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Cowboys Cave Dwellers: Basketmaker Archaeology in Utah s Grand Gulch (Paperback)

By Fred M. Blackburn

SAR Press, United States, 1997. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The tortuous canyon country of southeastern Utah conceals thousands of archaeological sites, ancient homes of the ancestors of today s Southwest Indian peoples. Late in the nineteenth century, adventurous cowboy-archaeologists made the first forays into the canyons in search of the material remains of these prehistoric cultures. Rancher Richard Wetherill (best known as the discoverer of Mesa Verde s Cliff Palace) and his brothers; entrepreneurs Charles McLoyd and Charles Cary Graham; and numerous other adventurers, scholars, preachers, and businessmen mounted expeditions into the area now known as Grand Gulch. With varying degrees of scientific rigor, they mapped and dug the canyon s rich archaeological sites, removing large numbers of artifacts and burial goods to exhibit or sell back home-whether home was Durango, Chicago, New York, or Helsinki. During a trip in the winter of 1893-94, Richard Wetherill unearthed convincing proof that a previously unrecognized group of people had lived in Grand Gulch before the so-called Anasazi, or Cliff Dwellers. Wetherill named these people the Basket Makers and inaugurated a new era of understanding of the region s prehistoric past. Almost one hundred years later, the modern-day...



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