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Lewis Hector Garrard

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Lewis Hector Garrard : Wah-to-yah the Taos Trail before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wah-to-yah the Taos Trail:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. 17 year old mans trip to the west battling Indians and staying alive. Greenhorn to "real" mountain manBy Thomas EricksonThis is the eight Time Life Classics of the Old West series books I have bought, read and reviewed. All are 4 or 5 stars.Lewis H Gerrard 1829- 1887 writes about his excursion into the Old West. He was 17 and signed up for an expedition through Indian territory to land that was to be liberated from Mexico.It was a tiring and dangerous journey, freezing in the sun and snow, wading swift rivers and sleeping on the ground. It took a lot of courage and stamina. He was observant, curious, and cheerful and made lots of friends. He danced with squaws and saw a scalp dance. He fought Indians and hunted many kinds of animals including buffalo. He saw the landmark of the Taos Trail... The Spanish Peaks or Wah- To- Yah, that was the title of this book. The original book was published in 1850.Later he was a Minnesota settler, politician and banker. He died at 58 and wrote two other books. Some say not of the caliber of this book.Anyone interested in the true happenings in the Old West around 1846-1848 will like this book. Chocked full of interesting facts about the hard life of the prairie and mountain men and different Indian tribes. I would of rated this book 5 stars but some parts of the book had the Old West mountain language with contractions, misspellings and lots of the "n" word. Not putting the talk down as this was how the mountain men talked back then. However for reading purposes these talks slowed down my reading and would of been an easier, and slightly faster read if stated in plain English. Even so the 349 page book was an enjoyable fast read

that I read in three days. What was nice is that I learned several Indian words, adding to my Indian vocabulary. Proudly added to our Classics of the Old West collection in our family library. 4 1/3 stars. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Quite Appealing

By Michael E. Fitzgerald

On September 1, 1846, just a few months after the declaration of war between the United States and Mexico, 17 year old Louis Garrard left Independence, Missouri and traveled down the Santa Fe Trail to Taos, New Mexico, capital of the fur trade in what is now the US southwest. He was quick to make friends and learn the customs of the mountain men and teamsters on the trail. This book is one of the few first hand accounts we have from that period and records his travels on the trail, his stay at Bent's Fort, his experiences in Taos, New Mexico just after the Pueblo / Mexican revolt and his return to the States to include a brief interlude as part of the garrison guarding Ft. Mann. It is a remarkably well written book. Garrard spent 6 months living the life of a Mountain Man. It appears he was good at it, well accepted by red and white man alike and enjoyed himself tremendously. He met and initially traveled with Ceran St. Vrain of Bent Vrain Co., met Jim Beckwith, Kit Carson and befriended noted Englishman George Ruxton, who would go on to write several books on his many experiences in the Rocky Mountains, George Bent and many other notables in the history of the early American southwest. He was present at the trials and participated in the executions of the Taos rebels, lived for an extended time in a Cheyenne village and was engaged in two separate fights with Comanche Indians. Not bad for a six month vacation. You will enjoy these first hand observations but more importantly you will enjoy Louis himself. He was an excellent observer, reporting on every day frontier life while corroborating history in a way that was second to none. Life in the West was not easy yet he is never heard to complain or belittle those around him. Louis makes friends as easily today as he did during his amazing experience of 1846. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars

By Frank P. Robertson

an interesting story from long ago.

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About the Author

Hector Lewis Garrard (alias Lewis H. Garrard) returned in the summer of 1847 to his home in Cincinnati, where he studied medicine and perhaps law. One of the early settlers of southeastern Minnesota and a man of civic consequence, he finally went back to Cincinnati, where he died at the age of fifty-eight.