



JOHN G.
NEIHARDT
STATE HISTORIC SITE

Recommended for readers of *Black Elk Speaks*

Neihardt, John G. *Black Elk Speaks: The Complete Edition*. Introduction by Philip J. Deloria and annotations by Raymond J. DeMallie. University of Nebraska Press, 2014. This definitive text also contains informative notes, maps, photographs, drawings by Standing Bear, letters, essays, a list of sources, a glossary of Lakota words, and an index. Originally published as *Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Ogalala Sioux*. William Morrow, 1932.

Many books and articles have been written on Neihardt's famous book, on Black Elk himself, and on the history and culture of the Plains Indians. We suggest these starting places:

Anderson, Timothy. *Lonesome Dreamer: The Life of John G. Neihardt*. University of Nebraska Press, 2016. Anderson's informative biography supersedes all previous biographies of Neihardt. Among other topics, Anderson lucidly describes the initial meeting of Black Elk and Neihardt, the subsequent interviews, and the public reception of *Black Elk Speaks*, including the now-famous 1971 Dick Cavett television interview of Neihardt, which resulted in the sale of 16,000 copies of *Black Elk* within the week following the broadcast.

Deloria, Vine, Jr., editor. *A Sender of Words: Essays in Memory of John G. Neihardt*. Howe Brothers, 1984. Most of the essays in this insightful collection deal with Black Elk and *Black Elk Speaks*. Dee Brown, Frank Waters, and N. Scott Momaday are among the contributors.

DeMallie, Raymond J., editor. *The Sixth Grandfather: Black Elk's Teachings Given to John G. Neihardt*. University of Nebraska Press, 1984. An essential scholarly companion to *Black Elk*. DeMallie includes a biographical sketch of Black Elk and the texts of Neihardt's 1931 and 1944 interviews. He also provides helpful appendices on the interview notes and on the orthography Neihardt used for rewriting Lakota words. Includes three helpful maps.

Greene, Jerome A. *American Carnage: Wounded Knee, 1890*. University of Oklahoma Press, 2014. The authoritative text on this topic—clear, informative, and compelling.

Jackson, Joe. *Black Elk: The Life of an American Visionary*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016. This first-rate, award-winning biography provides a detailed and thoughtful exploration of Black Elk's life and culture. Highly recommended.

Neihardt, Hilda. *Black Elk and Flaming Rainbow: Personal Memories of the Lakota Holy Man and John Neihardt*. University of Nebraska Press, 1995. When John Neihardt interviewed Black Elk in 1931, he was accompanied by his two daughters, Enid and Hilda. This book recounts the circumstances of the interviews and the remarkable collaboration between Black Elk and Neihardt. Contains a clear map and several photographs.

Neihardt, John G. *A Cycle of the West: Bison Classic Annotated Edition*. Annotated by Joe Green. Introduction by Alan Birkelbach. University of Nebraska Press, 2018. The last two parts of the *Cycle*, titled *The Song of the Indian Wars* and *The Song of Messiah*, are poetic interpretations of important events in the Red Cloud and Sitting Bull-Crazy Horse wars, including the Fetterman, Rosebud, and Bighorn fights; the Black Hills gold rush; the deaths of Roman Nose, Sitting Bull, and Crazy Horse; the Ghost Dance; and the Massacre at Wounded Knee. Green's annotations provide important historical and literary information.

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