

[PDF] Born On A Mountaintop: On The Road With Davy Crockett And The Ghosts Of The Wild Frontier

Bob Thompson - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: Born on a Mountaintop: On the

Author: Bob Thompson

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Description:

From Davy Crockett, king of the wild frontier, preferred to be called David. He was a frontiersman, but he was also a U.S. congressman. He was an Indian fighter, but he also fought for Indian rights. He probably didn't spend a lot of time wearing buckskin, despite what Disney would have you believe. (He did die at the Alamo—that part is true.) Thompson's mission here is to separate myth about Crockett from historical fact. Unfortunately, there's precious little historical fact to be found. Even the experts—Thompson calls them Crockettologists—freely admit that much of what they know

is based on historical detective work, not fact. Crockett became a pop-culture icon in the years just before his death and was the subject of a play, an anonymously written biography (which Crockett hated), and his own autobiography (whose accuracy is also questionable). As colorful as the Crockett legend is, it appears from this very entertaining book that the truth about the man could be equally colorful—if you can somehow get at the whole truth, that is. --David Pitt

Review "*Born on a Mountaintop* is an enjoyable journey along the trail of Crockett's life and legend — part road trip and part history lesson....[Thompson's] storytelling displays considerable good humor and an admirable amount of research. You can almost see him smiling at some of the madcap stuff he is told along the way." --*Washington Post*

"Bob Thompson can flat-out write, and he paints a vivid picture here of David Crockett, who was a far more complex and interesting man—and myth—than his coonskinned, bear-hunting, Alamo-defending iconic image. He combines excellent research and a born storyteller's skill to create a lively and entertaining look at one of America's great characters. This is road-trip history at its best." - Jim Donovan, author of *The Blood of Heroes*

"*Born on a Mountaintop* explores the blurry boundary between America's legends and histories, and how the relationship between the two often tells us much about the construction of belief in the absence of hard facts. And, it is also a great road trip—one that leaves you wanting to have ridden shotgun along the way." - Charles Frazier, author of *Nightwoods* and *Cold Mountain*

"Bob Thompson's shrewd and heartfelt account of his year-long journey through the thickets of Davy Crockett lore is essential reading for anyone who's ever worn a coonskin cap, dreamt of the wild frontier, or remembered the Alamo. A briskly entertaining book that nonetheless has serious things to say about how we memorialize--and inevitably mythologize--the iconic figures of our history." - Gary Krist, author of *City of Scoundrels*

"I opened this book intending to skim a few pages but immediately became hooked. Thompson does a splendid job of evoking the life and legend of David Crockett--the immortal 'Davy' who captivated young Americans because of Fess Parker's portrayal in the 1950s, served as an icon for Anglo-Texans who venerated the memory of the Alamo, and served as a touchstone for anyone drawn to the image of backwoods characters who triumphed in America. By turns engrossing, hilarious, and moving, it undoubtedly will find a large and appreciative audience." - Gary W. Gallagher, author of *Causes Won, Lost, and Forgotten: How Hollywood and Popular Art Shape What We Know about the Civil War*

"Part travelogue, part biography, part history, *Born on a Mountaintop* is most of all a pure pleasure to read. The passion in Bob Thompson's search for the truth about Davy Crockett springs from every page, and by the end, his search has become our own." -David Finkel, author of *The Good Soldiers*

"If *Confederates In The Attic* shifted its focus to frontier legend David Crockett, the result would be *Born on a Mountaintop*. Bob Thompson's highly personal and witty new book looks with perception at the real Crockett as opposed to the mythical "Davy," how Americans embraced the latter in his own time, and how popular culture has handled his multiple persona since his death. Crockett is a virtually irresistible character in his own right, but Thomson somehow succeeds in making him even more appealing." - William C. Davis, author of *Three Roads to the Alamo*

"Bob Thompson blazes the dangerous trail between myth and history with the skill of a fine scholar and the wit of a born storyteller. I never realized the search for Davy Crockett, real and imagined, could be so enlightening and so much fun."

- Michael Kazin, Professor of History, Georgetown University and author of *American Dreamers: How the Left Changed a Nation*

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