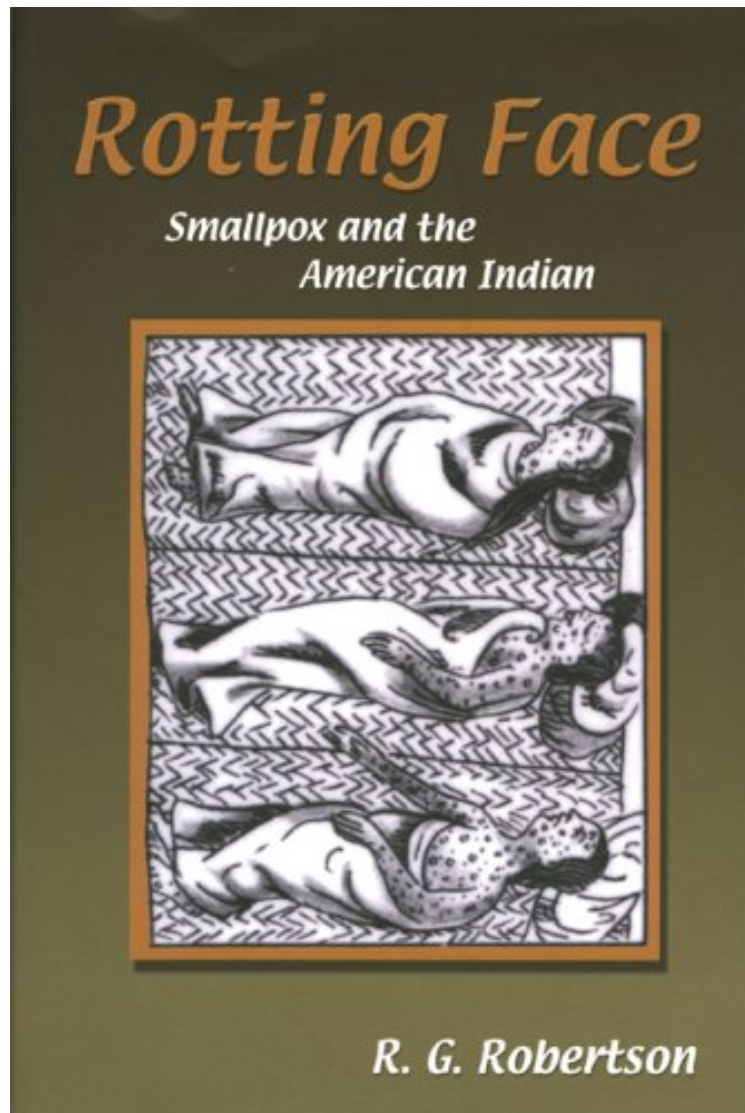


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Rotting Face

Roland G. Robertson

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Roland G. Robertson : Rotting Face before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rotting Face:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Inspires You To Update Your Own Vaccination By A Thoughtful Consumer Rotten Face is primarily the history of a series of smallpox epidemics that swept thru the upper Missouri around 1837. The effects resulted in a virtual collapse of the local Indian balance of power, made the survivors dependent on white men and their manufactured goods, and reduced the population to such an extent the survivors were never again able to keep their land from flowing into Eastern Indian and white man's hands. The story is mostly

how the fur companies jockeyed about as they built their businesses, at first, and finally how they scurried to keep those businesses afloat as their workforce died and production quotas plummeted. The author is a fantastic researcher and a gifted writer so all his research is easy on the eyes. But two chapters stand out for me that make the book a real home run... The chapter on the history of small pox is nothing short of spooky. I knew it was a real killer and no fun to have. But what did it mean to really have small pox, to know if you survived your children probably wouldn't. The physical and psychological scars you would certainly have to live with the rest of your life. The beginning of the book has a quotation from the famous Mandan chief Four Bears about his hatred of the white man for bringing the small pox scourge to the Missouri. The other chapter I liked was the ins and outs of using steam paddle wheel boats on the Missouri and Mississippi. Everyone is aware that they operated but I had no idea it was such a dangerous and chancy endeavor. Very enlightening. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great history By Mennis0852 If you want to know the effects of smallpox on the Indian tribes, this book is for you. It personalizes what happened rather than just having numbers given for Indians that died. I got angry at some of the whites and their actions when they suspected that one of the crew had smallpox. As dangerous as they knew smallpox was they did not take effective measures to protect other people, both white and Indian, from coming into contact with them. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good information. Needed book for paper for a graduate ... By Vicki M Good information. Needed book for paper for a graduate class.

The smallpox epidemic of 1837-38 forever changed the tribes of the Northern Plains. Before it ran out of human fuel, the disease claimed twenty thousand Native Americans. R. G. Robertson tells the story of this deadly virus with modern implications.

From Library Journal The term rotting face refers to the confluent pustules that were a common symptom of the variola major strain of smallpox in Native American communities. Robertson, a retired businessman and veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, examines how this horrifying disease decimated Native American populations in the Americas by telling its story in two parts. The odd-numbered chapters examine in sobering detail an outbreak of smallpox on the Upper Missouri River in 1837-38 that killed an estimated 20,000 Native Americans, most of whom were Arickaras, Blackfeet, Hidatsas, or Mandans. The even-numbered chapters broadly assess the impact of smallpox throughout the Americas, offering a survey that, unfortunately, pales in comparison to the detailed Upper Missouri River case study. Academic and public libraries needing an excellent continental survey to complement this recommended work should also purchase Noble D. Cook's *Born To Die: Disease New World Conquest (1492-1650)* (Cambridge Univ., 1998). Academic libraries should also consider *Disease Demography in the Americas* (Smithsonian Inst., 1992), edited by John W. Verano and Douglas Ubelaker. John Burch, Campbellsville Univ., KY Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "The term rotting face refers to the confluent pustules that were a common symptom of the variola major strain of smallpox in Native American communities. Robertson, a retired businessman and veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, examines how this horrifying disease decimated Native American populations in the Americas by telling its story in two parts." Library Journal