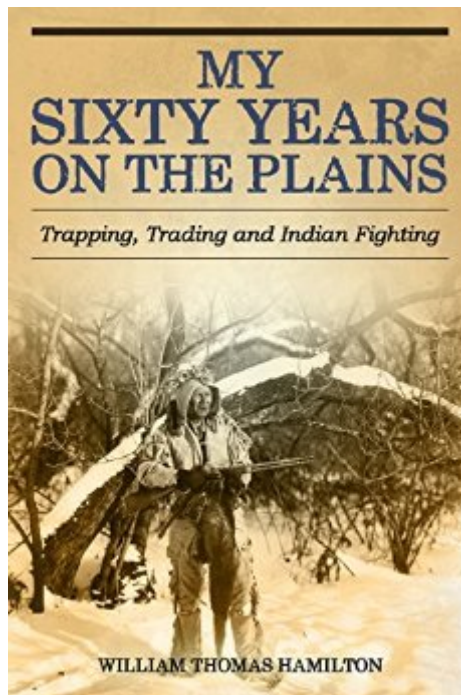


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# My Sixty Years On The Plains: Trapping, Trading, And Indian Fighting



## Synopsis

Of course I knew how to scalp, and soon accomplished the feat, much to his satisfaction, for he said, "You are broke in now. You will do." • Following the doctor's orders for a change of climate, in 1842 William Hamilton found himself accompanying a party of trappers on a year-long expedition. Heading into the wild, Hamilton would prove himself to be a fast learner, as adept with a firearm as with sign language: this early experience would be the making of him. As the nineteenth century progressed, along with many other trappers Hamilton found himself drawn into the Indian Wars brought about by territorial expansion. Exploring, trapping, trading and fighting, Hamilton shows how every aspect of a mountain man's life relied on his wits and knowledge in order to survive the inhospitable environments. First published in 1905, when the experiences of such pushing, adventurous and fearless men were becoming a thing of the past, Hamilton's unassuming memoir relates an extraordinary life in a disappearing American West. William Thomas Hamilton (1822-1908), also known as Wildcat Bill, was a Scottish-born mountain man, trapper, and scout of the American West. Trapping from an early age, in the 1850s he became an Indian fighter and at the end of the decade established a trading post, concurrently holding a variety of jobs including county sheriff. Albion Press is an imprint of Endeavour Press, the UK's leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at [www.endeavourpress.com](http://www.endeavourpress.com). Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

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## Customer Reviews

I thoroughly, and somewhat unexpectedly, enjoyed this book. What I mean is, while I was interested in the subject matter going in (otherwise, why buy the book?), I wasn't really prepared for just how much enjoyment I would get from it. I ended up reading it virtually straight through, over the course of a couple of days, whereas normally a book like this would stretch out to a week or more, with me picking away at it steadily from my perch in the bathroom or before sleeping. In this case, other activities had to make way for the book. The contents are too perfectly well described by the title to require much comment, although I will say that, having reached the end, I am disappointed that more attention wasn't paid to describing and explaining the art of trapping to us moderners who haven't much of a clue beyond the obvious broad outlines. While many incidents are mentioned, it is often passed over so cursorily that, in hindsight, I'm not sure I always even knew what the particular animal being trapped was. Since much of the history takes place in the northwest, from Montana to Washington, beavers are often mentioned as being the prey, but what was being trapped in other places is less clear to me--and in any case, I would have liked to have been told how the work was actually carried out in more detail. Much of that, however, can no doubt be put down to the reader of Mr. Hamilton's time being more familiar with such things than we are today, so my disappointment isn't with the author's skill as a writer and historian so much as with his rudimentary facility at predicting the future. The same might be said of his many interactions with Indians, both in war and peace, but to a lesser degree because he does devote more space to the details of such encounters.

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