

Now when we come to the American Frontier and its History, we run right into the same maze. Who? and What? seem ever clouded, and we have to do with best we can, probably just as did Herodotus, "The Father of History", which he was not, by the way--See Egypt, Babylon, India, China, and other history before Herodotus, things, people, and men he no doubt never heard of. So when our American frontier in its various phases centers the badman around Jesse James, the frontier sheriff around Wild Bill, the plains Indian around Sitting Bull, and the white plainsmen around Cody, it is probably as good as any other History in the world. No History is free from fiction, rumor, dispute, improbability, uncertainty, and internal contradiction--it is only Time that smooths all these out into "A legend agreed upon", as Napoleon so well defined it all.

I do the best I can to get, and to give out, data, even tho it often opposes itself, and especially do I combat the deliberate injection of made-up tales when I know they are such, and the more I try to learn about it all the less I am actually sure of, either before the public or in my own mind. That logic does not apply to History I am well satisfied--Alexander, Cortez, Napoleon, Genghis Khan, Mahomet all prove that--so, as I say, I do the best I can and trust the rest to Luck or Fate, which in themselves seem largely the same thing.

But to come back from this long and winding trail to Sitting Bull and Europe--kindly use the caution I have suggested herein, if you use that incident.

Yours sincerely,

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