical work of import. In my estimation the closest yet to actual events. Most interesting and holds the reader’s attention. You will not be disappointed in this book. Well worth your time. I highly recommend this well written account of the traveler’s lives and interaction as they travel the wild west gathering their plunder and staving off the unfriendly Native Americans.

I loved this book, , a time machine back into the lives and everyday existence of brave men exploring an uncharted world of of the rocky mountains. wintering with friendly tribes of Indians , a trappers life was anything but safe and secure as danger was hid by hostile Indians intent on lifting there scalps at any chance. This is the story of a young man coming of age, learning to follow in the footsteps of his older experienced mentors , the same brave men that paved the way for civilization to make it way across the great expanse of the united states.Those of us that are fortunate enough to live in the pacific Northwest will recognize the storys of there travels across California Utah,Nevada,Idaho,Montana,Oregon,Wyoming, the Columbia river. Where they plied the tools of there trade, and learned to became a formidable fighting force against hostile Indian attacks from Waring tribes to survive there hostile environment.

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