

## William Craig

*William Craig was a trapper in the West, who told Thomas J. Beall about his experiences. Beall retold Craig's story in "Recollections of Wm. Craig". [Changed for easier reading using ChatGPT]. Original found at <https://user.xmission.com/~drudy/mtman/html/craig.html>*

Craig soon joined a group of French Canadians who were about to travel up the Missouri River on a trading trip. They used large boats called bateaus, which made the journey slow and tiring. When they got close to Fort Benton, they met a group of trappers who were heading to the Rocky Mountains. Craig decided to leave the French Canadians and go with the trappers instead. Before long, he became a skilled trapper and plainsman himself.

The main meeting place for trappers and Native Americans was Fort Bridger, on the Green River in what is now Wyoming. It was there that Craig first met the Nez Perce people, who told him that their land was full of beavers and other animals with valuable furs. In the fall of 1829, William Craig, Joe Meek, and Robert Newell went with a group of Nez Perce from the fort to their homeland to trap along the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers. I'm not sure how long they stayed there—probably no more than two seasons. During that time, they each married Nez Perce women, and when they were done trapping, they went back with their wives to their old hunting grounds east of the Rocky Mountains.

## Original

“Craig soon joined a party of French Canadians who were on the eve of starting up the Missouri river on a trading expedition and their mode of transportation was with bateaus which made it a long tedious journey. When near Fort Benton they encountered a party of trappers, their destination being the Rocky mountains. Craig severed his connections with the Canadians, joined the trappers, and in time became a full-fledged trapper and plainsman.

The main rendezvous for the trappers, and Indians also, was at Fort Bridger on Green River, now Wyoming. It was there that Craig first met the Nez Perces who told him of the quantities of beaver and other fur animals there were in the waters of their country. In the fall of the year 1829, William Craig, Joe Meek and Rob't Newell accompanied a party of Nez Perces from the rendezvous to their country to engage in trapping on the waters of the Clearwater and Salmon. I never knew how long they remained in their new field of operations, probably not more than two seasons. It was here among the Nez Perces that they got their Indian wives and accompanied by them they returned to their old haunts east of the Rocky mountains.”

