

**THE ADVENTURES OF BIG-
FOOT
WALLACE, THE TEXAS
RANGER AND HUNTER**

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The Adventures of Big-Foot Wallace, the Texas Ranger and Hunter by John C. Duval

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"BIG-FOOT WALLACE"

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BIG-FOOT WALLACE
THE TEXAS RANGER
AND HUNTER

BY

JOHN C. DUVAL

Author of "Jack Dobell, or, A Boy's Adventures in Texas"
"The Young Explorers, or Boy-Life in Texas," Etc.

With Portrait and Engravings

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PREFACE

THE writer of this little book is well aware that it will not stand the test of criticism as a literary production. A frontiersman himself, his opportunities for acquiring information, and for supplying the deficiencies of a rather limited education, have of course been "few and far between;" and therefore it cannot reasonably be expected that he could make a book under such circumstances which would not be sadly defective as to style and composition. However, it can justly lay claim to at least one *merit*, not often found in similar publications—it is not a compilation of imaginary scenes and incidents, concocted in the brain of one who never was beyond the sound of a dinner-bell in his life, but a plain, unvarnished story of the "'scapes and scrapes" of Big-Foot Wallace, the Texas Ranger and Hunter, written out from notes furnished by himself, and told, as well as my memory serves me, in his own language.

"Big-Foot Wallace" is, perhaps, better known throughout Texas as an Indian-fighter, hunter, and ranger, than any one now living in the State; which is saying a good deal, when the great number who have acquired more or less notoriety in that way is taken into consideration. Few men now living, I am confident, have witnessed as many stirring incidents, had more "hair-breadth escapes," or gone through more of the hardships and perils of a border life. He was a participant in almost every fight, foray, and "scrimmage" with the Mexicans and Indians that took place in Texas after he first landed on her shores in 1836.

Pioneers, or frontiersmen, are a class of men peculiar to our country, and seem to have been designed especially to meet the exigencies of the occasion. With their "iron nerves," great powers of endurance, and indomitable "go-a-headativeness," they have been essentially useful in clearing the way through the wilderness from such obstacles as would have been perhaps insurmountable to those coming after them. Their mission has been very nearly accomplished. Like the flatboat-men of the Mississippi, who have entirely disappeared as a class since the introduction of steamboats on that river and its tributaries, their numbers are steadily decreasing before the extension of railroads and the area of civilization. Only here and there one is still found in our midst, whom disease, wounds, or old age have rendered incapable of further contests with the Indians and other denizens of the forests and plains, and of enduring the hardships and exposure of a life in the wilderness. As a class, frontiersmen are observant and knowing in all that pertains to their peculiar mode of life, and as deeply versed in all the mysteries of woodcraft as the wily savage himself; but they are guileless and unsuspecting as a child, and whenever they come in conflict with the shrewd, calculating man of business, they are as helpless as a "stranded whale." For this reason, they seldom accumulate property, and those who follow after them generally reap the reward of all their perils, toils, and hardships.

Wallace is no exception to this rule, and the best days of his life were freely given to the service of his country.

THE AUTHOR.

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