

The Authors Corner by Dutch Rhudy

Welcome to this first edition of The Authors Corner .

I apologize for the sudden shut down of my previous ISP. We received no warning of their intention to close and vacate the building. Everything I had stored on their servers, as the off-site back-up was lost as well. What sparse data I recovered from on-site saved Update copies may be found in the archives section for reference.

Starting over on a new server with almost unlimited storage space, and many wonderful options is like a dream come true. At the former website, due to their strict limitations, I reached the point where I had to remove an old page to add a new page.

With this new-found freedom, even though more complete details may be presented. I intend to omit mentioning the many mundane events I commented on in the past. Roaring Falls took many twists and turns during its early developmental stages. To present the initial concept ideas and changes we tested in group meetings would only add confusion.

To kick off this new platform, I will provide a summarized recap of the finalized basis and history of Roaring Falls. I'll start with the overarching outline for this fictional story, which now spans over 150 years.

When I first began the concept for Roaring Falls, my intent was to write a series of detective mysteries, and how the cases were solved by teamwork in a large detective agency. As I began to write the outlines and build the backstory, I kept stepping further back in time. These steps continued until I reached a point in time when the detective agency was founded.

My first love is writing novels in an historical setting. So I stepped further back to the characters who started the detective agency. It was not until I began the world building process of developing the city for my setting, that I felt the town's founders were just as important. This led me back even further to the founding of the first community.

Over three years of research went into the development of the setting for the Roaring Falls story. It underwent many changes after I relocated the initial world building setting to a different area of the country. The biggest nightmare were the differing time lines.

Most of my early setting research came from cities in eastern states. Relocating my setting a thousand miles west, completely changed how and when the town developed. What was once a thriving city, with a good start for the founding fathers of the detective agency, became totally impossible in the new setting. It was uncharted wilderness, Indian territory.

The time line for local events in the eastern city aligned perfectly with national events, during the era the detective agency was founded. It is obvious western development took place long after the eastern states were organized and highly developed.

Shifting my setting half way across the country required many changes, and another year of

research. The redrawing of maps, and developing period correct time lines that aligned with national historic events, took several outline rewrites. Western cities developed considerably different than the eastern cities I based my first setting on.

The western setting is an ideal backdrop to add an interesting historical twist to my storyline concept. World building became a fun part of my project. A waterfall needed a mountain range, and the plateau worked great for adding four peaks and three rivers to feed the waterfall.

At long last, my setting pulled together, and the individual rough drafts for the backstory fell into place. Even so, I was no further along on the storyline. Building a new overarching outline to match my location, and how true historic events played a major role in the growth of the area too much research.

The overarching outline opens with the first survey team to blaze their way across the Louisiana territory. This became the Missouri territory, where missionaries followed rivers to convert the Indians, and fur trappers followed in search of pelts. The backstory part of my main outline.

It continues with the first lone pioneer to set foot in the Roaring Falls area, decades before it was opened by the government for settlement. His parents died while traveling west, leaving him alone on the prairie at the age of ten. Adopted by an abusive family, he learned a trade, then escaped alone into the wilderness.

After reaching the Roaring Falls area, befriended by an old trapper, the pioneer stayed on, rather than continuing west to the Oregon territory. Brought a wife by the trapper, he built a modern style cabin and started a family. They lived alone in the wilderness for a decade before the first settlers arrived. This created a problem for the surveyors because the land was not yet open to settlement.

Once the land was open, settlers arrived by the dozens and the community became a town. The town grew to become a city, and the problems escalated. A protective association is formed, which later became the Law and Order Society. The detective agency is born and continues to grow until it eventually becomes the worlds largest detective agency.

When completed, the overarching outline opens in 1807 and cuts off in 1976. The written part of the story begins around 1820, weaving only bits of the backstory where needed. This is how the mystery novel rolled back in time to begin with a historical series.

Respectfully submitted
Dutch Rhudy