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# One Hundred Years of Old Man Sage: An Arapaho Life (Studies in the Anthropology of North American Indians)

*Jeffrey D. Anderson*

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## One Hundred Years of Old Man Sage

*An Arapaho Life*



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**Jeffrey D. Anderson : One Hundred Years of Old Man Sage: An Arapaho Life (Studies in the Anthropology of North American Indians)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Hundred Years of Old Man Sage: An Arapaho Life (Studies in the Anthropology of North American Indians):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy L. LongMy grand-daughter recommended this book. It's a gem!  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. AwesomeBy Brian C'HairAwesome book, great informative history of my ancestor.  
0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Authentic Arapaho information from Old Man SageBy book loverAccording to Sage, he was about 7 years old at the 1851 Horse Creek / Fort Laramie Treaty. If true, when he died in January 1943, he was about 100 years old. In other words, Sage lived through the time of greatest change, not only in the Arapaho world, but in the rest of the world too (of course, one could also write 1850-1950 or other similar dates). The point is that between the mid-1800s and the mid-1900s the world changed drastically, from Indians hunting buffalo on the Great Plains and people traveling by stage coach, to planes, trains, automobiles, television and early computers. This book is based on Sage's reminiscences as related to various researchers, including Inez Hilger and Oliver Toll. There are lots of great details about Arapaho life and some interesting details mentioned in passing, such as the Arapahoes finding tracks of Bigfoot in the Rocky Mountains and the fact that the Arapahoes have memories of the Rockies dating back to perhaps 1400, which places them in the area much earlier than generally believed. Of course, being memories, sometimes Sage inadvertently mixes events, such as the treaty proceedings of 1868 with the Black Hills Commission of 1875 (pp. 39-40). But most of the book is really about things specific to Arapaho life (nothing date specific), and on these details the book is of real value to readers who want to learn more about the Arapaho Indians of the 1800s. A welcome addition to my book collection. Five stars.

Sherman Sage (ca. 1844-1943) was an unforgettable Arapaho man who witnessed profound change in his community and was one of the last to see the Plains black with buffalo. As a young warrior, Sage defended his band many times, raided enemy camps, saw the first houses go up in Denver, was present at Fort Laramie for the signing of the 1868 treaty, and witnessed Crazy Horses surrender. Later, he visited the Ghost Dance prophet Wovoka and became a link in the spread of the Ghost Dance religion to other Plains Indian tribes. As an elder, Old Man Sage was a respected, vigorous leader, walking miles to visit friends and family even in his nineties. One of the most interviewed Native Americans in the Old West, Sage was a wellspring of information for both Arapahos and outsiders about older tribal customs.

"Anderson, reflecting the fruits of his longtime residence and advocacy in a contemporary Native community, presents a model of ethnohistory and analysis that gives a fascinating account of a man who witnessed and adapted to major cultural changes. . . . This is a worthy book."Choice