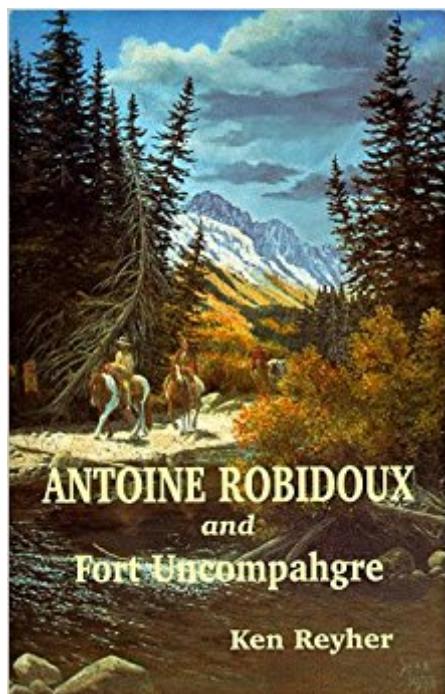


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Antoine Robidoux And Fort Uncompahgre



Synopsis

Antoine Robidoux, equally at home in the mountains or the Santa Fe governor's home, built a vast fur trading empire that covered modern day western Colorado and eastern Utah. In his book, Ken Reyher tracks the life of a young adventurer who heads West to eventually build a trading empire that successfully challenged even the powerful Hudson Bay Company. As quickly as he rose, his world came crashing down, and one of the great chapters of the early west came to an end.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"At home in either the latest fashions of the day or the greasy buckskins of a mountain trapper...within four years of first entering Santa Fe he had become a Mexican citizen, married the governor's daughter and been granted the right to control trade in what would someday become western Colorado and eastern Utah." "...the original which was a collection of log buildings with dirt roofs surrounded by a flimsy perimeter fence of wooded pickets." With these descriptions of Antoine Robidoux and Fort Uncompahgre historian and author Ken Reyher sets the stage for a remarkable journey in the history of the pioneer fur trapper Antoine Roibidoux. This is a remarkable book. While the literature is replete with stories of miners and settlers of western Colorado there is scant information on the life and times of a fur trapper that inhabited the area before the moners, ranchers, and settlers. Reyher has corrected this oversight in a historically factual manner that is a delight to read. Robidoux was a most remarkable man. He was a charmer, visionary astute businessman, politician, and accomplished mountain man. He is described as a paradox in that he

could mingle with the high society, French or Mexican, of Santa Fe but was equally at home in a pair of greasy buckskins leading a trapping party or playing cards with Ute Indians. He was the first white man to expand trade routes north from Santa Fe, ultimately establishing three commercial trading posts in what is now western Colorado and eastern Utah. Fort Uncompahgre was the first such post established, in 1828. Reyher not only has written an excellent history of Robidoux and his forts but he includes a section on the present day Fort Uncompahgre.

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