

**PERSONAL EXPERIENCES
AMONG OUR NORTH
AMERICAN INDIANS
FROM 1867 TO 1885**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649172788

Personal experiences among our North American Indians from 1867 to 1885 by W. Thornton Parker

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

W. THORNTON PARKER

**PERSONAL EXPERIENCES
AMONG OUR NORTH
AMERICAN INDIANS
FROM 1867 TO 1885**



WILLIAM THORNTON PARKER, M. D.

National Indian War Veterans Association.
Former Adjutant, Society Veterans Indian Wars.
Companion 1st Class Order of the Indian Wars of the U. S. A.
Aide-de-Camp Army and Navy Union U. S. A.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES
AMONG OUR
NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS

FROM 1867 TO 1885

BY

W. THORNTON PARKER, M. D.

Aide-de-Camp Army and Navy Union, U. S. A.

Companion, 1st Class, "Order of Indian Wars" of the United States.

Member of the Society of the "Sons of the American Revolution."

Formerly Act. Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army.

Formerly Surgeon U. S. Indian Service.

NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

A. D. 1913.

13 ancr 27

DEDICATION.

To the gallant old Third Cavalry, United States Army—A regiment which has few if any equals and no superiors, in this or any other land—And to the memory of the brave troopers of the Third with whom I had the honour to ride in the sixties on the frontier, most of whom, have answered the “last call!” “Their sabres are rust, their steeds are dust, their souls are with the Saints we trust.”

PREFACE.

Complying with the requests of several friends, I have endeavored to select from my articles contributed to various magazines such as the *Open Court*, *North American Review*, etc., those which seemed to me most interesting, concerning our North American Indians, Scouts, Soldiers and others, who have lived upon the wild, dangerous "frontier" during the Sixties—and later. I hope that I may be pardoned for adding one or two papers, from medical journals. I shall be glad indeed if some of these pages may be found acceptable to the reader.

W. THORNTON PARKER, M. D.

Northampton, Massachusetts.

May 22nd, 1913.

INTRODUCTION.

THE INDIAN WAR VETERAN AND FRONTIERSMAN.

Pages of history, and the acts of congress of a grateful nation, and books which might fill libraries, have been written in just and undying praise of our relatives and friends and comrades who served so gallantly in the war of the Rebellion, to save our beloved land. The sacred dust of thousands of warriors is intrusted to the guardianship of the nation they loved, and for whose glory they willingly suffered, and alas, so many died: But these pages are my humble tribute to the honour of brave soldiers of the regular army, and to call to remembrance the deeds of heroes, and what we owe to them. The valuable services, privations and heroism of the soldiers of the regular army of the United States, who have served in the Indian wars, and in other wars, have never received suitable recognition. President Taft has said of these veterans: "All honor to the regular army of the United States! Never in its history has it had a stain upon its escutcheon, with no one to blow its trumpet, with no local feeling or pride to bring forth its merits; quietly and as befits a force organized to maintain civil institutions, it has gone on doing the duty which it was its to do; accepting without a murmur

dangers of war. Upon the trackless stretches of our western frontier, exposed to the arrows and the bullets of the Indian, it has never failed to make a record of duty done that should satisfy the most exacting lover of his country."

Comparatively few of the citizens of our great nation, are familiar with the dangers, privations, the sufferings and often the tortures of Indian warfare. Few comprehend what privations our soldiers on the frontier service have endured. Few recognize the fact that no battles of the war of the Rebellion have ever called forth more of military courage and fortitude than that displayed in Indian campaigns on the frontier.

Veterans of the regular army, who served in the Indian wars, are entitled to every honor which a grateful nation can bestow upon its heroes. The veterans who faced the dangers of Indian warfare, who made the weary dangerous march, crossing the plains, the mountains, and desert regions, who have endured the horrors of thirst and hunger, and untold suffering in their common duties as soldiers, who have endured the cold of Montana and the heat of Arizona, who have suffered all sorts of privations and discomforts in an enemy's country, and who have held in check, often against great odds, and fought battles with savages, where almost superhuman courage was required to avert absolute destruction, and where surrender could never be yielded without the sure sequence of being reserved for the indescribable horrors of Indian tortures—surely such warriors are peers of the soldiers in any country, and are worthy of the tribute and friendship of all veterans. No true soldier or worthy