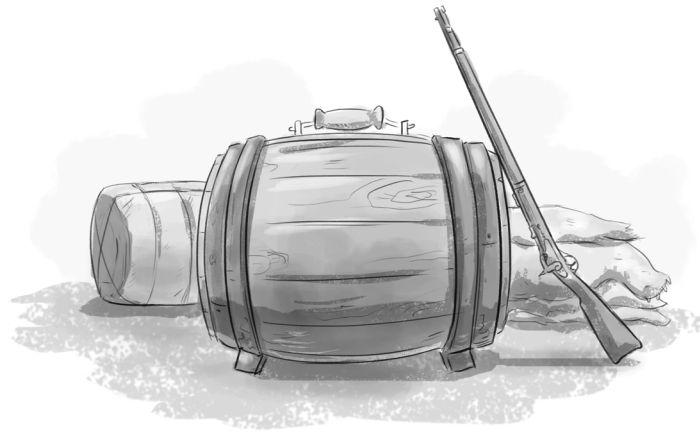


Adventures on the American Frontier

PIONEER TRADERS

Part One
George Croghan, Fur Trader



A Royal Fireworks Production

Royal Fireworks Press
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This book features QR codes that link to audio of the book being narrated so that readers can follow along.

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The gentle thud of pack horse hooves on the path and the creak of leather were making George Croghan sleepy. He was leading a string of twenty horses along a faint trail through the wilderness, and he was too far from the man at the other end of the pack train to talk with him.



George came to a fork in the trail and stopped to decide which way to go. The path to the right was well worn. He could see that many people had walked there. "Hey, Tom! Come up here," he called back.

His cousin, Thomas Smallman, squeezed between the horses with the big bundles on their sides and the trees of the forest they were traveling through. When he reached the lead horse, he saw that George had followed the trail to the right a short way. He was turning back to the pack train, a



pleased look on his face.

“We’ve found it, Tom,” said George.

“We’re almost there. Peter Tostee’s post isn’t far from here. There’s a big native village just ahead.” He sniffed the air.

“Smell the cooking fires? And I can hear some children shouting in play.”

Tom was glad. He didn’t enjoy following a rough trail over the land like George did. Both of them had come from Ireland the year before, in 1741. This was their first journey into the American wilderness.

“I’ll be mighty glad to sit down on a chair again instead of on a fallen tree,” said Tom. He swatted at one of the small bees that buzzed around his head. The warm June sunshine had brought out swarms of insects, and they were always bothering the men and horses.

Tom turned to go back to the end of the pack train, but he had to cut his way free of a tangle of briars into which he had stepped. “Don’t know whether I want to be a fur trader or not,” he muttered as he



squeezed past the sweaty horses.

George was sure that fur trading would be a good business to get into. It had been the first important business in North America since white men had begun building settlements there. Men took packs of goods and cloth, shipped from the cities of Europe, and traveled with them to Native American villages. The Native Americans brought in furs and animal skins from their hunting trips and traded them for the white traders' goods.