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OF THE WEST
2015

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OUR 62ND YEAR

SEPTEMBER 2015

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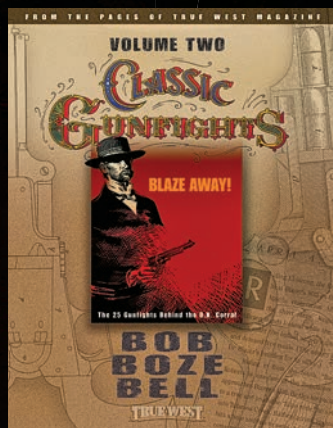
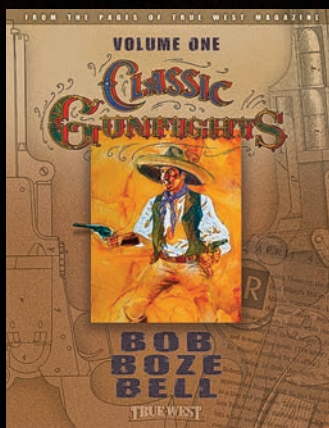
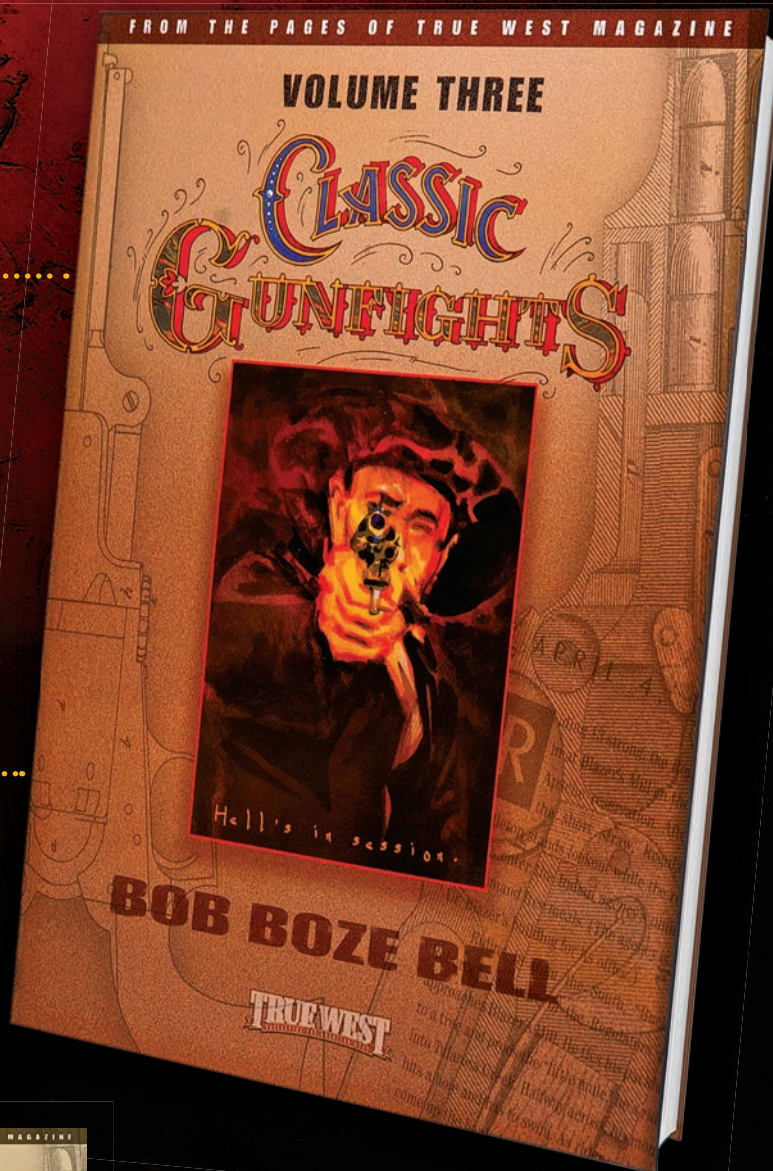
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wimpy \wim-pē\ *adj.*:

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Synonyms: frail, characterless, weak



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When Meriwether Lewis met the Lemhi-Shoshone on August 13, 1805, he hoped to barter for horses so the Corps of Discovery could cross the mountains. He got lucky: the tribe was intrigued by slave York's black skin, and one of the women recognized Sacagawea.

The guide, in turn, recognized the tribe's leader as her brother, Cameahwait. Thus began a translation chain from Shoshone to Hidatsa to French to English that resulted in a successful horse trade.

— ILLUSTRATED BY CHARLES FRITZ / ON EXHIBIT AT SCOTTSDALE'S MUSEUM OF THE WEST THROUGH 2016 —



True West captures the spirit of the West with authenticity, personality and humor by providing a necessary link from our history to our present.

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September 2015 Online and Social Media Content



Wyatt Earp's sworn enemy, John Behan, sits next to his wife, Victoria, in this photo probably taken in 1869, around the time of their marriage. Find this and more historical photography on our "Western History" board.

Pinterest.com/TrueWestMag



Go behind the scenes of True West with Bob Boze Bell to see this and more of his Daily Whipouts (search for "July 6, 2015").

Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com



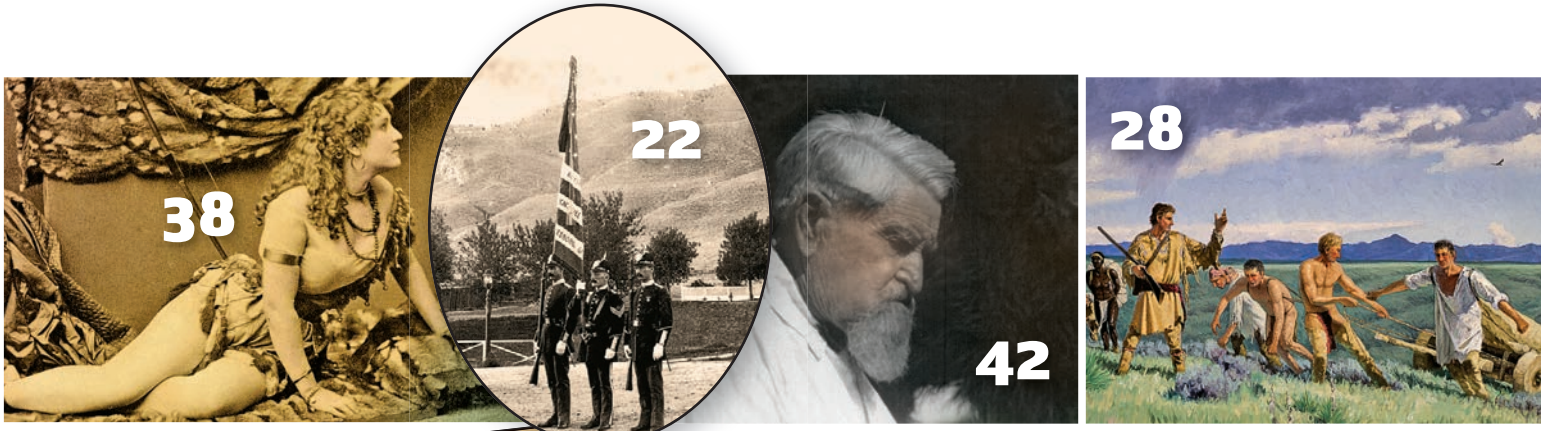
Join the Conversation

"Some of my dad's side of the family settled in North Dakota, and they lived in mud huts in the late 1800s. My dad has pictures of some of the original homesteads."

— Josh Gibson of Chehalis, Washington



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Hollywood made a big show out of frontier cavalymen, but we pay tribute to the courageous walking soldiers of the post-Civil War West.

—By John Langellier

28 FIGHTING TO CROSS AN UNKNOWN AMERICA

The struggles encountered by the Corps of Discovery come to life in brilliant paintings at Arizona's newest Western history museum.

—By Meghan Saar; Illustrated by Charles Fritz

36 WILD BILL AND THE ENGLISHMAN

Paying tribute to Joseph G. Rosa, the one historian who taught us so much about famed frontier gunfighter Wild Bill Hickok.

—By Mark Boardman

38 THE SCANDALOUS BOOMTOWN TEMPTRESS

How Adah Menken, the “Frenzy of Frisco,” took the nation by storm.

—By Chris Enss

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Cattleman Charles Goodnight’s astounding life inspires an emotional ode to the buffalo by singer-songwriter Tom Russell.

—By Cameron Douglas

78 THE TOP 10 WESTERN MUSEUMS OF 2015

Western history and art at these top museums showcase new visions of the past, present and future.

—The Editors/Written by Candy Moulton

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Cover design by Dan Harshberger



COUNTRY ROADS

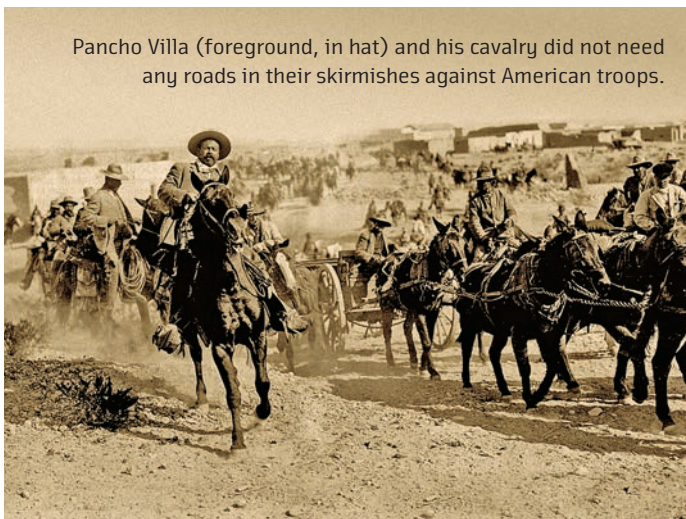
The July 2015 issue of *True West*, with its in-depth treatment of Pancho Villa, is a good read! In my estimation, however, a particularly concrete story is omitted: we can thank Villa and his elusive army for our modern interstate highway system!

When Gen. John Pershing's Punitive Expedition failed to capture Villa in 1917, Pershing laid a significant portion of the blame on the nation's inadequate system of roadways. Raymond H. Thompson explored this topic in his Spring 2004 article for *Journal of the Southwest*: "When General Pershing returned to Washington, he assigned the task of designing a national system of military highways to a young first lieutenant only recently graduated from West Point. When that young officer, Dwight D. Eisenhower, became the 34th President of the United States, he dusted off his early report on military highways and sent it to Congress, which created the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways in the Federal-Aid Highway and Highway Revenue Act of 1956."

This Villa story never fails to entertain my Mexican-American friends, especially one fellow I found whose great-grandfather rode with Villa!

Bob Cox

Phoenix, Arizona



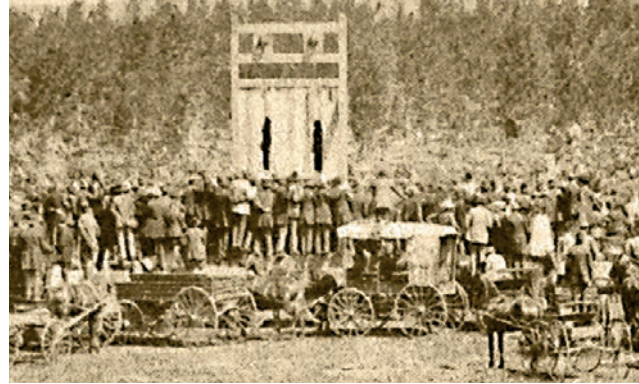
Pancho Villa (foreground, in hat) and his cavalry did not need any roads in their skirmishes against American troops.

Paul Andrew Hutton, University of New Mexico distinguished professor of history, responds: Well, that is quite a leap of faith. Eisenhower was indeed a young officer in San Antonio, Texas, at the time of the Punitive Expedition, but he saw no action (nor did he in WWI). He was appalled by America's roads, in terms of troop movements after our entry into WWI, and then equally impressed by the road layout in Germany in WWII.

When he became our nation's president in 1953, he combined an interest in a road system that could evacuate our great cities during a nuclear war with a desire for a massive government works project that would put people to work (and be flexible across time in doing so). He appointed a blue-ribbon panel under Lucius Clay to come up with a plan.

The result was the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 that transformed the country and was an even greater undertaking than the Transcontinental Railroad of the previous century. Like the railroad, the new highways had a remarkable, and positive, impact on the American West.

Twofer in Leadville



In your May 2015 article "The Prince of Hangmen?" the photo of the double hanging was taken in Leadville, Colorado, not Denver. I know this because I operate the House with the Eye Museum in Leadville, and the man who opened the museum in 1964 was the Lake County sheriff's cousin. The nooses from all of the hangings were in the Lake County Courthouse, and he donated them to his cousin for display.

My colleague Dave Wright helped me locate contemporaneous newspaper articles that confirmed the hanging took place in Leadville. He also found the location of the gallows, recorded in Don L. and Jean Harvey Griswold's *History of Leadville and Lake County*: "Also following the sentencing of the two men, Sheriff [Ledyard R.] Tucker contracted with Frank Colahan for the building of the gallows. Five carpenters were hired by Colahan to construct the framework on a vacant lot in the vicinity of the high school building on Spruce and West Seventh."

Neil V. Reynolds

Leadville, Colorado

WAR ON THE RESEARCH MOUNTAIN

In the mid-1980s, I was fresh out of college, with an M.A. in History, volunteering at the Idaho Historical Archives. While filing newspaper articles, I read about a mining claim on War Eagle Mountain near Silver City that had turned violent. I wrote up my research for an article published in *Idaho Yesterdays* in Winter 1986. That article helped me land my job as director of the Owyhee County Historical Museum in Murphy. Robert Deen used my original research as the basis for his article published in August 2015. I understand he came across it while researching the Owyhee County Historical Society's collection for his book on the history of Owyhee County.

Dale M. Gray

Grand View, Idaho

Museums We Love

One brand new Western museum has our name all over it.

Scottsdale's Museum of the West has been a long time coming.

Our friend Abe Hays has been championing the idea of a Western museum in the Arizona town for at least 30 years. Most of us in the history biz gave up any chance of it happening about 10 years ago. Hays never gave up on his dream.

This January, the museum opened! *True West* teamed up with the dynamic director, Michael Fox, to help with the effort. Fox talked us into donating our massive library (we have been collecting books since the founding of the magazine in 1953). We are proud to announce the *True West* Library is open to the public in the Ridenour Room.

In addition, Jana Bombersbach (our *Old West Savivors* columnist) and I provided the voices for the upstairs narrative displays.

Fox and his crew also featured close to 100 of my *True West Moments*, first published in *The Arizona Republic*, in the Abe Hays Collection gallery. On opening night, I was stunned when I saw one of my scratchboards of a speeding locomotive on an entire wall. Do I look proud? Oh, I think you know the answer to that one.

The museum's first exhibit features Charles Fritz's 100-painting tour de force of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (see our cover art and a fabulous feature on p. 28 written by our editor Meghan Saar).

Next, head over to Cody, Wyoming, where we take our hats off to the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, our number one history museum of the year (p. 78).

Now get on the road and check out all the fine Western history and art museums featured in this special issue.



(Above) Here I am, standing next to the wall-sized blowup of my scratchboard etching of a speeding locomotive at Scottsdale's Museum of the West. You can find my *True West Moments* book in the gift shop.

During the Mexican-American War, Kit Carson used the above Model 1816 flintlock. Made by Simeon North of Middletown, Connecticut, the .54 caliber pistol can be seen in Arizona at Scottsdale's Museum of the West in the Tim Peterson Family Collection gallery.

- COURTESY SCOTTSDALE'S MUSEUM OF THE WEST -



For a behind-the-scenes look at running this magazine, check out BBB's daily blog at TWMag.com

Quotes

“One need not hope in order to undertake, nor succeed in order to persevere.”

– William I, Prince of Orange

“The discipline of the written word punishes both stupidity and dishonesty.”

– Author John Steinbeck

“Between two evils, I always pick the one I never tried before.”

– Actress Mae West in 1936’s *Klondike Annie*

“I want to die a slave to principles. Not to men.”

– Mexican Revolution leader Emiliano Zapata

“Optimism is true moral courage.”

– Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton

“If you don’t think too good, don’t think too much.”

– Baseball great Ted Williams

“Once I moved about like the wind. Now I surrender to you and that is all.”

– Geronimo, to Gen. George Crook, during his March 1886 surrender

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO



“The truth is that in my present life I don’t remember that I ever was president.”

– William Howard Taft who—eight years after leaving the White House—became the 10th chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court



“I’ve been on a calendar, but never on time.”

– Actress Marilyn Monroe

Old Vaquero Saying



“When in doubt, listen to a woman. When without a doubt, listen even more.”

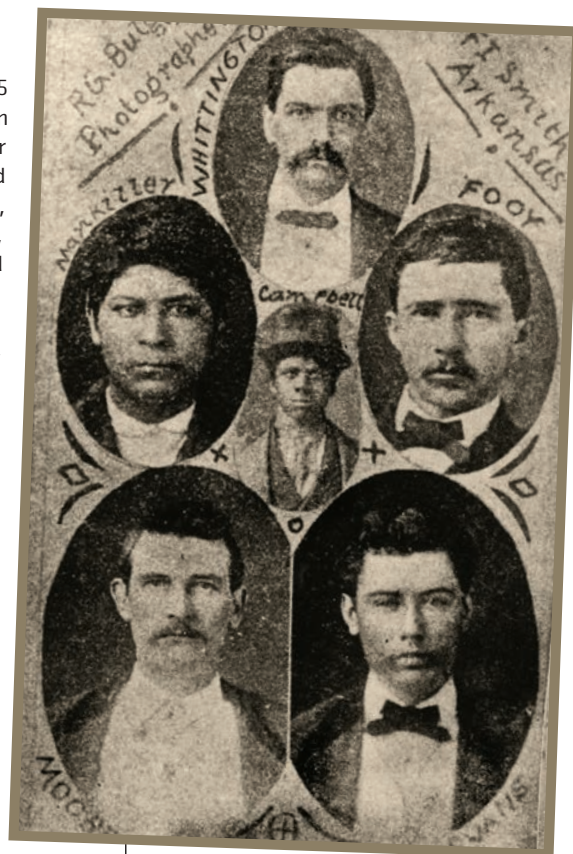
The day six men were hanged in Fort Smith, Arkansas, Isaac Parker earned his nickname.

The “Hang ‘em High” Judge

Isaac Parker got a name and reputation with his first executions.

The murderers hanged on September 3, 1875 (clockwise from top): William Whittington (killed traveling companions, with Evans, for their cash and goods), Samuel Fooy (murdered a schoolteacher for \$250), Daniel Evans, James Moore (killed lawman William Spivey), Smoker Mankiller (killed his neighbor) and Edmund Campbell (murdered a man and his wife to avenge an insult).

— COURTESY FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE —



On September 3, 1875—the day six men were hanged in Fort Smith, Arkansas—Isaac Parker earned his nickname, “Hanging Judge.”

Parker had not been on the job long, starting as the federal judge over the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas on May 10. Over the next few months, he sentenced eight convicted murderers to death; one was killed trying to escape, and another got his sentence commuted and was later pardoned.

With a biblical bent, Parker sternly lectured each convicted man on the evil of his deed and pronounced each sentence with, “Farewell forever until the court and you and all here today shall meet together in the general resurrection.”

Six men were left to face the hangman—which worked out well, since the Fort Smith gallows could handle only six at a time.

Daniel Evans, William Whittington, James Moore, Smoker Mankiller, Samuel Fooy and Edmund Campbell got a big send-off: an estimated 5,000 people attended the hanging. They purchased soft drinks, beer, food and souvenirs. It was more like a carnival than a solemn, legal occasion in which people died.

At 9:30 that morning, four clergy and a dozen men accompanied the condemned men to the gallows. The convicts climbed

the 12 steps and sat on a bench behind the nooses while the death sentences were read. In a scene reminiscent of the Clint Eastwood Western *Hang ‘em High*, prayers were offered and hymns were sung. Five of the six said last words—including Whittington, who, through a message read by a pastor, gave a somewhat long lecture on the dangers of liquor.

The men—already wearing handcuffs and leg irons—had their arms bound and black masks pulled over their heads. Hangman George Maledon adjusted the nooses around their necks, then walked to the iron lever that triggered the trapdoors. Just before Maledon pulled it, Whittington cried out, “Jesus save me!”

The traps opened. All six men suffered broken necks and died instantly.

Media from across the country covered the event, ensuring that plenty of folks heard about this “hanging judge” who had sent a half-dozen men to eternity—all at the same time.

Only once more, in 1890, would six men die in a mass hanging in Fort Smith. For the most part, either one man or two dropped to eternity at the same time. That held true,

even after the mid-1880s, when the gallows was expanded to hold eight simultaneous executions.

Parker lived up to his moniker by hanging another 73 men before he stepped down in August 1896. He had actually ordered 160 men and women to die, but many had sentences commuted or overturned on appeal.

Ironically, the Hanging Judge who sent so many to their deaths opposed the death penalty. As far as history records, he never once watched an execution he ordered.

Despite his personal opinion on the ultimate sentence, Judge Parker stuck to the law—starting with six men who walked to the gallows on September 3, 1875. ✦

Saving a Piece of True West

A determined Texas community fights for a special bungalow.

“...it’s the home that grew America.”



Johnny Cash remembered his visit with Joe Small at the Norwood House (above) in the liner notes of his album (cover shown bottom inset): “Joe Small rode the river with me, and we became the best of friends. I hope we still are after he hears [the album]; he sweated blood along with me to help me make it.” They, indeed, remained good friends, as can be seen in the April 1971 dinner party photograph (top inset, from left: Joe, Johnny’s wife, June Carter Cash, Joe’s wife, Elizabeth, and Johnny).

— CLOCKWISE COURTESY: AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER, GENE FERGUSON AND COLUMBIA RECORDS —

More than 30 years passed before four citizen groups and multiple city councils saved a “precious jewel in Austin’s crown,” the Norwood Park Foundation reports.

While they were at it, they saved a jewel in the crown of *True West* Magazine.

The charming 1920s Craftsman bungalow that is finally being restored was also the publishing office, from 1963 to 1982, for this magazine that the Smalls had started in 1953.

When the Norwood House reopens as a meeting center—late 2016—it will stand as a testament to the dedication and perseverance of all those saviors in Austin, Texas.

You won’t find a more beautiful spot than the cliff overlooking Lady Bird Lake and downtown Austin, where Ollie and Calie

Norwood built their unusual home in 1922. They chose an Oriental-influenced, California Craftsman bungalow—a design that came out of the 1880 to 1910 Arts and Crafts Movement.

By 1963, when *True West* founder Joe “Hosstail” Small and his wife, Elizabeth, became the third owners, the house had been greatly modified and stripped into office space. They moved in their publishing company, where it stayed for two decades.

This is the house where Johnny Cash visited the Smalls as he was searching for songs for a new LP record. The singer credited Joe with both the inspiration and title of his 1965 album, *Johnny Cash Sings the Ballads of the True West*.

In the 1980s, the Smalls sold the property to a condo developer. Neighborhood opposition and a lawsuit resulted in a compromise that saved the house, which the Smalls moved to a nearby lot. Then the development deal fell apart. That’s when the City of Austin started paying attention.

The city wanted the view site as a park, and neighbors wanted the house returned to its original location and restored. Those wants have been slowly moving forward for three decades. In 1999, the Women’s Chamber of Commerce

raised money to move the bungalow to its original site; in 2008, the Norwood Posse built a broad base of support; and in 2012, the posse turned over the reins to the Norwood Park Foundation, which is overseeing the \$2 million renovation in partnership with the city.

“When I saw this home four years ago, I immediately saw it as an Arts and Crafts ideal,” says Colleen Theriot, president of the foundation and a major contributor to the project, financed mostly by private funds. “The bungalow is such a sweet, modest home, but it’s the home that grew America. This is an immense treasure.”

Austin’s treasure holds a special place in the heart of *True West* too. ❖

Arizona’s Journalist of the Year, **Jana Bombersbach** has won an Emmy and two Lifetime Achievement Awards. She also cowrote and appeared on the Emmy-winning *Outrageous Arizona* and has written two true crime books, a children’s book and the historical novel *Cattle Kate*.



*Visit the very Center
of the Wild West*

**BUFFALO BILL
CENTER
OF THE WEST**

Larry Pirnie (b. 1940), *Evening Run*, 1994.
Mixed media on canvas. Gift of Miriam and Joe Sample
Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, Wyoming, USA. 11.95 (detail)

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Brian Lebel auctions off a historic Santa Barbara treasure.



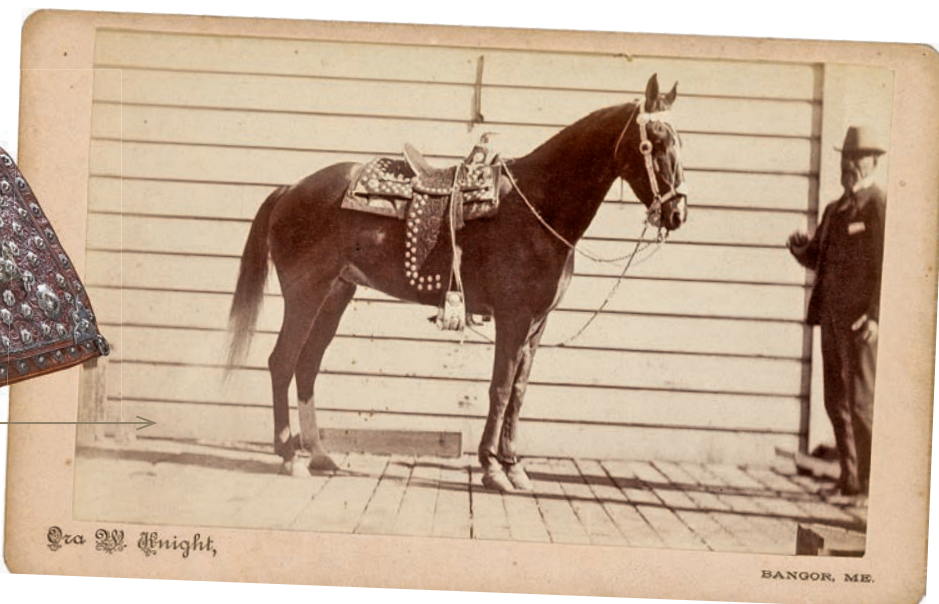
The horse worthy of this “glittering equipage, that reflects back the sunlight from a thousand points” was Canute (right), *The Californian Illustrated Magazine* reported in July 1893. Above is Dixie W. Thompson’s saddle that hammered down at \$170,000.

A pioneer who built the “largest Lima bean ranch in the world” owned the “most gorgeous thing of its kind in the world,” a Mexican pattern saddle that landed the top bid at Brian Lebel’s Old West Auction in Fort Worth, Texas, on June 6.

Born in Topsham, Maine, in 1826, Dixie W. Thompson started his career as a cabin boy and ended up in California in 1849. The following July, he unsuccessfully worked the gold fields of Marysville. He returned to San Francisco to work.

In 1852, Dixie began working for his uncle, first transporting sheep to and from Santa Rosa Island and then as island caretaker. His uncle, A.B. Thompson, had served as captain for an 1834 voyage to Santa Barbara, under Richard H. Dana, the author of *Two Years Before the Mast*. When A.B. married a daughter of Carlos Antonio Carrillo, he got half of the Santa Rosa Island, where he began living in 1844, to raise sheep, cattle and horses.

Dixie gained enough fortune to pay \$1,000 in gold to Mexican Republic soldier



We last saw this famous Mexican saddle in December 2012, when Heritage Auctions sold the above 1899 albumen photograph of Thompson with Canute.

Felipe Lorenzana, in 1865, for the western portion of Rancho San Miguel—2,400 acres bordering the Pacific Ocean, in today’s Ventura, California, where Thompson Boulevard immortalizes his surname. On this land, with lima beans from Peru, Dixie built up his world-renowned ranch.

After the first-class hotel Arlington was built in Santa Barbara in 1875, Dixie became its first manager. When President Benjamin Harrison visited in April 1891, the city organized its first floral festival, with Dixie leading a parade of riders bedecked as Mexican vaqueros.

In that parade, he rode on the saddle that sold at Lebel’s auction, which Dixie had crafted in 1889 by the Santa Barbara saddlery started in 1858 by Sherman Loomis, which was run by his sons Seth and Al after their father’s death in 1886. “Mr. Thompson realized some years ago that the old California was fast giving way to the new, and the thought occurred to him of preserving as long as possible a relic of

those days of almost barbaric splendor in horse-trappings,” reported *The Californian Illustrated Magazine*, in July 1893.

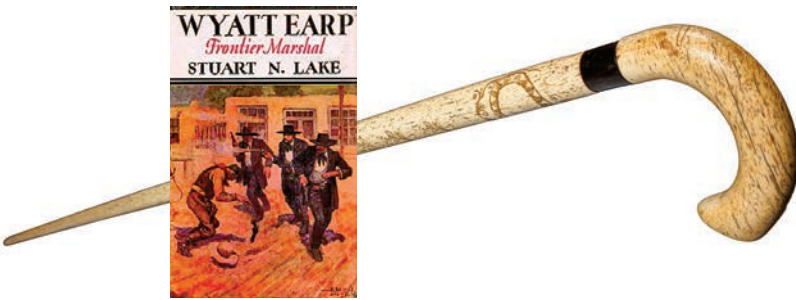
Dixie first rode on that saddle publicly at a grand Admission day parade in San Francisco in 1890. Every year, he sent Mexican dollars to silver workers who used the metal to further ornament the saddle. A typical Mexican pattern, with high pommel and a well hollowed seat, the saddle featured the most elaborate trappings, including silver rosette borders, a solid silver pommel and a saddle tree hung with silver rings that befitted a vaquero.

When Dixie died at the age of 77 on April 16, 1903, *The San Francisco Call* reported: “Wherever street pageants have been held on the Pacific Coast Captain Thompson was the most picturesque feature of the show.”

Along with the world’s most gorgeous Mexican pattern saddle, Brian Lebel auctioned off other collectibles tied to the historic Old West era for a grand total of \$1.5 million inclusive of premium. ✦

Notable Old West Lots Included

(All images courtesy Brian Lebel's Old West Auction unless otherwise noted)



Wyatt Earp biographer Stuart Lake claimed the lawman's wife, Josephine, gave him this buffalo bone walking stick. Wyatt allegedly told Lake that the stick was given to Wyatt by George Hearst as a thank you gift for accompanying the mining magnate while on business in Tombstone, Arizona, in the early 1880s. Wyatt did testify in 1881 that he knew Hearst, but whether or not he served as a guide for the future senator remains unsubstantiated; \$65,000.



Buffalo Bill Cody's famous Wild West show sharpshooter Annie Oakley continues to wow at auction. A scarce, late 19th-century lithograph of the "peerless lady wing-shot" hammered down at \$50,000.

Another early California vaquero ranching saddle, one crafted by Samuel C. Foy in Los Angeles, circa 1860s-1870s, sold at the auction for a \$52,500 bid.



UPCOMING AUCTIONS

September 11-13, 2015

Historic Firearms
Rock Island Auction Company
(Rock Island, IL)

RockIslandAuction.com • 800-238-8022

September 18-19, 2015

Art of the American West
Jackson Hole Art Auction (Jackson Hole, WY)
JacksonHoleArtAuction.com • 866-549-9278

September 25, 2015

American Indian & Western Art
Cowan's Auctions (Cincinnati, OH)
Cowans.com • 513-871-1670

One intriguing lot that did not meet its reserve price is the above circa 1870s Mescalero Apache collection—shirt, leggings, shield and bow case and quiver set. It reportedly comes from a military family stationed near the Guadalupe Mountains, in west Texas, and then Fort Sill in Oklahoma, more than 140 years ago.

CARTRIDGE RIFLES



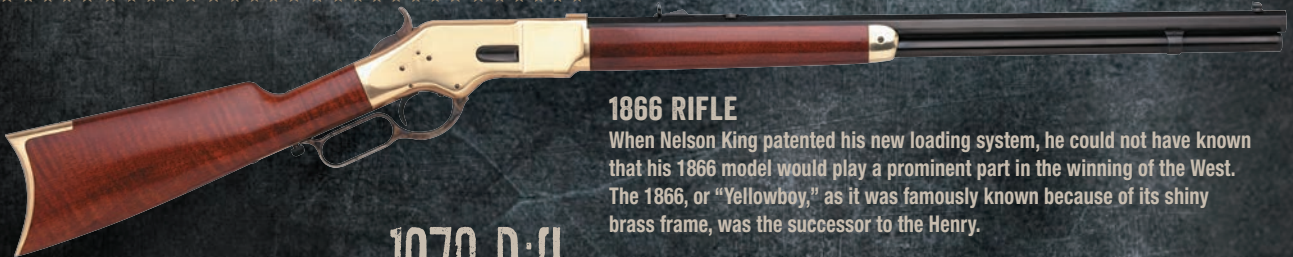
1860 Henry Lever Action



1860 HENRY

In October 1860, B.T. Henry was granted a patent for the design of a new gun, a repeating rifle that used metallic cartridges. With it, one man could load 15 cartridges in eight to ten seconds. It was such an important innovation that the gun was named after its inventor. All models feature a walnut stock with 13-round capacity (Henry Trapper holds 10 rounds).

1866 Lever Action



1866 RIFLE

When Nelson King patented his new loading system, he could not have known that his 1866 model would play a prominent part in the winning of the West. The 1866, or "Yellowboy," as it was famously known because of its shiny brass frame, was the successor to the Henry.

1873 Rifle



1873 RIFLE – CHECKERED STRAIGHT STOCK

This rifle is an ideal option for any shooter who enjoys the enhanced grip and look of a checkered rifle. A full octagonal barrel, case-hardened frame and checkered straight stock are featured on this 1873.

Taylor's '92



TAYLOR'S 1892 RIFLE

The 1892 Rifle was mechanically stronger and less costly to produce than the '73. A total of 1,004,675 of the 1892s, in both solid and takedown models, were manufactured from 1892 to 1941. Taylor's & Co. is proud to offer reproductions of these favorites.

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Taylor's Slicked Up '73s

Unique lever-action rifles and carbines keep the 1873 Winchester Model's legacy alive and well.

In December 1875, Texas Ranger James Gillett took a trip to Austin, Texas, in search of a rifle with greater firepower than his .50-70 Sharps carbine. "The new center-fire 1873-Model Winchester had just appeared on the market and sold at \$50 for the rifle and \$40 for the carbine...ten men in Company D, myself included, were willing to pay the price to have a superior arm," he wrote. "I got carbine number 13401, and for the next six years of my ranger career I never used any other weapon."

"...for the next six years of my ranger career I never used any other weapon."

From one of the most experienced sources on the frontier, his solid testimony confirmed the effectiveness and reliability of the famed 1873 model. Now, 140 years later, leisure shooters and cowboy action and cowboy mounted rifle competitors have

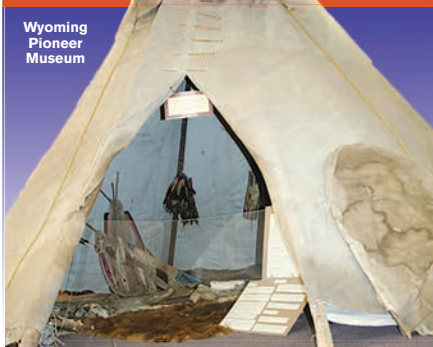
The 1873 Winchester was a popular frontier rifle, especially among cowboys. It came in several variations, calibers and barrel lengths. This circa 1880s cowhand in Sherman, Texas, proudly shows off his shorty '73, the so-called "Trapper" model, with a 14-inch barrel. Winchester accommodated customers when it came to special orders, and Taylor's & Co. carries on this tradition today with its slicked up '73 replicas.

- COURTESY HERB PECK JR. COLLECTION -



DOUGLAS & GLENROCK WYOMING

Wyoming Pioneer Museum

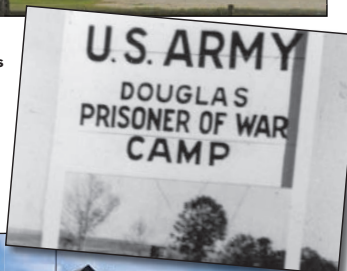


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Shooters of small stature will appreciate Taylor's & Co.'s new and lightweight Ladies & Youth 1873 carbine, which sports a short 16 1/8-inch round barrel and a straight-grained walnut stock that is an inch shorter than the standard version.

- COURTESY TAYLOR'S & CO. -

shown, through their acceptance of modern replicas, that the '73 model is as handy on the competitive shooting range or in the saddle as it was during the frontier era.

Taylor's & Co. offers a trio of unique lever guns among its lineup of Italian-import replica 1873 rifles, carbines and sporting and trapper models. These slicked up '73s have each been designed for a specific audience (although any of them would also make for a fine, all-around trail, saddle or general purpose shooting companion).

This past year, Taylor's & Co. introduced a handy little carbine designed to produce less recoil and make for easier handling by shooters of small stature. Dubbed the Ladies & Youth 1873 Carbine, this 16 1/8-inch, round-barreled, blued lever action weighs less than a standard carbine (7.2 pounds as opposed to 7.48 pounds) and is chambered for the .38 Special and .357 Magnum cartridges. The stock is an inch shorter, with less than a 12.8-inch length of pull. A soft leather stock cover, rubber butt pad and an easy-to-see gold bead front sight are optional.

For the past several years, Taylor's & Co.'s 1873 Comanchero rifle and Runnin' Comanchero carbine have proven popular with cowboy action and cowboy mounted shooters respectively. The custom tuned Comanchero is offered in either octagonal or half-round/half-octagonal blued barrel styles, in 18- or 20-inch lengths. The rifle wears a color case hardened receiver and either a straight or a checkered pistol-grip stock. The ammunition can be either .357 Magnum or .45 Colt caliber, and cowboy action shooters favor the rifle's short stroke links. Additionally, the Comanchero has a gold bead front sight, a soft buckskin lever wrap and an elk skin butt stock cover. Any of Taylor's & Co.'s '73s can be configured into a Comanchero—regardless of barrel length or style.

Like the Comanchero rifle, the Runnin' Comanchero carbine was designed especially for—and has found favor with—cowboy mounted rifle shooters. The carbine not only has the front sight rounded for ease of quick removal from the saddle scabbard, but also the rear sight dovetail is filled, so the rear sight or straight edged



Taylor's & Co.'s 1873 Comanchero rifle (top) and Runnin' Comanchero carbine (bottom) are popular with cowboy action and cowboy mounted shooters respectively. Favored by cowboy action shootists, the Comanchero offers serious competitors short stroke kits; it comes custom tuned in either .357 Magnum or .45 Colt chambering. Favored by cowboy mounted shootists, the Runnin' Comanchero was designed for the lightning fast-paced mounted shooting game; it comes in either .44-40 or .45 Colt caliber.

- COURTESY TAYLOR'S & CO. -

front sight will not hang up when withdrawn during the lightning fast horseback competition (important factors in mounted rifle competition). The factory does offer an optional ladder-style sight in the box. This straight-stocked, 16 1/8-inch, round-barreled, blued saddle gun can be had in either .44-40 or .45 Colt caliber, with the short-stroke action, as well as an elk leather butt cover and lever wrap.

Taylor's & Co.'s slicked up '73s and the gunmen who rely on them are all doing their part to keep the legacy of the "gun that won the West" alive and well!



Phil Spangenberg has written for *Guns & Ammo*, appears on the History Channel and other documentary networks, produces Wild West shows, is a Hollywood gun coach and character actor, and is *True West's* Firearms Editor.



FRONTIER SADDLE SCABBARDS

If you pack a rifle on horseback—for cowboy mounted shooting competition, ranch work, hunting or any mounted pursuit—you will need a well-made saddle scabbard. Here are some companies that turn out quality rifle and carbine saddle scabbards for Old West-style guns: El Paso Saddlery (EPSaddlery.com), John Bianchi Frontier Gunleather (FrontierGunleather.com), Old West Reproductions (OldWestReproductions.com) and Western Star Leather (shown) (WesternStarLeather.com). Each outfit handcrafts its scabbards for frontier-era lever actions and single shot rifles. The scabbards are ruggedly made, handsome and authentic!



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BY JOHN LANGELLIER

Dust-Covered Foot Soldiers

Paying tribute to the courageous walking soldiers of the post-Civil War West.

After American troops spent four years fighting the Civil War, the struggle to restore the Union ended with powerful victories by the Northern Army. President Abraham Lincoln's massive million men, clad in blue and wielding terribly swift swords, dwindled to a small contingent of Regulars, most of whom were stationed beyond the Mississippi River. These men served at far-flung, often isolated outposts as constabularies.

"We are about 1,000 miles from nowhere excepting it be the verges of Hell, and I think we 'ain't no more nor' ten rods from that delightful spot," wrote Second Infantry Lt. Col. Josias King, whose attitude about Fort Larned, Kansas, could have been echoed at almost every frontier outpost.

Hollywood often made a big show out of the post-Civil War cavalry at these frontier forts, riding with guidons snapping in

the breeze and bugles blaring as they galloped to the rescue. The real-life cavalymen themselves felt superior to the foot troops, as evidenced by Samuel Chamberlain, a dragoon who fought in the Mexican-American War of 1846-48: "No man of any spirit and ambition would join the 'Doughboys' and go afoot...."

Yet the infantry also played a major role in protecting and pacifying the West. These walking soldiers performed unglamorous, tedious tasks, such as denying watering holes to the enemy, escorting paymasters (a grueling assignment in the northern climes during the winter), guarding supply trains and railroad construction crews, building roads and patrolling the troubled border with Mexico. They also protected the "talking wires," as some American Indians called the telegraph.

The Indians they encountered dubbed their hard-marching adversaries "walk-a-heaps." When a contingent of the Seventh Infantry approached his Lakota village, Red Horse indicated his people were "afraid of them, and so we moved away." He concluded this action was wise because "Indians can't fight walking soldiers."

Trials and Tribulations

Achieving such praise from a brave fighting man did not offset the trials and tribulations of these walk-a-heaps. Duty was difficult and typically tedious. Promotion was



slow; pay paltry. For example, a private received only \$13 a month (a \$3 reduction from the wartime sum) during his first enlistment, which lasted from three to five years.

The “result of poor pay is poor sergeants,” Brig. Gen. E.O.C. Ord stated, “and, as a rule, the line [infantry] does not get non-commissioned officers who command the respect or obedience of the men.”

Infantry soldiers also resented being worked as day laborers to construct military posts, chop wood, cut hay and other non-soldierly assignments. Little wonder that desertion ran rampant among the rank and file.

Circumstances were little better for officers. Upward mobility that brought a higher wage moved at a snail's pace. Below the grade of major, the regiment determined if an officer received a promotion, and stagnation was the norm. Usually death, resignation or retirement offered the only path up the ladder.

Given that retirement was not set at a mandatory age of 65 until 1881, some officers clung to their positions for decades. William R. Shafter held the colonelcy of his First Infantry for 18 years. C.F. Smith of the 19th Infantry remained at the helm of

**“No other nation
in the world would
have attempted
the reduction of
these wild tribes
[in the West] and
occupation of their
country with less
than 60,000 or
70,000 men...”**

his unit for 22 years. George Andrews of the 25th Infantry spent 21 years in charge of his black foot soldiers, and so it went for many others. Senior officers who lingered blocked younger, and sometimes more capable, subordinates from advancement.

The Sad Situation

By 1869, only 25 infantry regiments remained on the rolls, and the number of privates and non-commissioned officers regularly ran less than four dozen per company. Even that figure was high for some companies. During 1876, one infantry officer claimed the largest company in his regiment fielded only seven men; in another company, only the captain and first sergeant appeared at the mandatory weekly parade.

These statistics alarmed commanders, including Lt. Gen. Philip Sheridan, the second-highest ranking member of the U.S. Army's “brass” for many years after Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender to the Union troops. Commenting on the sad situation, in 1878, “Little Phil” reported:

“No other nation in the world would have attempted the reduction



Adding firepower to their hard hitting, .45-70 caliber rifles (stacked in the foreground), these infantrymen secured .45 caliber Colt revolvers as they set off to face Apaches in the Southwest during the 1880s. During their frontier service, many faced an evolution of firearms that contributed to new tactics of warfare, at a time when most troops didn't even receive basic training before they were sent to their far-flung posts.

- COURTESY GLENN SWANSON COLLECTION -

- ILLUSTRATION BY BOB BOZE BELL -



These Texas Territory foot soldiers at Fort Davis were laden with full gear as they prepared to march out for the field. When these heavily burdened infantrymen were fortunate, pack mules or escort wagons hauled the extras, including rations.

— COURTESY BEINECKE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —



of these wild tribes [in the West] and occupation of their country with less than 60,000 or 70,000 men, while the whole force employed and scattered over the enormous region... never numbered 14,000 men, and nearly one-third of this force has been confined to the line of the Rio Grande to protect the Mexican frontier.”

Adapt, or Die

When not in garrison tending to monotonous tasks—ranging from cleaning equipment to mending wool uniforms to raising food that supplemented the rather Spartan rations provided by Uncle Sam—the doughboys were sent on campaign.

Having received no basic training before being sent off to these far-off forts, recruits learned field craft from veteran comrades. Prior to the mid-1870s, they also received little-to-no instruction in the use of their rifles, which often changed as the Army transitioned from muzzleloaders to breechloaders during the 1860s through the turn of the 20th century.

What was printed in the Army manuals did not always prepare the infantryman for combat against a fierce foe, whether on the freezing Great Plains or in the torrid deserts of the Southwest. Once a soldier encountered an enemy, adaptation could determine failure or success.

At Wyoming Territory’s Fort Phil Kearny, less than three

dozen foot soldiers from Capt. James Powell’s 27th Infantry bested far superior odds. From behind a makeshift bastion made of wagon boxes, they faced and vanquished valiant Lakotas mounted on sturdy steeds.

The determined defenders, armed with recently issued Springfield Model 1866 .50-70 converted “trapdoors,” repelled charge after charge, at a cost of six dead and two wounded, as opposed to an estimated 60 Lakotas killed.

“But never, before or since, have my nerves ever been put to the test they sustained on that terrible 2d of August, 1867, when we fought Red Cloud’s warriors at the wagon-box corral,” recalled one of the surviving victors, Pvt. Samuel Gibson, who ultimately served 48 years in the infantry.

During the 1877 Nez Perce War, a contingent of the Fifth Infantry obtained captured war ponies that allowed them to become mounted riflemen. The regimental commander, Nelson A. Miles, somewhat facetiously referred to this ad hoc strike force as the “11th Cavalry”—an apt sobriquet, since the Army only had 10 cavalry regiments at that time.

At Bear Paw Mountains, this cavalry helped dislodge the resolute Nez Perce. Charging into action, the soldiers dismounted and “threw themselves upon the ground, holding the lariats of their ponies in their left hands, and opened a deadly fire with their long-range rifles....”

The troops then dug rifle pits in the hard ground, where they remained for five days under fire. Adding to the

This group of 13th Infantry non-commissioned officers serving in New Mexico readied for the field as part of the final push to end the Apache Wars during the mid-1880s.

- COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION -

plight of the plucky foot soldiers, the weather disintegrated to sleet and snow.

During the battle, First Sgt. Henry Hogan slung a Fifth Infantry officer over his shoulder while under heavy fire. He went on to earn his second Medal of Honor—a rare accomplishment. In 68 instances, infantry officers and enlisted men were recognized for performing above and beyond the call of duty, resulting in the Medal of Honor. The first of this distinguished band of brothers was Third Infantry Sgt. James Fagan. In March 1868, while in charge of a wagon train carrying gunpowder from Kansas's Fort Harker to Fort Dodge, Fagan single-handedly drove off bandits intent on freeing a deserter.

Even when wounded, infantrymen proved their daring. In 1869, First Lt. George Albee of the 41st Infantry led a wild charge with only two men against a war party of 11. During 1872, an 11th Infantry private drove off an Indian attack against a mail coach in Texas. Sergeant Benjamin Brown of the 24th Infantry sustained a wound in the abdomen and both arms, yet he continued to blaze away against desperados who ambushed an Army paymaster with tens of thousands of dollars in military pay.

In the end, infantry operations during the Indian Wars were difficult, expensive and frequently fruitless. For every banner headline in the press, scores of other engagements went unreported and were all but forgotten. Yet the valiant service of these walk-a-heaps and dust-covered doughboys helped carve a community out of the wilderness.



John Langellier received his PhD in military history from Kansas State University. After a 45-year career in public history, he retired in Tucson, Arizona, in 2015. He is the author of dozens of books, including *Fighting for Uncle Sam: Blacks in the Frontier Army*, due out in early 2016.



Among the officers posing at Fort Laramie's Bachelor Officers Quarters, known as "Old Bedlam," appears Caspar Collins (second from left, standing in front row). The aggressive infantry lieutenant lost his life on July 26, 1865, when he led 25 men against roughly 1,000 to 3,000 Indians, just outside Wyoming's Platte Bridge.

- COURTESY WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT -



Officers of the 17th Infantry and their ladies lounged in front of quarters, enjoying a brief respite before the troops deployed as part of the ill-fated 1876 campaign that ended with George Custer's defeat at Little Bighorn in Montana Territory.

- COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION -

Montana's Fort Keogh offered certain creature comforts, such as the post sutter or post exchange, where soldiers such as these infantrymen, including the 20th Infantry sergeant major (the top soldier for a regiment), could enjoy a smoke, light fare or even a beer.

- COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION -





Only the most distinguished enlisted men formed the regimental color guard, such as these sharply turned out infantrymen from Utah's Fort Douglas.

- COURTESY CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS ARCHIVES, SALT LAKE CITY -

The Third Infantry's Company C (right) was more fortunate than many other units because the unit's enlisted contingent while garrisoning at Fort Larned in Kansas, in 1867, was nearly at full strength, except for officers. One lone commissioned officer appears in front of his command, standing with his sword, the badge of authority.

- COURTESY KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY -



In garrison, infantrymen could take breaks from daily duties. These troops from Montana's Fort Keogh were playing baseball, as shown by one soldier who had not changed back into his U.S. Army uniform after the game or practice.

- COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION -





BY MEGHAN SAAR

FIGHTING TO CROSS AN UNKNOWN AMERICA

How many times was Death “swinging his scythe” at the Corps of Discovery? At least 56 hair-raising incidents could have killed the crew during the 28-month, 8,000-mile journey, with William Clark most at risk. The captain fell peril to at least five accidents, while his partner, Meriwether Lewis, almost died twice while climbing bluffs (and was shot at three times).

Old Man River proved a formidable foe. When the captains set off in 1804, their keelboat ran afoul many times, placing the crew in imminent danger. The most harrowing description came on September 30: “...the Sturn of the boat got fast on a log...was verry near filling...the Chief on board was So fritened...he ran off and hid himself...”

Though Lewis and Clark made survival skills a high priority for the men they recruited for the cross-country expedition, some men could not swim—strange for a journey largely traveled on rivers. Toussaint Charbonneau almost drowned on several occasions, with Clark notably saving his life on July 26, 1805.

The elements tested the explorers. The crew remarkably escaped a “truly tremendous” prairie fire at Fort Mandan in October 1804 that burned a native man and woman to death. Flames got even closer, in May 1805, when a tree caught fire above the captains’ lodge, where they were staying with Charbonneau, his wife, Sacagawea, and baby; just after they frantically moved the lodge, the tree fell: “had we been a few minutes later we should have been crushed to attoms.”

Snow proved brutal as well, particularly during one storm, when the men, who had been moving baggage over the plains,

The struggles and hardships encountered by the Corps of Discovery come through in words recorded more than 200 years ago...and in paintings showcasing the breathtaking journey.

were “sorely mawled with the hail which was so large and driven with such force by the wind that it nocked many of them down...most of them were bleeding freely...”

Lewis recorded the “most wonderful escape [he] ever witnessed” on September 19, 1805. While the party climbed a steep precipice, Robert Frazer’s horse fell and rolled, with his load, nearly 100 yards into a creek, down a hill “broken by large irregular and broken rocks.”

Everyone expected to see a dead horse, he noted, but the animal got up, barely injured, and it proceeded on within 20 minutes.

Beasts of brute strength added to the chaos. On May 11, 1805, the travelers encountered the worst of the monstrous grizzly bears, a beast they had shot in the lungs that continued to pursue William Bratton for half a mile. After the men finally shot two balls into the bear’s skull, Lewis wrote, “these bear being so hard to die reather intimidates us all...”

Even Seaman, a Newfoundland dog, got bit by a beaver in the hind leg, which cut off an artery. Lewis, who had trouble stopping the blood, wrote, “I fear it will prove fatal to him.”

But 10 days later, on May 29, 1805, Seaman saved the crew when he changed the course of a huge buffalo bull charging at some men sleeping by a campfire.

The crew experienced only five hostile encounters with native peoples. The most famous fight took place on July 27, 1806, along the Two Medicine River. A party of eight Piegan Blackfeet stole the rifles of Lewis and his men while they were asleep. In a skirmish to recover the weapons, Reubin Field fatally stabbed an Indian, and a gunshot fired by Lewis may have killed another. When the Piegans dispersed, possibly to get more warriors, the crew beat a desperate retreat, nonstop, more than 100 miles to the Missouri River.

Lewis not only escaped death by gunfire in that battle (he “felt the wind of [a Piegan’s] bullet very distinctly”), but two more times, from accidental gunfire by members hunting with him; one shot wounded him! Hunting, of course, was paramount to the group’s survival: all the boats, weapons and scientific instruments they had to bring along left them to shoot most of their food. Lewis gave marksman George Drouillard the credit for getting the crew across modern-day Montana, Idaho and Oregon without starving.

In that unknown country, only one man did not survive the trip: Sgt. Charles Floyd. He died of an infection, likely from a ruptured appendix, an illness not understood by doctors for at least two more decades.

Crossing the Most Terrible Mountains We Ever Beheld

Crossing the Rocky Mountains was a particularly hazardous stretch for the explorers. On September 16, 1805, Patrick Gass recorded this account: “Last night about 12 o’clock it began to snow. We renewed our march early, though the morning was very disagreeable, and proceeded over the most terrible mountains I ever beheld.... The snow fell so thick, and the day was so dark, that a person could not see to a distance of 200 yards. In the night and during the day the snow fell about 10 inches deep.”

Cordelling the Red Pirogue

May 31, 1805: "...the banks and bluffs along which they are obliged to pass are so slippery and the mud so tenacious that they are unable to wear their mockersons, and in that situation dragging the heavy burthen of a canoe and walking occasionally for several hundred yards over the sharp fragments of rocks which tumble from the cliffs and garnish the borders of the river; in short their labour is incredibly painfull and great, yet those faithfull fellows bear it without a murmur."



When the expedition returned to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1806, the nation hailed the men for their stupendous achievement in survival.

President Thomas Jefferson had gotten what he wanted: the scientific and geographic knowledge about a territory the U.S. bought from France in 1803—the Louisiana Purchase included land from 15 present-day states and two Canadian provinces. But he failed by not sending a professional artist along for the trip.

By the time America marked the 200th anniversary of the expedition, Montana artist Charles Fritz had brought the journey to life. Beyond painting major moments documented in the expedition journals, Fritz traveled and

camped out along the entire route—from St. Louis to the Pacific Coast—at least twice. Even more, he visited the sites at the same time of the journal entries, painting on location, to ensure he was accurately portraying the flora, fauna and setting, and properly communicating a humid Missouri summer or the blasting roaring winds of the Columbia River Gorge.

Fritz relied on the journals and on other historical records to overcome one major challenge: the original route is forever changed. Over the past 200 years, rivers have altered their course and, furthermore, dams, agriculture and other settlements have left their marks on the land.

In 2004 the Montana Museum of Art and Culture premiered the collection, then numbering 72 paintings, which traveled all over the nation during the Bicentennial, 2004-2006. Today you can experience the journey through the completed collection of 100 of Fritz's paintings at Arizona's newest museum, Scottsdale's Museum of the West, through all of 2016.

Like Clark, you may feel a "secret pleasure" in these men's struggle to cross an uncharted land. When Clark reached the head of the "boundless Missouri," he reflected "on the difficulties which this Snowey barrier would most probably throw in my way to the Pacific Ocean, and the Sufferings and hardships of



Our Boats, Grippid in Ice

February 23, 1805: "All hands employed in Cutting the Perogus Loose from the ice, which was nearly even with their top...after Cutting as much as we Could with axes, we had all the Iron we Could get & Some axes put on long poles and picked through the ice...."

The Corps of Discovery's Portage Around the Great Falls of the Missouri

June 23, 1805: "...the men has to haul with all their Strength wate & art, maney times every man all catching the grass & knobes & Stones with their hands to give them more force in drawing on the Canoes & Loads.... Some become fant for a few moments, but no man Complains all go Cheerfully on—"



my Self and party in them, it in Some measure Counter ballanced the joy I had felt in the first moments in which I gazed on them.

"But," he continued, "as I have always held it little Short of Criminality to anticipate evils I will allow it to be a good Comfortable road until I am Compelled to believe otherwise."

Such valiant optimism no doubt helped pave the road to success for these brave men fighting to cross an unknown America, who all emerged in glory when their journey came full circle in 1806. ✦

For an account of the Corps of Discovery's narrow escapes of survival, read Robert R. Hunt's essay in *Volume Two of Explorations into the World of Lewis and Clark*, edited by Robert A. Saindon. Please note: Misspellings in quotations match journal entries.



Violent Confusion—Captain Lewis's Encounter with Blackfoot

July 27, 1806: "...I called to them...that I would shoot them if they did not give me my horse and raised my gun, one of them jumped behind a rock...and stoped at the distance of 30 steps from me and I shot him through the belly...."

Corps of Discovery Running the Columbia

The journey canoeing down the Columbia River was hardening enough, as was the day-long experience of manhandling the equipment and canoes over the Celilo Falls portage, particularly when swarmed by fleas.

October 23, 1805: "Took the Canoes over the Portage on the Lard. Side with much difficulty...one Canoe got loose & caught by the Indians which we were obliged to pay. our old Chiefs over herd the Indians from below Say they would try to kill us...every man of the party was obliged to Strip naked dureing the time of takeing over the canoes, that they might have an oppertunity of brushing the flees of their legs and bodies—"







On November 7, 1805, Meriwether Clark wrote exultantly: "Great joy in camp we are in View of the Ocian, this great Pacific Occean which we have been So long anxious to See...."

Home from the Pacific— Triumphant Return to St. Louis

September 23, 1806: "...Set out descended to the Mississippi and down that river to St. Louis...we Suffered the party to fire off their pieces as a Salute to the Town. we were met by all the village and received a harty welcom from it's inhabitants...."

One historian taught us so much about famed frontier gunfighter Wild Bill Hickok.



The earliest known photograph of Hickok is this circa 1863 tintype. After a brief stint as a Union teamster during the Civil War, he was employed in late 1863 as a special policeman and later attached as a scout to Brig. Gen. John B. Sanborn's headquarters in Springfield, Missouri.

— COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES / ETHEL HICKOK COLLECTION —

Any Old West history enthusiast who fancies learning about famed gunfighter James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok must have heard of Joseph G. Rosa. Inspired by the character portrayed in Cecil B. DeMille’s *The Plainsman*, Rosa became the biographer of Hickok—a remarkable feat considering Rosa was an Englishman who conducted much of his research via international letters (remember those?) from the 1950s through 1970s.

Just as impressive: Rosa was not a trained historian. He spent much of his career in the communications industry. Yet his 1964 biography, *They Called Him Wild Bill*, and its 1974 update, remains the standard for the story of Hickok.

Rosa died January 17 at the age of 82 after a long illness. But what we know about Hickok—just the facts, ma’am—lives on because of his incredible interest, intellect, tenacity and temerity.

Shared here are 10 Hickok facts uncovered by Rosa:

1 During his lifetime, Hickok was as well known as a frontier scout as he was as a gunman.

2 Legends claimed Hickok killed upwards of 100 men. Rosa discovered the kill count was actually around 10.

Wild Bill and the Englishman

3 Hickok helped create his own legend, but later in life, he hated his reputation as a mankiller.

4 Hickok and Calamity Jane were not lovers, were never married and didn’t have a daughter together.

5 No evidence proves Hickok ever held aces and eights—the Dead Man’s Hand—when he was killed in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, on August 2, 1876.

6 Hickok was never seriously injured in a hand-to-paw fight with a bear in 1859 or 1860. Storytellers made up that account.

7 Folks claimed Hickok carried numerous buckshot and bullet wounds to his grave. But outside of the kill shot by Jack McCall, Hickok was never hurt in a gunfight.

8 Hickok did love to gamble, but even his friends said he was a poor card player and often the target of card sharps.

9 Hickok was regarded as one of the top gunhands ever, but even during his lifetime, people questioned his accuracy and speed—and historical accounts back up the skepticism.

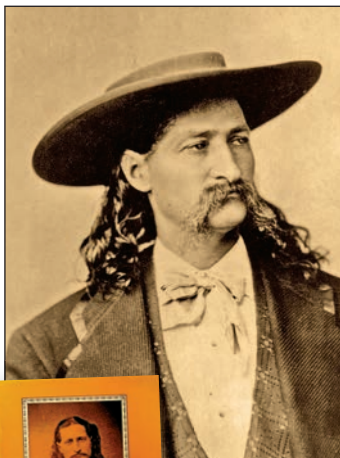
10 Hickok frequently carried two guns, but he rarely used his left hand to shoot. The second gun was a backup, in case the powder got wet, or he ran out of bullets, in the first pistol.

Without Rosa’s enduring work and research into the legendary frontier gunfighter, we would never have learned these truths. We were proud to count Rosa among our *True West* family, and we will miss our conversations with him. ✖



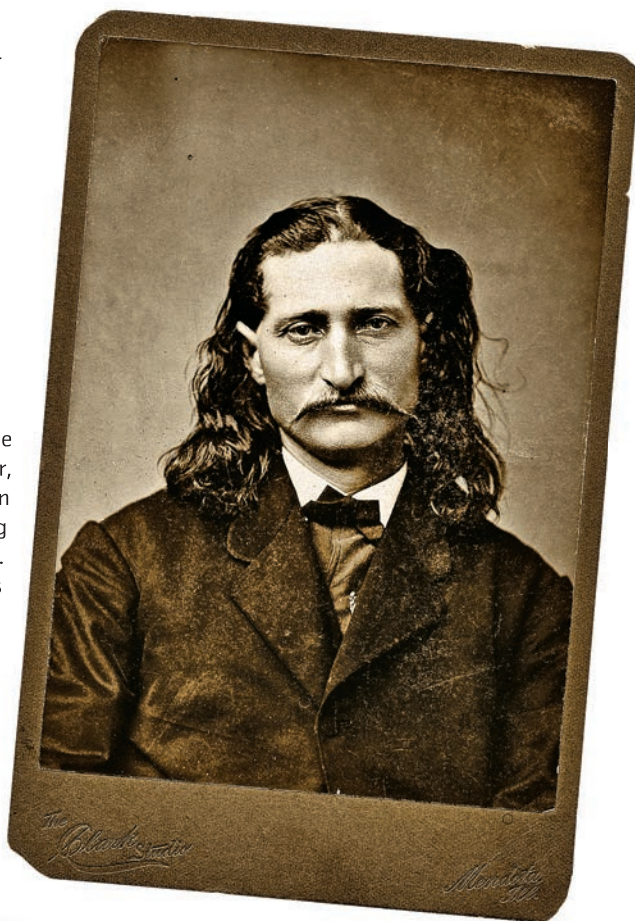
Joseph G. Rosa (left) brought James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok out of frontier legend and into historical reality. University of Oklahoma Press gets the credit for publishing Rosa's excellent research, beginning with his definitive biography of Hickok in 1964, *They Called Him Wild Bill*, as well as 1982's *The West of Wild Bill Hickok* and 2003's *Wild Bill Hickok, Gunfighter: An Account of Hickok's Gunfights*.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



This haunting image of the famed frontier gunfighter, believed to have been taken in the early 1870s, hung in his sister Lydia's home. Hickok's expression "bears a hint of the tragedy that awaited him," Rosa wrote.

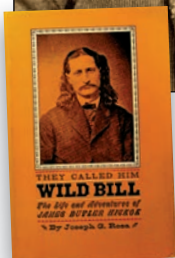
- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



"Joseph G. Rosa's earlier book *They Called Him Wild Bill* is not only the definitive biography of the redoubtable James Butler Hickok but also

a model for biographies of other western figures," wrote historian Gary L. Roberts, in the *Great Plains Quarterly* in 1984.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -



American theatrical business manager Frank Jenners Wilstach learned of Hickok's 1870s stage career (see Hickok, second from left) and wrote a book about him in 1926. Rosa utilized some of Wilstach's research for his own work. Wilstach's book inspired the 1936 Western, *The Plainsman*, that encouraged Rosa to research the real-life Hickok behind Gary Cooper's character.

- PHOTO COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST, CODY, WYOMING; PLAINSMAN POSTER COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES -

Discovered in 1989, this photo of Hickok shows him wearing his Navy Colts in crossdraw style, with the pistol butts pointing forward. This allowed the "Prince of the Pistoleers" to draw his weapons underhand and spin forward for a reverse draw.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -



BY CHRIS ENSS

The Scandalous Boomtown Temptress

In 1847, the western U.S. was a sleepy wilderness populated mostly by American Indians and Mexicans. The region changed virtually overnight when word of frontier gold reached the East. Some 200,000 restless souls, mostly men, but some women and children, traveled to the untamed lands, primarily to California, during the first three years of the Gold Rush.

While fortunes were made and lost daily, gold seekers also sought out crude entertainments provided by ragtag bands,

**ADAH MENKEN,
THE "FRENZY OF
FRISCO," TOOK THE
NATION BY STORM.**

Reclining like the love goddess America proclaimed her to be, Adah Menken appears here in her role for John Brougham's 1865 play, *The Child of the Sun*.

— ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

bear-wrestling and prize-fighting exhibitions, gambling dens, saloons, brothels and dance halls. After a while, the miners and merchants longed for more polished amusements. Theatres, backstreet halls and jewel-box-sized playhouses were built and stayed busy; their thin walls resounded with operas, arias, verses from William Shakespeare and minstrel tunes.

The pioneers' passion for diversion lured brave actors, dancers, singers and daredevils west. Bored miners were willing to pay high



sums to these entertainers, especially to the females.

In the boomtowns during the mid-and-late 1800s, one of the most celebrated female entertainers was Adah Menken. Critics claimed she had one of the most beautiful figures in the world.

On August 24, 1863, the elite of San Francisco, California, flocked to Maguire's Opera House. Ladies in diamonds and furs rode up in handsome carriages; gentlemen in opera capes and silk hats strutted stylishly. This was an opening night the city had never before seen. All 1,000 seats in the theatre were filled.

SCANDALOUS ON STAGE

San Francisco was anxious to see Adah star in the role that was making her famous—

Prince Ivan in *Mazeppa*. Rumors had circled that she played the part in the nude. Eastern newspapers reported audiences had found the scantily clad thespian's act "shocking, scandalous, horrifying and even delightful."

The storyline of the play was taken from a Lord Byron poem, in which a Tartar prince is condemned to ride forever in the desert, stripped naked and lashed to a fiery, untamed steed. Adah insisted on playing the part as true to life as possible.

The audience waited with bated breath for the actress to walk out onto the stage. When she did, a hush fell over the crowd. The beauty with the curly, dark hair and big, dark eyes wore a flesh-colored body nylon and tight-fitting underwear.



Adah Menken wears her nude bodysuit for her scandalous role as Prince Ivan in H.M. Milner's *Mazeppa*, based on the Lord Byron poem. Cultural commentator Samuel Dickson wrote, "Wherever you went, to whomever you talked, the two favorite topics of conversation in San Francisco—topics of equal importance—were the progress of the Civil War and the success of Adah Isaacs Menken."

secure work. The truth about her roots was not uncovered until the early 1900s.

At 20, Adah began her quest for stardom in Liberty, Texas. She gave public readings of Shakespeare's works, wrote newspaper articles and poems, and taught dance classes. She searched for a rich husband to support her acting career by placing an advertisement in the *Liberty Gazette* newspaper

on November 23, 1855:

"I'm young and free, the pride of girls
With hazel eyes and 'nut brown curls' They
say I'm not void of beauty—I love my
friends and respect my duty—I've had full
many a BEAU IDEAL, Yet never—never—
found one real— There must be one I know
somewhere, In all this circumambient air;
And I should dearly love to see him! Now
what if you should chance to be him?"

Alexander Isaacs Menken, a well-to-do pit musician and conductor, was touring the Texas Panhandle when he came upon Adah's delightful poem. He wrote to her, and the two met, instantly firing one another with passion and ambition. They were married the following April, in Galveston.

During the play's climatic scene, supporting characters strapped the star to the back of a black stallion, which then raced up the narrow runway between cardboard mountain crags. The audience responded with thunderous applause. Adah had captured the heart of another city in the West.

A STAR IS BORN

Adah was born Adois Dolores McCord on June 15, 1835, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to her French Creole mother and her highly respected, free black father. Prejudice against Adah's ethnicity plagued her early career. Theatre owners familiar with her heritage refused to hire her. She created stories about her upbringing, apparently to

The Scandalous Boomtown Temptress

Soon after Adah and Alexander said, “I do,” Adah began acting in supporting roles at the Liberty Shakespeare Theatre. With her husband’s financial help, she moved on to lead roles at the Crescent Dramatic Association of New Orleans in Louisiana.

Alexander worshiped his bride, and Adah was quite taken with him, but their notions of married life were diametrically opposed. Alexander wanted a stay-at-home wife who would make his meals and raise his children. Adah was not at all interested in domesticity; she wrote in the *Liberty Gazette*: “women should believe there are other missions in the world for them besides that of wife and mother.”

Regardless of his opinions, Alexander came to rely on Adah’s income when he lost his fortune in ill-advised real estate investments. Adah tried to bolster his demoralized spirit by naming him her manager, but new marital troubles were on the horizon. Alexander became jealous of the adoring young men who gathered at the stage door, roses in their arms for Adah. He distanced himself from his popular, independent wife when she wore pants and smoked in public, which proper women of the time absolutely did not do. Once he could no longer tolerate her habits, the pair separated.

Adah got over the collapse of her marriage by going on another acting tour. She traveled across the Great Plains and the West, performing in the plays *Great Expectations* and *Mazepa*. Dressed in risqué costumes, the immodest Adah packed houses in boomtown theatres, prompting overeager critics to state, “Prudery is obsolete now.”

Adah was one of the first actresses to recognize the value of photography for both publicity and posterity. Playbills featuring her picture

preceded her arrival, appearing in every newspaper anywhere near where she was set to perform. Her portrayal of the Prince of Tartar in *Mazepa* and a lovesick sailor boy in *Black-Eyed Susan* brought rave reviews from theatre critics. The newspapers also printed the poems and articles she wrote when she wasn’t on stage.

Critics called her a second Lola Montez, comparing her to the bawdy Gold Rush performer known for being without inhibitions. One observed of Adah: “her style of acting is as free from the platitude of the stage as her poetry is from the language.”

As her fame increased, Adah gained and lost two more husbands, and gave birth to



Wearing flesh-covered tights and ostensibly divesting herself of her clothes to remove a spider, actress Lola Montez (below) wowed San Francisco crowds in 1853 with her “Spider Dance.” She died of pneumonia in 1861.

two children. She never stopped working, though, and became known as the “Frenzy of Frisco.” In California, San Francisco adopted her as its favorite daughter. The St. Francis Hook and Ladder Company made her an honorary member of its firefighting brigade, presenting her with a beautiful belt and serenading her to the tunes of a brass band.

Adah wasn’t satisfied with being only the “Frenzy of Frisco.” She wanted to be the frenzy of the entire West. In 1864, she took to the road again, traveling east to Virginia City, Nevada.

The *Gold Hill Daily News* touted the actress’s arrival on the front page: “She has come! The Menken was aboard one of the Pioneer coaches which reached Gold Hill this morning, at half-past eleven o’clock. She is decidedly a pretty little woman, and judging her style we supposed she does not care how she rides—she was on the front seats with her back turned to the horses. She will doubtless draw large houses in Virginia City, with her *Mazepa* and *French Spy* in which she excels any living actress.”

Adah opened her Virginia City show on March 2, 1864. Tickets ranged in price from \$1.00 for a single seat to \$10.00 for a private box. The theatre was packed on opening night. Some attendees were forced to stand in the aisles, and hundreds were turned away.

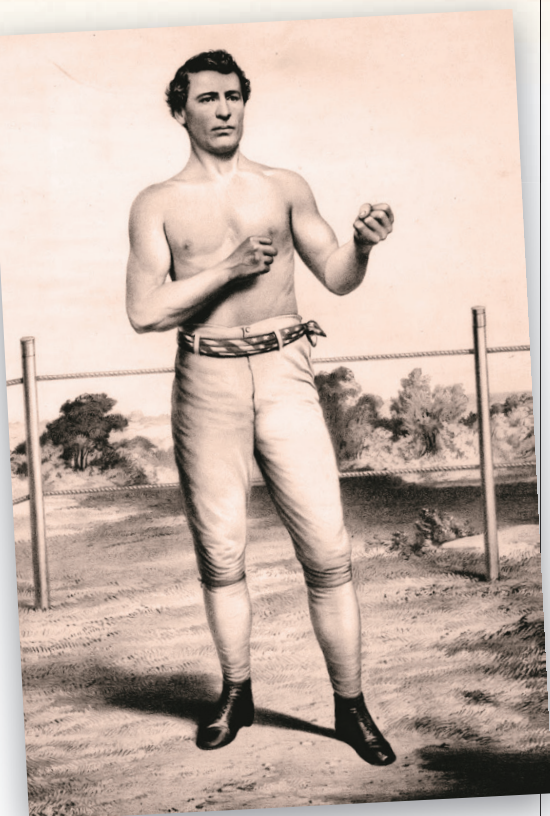
Adah earned an estimated \$150,000 from her 29 Nevada shows. When she left Virginia City, lovesick miners gave her a silver brick valued at \$403.31 and stamped: “Miss Adah Isaacs Menken from friends of Virginia City, Nevada Territory—March 30th, 1864.” They also named a local mine after her and formed the Menken Shaft and Tunnel Company. The company’s stock certificates bore a picture of a naked lady bound to a galloping stallion.



Adah Menken's second husband was prizefighter John "Benicia Boy" Heenan (below), who fought in a bout generally seen as boxing's first world championship, against British champ Tom Sayers. That fight ended in a draw. Heenan died at 39, in 1873, at Green River Station in Wyoming Territory.



As the "Frenzy of Frisco," Adah Menken (above) played a winning hand in San Francisco, California. Members of an organization called the Reform Group complained that her style "belonged more to the wild old time of the Forty-Niners, than to respectable society where many days often pass without any murders at all."



The actress then traveled to Europe, still starring in *Mazeppa*, and toured Paris and Vienna. Although her talent was appreciated abroad, she never felt more loved by an audience as she had when she performed in California and Nevada.

ADAH'S LAST NUDE SCENE

In June 1868, while acting out her famous "nude" scene, the horse Adah was bound to ran too near a stage flat and the flesh of Adah's leg was torn.

A doctor found a cancerous growth had formed as a result of the accident. Six weeks later, Adah collapsed from tuberculosis. She died on August 10, 1868, and was buried in Paris, France. The actress was only 33 years old.

Adah's talent and daring had made her world famous and the toast of princes and poets of two continents. Among some of her most loyal fans were novelist Charles Dickens, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and journalist Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain.

The journalist's description of her performance, published in the *Territorial Enterprise* in Virginia City, Nevada, is

considered the best surviving account of Adah in action: "She is a finely formed woman down to her knees," Twain wrote in September 1863. "...Here every tongue sings the praises of her matchless grace, her supple gestures, her charming attitudes. Well, possibly, these tongues are right.... she works her arms, and her legs, and her whole body like a dancing-jack; her every movement is as quick as thought.... If this be grace then the Menken is eminently graceful." ❏

Chris Enss is a *New York Times* best-selling author who has written more than 20 books on the subject of women in the Old West. Adah Menken is one of the more than dozen actresses featured in *Entertaining Women*, her book due out this October.



By Cameron Douglas

GOODNIGHT, OLD SHAKESPEARE

"I have met a lot of good men, several fine gentlemen, hordes of cunning climbers, plenty of loud-braying asses and plenty of dumb oxen, but I haven't lived long enough or traveled far enough to meet more than two or three men I'd call great. That is a word I will not bandy around. To me Charles Goodnight was great-natured." — J. Frank Dobie

Whether you know of Charles Goodnight through Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* novels or the annual Goodnight Chuckwagon Cook-off (Goodnight invented the first chuckwagon), he left an indelible mark on the history of the West. Goodnight lived 93 years, was a renowned cowman and, along with Oliver Loving, established the Goodnight-Loving Trail in 1866, which eventually spanned from Texas to Wyoming. He pioneered the "beefalo," and he is thought to have preserved a herd of Plains buffalo that still exists today in Caprock Canyons State Park.

Goodnight's astounding life inspired Tom Russell to include the famous rancher in "The Last Running," one of the 52 songs on his two-disc album, *The Rose of Roscræ*.

The excellent writing of John Graves's short story "The Last Running" served as a starting point:

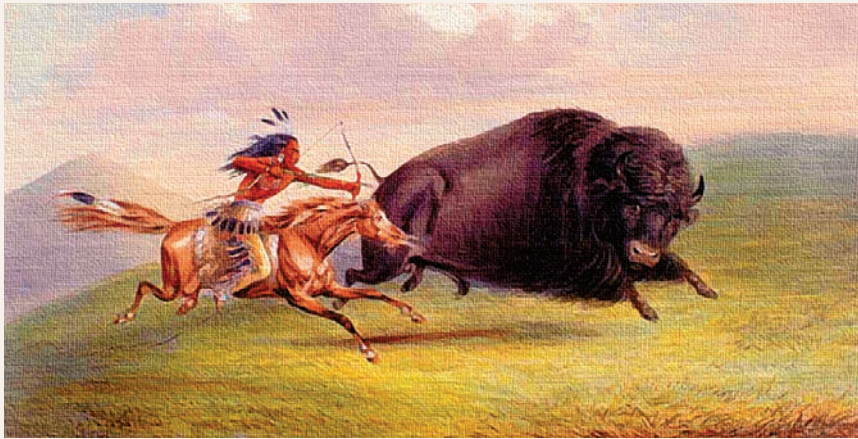
"A friend of mine, writer and falconer Steve Bodio, told me to read one of Graves's only pieces of short fiction 'The Last Running.' I was bowled over," Russell says. "Supposedly it's based on a real incident where some old reservation Comanches ask Goodnight for a buffalo to kill in the old ritual way."

Russell's reverence for Goodnight, the writing of Graves and the Old West is clear from the first note to the last. At times tragic and awe-inspiring, the song gives a glimpse of Goodnight's vanishing West and how, despite the changing frontier, great-natured Charles Goodnight might have been.

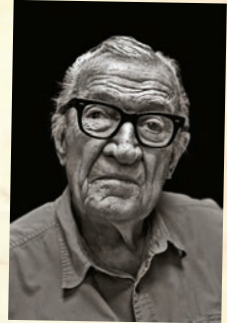
The Last Running

"The Last Running" is the tale of an aging rancher's tears and the passage of time; a brief, bloody glimpse of an old life that will never come again. Tom Russell's voice, speaking as Charlie Goodnight, manages to both comfort and haunt in its familiarity ("Damn it, Kid, once was a world you won't ever be knowin'/ The Comanche raids, the Staked Plains, the Bosque Redondo, the great trail from Texas to Wyoming"). It's a voice that speaks to us from the Old West of our imagination.

Russell's version of Goodnight is complex, showing a man who is tough as old leather ("Hang and rattle, boy, hold fast, and remember this well, the last of the buffalo runnin'"), but willing to sacrifice his favorite buffalo, Old Shakespeare, just to give the Comanches their final hunt ("The warriors waited on their broke-down old ponies/ As Charlie Goodnight waited with his broke-up old heart"). Filled with imagery and nostalgia for a ranch that never was, the song is worth a listen for all these reasons and one more: it made Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell cry.



Old Shakespeare fought like the king of the bison—one you could kill, but never defeat.



John Graves

John Graves's short story "The Last Running" takes place on Tom Bird's ranch, where Starlight and his eight reservation Comanches arrive one day to demand a buffalo as their rite of passage. Through shared stories of the past, Starlight and Bird come to an understanding and a buffalo hunt ensues.

Known as an author who wrote about nature without being a nature writer, Graves had an air of authenticity. In addition to his excellent books, his contributions to magazines and anthologies span more than five decades. He earned a Guggenheim fellowship in 1963 and a Rockefeller fellowship in 1972, and his short stories have been part of the O. Henry award series. After his death on July 31, 2013, his works were gathered for the Wittliff Collections and are now housed within the Alkek Library at Texas State University in San Marcos.

Tom Russell

Tom Russell's songs have been recorded by artists such as Johnny Cash, Joe Ely and Ramblin' Jack Elliott. Russell has played on the *Late Show with David Letterman* five times, and his music has appeared in Monte Hellman's 2010 movie *The Road to Nowhere*, the 1990s CBS series *Northern Exposure* and the 1990 monster film *Tremors*. In a career that has spanned more than 30 years, he has worn many hats: author, criminologist, painter and teacher. As a musician, he possesses a gift for storytelling and a deep respect for the myths of America that speak to the listener on an emotional level.

His latest work, *The Rose of Roscrae: A Ballad of the West*, is an ambitious two-disc, 52-song concept album that follows 16-year-old Johnny Dutton on his journey through the West. Fueled by dime-store novels and a need to prove his manhood, the teenager journeys from Ireland to America, where he works as a ranch hand and rides the Outlaw Trail, earning his gunslinging, gambling name, Johnny Behind The Deuce. Overall, the entertaining and impressive narrative runs a total of two-and-a-half hours. Despite its length, the album captivates and impresses from start to finish. *The Rose of Roscrae* is available now at all major music retailers.

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC
GUNFIGHTS

TUNSTALL
AMBUSHED

REGULATORS
VS
DOLAN'S
HENCHMEN

TUNSTALL RIDES
INTO ETERNITY



Dude, or not, John Henry Tunstall covers a vast swath of territory.

— ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Map by Gus Walker

Late afternoon light tips the tops of the foothills leading down into New Mexico Territory's Ruidoso Valley. The Tunstall party crests a divide and starts down a narrow gorge leading down to the Ruidoso River—unaware that they are being pursued.

The men have been in the saddle for nine hours and are 10 miles from Dick Brewer's farm. Billy the Kid and John Middleton ride drag. Ahead of them are the horses and the main group—John Henry Tunstall, Rob Widenmann and Brewer.

When the Kid turns in the saddle, he sees a group of horsemen galloping up the trail behind them. He and Middleton spur their horses, scattering the remuda, as the pair ride rapidly to warn their comrades.

The attackers open fire. Bullets zing between Widenmann and Brewer, sending Brewer's horse bucking. Caught in the open on a treeless slope, Brewer, Widenmann and the Kid head for a hilltop strewn with boulders.

Middleton, aboard his bay, reaches Tunstall just as the firing starts. I "sung out to Tunstall to follow me," Middleton later says. "He was on a good horse; he appeared to be very much excited and confused. I kept singing out to him, 'For God's sake, follow me.' His last words were, 'What, John? What, John?'"

When the horseback shooters spot Tunstall, they give up their attack on the rest of the party and turn toward the Englishman.

Middleton, who has peeled off from Tunstall, quickly makes his way up the ravine to a defensive position taken by the Kid, Brewer and Widenmann. As he dismounts, they all hear a burst of gunfire echo through the canyon. Middleton says out loud what all four are thinking, "They've killed Tunstall."

Ragged elements of the posse turn back up the ravine, circle Tunstall's men at a safe distance and then disengage. Tunstall's men never fire a shot. After dark, they slip into Lincoln.

That evening, John Riley shows up at Alexander McSween's house in a "drunken condition."

Riley, anxious to show he has no weapons, turns out his pockets for McSween and out falls a memorandum book. After asking each man in the house if any want to kill him, Riley leaves, McSween later testifies.

McSween examines the book and finds a letter from District Attorney William Rynerson, plus various incriminating evidence regarding cattle sales involving the House, the local name for Lawrence Murphy's general store. The book also contains code names for various Lincoln players: Thomas B. Catron is "Grapes;" Indians are "Trees;" Rynerson is "Oyster;" Dowlin is "Pimp;" and McSween is "Diablo" or devil. (Several scholars today dispute the authenticity of McSween's find.)

Around midnight, a mass meeting is held at the McSween house.

The next day, at two a.m. Buck Morton and his posse return to Tunstall's ranch along Los Feliz River with the Englishman's horses and report to Jimmy Dolan and Bill Mathews. One of the nine horses had died on the return trip.

Jesse Evans asks for two of the horses, which he claims the men had gotten from the Kid, but Mathews refuses to turn them over.

During his visit, Morton tells Mathews his version of the events: Tunstall had "resisted and fired at him and that he returned the fire and Tunstall was killed."

When Taylor F. Ealy arrives in Lincoln with his wife and children, and schoolteacher Susan Gates, he records in his diary: "Reached Lincoln at 11:00 a.m., 9 miles from Ft. Stanton. Found Tunstall had just been murdered. McSween and Shield's house full of armed men. Guard on housetop."

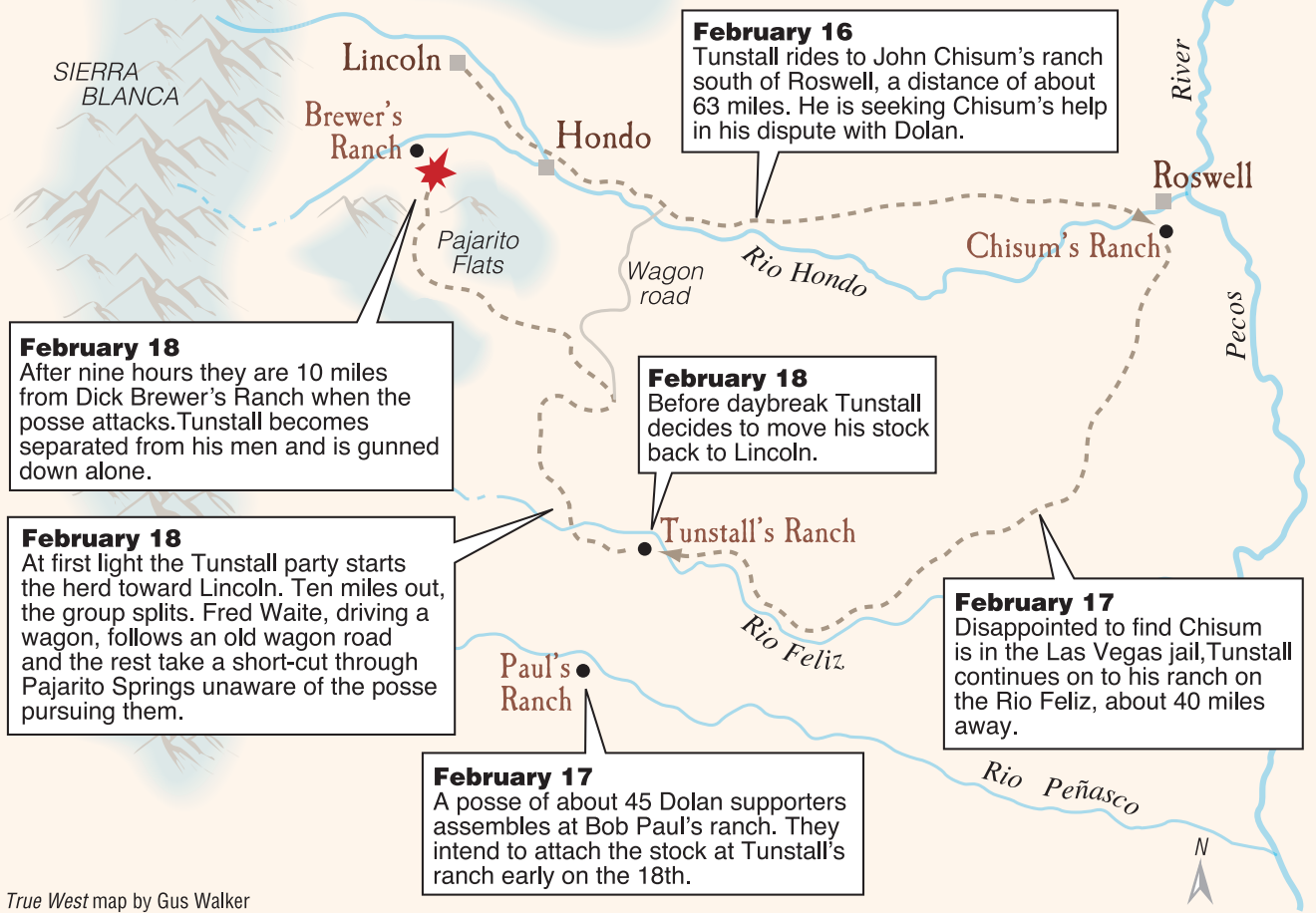
The Kid and Brewer swear affidavits before Justice of the Peace John Wilson, naming Dolan, Evans and 16 others responsible for Tunstall's murder. A coroner's inquest is held at the McSween house.

When the Kid and Fred Waite try to help serve warrants for Tunstall's murder, they are thrown in jail. ★

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY February, 1878

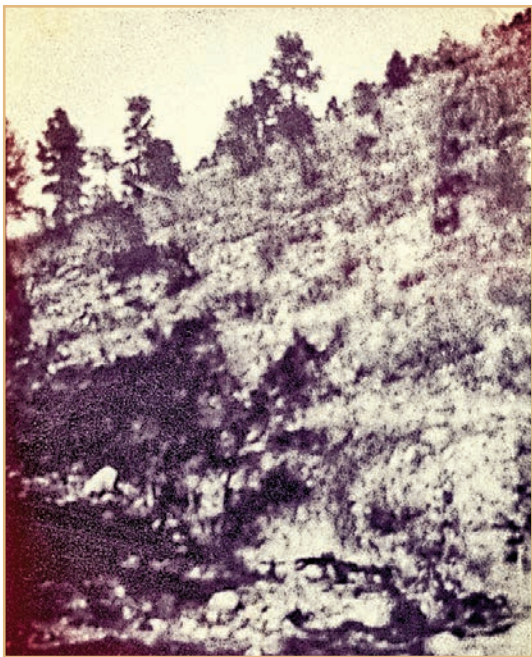
The Lincoln County feud between
John Tunstall and Jimmy Dolan turns deadly.

Santa Fe 
NEW MEXICO
Map
area 



Tunstall's Amazing Ride

The quintessential "dude" on the frontier was 24-year-old Englishman John Henry Tunstall. In spite of his lack of experience out West, the historical record shows he covered some major territory in a short time (see above map). Trying to get a handle on the distance he traveled in February 1878, I polled my cowboy cousins in Kingman, Arizona, about the longest distance they have ridden on horseback in one day. "About 55 miles," Craig Hamilton told me. When I asked him what that felt like, he bluntly replied, "Well, my ass felt like hamburger." Tunstall rode more than 60 miles on the first leg of his journey, then another 30 to 40 miles on the second. While riding in the dark, after a couple hours of sleep, he and his cowboys traveled another 30-some miles before Tunstall was shot out of the saddle. Even conservative estimates of the distance put the mileage at more than 120 miles, which is flat-out amazing. And he was a dude!



“[Tunstall] had a beautiful bay thoroughbred horse ...and the finest California saddle and blankets. Those days we always carried a heavy wool California blanket, rolled and tied, behind our saddles. Tunstall...had two of these blankets, and when he rolled them nice and tied them on that pretty saddle and mounted his bay horse, he was certainly a picture to look at. Any one of us would have given our last belt of cartridges to have owned that horse.”

—Frank Coe

Rocky Refuge

As the posse attacks, Billy the Kid, Dick Brewer and the rest of Tunstall's men seek refuge on this rocky ridge, photographed in the 1920s.

— COURTESY CARRELL COLLECTION, LINCOLN COUNTY HERITAGE TRUST —

Tunstall Meets His Assassins Alone

All of Tunstall's hired guns, including the Kid, leave him to face his fate alone. The closest we will probably get to knowing how Tunstall was killed is this secondhand account by posse member George Kitts: “That Tunstall was some distance off and was coming towards them.... That [Tom] Hill called to him to come up and that he would not be hurt, at the same time both Hill and Morton threw up their guns resting the stocks on their knees....

That Morton wished to shoot him and Hill said hold on till he comes nearer. That after Tunstall came a little nearer Morton shot him in the breast and then Hill shot him in the head.... That two barrels of Tunstall's revolver were emptied after he was killed. That Tunstall fired no shots and that Tunstall was killed in cold blood.”



Tunstall Pieces

Rob Widenmann claimed, under oath, that John Tunstall was unarmed on February 18, 1878. However, Alex McSween claimed that Tunstall was carrying two pistols: a "Webley British Bulldog five-shooter" and the 7 1/2-inch-barreled Colt .45 Frontier Model, serial number 28190 (below). Tunstall probably bought the latter firearm at Folsom's in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1877. Tunstall's pocket watch is also pictured.

- COURTESY TUNSTALL FAMILY AND FREDERICK NOLAN -



Aftermath: Odds & Ends

On February 20, 1878, assistant post surgeon Lt. Daniel M. Appel of Fort Stanton conducted the postmortem and embalmed the body of John Henry Tunstall. "In my opinion the skull both on account of its being very thin and from evidence of venereal disease, was very likely to be extensively fractured from such wound," Appel reported.

Alexander McSween had Lincoln County Sheriff William Brady arrested for unlawful appropriation of feed from Tunstall's store on February 21. Brady was bound over to the April court term.

Tunstall's funeral was held at three p.m. on February 22. The Reverend Taylor Ealy conducted the service, translated into Spanish by John B. Wilson. The subject of Ealy's first sermon was, "If a man die shall he live again."

Leaning on his deputy U.S. marshal status, Rob Widenmann and a detachment of soldiers searched Jimmy Dolan's store on February 23. They were looking for Jesse Evans, Frank Baker and others. Finding no one, Widenmann and the soldiers repossessed Tunstall's store, threw Brady's guards in jail and released Billy the Kid and Dick Brewer. In spite of the tense activity, Ealy wrote in his diary: "Lincoln. All seems quiet. Three soldiers in the house at all times."

Ealy organized the first "Sabbath School" in McSween's parlor on February 24. Twenty attended. Several friends recommended that McSween leave town for his safety.

The Lincoln County War began.

Recommended: *The Illustrated Life and Times of Billy the Kid* by Bob Boze Bell, published by Tri Star-Boze

TOM AUGHERTON

Southwest Crusader

CHARLES F. LUMMIS



CHARLES F. Lummis was two years old when he experienced his first loss—the death of his mother from consumption on April 24, 1861, at their seaside home in Lynn, Massachusetts. She left behind her son and his two-month-old sister Louise Elma; their Methodist minister father; and a lifelong memory of his mother's final whisper, "God, keep my little boy."

Fearful as a motherless son, Lummis was home-schooled by his father, who sheltered him through much of his youth. Nonetheless, Lummis's strong academics landed him in Harvard's 1877 freshman class where he met fellow student Theodore Roosevelt. It was a friendship for life when Lummis bucked freshman tradition by refusing to cut his hair short, offering to meet

Charles F. Lummis's dedication to Indian rights were deeply inspired by the Pueblo people of San Mateo and Isleta, New Mexico, (right) where he found refuge when recovering from a stroke.

— PHOTOS COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

sophomores over fisticuffs. "Bully! It's your hair," admired Roosevelt, "keep it if you want to."

He never graduated from Harvard due to growing freelance opportunities, a quick marriage to Mary Dorothea Rhodes in 1880, and in 1884, while working for a Cincinnati newspaper, he accepted an offer of a position at the *Los Angeles Times*. Accepting the job, Lummis made the journey on foot across the country, traveling 2,200 miles

in 143 days during autumn and winter. His weekly dispatches chronicling the adventure would become his 1892 book, *A Tramp Across the Continent*, the second of his 16 books and it would inspire countless newspaper and magazine articles in the years to come.

Working long hours as the *Times*' city editor, Lummis suffered a mild stroke, leaving his left side paralyzed, and in 1888 he moved to San Mateo, New Mexico, for recuperation. There he focused his freelance writing on American Southwest and Indian cultures and slowly recovered from his paralysis.

Lummis became a trusted friend of local Indian communities but his muckraking about corrupt political bosses and murder

in San Mateo, led to his life being threatened, almost taken when a killer sent to his refuge in Isleta, shot him with a shotgun.

He survived and devoted his talents and life's passion to the Indian cause. He returned to Los Angeles in 1894 after a year abroad in Peru. He became the editor of the magazine *Land of Sunshine*, which he renamed *Out*

West. In 1901, he founded the Sequoia League, an Indian rights organization. Calling them the First Americans, he rallied against the forced education of native children away from the reservations, and the corruption preying on the reservation system. He later found support for his

Indian cause from his Harvard classmate President Theodore Roosevelt.

Lummis died on November 24, 1928, in Los Angeles at his beloved stone home "El Alisal." His last decades were dedicated to the historic preservation of the California missions, his Sequoia League's pursuit of Indian rights and a greater awareness of American history before nationhood. ✦

Tom Angherton, an Arizona-based freelance writer, suggests a tour of the museum at El Alisal, Charles Lummis's home, is the place to start when in search of the author-activist's legacy.

Lummis devoted his talents and life's passion to the Indian cause.



516. YOUNG INDIAN GIRL,
PUEBLO OF ISLETA, N.M.,
COPYRIGHT 1889.

Chas. F. Lummis, P. O. BOX 1267,
Los Angeles, Cal.

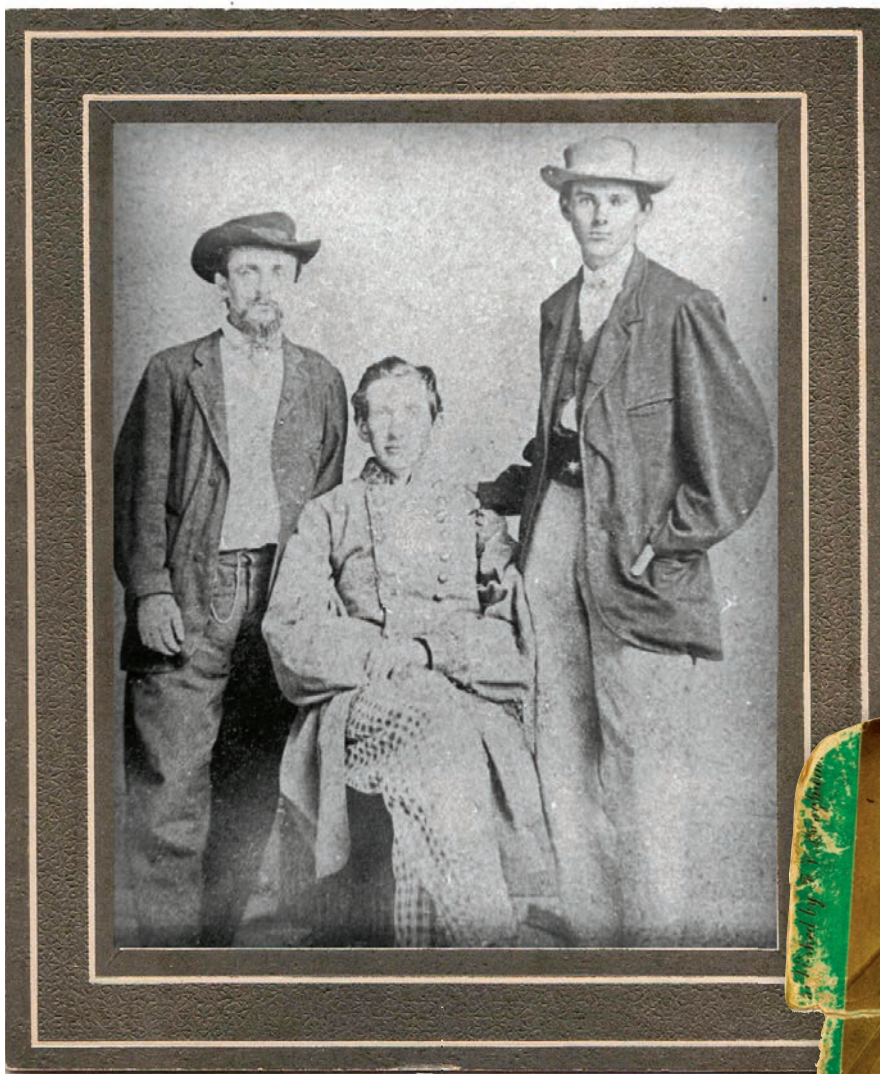


515. WAR CAPTAIN, PEOPLE OF MOUNTAIN,
COPYRIGHT 1890.

BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

THE GREAT ESCAPE

The trail of Frank and Jesse James after Northfield went stone cold as the brothers slipped back into the heart of Dixie.



Fletch Taylor (left) was not with Frank (seated) and Jesse James on the James-Younger Gang's raid into Northfield, Minnesota. The failed bank robbery led to the gang's demise with Frank and Jesse barely escaping a massive manhunt from Minnesota to Tennessee.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

to life in prison. Only Cole would make it home to Missouri. Jim killed himself in 1902.

Condos aside, Stillwater, located on the Saint Croix River just across from Wisconsin, hasn't forgotten its history, or the James-Younger Gang. The Warden's House Museum, open May through October, displays regional and prison artifacts, including some made and used by the Youngers.



The Northfield Historical Society faithfully re-creates the interior of the First National Bank as it appeared in September 1876 (above).

— COURTESY NORTHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY —

No, Bob, Cole and Jim Younger did not own a condo here at Terra Springs.

Oh, the boys lived here, all right—till Bob's death in 1889 and Cole and Jim's parole in 1901—but that was long before the Minnesota State Prison in Stillwater was replaced by

a new one in Bayport in 1914. The prison that housed the Youngers was torched by arsonists in 2002, and has been converted into condominiums.

Crime does not pay, children. In 1876, shot to pieces and captured roughly two weeks after botching a bank robbery in Northfield, the Youngers were sentenced

But how could Jesse and Frank James manage to escape one of the largest manhunts in U.S. history?

Bad Career Move

After carousing in St. Paul and Minneapolis (check out the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul) and exploring the state for a fat bank to rob, the boys chose Northfield.

Around 2 p.m. on Thursday, September 7, 1876, Frank James, Bob Younger and Charlie Pitts walked into the First National Bank on Division Street. Clell Miller and Cole Younger rode up and

dismounted, with Younger pretending to adjust the saddle cinch while Miller closed the door the robbers inside had forgotten to shut.

When the plan went to hell, Jesse James, Jim Younger and Bill Chadwell galloped in from Mill Square, guns blazing.

Roughly seven minutes later, the surviving robbers—most if not all of them wounded—galloped out of town on five horses. They left Miller and Chadwell dead



The legend of Jesse James as the Robin Hood of Missouri has lived on in popular culture for well over a century.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

on the streets, one bank employee murdered, another employee wounded and one transplanted Swede mortally wounded. They had managed to ride off with \$26.60.

But how could Jesse and Frank James manage to escape one of the largest manhunts in U.S. history?

Northfield

Keep in mind, of course, that Jesse James is like George Washington. Apparently, he slept everywhere. The trail you follow is up to interpretation.

Two books are worth taking along for the ride: *John J. Koblas's Jesse James At Here* (North Star Press of St. Cloud, 2001) and *Caught in the Storm: A Field Guide to the James & Younger Gang Escape Trail* (Northfield Historical Society Press, 2008), a Student Community Outreach Program Experience project. Pick up copies, if available, at the Northfield Historical Society.

That's located at the First National Bank of Northfield, which the society bought in 1975 and restored to its 1876 appearance. Executive director Hayes Scriven keeps history at the forefront. No legends, just facts.

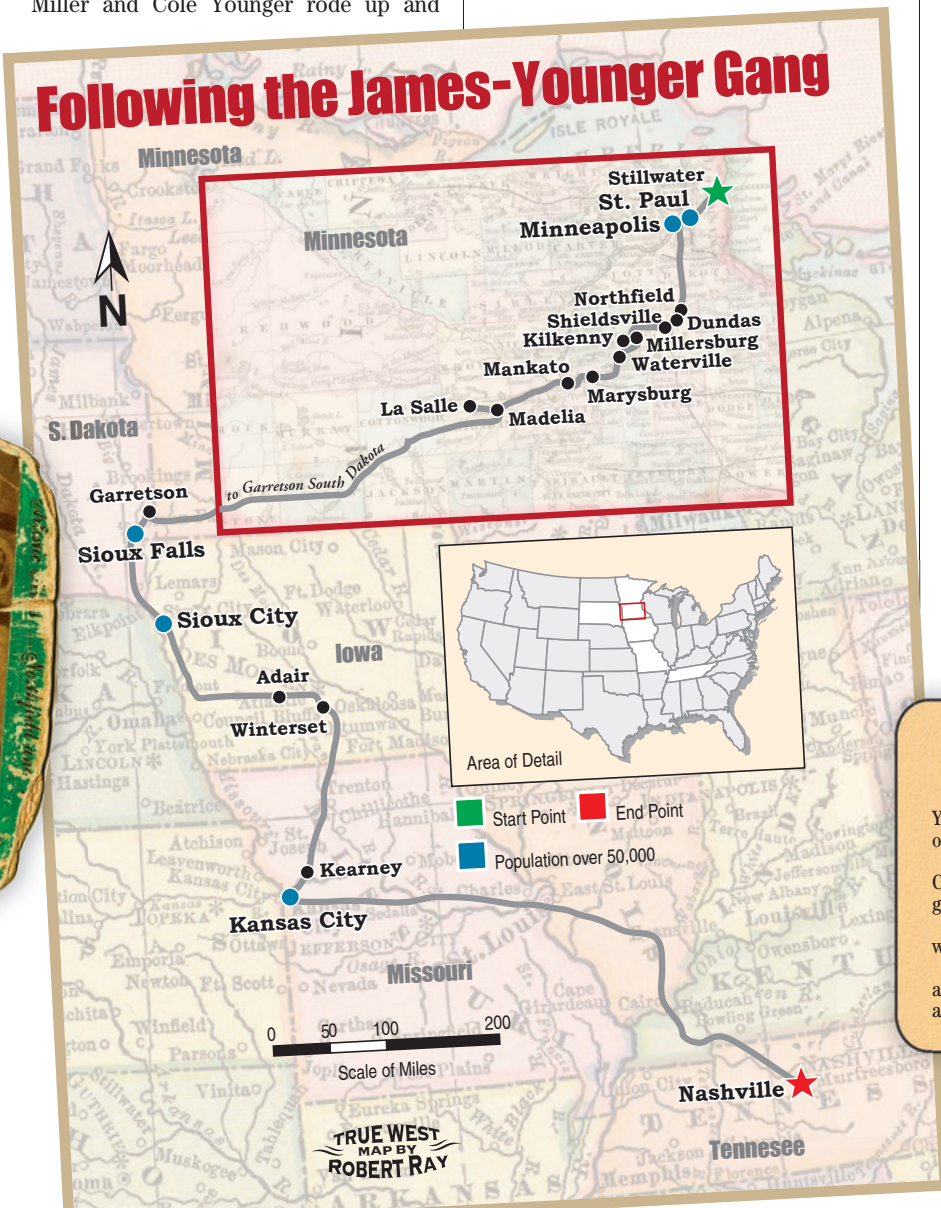
Historical Marker

It wasn't just banks, of course, that the James-Younger Gang robbed. Near the railroad outside of Adair, Iowa, stands a marker that reads:

"Site of the first train robbery in the West. Committed by the notorious Jesse James and his gang of outlaws July 21, 1873."

The outlaws derailed the train and rode away with roughly \$3,000.

The marker, at 1156 Anita-Adair Road, is on a large iron wheel (not from the wrecked train), and was erected in 1954.





Defeat of Jesse James Days re-enactment of the Northfield raid was first held in 1948. Today it's Minnesota's largest all-volunteer celebration, bringing in roughly 125,000 visitors each year.

- COURTESY NORTHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY-

The Way West

Roughly three miles south of Northfield, the outlaws bathed their wounds in the Cannon River and crossed the

Dundas Village Bridge on what is now County Road 1, slowing their horses as they rode through the village known for its flour mill (the ruins, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, can be seen on Railway Street).

After stealing a horse outside of Dundas, they followed the Dodd Road into Millersburg.

Nicolaus Gustavson, the Swede who had been killed (likely by Cole Younger) in Northfield, was a member of the congregation of the Christdala Swedish

Lutheran Church in Millersburg, although the pretty church standing here was not built until 1878.

Cole, Bob and Chadwell might have stayed at the Millersburg Inn/Cushman House before the robbery. I don't know, but I do know that DeMann once bought me a burger and a couple of beers at Boonies Grill, and the Frank James Burger was mighty tasty. You can get a Jesse James Burger, but it comes with sour cream and I like sour cream about as much as Frank James liked bank cashiers.

In Shieldsville, a posse actually beat the boys to town. But they were thirsty, so the manhunters stepped inside a joint for beer, leaving their guns—unloaded—in a wagon. The boys arrived five minutes later, watered their horses, and when the

The best time to visit is during Defeat of Jesse James Days (September 9-13 this year), when local historian Chip DeMann leads new versions of the James-Younger Gang in historically accurate re-enactments of the raid. DeMann has been doing this for 40-odd years, longer than Jesse James lived.

Visit the grave of Joseph Heywood, the acting cashier who was killed (probably by Frank James) after refusing to open the safe, in the Northfield Cemetery before following the wounded boys out of town.

THIS IS NORTHFIELD
 Home of the Northfield Historical Society Museum and Restored Bank Site


The beginning of the end for the James-Younger Gang


Outlaw Run - Saturday, August 15
 (Fundraiser for Northfield Historical Society)


Defeat of Jesse James Days
 September 9-13
 Bank Raid Re-Enactments Each Day!

Online calendar of more fun events
 at www.VisitingNorthfield.com

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www.2015fts.org

The Warden's House Museum on the banks of the St. Croix River in Stillwater, Minnesota, has an exhibition of personal items made and used by the Younger Brothers when they were in prison for the Northfield Raid.

- COURTESY WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY -

posse came outside, they stared down the bores of the boys' weapons, which were loaded. The outlaws rode away.

Manhunt All Wet

The subtitle to Mark Lee Gardner's *Shot All to Hell*, an excellent account of the Northfield raid, is "Jesse James, the Northfield Raid, and the Wild West's Greatest Escape." Mark's a nice guy. He could have easily called it "the Wild West's Most Incompetent Manhunt."

Wounds tormented the boys. Blood loss weakened them. To make matters worse,



it rained for 14 consecutive days. Yet, despite various posses totaling 1,000 men, the outlaws eluded capture until Hanska Slough on September 21. And Frank and Jesse made it home to rob and murder for six more years.

You'll follow county roads through the Big Woods and farm country—Kilkenny, an Irish town on the Dodd Road; Waterville; Klondike Hill near Elysian;

Marysburg, where the fleeing outlaws heard a Catholic church's bells ringing, and left their horses to travel afoot; and finally Mankato.

Stop in Mankato at the Blue Earth County Historical Society, a research center and museum. Legend has it that the boys considered robbing the First National Bank of Mankato on September 3, but decided against that

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- Aug 30.....Boise, ID *
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- Sep 11-12.....Ewing, IL
- Sep 11-12.....Florence, SC
- Sep 11-12.....Riverton, WY *
- Sep 12.....Rexburg, ID *
- Sep 17.....Carson City, NV*
- Sep 19-20.....Salinas, CA
- Sep 25-26.....Laredo, TX

* Trained Animals Available

For schedules and directions to these events, and to learn about other adoption and sale opportunities throughout the year, go to blm.gov.



U.S. Department of the Interior
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Wild Horse and Burro Program
866-468-7826



Mary Miller Jordan and her adopted horse, Silver Lining. (photo: Sarah Woody)



On the centennial of the capture of the Younger brothers, the Watowan County Historical Society erected this historical marker at Hanska Slough.

— JOHNNY D. BOGGS —

jump in my novel *Northfield*.

Could Jesse have made it? No! But I'm dang sure putting that scene in a Western novel. Besides, the park is pretty.

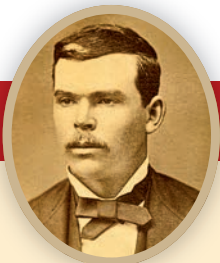
The trail's cold after this, so head to Sioux City, Iowa.

On September 25, Dr. Sidney P. Mosher was riding to see a patient when Frank and Jesse stopped him. Eventually, they took his clothes—in exchange for Frank's—and sent him on his way.

From there? Maybe Nebraska. Maybe down the river.

Jesse Country

But I'm bound for the boys' stamping grounds in Missouri. Check out the house

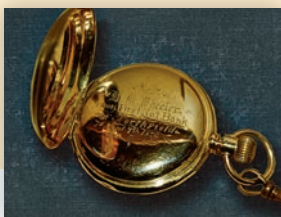


Henry Wheeler

University of Michigan medical student Henry Wheeler was home on leave when the James-Younger Gang raided Northfield.

He grabbed a Smith carbine in the Dampier House hotel, went to the third floor and opened up. His shots killed Clell Miller and wounded Bob Younger.

Wheeler kept the rifle (and got a watch from the First National Bank). The gun and the watch—plus a pistol he bought for protection, along with a recently discovered portrait of the hero from his student days at Northfield's Carlisle College—are on display at the Northfield Historical Society.



— PHOTOS COURTESY NORTHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY —

plan and headed to Northfield. The Prairie School brick building standing at 229 S. Front Street, however, wasn't built until 1913.

The boys split up near what is now Minneopa Falls State Park near Mankato. Historians still argue over the reasons, or how civil the parting was.

Nabbing the Youngers

After the Jameses rode off, the Youngers' flight ended at Hanska Slough near La Salle. Overtaken by a posse from Madelia, the Youngers and Pitts decided against surrender. Seven volunteers walked into the thicket to shoot it out. When the smoke cleared, the Youngers were badly wounded and Pitts was dead.

Madelia holds its Younger Brothers Capture annual re-enactment (September 19 this year) at the actual site. A mural and plaque at the Chamber & Visitors Bureau, in a building that dates to 1872, tells the story of the capture.

So much for the Youngers and Pitts. But what about Jesse and Frank?

Leap of Legend

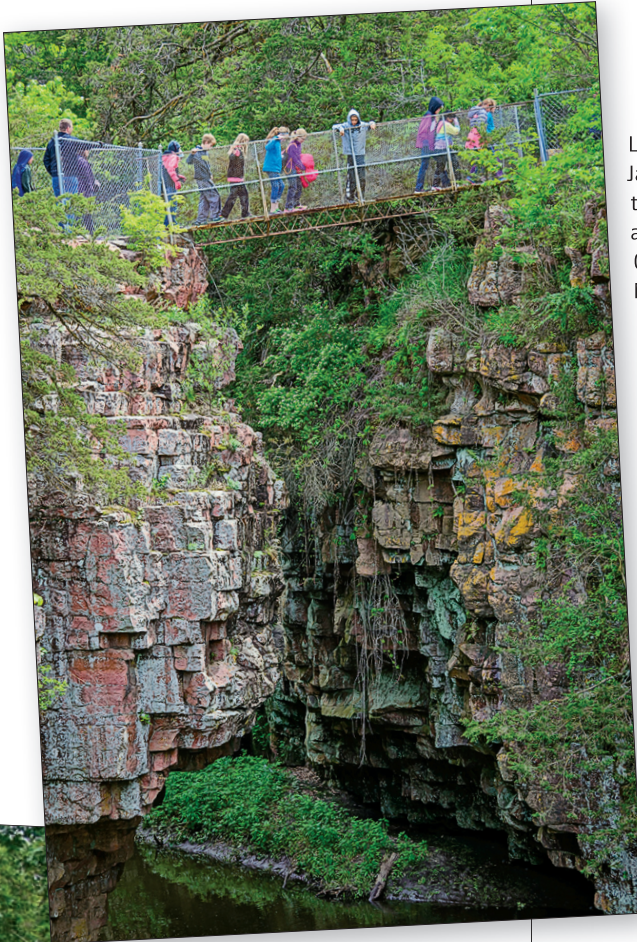
Next stop, Garretson, South Dakota, and Devil's Gulch, where, legend has it, Jesse evaded capture by leaping his horse across the 20-foot gorge.

Scriven always gives me grief that I have Jesse James making this Evel Knievel



Part of the siding has been removed from the original farmhouse where Frank and Jesse grew up near Kearney, Missouri. The cabin's addition, on the right, was added in 1893.

— JOHNNY D. BOGGS —



Legend has it that Jesse James jumped his horse over the 18-foot-wide gorge across Split Rock Creek near Garretson, South Dakota. Maybe he just liked the view of the quartzite cliffs better on the other side.

— COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM —

Legend of Jesse James. Besides, Cash loved this magazine.

Come to think on it, Gardner's subtitle was dead-on. This was the Wild West's greatest escape. As the Sedalia (Missouri) *Bazoo* proclaimed: "They ran the gauntlet of Minnesota and Dakota for a distance of 490 miles, and the wildest exploits in the romance of Dick Turpin will not compare with this bold ride for life."

Johnny D. Boggs, who can't get the James-Younger Gang out of his system, is at work on a novel about Cole Younger, *Hard Way Out of Hell*, due out next year.

where Jesse was killed in 1882 in St. Joseph. See the James brothers' farm and Jesse's grave in Kearney. Visit the bank the boys likely robbed in Liberty. There are plenty of non-Jesse sites worth seeing in Kansas City (Arabia Steamboat, Negro Leagues Baseball and American Jazz museums), not to mention great barbecue.

After Northfield, Frank and Jesse settled around Nashville, where the heat wasn't so hot, so the end of the trail takes me to Music City.

T for Tennessee

The Nashville home Jesse rented (under the alias J.D. Howard), at 711 Fatherland Street, until 1881, is standing. It's privately owned.

Two other must-sees are the Tennessee State Museum and the fabulous Johnny Cash and Event Space. Why the Man in Black? Hey, Cash played Frank James in a TV movie, *The Last Days of Frank and Jesse James*, and on the 1980 album, *The*



Johnny Cash, the original American rockabilly outlaw and focus of a new museum in downtown Nashville, didn't just write and sing "Ragged Old Flag," but he played Frank James on TV and on vinyl.

— JOHNNY D. BOGGS —



PLACES TO VISIT, CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

Defeat of Jesse James Days, Northfield, MN, September 9-13; **Younger Brothers Capture**, Madelia, MN, September 19; **Old Courthouse Museum**, Sioux Falls, SD; **Siouxland Historical Railroad Association**, Sioux City, IA; **John Wayne Birthplace Museum**, Winterset, IA; **Jesse James Home Museum**, St. Joseph, MO; **Jesse James Bank Museum**, Liberty, MO; **Jesse James Farm & Museum**, Kearney, MO; **Johnny Cash Museum and Event Space**, Nashville, TN.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Good Grub: *The HideAway Coffeehouse and Wine Bar*, Northfield, MN; *Boonies Grill* Millersburg, MN; *Wagon Wheel Café*, Mankato, MN; *Minervas Restaurant*, Sioux Falls, SD; *Oklahoma Joe's*, Kansas City, MO; *Loveless Café*, Nashville, TN.

Good Lodging: *Hotel 340*, St. Paul, MN; *Archer House River Inn*, Northfield, MN; *Hilton Garden Inn*, Mankato, MN; *Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center*, Sioux City, IA; *Raphael Hotel*, Kansas City, MO; *The Hermitage Hotel*, Nashville, TN.

GOOD BOOKS

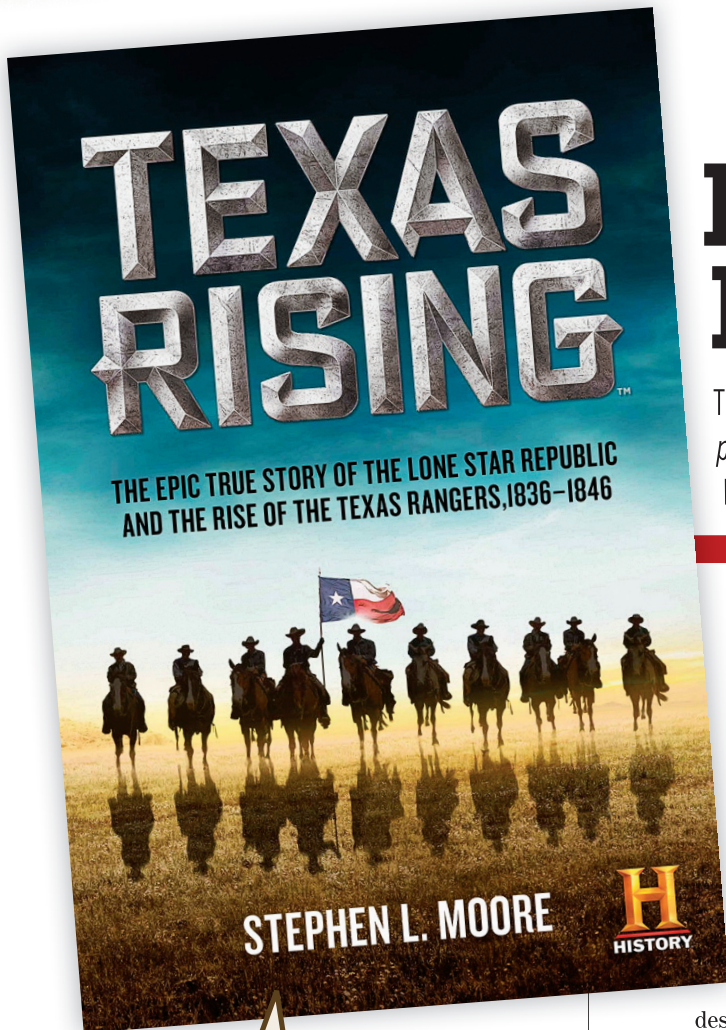
Shot All to Hell: Jesse James, the Northfield Raid, and the Wild West's Greatest Escape by Mark Lee Gardner; *Faithful unto Death: The James-Younger Raid on the First National Bank, Northfield, Minnesota* by John J. Koblas; *Robber and Hero: The Story of the Northfield Bank Raid* by George Huntington; *Frank and Jesse James: The Story Behind the Legend* by Ted P. Yeatman.

GOOD FILM & TV

Jesse James (20th Century-Fox); *The Return of Frank James* (20th Century-Fox); *The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid* (Universal); *The Long Riders* (United Artists); *The Last Days of Frank and Jesse James* (Lions Gate); *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* (Warner Bros.).

WESTERN BOOKS

BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR: STUART ROSEBROOK

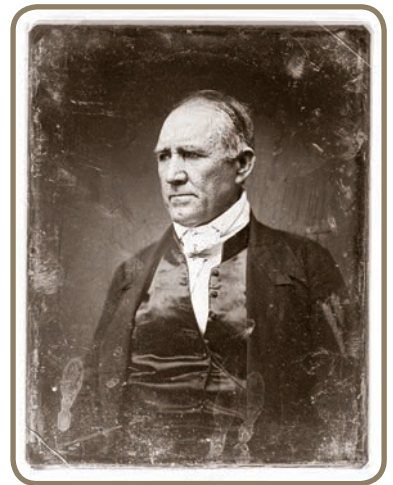


Lone Star Liberty

Texas Rising celebrates the fight for independence, plus Southern Exodus, a river runs wild, an Old West family saga, and an Arizona adventurer.

In United States history, three revolutions are well documented in relationship to the ongoing evolution of our Constitutional Federal Republic: the American Revolution, the Civil War and the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. Two important 19th-century revolutions within a decade of each other, that are not regularly placed in context to the big three, are the Texas Revolution of 1836 and the California Revolution of 1846. The latter was short-lived, which does not diminish the importance of studying California history and its role in our national history. On the other hand, the Texas Revolution deserves to be examined in greater depth in relation to the growth and development of federalism, states' rights, the Constitution and Manifest Destiny. The Texas Revolution further influenced ethnic, religious and race relations in the West, setting the stage for the American Constitutional revolutions that followed in the 1860s and 1960s.

Stephen L. Moore's *Texas Rising: The Epic True Story of the Lone Star Republic and the Rise of the Texas Rangers, 1836-1846* (William L.



Sam Houston's role in leading the Texas revolutionaries, and the fledgling Lone Star Republic is central to Stephen Moore's fast-paced narrative history *Texas Rising*.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

“...a fact-filled, frontier military history with Sam Houston the central hero.”

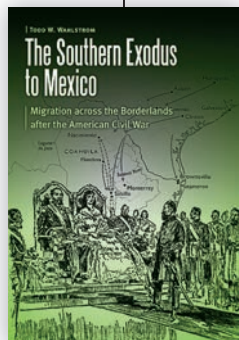


While the heroism of Davey Crockett at the Alamo on March 6, 1836, has been iconically depicted in art such as Robert Jenkins Onderdonk's *The Fall of the Alamo*, Moore provides a more balanced approach to the death of the Texas defenders, including Crockett.

— COURTESY WILLIAM MORROW —

Morrow, \$27.99) is not that history, but it does provide entertaining, well-researched, popular, fast-paced narrative of the Texas war for independence, a decade-long experiment in nationhood, and the establishment of the Texas Rangers. As the companion volume to the highly publicized dramatic History Channel series *Texas Rising* (reminiscent of popular fictional Western TV series *Centennial* and *Lonesome Dove*), Moore's history provides the reader with a fact-filled, frontier military history with Sam Houston the central hero, and the Texas Rangers in support of the epic, legendary story of the Lone Star State.

Moore's *Texas Rising* does not break any new ground philosophically or historiographically, but it does provide the Hearst-Disney television series (the two media companies own the History Channel) with a fun-to-read reliable companion book that provides the legitimate history for viewers who want history. If you just want entertainment, watch the series, which was produced in the great tradition of television mini-series that once aired on ABC, CBS and NBC and were clearly labeled docudramas. If you want to whet your appetite on one of the most exciting eras in the development of the nation and the West, read



Moore's *Texas Rising*, which is well-illustrated with solid endnotes and bibliography.

A native Texan descended from a Texas Ranger, Moore has published fifteen books on Texas and World War II history. He has written a well-paced narrative on a very important era of American history that should be considered in examining the ongoing evolution of the Republic. The same struggles America is wrestling over in 2015: federalism, states' rights, border sovereignty, state versus federal leadership, Mexican and American diplomatic relations, are all themes of *Texas Rising*. For these reasons, Moore's narrative should be read and understood, not in relationship to the dramatic television series, but in its own right as a fact-filled, introduction to the men, women and events that created the revolution, the republic and the state of Texas.

— Stuart Rosebrock

STARS AND BARS SOUTH OF THE BORDER

It's a familiar concept: migrants crossing the Rio Grande in search of a better life. But, in the aftermath of the Civil War, Mexico was seen as the land of opportunity. In *The Southern Exodus to*



In May and June, I participated in two major Western Americana events: the **John Wayne Birthplace Museum** dedication and grand opening in Winterset, Iowa; and the **30th Annual Tallgrass Writing Workshop** at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas.

The dedication of the John Wayne Birthplace Museum was a remarkable event celebrating the real, imagined and iconic life of John Wayne—and his profound and ongoing influence on the popular culture of the West. I highly recommend a trip to Winterset to visit the museum. The keynote speaker was **Scott Eyman**, author of the definitive biography of the Western star, *John Wayne: The Life and Legend*, a perfect book to read on your road trip to the Hawkeye State.

In June I was a member of the faculty and keynote speaker at the 30th Annual Tallgrass Writing Workshop in the Flint Hills region of the Sunflower State. Themes discussed at the weekend workshop included: What is the West?, The Para-Western, The Hero's Journey, Telling True Stories, and Painting with Words. Workshop director **Max McCoy** taught a course on writing mysteries, a subject he knows well, as Kensington will publish his third Ophelia Wylde Para-Western, *Giving Up the Ghost*, in November.

—Stuart Rosebrock





According to author Todd Wahlstrom, General Andres Viesca, the powerful governor of the Mexican state of Coahuila, would play a pivotal role in the Confederate attempts to colonize Mexico.

— COURTESY NETTIE LEE BENSON LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LIBRARIES, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN —

Mexico: Migration across the Borderlands After the American Civil War (University of Nebraska Press, \$55), Todd W. Wahlstrom challenges the notion that thousands of ex-Confederates fled to Mexico merely to escape a lost cause and evade possible prosecution. Instead, he focuses on the lure of that republic for

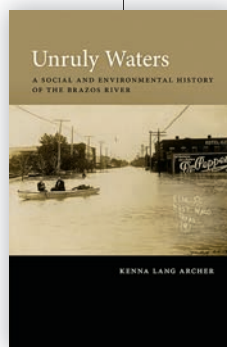
Southerners, white and black, who believed they could prosper and create prosperity south of the border. He also details how the realities of Mexico—with its Indian attacks, civil war and political chaos—frustrated these dreams and limited colonization efforts.

—Douglas A. Murphy, author of *Two Armies on the Rio Grande*

BRAVO TO THE BRAZOS

Settlers, prison camps (plus prison songs) and John Graves all get their due in Kenna Lang Archer's *Unruly Waters: A Social and Environmental History of the Brazos River* (University of New Mexico Press, \$40).

The Brazos flows 1,200 miles from eastern New Mexico



through middle Texas to the Gulf of Mexico. Archer uses detailed scholarship to trace the people, ecology and cultural influences of this “river of many faces, one that enjoys a gluttonous feast of water or no water at all.” The academic study never recaptures the magic of Graves’s iconic *Goodbye to a River* (1960), but serious students will gain a better understanding of “an inflexible river.”

—Johnny D. Boggs, author of *Billy the Kid on Film, 1911-2012*

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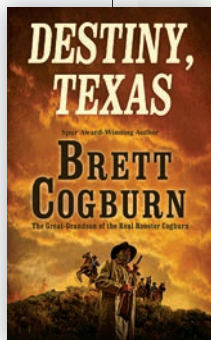


Environmental biographies of Western rivers provide strong context for understanding the development of our nation, and Kenna Lang Archer's *Unruly Waters* expertly demonstrates that rivers like the Brazos must be studied, especially in relation to the 1913 floods (above) as compared to the similar Brazos flood through Waco, Texas, in 2015.

— COURTESY THE TEXAS COLLECTION, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY, WACO, TEXAS —

LIVING, DYING AND SURVIVING IN TEXAS

The Texas frontier after the Civil War was a hard and dangerous place. Brett Cogburn's *Destiny, Texas* (Pinnacle, \$6.99) takes us from a devastated home in the South to a new life for the Dollarhyde family. Told first from the perspective of the eldest son, the saga has them settling near the town of Destiny, Texas, which has been ravaged by Comanches and Kiowas and abandoned during the war. The efforts of



Brett Cogburn's latest Western, *Destiny, Texas*, is an epic-family story of the settling of the Lone Star State after the Civil War.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

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DESTINY WITH A MISSION: JOHN FARKIS'S PASSION FOR THE ALAMO



Michigan native John Farkis was in the midst of a fulfilling career in the automotive industry in the mid-1990s when his employer sent him to the American Southwest on a three-week marathon trip to find possible locations for new factories just across the border in Mexico. Thousands of miles later, Farkis found himself on a day off in Del Rio, Texas, on a pilgrimage to "Alamo Village," the movie set of John Wayne's legendary epic Western film, *The Alamo*. What Farkis didn't know that fateful day was that twenty years later he would publish his own epic, *Not Thinkin'...Just Rememberin'...: The Making of John*

Wayne's "The Alamo" (BearManor Media, \$48). Farkis conducted hundreds of interviews in writing the definitive book on the making of the Western classic, and is working on two more books on the subject. Five books on the West, real and imagined, he recommends to gain a better understanding of its history and leaders are:

1 *John Wayne: The Life and Legend* (Scott Eyman, Simon & Schuster): The definitive biography of the iconic actor, Eyman traces Duke's career from his early days as a geese herder in *Mother McCree* to his death in 1979. Born in Winterset, Iowa, in 1907, only 31 years removed from the country's centennial birthday, the West represented the ultimate challenge for Wayne.

2 *Three Roads to the Alamo The Lives and Fortunes of David Crockett, James Bowie, and William Barret Travis* (William C. Davis, Harper Perennial): Davis' biographical trinity is meticulously researched and well-written. He offers a fresh insight to previously known research material, and while the actual battle occupies only a small portion of the book, Davis' tale is highly entertaining and informative. I've read it so many times I had to buy a second copy.

3 *The Searchers* (Alan LeMay, Pinnacle): One of the best novels ever written about the Old West is Le May's *The Searchers*. Dark, yet brilliantly descriptive, Le May's Amos Edwards (the name was changed to Ethan in

the film), obsessive Indian-hater, is cold and racist, respected and feared. A story of epic proportions, Le May does a masterful job of analyzing the difficult relationships between homesteaders and the Native people.

4 *The Searchers: The Making of an American Legend*, (Glenn Frankel, Bloomsbury): Glenn Frankel investigates the story behind the story. John Ford directed arguably the best Western ever filmed and, not only has Frankel written an outstanding "making of" book, his exhaustively researched work explores both the history of the film as well as Le May's book about the 1836 Comanche abduction of Cynthia Ann Parker.

5 *Where Custer Fell, Photographs of the Little Bighorn Battlefield Then and Now* (James S. Brust, Brian G. Pohanka and Sandy Barnard, University of Oklahoma Press): If you're a student of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, James S. Brust, Brian G. Pohanka and Sandy Barnard offer a unique perspective in *Where Custer Fell*. Richly illustrated with historical documents and photographs, the authors present modern photographs of the same locations for comparison.



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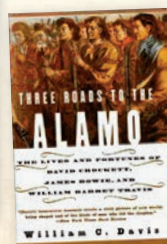
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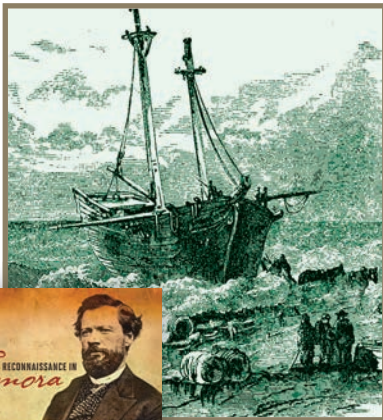
carving a cattle ranch in the wilds of Texas is then told by an adopted son, continued by the father and completed by the roguish younger brother. Cogburn's well-written story is historically accurate of the times and an enjoyable tale. —Eric H. Heisner, author of *West to Bravo*

DESTINY IN THE DESERT

The "Father of Arizona" Charles Poston grew up in Kentucky and came west to San Francisco in 1851 amid the excitement of the Gold Rush and the forthcoming Gadsden Purchase. With Mexican land soon opening for development and a transcontinental railroad anticipated, Poston saw his chance to get rich. C. Gilbert Storms, a retired teacher, ably tells of Poston's efforts in *Reconnaissance in Sonora: Charles D. Poston's 1854 Exploration of Mexico and the Gadsden Purchase* (University of Arizona Press, \$40).

Although Poston's dreams of wealth failed (a pauper at his death in 1902), in 1863 he and others successfully lobbied President Abraham Lincoln to make Arizona a separate territory.

—Leo W. Banks, author of *Rattlesnake Blues: Dispatches from a Snakebit Territory*



C. Gilbert Storm's biography of Charles D. Poston includes a recounting of the San Francisco businessman's expedition to Mexico that led to the *Zoraidas* stranded on the beach of Navachiste Bay in Sinaloa, Mexico.

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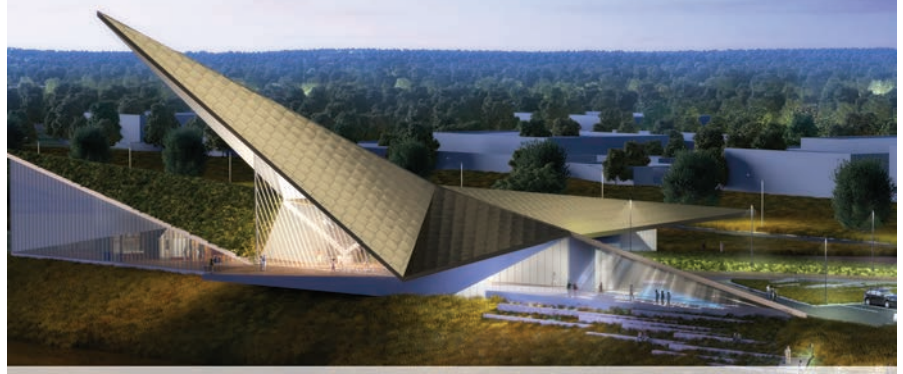
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SURVIVAL

OUT WEST

BY TERRY A. DEL BENE

Abducted!

A CHILD CAPTIVE SURVIVES A BLOODY MASSACRE ON THE SNAKE RIVER.



In 1860, the last wagon company leaving Fort Hall for Oregon was led by Capt. Elijah Utter. The Utter Party of 44 souls included seven members of the Van Ornum family from Wisconsin.

The previous wagon train, through, had claimed to be the final group leaving Fort Hall that year. This mix-up left the Utter Party traveling through dangerous territory without a military escort.

On September 9, the emigrants were west of Castle Butte near the Snake River in Oregon when roughly 200 Bannock and Shoshone warriors confronted them. The wagons drew into a circle as the Indians tried to run off the emigrants' horses.

The distraught Utter Party offered food and other items to avoid conflict. Hoping

they had purchased their safety, the pioneers continued on the trail.

They were attacked. Eight-year-old Reuben Van Ornum and his sisters, among other children, watched helplessly as the carnage swirled about.

**THEY ATE
PETS AND EVEN
CANNIBALIZED
THE DEAD TO
SURVIVE.**

Lacking water and seeing the Indians reinforced, the emigrants concocted a desperate plan. They would abandon half the wagons and livestock, and make a run with the rest.

On the evening of September 10, the plan unraveled as the volunteers tasked with covering the escape fled. The panicked emigrants abandoned all the wagons. Many were killed, but more than half, including Reuben and his family, escaped into the dark. The fugitives suffered weeks of living

A small wagon train, or a straggler, was more likely to be attacked by Indians. About 90 percent of the emigrants killed by Indians met their deaths west of South Pass, as was the case for the Utter Party.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

HISTORY IN ART

BY ILLUSTRATOR ANDY THOMAS

I painted the moment at dusk when the emigrants have to abandon the truncated wagon train and run near the river to escape the Indian attack. One of the running children is Reuben Van Ornum, the subject of survival. The cluster of figures at the second wagon is the wounded wagon company captain, Elijah Utter, with his wife, Abagel, and three of their children. They are about to be killed by an approaching Indian.



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Young Reuben Van Ornum is seated in the middle, with his Uncle Zacheas on Reuben's left. After his 1862 rescue, the boy disappeared.

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hell. Struggling to find food, they ate pets and even cannibalized the dead to survive.

The remaining members of the wagon party staggered to a camp along the Owyhee River. While they fished, friendlier Shoshone visited and traded with them. Fearing these Shoshones, a small group, including the Van Ornum family, fled on or about October 16, not knowing that rescue was merely days away.

Marcus Reno and his troops found the mutilated bodies of Alexis Van Ornum, Abigail and their 16-year-old son, Mark, as well as three members of other families. The dragoons rescued a dozen nearly naked, starving survivors of the Owyhee camp. Four Van Ornum children (Eliza, Minerva, Lucinda and Reuben) were missing and assumed captured.

Learning of the missing children, their Uncle Zacheas ramrodded a search. Zacheas was present when Reuben, at the age of 10, was rescued from the Shoshones by Maj. Edward McGarry in November 1862.

The fates of Reuben's sisters was unknown. Emigrants claimed to see Minerva and Eliza being led around on collars, and Lucinda was rumored killed during an escape attempt. Reuben believed his sisters dead of starvation.

Reuben had survived siege, the flight, the murder of his family and two years of captivity. Within months of his rescue, the boy wandered off to an unknown fate, perhaps to rejoin the Indians.

Zacheas scouted for Patrick Connor's troops and was present at the Bear River

Massacre in November 1863. The military assaulted a village of Shoshones and Bannocks, in part because of a rumor that the encampment had sheltered those who massacred the Utter Party. They hoped that surviving children might be present. They weren't. ❏

Terry A. Del Bene is a former Bureau of Land Management archaeologist and the author of *Donner Party Cookbook* and the novel *Dem Bon'z*.



HOW TO SURVIVE AN ABDUCTION

Reuben Van Ornum was a child when he was captured, with neither knowledge of his environment nor hope for an escape. The techniques he utilized are still smart tactics for hostages in a similar situation, although may not work in all cases.

As a 10 year old, Reuben was not seen as threatening. The more he went about his life as a child, the more his Shoshone captors viewed him as similar to their own children.

Polite and a good listener, he became a useful member of the society. Reuben was likely adopted by a family. The more Reuben blended in, the better his prospect of surviving his captivity.

In fact, Reuben so readily adopted to the ways of his captors that, after his rescue, he waited for an escape opportunity and possibly returned to his Indian family.

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WESTERN MOVIES

DVD & TV SERIES
BY HENRY C. PARKE

Workin' on the Railroad

Hell on Wheels star Anson Mount is almost finished constructing the Transcontinental Railroad, and its storied history, for the groundbreaking AMC Western series.



In the final season for *Hell on Wheels*, the AMC series has switched focus from the Union Pacific to the rival Central Pacific, sharing the Chinese experience in building America's first Transcontinental Railroad (see inset for a historical photo of the Chinese rail builders).

— ALL HELL ON WHEEL PHOTOS COURTESY AMC; INSET TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Fans of AMC's *Hell on Wheels* anticipate the driving of the Golden Spike the same way Dracula anticipated the driving of the wooden one: closure is nice, but we are in no hurry.

If this is the new Golden Age of television, the Emmy-nominated *Hell on Wheels*, created by Tony and Joe Gayton, with its feast of

characters and unsurpassed writing and direction, is one of the surest proofs.

Hell on Wheels has been telling the story of constructing the Transcontinental Railroad through the jaundiced eyes of foreman and former Confederate slave owner Cullen Bohannon (Anson Mount). The show's days, and episodes, are numbered. The final 14

shows will be divided in half: seven this summer and seven in 2016.

Westerns, big screen and small, are undergoing an unmistakable resurgence. But when *Hell on Wheels* began in 2011, Westerns couldn't get arrested. How much credit does this railroad drama deserve for the reboot?



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photo by Danni Boyes



In 1868, as many as 12,000 Chinese laborers—about 80 percent of the Central Pacific workforce—worked on the Central Pacific railroad, as opposed to none on the Union Pacific side. The final season explores their side of the story.

“That’s impossible to say,” admits Mount, who was two-thirds of the way through filming when he talked to *True West*. “There was some hesitancy to get into the genre on the part of television because people chase each other’s tails, and it hadn’t been done for a while. Maybe it did spark a reemergence in the genre; who knows? But it’s never gonna fully die: it’s our martial arts film.”

He’s philosophical about the series ending. “It’s time. I think we found a really good through-line to finish the story.”

The final season five has a theme. Season one’s was “revenge,” while season two’s was “ambition.” “I hate this word, because it is often misused or misinterpreted, but ‘redemption,’” Mount says. “And I don’t think the theme of ‘hubris’ has ever not been a part of the show.”

Although the end-point was always known, the route to get there, though blasted through rock, was not etched in stone. “Nobody really knows at the start of the season what’s going to play out,” Mount says. “You have some ideas up on the board; you may even have an ending in mind. If we’d started season three telling the network Cullen was going to end up married to a Mormon girl in a Mormon fort, they’d have

flipped out, and so would we. But that’s where the season took us.”

The series, like the railroad, has a high

death toll. “You build relationships, and a storyline can end that very quickly,” Mount says, about the last season. “Common [who played former slave Elam Ferguson] is one of my favorite people I have ever worked with. He had interests in other areas, and we found the best way to write him out. He did a heck of a job. And Kasha Kropinski [who played Ruth, the minister’s daughter] was great to work with; she gave a heck of a



**“I’d totally do another
Western; there’s not a
better genre.”**

— Anson Mount

performance in that final episode.”

His favorite character to act with? The most wicked of villains. “It’s been so much fun to plot that out with Chris Heyerdahl [the Swede],” Mount says. “He’s a phenomenal scene partner. Things seem to crackle and spark when we get into a scene together.”

After four seasons of filming the Union Pacific’s race to Utah’s Promontory Summit, where the Union Pacific and Central Pacific joined rails on May 10, 1869, the show’s focus has switched to the rival Central Pacific. “You can’t really tell the story without showing both sides,” Mount says. “[Showrunner] John Wirth wanted to show

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the Chinese experience in building the railroad. We've been as exacting as we can, to the extent that we're solidly all Cantonese, and not Mandarin."

What does Mount plan to do when he stops working on the railroad? "I wouldn't do Cullen again," he says. "I'd totally do another Western; there's not a better genre. I like that it allows me to work outside."

Famous Westerns director John Ford would agree. He didn't call his films Westerns, but "outdoor pictures." Mount saw a transition in Ford's art when he made that switch: "Ford's best pictures weren't until he started moving outside. Look at *Stagecoach*: I honestly don't think it holds a candle to *My Darling Clementine*, and for an obvious reason; he was stuck in a studio."

But like Ford did many times, Mount has to move on to his next picture. "I'm really going to miss this crew," Mount says. "They're the best; they know the Western genre better than any crew knows any genre. I'll also miss riding the horses—best part of the job. What I won't miss are the elements."

Last year, production was delayed when storms washed away the sets. "You know, it's hard not to get the crap beat out of you working on this show," the actor says. "I won't miss the bumps and bruises, but it's hard to come up with something bad about this job. It's really been wonderful."

DVD REVIEW

Bronco: Final Season



(Warner Archives, \$40.99) Says the theme, "Once any girl has kissed him twice she's dreaming of shoes and rice." In the fourth and final season of *Bronco*, Ty Hardin's Bronco Layne matured. The ex-Confederate drifter, who turns up as a cattleman, lawman or spy, is no longer just showing ladies his pectorals; he's showing them a piece of land. The stories mix historical characters—Edwin Booth, Butch Cassidy, Wild Bill Hickok—with stars—Jack Nicholson, Lee Van Cleef, Jack Elam.

Henry C. Parke is a screenwriter based in Los Angeles, California, who blogs about Western movies, TV, radio and print news: HenrysWesternRoundup.Blogspot.com

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Since raisins are nothing more than dried grapes, they came from wine-producing regions. In the early 1800s, they were largely imported from Spain. But as California began experimenting with grapes, that trend slowly changed.

In 1851, in San Diego, Agoston Haraszthy, Sonoma County's first winemaker, cultivated muscatel vines from the seeds of raisins grown in Málaga, Andalusia, in Spain. When he visited Spain in 1861, he selected cuttings from Gordo Blanco and planted them in his Sonoma vineyard. The *Pacific Rural Press* reported in 1910, "He was thus the first to introduce the raisin vine into California."

While Spain dominated the raisin market, other countries, including Turkey, Smyrna, Persia and Australia, also produced the dried grape. The most popular raisin in America was the dark Muscatel or Málaga from Spain. It was picked from the vine and packaged in decorated boxes with colored paper and lace edging.

Minnie Austin quit teaching school because she lost her passion for her students. But the 40 year old found a new vocation in 1878, and California had one of its first female raisin growers. She planted her "Hedgerow Vineyard" with the Gordo Blanco Muscatels, marking her as one of the earliest planters in Fresno.

She and her teacher friend Lucy Hatch lived at the vineyard together and ran the place. In 1884, Austin became the first

person to use William Schmolz's mammoth drier to turn her grapes into raisins.

The *Pacific Rural Press* wrote on March 21, 1885, of Austin's drier: "This drier began operating in September last, and

continued its work uninterrupted until the grape crop of that vineyard had been transformed into raisins which were universally acknowledged to be of an unusually superior quality."

Despite California's increased raisin production, Spain still dominated the raisin industry in 1882.

Spain produced 1.9 million boxes of its Málaga crop, with nearly one million shipped to the U.S. After that, raisin shipments from Spain declined. By 1888, the number of boxes shipped to the U.S. had dropped to 112,000, largely due to California's raisin production.

"He was thus
the first to
introduce the
raisin vine into
California."



HERMITS


½ cup butter, softened
¾ cup sugar
2 eggs, beaten
½ cup raisins, chopped
½ teaspoon grated nutmeg
½ teaspoon cloves
½ teaspoon allspice
3 cups flour

Cream the sugar and butter until fluffy. Add the eggs. Mix until blended. Add the raisins and spices, and stir to combine. Add the flour. Mix until the dough forms a ball. Shape into a log of about two inches. Wrap in wax paper to chill for two hours. When ready to bake, slice into one-quarter-inch thick pieces. Bake in an oven at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes, but do not allow the cookies to turn color.



Recipe adapted from the *National Baptist World* newspaper in Wichita, Kansas, November 9, 1894

At one point, California had an abundance of raisins. One practical farmer near Fresno decided to use his raisins as horse feed, since it was cheaper than barley. In 1898, P.P. Brooks shared his advice with a reporter: "Some time ago I concluded to use raisins as horse feed instead of grain. As an experiment I bought an old horse and fed the animal twelve pounds of raisins a day. The nag was worn out and poor, but in a short time he began to fatten and grow sleek. The food seemed very nourishing and the horse became plump and full of life. I sold the animal back to the owner for \$30—three times what I gave for him.... This is a good way to get rid of the surplus now in the hands of the farmers."

On the frontier, cooks used raisins in scores of recipes, including those for breads, puddings, cakes and pies, like mince and funeral pies. Try your hand at the shared 1894 recipe to make the old-fashioned cookies called Hermits. 

Sherry Monahan has penned *Mrs. Earp: Wives & Lovers of the Earp Brothers*; *California Vines, Wines & Pioneers*; *Taste of Tombstone*; *The Wicked West* and *Tombstone's Treasure*. She's appeared on the History Channel in *Lost Worlds* and other shows.



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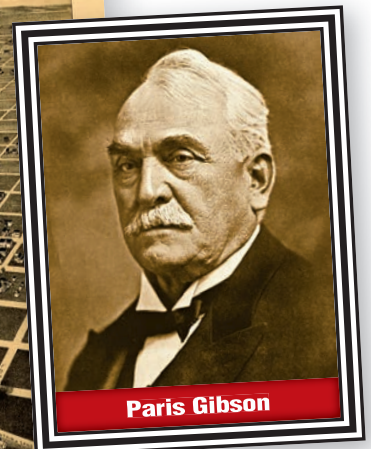



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No Hangin' Tree 'round These Parts

Great Falls, Montana, is a Western city designed with the future in mind.



Entrepreneur and sheep rancher Paris Gibson envisioned the city of Great Falls, Montana, on the Missouri River, as a modern Western community

Most Old West towns grew up helter-skelter around mines or along cattle trails. But Great Falls, named for a spectacular series of waterfalls clustered along a short stretch of the Missouri River in central Montana, was different.

"The beautiful thing about Great Falls is that it was established with a thought for the future," says Megan Trent, the archives administrator for the town's history museum. William J. Furdell, who wrote a popular history of the town, proudly described it as a "businessman's town" that "couldn't point to a boot hill or a hangin' tree."

Although Indians had lived in the region for millennia, the area was a giant blank space on American maps until Meriwether

Lewis and William Clark and their Corps of Discovery passed through in the summer of 1805, taking nearly a month to portage around the falls.

Paris Gibson, a sheep rancher who'd moved to Montana in 1879, visited the waterfalls in 1880 after reading a description in Lewis's journals. Impressed by the industrial potential of the region and with the financial support of railroad magnate James J. Hill, Gibson platted a town in 1883. Guided by his philosophy that "...capitalists, professionals, wage earners, and merchants ought to be united by a common bond of building a beautiful city," Gibson laid out straight, tree-lined streets, with nearly 900 acres designated as park land.

when he sold his plan for the town to his friend, railroad tycoon James J. Hill in 1883. Gibson served as the city's first mayor, as a state senator and later as a U.S. senator.

— MAP AND PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

The community, incorporated in 1889, grew quickly. There were railroads and banks, smelters and flour mills. Later, with the ready availability of hydroelectric power, came a light company and trolley system. Today's Great Falls, with over 50 parks and more than 40 miles of urban trails, is a testament to Gibson's ideals.

Thanks to its longstanding commitment to historical conservation, Great Falls was named a Preserve America community in 2006. "It kind of blows my mind how many museums and historical societies and



Visitors to Great Falls should not miss Great Springs State Park, where one of the largest springs in the country pumps out 156 million gallons of 56-degree water every day into the Roe River, often touted as the shortest in the world.

- PHOTOS COURTESY GREAT FALLS CVB -

preservation groups there are in town, all working to preserve our past," says Trent.

Get an overview of the town aboard the Great Falls Historic Trolley, or take a stroll along the River's Edge Trail. The town's Railroad Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. Be sure to check out the Vinegar Jones Cabin, built in 1884.



Today, Great Falls is a destination for outdoor recreation such as world-class fly fishing in the numerous rivers and streams near the city.

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Charlie Russell

Charles M. Russell came to cowboy in Montana in 1880 and made it his home. In 1892, he moved to Great Falls where he built a home and studio intent on a career as an artist, which he did for

over three decades.

- COURTESY GREAT FALLS CVB/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

premier Western artist Charles Marion Russell. Originally from Missouri, Russell moved to Great Falls in the 1890s and lived there until his death in 1926. In addition to hundreds of artworks by Russell and other Western artists, the museum complex holds the Browning Firearms Collection and an exhibit on Northern Plains Indians.

For an entirely different kind of museum experience, drop by the Montana Cowboys' Association Museum and Bar. "It's a cowboy museum in the back of a bar," explains Trent, "but it's quite a nice bar."

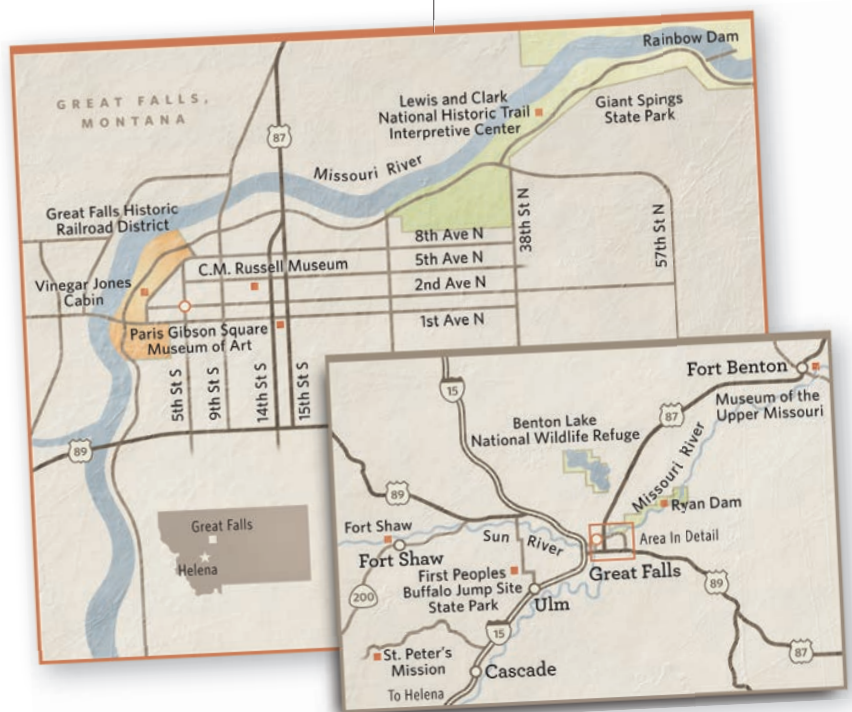
Great Falls hosts several Western-themed events every year—the Montana PRCA Finals Rodeo in January, Western Art Week in March, the Lewis and Clark Festival in June, and the Montana State Fair in July and August. ❏

John Stanley was a longtime newspaper travel writer and photographer in Arizona.

Learn more about America's greatest expedition at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, where you'll also find exhibits on some of the Plains and Northwest Indians encountered by the Corps of Discovery.

The History Museum (formerly known as the High Plains Heritage Center) is housed in the International Harvester Building, built in 1929. One of the highlights, says Trent, is an exhibit on the Anaconda Copper Mining Company's "Big Stack." When completed in 1908, the 508-foot-high smokestack was the tallest in the world. It was demolished in 1982.

Another don't-miss attraction is the C.M. Russell Museum Complex, named for the



WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY



After checking out Great Falls' Visitor Information Center (and its stunning vistas), you'll be ready to explore some of the local attractions, like the River's Edge Trail (above), just down the road a ways.

GreatFallsMT.net

Ulm

Indians stampeded buffalo over the mile-long sandstone cliffs here for hundreds of years. Learn all about it at the First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park.

StateParks.MT.gov

Fort Shaw

Built in 1867 (as Camp Reynolds), this old military post became a school for Indian children in the 1890s. A small museum tells the story of the Fort Shaw Historic District and Cemetery.

CentralMontana.com

Fort Benton

What began as a trading post for the American Fur Company in the 1840s became a military post in the 1860s.

Today's replica was built on the original site. The museum complex includes Old Fort Benton, the Museum of the Upper Missouri, a Homestead Village and other points of interest. Decision Point, where the Corps of Discovery agonized over which river to follow, is nearby.

FortBentonMuseums.com

St. Peter's Mission Church and Cemetery

This lovely log cabin-style church was the main structure of a mission school founded by Jesuits in the 1860s. Ursuline nuns ran the school from the 1880s until its closure in 1918.

MontanaHistoricLandscape.com

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The "Buffalo and The People" exhibition at the Plains Indian Museum is just one of the dynamic and introspective exhibits on American Western history and culture at the five-museum complex at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming.

- COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST -

**TOP
10
WESTERN
MUSEUMS
2015**



**THE EDITORS/
WRITTEN BY CANDY MOULTON**

The Top 10 Western Museums of 2015

**Exhibits showcase
new visions of the past,
present and future.**

Museums across the West have a common theme this year: New. It takes years to plan, fund, develop and install museum exhibitions, and the fruit of many institutions' labor has ripened during the past twelve months with the opening of such new (or completely renovated) facilities as the North Dakota Heritage Center, Stuhr Building at the Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, and Western Spirit, Scottsdale's newest attraction. Museums also are innovators as they reach out to new audiences—particularly young people (check out the Treehouse in North Dakota). You will find the stories and artifacts of the American cowboy alongside those of American Indians. Private collections of Navajo weavings and Indian basketry are on display, along with the weapons of Texas Rangers. Museums also bring history to life, something that was abundantly evident in the major re-enactment of the year—the reprise of the Battle of Platte Bridge in central Wyoming on the actual date of the 150th anniversary of the fight.



Buffalo Bill Center of the West Cody, WY • CenterOfTheWest.org

Buffalo Bill Cody welcomes you to his museum wing at the Center for the West, drawing you into the story of his life from army scout to Wild West showman. A combination of archival films showing Cody and his traveling show, and the full wall-size film offering a glimpse into the man and the places in Northwest Wyoming he loved so well, further immerse you in his world.

This museum is so much more. In its five major wings you can explore the lifestyles of the Plains Indians, firearms of the West (see back cover), natural history and original artwork by such masters as Russell and Remington or contemporary works by James Bama and Carrie Ballantine; the sculpture gardens are a feast for all the senses. Until early fall see the special exhibition “Adornment in the West: The American Indian as Artist.” You can “Relax with Raptors” in the Draper Museum of Natural History daily through February.

It is no exaggeration to say you can spend days in the Center of the West and not see everything. The five museums you gain access to with a two-day admission ticket are the Buffalo Bill Museum, Whitney Gallery of Western Art, Cody Firearms Museum, Draper Museum of Natural History and Plains Indian Museum.



The “Man of the West, Man of the World: The Life and Legacy of William F. ‘Buffalo Bill’” exhibition at the Center of the West’s flagship Buffalo Bill Museum (above and right) is dedicated to the magnanimous life of one of the first international celebrities.

— COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST —

2



Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer

Grand Island, NE • StuhrMuseum.org

Peggy Hartwell's "Voice on Cloth" quilt exhibit is on display until early November in the newly renovated Stuhr Building. We like this museum for the opportunities to step back in time in Railroad Town. Costumed guides populate the buildings that include historic community structures including Henry Fonda's childhood home. There is a Pawnee earth lodge, log cabin pioneer settlement, railroad engines and the Taylor Ranch store.

The Stuhr Museum's Gus Fonner Memorial Rotunda features Ellis Burman's plaster and bronze *The Arrowmaker*, a life-sized sculpture of a Sioux Indian family.

- COURTESY STUHR MUSEUM OF PRAIRIE PIONEER -

Boot Hill Museum

Dodge City, KS • Boothill.org

Experience the rumble of a buffalo hunt, and see the memorabilia from Miss Kitty, Matt Dillon and the cast of "Gunsmoke" in this museum with revitalized exhibits that have taken down some of the barriers that kept visitors separated from artifacts. And out front of Boot Hill you can even play a game of cards with Doc Holliday at a new sculpture placed this past spring.

The Boot Hill Museum's "Nomadic Indian" exhibit celebrates the history and culture of the Native people who lived for centuries following the buffalo on the Great Plains, and the consequences of their wars with the American settlers and the U.S. Army.

- COURTESY BOOT HILL MUSEUM -



3



North Dakota Heritage Center

Bismarck, ND • History.ND.gov

Entirely reimagined in 2014, the North Dakota Heritage Center opened its Treehouse for young museum visitors this year. Children can serve as a train engineer, take a steamboat down the Missouri River, or pilot a flight simulator and “ride” horses on a prairie adventure. These virtual experiences keep the younger crowd engaged while adult visitors can view Northern Plains Indian clothing and objects including such rare items as a Ghost Dance shirt.

The Great Plains Indian culture of the Sioux people is celebrated in the “Innovation Gallery: Early Peoples” exhibition at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum.

— COURTESY NORTH DAKOTA HERITAGE CENTER AND STATE MUSEUM —

5

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

Oklahoma City, OK • NationalCowboyMuseum.org

Any place that celebrates the legend, lore and *reality* of the American West scores high with us. This year the museum recognizes the centennial of the iconic art piece *End of the Trail* by James Earle

Fraser with a special exhibit continuing through October. Works of Navajo artisans are featured through early May 2016 in the Pam Parrish collection that includes examples of Two Gray Hills, Teec Nos Pos, Yei, Storm Pattern, Wide Ruin, Ganado and Sampler weavings

Hollis Williford’s 1994 bronze *Welcome Sundown* greets visitors to the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

— COURTESY NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM —



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- 1 Nevada Historical Society
- 2 Nevada State Museum, Carson City
- 3 Nevada State Railroad Museum
- 4 East Ely Railroad Depot Museum
- 5 Lost City Museum
- 6 Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
- 7 Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City

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Autry National Center of the American West Los Angeles, CA • TheAutry.org

Forty-nine paintings and sculptures from the collection of Loretta and Victor Kaufman—including bronzes by Frederic Remington and Allan Houser, plus paintings, lithographs and watercolors—are featured in a newly opened exhibition that remains in place until 2017. “The Balance of Power on the Frontier” highlights sixteen guns and related artifacts, showing how the Paterson Colt played a role in an 1844 clash between sixteen Texas Rangers and approximately seventy Comanches.

The John Frémont expedition flag, circa 1841-1842, is featured in the Westward expansion exhibition titled “Empire and Liberty: The Civil War and the West” at the Autry National Center in Los Angeles.

— COURTESY THE AUTRY NATIONAL CENTER, A GIFT OF ELIZABETH BENTON FREMONT, SOUTHWEST MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN COLLECTION, 81.G.5A —

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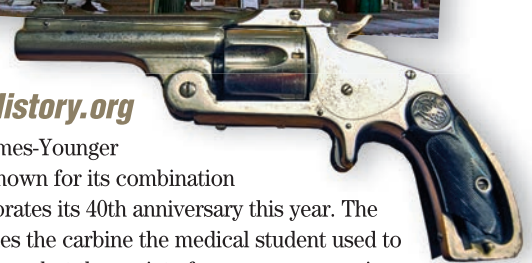
Northfield Historical Society

Northfield, MN • NorthfieldHistory.org

Housed in the bank building that the James-Younger Gang tried to rob in 1876, the society, known for its combination museum-archives-research library, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The Henry Wheeler Collection, which includes the carbine the medical student used to help stop the bandits, was unveiled in June, but the society focuses on preserving all of the area's rich history, not just tales of bank-robbing blunders.

The Northfield Historical Society exhibition on Henry Wheeler includes the Smith and Wesson .32 revolver he bought after the Miller family threatened his life for killing Clell Miller during the infamous James-Younger raid on the Minnesota town.

— COURTESY NORTHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY —



Cowboy & Agricultural Museums

National Cowgirl Museum & Hall of Fame
Fort Worth, TX
Cowgirl.net

New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum
Las Cruces, NM
NMFarmAndRanchMuseum.org

Western Folklife Center
Elko, NV
WesternFolklife.org

Chisholm Trail Museum
Wellington, KS
ChisholmTrailMuseum.us

Pawnee Bill Ranch & Museum
Pawnee, OK
OKHistory.org

Pendleton Round-up & Happy Canyon Hall of Fame
Pendleton, OR
PendletonHallOfFame.com

North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame
Medora, ND
NorthDakotaCowboy.com

Buckhorn Saloon & Museum
San Antonio, TX
BuckhornMuseum.com

Tri-State Old-Time Cowboys Memorial Museum
Gordon, NE
GordonChamber.com

American Wind Power Center
Lubbock, TX
Windmill.com

American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum
Amarillo, TX
AQHA.com

Kregel Windmill Factory Museum
Nebraska City, NE
KregelWindmillFactoryMuseum.org

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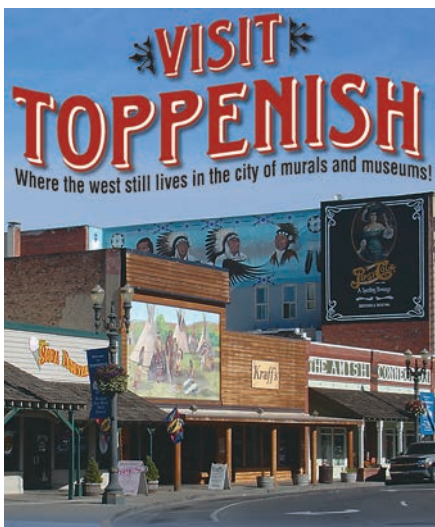
Stark Museum of Art is a program of the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutchter Stark Foundation. ©2015 All Rights Reserved.

Thomas Moran (1837-1926), *The Mirage* (detail), 1879, oil on canvas, 25.125 x 62.375 inches, 31.18.15. Walter Ufer (1876-1936), *His Kit* (detail), oil on canvas, 25.125 x 30.125 inches, 31.5.4. John James Audubon (1785-1851), *Roseate Spoonbill* (detail), John James Audubon (1785-1851), artist; Robert Havell, Jr. (1793-1878), engraver, 1838, etching and aquatint on paper, hand-colored, in *The Birds of America*, Volume IV, 38.25 x 25.5 inches, Plate CCCXXI (321), 11.1.2.D.



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8

Northeastern Nevada Museum

Elko, NV • MuseumElko.org

Original art by Will James is reason enough to visit the Northeastern Nevada Museum, but add to that collection the seasonal exhibitions of cowboy gear, wildlife, and pioneer items and it's a well-rounded place.

The Bob Chow Collection at the Northeastern Nevada Museum showcases a unique exhibition of firearms that were popular during the settlement of the West in the 19th century.

- COURTESY NORTHEASTERN NEVADA MUSEUM -



9

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum

Canyon, TX • PanhandlePlains.org

Step right back into a Texas panhandle town when you visit "Pioneer Town," but this museum is much more than a chance to relive history in a fabricated place; here you'll also find oil derricks and ranching history. The outstanding Indian collection—some of the baskets are extraordinary—of Susan J. Allen remains on exhibit until early January. The museum also has a display of hunting photographs and an exhibit about hunting the perfect accessory for your stylish wardrobe, which runs until early February.

"Pioneer Town," a permanent exhibit at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, celebrates the heritage of the settlement of the West Texas region.

- COURTESY PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM -





NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

Nevada State Museum
Las Vegas, NV
Museums.NevadaCulture.org

High Desert Museum
Bend, OR
HighDesertMuseum.org

Flint Hills Discovery Center
Manhattan, KS
FlintHillsDiscovery.org

University of Utah Natural History Center at Rio Tinto Center
Salt Lake City, UT
NHMU.Utah.edu

National Buffalo Museum
Jamestown, ND
BuffaloMuseum.com

Museum of Natural & Cultural History
Eugene, OR
Natural-History.UOregon.edu



HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The National Ranching Heritage Center
Lubbock, TX • Depts.TTU.edu

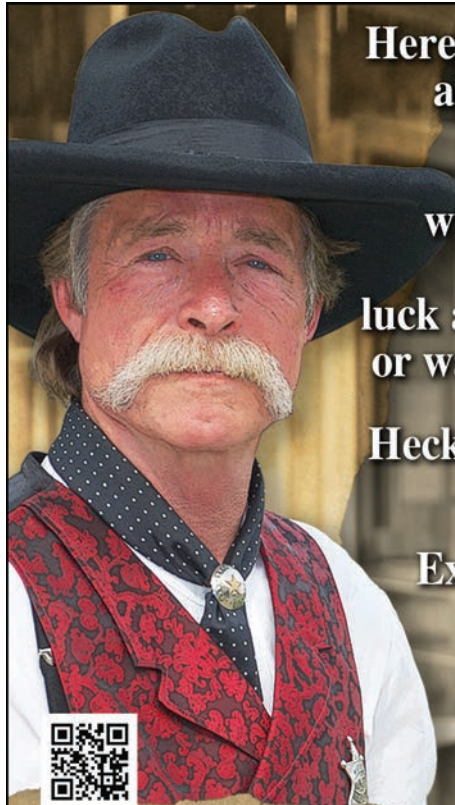
Nevada City
Nevada City, MT • VirginiaCityMT.com

Little Snake River Museum
Savery, WY
LittleSnakeRiverMuseum.com

Fort Larned National Historic Site
Larned, KS • NPS.gov

Museum of the Mountain West
Montrose, CO
MuseumOfTheMountainWest.org

Nevada State Museum
Carson City, NV
Museums.NevadaCulture.org




Here in Dodge City, we look at life a little differently.

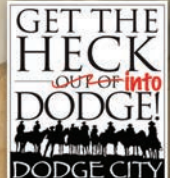
Out here, you can still witness a gunfight, enjoy a great steak, try your luck at the Boot Hill Casino, or watch a beautiful sunset.

Heck, we even enjoy a great rodeo every summer.

Experience the history of Dodge City, where the Marshal still roams the streets.



800-OLD-WEST www.VisitDodgeCity.org
Dodge City Convention and Visitors Bureau





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**Distinguished Service:
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Distinguished Service is a tribute documenting the extraordinary service of the 180+ living retired Texas Rangers. The Rangers have personal biographies documenting their law enforcement careers at <http://texasranger.org/retirees/retirees.html>

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www.superstitionmountainmuseum.org

MUSEUMS TO KNOW



El Paso History Museum
El Paso, TX • History.ElPasoTexas.gov

In 2015 the museum recognizes the contributions of Fort Bliss by honoring the soldiers and their families. "Neighborhoods and Shared Memories," an ongoing exhibition that changes biennially, focuses on differing areas of El Paso.



Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
Vancouver, WA • NPS.gov

Archaeology in action introduces kids to the field of archaeological exploration, and visitors can observe an active dig that uncovers treasures from this frontier outpost ranging from china to trade beads. New exhibits are being planned.



Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum
Waco, TX • TexasRanger.org

The Texas Rangers in pop culture, artifacts of the Rangers, and historic Ranger badges are a few of the exhibits you can view now. The museum is raising money for future upgrades.

Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West
Scottsdale, AZ • ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org

Paintings by Charles Fritz depicting the Lewis and Clark expedition are part of the "Inspirational Journey" exhibition in place until May 2016. In November a 50th anniversary exhibit by Cowboy Artists of America opens.

Journey Museum & Learning Center
Rapid City, SD • JourneyMuseum.org

Geology, archaeology, Sioux Indian culture and pioneer lifestyles come together in the Journey Museum. Contemporary Indian artists have focused programs, such as the Centennial Exhibit of Yanktonai Dakota artist Oscar Howe, which runs through early September.

Frontier Texas!
Abilene, TX • FrontierTexas.com

The museum developed the documentary film *Guns on the Texas Frontier* this year and will host the Western Heritage Film Festival in March 2016.

Dalton Defenders Days October 1-4 2015

Come experience the Dalton Raid in Coffeyville, KS!



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10

Fort Caspar Museum Casper, WY • FortCasper.com



Extensive exterior and interior displays at the Fort Caspar Museum celebrate the military camp's history and heritage as a frontier outpost in the Wyoming Territory.

- COURTESY FORT CASPAR MUSEUM -

The largest frontier re-enactment in the region this year recognized the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Platte Bridge (July 25), an event that included frontier military re-enactors as well as American Indians. The 1865 battle took the life of the museum's namesake, Lt. Caspar Collins. Year around you can visit the replica ferry and Fort Caspar buildings along with exhibits inside the Fort Caspar Museum. The site annually hosts Candlelight Christmas in December.

FALL IN YELLOWSTONE. IT'S MOSTLY LOCALS.

Buffalo Bill loved fall in Cody, Wyoming. A magical season full of colorful vistas, active wildlife and open roads. Today, there's even more to enjoy in the town that bears his name. Live music, great restaurants and a whole museum dedicated to his life. See why fall in Cody will be your favorite, too.

Buffalo Bill's
CODY/YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY



Visit yellowstonecountry.org
1-800-393-2639



MUSEUMS TO WATCH

Custer Battlefield Museum

Hardin, MT • CusterMuseum.org

Too much has been written about Custer, but by all means visit this museum and then walk the ground where he took his last breath.

White River Museum

Meeker, CO • RioBlancoCounty.org

Literally crammed full of artifacts, it would take days to see everything in this pioneer collection.

Saguache County Museum

Saguache, CO • MuseumTrail.org

Any museum with a website showing women's 19th-century underwear gets our attention. The 1872 adobe building is packed with corsets, Indian tools and pioneer goods.

Genoa Historical Museum

Genoa, NE • GenoaNevada.org

Where else would you find a collection that contains Pawnee artifacts and the stories of Mormon travelers?

Hotel de Paris Museum

Georgetown, CO
HoteldeParisMuseum.org

Celebrating its 60th anniversary, fully 90 percent of the furnishings in the museum were selected by the hotel's first proprietor, Louis Dupuy.

City of Las Vegas Museum & Rough Rider Memorial Collection

Las Vegas, NM • LasVegasMuseum.org

You won't find Walt Longmire here, but you will see memorabilia from Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders.

Dayton Museum

Dayton, NV • DaytonHistory.org

This museum offers diversity, from a quilt demonstration to a hayride through the community cemetery.

Idaho State Historical Museum

Boise, ID • History.Idaho.gov

Keep an eye on this museum as new exhibits including "Spirit of the Land and Its People" are being planned for an opening in 2017.

Nevada State Railroad Museum

Carson City, NV
Museums.NevadaCulture.org

The museum has a great train collection and operates the historic Virginia & Truckee Railroad between Carson City and Virginia City.

Nelson Museum of the West, Cheyenne, WY • NelsonMuseum.org

New acquisitions include an 1860 Starr Civil War revolver and a rare 19th-century inlaid bit made by a Wyoming State Penitentiary inmate.

Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian

Amarillo, TX • Kwahadi.com

See paintings by Thomas Mails or a performance by Indian dancers.

Coachella Valley History Museum

Indio, CA • CVHM.org

This is the world's only date museum, and it also has a 1909 schoolhouse from Indio.

Gonzales County Jail Museum

Gonzales, TX • GonzalesTexas.com

What's not to love about a place that has a dungeon, a jailer's bedroom and a cell just for women and folks classified in the 19th-century as lunatics?

Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave

Golden, CO • BuffaloBill.org

Come to pay your respects to the grand showman or to see firearms from his era. Bring the kids for some fun in the saddle.

Luna Mimbres Museum

Deming, NM
LunaCountyHistoricalSociety.com

Equine-drawn vehicles include a 19th-century hearse and mule-drawn oil tank.

Legacy of the Plains

Gering, NE • LegacyOfThePlains.org

Pioneer history from trail days to farmers and homesteaders come together in this recently expanded museum.

Smoki Museum

Prescott, AZ • SmokiMuseum.org

Here you'll find a large collection of prehistoric pottery and stories of indigenous cultures of the Southwest.

Victor Lowell Thomas Museum

Victor, CO • VictorColorado.com

Pan for gold or visit a working gold mine, then view the antique doll collection.

American West Heritage Center

Wellsville, UT • AWHC.org

Living historians demonstrate the art of making bobbin lace, or what life was like for a fur trapper.

South Park City

Fairplay, CO • SouthParkCity.org

This replica of a frontier mining community is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Colorado Railroad Museum

Golden, CO
ColoradoRailroadMuseum.org

With 59 railcars and hundreds of artifacts, rail aficionados will feel right at home here.

Yuma Territorial Prison Museum

Yuma, AZ • YumaPrison.org

Closed as a prison in 1909, this stone and adobe structure is well preserved, right down to the "dark cell."

California Trail Interpretive Center

Elko, NV • CaliforniaTrailCenter.org

Learn what it meant to "See the Elephant" when traveling the trail to California's goldfields.

Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum

Buffalo, WY • JimGatchell.com

The wagons here are the real deal; one of them was even used for the filming of a river-crossing depicted at the National Historic Trail Interpretive Center down the road in Caspar.

Hoofprints of the Past Museum

Kaycee, WY • HoofprintsofThePast.org

Nate Champion died not far from the location of this museum that tells his story and that of the Wild Bunch and Hole-in-the-Wall.

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**WESTERN
SPIRIT**
SCOTTSDALE'S
MUSEUM
OF THE WEST



Photo: Ken Amorosano

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include:**

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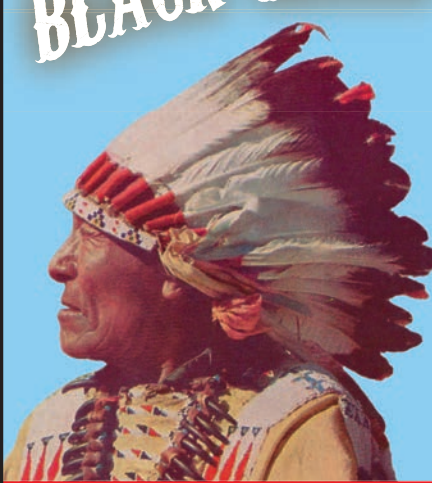
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Elko, NV • I-80 Exit 292 • www.californiatrailcenter.org • 775-738-1849

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www.journeymuseum.org

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Top 6 Art Museums of 2015

THE EDITORS/
WRITTEN BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS



**TOP
WESTERN
ART
MUSEUMS
2015**



C.M. Russell Museum

Great Falls, MT
CMRussell.org

Few artists remain as iconic as Charles M. Russell, and what better place to honor him than his adopted hometown, where he lived, painted and sculpted? The complex includes Russell's home and log studio, but the highlights have to be the roughly 2,000 pieces by Russell, some of his personal belongings and the permanent exhibit "The Bison: American Icon, Heart of Plains Indian Culture."

Every March, The C.M. Russell Museum hosts one of the nation's largest art shows and auctions, including a gallery featuring artwork of the Russell Skull Society of Artists.

- COURTESY GREAT FALLS CVB -

Knights Museum and Sandhills Center

On the edge of the Nebraska Sandhills.

A Railroad town.

A Cow-town.

An Ag town.

Where history runs deep.

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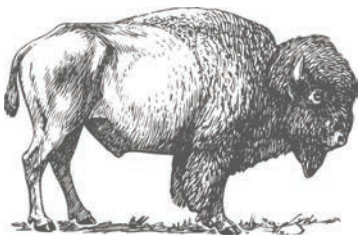
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Building the Best Hometown in America

KnightsMuseum.com

GRAND DUKE ALEXIS RENDEZVOUS

Friday, September 18 -
Sunday, September 20



Take part in the recreation of one of Nebraska's prominent events in frontier history. Be transported back to 1872 and visit with characters like General Custer, Buffalo Bill, Spotted Tail, and the Grand Duke of Russia, Alexis Romanov while on their spectacular buffalo hunt.

More Information at:

www.lincolncountymuseum.org



Lincoln County Historical Museum
2403 N. Buffalo Bill Ave.
North Platte, Nebraska



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888-444-1867 • VisitNebraska.com



Tacoma Art Museum

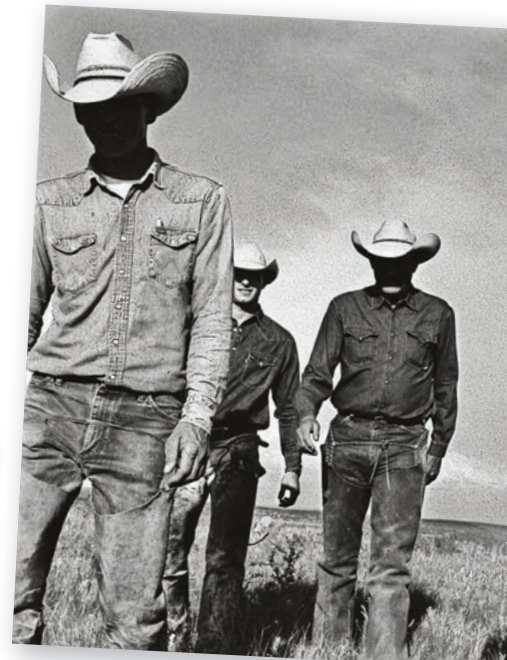
Tacoma, WA

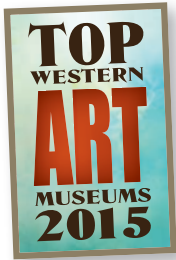
TacomaArtMuseum.org

You might not think of Tacoma as a Western town, but this museum just gets bigger and better. An exhibit on Georgia O'Keeffe's New Mexico still-lives ended this summer while the museum's inaugural exhibition of the Haub Family Collection—"Art of the American West," featuring works by Thomas Moran and others—runs through this fall.

The Tacoma Art Museum's modern Western art exhibition includes American artist John Nieto's 1996 *Buffalo at Sunset*, a 48 x 60 acrylic on canvas.

— COURTESY TACOMA ART MUSEUM, HAUB FAMILY COLLECTION, GIFT OF ERIVAN AND HELGA HAUB, 2014.6.89 —



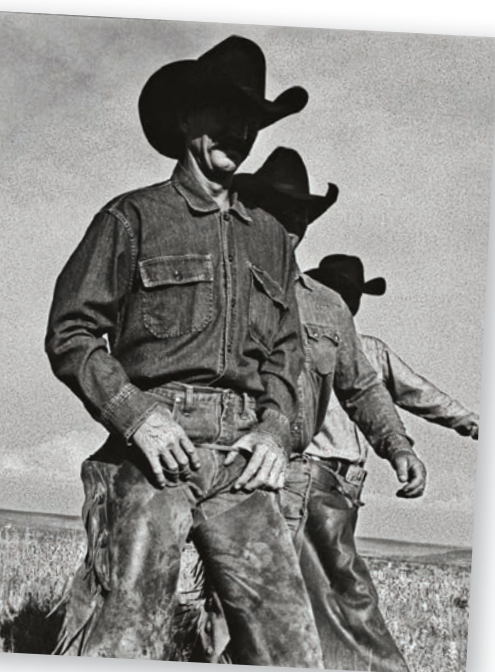


**Amon Carter
Museum
of American Art**
Fort Worth, TX
CarterMuseum.org

Sure, most people come to see the outstanding collection of Russells and Remingtons, but you'll also find Indian art, photography— check out Laura Wilson's collection that runs through February 14—and Esther Pearl Watson's mural-size *Pasture Cows Crossing Indian Creek*, created for the museum's atrium.

The Amon Carter Museum of American Art is home to one of the nation's largest collections of historic and modern Western photography, including Laura Wilson's gelatin silver print *Cowboys Walking*, photographed at the J.R. Green Cattle Company in Shackelford County, Texas in 1997.

— COURTESY © LAURA WILSON, AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART —



George Catlin's
**AMERICAN
BUFFALO**

May 30 - August 30, 2015
Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum
Canyon, Texas
The only venue in Texas

Join us for the exhibition opening on **May 29th, 2015 at 5:30pm**
For tickets, please visit panhandleplains.org



George Catlin, *Buffalo Bull, Grazing on the Prairie*, 1832-1833, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Mrs. Joseph Harrison, Jr.



George Catlin, *Bird's-eye View of the Mandan Village*, 1800 Miles above St. Louis, 1837-1839, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Mrs. Joseph Harrison, Jr.

The exhibition, *George Catlin's American Buffalo*, explores Catlin's representation of buffalo and their integration into the lives of Native Americans through forty original paintings by the artist.

George Catlin's American Buffalo is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum in collaboration with the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Generous support for the exhibition has been provided by Mary Anne and Richard W. Cree, and Lynn and Foster Friess. Additional support for the exhibition and the publication was provided by the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment Fund and the Smithsonian Council for American Art. Support for Treasures to Go, the Museum's traveling exhibition program, comes from The C.F. Foundation, Atlanta, Georgia.

PPHM

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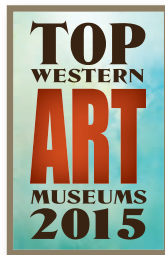
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4



Whitney Western Art Museum

Buffalo Bill Center of the West
Cody, WY
CenterofTheWest.org

We expect great things from new curator Karen McWhorter, who took over in March, but this

perennial favorite is always tops. It offers Frederic Remington's studio, Joseph Henry Sharp's cabin and some 7,000 pieces of art, with historical works often hanging alongside contemporary pieces.

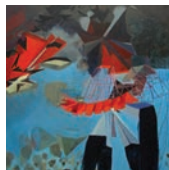
The Whitney Western Art Museum at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West is home to one of the world's most extensive collections of art depicting the spirit, wildlife, people and land of the West.

- COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST -



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~ BANDA CALACA ~

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October 9, 2015 - December 6, 2015

WESTERN HEROES
OF PULP FICTION

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October 24, 2015 - February 14, 2016



Angie Zielinski, *Drip Dropping*, 2013, acrylic on panel. Courtesy the artist; Hank Tusinski, *Banda Calaca*, 2015, mixed media installation. Photo courtesy the artist; Shen Wei, *Untitled No. 10-4/6*, 2013, oil and acrylic on canvas; RG Harris, Thrilling Western (Sheriff) "Gun Law", 1935, oil on linen, 23 3/8 x 21 in., Private Collection.

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5



Stark Museum of Art Orange, TX • StarkCulturalVenues.org

The Stark continues to impress us—a fantastic exhibit on John James Audubon closed this summer—with its outstanding collection of great pieces from the 19th and 20th centuries. Any place where you can see works by Taos masters and Alfred Jacob Miller's *Lost on the Prairie* is worth a visit.

Frederic Remington's 1901 *Halt-Dismount!* Is a 30.25 x 51.25-inch oil on canvas, and one of the most significant pieces in the Western art collection of the Stark Museum of Art in Orange, Texas.

- COURTESY STARK MUSEUM OF ART, ORANGE, TEXAS, 31.10.5. -

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or visit

PawneeBillRanch.com

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Northeastern Nevada Museum
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www.ExploreElko.com



6



Tucson Museum of Art

Tucson, AZ

TucsonMuseumOfArt.org

How many museums showcase WPA art, folk art and, running through next year, “Welcome to the American West!,” featuring 200 years of Western art? We’re really looking forward to “Western Heroes of Pulp Fiction: Dime Novel to Pop Culture,” which opens in October and shows how dime novels, pulp magazines and comic books helped shape our love for all things Western.

“Western Heroes of Pulp Fiction: Dime Novel to Pulp Fiction” at the Tucson Museum of Art includes Aaron Riley’s 2014 *Deathly Drifter*.

— COURTESY @PINNACLE ENTERTAINMENT GROUP OF CHANDLER, AZ
TUCSON MUSEUM OF ART —

facebook.com/carboncountyyw

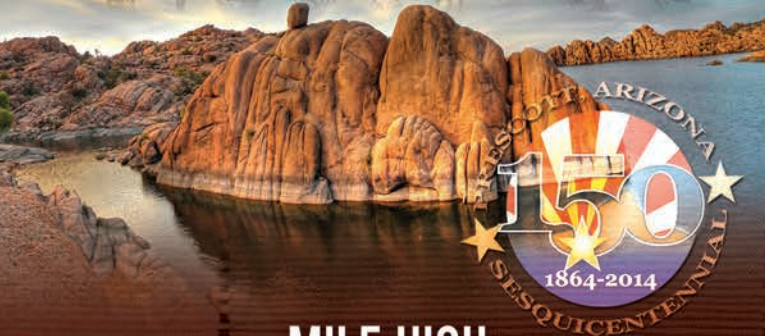
Get Your West on

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The
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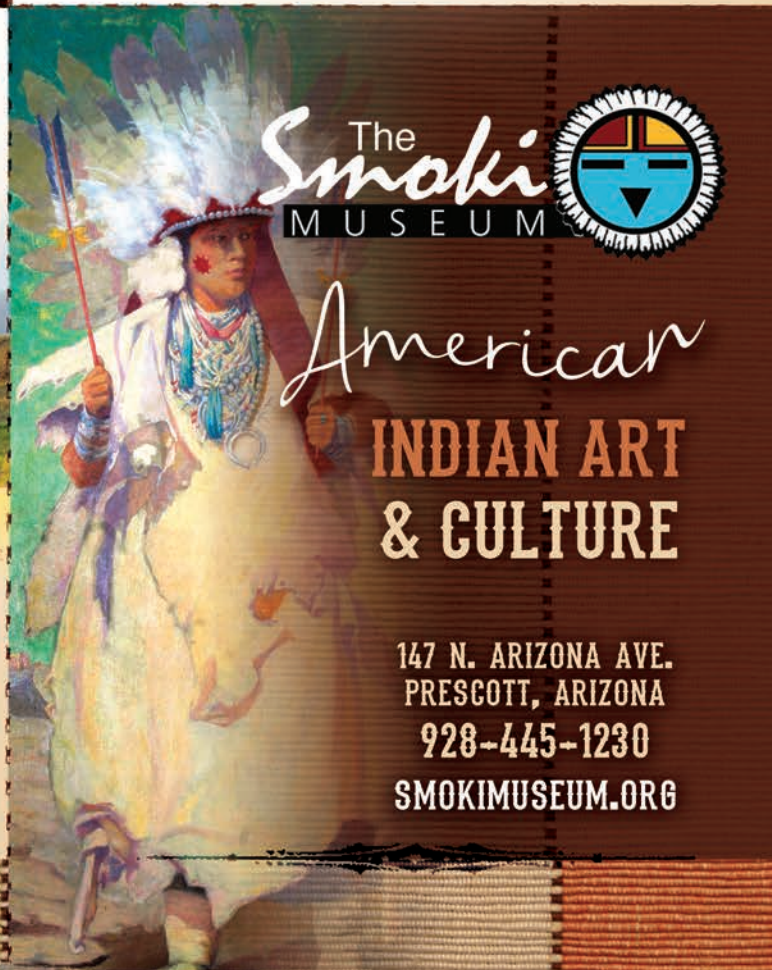
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SMOKIMUSEUM.ORG



ART MUSEUMS TO WATCH



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Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West

Scottsdale, AZ • ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org

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Gilcrease Museum

Tulsa, OK • Gilcrease.UTulsa.edu

The museum for art scholars and casual viewers.

The Favell Museum

Klamath Falls, OR • FavellMuseum.org

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COURTESY A.R. MITCHELL MUSEUM OF ART

A.R. Mitchell Museum of Art

Trinidad, CO • ARMitchellMuseum.com

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COURTESY SCOTTSDALE'S MUSEUM OF THE WEST

Heard Museum

Phoenix, AZ • Heard.org

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Booth Western Art Museum

Cartersville, GA • BoothMuseum.org

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Becker Family Room: Artifacts from the family responsible for lobbying Washington to take Route 60 from coast to coast

White Mountain Historic Society Museum: Showcases the history of our region

Visit Springerville-Eagar

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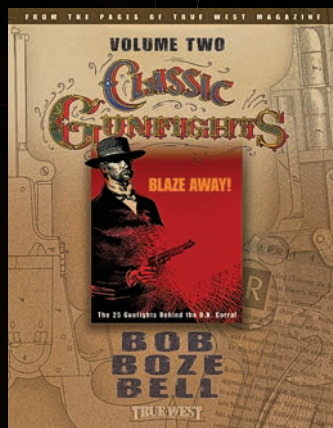
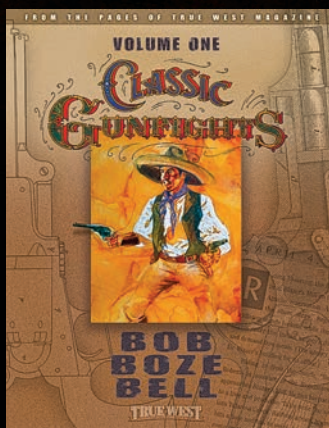
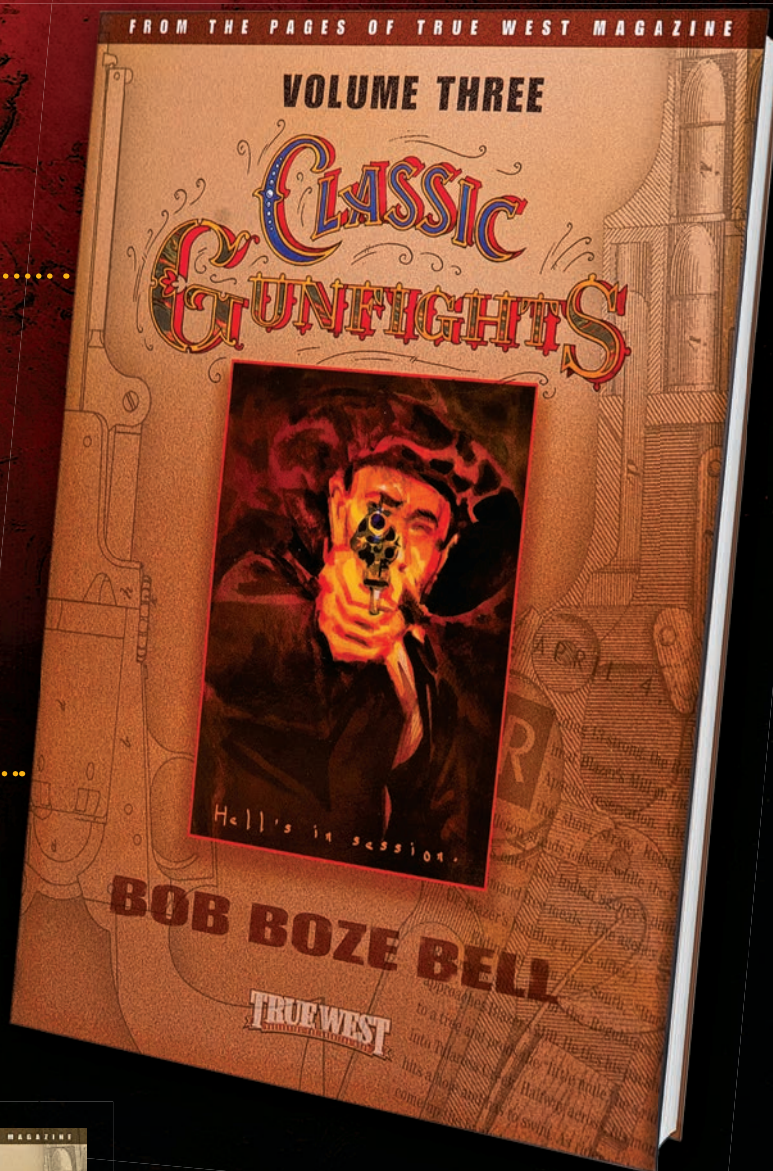
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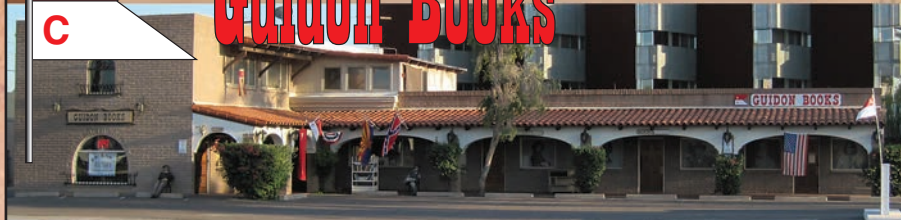
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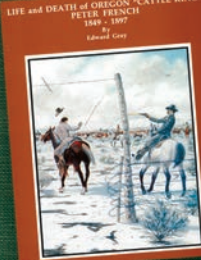
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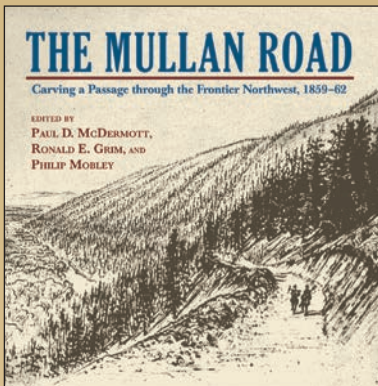
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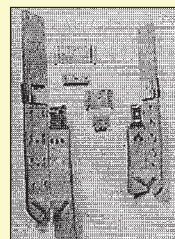
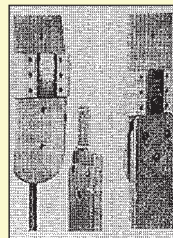
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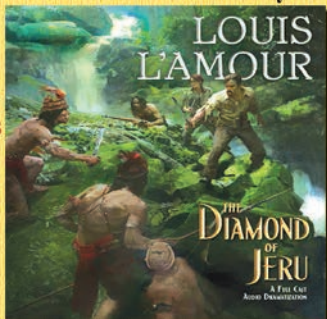
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FOR SEPTEMBER 2015



TOTAH FESTIVAL INDIAN MARKET & POW WOW

Farmington, NM, September 5-6: American Indian artisans from across the Four Corners region celebrate their heritage with a powwow and an authentic Navajo rug auction.
505-599-1174 • FarmingtonNM.org

ART FESTIVALS

BUFFALO ROUNDUP AND ARTS FESTIVAL

Custer State Park, SD, September 24-26: Western artists showcase their work as cowboys roundup and drive a herd of approximately 1,300 buffalo.
605-255-4515 • BlackHillsBadlands.com

FAVELL MUSEUM INVITATIONAL ART SHOW & SALE

Klamath Falls, OR, Opens September 26: A showcase of contemporary, representational art by more than 30 acclaimed West Coast artists.
541-882-9996 • FavellMuseum.org

AUCTION

ANTIQUE & MODERN FIREARMS

Rock Island, IL, September 11-13: Firearm enthusiasts bid on antique and modern firearms, edged weapons and military artifacts.
800-238-8022 • RockIslandAuction.com

COMPETITIONS

MEEKER CLASSIC SHEEPDOG CHAMPIONSHIP TRIALS

Meeker, CO, September 9-13: Held since 1987, this sheepdog competition refines the skills required of a dog and rancher to manage a sheep ranch.
970-878-0111 • MeekerSheepdog.com



WILD WEST FEST

Dodge City, KS, September 25-27: Cowboys and cowgirls celebrate the Dodge City's Old West heritage with a professional rodeo and history re-enactments, plus a commemoration of *Gunsmoke's* 60th anniversary.
877-906-0777 • DodgeCityWildWestFest.com

ALL NATIONS INDIAN RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Billings, MT, September 17-20: American Indians compete in a high-daring sport of horsemanship that is America's oldest known competition.
406-370-8470 • IndianRelay.com

FRONTIER FARE

TASTE OF OREGON'S OLD WEST

Condon, OR, September 12: Showcases locally grown food and beverages, recreation, culture and landscape of the John Day River Territory.
541-786-8006 • VisitEasternOregon.com

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

WAGON DAYS

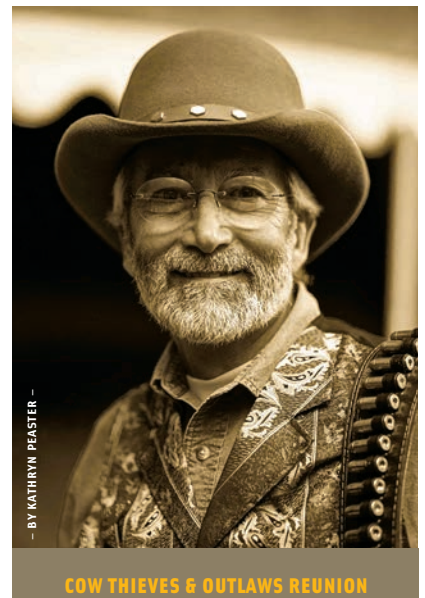
Ketchum, ID, September 2-7: Features one of the largest non-motorized parades in the Pacific Northwest, plus wagons and stagecoaches.
800-658-2548 • WagonDays.org

GOLD RUSH DAYS

Sacramento, CA, September 4-7: Go back in time to 1850 Sacramento where you can pan for gold, gamble and drink homemade sarsaparilla.
800-292-2334 • SacramentoGoldRushDays.com

FIESTA DE SEPTIEMBRE

Wickenburg, AZ, September 5: This celebration of Hispanic pioneer heritage features Mariachi music,



— BY KATHRYN PEASER —

COW THIEVES & OUTLAWS REUNION

Bartlesville, OK, September 26: Cowboys and cowgirls gather at Woolaroc's Clyde Lake Pavilion for a major fundraising event benefiting the Frank Phillips Foundation.
918-336-0307 • Woolaroc.org

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FOR SEPTEMBER 2015



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Gering, NE, September 19-20: Parades and demonstrations honor agricultural history of Nebraska at Legacy of the Plains Museum.
 308-436-1989 • LegacyOfThePlains.org

folklorico dances and an outdoor mercado.
 928-684-5479 • WickenburgChamber.com

OLD WEST BALLOON FEST

Scottsbluff, NE, September 5: Spectators gather to watch hot air balloons rise to the sky, as well as enjoy a kite demonstration and live music.
 308-665-1808 • OldWestBalloonFest.com

BARLOW TRAIL RENDEZVOUS DAYS

The Dalles, OR, September 5-6: Cowboys and mountain men celebrate their heritage with a chili cook-off, horseshoe tournament and more.
 541-544-2077 • TheDallesChamber.com

ELKO COUNTY FAIR & HORSE RACES

Elko, NV, Closes September 7: Elko County residents pay tribute to their pioneer heritage with livestock shows and horse races.
 800-248-3556 • ExploreElko.com

DEFEAT OF JESSE JAMES DAYS

Northfield, MN, September 9-13: Celebrate the town heroes who stopped the Jesse James Gang during their famous 1876 bank raid.
 800-658-2548 • DJJD.org

WHY WYOMING WILL WANT TO REWRITE THE HISTORY OF COWBOY HIGH STYLE

Cheyenne, WY, September 10: John Faubion discusses how Lawrence Tenney Stevens's sculptures have impacted Cowboy High Style.
 307-777-7021 • LawrenceTenneyStevens.com

HELLS CANYON MULE DAYS

Enterprise, OR, September 11-13: This mule show and sale features an Old World Oxen living history camp, plus cowboy music, poetry and art.
 888-323-3271 • HellsCanyonMuleDays.com

NATIONAL COWBOY SYMPOSIUM & CELEBRATION

Lubbock, TX, September 11-13: Celebrate cowboy culture at one of the West's biggest chuckwagon cook-offs, plus enjoy cowboy music and poetry.
 806-798-7825 • Cowboy.org

AMERICAN INDIAN DAY & POWWOW CELEBRATION

Chamberlain, SD, September 17-19: St. Joseph's Indian School honors Lakota culture with an all-day powwow, *tiyospaye* banquet and hoop dances.
 800-341-2235 • StJo.org

RAIL TOWN USA RAILFEST

North Platte, NE, September 18-20: Locals pay tribute to the history and continued progress of the Union Pacific Railroad.
 308-221-6104 • NPRailfest.com

FORT BAYARD DAYS

Silver City, NM, September 18-20: This celebration of Buffalo Soldiers history offers tours of the 1866 fort, a military ball and history re-enactments.
 575-956-3294 • FortBayard.org

FUR TRADE SYMPOSIUM

La Junta, CO, September 23-26: Join historians and enthusiasts at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site to celebrate fur trade history.
 719-282-5026 • 2015FTS.org



WINNEMUCCA TRI-COUNTY FAIR & STAMPEDE

Winnemucca, NV, September 3-6: Residents of Winnemucca and its surrounding counties gather to celebrate their cowboy heritage and culture.
 800-962-2638 • LaborDayFair.com



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RE-ENACTMENTS

SHOWDOWN IN TOMBSTONE

Tombstone, AZ, September 5-7: Gunfighting groups from across the country gather to perform on the streets of Tombstone. 888-457-3929 • TombstoneChamber.com

GRAND DUKE ALEXIS RENDEZVOUS

North Platte, NE, September 18-20: Re-enacts Grand Duke Alexis's 1872 buffalo hunt with Gen. George Custer and Buffalo Bill Cody. 308-534-5640 • LincolnCountyMuseum.org



CELEBRATE BANDERA

Bandera, TX, September 4-6: Bandera comes alive with music, gunfights, an intertribal powwow, a Wild West show and a mutton busting rodeo. 830-796-4447 • CelebrateBandera.com

YOUNGER BROTHERS CAPTURE

Madelia, MN, September 19: Re-enacts the 1876 capture of the Younger Brothers and James Gang member Charlie Pitts by residents of Madelia. 507-642-8822 • VisitMadelia.com

RODEOS

CAL FARLEY'S BOYS RANCH RODEO

Amarillo, TX, September 5-6: Features the rodeo talents of the boys and girls of Cal Farley's, ages 3 to 18, plus a free barbecue lunch. 800-687-3722 • CalFarley.org

WEST TEXAS FAIR AND RODEO

Abilene, TX, September 11-19: This week of PRCA rodeo also offers up a tractor pull, food vendors and a carnival with a variety of rides. 325-677-4376 • TaylorCountyExpoCenter.com

PENDLETON ROUND-UP

Pendleton, OR, September 16-19: A PRCA rodeo with cowboy concerts, Indian relay races, the Happy Canyon festival and a rodeo parade. 800-457-6336 • PendletonRoundup.com

TWMag.com:

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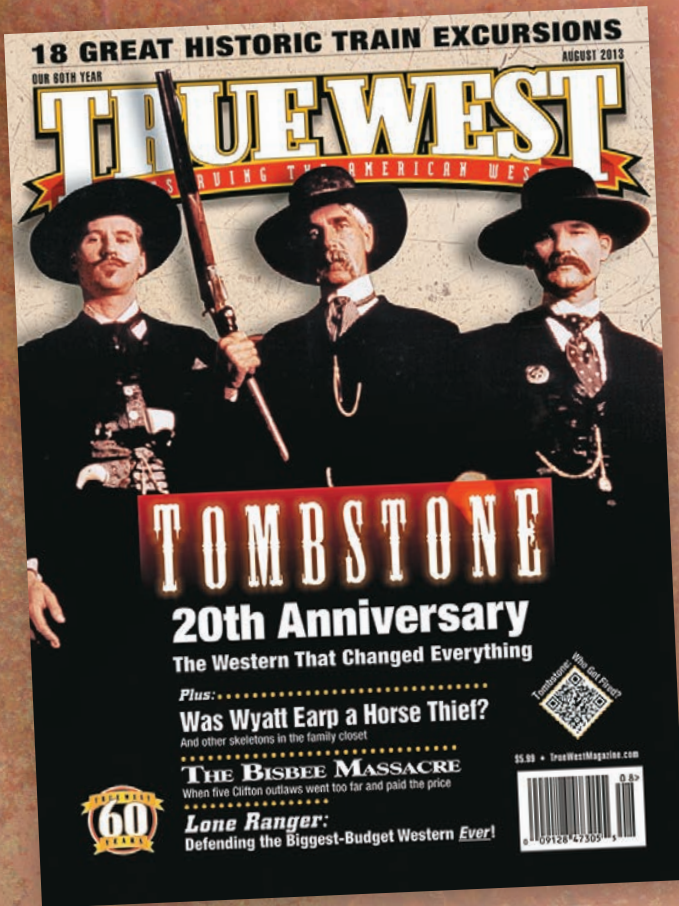
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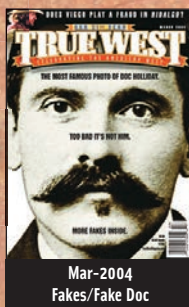
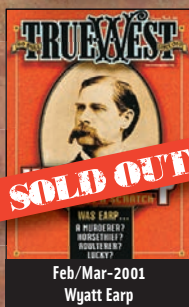
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- Jan/Feb: Six Guns
- Mar: Fakes/Fake Doc
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- May: Iron Horse/Sacred Dogs
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- Jan/Feb: Rare Photos
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- May: The Racial Frontier
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- Dec: Buffalo Gals & Guys

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2009

- Jan/Feb: Border Riders
- Mar: Poncho Villa
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- Jul: Am West, Then & Now
- Aug: Wild West Shows
- Sep: Vaquero/500 Yrs Before CBs
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- Mar: Trains/Pony Express
- Apr: OW Destinations/Clint Eastwood
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- Jun: Extreme Western Adventures
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- Aug: Digging Up Billy the Kid
- Sep: Classic Rodeo!
- Oct: Extraordinary Western Art
- Nov/Dec: Black Warriors of the West

2011

- Jan/Feb: Sweethearts of the Rodeo
- Mar: 175th Anniv Battle of the Alamo
- Apr: Three True Grits

- May: Historic Ranches
- Jun: Tin Type Billy
- Jul: Viva, Outlaw Women!
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- Oct: Hard Targets
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2012

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- Mar: Special Entertainment Issue
- Apr: Riding Shotgun with History
- May: The Outlaw Cowboys of NM
- Jun: Wyatt On The Set!
- July: Deadly Trackers
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- Oct: Bravest Lawman You Never
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2013

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- Feb: Rocky Mountain Rangers
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2014

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Almost Heaven



Ask The Marshall

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official state historian and the vice president of the Wild West History Association. His latest book is *Arizona's Outlaws and Lawmen*. If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 or e-mail him at marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu

Did Jesse and Frank James hide out in West Virginia?

Tom Morton
Vista, California

During their heydays in the 1870s and early 1880s, the James brothers were in Kentucky and Tennessee, and their movements could have taken them into West Virginia.

My colleague Mark Boardman says no evidence proves they spent quality time in the state, but they were there briefly in September 1875. His anecdote of the outlaws cheating death there reminds me of West Virginia's slogan, "Almost Heaven," taken from a John Denver song.

"Frank James and Cole Younger, along with two pals, hit the bank in Huntington, West Virginia, for about \$10,000," Boardman says. "One of the bandits was wounded and died; another was captured and did jail time. But the amazing luck of Frank and Cole—which would come to an end a year later in Minnesota—held up, and they made it back to Missouri safely."

What was life like for people living in "soddies?"

Stace Webb
Wenatchee, Washington

West of the 100th Meridian, the annual rainfall was half of the precipitation found in the tallgrass prairie. The free 160 acres provided by the 1862 Homestead Act would have sustained an Eastern farm, but barely supported a subsistence shortgrass farm on the western Great Plains.

Since wood, rock and brick clay were scarce, Plains settlers built houses of sod similar to Ireland's turf homes or the American Indians' earth-covered shelters. In 1846, Mormons became the



Frank James



Cole Younger

first to build sod homes. By the 1880s, they no longer had to spade one brick at a time, as a grasshopper plow cut the sod into strips. They built a one-room soddy in about a week, and it would last about seven years. The home was cool in the winter and warm in the summer, and was fireproof, bulletproof and could even withstand tornadoes.

Once the soddy was built, the family planted the crop. During the 1870s-80s, wild game helped feed the family. The men spent their days in the fields, and the women kept the house in order and raised the growing brood of kids who helped out on the farm.

Mary Walker, a mother of eight children, wrote in her 1840 diary: "Got my housework done; baked six more loaves of bread; cooked a kettle of mush; put my clothes away; set my house in order—at 9 pm was delivered with another baby."

In short, life was hard, a seven-day-a-week struggle just to keep going.

What's the story behind the phrase "There's gold in them thar hills?"

Jim Medland
Phoenix, Arizona

That comes from Mark Twain's 1892 novel *The American Claimant*. He supposedly got it indirectly from a Georgia assayer, Dr. Matthew Fleming Stephenson, who said, "there's millions in it," to keep locals from heading to California for the Gold Rush in 1849. The phrase later became corrupted to the above.

What kind of rifle was Bull Harris using in 1966's *El Dorado*?

Robert C. Tignor
Independence, Missouri

Bull Harris (played by Arthur Hunnicutt) carried an 1855 Colt Revolving carbine. Although Colt manufactured fewer than 5,000 of these revolving rifles between 1856-1864, the 1855 model was the most widely produced of the revolving rifles.

"The Severed Heads Campaign" (March 2015) was a most interesting story. Did some frontier bounty hunters also collect heads?

Paul Gordon
St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

Absolutely—frontier bounty hunters collected the heads of California bandit Joaquin Murrieta and Midwest murderer Micajah "Big" Harpe.

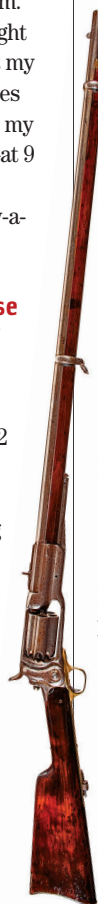
One of the most interesting tales involved the Espinosa brothers, Felipe and José Vivian, who went on a bloody rampage in Colorado. Starting in March 1863, they shot, stabbed and mutilated some 32 people.

Felipe claimed divine inspiration from the Virgin Mary. His brutality increased after a posse killed his brother. A 16-year-old nephew, also named José, became his accomplice.

On October 12, 1863, Lt. Col. Samuel F. Tappen, at Colorado's Fort Garland, summoned Army scout and mountain man Tom Tobin to run the boys to the ground. Tobin returned a couple days later, reached into a flour sack and pulled out the heads of Felipe and Jose.

Ultimately, Colorado did not pay the \$2,500 bounty—Tobin didn't seem to mind, saying he didn't know about the price on their heads.

Put in service by the U.S. Army in 1857, the Colt Revolving Rifle quickly earned a bad reputation among the troops. Hot gasses created when a chamber was fired sometimes ignited adjacent chambers.



— ALL PHOTOS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —



Tom Tobin (above) never received the bounty due him, but he allegedly received a Henry rifle from the U.S. Army, and, from Colorado Gov. John Evans, a coat similar to one worn by Kit Carson, whose son would marry Tobin's daughter Pascualita in 1878.

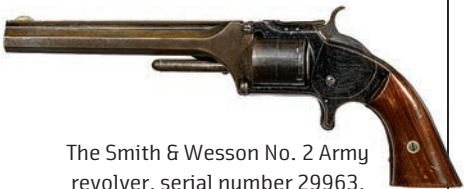
What became of Hickok's weapons?

Rick Seward
Ord, Nebraska

James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok was allegedly carrying a .32 caliber Smith and Wesson Model 2 Army with a six-inch barrel when he was gunned down by Jack McCall in Deadwood, South Dakota, on August 2, 1876. Deadwood Sheriff Seth Bullock took the dead man's possessions and gave the pistol to settle a debt Hickok owed to storekeeper Adolph Fishel.

On November 18, 2013, this pistol came up for auction in San Francisco, but the high bid of \$220,000 didn't meet the reserve price set by the owners.

Hickok owned several other guns, including a carbine that was supposedly buried with him. But I do not know what happened to them.



The Smith & Wesson No. 2 Army revolver, serial number 29963, that Wild Bill Hickok allegedly carried when he was killed in 1876 failed to meet the reserve at the Bonhams auction. As far as we know, the pistol is still owned by Leo Zymetzke's family.

- COURTESY BONHAMS, NOVEMBER 18, 2013 -

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ROUTE 66

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GROWING UP ON ROUTE 66, THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS TWO-LANE BLACKTOP

What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

The best book on Bent's Fort is David Lavender's *Bent's Fort*, although Mark Lee Gardner wrote a great Historic Resource Study for the park about 10 years ago; it sure would be nice to see that published.

My favorite fort anecdote is when a Cheyenne medicine man used sandburs coated with buffalo grease to remove what was likely a diphtheritic membrane from William Bent's throat—probably saving Bent's life and changing the course of history.

One of my favorite history quotations is a line from the Broadway musical *Wicked*, when the Wizard says: "...where I'm from we believe all sorts of things that aren't true. We call it 'history.'"

The strangest guy in the fur trade was Archibald Pelton up at Fort Astoria (then called Fort George). "Pelton" was used by the Chinook as a word for "crazy."

The best place to get period clothing for a pre-1850 civilian trading post like ours is Jas. Townsend and Son. But having a local seamstress, which we do, is invaluable.

A guest lecture I'm looking forward to attending at this year's symposium is Dr. James Hanson's. His encyclopedias of trade goods are becoming a go-to resource.

For the video game Minecraft, students measured Bent's Old Fort as part of the park's partnership with the Immersive Education Initiative to get our tech-savvy younger generation involved in building a virtual Bent's Fort, which we will be able to share with the world.

Susan Shelby Magoffin, the self-described "wandering princess," left us a diary that gives tremendous insight into life along the Santa Fe Trail and in Nuevo Mexico in 1846-47. If you haven't read it, you should.

The hiking trail we built here takes people along the Arkansas River when it is not under the river—like it has been for over a month now! Since the beginning of May, this area has gone from extreme drought to major flooding!

My favorite National Park is hard to pick out. Of the smaller parks, a couple favorites are Devils Tower in Wyoming and Fort Frederica in Georgia; of the larger parks, probably Acadia (where I got engaged).



Rick Wallner stands inside Bent's Old Fort, which will host the Fur Trade Symposium this September 23–26, after a nearly 30-year hiatus.



RICK WALLNER, CHIEF RANGER

This year, *True West's* readers named Bent's Old Fort, outside of La Junta, Colorado, the "Best Preserved Historical Fort of the West."

Rick Wallner has managed the fort's interpretation and visitor services since 2002, offering guests a reconstructed Santa Fe Trail trading post staffed by period-dressed interpreters. His career with the National Park Service spans more than 30 years. He grew up in Cañon City and lives in La Junta with his family. An avid traveler, he has visited 360 of the 407 National Park sites in the country.

Fur trade slang I always kind of liked: "meat bag" for stomach, but "snow eater" for a warm Chinook wind is pretty good too.

A nearby Old West site you should also visit: Boggsville, a Santa Fe Trail trading village and last home of Kit Carson.

The craziest thing that ever happened to me was evacuating all the visitors out of Mount Rushmore on September 11, 2001, and then standing all alone in the visitor plaza, watching a small plane head toward the mountain (it turned away before hitting the heads).

Wish I had a dollar for every time a kid asked if the fire burning in the fort's plaza is real. (It is.)

What history has taught me, as William Faulkner wrote: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."



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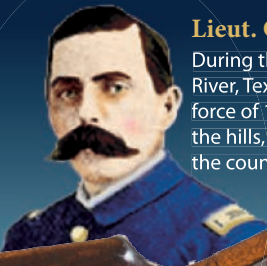
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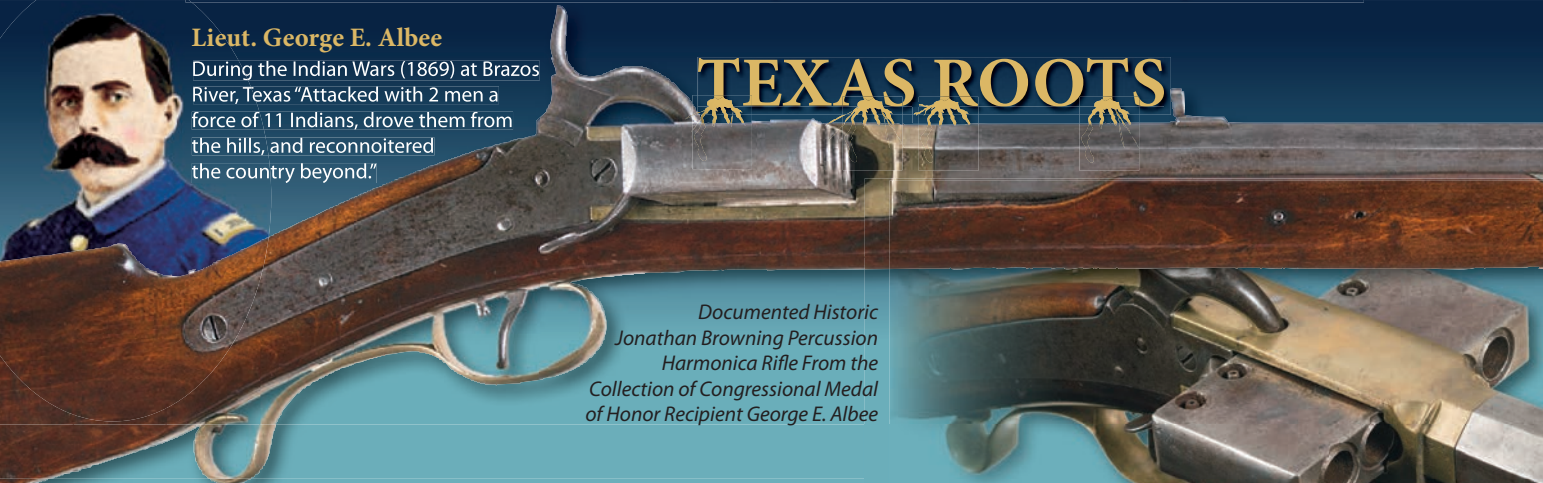
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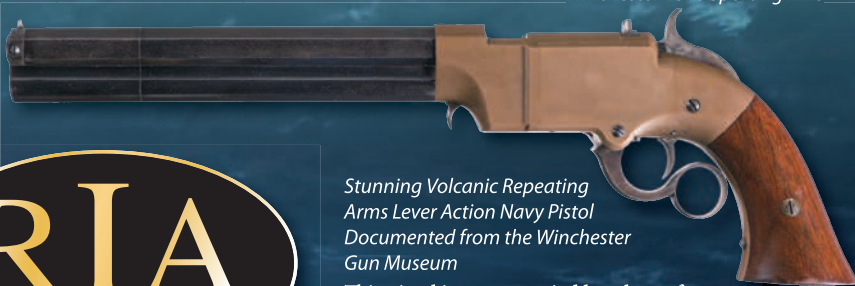
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