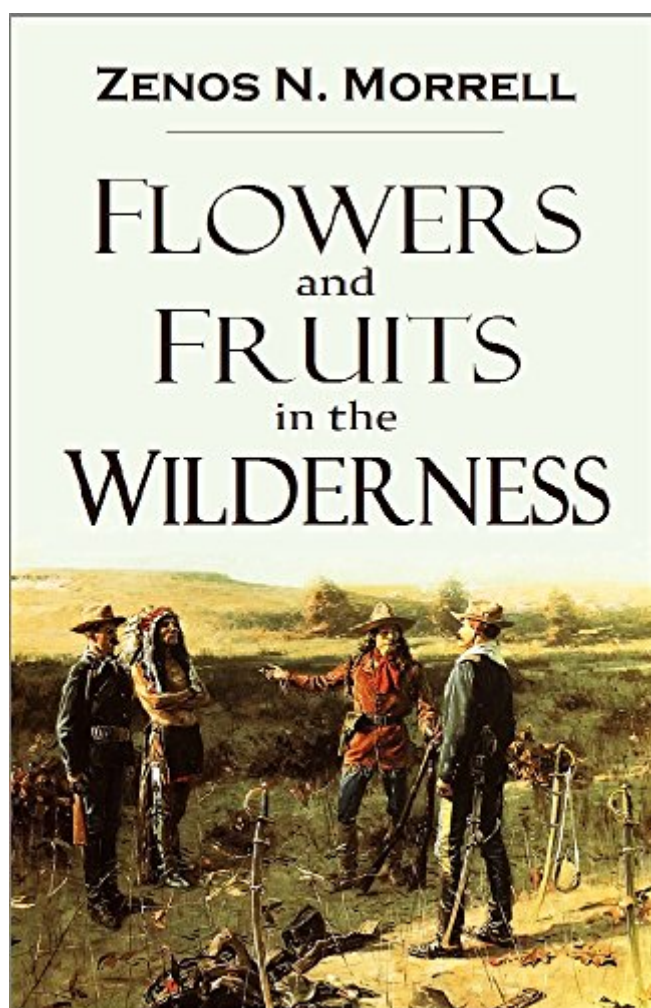


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Flowers And Fruits In The Wilderness: Or, Forty-six Years In Texas And Two Winters In Honduras (1882)



Synopsis

This 1882 publication provides an outstanding history of Texas and the growth of the Baptist church in Texas---a personal history, interwoven with the state of society and the rise and progress of religion in Texas. A standard work among Texas Baptists. Morrell writes: "My mind was turned to Texas in the fall of 1834. Its government was then very much disturbed. This obstacle in the way, and the additional fact that the iron arm of Catholicism was stretched over the whole land of Mexico, then embracing the State of Texas, did not make it a very desirable field for a Baptist preacher, who had always been accustomed to express himself boldly and independently. Catholicism, "the man of sin," I considered as a sworn enemy to me as a Baptist, and, after committing my way to God, I concluded to wait with patience for further light." To move south was urged upon me as a present necessity, and in tears, with wife and four children, I wended my way south as far as Yallabusha County, Mississippi, and tarried to see what the gathering cloud in Texas would bring forth in 1835." In describing a bear attack Morrell writes: "The mind, swifter than electricity, called up in connection with Crockett, the case of David the King of Israel, who when a lad slew a lion and a bear; but as I did not feel willing without a weapon, except the empty gun, to take a bear by the beard, I lowered the gun, and unsprung the triggers." Just as I lowered my gun a snarl, a growl, some kind of a noise that is a nondescript to this day, fell upon my ears, only a little distance off. The old bear, without doubt, was after me. The weeds cracked and shook, and soon she stood on her hind feet, and, in an angry, threatening attitude, walked erect towards me, turning first one side and then the other. Her hair was all turned the wrong way and her ears laid back, presenting a frightful appearance." Life was now pending in the coming contest. Either Z. N. Morrell or that bear had to die, and my only chance was to make a good shoot. To be torn in pieces by a wild beast was a fearful thing; and I shrank with terror at the thought. . . ."

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Book Information

File Size: 1048 KB

Print Length: 311 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: August 24, 2016

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01KZ211AU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,593,068 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #47

in Kindle Store > Books > Travel > Central America > Honduras #149 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

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Customer Reviews

First, may I establish an obvious bias in my review. Robert Morrell, the author's grandson married my grandfather's sister, Minnie Powell. I knew Robert (not very well) personally, so reading this book was like reading a part of my family's history. ZNM was a friend of Davy Crockett. He arrived in Texas on the same date that Davy is said to have written his final letter home. He tells a story of how Davy saved his life after Davy's death. ZNM fought at the battle of Plum Creek with 2 other Baptist preachers. One was the man who founded Baylor University, a school ZNM actively

requested funds to support.ZNM says he visited Sam Houston shortly before his death.According to First Baptist, Houston, ZNM preached to its early congregation.The book itself is somewhat disorganized as it was for the most part written during his later years and the exact dates, events, and persons do not always specifically coincide with established historical facts. It is a significant book, in my biased opinion, for any student of Texas History.Robert Powell

One of the best books on Texas history and the role of the early preachers in bringing the gospel to the frontier.

Superb book. Good service.

Fantastic historical book about Texas pioneers in beginning churches. I loved it.

A very good book on the Baptist movement in early Texas.

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