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By Hiram Martin Chittenden

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Excerpt: .In the days when he was a roustabout on Missouri river steamboats, or a wild savage among his adopted tribe, he was plain Jim Beckwith, and is so carried on the rolls of the American Fur Company, who employed him at various times. According to his own account (a most questionable authority, but we have no other upon most of the matters relating to him), he was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, April 26, 1798. At the age of seven or eight he was taken to St. Louis with his parents, who soon moved to the point of land between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers near JAMES P. BECKWOURTH. 689 old Portage des Sioux. At ten he was put to school in St. Louis. At fourteen he was apprenticed to learn the blacksmith trade. After five years service he fell out with his employer and...



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