

PURPLE MOUNTAINS &
WILDERNESS



PURPLE MOUNTAINS &
WILDERNESS

True Stories of the Great American West



GEORGE U. HUBBARD

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Map of Western Territories, 1848:

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*In Loving Memory
Of
Billie S. Hubbard*

My traveling companion, researcher, promoter, and wife for 66 years. She enjoyed finding these stories as much as I enjoyed writing and sharing them.

The following is one of her fabric art note cards entitled, "Colorado Memories" created in 2009.



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FOREWORD

There have always been men (and possibly women) who have yearned to know what lay beyond the horizon. Norse explorer Erik Thorvaldsson and Spanish and Portuguese explorers Christopher Columbus, Ferdinand Magellan, and Hernán Cortés were among the earliest to have a major impact on the land that would become known as the “Americas.” They were quickly followed by French explorers Jacques Cartier, Samuel De Champlain, Jacques Marquette, and Louis Joliet. Over time, the peoples, animals, and geography “discovered” by these and other explorers led to legends that piqued imaginations for centuries.

The indigenous people of the Americas had populated the lands since before the birth of Christ. One of the unifying aspects of all of the various tribes was their belief in the “Great White God” or “Great Spirit” who would one day return. When the European explorers arrived, many of the indigenous peoples’ initial reactions were that the explorers were from the “Great White God” who had come to save them. Sadly, the opposite was true. These Native Americans, given the name Indians by Christopher Columbus, who thought he had landed in India, were viewed by the Europeans with vile contempt. The