

Jim Beckwourth

James Pierson Beckwourth was born in Fredricksburg Virginia on April 6, 1798 to Sir Jennings Beckwith and a slave mother.

Jim headed west while still in his teens and was adopted by the Crow Indians. (The term Crow is a European American term. The Crow called themselves Absaroke or the Sparrowhawk people.) While living with the Absaroke, Jim trapped and hunted along the Yellowstone and Bighorn rivers and became known to the tribe as Bloody Arm due to his fierceness in battle. Jim rose in the tribal hierarchy to become a War Chief and according to his own account later became the head Chief of the entire Absaroke Nation.

Jim married several Absaroke women, (according to some accounts, at least ten), but never stayed with any of them for more than a few weeks.

In 1837 Jim recruited some of his fellow mountain men and fought under Colonel Zachary Taylor in the Seminole War at the Battle of Okeechobee in Florida. He returned to the Absaroke in 1838.

Jim left the Absaroke in 1844 and headed for California. In 1851 while working for General Fremont, Jim discovered a pass through the Northern Sierra Mountains that bears his name today. There is also a mountain, valley and town in California that bear his name.

Jim died in 1866 and according to the legend, the Absaroke fed him poisoned food after he refused to return as their chief.

Sources:

[Encyclopedia Britannica](#)

[Encyclopedia Africana](#)