

**THE WOLF HUNTERS; A STORY OF  
THE BUFFALO PLAINS. EDITED  
AND ARRANGED FROM THE  
MANUSCRIPT ACCOUNT OF  
ROBERT M. PECK**

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The Wolf Hunters; A Story of the Buffalo Plains. Edited and Arranged from the Manuscript Account of Robert M. Peck by Robert M. Peck & George Bird Grinnell

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**ROBERT M. PECK & GEORGE BIRD GRINNELL**

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BOOKS BY GEORGE BIRD GRINNELL.  
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THE WOLF HUNTERS



"Then come a puff of smoke and the prairie was afire."

[Page 237]

THE  
WOLF HUNTERS

A STORY OF THE BUFFALO PLAINS

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*Illustrated*

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

IN the days of the buffalo, wolfing was a recognized industry. Small parties—two or more men—with team, saddle-horses, and camp outfit, used to go out into the buffalo range, establish a camp, and spend the winter there, killing buffalo and poisoning the carcasses with strychnine. The wolves that fed on these carcasses died about them, and their pelts were taken to camp, to be stretched and dried.

The work was hard and not without its dangers. Storms were frequent, and often very severe, and the Indians were bitterly opposed to the operations of these wolf hunters, who killed great numbers of buffalo for wolf baits, as well as elk, antelope, deer, and other smaller animals. On the other hand, in winter the Indians did not usually travel about very much.

The following pages describe the adventures of Mr. Peck and two companions—all recently discharged soldiers—during the winter of 1861-1862.

Robert Morris Peck was born in Washington, Mason County, Kentucky, October 30, 1839. At the age of seventeen—November, 1856—he en-

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

listed in the First Cavalry, and the following year was sent to Fort Leavenworth and took part in the Cheyenne and other campaigns. He was discharged in 1861, and not very long afterward became a wagon-master, in which capacity he served in the army of the frontier. Mr. Peck died March 25, 1909.

G. B. G.

July, 1914.

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