

# GERONIMO



**FAMOUS  
FIGURES  
• OF THE •  
AMERICAN  
FRONTIER**

WILLIAM & DORCAS THOMPSON

FAMOUS FIGURES OF



GERONIMO



THE AMERICAN FRONTIER



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THE AMERICAN FRONTIER**



**BILLY THE KID**  
**BUFFALO BILL CODY**  
**CRAZY HORSE**  
**DAVY CROCKETT**  
**GEORGE CUSTER**

**WYATT EARP**  
**GERONIMO**  
**JESSE JAMES**  
**ANNIE OAKLEY**  
**SITTING BULL**

FAMOUS FIGURES OF  
**GERONIMO**  
THE AMERICAN FRONTIER



**BILL AND DORCAS THOMPSON**

**CHELSEA HOUSE PUBLISHERS  
PHILADELPHIA**

Thanks to the Hartpence family for their many kindnesses and friendship, and for their introduction to Jim Gallagher, whose encouragement and advice helped us in writing this book. We are grateful for the many excellent sources that gave us an understanding of the Apache people as they struggled to survive in a changing world.

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The Apache leader Geronimo strikes a defiant pose. For more than 20 years, Geronimo was involved in a struggle to protect his tribe's homeland in the Southwest from being taken by the U.S. government.



# GERONIMO'S LEGACY

**E**arly one bright spring morning, thousands of excited people began to fill the streets of Washington, D.C., eager to watch the greatest parade the city had yet seen. On this day, March 5, 1905, Theodore Roosevelt was being officially *inaugurated* as the 26th president of the United States.

For over three hours, 35,000 people passed in front

of the White House, where President Roosevelt stood watching. The parade included the governors of 15 states, cadets from West Point, and soldiers from the Seventh *Cavalry* of the U.S. Army, as well as marching bands from as far away as the Philippine Islands. As the crowds yelled and threw their hats into the air, six mounted Indian chiefs, each wearing tribal dress, came riding down Pennsylvania Avenue.

When Woodworth Clum, a member of the parade committee, recognized the legendary Apache leader Geronimo, he was puzzled. He turned and asked the president, “Why did you include the greatest single-handed murderer in American history?”

Roosevelt’s answer was simple: “I wanted to give the people a good show.”

Geronimo, the great warrior of the Apache Indians, had once been put into chains by Woodworth Clum’s father, John Clum. Thirty years before, John Clum had been an Indian agent in Arizona. He had known the murdering Geronimo well—or at least he thought he did.

Others saw Geronimo in the same way as John and Woodworth Clum. At Geronimo’s death in

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February 1909, *Harper's Weekly*, a popular newspaper, had this to say:

The death of Geronimo, the famous Apache chief, marks the passing of one of the most cruel and bloodthirsty Indians that ever terrorized the settlers on the Western plains. . . . He was typical of what a really "bad Indian" might be.

But an editorial in the *New York Times* from the same period offers a very different viewpoint:

Now that all the obituaries of Geronimo have been printed, and everybody has been reminded of what a cruel and bloodthirsty wretch he was, it is only fair to recall the fact that while all the charges against him are true, they are so only from the white man's point of view. . . . The white settlers in the Southwest, were for Geronimo, invading aliens, ruthlessly taking a country to which they had no claim or title, and making life impossible for the Indians. . . . [They were] in short, enemies to be driven away if possible, and to be killed if necessary. That is exactly the way we or any other race would have proceeded to make war on the invaders.

Was Geronimo a mass murderer of innocent victims, as Mr. Clum believed? Or was Geronimo a warrior protecting his people?

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