

In substance, his letter states that in his knowledge, as well as his conversation with Mr. Monroe, A Hudson's Bay Man, who came to the Canadian Provinces in 1816--as well as his talk with old Blackfeet that there NEVER was a north-to-south movement of the buffalo. The Buffalo were always in that country, altho they migrated to various winter grazing grounds. The Indians followed the herds and the Indians never left their homeland--altho it must be admitted it was a huge empire, some 200 to 300 miles wide and 500 to 600 miles long. However, the herds generally stayed north of the Yellowstone... There was one exception, the herds entirely disappeared. The Indians thot the Sun God was displeased, and after much "Offerings" the herds returned next season...

I have been making a book review on your books. I have been using your statements relative to the buffalo as FACTS for the reason I have checked and double checked your historical articles and I find them as accurate as it is possible to get.. There is much that we must generalize,,or must take from some other writer..

The point I am getting at. Before we make our definite write-up for our state historical society, I would like to ask if you have made a definite study on the buffalo question and their migrations..Or if your statements were more in the nature of incidentals, altho yet a fact.. We do know that the herds were in those winter pastures, but there is yet a question of how great the migration was toward those places..We also know there was huge movements in Nebraska and Kansas to the south, but were those movements more than local..

We know there were few buffalo on the Republican in the winter, but there were huge herds in the summer.. Hunters tell me that with the first snow, the buffalo broke up into herds, they would see as many as 25 herds, all working westward..Meat hunters who worked in the winter found these buffalo on the highlands where the wind kept the snow blown from the grass while the lowlands were covered.

But there were not enough beffalo on these highlands to account for all of the herds..There was another thing, by that time, the railroad and homesteaders in Kansas, and the same conditions along the Platte may have changed the buffalo's direction..Altho, we do know they were very singletrack-minded, and followed a certain direction, or instinct regardless of consequences. The Northern rivers were a stench in the spring with the thousands of dead bodies as they floated down with the break-up of the ice. Schultz says the herds that drowned were moving both directions..

We are working up a plan in our county historical Assn to have book reviews on your books.. We hope to make the students more historical minded, and so far, the results have been good. We have received some valuable information, as well as some relics.

I do not have your "Sitting Bull" nor Adobe Walls..I have been purchasing the books direct from your publisher..

I am wondering if you have any copies and if so, would you autograph a copy for me..I understand "Sitting Bull" aludes to buffalo hunting and perhaps it would carry information that I am now writing you for.

If so, a reference to that work with your autograph would carry much more value to us in our work.. You understand I am now questioning your sincerity, I am merely asking for confirmation. We have become used to present day books and novels of the west being written with readers appeal rather than a presentation of facts..People have been accepting many of these books at face value, forgetting the author built a romance around a story..Your books are different, they are historical, they are facts, and we find other writers referring to them as they refer to an authority. Naturally, in asking for the books. I expect to pay for them..

May I hear from you with something about the buffalo migration. E.A. Austin

Valley - Mrs. Gooding