

## **The Authors Corner**

by Dutch Rhudy

Welcome once again to The Authors Corner.

The new first book in the Roaring Falls Series is coming along well. I wrote 58,447 new words, bringing home another NaNoWriMo win, before going back to rewrite existing storyline following a new plot line. It worked out well, bringing me up to 70,254 new words for NaNo.

In preparation for a new story beginning, I studied many of Thomas Jefferson's letters. Of particular interest was a letter to William Henry Harrison, explaining a simple way to take over Indian owned land parcels peaceably.

I researched many documents over the years, and kept hand-written notes about backstory elements in my original concept folders. Building the story from my intended starting point, these original folders with data predating my starting point collected dust. Only the information I needed moved forward with me in new folders.

While building a new storyboard for my NaNo project, and new opening book for the series, I pulled those old research records off the shelf, dusted them off, and got to studying again. Now that I knew what direction I was heading in, all of my early research, I felt was wasted time, finally paid off, and handsomely too.

A story of interest was about the French Missionaries, their life, and the steps they had to follow in naming new rivers they found. They operated under a strict system of rules, which included forming a settlement at the mouth of a river. They must maintain this settlement for a minimum of two years, while exploring and charting the new river.

Their work was later verified and officially documented by survey expeditions who mapped the west. An expedition did not drift north or south of their assigned westward survey assignment, so did not chart area details to the degree the French Missionaries did. Never finding an error in the Missionaries work, the survey teams often included their maps for the areas on either side of the survey line as reference.

Long before the west was open for settlement, hunters and trappers worked and lived with the Indians. After the government set aside specific Indian Territories, and closed these lands to whites, trappers took Indian wives to secure their professions. Indian Trading Posts worked closely with authorized Trading Posts outside their borders.

The Santa Fe Trail brought settlers from the east, many of whom did not continue west, and illegally squatted on Indian lands. They would not have survived without the Trading Posts providing the necessities of life.

Respectfully submitted  
Dutch Rhudy