

**BILLY THE KID EXCLUSIVE: JAILHOUSE INTERVIEW AND SAVAGE KID DISCOVERED!**

# TRUE WEST

HISTORY FRONTIER

APRIL 2020  
OUR 67TH YEAR

## REBELS & OUTLAWS

**JESSE JAMES:  
BIRTH OF A KILLER**

BY T.J. STILES

**BILLY THE KID: FROM  
OUTLAW TO MARTYR**

**THE DEATH OF  
WILLIAM TRAVIS**

**PLUS:**

**WESTERN WOMEN AND  
WHISKEY BITTERS**

**THE LONG RIDERS  
REMEMBERED**

**SPECIAL UPDATE:  
WHAT IS THE ALAMO'S FATE?**

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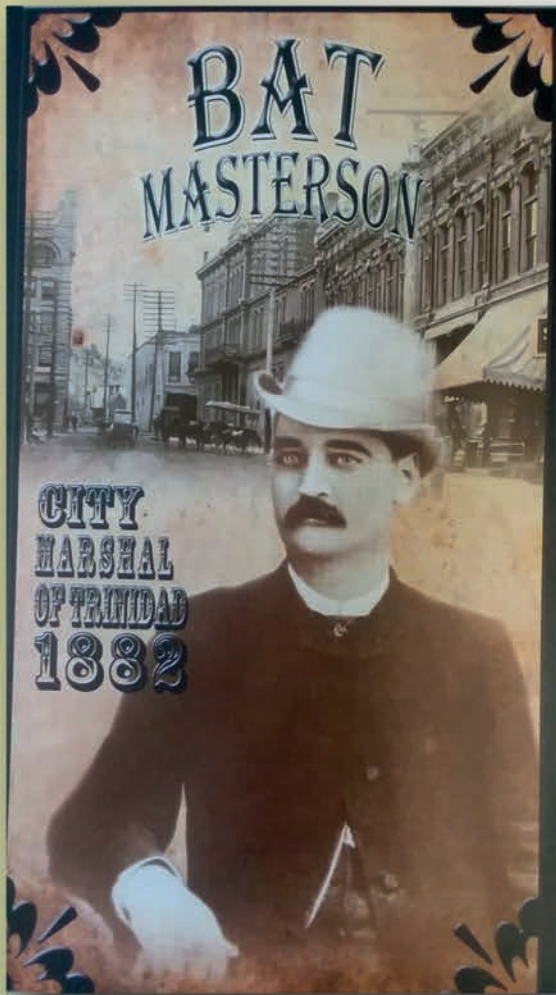
**ON THE ROAD AGAIN: OUR 18TH ANNUAL WESTERN TRAVEL ISSUE!**

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Our rich heritage and culture can be seen in the historic architecture of the Corazon de Trinidad where you can walk the brick streets that now pave the route of the Santa Fe Trail.

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Gerald Stokes-

*A Walk Through The History of Trinidad.*

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2008, 2017, 2018  
TOWN TO WATCH 2020-  
TRUE WEST MAGAZINE



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Get started at the Trinidad History Museum and tour the Baca House, Bloom Mansion, and the Santa Fe Trail Museum.



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The landscape between Yellowstone and Glacier national parks embodies all the best of Montana. Around every bend lies another treasure or a story of days gone by. A visit to this remarkable place is more than just a trip—it's a chance to “dig deeper” into the state’s robust history and vibrant landscape. You’re bound for adventure in Southwest Montana, where the Old West lives on.

**VISIT A GHOST TOWN**

Home to an untold number of ghost towns—from **Bannack** to **Virginia City** and **Nevada City**—explore some of the most authentic abandoned mining towns in the West.

**TAKE A SCENIC DRIVE**

Brimming with breathtaking landscapes, scenic byways, and routes steeped in history, there’s no wrong turn in Southwest Montana.

**EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS**

Almost a dozen state parks dot the region, as well as wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, and winding rivers, all offering world-class outdoor fun.

**FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LEWIS & CLARK**

Embark on a canyon tour of one of the most scenic stretches of river in the U.S. at **Gates of the Mountains**, complete with excellent wildlife watching.

**RELAX IN A HOT SPRING**

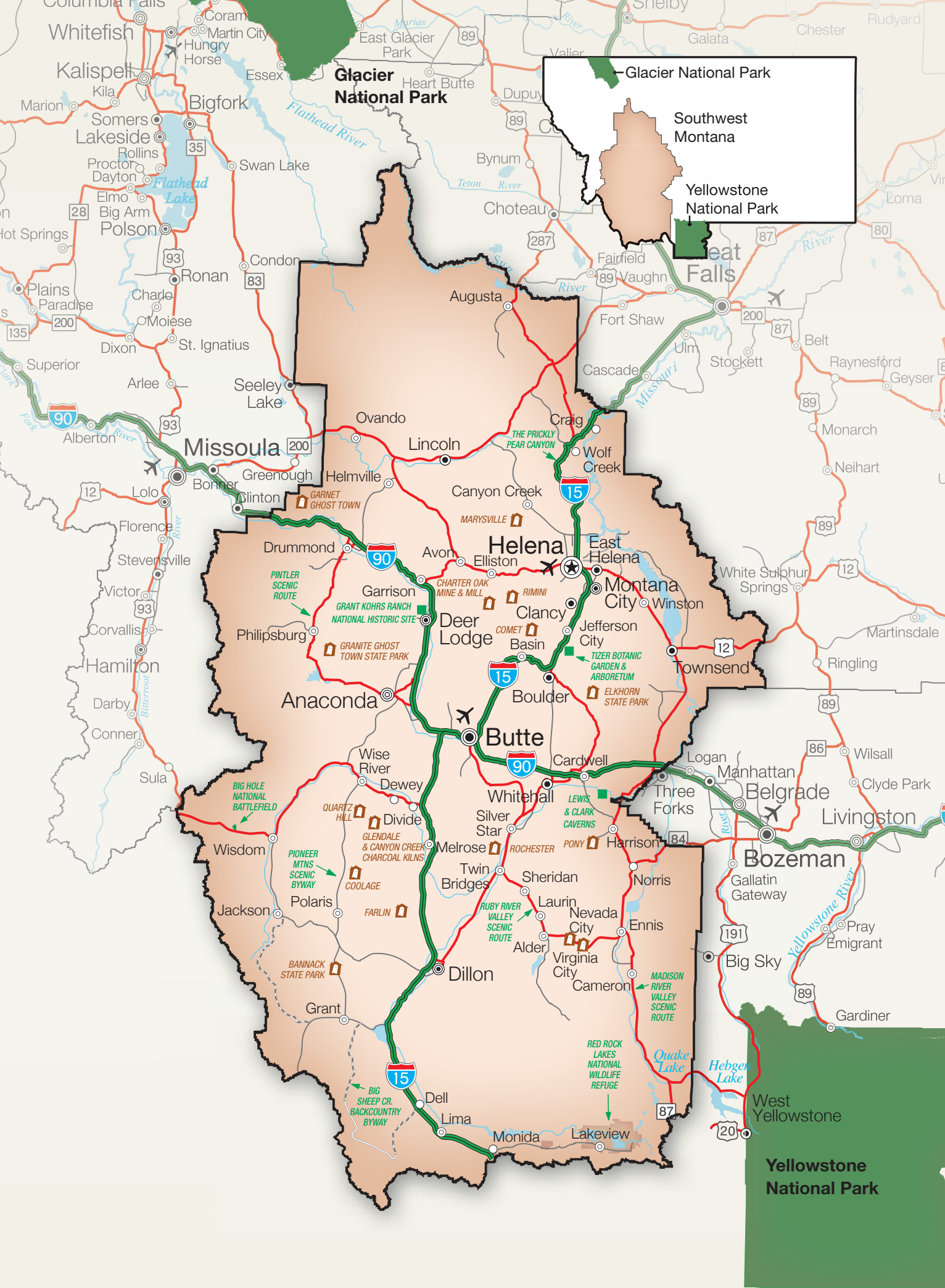
After a day of adventure, unwind in the soothing mineral waters of a hot spring fed by natural geothermal features.

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South Dakota

# LIVE THE LEGEND

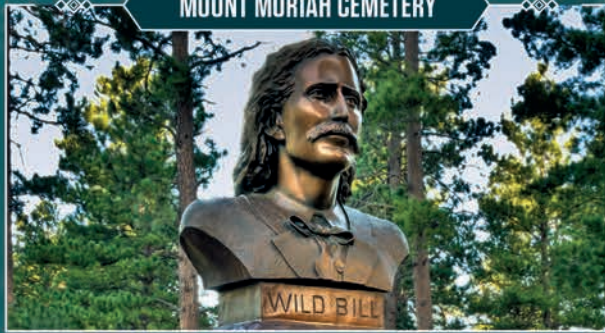
It doesn't take much to imagine Deadwood as it was in 1876: real, raw, and bursting at the seams with adventure. The history of Deadwood is no gimmick; the entire town is on the National Register of Historic Places. Explore a storied piece of frontier history—in the footsteps of Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickok—when you live your legend in Deadwood.

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### MOUNT MORIAH CEMETERY



Established in 1878, Mount Moriah Cemetery is the final resting place for Wild Bill Hickok, Seth Bullock, and Calamity Jane. It's also where you'll find sweeping views of Deadwood Gulch. Learn more about the town and the historic cemetery on a bus tour, or take your time and explore the grounds on foot using the walking-tour guide, which is available at the gate.

### MAIN STREET REENACTMENTS



See major historic events like Jack McCall's trial and Wild Bill's untimely death brought to life by Deadwood Alive. The daily Main Street shows are free, and for \$6 you can see the Trial of Jack McCall reenacted at the Masonic Temple.

### OUTLAW SQUARE



Stop by the newly-minted Outlaw Square for weekly summer events like movie night and a concert series. All events are free and family-friendly. Keep up with the latest events on our Facebook page, [@outlawsquare](https://www.facebook.com/outlawsquare).



# JESSE JAMES RIFLE

Notorious Outlaw, Bank and Train Robber – Jesse Woodson James was born on Sept. 5, 1847 in Clay County, Missouri near the present-day Kearney. This area was settled by people from the upper south, such as Kentucky and Tennessee. Raised in the “Little Dixie” area of western Missouri, Jesse’s family had strong Southern sympathies. Jesse’s father was a Baptist minister. As a result, Jesse never swore and was religious by nature. Jesse and his brother, Frank James, became Confederate Bushwhackers operating in Kansas and Missouri during the Civil War. They followed William Quantrill and “Bloody Bill” Anderson and were accused of atrocities against Union soldiers as well as civilian abolitionists, including the Centralia Massacre in 1864.

After the war, Jesse and Frank robbed banks, stagecoaches and trains across the Midwest. They were members of several gangs and gained national fame and popular sympathy despite the ferocity of their crimes. Jesse and Frank were most active as members of their own gang, the James-Younger Gang from 1866 through 1876.

On July 21, 1873, Jesse and Frank turned to Train robbery. Wearing Klu Klux Klan masks, they derailed a Rock Island Line train west of Adair, Iowa and stole \$3000. Today that would be approximately \$63,000. They only robbed passengers twice, preferring to rob the safe in the baggage car. In 1875 the Pinkertons staged a raid on the Family farm. They threw an incendiary device into the house which exploded killing his half-brother and severing his mother’s arm. Durring a botched bank robbery in Northfield, Minnesota several of the gang were captured or killed.

They continued their life of crime for a few more years, recruiting more members. After his gang was annihilated, they only trusted the Ford brothers. On April 3, 1882, Jesse James was shot in the back of the head and killed by the coward, Robert Ford, while straightening a picture on the wall in his home.

Heroes and Patriots is proud to present this Special Limited Edition firearm with 24 Kt. Gold plating on the barrel band, Receiver and butt plate in a satin finish and beautifully engraved. Only 50 numbered rifles will be made! This will become a Family Heirloom worthy of passing down to your future generations. Makes a Great gift for Birthdays, Holidays, Retirements, Fundraisers and so much more!

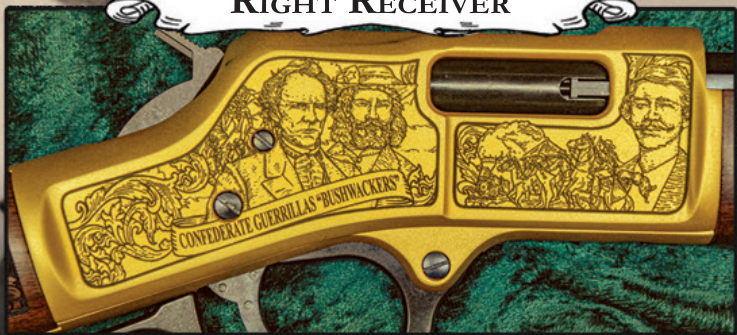
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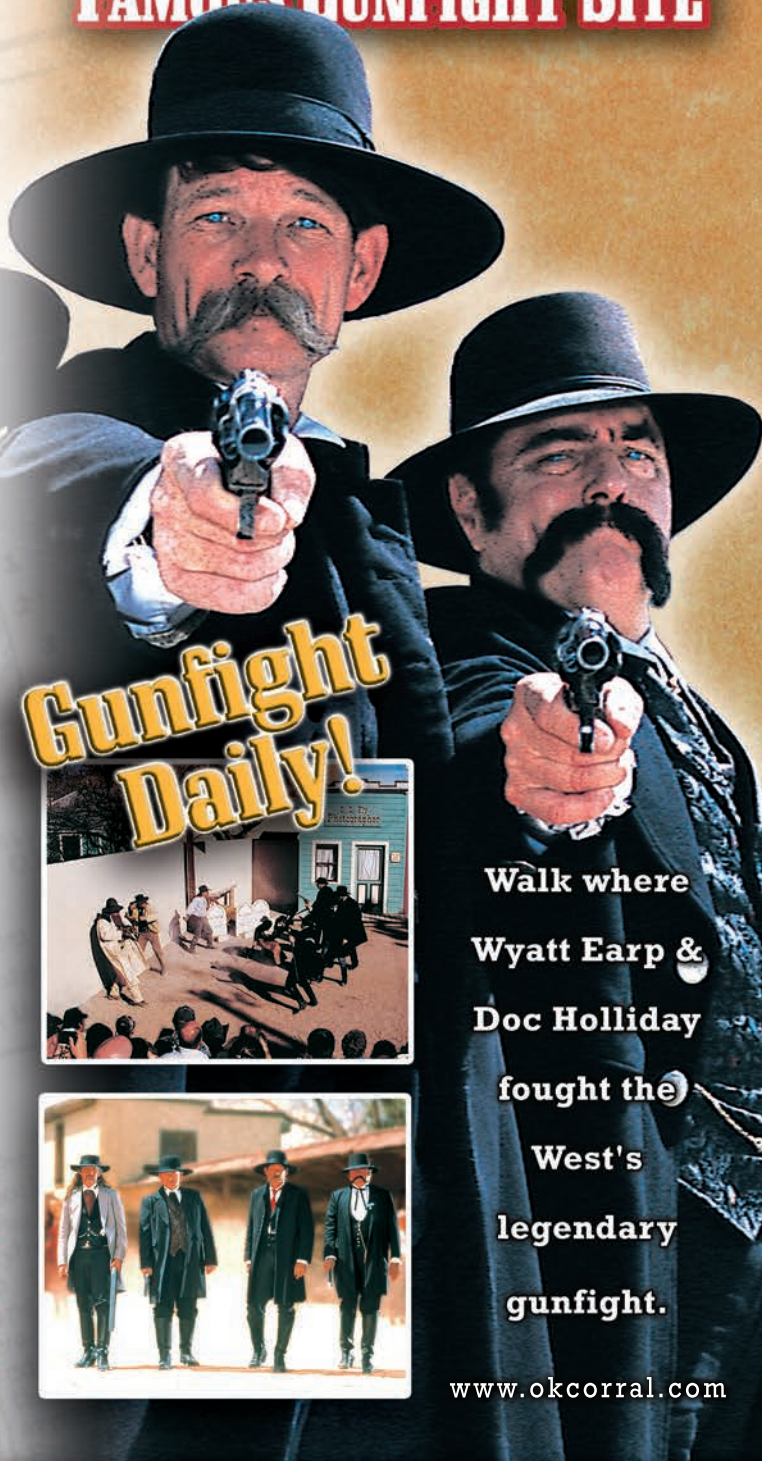


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**SATURDAY JUNE 27<sup>th</sup>**

9am - 4pm

**SUNDAY, JUNE 28<sup>th</sup>**

10am - 4pm

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Friday & Saturday  
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### In Without Knocking

Nearly a century after Western artist Charles M. Russell died in 1926, his art remains a major influence on Western artists and our understanding of day-to-day life on the frontier. *In Without Knocking*, an oil painting on canvas, made its debut in 1909, and is based on a real 1881 event in Hoffman, Montana. The cowboys were his friends and the wild waddies' clothes, gear and tack are authentic to each of them. The original painting can be viewed at the Sid Richardson Museum in Fort Worth, Texas.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

CM Russell  
1909

THE HOFFMAN

HOTEL

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REWARD  
FOR  
KID CURE

OLD TIME  
COFFEE  
WHISKEY  
HIGH FOGUE





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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April 2020 Vol. 67, #3, Whole #602. True West (ISSN 0041-3615) is published ten times per year (January/February/March, April, May, June, July/August, September, October, November, December) by True West Publishing, Inc., 6702 E. Cave Creek Rd, Suite #5 Cave Creek, AZ 85331. 480-575-1881. Periodical postage paid at Cave Creek, AZ 85327, and at additional mailing offices. Canadian GST Registration Number R132182866.

Single copies: \$5.99. U.S. subscription rate is \$29.95 per year (10 issues); \$49.95 for two years (20 issues).

POSTMASTER: Please send address change to: True West, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327. Printed in the United States of America. Copyright 2020 by True West Publishing, Inc.

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Tom Harper, the notorious Cowboy, was hanged in Tucson on July 8, 1881. Find Harper and more lawbreakers on our Old West Outlaws board.

[Pinterest.com/TWmag.com](https://www.pinterest.com/TWmag.com)

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Kurt Russell's portrayal of Wyatt Earp in 1993's *Tombstone* was impressive to many fans. Learn more about Western TV and movies on *True West's* Facebook page.

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"Let's get this straight: a cowboy hat is not a toy. It is not okay to touch a cowboy's hat, or put on a stray cowboy hat lying around a bunkhouse or a truck stop."

—Bob Boze Bell

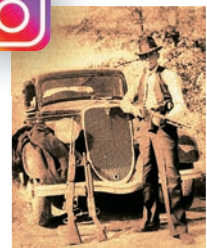
See daily art from *True West's* Executive Editor, and read more of his Western wisdom on his blog.

[Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com](https://www.blog.truewestmagazine.com)



Clyde Barrow, holding his military grade BAR machine gun, posed in front of his Ford V-8 with more of his gang's firepower, including another BAR and pump shotgun, circa 1932. Find historical photos posted daily on *True West's* Instagram.

[Instagram.com/TWMag](https://www.instagram.com/TWMag)



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Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

— JESSE JAMES PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

## Old Vaquero Saying



“Inhale courage.  
Exhale fear.”

## Quotes

“A brave man is a man who dares to look the Devil in the face and tell him he is a Devil.”

– James A. Garfield

“It was the earliest desire of my parents to prepare me for the ministry, but the horrors of war, the murder of my father, and the outrages perpetrated upon

my poor old mother, my sisters and brothers, destroyed our hopes so effectually that none of us could be prepared for any duty in life except revenge.”

– Cole Younger quoted from an interview with the author in *The Border Outlaws, 1882*, by J.W. Buel



Cole Younger

“**Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.**”

– Winston Churchill

“We become just by performing just action, temperate by performing temperate actions, brave by performing brave action.”

– Aristotle

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

– Eleanor Roosevelt

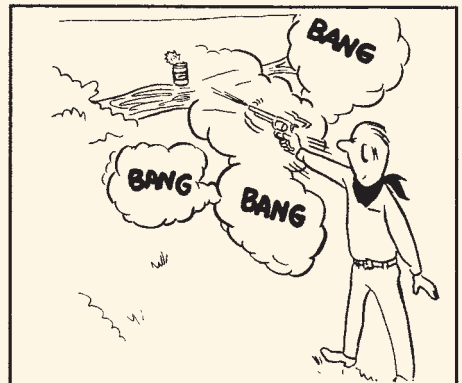
“The Kid’s career of crime was not the outgrowth of an evil disposition, nor was it caused by unchecked youthful indiscretions; it was the result of untoward, unfortunate circumstances acting upon a bold, reckless, ungoverned and ungovernable spirit, which no physical restraint could check, no danger appal, and no power less potent than death could conquer.”

– Pat F. Garrett, *The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid, 1882*

“I was tired of an outlaw’s life. I have been hunted for twenty-one years. I have literally lived in the saddle. I have never known a day of perfect peace. It was one long, anxious, inexorable, eternal vigil. When I slept it was literally in the midst of an arsenal. If I heard dogs bark more fiercely than usual, or the feet of horses in a greater volume of sound than usual, I stood to arms. Have you any idea of what a man must endure who leads such a life? No, you cannot. No one can unless he lives it for himself.”

– Frank James, regarding his reason for surrendering, quoted from an October 5, 1882 newspaper article in *Desperate Men* by James David Horan

## True West Classic Cartoon JUNE 1962



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# New Kid In Town

*The third time is a charm?*

**T**hanks to an intrepid, “kid” out Australia way, we have a new insight into Billy the Kid. James B. Mills (inset), 36, was perusing newspapers.com online when he happened upon an article in the *Las Vegas Gazette*, dated January 20, 1881. In the long lost interview (p. 44) it’s clear the Kid had no idea how legendary—and commercial—he was going to become. “I



**James B. Mills**

don’t see any money in it,” Billy replied when the *Las Vegas Gazette* reporter asked what he thought of his notoriety.

I, myself, had no idea how much new information I would find on Billy Bonney when I did Book

One (above, near left), but here we are, 24 years later and I’m about to publish my third book on the boy outlaw (above, far right).

In addition to the newly found interview, there has been an attempt to dig up the Kid and prove his whereabouts, and a Kid Krazy millionaire paid \$2.3 million for his photograph, which has led to a false bonanza—so far—of bogus photos of the Kid, all trying to cash in, as Billy did not. (The real Kid probably paid a quarter for the tin that sold for \$2.3 mil.)

All of that, plus new insights into Jesse James from the two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, T. J. Stiles, who argues persuasively that it’s hard to top savagery, when it comes to 19-year-old American boys (p.28). Another great issue on the way. Thanks to our intrepid editor, Stuart Rosebrook, for corraling all of this wonderful material. Dig in!



For a behind-the-scenes look at running this magazine, check out BBB’s daily blog at [TWMag.com](http://TWMag.com)



## Billy’s Big Leap

When the Kid jumped over a dead body in McQueen’s side yard gate in July of 1878 (above) he became the most famous person in New Mexico. Three years later, when he killed his two jailers and escaped hanging, just down the street, he became a national celebrity.

— ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL/PHOTO COURTESY JAMES B. MILLS —



BY MARK BOARDMAN

# Restore the Alamo!

*Work gets underway on reclaiming the mission of 1836.*



In 2020, the future of the Alamo Church, the Alamo Plaza, the historic blocks, monuments and neighboring buildings will begin to take shape as Phase 1 of the Alamo restoration project begins. The Emily Morgan Hotel San Antonio–A Doubletree by Hilton in the historic 1920s Gothic-style Medical Arts Building can be seen to the north of the Shrine of Liberty.

– ALL IMAGES BY STUART ROSEBROOK UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

**G**ary Foreman is in a new phase of life. Some good. Some not so good. Much yet to be determined. But the man who is the visionary behind the Alamo restoration project, the effort to return the mission to its 1836 configuration, seems a bit calmer these days.

Some of it is personal. A few months ago, his wife, Carolyn Raine Foreman, died after a long illness. She had been the kinder and gentler force on the Alamo project, balancing

out Gary’s insistence, persistence and pushiness. Gary seems more contemplative, more thoughtful in conversation.

Or maybe it’s because his vision—at least part of it—is finally becoming reality, some 38 years after it came to him on a visit to the Alamo. The project’s Phase 1 is now underway. Included in that are street closures around the Crockett and Menger Hotels, to the south of the mission. Parts of Bonham Street, located behind the area,

will be widened. Landscape design architecture and lighting will be installed on the south end of Alamo Plaza from Crockett Street to the mall. And the massive Cenotaph, located in the plaza, will be restored. All of that should be done by the fall of this year. That means larger parts of the project—including moving the Cenotaph, tearing down buildings to the west of the Alamo, and building a museum—are still in the future.



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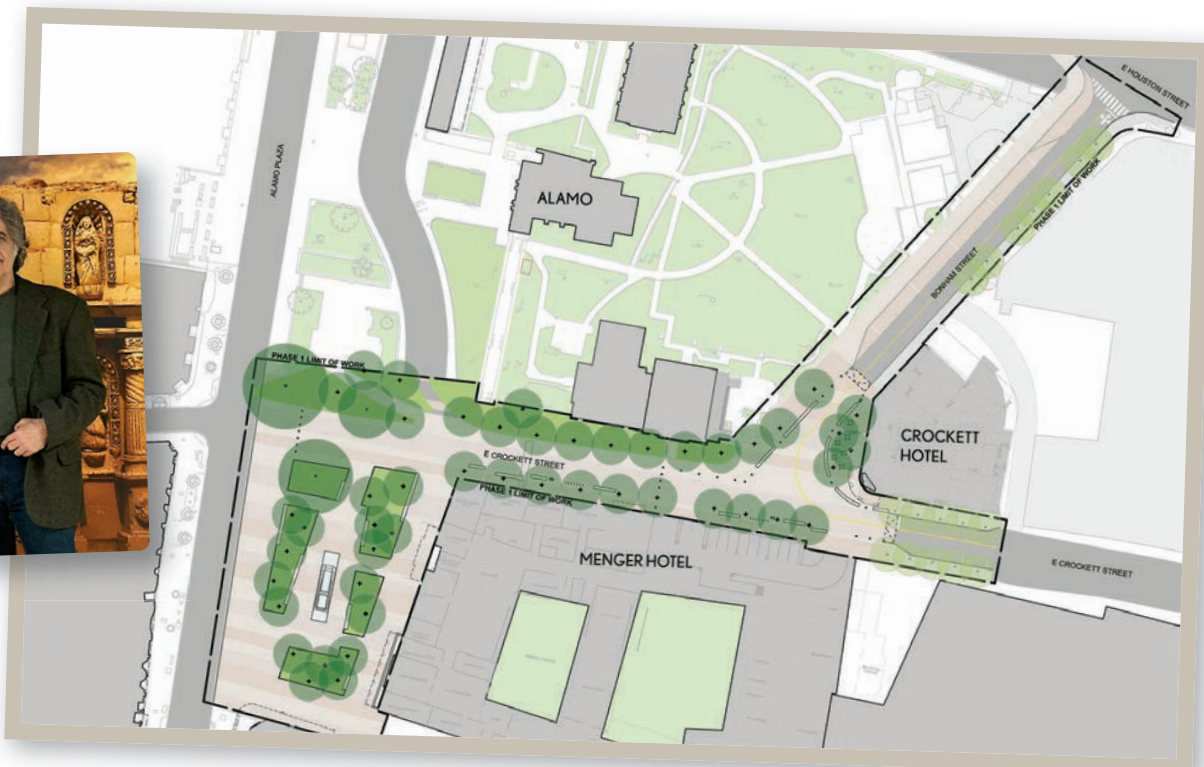


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Indiana-based documentarian Gary Foreman (inset) has made it his mission to reclaim, restore and preserve the historic structures and space around the Alamo. The diagram of Phase 1 calls for landscaping and traffic closures at the south end around the Menger and Crockett hotels.

- PHOTO AND MAP COURTESY GARY FOREMAN -

# ROBIDOUX ROW MUSEUM

**STEP BACK IN TIME** to the 1850s in the historical river town Saint Joseph, Missouri. At the Robidoux Row Museum and the Saint Joseph Historical Society.



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And it's those plans that still draw most of the opposition.

Members of the Conservation Society of San Antonio, along with some black groups, want the Woolworth Building saved. It's located just west, across the street from the current plaza. But in 1836, that spot was part of the western wall of the Alamo. Built in 1921, the building has a history of its own. In 1960, it had one of the first lunch counters in the South to desegregate. Supporters want that history preserved and honored. But the interior of the Woolworth is in bad shape and would require massive work to restore it to its former appearance. San Antonio City Councilman Roberto Treviño, who's on the Alamo Master Plan committee, says, "We have an agreement with the Alamo museum to make sure that we tell the story of the Woolworth Building and how it played a critical role in the civil rights story of San Antonio." So far, that still hasn't placated those who want to keep the Woolworth Building from facing the wrecking ball.



The Alamo Cenotaph will be restored during Phase 1 and is scheduled to be moved from its current location on Alamo Plaza across from the Woolworth Building to Crockett Street in front of the Menger Hotel in Phase 2. Also known as The Spirit of Sacrifice, Pompeo Coppini's marble and granite monument was commissioned during the Texas Centennial commemoration of 1936 and dedicated in 1940.


In November, three sets of human remains were found during archaeological digs at the Alamo. As of this writing, tests are continuing to determine how old they are and to what ethnicity they belong. Soon after,

leaders of the Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation filed suit to stop any construction at the site and instead to focus work on finding any more remains on the premises. The Tap Pilam believe that there could be a large

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The Alamo Living History Encampment is located south of the Alamo Church and is a very popular part of the tourist experience at the Shrine of Liberty. Alamo Living History staff provide live living history demonstrations for visitors on the grounds from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

The six flags that have flown over the Alamo are displayed on the Cavalry Courtyard (right).

The Emily Morgan Hotel in the historic Medical Arts Building can be seen across Houston Street on the north side of the Alamo.



number of Indians buried at the mission, which served local tribes for much of the 1700s. But there's a problem. The Tap Pilam is not a federally recognized Indian tribe, so it lacks standing in court proceedings. And it has not been proven that the remains are, in fact, Indians. It should be noted that an Alamo archaeology committee overseeing the treatment of human remains found during digs includes members of federally recognized tribes. None of those groups have sought to stop work on the project.

The Alamo Defenders Descendants Association has filed suit and held protests to keep the Cenotaph where it is. The monument, which was built and dedicated on the centennial of the battle, honors all of those killed in the fight. The ADDA says that the Cenotaph is basically a headstone, marking the graves of some of the heroes of the Alamo. Supporters of the project deny that, saying all of the defenders' bodies were burned and the ashes taken away. Lee White



The shaded gardens of the Alamo Church cover four of the 4.2 acres of the Alamo grounds. Many of the historic trees, including a 148-year-old Southern live oak, were transplanted onto the grounds to create the Alamo's native arboretum.

of the ADDA says the entire Alamo area should be treated as a cemetery; he fears that the reclamation project will turn it into an urban park. It should be noted that part of Phase 1 calls for the Cenotaph to be restored (it's had little work done since its construction) and for the list of names on it to be corrected—some were inadvertently left off.

But even with all those bumps in the road, the Alamo project is off and running. Alamo Trust CEO Douglass McDonald says, "This is the home stretch, where we will actualize our goal of making Alamo Plaza a more reverent space to better honor the Alamo defenders. The plan is progressing as expected and is on track to be completed by 2024, in time for the 300th anniversary of the Alamo Mission moving to where it is today. Texans and visitors from all around the world will experience a world-class historic site that tells the whole story of the Alamo, where history happened."

And as for Gary Foreman, the instigator, the bur under the saddle, the person Doug McDonald once called "tormented"? He hasn't totally mellowed. He still wants the proposed museum to be located in the old post office building, located northwest of the plaza. He's fighting the proposal to locate it to the west, where the Crockett Block now stands. When he talks about that, some of the old Foreman fire comes out again.

But now he also talks about bringing people together. "As we see this enter a higher professional realm, I think there will be a lot of people that will understand the interconnectedness of everything—whether it be religion, or military, or economic, or whatever. And that's where we start healing, when we see it that way."

Perhaps for Gary Foreman, the healing has already started.



**Editor's Note:** Interested in knowing more about the Alamo Restoration project, including past, present and future phases? Visit the Alamo's website at [TheAlamo.org](http://TheAlamo.org). For an in-depth feature on famed Alamo commander William B. Travis and the controversy surrounding his death fighting for Texas independence, turn to page 50 to read William Groneman's "And Die Like a Soldier."

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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

# “I Think I Can, I Think I Can”

*The folks of Ely, Nevada, don't understand the word “No.”*



The Nevada Railroad Foundation's dedicated crews are in the process of restoring the 1917 Baldwin 2-8-0 *Locomotive No. 81* so it can be put back in service as one of two primary steam engines to pull the historic rolling stock of the popular Nevada Northern Railway in Ely, Nevada.

— PHOTOS COURTESY NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY MUSEUM —

maintenance and very expensive,” he explains.

*No. 81* has long been part of the town's pride, which goes back to 1905, when an industrious young man named Mark Requa put the pedal to the metal and built a 139-mile railroad, a mill, a smelter and opened a copper mine. All in just four years. The railroad yard covered 56 acres and included 60 some buildings. When things went south and the mine closed in 1983, Ely looked around and realized that with nothing else going on, “we're going to wither and die,” Bassett remembers.

The town went to the copper company and suggested they turn the tracks into a tourist train that would help keep the community alive. “They said no,” Bassett says, “and most people would take that as a no—but not us. The community said, ‘then give us the railroad because you don't need it anymore and we'll do our own tourist train.’”

The company said yes, and the town did and now that railroad yard is a unique museum and some 16,000 visitors a year enjoy a 90-minute ride from Ely to the mine

and back on the restored, historic Nevada Northern Railway tracks.

And here's where *No. 81* comes in. She's one of the four surviving steam locomotives that once ran these tracks—at the heyday, there were two dozen of them. She's set to go into service this year, but first, lots of work was needed. “We've been working like banshees over the last two years to get her restored,” Bassett says.

So, where do they find parts a century old?

“Auto Zone is not an option,” he says with a laugh, and here's where the impossible becomes possible.

In a voice full of pride he reveals that his museum has the original working drawings for *No. 81*, along with original parts that have been sitting in the original machine shop all these decades, with the same tooling that have been around since *81* was a girl. “The railroad never threw anything away,” Bassett notes gratefully.

The bill is being paid by the 3,000 members and generous outside donors to his museum ([NNRY.com](http://NNRY.com)), with folks from every state and eight foreign countries.

And so once again, little remote Ely and its hardy souls are doing the impossible and keeping alive a piece of Western history.



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

**E**ly, Nevada—so remote, the closest Walmart is 200 miles away—knows it's doing something it shouldn't be able to do.

Mark Bassett isn't daunted. As president of the Nevada Railroad Foundation, he's restoring a 1917 Baldwin 2-8-0 steam locomotive that has been sitting idle in the fierce winters and desert sun for over 60 years. Her name is *Locomotive No. 81*—“All our steam engines are 'hers'—they're divas: high

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*—T.J. Stiles, from Jesse James*



# BROTHERS IN BLOOD

## Jesse James and Billy the Kid

On

April 3, 1882, Jesse Woodson James's life bled out in his family home in St. Joseph, Missouri, an assassin's .44 caliber bullet exploding the back of the 34-year-old bandit's skull. Nine months earlier and more than 700 miles away in Fort Sumner, New Mexico Territory, 21-year-old outlaw William "Billy the Kid" Bonney died in the dark on the floor of Peter Maxwell's home from a single shot to the chest.

Both men were killed by friends who had the law on their side, one even had a badge. Both assassins dreamed of gold and fame. Both outlaws were cold-blooded killers, yet they were folk heroes even before their bloody ends. So why, as recent James and Billy biographer Bill Markley asks, "do we remember their names, but can't remember the names of presidents of the United States?"

In this special issue of *True West*, we try to get a little closer to the truth behind these two outlaws. We have exclusive excerpts from leading Jesse and Billy biographers T.J. Stiles, Mark Lee Gardner and Johnny D. Boggs, who, like their predecessors, have sought answers to that 150-year-old question: Why are these two killers still so popular?

One young, budding Billy chronicler—James B. Mills of Australia—has asked that question on his way to discovering a previously unknown Santa Fe jailhouse interview with Billy the Kid from the digitized *Las Vegas Gazette*.

What does all this new material and historical insight on Jesse James and Billy the Kid actually mean? Maybe screenwriter David Mamet states it best: "The truth is not where you expect it." And wherever that truth lies hidden, we hope to find it and bring it to you.

—Editors of *True West*



BY T.J. STILES

# Jesse James: The Birth of a Killer

**Born into the Missouri-Kansas border war over slavery, teenaged Jesse James was destined to live a violent life.**

**T**he wails, the babble of words, the murmuring of the crowd suddenly stopped as two young men appeared. They stepped past the body, approached a town marshal who stood close by, and offered to surrender. They had killed this man, one of them declared, and now they expected their reward. The lawman looked at them in astonishment. “My God,” he said, “do you mean to tell us that this is Jesse James?”

“Yes,” the pair replied in unison.

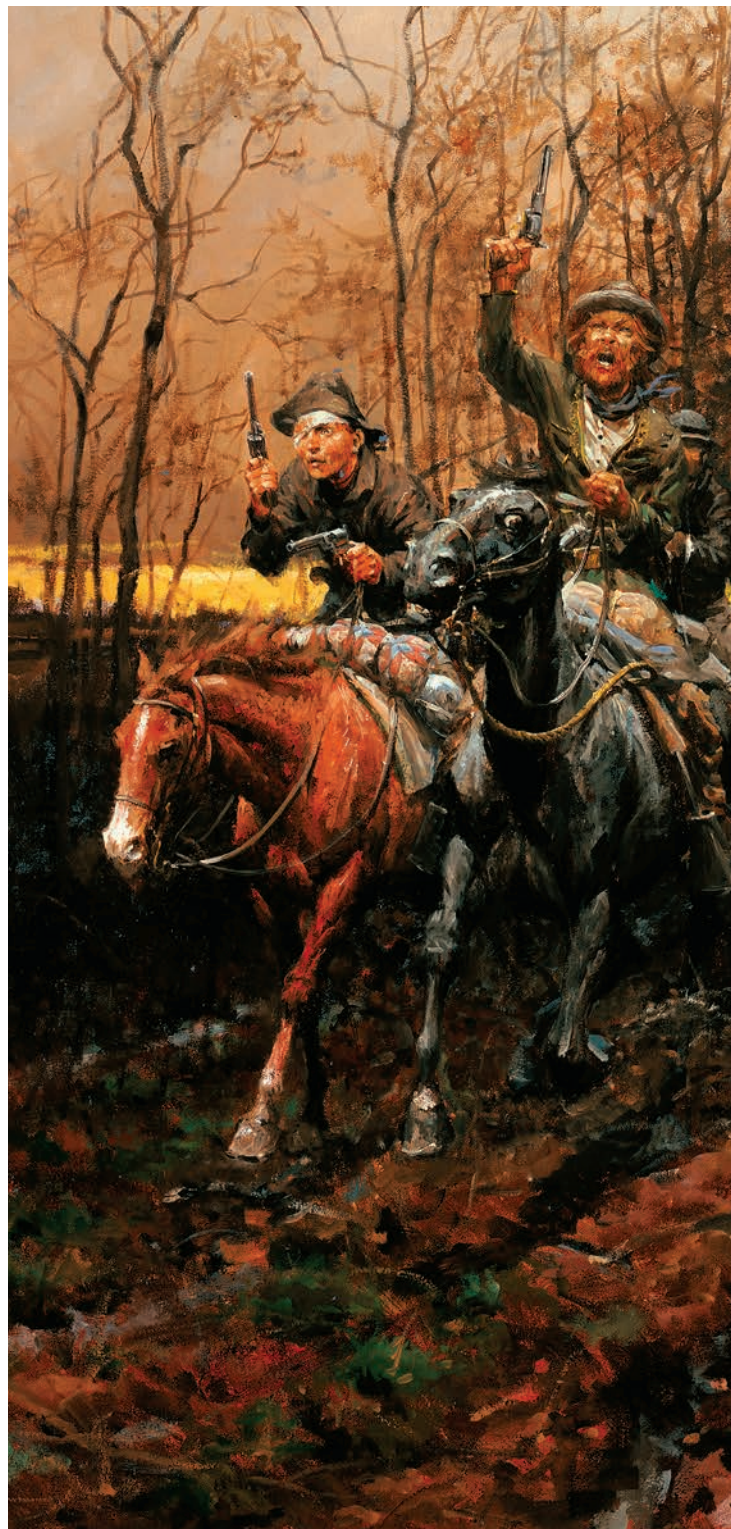
“Those who were standing near,” the reporter wrote, “drew in their breaths in silence at the thought of being so near Jesse James, even if he was dead.”

## **Robin Hood or Hooded Bandit?**

Jesse James was not an inarticulate avenger for the poor; his popularity was driven by politics—politics based on wartime allegiances—and was rooted among former Confederates. Even his attacks on unpopular economic targets, the banks and the railroads, turn out on closer inspection to have had political resonances. He was, in fact, a major force in the attempt to create a Confederate

*Guerillas* by Andy Thomas captures the ferocity of the Southern bushwhackers Jesse and Frank James rode with against Union troops and Kansas militias in the bloody sectarian border conflicts that defined life in the Missouri-Kansas region before, during and after the Civil War.

— COURTESY ANDY THOMAS FINE ART —



Missouri guerilla leader Fletch Taylor (left), who later would lose his right arm, was Frank (center) and Jesse James's commanding officer in 1864 before the James boys joined "Bloody Bill" Anderson's bushwhackers. They posed for the rare wartime photo soon after Jesse joined Taylor's marauders in April 1864.

- ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED-



# BROTHERS IN BLOOD

Major General William S. Rosecrans's defeat at the Battle of Chickamauga in Georgia in 1863 led to his reassignment to the Department of the Missouri in January 1864. He soon discovered his much smaller regular army was fighting in a sectarian war of partisan guerillas who were not above killing civilians or unarmed Union prisoners.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



A rare 1863 photograph of three Missouri partisan rangers, l.-r., Archie Clement, Dave Pool and Bill Hendricks, possibly was taken on Christmas Day in Sherman, Texas. Jesse and Frank James both rode with Pool and Clement, who at five feet tall was known as "Little Archie." Jesse became a great admirer of the vicious bushwhacker.

identity for Missouri, a cultural and political offensive waged by the defeated rebels to undo the triumph of the Radical Republicans in the Civil War. His robberies, his murders, his letters to the newspapers, and his starring role in ex-Shelby Brigade cavalry Officer John N. Edwards's *Kansas City Times* columns all played a part in the Confederate effort to achieve wartime goals by political means (to use historian Christopher Phillips's neat reversal of Clausewitz's dictum). Had Jesse James existed a century later, he would have been called a terrorist.

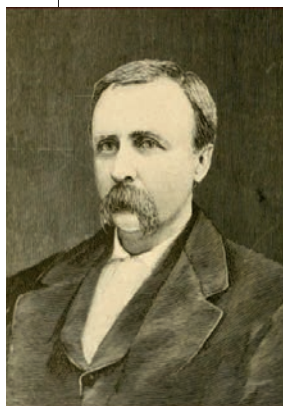
Terrorist? The term hardly fits with the traditional image of him as a Wild West outlaw, yippin' and yellin' and shooting it out with the county sheriff. But he saw himself as a Southerner, a Confederate, a vindicator of the rebel cause, and so he must be seen in the context of Southern "outlaws"—particularly the Klan and other highly political paramilitary forces. Even more important, he was not simply a puppet of John Edwards, but an active participant in the creation of his own legend. Edwards's glorification of the bushwhacker bandits only began after the publicity-minded James rose to leadership and began to demand attention on his own. An avid student of current affairs, he sometimes outdid his editor friend in his public attacks on the Radical Republicans (to Edwards's evident alarm). Was he a criminal? Yes. Was he in it for the money? Yes. Did he choose all his targets for political effect? No. He cannot be confused with the Red Brigades, the Tamil Tigers, Osama bin Laden or other groups that now shape our image of terrorism. But he

was a political partisan in a hotly partisan era, and he eagerly offered himself up as a polarizing symbol of the Confederate project for postwar Missouri.

There remains, of course, the straightforward power of his story. His is a tale of ambushes, gun battles, and daring raids, of narrow escapes, betrayals and revenge. Even his oddly alliterative name seems to have been conjured up by a novelist of overripe adventures. But an accurate understanding of his world can only add to the drama. When we look at his life in its proper setting—if we see it as did that crowd that held its breath around his body on Thirteenth and Lafayette—we see that the life of Jesse James was as significant as it was thrilling.

## Clay County Plowboy to Missouri Marauder

It was a savage set of men who returned with Frank that April [1864]. Already hardened by war, they had been blistered



Major John Newman Edwards served as Jo Shelby's adjutant during the Civil War. Upon his return to Missouri he became an influential newspaper editor and voice of the Confederate wing of the Democratic Party. An unapologetic champion of the Lost Cause and a close friend of Jesse James, he largely shaped the outlaw's public image and political strategy, spearheading the former Confederate's rise to political and cultural notoriety in the 1870s.



**The Notorious Guerrilla Chief, WM. T. ANDERSON**  
Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1864, by Robert  
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the Eastern District of Missouri.

William "Bloody Bill" Anderson was a guerilla chieftain whose campaign of terror along the Missouri River in 1864 is widely regarded as one of the most brutal in American history. Jesse James followed him for most of this period, and spoke proudly in later years of the affiliation.

# BROTHERS IN BLOOD

by butchery at Lawrence and debauchery in Texas. And Charles Fletcher Taylor, the man who led the small squad that crossed over to Clay County, was one of the hardest. Short, broad-shouldered, sporting a neatly trimmed mustache and beard, "Fletch" had fought with Quantrill from the beginning, scouting out Lawrence before the raid, murdering the innocent in its streets, then riding to Texas. But there he turned against his master, murdering a Confederate officer and resisting Quantrill's attempt to arrest him. Now he fought (in the phrase of the times) "on his own hook." Canterng beside him was an even smaller, even more vicious killer: "Little Archie" Clement, a gray-eyed 18-year-old from Johnson County. Barely five feet tall, he looked more like a jockey than a guerrilla. But he was already an experienced gunman, and he would soon win the lasting admiration of Frank's little brother.

These were the men who brought 16-year-old Jesse James to manhood. A year after being dragged through the tobacco field by the Provisional militia, three years after Frank first enlisted in the State Guard, Jesse rode to war. Guided by Frank or another Clay County recruit in late May, he would have crept out at night and sneaked down hog trails to the rugged Fishing River, where Taylor and Clement lay hidden. "There seems to be something of the deathlike brooding over these camps," wrote Sgt. Sherman Bodwell in his diary, after finding an abandoned bushwhacker bivouac. "Always hidden where hardly more than a horse track points the way, in heavy timber and creek bottoms, offal lying about, cooking utensils, cast-off clothing."

Jesse would have seen a cluster of men gathered around the fire under an awning of low leaves and branches, cooking a meal, drying out socks, cleaning and loading weapons. A strong smell of horses, sweat and waste (human and animal) would have struck him, followed by the dense smoke of burning green wood with undertones of oiled leather and wet flannel. They were

Wedded to Robert James at age 16, widowed at 25, Jesse's mother, Zerelda, remarried at age 30 to Dr. Reuben Samuel. She was a dominating figure, a fierce secessionist with steel nerves, a lacerating tongue and a vigorous intellect.



all young—some astonishingly young, like Jesse himself. "If you ever want to pick a company to do desperate work," Frank later mused, "select young men from 17 to 21 years old. ...Take our company and there has never been a more reckless lot of men. Only one or two were over 25. Most of them were under 21. Scarcely a dozen boasted a moustache." Or, as another grizzled veteran put it, almost exactly a century after Jesse crept into that camp, "You're going to learn that one of the most brutal things in the world is your average 19-year-old American boy."

## The Making of a Marauder

Now the ritual began. First was the matter of equipment. Either Zerelda or Charlotte sewed a guerrilla shirt for Jesse—a loose pullover with two deep breast pockets for percussion caps, powder charges and .36 caliber lead balls. Then he needed pistols, a horse and a saddle. The revolver was the primary weapon, its rapid rate of fire well suited to guerrilla ambushes. Before the war, Colt's revolvers had been somewhat uncommon, even in Missouri, and they were hard to get legitimately after the conflict began. But the bushwhackers equipped themselves through smuggling, theft and plundering of the Union dead; so if Jesse didn't have a set, one was given to him. As for horses, he would have been told to steal them.

This last lesson was the start of a much deeper, more lasting education. They were

guerrillas. They were not engaged in a war that a colonel of the Army of the Potomac or a general of the Army of Northern Virginia could recognize. They had no lines, no objectives, no strategy, no command structure. Theirs was a purely tactical war, a war to inflict pain, to punish, to kill and destroy. Every barn and brook was a battlefield; every civilian, either an ally or a target. By stepping into that brooding, deathlike camp, Jesse James entered a race to find and kill as many enemies as he could.

## Mayhem and Murder

On April 29, 1864, Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans telegraphed an alert to Col. James H. Moss in Liberty. The guerrillas were returning, he warned, "to re-inaugurate the scenes of murder and robbery which have desolated your country during the past three years." Rosecrans, humiliated by defeat at the battle of Chickamauga, had been shifted in January to command the Department of the Missouri, a strategic eddy far from the main channels of the war. The state might have been a backwater, but Rosecrans learned that its currents were swift and unpredictable. Accustomed to wielding brigades, divisions and corps as he marched toward objectives, he now had to weave a net out of slender companies, battalions and regiments as he waded into guerrilla waters. And no units threatened to unravel more quickly than Colonel Moss's troublesome Paw Paws. "I expect from you and the Enrolled Militia under your



Before Jesse James joined Frank James' partisan gang in April 1864, Jesse's older brother had earned his guerilla-war spurs riding with William Quantrill's raiders on their infamous murderous raid and burning of Lawrence, Kansas, on August 21, 1863.

command," he wrote, "such a reception... as will amply vindicate you from all the charges of disloyalty which have been urged against you." Moss assured Rosecrans that all would be well.

Brig. Gen. Clinton B. Fisk was not so certain. After a military reorganization in January, this stern and voluble officer had assumed command of the District of North Missouri, after serving in the southeastern corner of the state. Fisk had received his rank, in part, through connections in the northern branch of the Methodist Church, an avowedly abolitionist denomination; the savagery of the guerrilla war, however, had negated whatever Christian charity remained within him. Rather than rely on Moss, he shifted Capt. William B. Kemper and part of Company K 9th Cavalry Regiment, MSM to Liberty in early May 1864. "Clean out and kill every marauding, thieving villain you find," he wrote to Kemper on May 15, adding, "Keep your eyes on the Paw Paws."

The captain needed no instructions to that point: he intended to avoid Moss's men at all costs as he pursued the bushwhackers. And the guerrillas were back—he could feel it. But every time he sent squads to scout the countryside, they came back emptyhanded. On May 24, Kemper changed tactics. After nightfall, he ordered fifteen men to draw rations, mount their horses, and follow him into the country, where he deployed in ambush. After spending a day waiting for the enemy, he gathered his troopers out of hiding and moved on to

another spot. Meanwhile, he sent out two spies; each night he rendezvoused with them to better plan his trap for the following day.

Across the Missouri River, the Second Colorado Cavalry employed the same tactics with devastating effect. Kemper, however, had fewer men and experienced opponents. Fletch Taylor and Archie Clement easily slipped past his ambushes to deliver a sharp reminder that there was no line between combatants and civilians. On June 1, they led their Clay County recruits (dressed in captured Union uniforms) to the farm of Bradley Bond. Gathering outside the front door, they asked to see the man of the house. When Bond stepped outside they shot him to death. The next day, they murdered Alvis Dagley in a field not far from the Samuel place, then trotted to his house and coldly told his widow.

Over the next few weeks, the gang killed at least eight Unionist civilians. "Men were slain before the eyes of their wives and children," one resident wrote, "or else shot down without mercy by the roadside and their bodies left to fester and corrupt in the sun. Property was taken and destroyed on every hand, business of all kinds prostrated, values were unsettled, everything was disturbed." They killed one slave "for fun," and they looted as freely as the worst jayhawkers or militia.

### The Keenesf and Cleanesf Fighter

Jesse James never attempted to distance himself from this slaughter; in later years,

one of his closest friends boasted of how Jesse and Frank went alone to the home of a local Unionist, just after the death of Dagley, and murdered him outside his house. This, then, was his introduction to warfare: not as a gladiator in battle against a tyrannous foe, but as a member of a death squad, picking off neighbors one by one.

Of all the departures in Jesse James's dramatic life, none would ever be so momentous—or portentous—as this one. ...He had violence coaches on every side, from Zerelda (who explicitly praised the worst rebel atrocities) to his brother Frank. After he took to the brush, Taylor and Clement took over as his mentors; they mocked him for his boyish diffidence, nicknaming him "Dingus" after a euphemistic curse he once uttered. But once he joined in the killing, they gave him their respect. "Not to have any beard," one of the deadliest guerrillas supposedly said of him, "he is the keenest and cleanest fighter in the command." Jesse abandoned all civil norms, even the blunt-instrument morality of a slave-owning culture. He now belonged to a group that believed a man must murder for respect. ❏

"Jesse James: Birth of a Killer" by T.J. Stiles is excerpted from his book *Jesse James: Last Rebel of the Civil War* (NY: Vintage Press, a division of Random House, Inc.).

## The Faces of War

In an 1897 interview in the *Missouri Columbia Herald*, Frank James reflected on his 17-year-old younger brother Jesse joining his gang of partisan militiamen: "If you ever want to pick a company to do desperate work, select young men from 17 to 21 years old. ...Take our company and there has never been a more reckless lot of men. Only one or two were over 25. Most of them were under 21. Scarcely a dozen boasted a moustache."

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BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

# Birth of an Outlaw Hero

## Jesse James in Pop Culture 1875-1903

Shortly after Jesse James's death, journalist John Newman Edwards, longtime supporter of the James and Younger brothers, negotiated with Governor Crittenden for Frank James's surrender. On October 5, Edwards introduced Frank to the governor, and the outlaw handed him his gunbelt, saying, "Governor Crittenden, I want to hand over to you that which no living man except myself has been permitted to touch since 1861, and to say that I am your prisoner." That was impossible, however, since the revolver was a model 1875 Remington.

Frank was brought to trial in Gallatin, Missouri, in 1883 for the Winston train robbery. The trial of the century was a media sensation, with six attorneys heading the state's prosecution, and eight defending Frank James. Perhaps fittingly, the trial was held in an opera house. On September 6, after less than four hours of deliberation, the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty. The following year, Frank was tried in Huntsville, Alabama, for the Muscle Shoals robbery, and again acquitted. In 1885, the state of Missouri dropped its last case against Frank, who became a free man. He was never tried for the Northfield robbery.

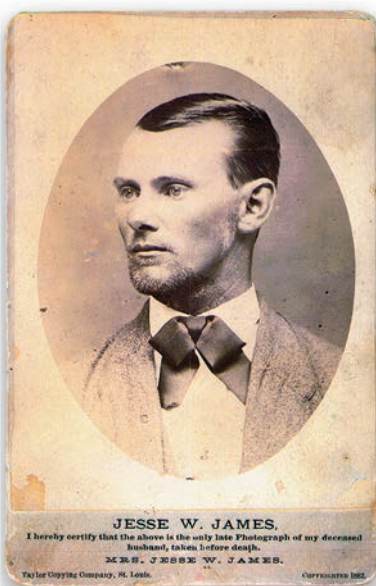
By then, the James brothers were big news.

Shortly after Jesse's death, a song, perhaps written by a minstrel named Billy Gashade, became popular. Its chorus went:

*Jesse had a wife to mourn for his life, Three children, they were brave,*

*But that dirty little coward that shot Mr. Howard Has laid Jesse James in his grave.*

Even before Jesse's death, books had been published about him. Edwards's *Noted Guerrillas, Or, The Warfare of the Border* came out in 1877, two years after Augustus C. Appler's *The Guerrillas of the West; or the Life, Character, and Daring Exploits of the Younger Brothers*. In 1881, the Five Cent Wide Awake Library began publishing stories about the James gang. After Jesse's death, books—often sporting titles like *Jesse James,*



*the Midnight Horseman; or, The Silent Rider of the Ozarks; and The James Boys and The Mad Sheriff; or The Midnight Run of '99*—became popular; William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody was most likely the only actual person who appeared as a hero in more dime novels than Jesse James.

Bob and Charlie Ford appeared in a traveling play, *How I Killed Jesse James*. Zee James and Zerelda Samuel were alleged to have countered by contracting with Frank Triplet for his book *The Life, Times and Treacherous Death of Jesse James*.

By the 1890s, plays about Jesse James, including W.I. Swain's *Western Spectacular's Jesse James*, were commonplace, and highly fictitious. Even Cole Younger, paroled in 1901, and Frank James got in on the act.

In 1903, they toured the country in *The Great Cole Younger & Frank James Historical Wild West show*.

Few books and plays had any semblance to history. As Frank said: "If I admitted that these stories were true, people would say: 'There is the greatest scoundrel unhung!' And if I denied 'em, they'd say: 'There's the greatest liar on earth!' So I just say nothing."

The same year that Frank and Cole Younger launched their Wild West exhibition, Pennsylvania-born Edwin Stanton Porter, fledgling filmmaker in the fledgling film industry, shot a Western-set motion picture, *The Great Train Robbery*, in New Jersey. Response to the movie was so tremendous that nickelodeons began springing up across the nation. "From then on," film historians George N. Fenin and William K. Everson wrote, "the Western was a genre of the American cinema."

It wouldn't take long before filmmakers decided to spotlight Jesse James.



"Birth of an Outlaw Hero: Jesse James in Pop Culture 1875-1903," is excerpted from *Jesse James and the Movies* © 2011 Johnny D. Boggs by permission of McFarland & Company, Inc., Box 611, Jefferson NC 28640; [McFarlandBooks.com](http://McFarlandBooks.com).

**Editor's Note:** Read about the history of how Hollywood has portrayed Jesse James in Johnny Boggs's article "Rebel Raider to Rebel Hero" on page 66.



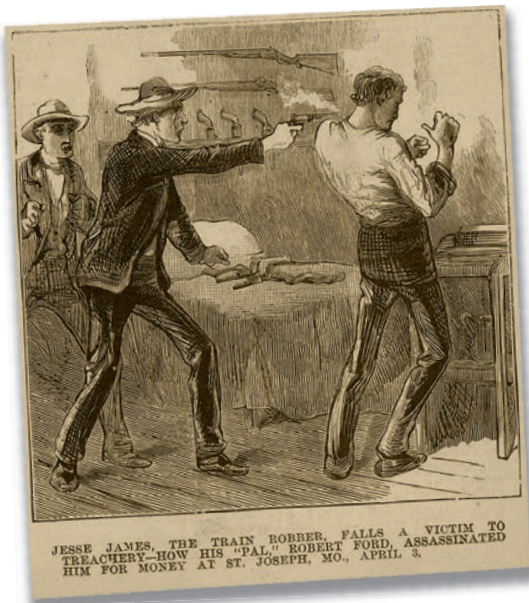
For decades after his death, Jesse James's mother, Zerelda James Samuel (center), charged tourists a fee to tour her famous son's home and farm adjacent to her own property northeast of Kearney, Missouri.

- JESSE JAMES FARM TOURIST BROCHURE COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/PHOTO OF ZERELDA JAMES SAMUEL COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



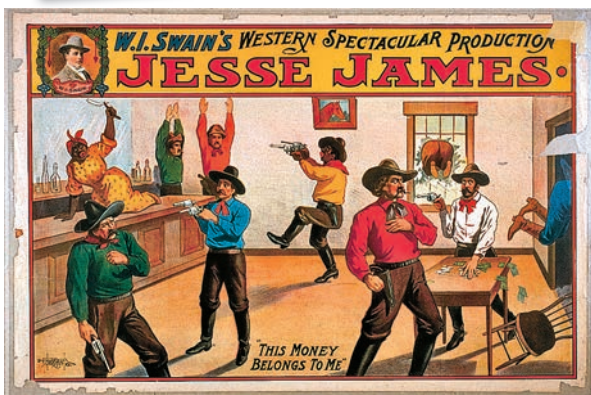
Dime novels about Jesse James became popular shortly after his death. Pictured are three titles published by New York publisher Street & Smith in the late 1890s and early 1900s.

- COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



On April 15, 1882, *The Illustrated Police News* of Boston was among the first publications to report that Jesse James, "The Boss Bandit," had been shot in the back of the head in his St. Joseph, Missouri, home by fellow outlaw Bob Ford 12 days earlier on April 3. Note that this illustration does not depict James straightening a painting on the wall, which most illustrations and dramatic interpretations typically include.

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Tent shows and minstrel entertainment by Kansan Col. William I. Swain were well known across the Midwest and South in the early decades of the 20th century. His stage show, *Jesse James*, included a black outlaw in its promotions.

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From the end of the Civil War in 1865 until Bob Ford killed him in 1881, Jesse James remained part of an active resistance movement against Reconstruction, federal authorities and Northern financial interests in Missouri, including railroads and banks. His mythology as a "Robin Hood" of the Southern Cause was supported and encouraged by sympathetic editors including John Newman Edwards of the *Kansas City Times*.

- PHOTOS COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

## CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

### SHOOT-OUT AT STINKING SPRINGS

#### BILLY THE KID'S GANG VS PAT GARRETT'S POSSE

MAKIN' BACON RIGHT UNDER THE KID'S NOSE

CHARLIE BOWDRE WEARS THE WRONG HAT



The Brazil-Wilcox Ranch headquarters is the rendezvous for the Kid and his cohorts during Garrett's snowy campaign.

- ALL IMAGES COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED; ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL -

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of Robert M. Utley

**R**iding at midnight through deep snow, Sheriff-elect Pat Garrett leads a 13-man posse eastward out of Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

After questioning several people in Fort Sumner and ascertaining the Kid's dress ("especially his hat," which is said to be a Mexican sugarloaf with a green hatband), Garrett decides he won't take any chances. When the Kid makes his appearance, Garrett will kill him and hope the rest surrender.

After a 10-mile ride to the Brazil-Wilcox Ranch, where Billy the Kid and his compadres were last seen, Garrett picks up their trail clearly in the snow. "Following this trail a short distance," he recounts, "I [am] convinced that they had made for Stinking Springs."

A half mile away from the house, Garrett and his men hold a conference.

Around three a.m., with Juan Roibal left in charge of the horses, Garrett divides his squad and circles the house with half the force. Finding a dry arroyo fairly close to the house, the men dig in. Frank Stewart and the rest of the posse conceal themselves about 200 yards from the other side of the building. They see three horses tied to the vigas (roof beams sticking out of the wall) outside the stone house and conclude that two mounts must be inside with the outlaws.

Garrett sends a message to Stewart of their plan of attack: "Stealthily enter the house, cover them with our guns and hold them until daylight."

Lee Hall favors the suggestion; Stewart does not. Garrett is overruled.

The men shiver and attempt to stay warm until daylight (about a four-hour wait). It's so cold, posse member Charlie Rudolph gets frostbite on his feet. As the posse members wait, they hear snoring from inside the rock house. The hours drag by and the temperature seems to get colder as the

men look for any sign of movement from the "inmates."

The lanky sheriff commands a direct view of the doorway. While waiting for the Kid's sombrero to pop into view, Garrett orders his men: "When I bring up my gun, [you] raise and fire."

As the weak rays of sunlight begin streaking the horizon, the posse hears movement in the house. Shortly, a man appears in the doorway with a nose bag (feed bag for the horses). The man's head is down, but Garrett sees a Mexican hat with a green band and brings his Winchester rifle to his shoulder. Seven bullets rip through the pale dawn light.

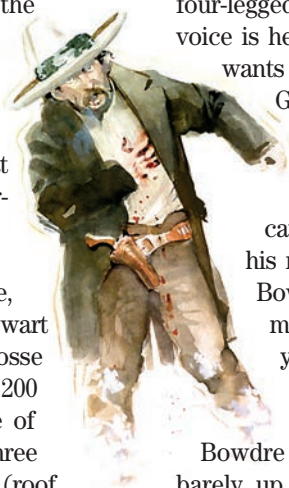
The man reels into the house, and the horses pull at their tethers. The "inmates" inside are now awake, trying to avoid the trampling hooves of their four-legged bunkmates. Billy Wilson's voice is heard: "Bowdre is killed and wants to come out."

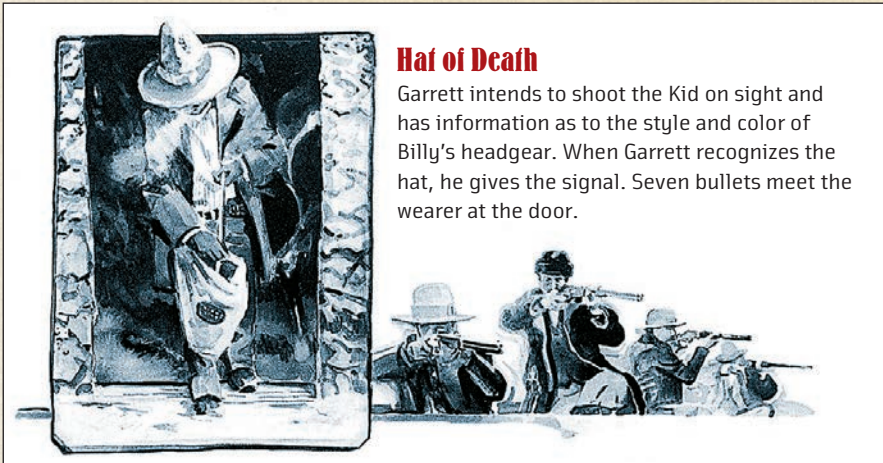
Garrett yells for him to come out with his hands up. As

Charlie Bowdre staggers to the door, the Kid catches hold of his belt, draws his revolver around in front of Bowdre and says, "They have murdered you, Charlie, but you can get revenge. Kill some of the sons-of-bitches before you die."

Bowdre comes out with his hands barely up. He stumbles toward the posse until he recognizes Garrett, and he goes straight at him. Motioning with his hands at the house and strangling in his own blood, he gasps, "I wish... I wish... I wish..." Then with a whisper, "I'm dying," he falls into Garrett's arms. The lawman gently lays him on his blankets.

As the morning light brightens, Garrett notices the rope ties on one of the outside horses is moving. He quickly surmises that the outlaws are trying to bring the horses inside in order to make a break. Garrett shoots the horse dead, and it drops in the doorway. To stop any more attempts, Garrett takes careful aim and shoots the ropes of the other





### Hat of Death

Garrett intends to shoot the Kid on sight and has information as to the style and color of Billy's headgear. When Garrett recognizes the hat, he gives the signal. Seven bullets meet the wearer at the door.



Shown here is a circa 1900 postcard image of the rock house at Stinking Springs. Only the foundation remains today.

— COURTESY EDDIE TAYLOR —



horses. The animals “walk away” and are captured by Stewart’s men.

Garrett opens up a conversation with the “inmates,” and the Kid answers as their spokesman. Garrett asks how he is fixed in there.

“Pretty well,” the Kid coolly answers, “but we have no wood to get breakfast.”

“Come out,” Garrett says, “and get some. Be a little sociable.”

“Can’t do it, Pat,” the Kid replies, “business is too confining. No time to run around.”

Garrett decides to eat breakfast, so he goes with half the men back three miles to the Brazil-Wilcox Ranch headquarters.

After the meal, Garrett makes arrangements with Thomas Wilcox to deliver food for the men, forage for the horses and wood. As the wagon is being loaded, Garrett returns to Stinking Springs and relieves Stewart, who gathers up his men to go to breakfast. Garrett then invites the Kid out for coffee.

“Go to hell, Pat,” says the Kid, obviously losing a bit of his jolly humor.

Soon, the posse members on the east side begin to hear sounds of picking; evidently the outlaws are trying to break out or at least make firing ports. Garrett sends Tom Emory and James East to stop it. A few well-aimed shots end the picking, but the horses inside “[get] scared and [are] about to run over Billy and his men.” (Billy later tells a reporter, “If it hadn’t been for the dead horse in the doorway I wouldn’t [have been captured]. But I couldn’t ride out over that, for [my horse] would have jumped back and I would have got it in the head.”)

At about three p.m., the Kid turns loose the two horses he’s holding inside, and the posse picks them up.

At four p.m., the Wilcox wagon arrives, and the men build a big fire and “[go] to cooking.” The smell of roasting meat is too much for the outlaws. Dirty Dave Rudabaugh sticks a handkerchief “that had once been white” on the end of a stick and calls out for a surrender. Garrett tells them to come out with their hands up, but only Dirty Dave leaves the house to talk with him. The outlaws want a “guarantee of protection from vio-

# BROTHERS IN BLOOD

lence.” Garrett agrees, and Dirty Dave returns to the house.

After a few minutes, all four outlaws come out with their hands raised. The Kid is the last. (According to legend, before the Kid steps out, he urinates on the weapons.) As the “inmates” approach the posse, Barney Mason levels his rifle at the Kid and spits out, “Kill the son-of-a-bitch, he’s slippery and may get away.”

Posse members Tom Emory and Jim East are appalled at Mason’s treachery and aim their Winchesters at Garrett’s friend. One of them says, “If you fire a shot, we’ll kill you.” Mason backs off.

After the Kid and his men are disarmed, the outlaws “[shake] hands with every man” who captured them. The prisoners are then taken to the Brazil-Wilcox Ranch where Mrs. Wilcox feeds the whole lot. Garrett sends a wagon back up to retrieve Bowdre’s body, and everyone stays overnight at the ranch.



## Under the Mistletoe

In Fort Sumner, at Deluvina Maxwell’s request, Billy was allowed to say his goodbyes to the Maxwell family. As posse members James East and Lee Hall look on, Billy says goodbye to Paulita, while her mother keeps the men at bay. Somewhat embarrassed, “Dirty Dave” Rudabaugh is along for the ride because he is shackled to the Kid.



## Charlie Bowdre and His Wife, Manuela

Taken in 1880 by Furlong of Las Vegas, New Mexico Territory, this photograph was taken off Charlie’s body by Sheriff Pat Garrett (note the blood stains). Charlie was about 32 when he died.



## Pat Garrett

After a December 19 ambush that netted outlaw Tom O’Folliard, Pat Garrett is bent on capturing Billy the Kid and gaining the \$500 reward. During Garrett’s manhunt, two massive snowstorms bury Fort Sumner, and the posse dresses as warmly as possible to ward off the freezing cold. An 1887 photo of Garrett (below, sitting second from right, and inset) shows him wearing the kind of clothing he is probably wearing when he tracks down the Kid.





## A Long, Slow Slog

**T**he outlaws are disarmed and then shake hands with the man who captured them. They are then taken by wagon to the Wilcox ranch where Mrs. Wilcox feeds them and they spend the night.

The next day is Christmas Eve and by noon, the lawmen and their prisoners reach Fort Sumner where they headquarter at Beaver Smith's Saloon and eat lunch while the prisoners are shackled together. In the afternoon Garrett leads his men and a wagon full of prisoners towards Las Vegas, in deep snow. They have Christmas dinner at Padre Polaco's store in Puerto de Luna, and then after the wagon axle breaks (see at left) the posse travels all night and arrives in Las Vegas by late morning on December 26.

As Garrett gets ready to leave for Santa Fe on the train, a mob meets them at the station. They want Dirty Dave Rudabaugh. The standoff lasts for a half hour.



### On the Road Again

Pat Garrett procured a wagon to deliver the prisoners to Las Vegas, New Mexico Territory. Even though it is bitter cold, Billy (left) stands in the wagon and entertains the entourage with jokes. North of Puerto de Luna (near the present-day site of Santa Rosa), the wagon breaks down and another wagon has to be procured from a nearby ranch. Often, these items were given begrudgingly by the locals. (A full year after the Kid campaign, Garrett was still corresponding with the authorities in Santa Fe, arguing over the value of certain horses and supplies claimants had filed against the territorial government.)



### Basking in the Limelight

Arriving in Las Vegas, Billy and his fellow prisoners are put in the jail without much fanfare. But in the morning a large crowd turns out to see the captured celebrity ((left). "There was a big crowd gazing at me, wasn't there?" Billy says to a reporter.

# BROTHERS IN BLOOD

## Train Interview

A mob met Garrett and his posse and prisoners at the train station. As Garrett successfully stood off the mob, Billy casually talked to a reporter for the Las Vegas Gazette.

"We saw him again at the depot when the crowd presented a really warlike appearance. Standing by the car, out of one of the windows of which he was leaning, he talked freely with us of the whole affair:

"I don't blame you for writing of me as you have. You had to believe other stories; but then I don't know as any one would believe anything good of me anyway," he said. "I wasn't the leader of any gang—I was for Billy all the time. About that Portales business, I owned the rancho with Charlie Bowdre. I took it up and was holding it because I wanted to keep it for a station. But I found that there were certain men who wouldn't let me live in the country and so I was going to leave. We had all our grub in the house when they took us in, and we were going to a place about six miles away in the morning to cook it and then "light" out. I haven't stolen any stock. I made my living by gambling but that was the only way I could live. They wouldn't let me settle down; if they had I wouldn't be here today," and he held up his right arm on which was the bracelet.

"Chisum got me into all this trouble and then wouldn't help me out. If it hadn't been for the dead horse in the doorway [at Stinking Springs] I wouldn't be here. I would have ridden my bay mare and taken my chances of escaping," said he. "But I couldn't ride out over that, for she would have jumped back and I would have got it in the head. We could have staid [sic] in the house but there wouldn't have been anything gained by that for they would have starved us out. I thought it was better to come out and get a good square meal—don't you?"

"The prospects of a fight exhilarated him, and he bitterly bemeaned [sic] being chained. 'If I only had my Winchester, I'd lick the whole crowd,' was his confident comment on the strength of the attacking party. He sighed and sighed again for a chance to take a hand in the fight and the burden of his desire was to be set free to fight on the side of his captors as soon as he should smell powder.

"As the train rolled out, he lifted his hat and invited us to call and see him in Santa Fe, calling out, 'Adios.'"





Lawman-turned-outlaw John Joshua Webb (above) got convicted of murder after shooting a man, Michael Kelliher, inside a saloon in Las Vegas, New Mexico Territory, allegedly in self-defense. He escaped from jail, however, in November 1881 with the help of another inmate—his buddy, Dirty Dave Rudabaugh. Webb didn't enjoy freedom long; he died of smallpox on April 12, 1882.



## The Santa Fe Jail

Billy spent almost three months in the Santa Fe jail. The Sanborn Insurance map of 1880–83 clearly shows the jail complex just west of Bridge Street on the south side of Water. Herlow's Hotel, where Tunstall and McSween met, can also be seen down the street, fronting on San Francisco. The photo at left shows the jail (right of the pole) in 1880. Bridge Street was later changed to Galisteo and today the jail site is a parking lot.

— PHOTO OF JOHN WEBB AND THE SANTA FE JAIL COURTESY MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO —

## Billy Delivered

December 27, 1880

**T**he mob wants Dirty Dave Rudabaugh. He killed jailer Lino Valdez during an unsuccessful bid to free crony J.J. Webb in April. Garrett promised Dave at Stinking Springs he would take him to Santa Fe. The standoff lasts for half an hour, then an associate of Garrett's runs up to the engine and opens the throttle. The huge steam engine spins in its tracks for several seconds, then rockets past the platform and leaves the angry mob behind.

It is Billy's first ride on a train. He is as excited as a kid can be.

The possemen have been on the trail for weeks, sleeping in the same clothes, riding in the bitter cold. They look every bit as rough as the men they have captured. To the other passengers, there is no discernable difference between captive and captor.

Due to heavy snowfall, the train stalls at Glorieta Pass for several hours. Billy amuses the boys by ordering a piece of apple pie and placing the entire slice in his mouth. He opens his mouth and—ta da!—it's still in one piece.

As Garrett and his posse yuck it up over this hilarious entertainment, one thing is obvious to the conductor—these boys need to get out more.

Garrett deposits his prisoners with Sheriff Sherman in Santa Fe. There is a small snafu when Garrett orders food for the prisoners and the jailer eats it all.



## TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE!

BY BOB BOZE BELL AND THE EDITORS OF TRUE WEST

### LONG LOST JAILHOUSE INTERVIEW WITH BILLY THE KID AND ILLUSTRATION UNCOVERED

Billy the Kid experts from around the globe weigh in on why these new Billy Bonney documents are significant.

*The interview with Billy the Kid in a Santa Fe jail—which appeared on page 4 of the January 20, 1881, edition of the Las Vegas Gazette—was shared by James B. Mills exclusively with True West.*

I have been seriously digging into the Billy the Kid story for the past three decades. I have walked where he walked, and I have had the privilege to interview many old-timers and many of the Kid scholars like Fred Nolan, Leon Metz, Nora Henn, Robert Utley, Bob McCubbin, Mark Lee Gardner, Lynda Sánchez and John Sinclair. These Kid historians dug deeper than anyone else and found old newspapers and hidden national archive reports and filled in many of the missing pieces of the puzzle. And yet, somehow, some way, they all missed the newspaper article from the January 20, 1881, *Las Vegas Gazette* you are about to read that James B. Mills, a young Billy scholar from Australia recently discovered.

Mills says: “Almost 140 years after his death, Billy the Kid is still a wanted man. He is constantly being pursued. It is not Pat Garrett and a posse that are now chasing after him, it is historians like myself. We relentlessly track every hint of his movements and activities. We don’t wish to clasp shackles on him; he knew only too well how to slip out of those. We merely wish to understand him better, to get closer to the reality of just who this boy was (and he was a boy, as we sometimes tend to forget).”

How did the intrepid Australian researcher find the lost interview of Billy the Kid? According to Mills, while browsing through online *Newspaper Archives*, he was fortunate enough to catch a fresh glance of him in the January 20, 1881, edition of the *Las Vegas Gazette*. “Billy appeared to be in a mostly cheerful mood despite being locked up in a Santa Fe Jail at the time,” Mills says. “He certainly wasn’t happy with the fanciful illustration of him wielding an ax, saving the life of his beautiful pistol-wielding señorita in the January 8, 1881, edition of *The Illustrated Police News*. Nor did Billy seem overly thrilled about his reputation as a cutthroat desperado, further evidence that the Kid cared about what people thought of him.

“With the slamming of a jail cell door, my brief glimpse of Billy the Kid ended, but it was enough to make my jaw drop while it lasted. Almost 140 years after he was laid to rest, Billy Bonney had spoken to us once again. Though I doubt it will be enough for us to end our relentless pursuit.”

In addition, our editor Stuart Rosebrook, seeking supportive material for Mills’ discovery, found an illustration of Billy and untapped stories on the boy bandit in the Library of Congress’s digitized volumes of *The Illustrated Police News* that have eluded historians for decades.

Hang on to your hat. This is good.

—Bob Boze Bell

MORNING  
**LAS VEGAS GAZETTE.**

VOL. 2.

LAS VEGAS, N. M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1881.

NO. 161.

**THE DAILY GAZETTE**

Las Vegas, New Mexico  
 Thursday, January 20, 1881

**INTERVIEWING PRISONERS**

**Visiting "The Kid" and His Partners  
 in the Santa Fe jail**

*What Rudabaugh says.*

A few days ago, a representative of the GAZETTE paid a visit to Billy Bonney, 'the Kid,' Dave Rudabaugh and Billy Wilson in the Santa Fe jail. They were all heavily shackled and were lying about on their cots, but rose as the heavy iron door swung back on its hinges. After speaking with them all, the GAZETTE man made some remarks on the tidiness of their cell. "Oh; this is a palace as compared with that place they put fellows in in Vegas," said Billy, "we've been scrubbing up to-day," he continued, glancing around and contemplating their work.

The men all appeared to be in good humor, and the talk passing from one topic to another, "the Kid" said, "I'm getting up a terrible reputation." Allusion [that is how it's spelled] being made to the horrible picture of him in the Police News that has been the laughing stock of the town, Billy made all manner of fun of it.

"I got hold of the paper first when it was brought in," he said, "but I was ashamed to let the other fellows see it. Wasn't it savage, though?" he enquired.

We gave our unbiased opinion that we thought it was, and were not a little amused at the way the subject of the frontispiece of the super-sensational paper ran on about it.

"I never had any beautiful Mexican girl with me. It was as much as I could do to take care of myself," was his disposition of the picture. "But," his eyes flashing as he spoke, "she was 'game' though. See the way she stood off the crowd after me," said the admirer of personal courage.

"I say boss," sang out a fellow lying near the stove. "haint you got any influence with the U.S. government to get it to give a man a hat," said the fellow swung over his head a paper cap, such as dull scholars in

backwoods towns "down east" wear as a symbol of dullness.

"Have you any other hat?"

"No, nor I haint had any for sixteen months, ever since I was put in here."

"He's had hard luck, that fellow has," said one of the boys. "He's been in here for sixteen months waiting trial for something that 'his nibs' did" pointing to Dave Rudabaugh who was lying near the fellow with the paper cap.

"Yes, they've kept him in for what I did," attested Rudabaugh.

We were considerably interested in knowing who this long-time-incarcerated man might be, and found on inquiry that it was "B.S." Jack well known in Vegas and who was accused of robbing the coach near this city.

"None of the men they've got in jail had anything to do with robbing the stage or the train," said Rudabaugh. "I'm in for it now, and might as well tell the truth. The Stokes boys are perfectly innocent, and so are all the men who were mistreated of being mixed up in both affairs. I don't propose to tell who did to either, but they haven't got 'any of the men but me.' There was a general conversation concerning the Stokes boys and all the boys said it was a shame that they were ever arrested.

"B.S." Jack told his story. He said that he was "broke" and was just tied up with rheumatism. "I couldn't have walked as far as where the coach was robbed and back to my room again," he said. "That's the way with some of us poor devils who haven't a friend," said he, "they just pounce down on us because they think no one would believe a word

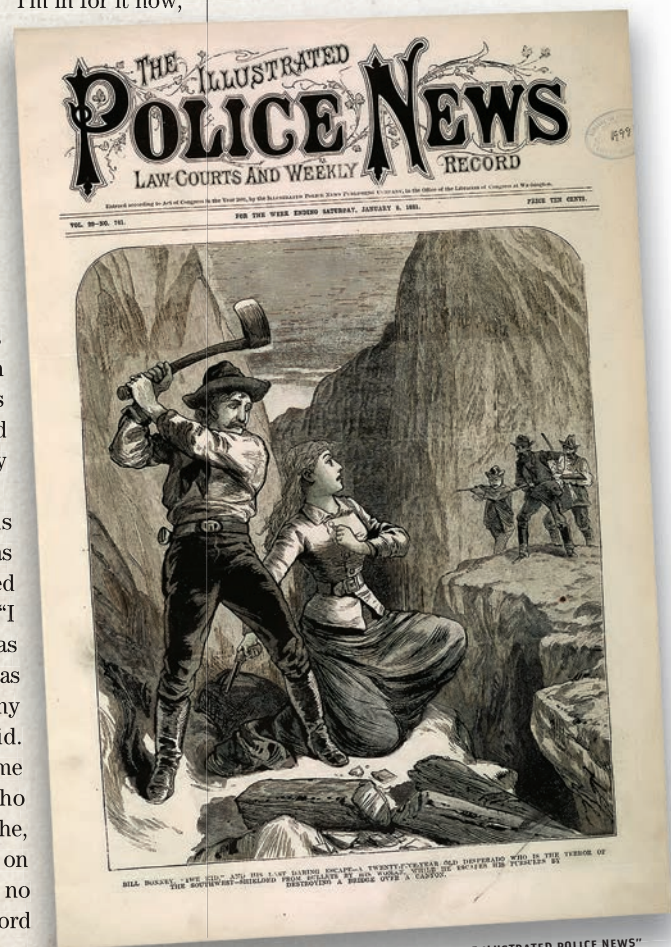
we would say." He was in a good humor like the rest, but he has had nearly a year and a half to brood over his misfortune, and was at times somewhat sour.

"They've got another innocent man in jail in Vegas," said Rudabaugh. When asked who that might be, he said, "Webb; he ain't any more guilty of killing Kelliher than you are." The "imported editor" came to the conclusion that it his residence in Vegas in March were made a test of Webb's innocence that man was safe.

"I saw the whole affair and if my word is worth anything, I say that; that man didn't do the killing." He stoutly adhered to this and said that if he only had a chance to testify he would say so.

"Well, Billy, what do you think of your notoriety?" we asked of "the Kid."

"I don't see any money in it. Everything that has been done in that country is laid to



- IMAGE OF JANUARY 8, 1881 ISSUE OF "THE ILLUSTRATED POLICE NEWS" COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

me," and he really seemed ashamed of the reputation that he had gained.

"If you got out, you could get up a show like Buffalo Bill; you have had advertising enough."

"If—" was his only comment.

The boys expressed themselves as having nothing to complain of regarding their keeping and keepers and said that Sheriff Martinez and everyone connected with the jail treated them "white." As the GAZETTE man turned to go, "B.S. impressed on his mind his need of a hat and coat and the doors clanged on the prisoners.



Contributor James B. Mills was born in 1883 and lives in the Illawarra Region of New South Wales, Australia. Possessing a relentless passion for the history of the American West since childhood, he was bitten by the "Billy-bug" around age nine and has remained enthralled ever since. Now a historian and published writer, his passion remains as strong as ever.

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BILL BONNEY, THE "KID," THE BOY CHIEF OF NEW MEXICO OUTLAWS AND CATTLE THIEVES.

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JAMES G. HAMILTON, ONE OF THE NEW MADRID COUNTY, MO., OUTLAWS HUNTED DOWN AND SHOT DEAD, MAY 22.

**The Adventure of a Girl Somnambulist—A Horrifying Spectacle For a Mother.**  
Miss Sadie Lord, of Clinton, Mo., a bright little lady, 15 years of age, had a remarkable somnambulist adventure a few nights ago.

About 9:30 Mrs. Lord awoke. She was horrified to find her daughter gone. The mother listened a moment and then heard some one moving in an adjoining room. She at once proceeded to the spot, and found Sadie putting on her clothes and fast asleep. She called her name softly, not wishing to rouse it waken the dreamer. The moment her mother spoke, the girl grasped a shawl and, half-dressed as she was, ran out doors like a startled deer.

Mrs. Lord tried to follow her in her headlong flight and could discern the outlines of her lithe form hastening toward the railroad track. It was time for the Pullman train from Hannibal. The mother could hear the shrill whistle in the distance. What if her darling



MRS. NANCY HAYS, MURDERED BY HER JEALOUS HUSBAND, JOHN HAYS, AT HANMER, O., MAY 18.

turned out. A little after midnight the wanderer was found. She had crawled under the barn belonging to Charles Barker, about one-third of a mile from her home, and had nestled beside a great ox cart, where she was slumbering as peacefully as if she was in her own comfortable bed.

**A Gander Leading a Blind Horse—The Philanthropy of One Animal Toward Another.**  
Mr. Phillips, a well known citizen, living on the Franklin pike, six miles from Nashville, Tenn., owned an old blind horse. A flock of geese occupied the pasture jointly with him. An old gander, seeing the difficulty the horse had to go around, attached himself to the horse, leaving his fellows for



JOHN HAYS, IN CUSTODY FOR THE MURDER OF HIS FAITHFUL WIFE AT HANMER, OHIO.

fusing all food, and at the end of the week he, too, died, although his life was but just begun, for a goose will live forty or fifty years. This is a true story, and can be verified by numbers of persons who often saw the strange parties marching



WILLIAM BONNEY, ALIAS "BILLY THE KID," THE BOSS DISPERADO AND MAN-KILLER OF THE SOUTHWEST—A REWARD OF \$500 FOR HIM.



KNOCKED FROM A ROOF BY A LIGHTNING STROKE—A HOUSE PAINTER'S MISFAT AT MARBLEHEAD, MASS.



CHARLES H. MERRILL, SENT TO STATE PRISON FOR LIFE FOR THE HORRIBLE MURDER OF HIS MOTHER AT CHINA, MAINE.

Her father is dead, and she lives with her mother and brother on a farm. On a night in question, mother and daughter went to bed early and were soon asleep. The young man came in soon afterward and retired to his chamber over his mother's apartment.

should be crushed beneath the cruel wheels? She saw the moving harners of one of the section men, and shouted to him to intercept the fugitive. But he did not hear her. The train came nearer and nearer. The great headlights of the locomotive threw a dazzling path of light down the track. The girl, unconscious of her danger, crossed right in front of the engine, narrowly escaping from the very jaws of death. Heaving a great sigh of relief that her darling was safe from immediate peril, the mother returned to the house and called up her son. He hastily dressed, and continued the search fully an hour, when he aroused the neighborhood to assist him. The church bell was rung and the entire community

that purpose. All day long the gander could be seen going in front of the horse, giving signs of his presence by a constant cackle, the horse following the sound. The gander carried the horse to the best pasture and to water. A perfect understanding was had between them, and they seemed to know what each wanted. At night the gander accompanied the horse to the stall, sat under the trough, and the horse would occasionally bite off a mouthful of corn and drop it on the ground for his faithful friend, and thus they would share each other's meals. Finally, one Sunday recently, the old horse died. The gander seemed utterly lost, wandered about disconsolately, looking everywhere for his lost comrade, re-

around, and displays the wonderful affection that sometimes springs up among the lower orders.

Charles Louise Kellogg is actually going to get married.



DONNY REGADES, THE BIKESTON, O., CATTLE AND MAN-KILLER, HUNTED DOWN AND SHOT DEAD, MAY 22.



ALEXANDER G. HARWOOD, WANTED AT THURSTON, WASH., FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER—A REWARD OF \$200 FOR HIM.



WILLIAM JAMES, ALIAS "BOVEY," HUSBAND-KILLER AND HIGHWAY ROBBER, CAPTURED IN BOSTON, APRIL 20.

The Illustrated Police News of Boston started regularly covering Billy the Kid in 1881. In the March 5 (left) and June 4 (above) editions, the salacious weekly published some of the earliest lithographic reproductions of the famous tintype photo of the New Mexico outlaw.

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Major General Lew Wallace, 1860s

- NATIONAL ARCHIVES -

## No One Home

While the Kid was writing his first letters to Wallace at the Palace of the Governors (above), the governor was back East promoting his book, *Ben-Hur*. Wallace returned to Santa Fe on February 10, but left immediately to look at mining property in Silver City. The latest strikes were big news in the East and the governor couldn't wait to see them. Billy might just as well have saved ink because his notes were piling up on someone's desk and his plight was probably one of the last things on Wallace's mind.

- MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO -



The reporter for the *Las Vegas Gazette* would have interviewed Billy the Kid and Dave Rudabaugh in the six-cell county jail on Water Street in Santa Fe. Billy's statement to the reporter that "we've been scrubbing up to-day," may in fact be an early reference to their efforts to hide the evidence of dirt from a tunnel they had started much earlier than most historians have considered.



## Ticked Off

Tony Neis (left) and Robert Olinger celebrated their nomination as deputy U.S. marshals to escort the famous Billy the Kid to his trial in La Mesilla by having their photo made in Santa Fe. The local editors at the *New Mexican* newspaper dubbed them "a heavy team." A month after the jailhouse interview, Neis and Santa Fe Sheriff Romulo Martinez discovered Billy and the Boys were digging an escape tunnel and hiding the fill dirt in their bed ticking. All the prisoners were separated and Billy the Kid was slapped in solitary and shackled to the floor in a cell "where even the light of day is denied admittance..."

# BROTHERS IN BLOOD

## What Historians are Saying About the Discovery of the Lost Billy the Kid Interview

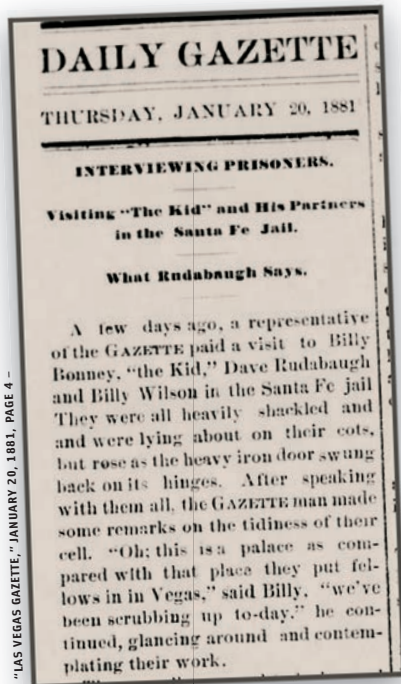
● Both giddy and embarrassed at his sudden national celebrity, Billy's likeable carefree nature shines through in this newly discovered interview. From reading it, one would never guess the violence he was capable of, which, of course, was one of the secrets to the Kid's survival. For me, the interview brings to mind what Pat Garrett once said about the outlaw: "There were many good traits about Billy....He wasn't what you'd call a killer. He never made a gun play he didn't mean, and he never shot up a town. I've met worse men than Billy."

What James B. Mills has unearthed may not change the narrative we have for the Kid, but it certainly enriches it. And considering how Billy has been researched to death for decades, that's quite an accomplishment.

—**Mark Lee Gardner**, author of *Hell on a Fast Horse: The Untold Story of Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett*

● The info James B. Mills has turned up about Señor Billy in the Santa Fe jail, what he's thinking, and his opinions on several topics is of first-rate value. This information "thickens our description" of Billy in the last months of his life. We've not known much about him after he reached Santa Fe and before his jail breakout in Lincoln the following April. Valuable new information, indeed, in this rather obscure segment of outlaw's life.

—**Richard W. Etulain**, author of two upcoming books on the New Mexico outlaw from the University of Oklahoma Press: *Thunder in the West: The Life and Legends of Billy the Kid and Billy the Kid: A Reader's Guide*

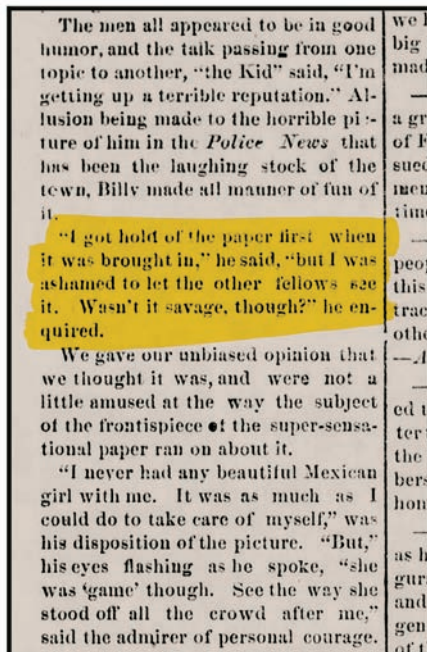


—"LAS VEGAS GAZETTE," JANUARY 20, 1881, PAGE 4

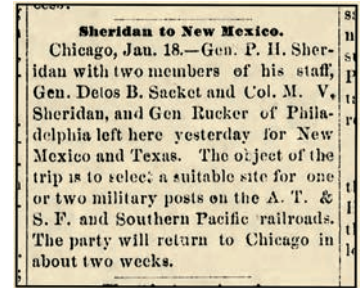
● To find anything new about Billy the Kid is amazing. The Santa Fe jailhouse interview of the Kid that Australian historian James B. Mills discovered in the January 20, 1881, edition of the *Las Vegas Gazette* had been missed by literally hundreds of Billy researchers over many decades. *The Illustrated Police News* images are terrific too. Additionally, the ending of the "lost interview" of the Kid with the word

IF...If only one could project what the Kid was thinking at that time. Makes one wonder how things would have turned out for him with that pardon he never received!

—**Lynda A. Sánchez** is a contributing editor to *True West* magazine and a historian of New Mexico and Apache history



—"LAS VEGAS GAZETTE," JANUARY 20, 1881, PAGE 4



—"LAS VEGAS GAZETTE," JANUARY 19, 1881, PAGE 1

● The recent discovery by James B. Mills of an old newspaper interview with Billy the Kid and his jailhouse companions offers some delightful insights into the elusive New Mexico outlaw. The Kid's oft-remarked upon charming sense of humor comes across loud and clear in his "savage" comment on his cover story in the garish *Illustrated Police News*.

His reply to the reporter's comparison of the boy outlaw to Buffalo Bill displays a certain fatalism, as does the remark that there is no money in it. This episode, as well as the publication of an engraving of the famous tintype before Billy's death, makes it clear that he was indeed receiving some national attention while he was alive.

It's also fascinating that Gen. Phil Sheridan is in Las Vegas at this time (below), no doubt to meet with Hatch about the Victorio campaign that's happening at the same time.

—**Paul Andrew Hutton**, Distinguished Professor, University of New Mexico

### TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Would you like to read more of Bob Boze Bell's stories on Billy the Kid? Subscribe to *True West* Archives today at [TrueWestMagazine.com](http://TrueWestMagazine.com).



**Our past awaits you!**

BY MARK LEE GARDNER

# To Hell on a Fast Horse— Ten Years On

## THE HIGHS AND LOWS IN THE CONTINUING SAGA OF BILLY THE KID AND PAT GARRETT

**I**n 2010, shortly after the first publication of my book *To Hell on a Fast Horse*, I learned that New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson was again giving serious consideration to granting a posthumous pardon to Billy the Kid. Billy had been promised a pardon by then-governor Lew Wallace in exchange for his testimony before a grand jury investigating a murder Billy witnessed. At great personal risk to himself, Billy gave his testimony, but the pardon never came. If Wallace had indeed wronged Billy by not issuing the pardon, Richardson wanted to make it right before he left office at the end of the year. Too late for Billy, of course, but not for history buffs the world over.

I broke the story of the potential pardon for one of the Old West's most famous outlaws with an op-ed in the *Los Angeles Times*. "A deal is a deal," I argued then, half playfully, "and 129 years doesn't change that. Billy is owed a pardon." The news of what Richardson was considering raced across front pages and Internet browsers faster than a bullet from Billy's Colt Thunderer, and with it came considerable controversy.

Soon the *New York Times* asked fellow author Hampton Sides for his opinion, and Hampton, who lives in Billy's old stomping grounds of New Mexico, didn't hold back. He referred to the Kid as a "thug" and a "trigger-happy sociopath." "What's to be gained," Hampton asked, "by dredging up stories from a tired old shoot'em-up?"

Hampton was by no means the only Billy hater out there. The descendants of Sheriff Pat Garrett were also strongly opposed to a pardon, which they believed would diminish their ancestor's unrelenting efforts to bring law and order to southeastern New Mexico Territory. It was a good argument, but the posthumous pardon was about symbolic justice for Billy; it couldn't and wouldn't erase Garrett's heroics as sheriff of Lincoln County.

Finally, on the last day of 2010, Governor Richardson announced his decision—live on national television (which tells you just how big the pardon issue had become). "I've decided not to pardon Billy the Kid," the governor told his hosts on ABC's *Good Morning America*, "because of a lack of conclusiveness and the historical ambiguity as to why Governor Wallace reneged on his pardon."

Richardson's decision was certainly a disappointment for the romantics among us, but the months-long saga did prove Hampton Sides wrong about one thing: the Kid's story was anything but "tired." And ten years on, it shows no signs of letting up. (Sorry, Hampton.) A case in point, I'm happy to say, is *To Hell on a Fast Horse*, which has gone through multiple printings and now a special 10th anniversary edition.

Not a year passed since my book first appeared, it seems, that the Kid didn't make headlines. In June 2011, the only surviving authentic photograph of the outlaw, a tintype, sold at auction in Denver, Colorado, for \$2.3 million—the presale estimate was \$300,000-400,000. It remains the highest price ever paid for a 19th-century photograph. I was at the auction and had the privilege of looking Billy square in the face, so to speak, before the rare image passed into the private collection of the winning bidder, billionaire and Old West enthusiast William I. "Bill" Koch.

A predictable result of the tintype sale was the sudden appearance of a number of historic photographs purportedly

picturing one Billy the Kid that had been scrounged from flea markets, antique shops and eBay. With stamps of approval from self-proclaimed photo "authenticators" using controversial facial recognition technology, each new "discovery" was touted by the press, and the owners of the images naturally believed they'd hit the jackpot. In 2015, the *National Geographic* Channel even featured one of these images, a tintype said to picture young Billy playing croquet at a genteel outing with his friends, in a 90-minute documentary broadcast internationally.

Despite all the hoopla, not one of these wannabe Kid photos has passed muster with knowledgeable historians, myself included. And while I do believe it's likely that Billy stared down the lens of a box camera more than once in his 21 years, any historic photo put forth as a portrait of the Kid cannot be based on resemblance alone. It must have a rock-solid provenance linking it to the outlaw. Otherwise, it can never be anything more than a picture of a goofy-looking juvenile that looks a little like that fuzzy, dim portrait of William H. Bonney.

Of course, my book is just as much about Pat Garrett as it is the Kid, and I had thought my unconventional take (i.e., sympathetic) on the once-revered sheriff might help to rehabilitate his tarnished image. But there are many who continue to have a negative view of the man forever known for gunning down young Billy. In 2018, the Doña Ana County Historical Society proposed that a Las Cruces, New Mexico, street be renamed from Motel Boulevard (which boasted only one motel) to Pat Garrett Boulevard to honor the county's most famous lawman. Their proposal didn't get very far with the City Council, however. One councilor was quoted as saying that naming a street after "a white symbol of the Old West" was "very offensive to me." The boulevard continues to honor that lone motel.

Numerous articles and books touching on the Kid or Garrett have been published since *To Hell on a Fast Horse* first appeared, but if I were rewriting my book today, there would be no changes to my narrative, simply because no previously unseen primary sources have come to light that would necessitate a change. I should, however, provide an update on one item: the lawsuit over Billy's possible DNA and its analysis. After an enormous amount of time and money spent in the New Mexico courts, the official lab results were made public in 2012, which revealed that the blood samples tested (whether or not they belonged to the Kid remains unknown) did not have enough DNA to generate a good sequence. Other than it being a win for the Freedom of Information, the result of all the legal wrangling was a letdown for Billy buffs.

I've written other books since *To Hell on a Fast Horse* came out, but I continue to be passionate about the Kid and Pat Garrett. For me, their story remains thrilling, tragic and irresistible—worthy of the telling in the 21st century. And I trust the two will continue to gallop across people's imaginations in the 22nd century as well—at least I hope so.

I wonder, though, how many more photographs of Billy the Kid we'll have by then....



"Unpardonable" is excerpted from the 10th anniversary edition of Mark Lee Gardner's *To Hell on a Fast Horse*, which will be released by William Morrow in April 2020.

BY WILLIAM GRONEMAN III

# And Die like a Soldier

WILLIAM  
BARRET  
TRAVIS'S  
DEATH AT  
THE ALAMO

**T**wenty-seven-year-old William Barret Travis carried considerable weight on his shoulders in the wee morning hours of March 6, 1836. The native South Carolinian had emigrated from Alabama to the Mexican state of Coahuila y T exas five years earlier for a new beginning. Now in the Alamo, a former Franciscan mission serving as a fort, he may have contemplated his impending end rather than a beginning.

Travis held the rank of lieutenant colonel in Texas's newly formed cavalry, yet he commanded a fortification, a job more suited to an artillery officer. He had shared leadership with Col. James Bowie at the beginning of the siege, but illness rendered the frontiersman bedridden early on, leaving Travis in full command.

Travis penned his famous letter of February 24, 1836, the same day as Bowie's incapacitation, addressed to "The people of Texas and all Americans in the world." He stated his intention "...to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country," if Texas neglected his calls for assistance. He had sustained himself and his garrison for 12 days. Now the time had come to fulfill his pledge to honor and country.

Alamo historians and aficionados have debated the finer details of the battle for decades. Two of the more spirited subjects involve the exact manner in which the American icons Bowie and Davy Crockett met their ends, approximately nine and 25 versions respectively. Less attention has been paid to the exact mechanism, time and place of Travis's demise. However, speculation and questions surrounding his death began within a week of the battle.

Word of the Alamo's fall reached Sam Houston in the town of Gonzales, 70 miles east of San Antonio, on March 11, 1836, by Tejanos Anselmo Vargara and Andres B arcinas. They had not witnessed the battle themselves but reported information from an Antonio Perez.



Eric Von Schmidt's massive painting, *The Storming of the Alamo*, shows the chaos of the Alamo battle on the morning of March 6, 1836. Travis met his end to the north beyond the two-story building in the center of the painting.

– COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY –



Lateral descendants of Travis endorse this as the only authentic portrait of Travis done from life. The location of the original and the artist are unknown at this time.

– COURTESY SALLY MAUCK, LIZ CASE PICKENS AND BOB SANDERS –



Susanna Dickinson believed Travis died on top of the Alamo church while operating a cannon.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



There is no evidence that Perez witnessed the fight since he rode from the ranch of José Maria Arocha to San Antonio on March 6, the morning of the battle. Whatever information Vargara and Bárcinas shared caused their detention by Houston, possibly for fear of them being spies of Santa Anna but more likely to stave off panic among the assembling Texans.

Their information sparked stories of Travis dying as a suicide. E.N. Gray stated in his March 11 letter, "Travis killed himself." Andrew Briscoe writing to the *Red River Herald* provided a reason for Travis's suicide: "The brave and gallant Travis in order to save himself from falling into the hands of the enemy shot himself." Details shifted during the next few days. Houston reported that Travis, "...rather than fall into the hands of the enemy, stabbed himself." Benjamin Briggs Goodrich, whose brother John died at the Alamo, wrote on March 15, "Col. Travis, the commander of the fortress, sooner than fall into the hands of the enemy, stabbed himself to the heart and instantly died."

The story evolved, however. Five days later in Nacogdoches, Texas, John T. Mason wrote to a Major Nelson commanding Fort Jesup in the United States, "Travis and all his men [were] captured and murdered." E. Bowker, writing from St. Augustine, Texas a week later, assured a relation, "Col. Travis the Commander of that little Band [sic] was found dead grappled with a Mexican Officer with his sword through his body," leaving unsaid whose sword went through whose body.

The man able to clear up the mystery, Travis's slave Joe, who arrived in Gonzales two days after Vargara and Bárcinas, had

another story to tell. He came to the Texan forces with Susanna Dickinson and her young daughter, all three survivors from the Alamo.

He later described the battle to Texan officials at Washington-on-the-Brazos. Several witnesses recorded his account, embellished it and passed it on to a number of newspapers in the United States.

George C. Childress, former editor of *The Nashville Banner* reported that Travis had been awakened in the early morning hours of March 6 by a cry from the guard on the wall "Col. [sic] Travis the Mexicans are coming!" Travis sprang from his blanket, grabbed his double-barreled gun and sword and with Joe mounted one of the ramparts. The fast-moving enemy already had placed scaling ladders against the wall. Travis fired his gun on them and immediately suffered a gunshot wound in return. He fell within the fort while his gun fell among the Mexican soldiers.

Childress further stated that a Mexican general leading his troops over the wall attempted to behead Travis but the wounded colonel raised his sword and killed the general. Joe retreated to one of the rooms of the Alamo and thus survived the slaughter.

The presentation of this account makes it seem as if Joe witnessed the final death struggle between Travis and the general, however later on it states that an English-speaking Mexican officer, and Santa Anna himself, made Joe point out Travis's body. Only through their conversation did Joe come to believe that Travis killed a Mexican

officer and this only because their bodies were close enough that their "blood then congealed together." No actual witness is cited to confirm this last defiant act by Travis.

Other participants or claimed participants of the battle left statements regarding Travis's death over the years compounding the mystery. The earliest appeared in a newspaper, *El Mosquito Mexicano*, on April 5, 1836, as part of an account by an unidentified Mexican soldier. It merely stated: "The chief they called Travis died like a brave man with his gun in his hand, in back of a cannon." He did not say that he actually witnessed his death.

Twenty-four years later, Francisco Ruiz, who claimed to be the Alcalde of San Antonio in 1836, stated for the *Texas Almanac of 1860* that he had been called upon to identify Travis's body for the Mexicans. He said, "On

One woman, Mrs. Dickinson, and a negro of Col. Travis were the only persons whose lives were spared. We regret to say, that Col. David Crockett and companion, Mr. Berton and Col. Bonlau of South Carolina, were among the number slain—Gen. Bowie was murdered in his bed, sick and helpless. Gen. Cos, on entering the fort, ordered the servant of Col. Travis to point out the dead body of his master; he did so, when Cos drew his sword and mangled the face and limbs with the malignant feelings of a Comanche savage. The bodies of the slain were thrown into the centre of the Alamo and burned. The loss of the Mexicans in storming the place was not less than 1000 killed and mortally wounded and as many wounded, making with their loss in the first assault between 2 and 3000 men.

The newspaper report of the Alamo battle was gleaned from passengers of the steamship *Comanche*, which arrived in New Orleans on or about March 26, 1836. It identifies no actual witness to General Cos's mutilation of Travis's body.

- "THE WEEKLY MISSISSIPPIAN," APRIL 1, 1836, P. 3 -

General Sam Houston, ca. 1855, believed Travis took his own life dramatically by stabbing himself.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



the north battery of the fortress lay [sic] the lifeless body of Col. Travis on the gun-carriage, shot only [sic] in the forehead.

Filmmakers and artists have loved this touch, giving their Travis character or image a neat little red spot on his forehead indicating a bullet wound. Some historians while constructing a dramatic telling of the Alamo story have melded Ruiz's words with those of Joe, giving the impression that Joe witnessed Travis being felled by a single shot to the forehead. Had Travis been smacked in the forehead with a Mexican army musket ball approaching .69 caliber, it is very unlikely that he would have been in any condition for a later death struggle with a Mexican officer.

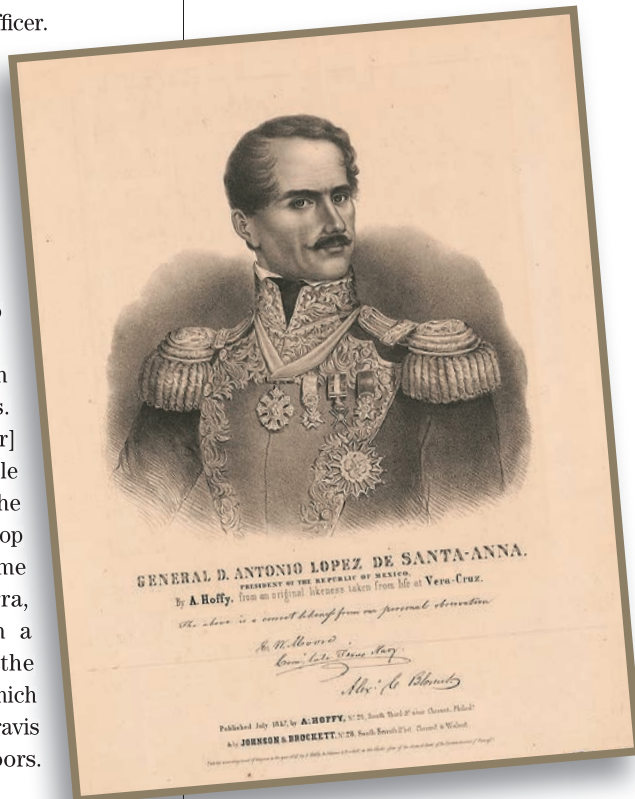
Many Alamo historians accept Ruiz's story at face value without further investigation. The late Thomas Ricks Lindley in his book, *Alamo Traces* (2003), presents evidence showing that Ruiz may not have been in San Antonio during the battle.

Susanna Dickinson in 1875 stated that "Cols. Travis and [James Butler] Bonham were killed while operating the cannon, the body of the former lay on top of the church." That same year, Francisco Becerra, believed to have been a Mexican sergeant in the battle, related a story in which Mexican soldiers found Travis and Davy Crockett indoors.

Travis seized a gun's bayonet pointed at him and depressed the muzzle to the floor. Other soldiers opened fire and a bullet struck Travis in the back. "He

then stood erect, folding his arms, and looked calmly, unflinchingly, upon his assailants. He was finally killed by a ball passing through his neck." Becerra went on to say that Crockett stood in a similar position and they died, "undaunted like heroes."

An 1889 article in *The Fort Worth Gazette* cited Felix Nuñez, who claimed Travis manned a cannon just outside the open door of the Alamo church. Mexican



This image was adapted from an original portrait of James Bowie made circa 1832-33 by an unknown artist. Bowie's incapacitation on the first day of the siege left the Alamo's command in Travis's young hands.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

cannon and small arms fire silenced the Texan gun and killed Travis.

Ten years later newspapers cited the celebrated Madam Candelaria after her death on February 10, 1899, stating, "Colonel Travis was the first man killed. He fell on the southeast side near where the Menger hotel stands." Alamo historians today argue Candelaria's presence in the fort during the battle. Her ever-changing tales of the Alamo include three versions of Bowie's death and two wildly variant death scenes for Crockett.

Travis lacked the star power and legendary image of a Jim Bowie or Davy

General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, looking dashing and appropriately villainous, commanded the Mexican force during the Alamo siege and battle.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

Texas revolutionary Andrew Briscoe's letter indicated that Travis died by gunfire—his own. Mississippian Briscoe settled in Texas in 1833 and fought as an officer in the Texas revolution, including the decisive Battle of San Jacinto.

— "BLACK ROCK ADVOCATE," BLACK ROCK, NY, APRIL 21, 1836, P. 2 —

From the Louisiana Advertiser, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
**THE FALL OF BEXAR—THE ENTIRE OF THE TROOPS IN GARRISON PUT TO DEATH—COLONELS CROCKETT AND BOWIE KILLED!**  
 We are indebted to a gentleman, passenger on board the steamer Levant, from Natchitoches, for the annexed letter, giving the particulars of the fall of Bexar—it is a copy of one addressed to the editor of the Red River Herald:  
 "Sir—Bexar has fallen! Its garrison was only 187 strong, commanded by Lieut. Col. W. Travis. After standing repeated attacks for two weeks, and an almost constant cannonade and bombarding during that time, the last attack was made on the morning of the 6th instant, by upwards of 2000 men under the command of Santa Anna in person; they carried the place about sunrise, with the loss of 520 men killed, and about the same number wounded. After about an hour's fighting, the whole garrison was put to death, (save the sick and wounded and seven men who asked for quarters).—All fought desperately, until entirely cut down: the rest were coolly murdered. The brave and gallant Travis, to prevent his falling into the hands of the enemy shot himself. Not an individual escaped, and the news is only known to us by a citizen of Bexar; who came to our army at Gonzales—but from the cessation of Travis' signal guns, there is no doubt of its truth. The declaration of independence you have, no doubt received, and you will, in a few days, receive the constitution proposed by the republic.  
 — Colonels James Bowie and David Crockett are among the slain—the first was murdered in his bed, to which he had been confined by illness—the latter fell, fighting like a tiger. The Mexican army is estimated at 8000 men; it may be more or less."  
 A. BRISCOE.

Crockett. His last moments never excited the same controversy or curiosity as those of the other two Alamo heroes. However, the conflicting accounts by eyewitnesses, or claimed eyewitnesses, still provide enough mystery to spark conversation as to how and where he died.

Joe, the only survivor with Travis during the battle, provides the best bet on his transition into eternity. He fired his double-barreled gun and immediately fell to enemy fire, one of the earliest Texan casualties of the battle.

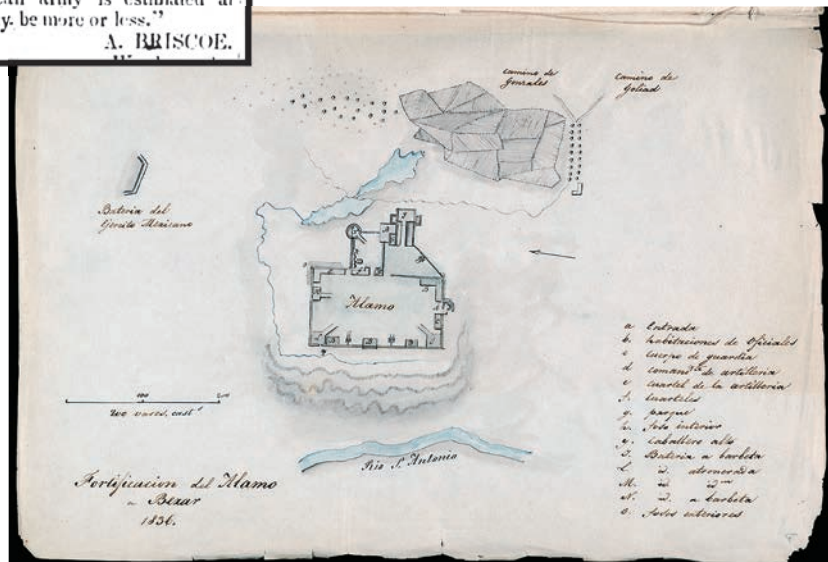
Travis held the Alamo garrison together during two grueling weeks of siege. He did not lead from the rear during the final fray but mounted the walls to face his enemy. Never forgetting "...his own honor or that of his country," he fulfilled his promise to the people of Texas and all Americans in the world, and died like a soldier. ❏

**William Groneman** is a former New York City firefighter and a sustaining member of Western Writers of America. He writes about the Alamo, Davy Crockett, John Steinbeck and the FDNY. He received the Western Writers of America's Branding Iron Award in 2019.



Former United States Congressman David Crockett, popularly known as Davy, struck a classical pose for his only full-length portrait done from life by John Gadsby Chapman.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



This map of the Alamo and surrounding area was based on an original attributed to Mexican officer Ygnacio de Labastida. Travis met the enemy at the north wall (the left side of image). The familiar Alamo church appears on the east of the compound, at the top of the illustration.

— COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —

All roads led to San Antonio de Bexar, the key to Texas. To Travis fell the responsibility of holding this post against the Mexican Army.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



Colonel William B. Travis and slave Joe rushed to the Alamo's north wall in the opening seconds of the Alamo's final battle.

- DETAIL OF WALL PANEL AT THE ALAMO COURTESY TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION -

## TRAVIS'S PLEAS FOR HELP

Travis's second letter from the Alamo, written on February 24, 1836, is famous for its closing salutation, VICTORY OR DEATH.

- Transcription Courtesy William Groneman -

Commandancy of the Alamo  
 Bejar, Feby. 24, 1836  
 To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World  
 Fellow citizens & compatriots

I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna I have sustained a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country VICTORY OR DEATH.

William Barret Travis,  
 Lt. Col. comdt.

P.S. The Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves. Travis

The day before Travis's famous letter "To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World," he sent an initial call for aid from the Alamo on February 23, 1836.

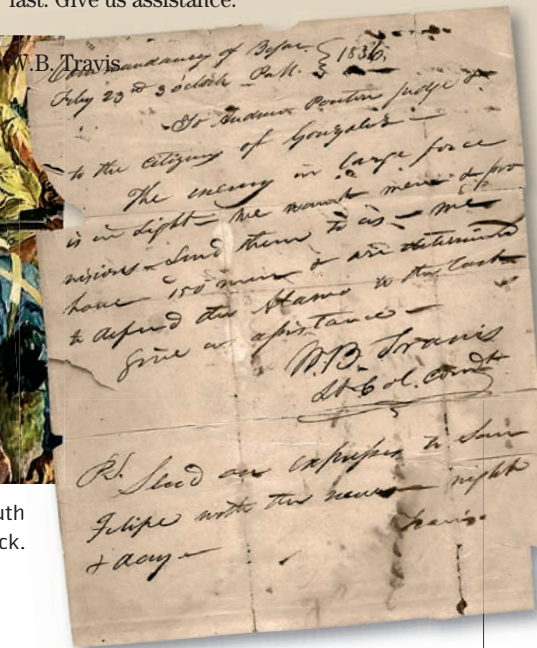
Commandancy of Bexar  
 Feby. 23rd, 3 o'clock P.M., 1836  
 To Andrew Ponton, Judge and Citizens of Gonzales, February 23, 1836

The enemy in large force are in sight. We want men and provisions. Send them to us. We have 150 men and are determined to defend the Alamo to the last. Give us assistance.



The Death of William B. Travis, Alamo Commander by Ruth Conerly (1953) can be viewed in The Alamo's Long Barrack. Travis fights on despite the neat little bullet hole in his forehead.

- COURTESY THE ALAMO, TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, PHOTO OF PAINTING BY WILLIAM GRONEMAN -



BY SHERRY MONAHAN

## The Bitter Truth

*Whiskey bitters became an elixir for women on the frontier.*



**B**itters were cocktail mixers that came in many flavors on the frontier, but they also served another, darker purpose. Because respectable women didn't dare enter a saloon, they found an alternative way to "get their drunk on" in the 19th century with bitters. The *Kansas Coffeyville Weekly Journal* explained how women first began developing a thirst for, and later a dependency on, liquor. Since bitters' main ingredient was whiskey, women in the West satisfied their fondness for the popular spirit by drinking medicinal elixirs.

With their Victorian gowns swishing, women walked into the local mercantile store or called on their local chemist and respectfully picked up a bottle of bitters for their "health." Bitters companies knew this and used clever advertising to attract their non-saloon customers. The tonics were sold under the promise that they would ease common female illnesses and were purported to ease or cure mental anguish, feverish lips, cracking pains, weak stomach and scores of other bodily sufferings.

The B.W. Woodward Druggist and Manufacturing company called out the deception of these tonics. It offered a non-whiskey tonic and claimed its competitor's tonics were nothing more than mislabeled whiskey. Its 1860s advertisement read: "A healthful, invigorating tonic, that should commend itself as a proper one to the medical profession, and be free from the objection of pandering to depraved appetite

J.R. Watkins founded his company in Plainview, Minnesota, in 1868. Watkins and his salesmen went door-to-door across southern Minnesota selling natural healing remedies that he concocted, including liniment and bitters. In 1885, Watkins moved his company to Winona, Minnesota, expanded into spices, extracts and more, growing into one of the largest direct-sales companies in the country. Watkins is still in business 152 years later.

— COURTESY NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY ARCHIVES, SMITHSONIAN, NO. NMAH-AC0078-0000044, CIRCA 1900 —

for whisky stimulants, under the specious name of 'tonic bitters,' has long been needed by the public." Directly under this ad was another for Foster's Silurian Bitters which claimed its bitters were the purest and best tonic stimulant ever brought to the market. Another competitor to B.W. Woodward was the maker of Leis' Dandelion Tonic which also called out the tonic-drinking masses: "[It] is not a 'Whisky Bitters' or a 'Fancy Drink' that may lead the user to drunkenness and ruin, but it is a true and reliable medicine which has been used for the past fifteen years and has been prescribed by many leading physicians."

Humorist Robert Burdette was a staff writer for Iowa's *Burlington Hawkeye*, and his tongue-in-cheek commentary appeared in papers across the West. His fondness for whiskey and temperance bitters was displayed in an 1887 *Des Moines Register* column where he noted,

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"I do not fly around and perspire because the government has decided to collect the whisky tax from the temperance bitters. I endorse the action of the government because I have always insisted that the temperance bitters contained the worst whisky, and should be reformed in this respect before they could be considered a proper drink for a prohibitionist. Moreover, it is unwholesome and wrong to mix greens and herbs with liquor."

One of the largest-selling brands of bitters was Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which was taken to task on April 21, 1887, by the editors of *The Times* of Clay Center, Kansas, who claimed the bitters caused drunkenness. "It is said that Hostetter, the compounder of that vile decoction known as 'Hostetter's Stomach Bitters,' has accumulated a fortune of 11 million. We would not become responsible for the wicked and murderous drunks his bitters have produced for ten times his earnings."

Early mixologists like Harry Johnson and Jerry Thomas created their own bitters for cocktails. Today, boutique distillers, like Boothill Distillery in Dodge City, Kansas; Breckenridge Distillery in Breckenridge, Colorado; and Greenbar Distillery, in Los Angeles, California, are keeping the West alive by doing the same. This is Thomas's recipe for bitters. ❏

Sherry Monahan kicked off her journey into Old West cuisine, spirits and places by authoring *Taste of Tombstone*. Visit [SherryMonahan.com](http://SherryMonahan.com) to learn more about her books, awards and TV appearances.

### JERRY THOMAS'S OWN DECANTER BITTERS (1862)

Makes 3 1/2 cups

3 cups rum

1 pound of raisins

2 ounces of cinnamon

1 ounce Sampson's snake-root or substitute birch bark or wild cherry bar

1 lemon and 1 orange, cut in slices

1 ounce of cloves

1 ounce allspice

750 ml Santa Cruz rum

Fill decanter with rum and add the remaining ingredients. Bottle and serve out in pony glasses or mix in cocktails. As fast as the bitters is used, fill up again with rum.



Adapted from *The Bar-Tender's Guide: A Complete Cyclopaedia of Plain and Fancy Drinks*, Jerry Thomas, 1862.

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## Born Outlaws

*Bill Markley's dual biography on Jesse James and Billy the Kid, a new Texas frontier history, two Western novels and a new history of the American Indian.*

In the past year the latest Billy the Kid movie, *The Kid*, was produced and released, while in 2019-'20, at least three Billy the Kid biographies, two Pat Garrett bios, a Jesse James biography and four Wyatt Earp-Cowboy-Doc Holliday chronicles will hit the bookshelves. This does not even include the unknown number of Billy, Jesse and Wyatt novelizations (including Johnny D. Boggs' recent novel on Cole Younger and Mark Warren's third volume in his Wyatt Earp series reviewed below), published articles and cinematic-television-streaming reruns and homages to the dynamic duo of Old West bushwhacking and banditry. Included in that barrage of entertainment and endnotes is Bill Markley's ambitious dual biography *Billy the Kid & Jesse James* (TwoDot, \$16.95).

Anyone who loves Old West history will enjoy the Western novelist-historian's easy-to-read style, his sense of place, his ability to present the facts and his seemingly uncynical perspective about the ongoing debates that swirl around the two outlaws. He willingly admits, "[A]fter studying Jesse James and Billy the Kid, I've come to view them both as like-able criminals. They could be pleasant company and they enjoyed a good joke." I'm not so sure their victims would share such breezy character analysis of the two killers, but Markley remains in good company with millions of Jesse and Billy fans.

*Billy the Kid & Jesse James* is the second volume in the South Dakota author's *Outlaws of the Legendary West* series with *TwoDot*. Markley's dual biography is written—like his first, *Wyatt Earp & Bat Masterson*—in a popular narrative style that is highly accessible to a broad audience seeking a strong introductory biography of the two legendary outlaws. Markley does not necessarily uncover new primary material or sources on

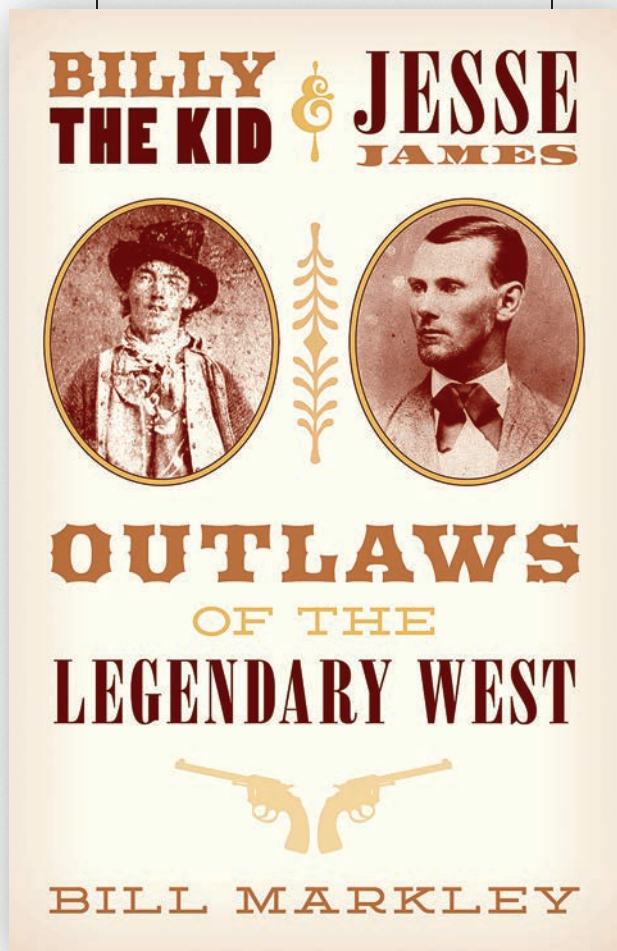
Jesse or Billy, but he provides an excellent paper trail of his sources in his endnotes and bibliography. Readers also will enjoy Jim Hatzell's original illustrations. He relies heavily on the best-of-the-best modern Jesse and Billy biographers (all of whom—Bob Boze Bell, Johnny D. Boggs, Richard Etulain, Mark Lee Gardner, Paul Andrew Hutton, Fred Nolan, T.J. Stiles and Robert Utley—are excerpted or quoted in this issue) and makes no apologies for it. Markley is an excellent synthesizer of secondary sources and knows his audience.

If you finish the intrepid historian's *Billy the Kid & Jesse James* and aren't excited enough to immediately rush out to buy the best monographs by the aforementioned historians—and then go and re-watch film and television interpretations of the fabled killers—then you have completely missed the point of Markley's biography of the mythologized bandits: "Jesse James and Billy the Kid will continue to ride across the landscape of America's imagination, always on the run—never to be caught."

So get out there: hit the hoot-owl trail to see what more you can discover about these long-dead scurrilous characters and try to figure out why we celebrate two cold-blooded killers as American heroes.

—Stuart Rosebrook

**Editor's Note:** Love Western travel? Read frequent *True West* contributor **Bill Markley's** article "Black Hills Gold" on pages 80-86.



## ROUGH DRAFTS

On January 16, 2020, the Western Writers of America announced our very own Johnny D. Boggs, whose eight Spur Awards are a record in the 67-year history of Western Writers of America, will receive the organization's 2020 Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Contributions to Western Literature.

Boggs will be inducted into the Western Writers Hall of Fame, housed outside the McCracken Research Library at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming.

The multi-talented South Carolina native who has made Santa Fe, New Mexico, his home for over 20 years, has been a contributor to *True West* on Western history, travel, culture, books and film since executive editor Bob Boze Bell bought the magazine in 1999. "Our success at *True West* magazine has much to do with talented writers like Johnny D. Boggs," Bell said. "He not only knows his stuff, but he gives us humor and levity, two ingredients missing from most history writing."

The nonprofit guild's highest honor will be presented during WWA's convention June 17-20, 2020, in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Boggs has won Spurs for the short story "A Piano at Dead Man's Crossing" (2002); novels *Camp Ford* (2006) and *Legacy of a Lawman* (2012); juvenile novels *Doubtful Cañon* (2008), *Hard Winter* (2010) and *Taos Lightning* (2019); and original mass-market paperback novels *West Texas Kill* (2012) and *Return to Red River* (2017). He has also been a Spur finalist 13 times.

Boggs's other awards include the 2004 Western Heritage Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum for *Spark on the Prairie* and the 2015 Arkansas Juvenile Award for *Poison Spring*.

Want to read Boggs at his best? Turn to pp. 36-37 and 66-71 to read excerpts from his book *Jesse James and the Movies* and his latest travel story tracking legendary lawman Bass Reeves across Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas on pp. 100-110.

—Stuart Rosebrook

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## GANG WARFARE IN TEXAS

David Johnson is one of the most important chroniclers of Texas hardcases, with books on the Horrell family, John Ringo and the Mason County/Hoodoo War. In his latest, Johnson takes on one of the most violent gangs in the history of the Lone Star State. *The Cornett-Whitley Gang:*



*Violence Unleashed in Texas* (University of North Texas Press, \$29.95) tells about an outfit that is little remembered today. Yet, between 1886 and 1888, the bandits made lots of headlines. They took lots of loot, but they

tortured express messengers and pistol-whipped innocent passengers. People feared them. The law was determined to bring them down (and did). As always, David Johnson's work is well-researched and well-told.

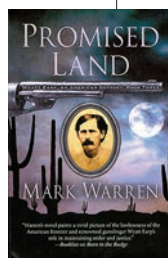
—Mark Boardman, True West features editor

## A MAN WITH A BADGE

Much has been documented about Wyatt Earp's career, but in *Promised Land: Wyatt Earp: An American Odyssey, Book 3* (Five Star Publishing, \$25.95) author Mark Warren delves into the lawman's character. Woven with clarity and colorful prose, Warren takes readers on an odyssey to 1879 Tombstone where we feel the desert dust and hear the jangle of spurs as Wyatt and his band of brothers patrol the streets in their iconic black greatcoats. An accomplished researcher, Warren is ever-faithful to the facts while reverently imagining thoughts and dialogue for these historical figures.

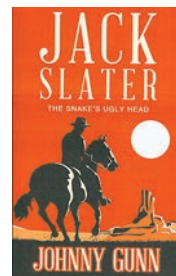
Warren blogs, "This is why I waited 60 years to write about a fearless man. It took me that long to understand what made Wyatt Earp tick." Readers will learn more intimately about Earp's code of straightforward behavior, thanks to Warren's artistry and dedication.

—Denise F. McAllister, owner of McAllisterEditing.com



## THE SNAKE'S UGLY HEAD

*Jack Slater* (Wolfpack Publishing \$14.99) by Johnny Gunn centers around the



corruption of the local government politics in Elko County, Nevada, during the late 1800s. Gunn's villain Luke Pardee wants to control elections and the government of Elko County through money and physical threats

but is confronted by Jack Slater. Gunn takes readers through one danger after another as Pardee tries to retain control by eliminating Slater's family and anyone who is against him. Readers will be kept wondering what will happen next until the end. I enjoyed reading Gunn's novel, finding that it could be applied to modern-day politics.

—Lowell F. Volk, author of the Luke Taylor and Trevor Lane series

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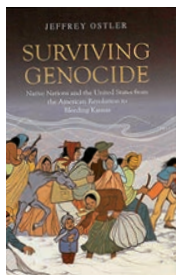
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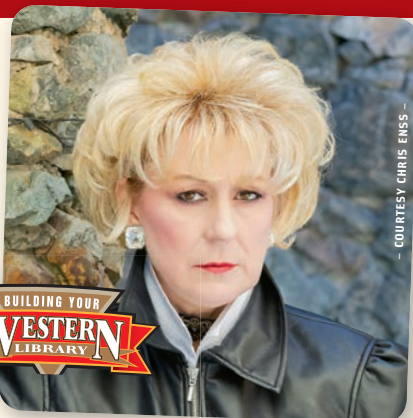
Arguably, from the appearance of Helen Hunt Jackson's *A Century of Dishonor* in 1881, followed three years later by J.P. Dunn's *Massacres of the Mountains*, generations of writers have wrestled with the treatment of American Indians in the United States. Jeffrey Ostler's *Surviving Genocide: Native Americans and the United States from the American Revolution to Bleeding Kansas* (Yale University Press, \$37.50)



is among the most recent entries into the ongoing and unresolved issue and is the first of a two-volume study. As indicated by the title, the interpretation draws heavily on the term Raphael Lemkin coined in his 1944 *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*, and which, in many respects has displaced the older, oft used idiom "massacre." Whether Professor Ostler succeeds in making a convincing case remains a question to be answered by the reader.

—John Langellier has spent over a half century in the study of the so-called Indian Wars

Chris Enss is a *New York Times*-bestselling author who has been writing about women of the Old West for more than 20 years. The award-winning author has penned more than 40 published books on the subject. Her book *The Pinks: The First Women Detectives, Operatives, and Spies with the Pinkerton National Detective Agency* has been optioned by NBC television. Enss's most recent work is *According to Kate: The Legendary Life of Big Nose Kate Elder, Love of Doc Holliday*. Here are some of her favorite books about the West



- 1 ***The Ballad of Frankie Silver*** by Sharyn McCrumb (St. Martin's Griffin): This remarkable thriller set in North Carolina in 1833, blends legend and folklore and is a true page-turner. McCrumb is brilliant.
- 2 ***Famous Lawmen of the Old West*** by Dorothy Johnson (Dodd, Mead): The incomparable Dorothy Johnson writes true stories about legendary frontier lawmen, enough said.
- 3 ***Elizabeth Bacon Custer and the Making of a Myth*** by Shirley Leckie (University of Oklahoma Press): The meticulous research that went into writing this biography of Libby Custer is impressive.

It's a worthwhile read, not only from a historical perspective, but a sociological one.

- 4 ***How I Became a Ghost—A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story*** by Tim Tingle (Roadrunner Press): This unique approach to sharing the tragic tale of a ten-year-old American Indian boy driven from his Mississippi homeland is storytelling at its finest.
- 5 ***The Days I Knew*** by Lillie Langtry (Panoply Publications): The memoirs of one of the most famous entertainers of the Old West provides an honest look at theatre life from St. Louis to San Francisco and all the dusty stages in between. Langtry was a fearless trailblazer who knew how to handle adversity with great *joie de vivre*.

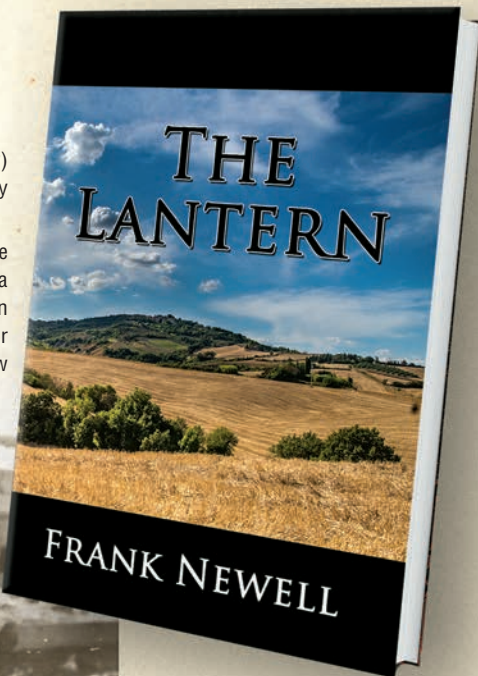
**A STORY ABOUT A STOIC MAN OF THE PLAINS**

**Careyhurst Ranch, WY, 1923.** General manager Walt Newell (far right in the photo below) and Governor Bob Carey (white shirt) talk with the cowboys. Walt Newell's extraordinary life is the inspiration behind the novel *The Lantern*, written by Walt's son Frank.

*The Lantern* depicts ranching in Wyoming beginning in 1913, life as a WWI soldier with the Converse County Cowboys, and later, farming Indian land of the Logan Valley in Nebraska during the Depression Era. But there's a lot more to the story: a man's lifelong devotion to two women (one he marries and one unwinable), and his innocence shattered by four times taking a life to save his own. Names have been changed to protect privacy, in view of plot details enhanced by vivid imagination.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING, CAREY FAMILY PAPERS



Frank Newell's novel, *The Lantern*.

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# Bands of Brothers

Forty years after the release of *The Long Riders*, the actor-writer-producers, cast members and legendary director Walter Hill reflect on the making of a Western classic.



**F**orty years ago, an audacious casting inspiration—real acting brothers portraying the outlaw brothers who made up the James–Younger gang—triggered the making of a classic Western, *The Long Riders*. Surprisingly, the brothers who thought of it, Stacy and James Keach, credit another pair of brothers with inspiring it. In 1972, they'd costarred in a TV movie called *Orville and Wilbur* and, Stacy recalls, “We said, well, we’ve done the Wright brothers. Now let’s do the wrong brothers: the James brothers.” The sons of actor and *Tales of the Texas Rangers* creator Stacy Keach Sr., they were no strangers to the genre: Stacy had been nominated for a Tony in 1969 for playing Buffalo Bill in *Indians*, and starred as the consumptive dentist in *Doc*. James remembers, “I wrote

a show called *The Bandit Kings*, a musical about Frank and Jesse James. We did it off Broadway.”

“It was not very good,” Stacy admits, “but it was spirited, and we decided we should do it as a movie rather than a play.” They headed for California, dropped the songs, rewrote it as a screenplay, and tried for nearly nine years to get it made. Then came the Keaches’ stroke of genius, the casting: the Keaches as the James boys, David, Keith and Robert Carradine as the Youngers, Randy and the then-unknown Dennis Quaid as the Millers, and Beau and Jeff Bridges as the dirty little cowards, the Fords. When the studios wouldn’t believe they were all on board, James remembers, “We got all the brothers together, and we took a picture. And that was our calling card for anybody

Director Walter Hill’s first Western, *The Long Riders*, cast four sets of brothers as real-life outlaw brothers, including (l.-r.): Randy Quaid as Clell Miller, Keith Carradine as Jim Younger and Stacy Keach as Frank James.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY UNITED ARTISTS —

who couldn’t believe we could get all these guys together.”

While James was in Bora Bora, acting in *Hurricane*, producer Tim Zinneman (son of *High Noon* director Fred Zinneman) read his script. A friend of Walter Hill’s since they’d been assistant directors on *Bullitt*, Tim told James, “I’ve got to give this to Walter. He’s going to love this.”

Hill, a big-time screenwriter since Sam Peckinpah’s *The Getaway*, had made a

splash as an action-director with the hit gang drama *The Warriors*. Zinneman set up *The Long Riders* at United Artists. Hill says with a laugh, "They thought they were getting a 'catch' in me. The truth is, it was my first Western, and I'd have crawled through fire and broken glass to do it. So they had me at a bargain, and all the brothers worked at a bargain too, those who were in more of a commanding position for salaries, David and Stacy."

There was more casting to be done. The Quaid's were added, then the Guests, Robert Carradine remembers, because, "the Bridges backed out. They didn't want

## MOMENTS OF HOMAGE TO OTHER WESTERNS



One of the career highlights of the storied Carradine acting family was, l.-r., Keith, David and Robert cast in *The Long Riders* as the Younger Brothers, Jim, Cole and Bob Younger.

When Walter Hill took on the direction of *The Long Riders*, "There had been something like 20, 25 movies made about the James-Younger gang. My job was to figure a way to present this material that makes it seem fresh, not a rehash of other films. But at the same time, I wanted to be respectful of the antecedents. So, within *The Long Riders* there are moments of homage to many of the other films." Did you spot them?

- 1 "Before Jesse gets shot, one of the Ford voices says, 'I shot Jesse James.' That's a reference to Sam Fuller's *I Shot Jesse James* (1949)."
- 2 "There's a tiny bit with the prostitutes outside of Northfield. It's an homage to Phil Kaufman's movie, *The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid* (1972)."
- 3 "The horses crashing through the window are an homage to the original Henry King film, *Jesse James* (1939)."
- 4 "There's a reference to Nicholas Ray's *True Story of Jesse James* (1957), and I can't remember what it is." If you spot it, please let us know at *True West!*

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L.-r.: Robert Carradine, David Carradine, Randy Quaid, Dennis Quaid (partially blocked), Stacy Keach, James Keach and Keith Carradine made up three of the four sets of outlaw brothers in *The Long Riders*. Not pictured are Nicholas and Robert Guest as Bob and Charlie Ford

to be the guys who shot Jesse James in the back.” Pamela Reed, who played Belle Starr to David Carradine’s Cole Younger, had very little film experience, but Hill remembers, “She came in and read and I just thought she was perfect.”

Reed had her doubts. “There was the scene in the bathtub with no clothes on, something I swore I’d never do. Hill said, ‘I will not

embarrass you, and I will give you the respect that an actor deserves.” She agreed. “David was just a consummate professional: wry, dry, charming, sexy, smart, really sensitive. On the first take, he just looked at me. He started with my toes and went up to my head, and by the time he finished looking at me, I felt like I was Simone Signoret in her prime. I stood up out of that tub and I said, ‘Well,

here I am.’ And I guess I meant it in every sense of the word.”

James says the film was shot in Georgia because “Missouri [had] too many Fosters Freezes and telephone poles; the first day of shooting was nearly a terrible disaster.” James and Stacy were riding across a river when, Carradine remembers that Stacy’s “horse caught a foot in the rear cinch on his saddle, was going to drown.” The horse kept coming up, gulping air and going down again. “The head wrangler timed it for the next time he came up, threw a rope around that horse’s neck and they were able to pull him out.”

There were other occasional problems along the way. In the barn shootout, James

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*The Long Riders* has the best re-creation of the failed Northfield Bank Robbery of any of the James Brothers' movies, with I.-r., Randy Quaid as Clell Miller, James Keach as Jesse James, Stacy Keach as Frank James and Robert Carradine as Bob Younger.

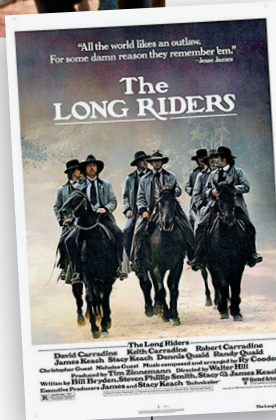


got too close to a squib, "and it blew a hole in my back." The crew went to Texas to shoot a scene with a train that the *Heaven's Gate* crew had been using, "And when they gave it to us, they'd painted [it] red, so they would f\*\*k us up. We did the train robbery in Northern California."

Despite outside predictions, the brothers got along well. James suggests one reason: "We were all musicians, so we would play music all the time. Keith won an Academy Award. Bobby's an incredible guitar player."

Stacy's only complaint is that they changed his ending. "We felt that Jesse

shouldn't die at the hands of Bob and Charlie Ford, hanging a picture on the wall." In the Keach version, they faked Jesse's death, the Fords took the credit, "and Jesse went off and lived in obscurity. Walter thought it was too gimmicky; but my brother and I still would love to tell that story." Why not in *The Long Riders II*?



## BLU-RAY REVIEW

### THE LONG RIDERS

(Kino Lorber, Blu-ray \$29.95, DVD \$19.95) As Walter Hill notes, *The Long Riders* (1980) is a green Western, not a brown one, and Ric Waite's cinematography is stunning in this 4K high resolution restoration. The two-disc set features an hour-long making-of documentary, new interviews with director Hill, producer Tim Zinnemann, composer Ry Cooder, stars Randy Quaid and Nicholas Guest, and best of all, dual interviews with brothers Keith and Robert Carradine, and the ones who started it all, James and Stacy Keach.

Henry Parke is *True West*'s Western film and television editor, and blogs at *Henry'sWesternRoundup.Blogspot.com*. His book of interviews, *Indians and Cowboys*, will be published later this year.

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1847-1882

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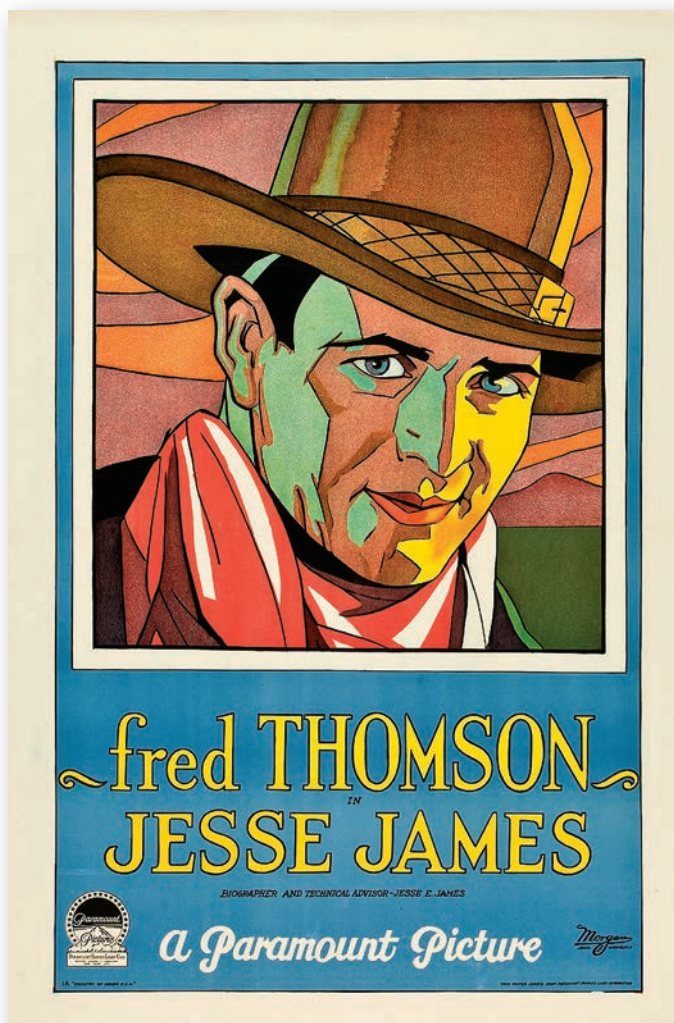
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# Rebel Raider to Rebel Hero

*How Jesse James became one of Hollywood's favorite outlaws.*

“The best movie about Jesse James is *Ride with the Devil*, which isn’t about Jesse James, but that’s all right because the best movie about George Custer is *Fort Apache*, which isn’t about Custer, either, and the best movie about the O.K. Corral is *My Darling Clementine*, which gets almost all of the facts—including the year of the famous gunfight—wrong.”

That was the start of a speech I gave in suburban Des Moines, Iowa, in 2006. Hearing that I was writing a novel about the James-Younger Gang’s ill-fated bank robbery in Northfield, Minnesota, John J. Koblas, then president of the National James-Younger Gang, invited me to give the keynote address at the group’s annual conference. Now, the last thing I want to do when talking to historians and, as in the case of the National James-Younger Gang, descendants of historical figures, is bring up a subject sure to prompt arduous debate. After all, I am, primarily, a novelist, albeit one firmly grounded in history. As I explained to Jack Koblas, I did not want to get into a discussion about who was inside the bank in Liberty, Missouri, on February 13, 1866; how many bandits actually took part in the Northfield raid on September 7, 1876; what brand of revolver Robert Ford used when he shot Jesse James to death at his home in



St. Joseph, Missouri, on April 3, 1882; the color of Cole Younger’s vest, if he preferred pewter or brass buttons; what cobbler made Jim Cummins’s boots; or whether the Pinkertons were nothing more than hired assassins.

So I told Koblas that I would prefer to talk about something light, maybe the

Silent Western film star Fred Thomson was tapped for the title role in Paramount’s 1927 *Jesse James*. It was Hollywood’s first production of the outlaw’s life as a tragic, sometimes misguided, hero.

— COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES —

movies featuring Jesse James.

Which isn’t to say film is immune from controversy. Far from it. My speech led to an article on the same subject for *True West* magazine, which led to a polite though fairly spirited discussion with director Walter Hill during the Western Heritage Wrangler Award festivities at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in April 2007. (Hill had directed *The Long Riders*, a 1980 movie I pretty much dismissed in the *True West* article.)

The first movie about Jesse James that I recall seeing is Philip Kaufman’s *The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid* (1972), when it aired on network television in the 1970s. The elementary school playground the following week (or weeks) was full of young boys pretending to be Cole Younger, or at least actor Cliff Robertson’s version of Cole Younger. As naive, white South Carolinians instilled from birth with a glorious admiration for the War Between the States/War for Southern

The first Jesse James Western starred Harry McCabe in the 1908 one-reel, 18-minute *The James Boys in Missouri*. The first bio-pic of the outlaw was directed and made in Illinois and Michigan by Gilbert M. "Broncho Bill" Anderson.

— COURTESY ESSANAY —



Bank Hold-Up Berrien Springs, Mich.



Film historians point to 1939 as a watershed year for cinema, and Darryl F. Zanuck's *Jesse James* set the standard for all future A-Westerns about the Missouri outlaw.

— COURTESY 20TH-CENTURY FOX —

Independence/War of Northern Aggression/Lost Cause, we loved the movie's line about 1876 not marking our nation's centennial—Yankees had forgotten four years of Civil War—and a lot of us thought that the James and Younger boys were merely carrying on the fight against Yankee tyranny and greedy railroaders.

Jesse James was a savvy hero saving girls from greedy land-robbers, much the same as Billy the Kid kept riding to the rescue on the pages of Charlton and Dell comics. Later, I would grow to learn that the Civil War wasn't so glorious or all that righteous, and neither was Jesse James, although, ever

since watching Clif Robertson on the screen of our Sylvania color television set, I've always had a grudging respect for Cole Younger. The historical researcher and film buff in me—I'll take in a Western at the drop of a hat—kept drawing me to Jesse James.

Other movies about Jesse and "the boys" left memorable impressions on me, including Hill's *The Long Riders*, which I saw at a theater in Florence, South Carolina, as a high school senior in 1980. Many more came along on television or video such as *Jesse James*, *The Return of Frank James* (for my money, no actor could chew tobacco better than Henry Fonda as Frank James), the insipid *American Outlaws* and, most recently, *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*. Others, especially the B-movies I dug up once I started researching my speech to the National James-Younger Gang. More than a few came along when I got the itch to write this book. Some are, unfortunately, most likely lost forever, and a few are about as elusive as Jesse was to the Pinkertons.

I will still argue that the best movie about Jesse James isn't really about

Jesse James, but *Ride with the Devil*, director Ang Lee's 1999 film based on Daniel Woodrell's novel *Woe to Live On*. The film superbly captures the turmoil and people along the Missouri-Kansas border, and the events during the Civil War that propelled the real Jesse James to a life of crime.

If any famous Western historical figure is overdue for film analysis, it is Jesse James.

Eight theatrical movies have been made about the gunfight at the O.K. Corral, most notably the aforementioned *My Darling Clementine*, *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral* (1957), the pseudo-cult favorite *Tombstone* (1993), and a handful more if you include movies inspired by the event, such as *Law and Order* (1932) and *Warlock* (1959). According to historian Paul Andrew Hutton, 48 movies have been made about George Armstrong Custer, from Francis Ford's *Custer's Last*

Mesco Pictures' 1921 *Jesse James as the Outlaw* starred Jesse E. James, Jr. as himself and as his father. Much of the revisionist silent film was shot on location in Missouri.

— COURTESY PARAMOUNT —





Hollywood's movie studios made more B-Westerns and Western serials than A-Westerns in the pre-television era, including Republic Pictures' 13-chapter serial *Adventures of Frank and Jesse James*. Clayton Moore of *The Lone Ranger* fame starred as Jesse opposite Steve Darrell as Frank.

*Raid* (1912) to Arthur Penn's *Little Big Man* (1970), with the fabled "Boy General" appearing in several other films including *The Plainsman* (1936) and *Santa Fe Trail* (1940), along with cameo and comic appearances in *Won Ton Ton, the Dog Who Saved Hollywood* (1976), *Teachers* (1984), *Wagons East* (1994), etc.

Jesse James has shown up in 40-odd movies, beginning—as far as we know—with *The James Boys of Missouri* in 1908. "At this point, this corner is willing to concede that Frank and Jesse James are among the most photographed characters of our folklore," *The New York Times* reported in 1951. If you take into consideration foreign films, short subjects and brief appearances in television

movies such as *The Last Ride of the Dalton Gang* (1979) and *Belle Starr* (1980), that number grows substantially.

The truth, however, is that because so many silent movies are presumed lost, we may never know the exact number of movies about Jesse and Frank James.

As a cult icon, Jesse has gone even further, popping up in the Western television series *Bronco*, *Hondo*, *Stories of the Century*, *Tales of Wells Fargo*, *Barbary Coast*, *Little House on the Prairie* and *The Young Riders*. Yet the popularity of the Missouri bandit hasn't been restricted to TV shows with horses and hats. In a 1953 episode of the Walter Cronkite-hosted

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Samuel Fuller's first job as director was directing, from his own screenplay, (l.-r.) Reed Hadley as outlaw Jesse James and John Ireland in the lead role as the coward Bob Ford in Screen Guild's 1949 *Shot Jesse James*.

- COURTESY SCREEN GUILD -



documentary re-enactment series *You Are There*, an up-and-coming actor named James Dean played Jesse in "The Capture of Jesse James." Jesse has also gotten his due on *The Brady Bunch*, *MacGyver*, *The Dukes of Hazzard*, even *My Favorite Martian* and *The Twilight Zone*.

The only Western outlaw more popular in Hollywood is Billy the Kid. "At least 60 films, both American and foreign, have celebrated the exploits of this dreamscape desperado," writes Hutton of Billy the Kid. Yet most of the movies about Henry McCarty, alias Henry Antrim, alias William H. Bonney, alias Kid Antrim, alias Kid, alias The Kid, alias Billy the Kid, were a series of

some 13 matinee B-movies for Producers Releasing Corporation starring Buster Crabbe (released between 1941 and 1943), and more than 20 other films from 1943 to 1946 in which the name of Crabbe's hero was changed to Billy Carson. Bob Steele also had a run as Billy the Kid with five movies released by PRC in 1940 and 1941.

Hollywood did produce some serious studies of Billy the Kid, including King Vidor's *Billy the Kid* (1930), Arthur Penn's *The Left Handed Gun* (1958, featuring Paul Newman as a brooding Billy) and Sam Peckinpah's muddled *Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid* (1973).

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Robert Wagner starred in the title role of the second major film about the Missouri outlaw, *The True Story of Jesse James*. Nicholas Ray directed the entertaining film that was slightly more factual than the 1939 original.

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James has been played on screen by his own son, in *Jesse James Under the Black Flag* (1921) and *Jesse James as the Outlaw* (1921). Matinee idol Roy Rogers played him as half of a dual role in *Jesse James at Bay* (1941); Rogers had already played against Don "Red" Barry's Jesse in *Days of Jesse James* (1939). Clayton Moore, of *The Lone Ranger* fame, also got two turns as Jesse in the Republic serials *Jesse James Rides Again* (1947) and *Adventures of Frank and Jesse James* (1948), as did Audie Murphy in *Kansas Raiders* (1950) and *A Time for Dying* (1969), Murphy's last role. Jesse has shown up in the comedies *Alias Jesse James* (1959) with Bob Hope and *The Outlaws IS Coming!* (1965)

with The Three Stooges, and has also had the non-distinction of appearing in one of the worst horror films ever made, *Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter* (1966).

"By my count, there have been 36 movies about Jesse James and not one has attempted to tell the truth, even though the truth is more exciting than the myths," Judge James R. Ross, Jesse's great-grandson, wrote for the *Los Angeles Times* after the release of *American Outlaws* in 2001. "And the love story of Jesse and his cousin, Zee [Mimms], is more poignant and beautiful than any of the false stories."

Ross went on: "I've spent 50 years opposing the most popular myths associated with my great-grandfather, and I challenge anyone to point out any movie that is more exciting than the real story. I hope that one

The movies featuring Jesse James also prove to be an interesting mix worthy of discussion, review and analysis. For casting purposes, it is hard to top the fact that Jesse

James also proved to be an interesting mix worthy of discussion, review and analysis. For casting purposes, it is hard to top the fact that Jesse

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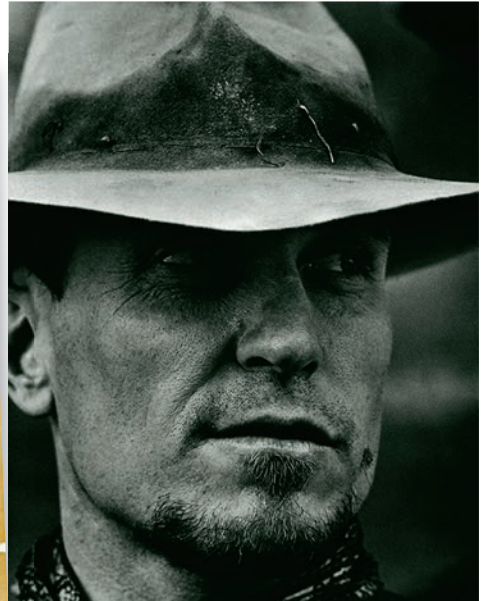
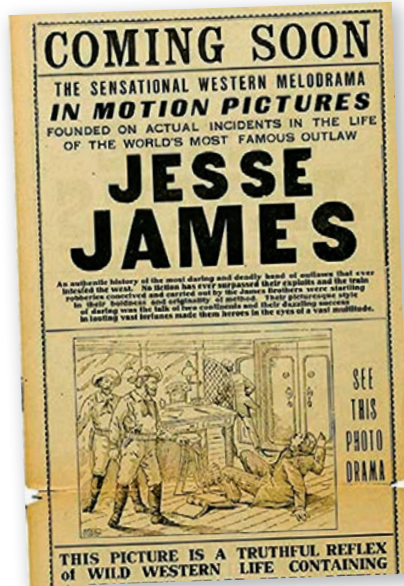
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day someone in the entertainment industry will produce an exciting movie of outlaws and gunslinging, filled with a tremendous love story, and yet remain true to the life of Jesse James."

History and entertainment can be a precarious balance. I've often said that two of the most historically accurate films I have seen are the Civil War epic *Gods and Generals* (2003) and *Son of the Morning Star* (1991), the television miniseries about George Custer. As far as entertainment value, alas, those pictures are about as enthralling as watching coffee boil.

Movies aren't made to be historically accurate, but to entertain.

John Wayne is said to have once remarked that shorter stories make better movies, which might explain why Hollywood can produce entertaining films about a 27-second street fight in Tombstone, Arizona, but stumble over the life and times of Jesse James, whose career as an outlaw lasted



sixteen years—and even longer if you include his years as a Confederate guerrilla during the Civil War. Such a life is hard to boil down into two hours.

As far as Jesse is concerned, most movies fail to capture the essence of the man, or the times in which he lived, although *The Last*

Robert Duvall starred as Jesse James in Universal's 1972 big-budget *The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid*. Co-starring Cliff Robertson as Cole Younger, the Philip Kaufman-directed film was the only A-Western to tackle the James-Younger gang story in the 1970s.

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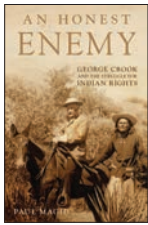
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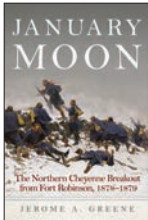
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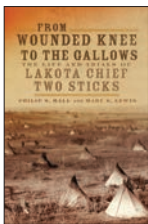
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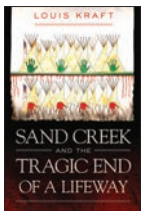
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## Sand Creek and the Tragic End of a Lifeway

By Louis Kraft

In *Sand Creek and the Tragic End of a Lifeway*, Louis Kraft tells this story, drawing on the words and

actions of those who participated in the events at this critical time.

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Stacy and James Keach (l.-r.), as Frank and Jesse James, were the creative force behind the once-in-a-lifetime ensemble Western *The Long Riders*. They co-wrote the original screenplay so they could star together, supervised the production as executive producers and recruited their fellow brother-acting teams to costar with them.

- COURTESY UNITED ARTISTS -

*Days of Frank and Jesse James*, a 1986 made-for-television movie, and *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* (2007) come close. *The Long Riders* (1980) and *The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid* (1972) deserve points for trying to capture an authentic look. I also find much to admire in *I Shot Jesse James* (1949), Sam Fuller's first movie as director.

Besides, I also believe that some of those B-movies, with no basis on or knowledge of history, can be entertaining if you take them for what they are. You can even find a kernel of truth in them, as Frank James (played by Don "Red" Barry) tells a former gang member in *Gunfire* (1950): "The outlawing died when Jesse died, Matt."

Perhaps the ending of *Jesse James* (1939), arguably the most famous and most popular movie about the outlaw, provides a clue as to the world's fascination with Jesse James. Actor Henry Hull, playing Major Rufus Cobb (a character inspired by John Newman Edwards, the Missouri journalist who championed the real Jesse James), delivers his sermon and eulogy:

*"There ain't no question about it. Jesse was an outlaw, a bandit, a criminal. Even those that loved him ain't got no answer to that. But we ain't ashamed of him. I don't know why but I don't think even America is ashamed of Jesse James. All I do know is he was one of the dog-gonest, goldingus, dad-blamedest buckaroos that ever rode across these United States of America."*

Like Billy the Kid, Jesse James is equally a "Dreamscape Desperado." He has ridden the range as hero, villain and impostor in A-list movies and B's, serious studies and simple schlock, and undoubtedly will ride again.

And who knows myth better than Hollywood?



"Rebel Raider to Rebel Hero: How Jesse James became one of Hollywood's favorite outlaws" is excerpted from *Jesse James and the Movies* © 2011 Johnny D. Boggs by permission of McFarland & Company, Inc., Box 611, Jefferson NC 28640, [McFarlandBooks.com](http://McFarlandBooks.com)



Casey Affleck (above, left) as Bob Ford starred opposite Brad Pitt as Jesse James in the 2007 motion picture adaptation of Ron Hansen's novel *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*.

- COURTESY WARNER BROTHERS -

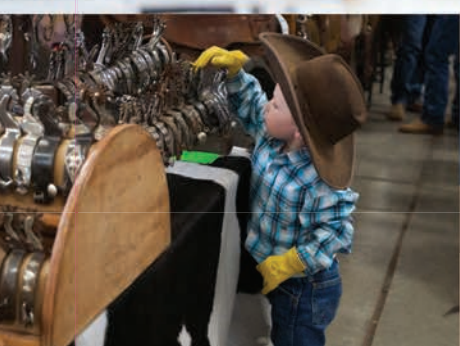
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BY LEO W. BANKS

# Way Out Wickenburg Way

Discover the Old West history and heritage of one of Arizona's oldest towns.



The 1988 sculpture *Thanks for the Rain* by Cowboy Artists of America co-founder Joe Beeler, welcomes visitors to Desert Caballeros Western Museum in Wickenburg, Arizona. The museum, founded in 1960, is the cultural centerpiece of the historic town founded in 1863.

— COURTESY CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

**P** Russian immigrant Henry Wickenburg's founding of the Vulture Mine in 1863 brought this town to life. He discovered gold 15 miles southwest of today's downtown, and word spread.

The mine became a bonanza, although Henry, not much of a businessman, saw little profit and died a pauper in 1905.

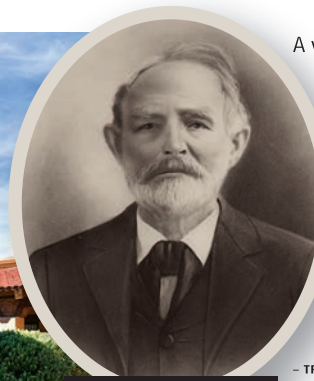
But his story lives on at the Vulture Mine's modern reincarnation, complete with 12 restored structures including the stone-and-adobe assay house, tin-roofed homes and an assortment of mining gear and artifacts.

See the ironwood tree where, according to legend, high-graders, or gold thieves, met rope justice.

The Desert Caballeros Western Museum earns its reputation as one of the West's best. March is an exciting month with the opening of *Cowgirl Up!*, the 15th annual exhibition and sale of more than 200 pieces by 60 of the best female artists in the Western genre.

Executive Director Dan Finley says the popular event is the only one of its kind in the country. "Our last show grossed more than \$800,000, and for a town the size of Wickenburg, that's a huge deal," he says.

To get a feel for the town, grab a brochure at the Chamber of Commerce and walk downtown. Ben's Saddlery has been doing saddle repair in the same building for 60 years. As the sign outside says, "Tie up, come in, swap stories." Smell the fresh leather and browse the selection of hats and boots.



HENRY WICKENBURG

A veteran of the California Gold Rush, German immigrant Henry Wickenburg was prospecting in the desert, south of the future townsite that would bear his name, when he discovered gold in a quartz outcropping in 1863.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Old Livery Mercantile, housed in a former livery stable, offers turquoise jewelry and hard-to-find gifts with cowboy and Arizona themes.

Six life-sized statues stand at various downtown locations, and with the push of a button visitors can hear stories about historical figures like Elizabeth Smith. She arrived in Wickenburg in 1897 and operated the Vernetta Hotel, now on the National Register. Smith became one of the area's first female black entrepreneurs.

Visitors also pass what served as the town jail from 1863 to 1890, a 200-year-old mesquite tree to which outlaws were chained.

The most photographed spot in town is outside the museum, a bronze by Joe Beeler, co-founder of the Cowboy Artists of America. Titled *Thanks for the Rain*, it depicts a cowboy holding his horse and kneeling in prayer.

A bush grows at its base, so when it rains, visitors can smell the smoky, signature aroma of desert creosote.

"People always complement us on our authenticity," says Julie Brooks, executive director of the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce. "The town and private investors

# WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY



Artist Clyde Ross Morgan's sculpture of Henry Wickenburg sits just outside Wickenburg Town Hall.

- COURTESY CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

To plan your trip, stop at the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Bureau, 216 N. Frontier Street. [WickenburgChamber.com](http://WickenburgChamber.com)

## ROBSON'S RANCH & MINING CAMP

Twenty miles outside Wickenburg, tour a well-preserved mining ghost town. See lots of artifacts, shafts and old machinery, along with amazing examples of Yavapai Indian petroglyphs. The site is surrounded by Arizona's second-largest saguaro forest.

[WesternDestinations.com](http://WesternDestinations.com)

## DESERT CABAELLROS WESTERN MUSEUM

Stroll the museum to see extraordinary sculptures and paintings by the likes of Frederic Remington, Charles Russell, Thomas Moran and Albert Bierstadt. "People come for the history and are amazed by the great art," says Finley. "People don't expect to find that in Wickenburg."

[WesternMuseum.org](http://WesternMuseum.org)

## HIKE VULTURE PEAK

Only two miles of hiking brings you from the trailhead to a 3,400-foot saddle and great desert and mountain views. The last 250 feet to Vulture Peak makes for a steep slog, so experienced hikers only.

[BLM.gov](http://BLM.gov)

## WICKENBURG MASSACRE MONUMENT

On Nov. 5, 1871, six stagecoach passengers were murdered in an attack by Yavapai Indians, or bandits in Indian disguise, as some claim. The event created a national outcry to subjugate the tribes. The monument stands six miles from town on Highway 60, at the entrance to the Flying E Ranch.

[WickenburgChamber.com](http://WickenburgChamber.com)

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Henry Wickenburg's Vulture Mine remained in continuous production until the 1940s. Current mine owners have restored 12 of the historic buildings, which are open to the public for self-guided tours 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day of the year, except Christmas Day.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Also during Gold Rush, the Wickenburg Desert Stagers perform a traditional Western melodrama at the 1948 Saguaro Theatre.

An hour's drive from Phoenix, Wickenburg is the dude ranch capital of Arizona. For horseback riding across spectacular landscape, followed by spa time and fine dining, try Rancho de los Caballeros or the Flying E Ranch. The Kay El Bar Guest Ranch took its first paying guest in 1918 and is on the National Register.

Water flowing through the desert is a magical sight at the Hassayampa River Preserve. Enjoy streamside hiking with opportunities to see wildlife, including water birds like the Great Blue Heron. But if you drink from the Hassayampa, the legend promises you'll never tell the truth again.

**FUN FACT:** Some believe Victor Cedarstaff invented the bola tie in Wickenburg in 1949. It became Arizona's official neckwear in 1971. ❏

**Leo W. Banks** is an award-winning writer based in Tucson. His newest mystery novel is called *Champagne Cowboys*.



Since 1946, the Flying E Ranch owners have been raising cattle and hosting guests outside Wickenburg. The signature "Oregon" style barn is still a centerpiece of ranch and guest life, where patrons can relax, ride and renew themselves in a serene Western setting.

- COURTESY FLYING E RANCH -



# KICK UP YOUR HEELS.

There are lots of reasons to step out in Wickenburg! Our complete event schedule is online — here are just two upcoming highlights.

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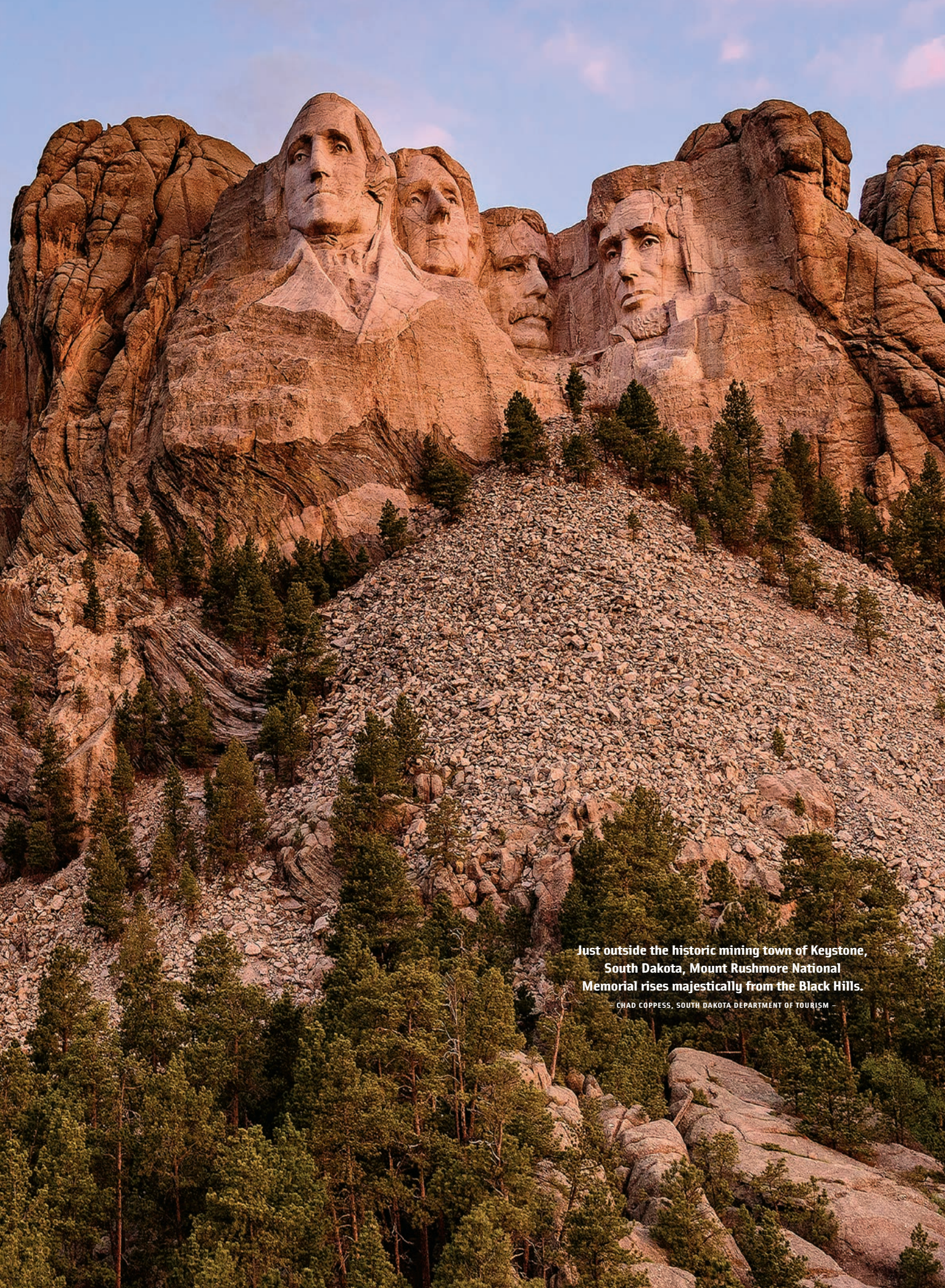
# On the Road Again

Historical sites, stunning landscapes, welcoming small towns and outdoor adventures await the intrepid Western traveler.

In 2020, travelers willing to venture off the interstate into the heart of the Western United States can experience the simplest to the most adventurous vacations. Whether camping with a bedroll under the stars or staying in a luxurious five-star resort, a vacation out West will saturate the spirit with experiences that can only happen when immersed in a place rich in natural, cultural and historic sites.

For the 18th year, *True West's* editors have asked six Western authors to take us into the heart of the West and re-discover their favorite towns, the best museums, geographic wonders and unique byways and highways to history. I am sure that after reading about their adventures in Arizona, Arkansas, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming, you will be ready to pull out your maps and begin penciling out your next Old West road trip.

—*Stuart Rosebrook*



**Just outside the historic mining town of Keystone,  
South Dakota, Mount Rushmore National  
Memorial rises majestically from the Black Hills.**

CHAD COPPES, SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM



Frontier photographer John C. H. Grabill chronicled daily life in South Dakota's Black Hills in the 1880s and 1890s, including three veteran gold miners panning for gold from the flume near the Rockerville mining district. Today, visitors to the gold-rich mountains can visit a small town near the famous mine.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

BY BILL MARKLEY

## BLACK HILLS GOLD

Explore South Dakota's sacred mountains and discover a bonanza of historic mining towns.

"GOLD!" proclaimed Dakota Territory's *Bismarck Tribune* on the front page of its August 12, 1874, edition. The newspaper was exuberant about the discovery of gold by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's Black Hills expedition. It didn't matter that the federal government recognized that the Black Hills belonged to the Lakota people, the rush was on.

After crossing the Cheyenne River in western South Dakota, a traveler heading westward across the prairie will spy low, dark mountains rising in the distance appearing as a landlocked island. The Lakota people call them *Paha Sapa*, Hills Black. The hills form a rough oval stretching north to south approximately 110 miles and east

to west approximately 70 miles. The rugged mountains' highest summit, Black Elk Peak, rises 7,244 feet and is one of the highest points east of the Rocky Mountains.

Black Hills geology is complex. The central granitic core is over two billion years old. Eighty million years ago an uplift began in the region. Imagine it as a massive boil that did not burst through the surface. Over millions of years the outer sedimentary layers eroded exposing the inner granitic core alongside twisted, compressed metamorphic layers, and more recent sedimentary rocks flanking the Black Hills' outer edges. Superhot subterranean fluids entered rock fissures depositing gold, silver and other metals as they cooled. The Black Hills is a rock hound's paradise.

Gold camps mushroomed throughout the Black Hills as prospectors explored every nook and cranny and sifted the gravel in every stream looking for the metal they dreamed would make them rich. The area is pockmarked with adits, shafts and tunnels. Trees were chopped down; overburden was piled high. Tailings ruined habitats, and some streams could no longer support life, as pollutants choked the life out of them. Through the efforts of the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, other state and federal agencies, and concerned citizens and organizations, many damaged areas have been reclaimed, and streams have been restored to support healthy trout populations.



Every July Deadwood rolls out the frontier red carpet for the biggest event of the year, '76 Days. For most of a week the town celebrates the gold rush that came to the northern Black Hills and led to the founding of the boomtown in 1876.

— ALL IMAGES BY CHAD COPPES, COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

Visitors to the Black Hills can experience what underground life was like for a hard rock gold miner at the 1892 Big Thunder Gold Mine in the historic mining town of Keystone. After a tour, visitors can try their hand at panning for gold.

The Black Hills National Forest covers over one million acres of the hills. Traveling backroads through the Black Hills or hiking or biking along the many trails, one is bound to occasionally see cabin ruins or mine workings. Let's explore the Black Hills area's mining towns.

### Gateway to the Black Hills

A good place to begin is Rapid City on the eastern slopes of the Black Hills. Nicknamed "The Gateway to the Black Hills," it was established on February 25, 1876. It was not a mining town, but its founders were prospectors who thought they could make money by selling hay and necessities to miners. When Indians attacked, most of its residents fled, but a few hung on and Rapid City soon took root. In 1877, three suspected horse thieves were taken from jail and hanged. Most believe the youngest was innocent. He just happened to be with the wrong people at the wrong time. With a population of over 75,000 residents today, Rapid City is the second largest city in South Dakota. Tourism plays a major role in its diverse economy and it's the manufacturing center for Black Hills gold jewelry with its distinctive grape leaf and cluster design. The Journey Museum and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Museum of Geology are two excellent places to view rocks, minerals and fossils from the Black Hills and learn about local geology and mining activities.



### Gold Camp Fun

Twelve miles southwest on the Mount Rushmore Road, U.S. Highway 16, is Rockerville, where William Keeler discovered gold in December 1876, when he moved some discomfiting rocks that prevented him from sleeping, only to find they were gold nuggets. The gold deposits were rich, but there was a lack of water. By 1880, a 17-mile flume was constructed from Spring Creek to Rockerville to wash the gold from the ground. The deposits of gold ran out and the flume fell into disuse. Portions of the flume can still be seen today. The town dwindled and for a time it was a tourist attraction. A few businesses are there today.

From Rockerville, continue on Highway 16 for five miles then turn on Highway 16A and drive two miles to Keystone. Named for the Keystone Mine, the town was founded

in 1891. One nearby gold mine was named for the owner's wife—The Holy Terror. Today, Keystone is a thriving tourist destination and gateway to Mount Rushmore. You can tour the 1892 Big Thunder Gold Mine and pan for gold.

For a fun 17-mile drive, take the Iron Mountain Road, U.S. Highway 16A, south, designed for scenic vistas of Mount Rushmore with tunnels, bridges, switchbacks and over 314 curves. Once the road enters Custer State Park it swings west toward the town of Custer. After passing Stockade Lake on the left, visit the reconstructed Gordon Stockade built on the original log fort site. The Gordon party occupied the site illegally in 1874 and was evicted by the Army the following year. A half mile to the west on Highway 16A along French Creek is where Horatio Ross and William McKay, two miners



on Custer's expedition, panning for gold on July 30, 1874, found enough gold flakes to be considered profitable, setting off the gold rush. Highway 16A cuts through the expedition's five-day campsite and you can camp where they did at either Wheels West Campground on the north side of the highway or at Custer's Gulch Campground on the south side. Follow 16A and French Creek west for three miles to the town of Custer named after the lieutenant colonel.

### Historic Custer and Hill City

Custer was established in mid-summer 1875 and was occupied off and on. The Army was tasked with removing all whites, but by November, the government looked the other way as prospectors invaded the Black Hills. Custer boomed until gold was found in the northern hills along Whitewood Creek. Today, Custer is a bustling town with a variety of tourist attractions. Visit the 1881 Custer County Courthouse Museum with its

After traveling 21 miles on Rochford Road, discover the quaint old mining community of Rochford, where visitors can dine and drink at the Moonshine Gulch Saloon and visit the Mall of the World general store and antiques shop.

mining equipment display and personal items belonging to Custer.

From Custer, drive 14 miles north on U.S. Highway 385 to Hill City. The town was founded February 1876, but with the gold rush moving farther north to Whitewood Creek, it was abandoned except for one man and a dog. Tin mining restored life to Hill City in the 1880s. Today, Hill City is a thriving tourist mecca, its main street lined with shops and eateries. Take a relaxing, scenic ride on the Black Hills Central Railroad 1880 Train from Hill City to Keystone and back or examine the fossil displays at the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research.

## We Lost a Legend... But the Book Lives On

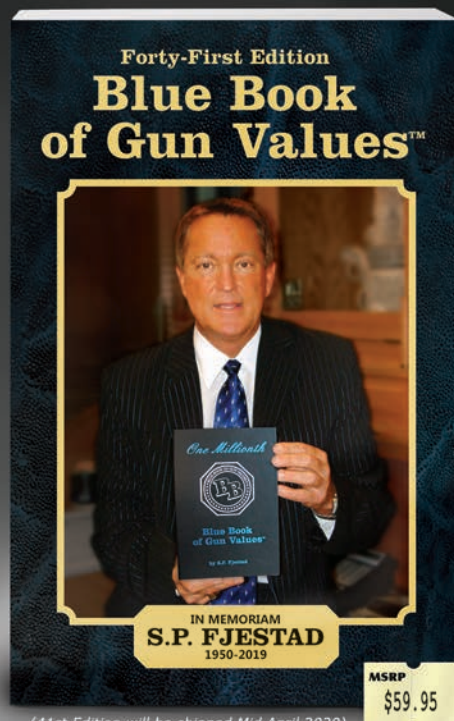
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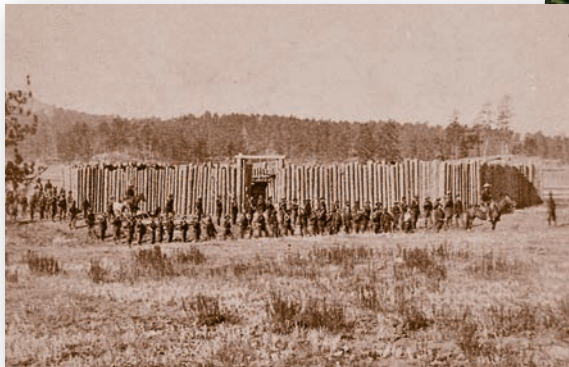
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The Gordon Stockade was built illegally by the Gordon Party in 1874, but the Army evicted the miners squatting on Sioux lands in 1875. Today, visitors to Custer State Park and Stockade Lake should take time to walk through the fort rebuilt on the original grounds of the stockade.

- HISTORIC PHOTO OF THE STOCKADE COURTESY THE BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY/THE GORDON STOCKADE BY CHAD COPPESS COURTESY THE SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM -

Head northwest on Deerfield Road, continuing straight on the unpaved Mystic Road to Mystic and then the Rochford Road for 21 miles to Rochford. There's not much left of Rochford. In 1878, the town had 500 residents, over 200 homes and business buildings supported by two gold mines with their stamp mills. The Stand-By Mill was a

cool place to explore until it was torn down for fear someone might be injured. The mines closed, and as of the 2010 census, 12 people lived in town. Visit the Moonshine Gulch Saloon—nothing fancy but a fun place to stop for a cold beverage. A fire might be blazing in the wood-burning stove and a dog might wander through the door.

### Deadwood and Lead

Head north on the Rochford Road, turn right on U.S. Highway Alt 14 heading north through the old mining towns of Central City and Gayville to Deadwood, a total of 22 miles. The Black Hills' most notorious gold camp, Deadwood burst into existence in December 1875, when gold was discovered

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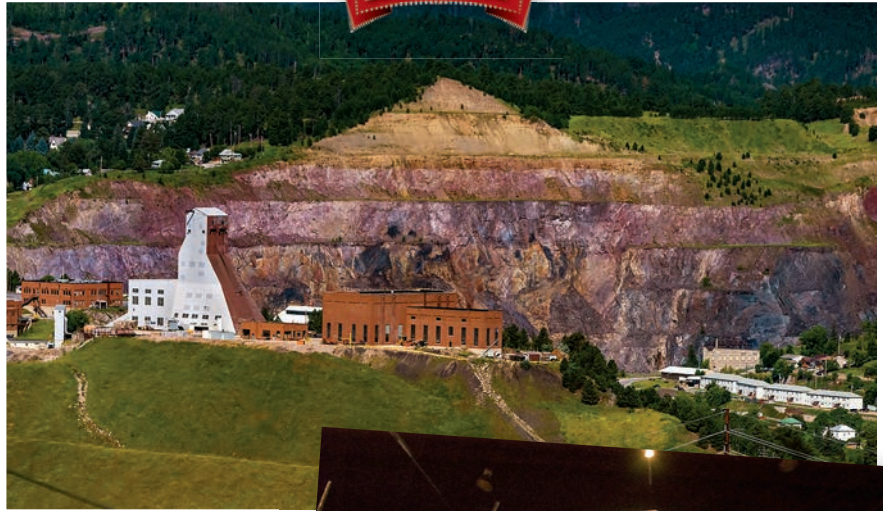
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The historic Open Cut of the Homestake Mine (above) dominates the landscape surrounding the town of Lead just south of Deadwood. Stroll down historic Main Street before taking a tour of the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center.



in Whitewood Creek. The rich placer discovery attracted thousands of miners—and those who mined the miners including characters such as Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane, Al Swearingen and Seth Bullock. The town was destroyed through fire and flood, but the citizens always rebuilt it. Today, Deadwood is a vibrant tourist town. In 1989, South Dakota legalized Deadwood gambling with the stipulation that some proceeds be returned to the town for historic preservation. Investigate Deadwood by taking the Haunted History Walking Ghost Tour. Explore Deadwood's historic facilities: Days of '76 Museum, Adams Museum and House, and the Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center. Visit Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane, Seth Bullock and other pioneers' graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery. Explore Broken Boot Gold Mine and pan for gold.

From Deadwood, take Highway 385 two miles to Lead. In 1876, the Manuel brothers, Fred and Mose, found a rich vein of gold in their Homestake Mine and the town of Lead grew as mining entrepreneur George Hearst bought the mine and developed it into one of the world's premier gold mines. The Homestake eventually became the largest producer in North America. At its height, Homestake reached over 8,000 feet

The Journey Museum in Rapid City has some of the state's most significant permanent exhibits dedicated to the cultural history of the Plains tribes, including the Lakota Sioux, and the frontier settlement of South Dakota.

deep with more than 370 miles of shafts and tunnels. It's estimated the Homestake produced over 40 million ounces of gold. At an August 4, 2019, price of \$1,441 per ounce that would equal over 457 billion dollars. The mine closed in 2002 but is now the Sanford Underground Research Facility where scientists conduct experiments for neutrinos and dark matter. Visit the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center which explains the history of the mine and current activities. Peer into the enormous Open Cut, 1,250 feet deep, and take a surface tour of the mine facilities.

Enjoy a show or tour the Homestake Opera House built in 1914 by Phoebe Hearst. Visit the Black Hills Mining Museum and learn about mining techniques.

This is only a small nugget of what you can discover in your search for Black Hills gold history.

**Bill Markley** enjoys tromping through the Black Hills exploring obscure places. A Western Writers of America member, Bill's latest book, *Gerónimo and Sitting Bull: Indian Leaders of the Legendary West*, will be released in October 2020.



As seen on *Yellowstone*

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# WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD



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Do you need space to roam? Try South Dakota's 71,000-acre Custer State Park (above). The park ranges from pine-covered craggy mountain peaks to flower-studded prairie meadows. Dotted with tranquil lakes and crossed by clear mountain streams, the park is home to 1,300 head of buffalo, one of the largest herds in the world, as well as deer, elk, prairie dogs and other critters. There's something for everyone, from bird-watching to horseback riding to rock-climbing. Relax in one of the many campgrounds or stay in one of four lodges, including The State Game Lodge which in 1927 served as the "Summer White House" for President Calvin Coolidge. Visit awe-inspiring Sylvan Lake where a trail to Black Elk Peak (formerly Harney Peak) begins. Drive the Needles Highway that threads through lofty perpendicular spires. Don't miss traveling the Wildlife Loop to view wild animals roaming free. Take in the buffalo roundup and auction the park arranges every Fall. **For more information, visit [GFP.SD.gov](http://GFP.SD.gov).**

## GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**GRUB:** Talley's Silver Spoon, *Rapid City*; Ruby House Restaurant, *Keystone*; Black Hills Burger and Bun Company, *Custer*; Alpine Inn, *Hill City*; Cheyenne Crossing, *eight miles southwest of Lead on Highway 14*; Sugar Shack, *20 miles southeast of Deadwood on Highway 385*; Deadwood Social Club, *Deadwood*; Mustang Sally's, *Deadwood*; Stampmill Restaurant & Saloon, *Lead*; Big D Sinclair Convenience Store, (for traditional miner's pasties) *Central City*

**LODGING:** Hotel Alex Johnson, *Rapid City*; K Bar S Lodge, *Keystone*; Shady Rest Motel, *Custer*; Horse Thief Lake Black Hills National Forest Campground, *10 miles south of Hill City on Highway 244*; Spearfish Canyon Lodge, *Savoy*; Bullock Hotel, *Deadwood*; Deadwood Mountain Grand Hotel, *Deadwood*; Golden Hills Lodge; *Lead*

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The Palace Saloon in downtown Prescott, Arizona, is the state of Arizona's oldest, continuously operated bar. Founded in 1874, the Palace is on Montezuma Street, nicknamed Whiskey Row for the number of bars on the block in the early decades of the Territory. Rebuilt after the 1900 fire which devastated downtown Prescott, the bar was famously moved across the street to the Courthouse Plaza while the conflagration burned down the saloon. Today the historic site is known as The Palace Restaurant and Saloon.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

# STRIKE IT RICH

A circle tour of Arizona leads to Old West adventures for the whole family.

In Prescott in January 1877, the editors of *The Arizona Miner* announced, “The roads leading to Prescott from Phoenix are very rough in places and need fixing. When properly prepared and kept in order, hundreds of Maricopas will every summer visit points in Yavapai and Mohave counties, and citizens of the northern counties will travel to Phoenix... every winter.”

Nearly 145 years later, residents and visitors to Arizona don't have to drive on hardscrabble

rocky, muddy nearly-impassable trails to get from town to town in the Grand Canyon State—that is, unless they want to. For the purpose of this tour, we will stick to the pavement for most of the trip.

Kick off your statewide tour in the heart of Phoenix and a tour of the State Capitol Museum, Wesley Bolin Plaza and the internationally acclaimed Native cultural center, the Heard Museum. Then head to Old Town Scottsdale for an overnight stay

within walking distance of Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West and the restaurant, shopping and art district.

From Scottsdale, the drive north to Cave Creek is through a mix of suburbs and desert on Scottsdale Road. Schedule a stop at the Carefree-Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce at 748 Easy Street in Carefree and learn about the neighboring resort communities. Cave Creek is loaded with fun cowboy, biker and sports bars, Western art galleries, restaurants


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*Vaquero with Guitar* is one of six painted bronze public-art sculptures by J. Seward Johnson that visitors can see on a walking tour of Wickenburg.

— COURTESY CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

(a favorite is El Encanto), Western wear stores (try Watson's Hats) and antique shops. Consider staying a night or two at the Prickly Pear Inn and make time to say hello to the *True West* team before enjoying a desert hike or trail ride at a local stable and a tour of the Cave Creek Museum.

### West to Wickenburg

From Cave Creek, the statewide circle tour heads west on State Route 74 to U.S. 60 across the saguaro-studded Sonoran Desert to Wickenburg. In season, enjoy an extended stay at the Flying E Dude Ranch or book a room at a local motel or B&B within walking distance of Wickenburg's downtown shopping and restaurant district. While in town, tour the Desert Caballeros Western Museum, which houses one of the finest art collections in the state. (Read more about Wickenburg in Leo W. Banks' True Western Town column on pp. 74-76.)

From Wickenburg, head north on scenic U.S. Route 93 to Wikieup, Kingman and Mohave County. If you love wide-open spaces, you'll appreciate the spectacular 131-mile drive across the Sonoran Desert with rugged, mountain scenery in every direction between Wickenburg and Kingman. U.S. 93 intersects with Interstate 40 and Kingman sits 23 miles to the west.

### Get Your Kicks in Kingman

Kingman, the hometown of *True West's* executive editor Bob Boze Bell, is named for Louis Kingman, the railroad engineer who managed the construction of the Atlantic & Pacific, soon thereafter known as the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe. The location was built near Beale Springs, a vital water



source along the new rail route, perfect for steam engines and the new town. Kingman became the county seat in 1887 and served as a vital economic center for the mining, ranching and Indian communities of northwest Arizona.

In the 1920s the United States built its first national highway system and Route 66 was competing with the Santa Fe's Super Chief for transcontinental travelers. After World War II and the rise of the automobile culture, Route 66 was slowly supplanted by the interstate system. Even though "The Mother Road" was completely bypassed by the early 1980s, nostalgic fans of Route 66 have made Kingman a key destination for driving the original historic route across northwest Arizona. As soon as a visitor leaves I-40 and drives through downtown Kingman, they will see that the city's ties to the railroad and Route 66 are very evident.

In downtown, Amtrak maintains a stop at the historic Santa Fe rail station, which also sees 100 to 150 BNSF freights come through Kingman every day. Park at the Powerhouse Visitor's Center at 120 W. Andy Devine Avenue and ask for a map of the city and directions to the city's museums, historic sites and restaurant and shopping district. Don't miss a chance to tour the Mojave

## Did You Know?

### Kingman, AZ is the Turquoise Capital of the World

One of the largest suppliers of turquoise is sourced out of a mountain just west of town. Kingman was coined the Turquoise Capital of the World in a marketing stunt by Leonard Hardy, a man who produced and sold turquoise. Mr. Hardy (of L.W. Hardy Co) created the Turquoise Kings, a semi-professional softball team, as part of his campaign, and it stuck! The Mohave Museum of History & Arts has a collection of turquoise pieces crafted from Kingman turquoise.



**White Cliffs Wagon Road**, is one of a handful of trails where you can still see wagon tracks etched into stone. The trail was used to bring gold ore from the mines to the railroad in the late 1800s. The trail head to the wagon tracks is a short drive from Historic Downtown Kingman.

**On April 1, 1924, the Chicago Cubs & Pittsburgh Pirates** played a major league exhibition at the old Kingman ballpark, the only time in history that a Major League game was played in Kingman. That old ballpark is now the location of famed 1928 Locomotive #3759 which is directly across Route 66 from the Historic Powerhouse and Arizona Route 66 Museum. That ain't no April Fools joke! *Photo courtesy of the Mohave Museum of History & Arts*

**Shaffer Fish Bowl Spring** is located on Oatman Highway (Route 66) west of Kingman. A few stone steps lead up to a spring capture basin and it's quite a view over the valley below. Motorists used the spring to refill their radiators on hot Arizona road trips as far back as the 1920s. In a sense, it was a Radiator Spring. Oatman Highway, starting just 5 miles west of Kingman, AZ, is arguably the most famous remnant of Historic Route 66.



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The Smoki Museum, which opened in 1935, has recently been renamed The Museum of Indigenous People. The museum's cultural resource materials are about many different cultures over a vast time period, from California to Texas, and Colorado to Mexico. The 85-year-old educational institution is committed to its primary mission to present Native art, history and culture of the Southwest from Native speakers, educators and authorities.

— COURTESY CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

should definitely be made at the internationally famed Snow Cap diner for a burger, an ice cream cone and a great photo opportunity.

### Gateway to the Grand Canyon

Williams, 40 miles east of Seligman, has been known for over a century as “The Gateway to the Grand Canyon” because long before a paved highway was built between

Flagstaff and the national park, the Santa Fe railway's Grand Canyon Railroad was taking passengers to and from Williams and the natural wonder. Today, Williams is still a gateway to the beloved park for rail travelers, with the historic Williams Depot located in the heart of Williams adjacent to the Grand Canyon Railway's hotel. The heritage railway has numerous specialty trains, including

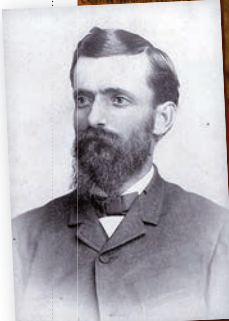


Sharlot Hall Museum is the historical centerpiece of Prescott and Yavapai County. The living history center sits on four acres with 11 buildings, with six historic structures, including the original Territorial Governor's Mansion, the John Charles Fremont House and the William C. and Mary-Louise Bashford House (above), a fully restored Victorian home built in Prescott in 1877.

— PHOTO BY DAVID SMITH, COURTESY PRESCOTT CVB —

Museum of History and Arts, The Route 66 Museum (at the Powerhouse), the Bonelli House and, for WWII enthusiasts, the Kingman Army Air Field. The city has a fine assortment of restaurants from brewpubs to Route 66 diners, plus plenty of national hotel chains for overnight accommodations.

From Kingman the tour follows historic Route 66 to Hackberry, Valentine, Truxton, Peach Springs and Seligman, where a stop



The Mojave County Museum of History and Art's exhibits explain the culture, settlement and development of the county, with an emphasis on the eras of exploration and surveys, Beale's Wagon Road, the construction of the railroad under the supervision of Lewis Kingman (inset), mining and ranching history and the significance of Route 66.

— PHOTO OF MOJAVE COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART COURTESY KINGMAN CVB/PHOTO OF LEWIS KINGMAN COURTESY MOJAVE COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART —

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Since Williams was founded in 1876 and the railroad arrived in 1882, the mountain town has been a key commercial and transportation hub in northern Arizona. Named for the nearby peak that honors mountain man Bill Williams, the city became the "Gateway to the Grand Canyon" when the SFRR built its spur line to the natural wonder in 1901. Today, the restored Grand Canyon Railway is one of the most popular tourist activities in the state.

- COURTESY WILLIAMS C.V.B. -

Williams that have entertained generations include Kaibab National Forest, Bearizona Wildlife Park and Grand Canyon Deer Farm.

limited steam-driven excursions, a very popular Polar Express in the winter and packages for overnight stays at Grand Canyon National Park.

Before an excursion to the national park, check in with the Williams and Forest Service

Visitor Center at 200 West Railroad Avenue to learn about the area's activities and sites for visitors of all ages, including a fun, historic downtown along Old Route 66 with a great assortment of restaurants, bars, tourist shops and antique dealers. Popular destinations near

### South to Prescott

From Williams, the circle tour backtracks 20 miles west on Interstate 40 to Ash Fork and the intersection of State Route 89 south to Prescott. The scenic drive passes through the ranching communities of Paulden, near the headwaters of the Verde River, and Chino

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The Grand Canyon Railway in Williams, Arizona, was reborn on September 17, 1989, 88 years exactly from the day the first train chugged into the Grand Canyon Depot from Williams. The railway owns two steam locomotives that pull the train at 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month March to October.

— COURTESY WILLIAMS CVB —

### Scenic Byways to Globe

From Prescott, the grand circle tour of the state heads east on State Route 69 to State Route 169 to I-17 north to Camp Verde and Exit 287 and State Route 260/87 to the Mogollon Rim and the mountain communities of Strawberry, Pine and Payson. Much of the route from Prescott to Payson follows Gen. George Crook's famous 1870s military trail that connected Fort Whipple, Fort Verde and Fort Apache. If you have an extra couple of days, book a room in Payson, visit the Rim Country Museum and Zane Grey Cabin and explore the beautiful ponderosa pine country of the Mogollon Rim.

The scenic pines-to-cactus route from Payson to Globe heads south on SR 87 and then

Valley before its dramatic entrance into Prescott through Granite Dells.

In 1863, the Territory of Arizona was created and gold was discovered in the Prescott area. The following year the mountain town was made the first Territorial Capital. The mile-high city's downtown historic district is anchored by a classic, granite courthouse on picturesque Courthouse Plaza. Park your vehicle and check in with the Prescott Visitor Center at 117 Goodwin. Book a room within walking distance of downtown at the historic Hassayampa Inn or St. Michael's Hotel, on the corner of Gurley and Montezuma, and spend a couple days exploring the city, including the shopping, restaurant, bar and antique district that surrounds the square. Don't miss a chance to have a meal on Whiskey Row at one of the state's oldest bar-restaurants, The Palace Restaurant and Saloon.

Prescott is also home to Sharlot Hall, which includes the original Territorial governor's mansion, Fort Whipple

Museum, the Phippen Art Museum and the Museum of Indigenous People, known until recently as the Smoki Museum. The former Smoki and Sharlot Hall are in walking distance of downtown hotels, as is the historic Elks Theater. Feel like gambling like Doc Holliday and the Earp brothers? While you can't do it downtown on Whiskey Row anymore, you can visit Bucky's Casino at the Prescott Resort, offering great views of the mountains, on the Yavapai Indian Reservation at the crossroads of state routes 89 and 69 and take your chances at the tables as if it was 1879.

Founded in 1875, Globe has dedicated itself in the past few decades to the preservation of the historic silver and copper mining camp. The Gila County Courthouse (right, center right), built in 1905, has been restored and converted into the Cobre Valley Center for the Arts.

— PHOTO BY JIM LINDSTROM, COURTESY GLOBE CVB —



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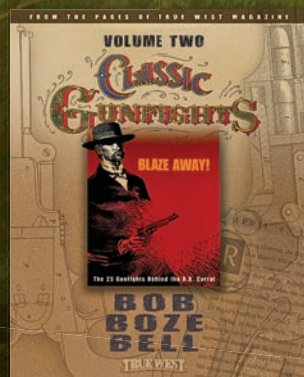
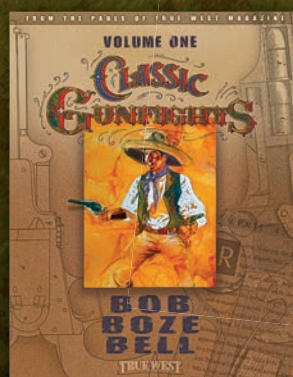
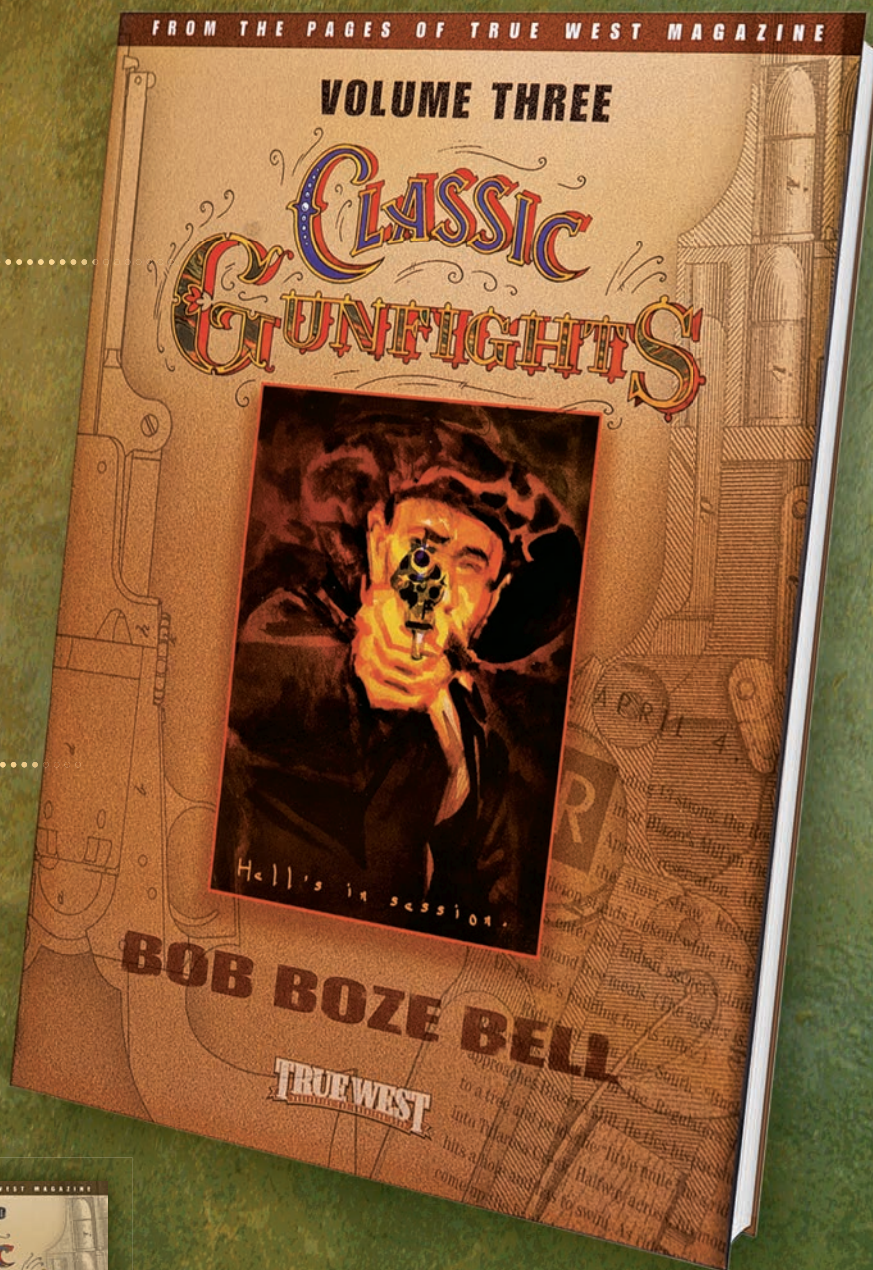
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southeast on State Route 188 past Lake Roosevelt to the historic silver and copper camp. Globe, halfway across Gila County from Payson, is the county seat and one of the state's most significant and profitable mining communities. Visitors to Globe, founded in 1876, should check in with the Globe-Miami Chamber of Commerce at 1360 North Broad Street and ask about local accommodations, restaurants, activities, historic sites and tours. Globe has a nice selection of national hotel chains and at least five B&Bs, including the Noftsgger Hill Inn, located in the historic Noftsgger Hill School. While in town make time to visit the Gila County Historical Museum to learn about the history of the mining town named for a large globe-like nugget of silver discovered in the late 1860s. Ask about tours of historic downtown, including the jail and courthouse. After learning about the more recent past, take a tour of Besh-Ba-Gowah Archaeological Park, a Salado cultural site over 800 years old.

The grand circle tour of Arizona concludes with the scenic drive on historic U.S. 60

through the mining town of Superior, where you won't want to miss the Boyce Thompson Arboretum, to Apache Junction, from where you can quickly return to the Phoenix metro area, or follow old U.S. 60 through A.J., Mesa and Tempe all the way to downtown Phoenix.

Either way, by the time you get back home or to your hotel, you would have struck it rich with on the grand circle tour of Arizona. ✘

*True West* editor **Stuart Rosebrook** loves to drive Arizona's back roads and byways to visit its historic Old West communities.

## WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

### FORT VERDE STATE HISTORICAL PARK

Strategically built by the Army in 1870 adjacent to the pioneer community of Camp Verde in the Verde Valley, Fort Verde quickly became a key post in Gen. George Crook's Yavapai-Apache Indian War of the early 1870s and was shuttered in 1891. Local preservationists and history activists worked hard from the 1950s to the 1970s to preserve portions of the fort, when it became a state park. Today, Fort Verde is one of best preserved living history centers of territorial military life in Arizona. **For more information on tours, special events and the park's schedule, go to [AZStateParks.com](http://AZStateParks.com).**

### GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**GRUB:** *Los Olivos, Scottsdale; El Encanto, Cave Creek; Horseshoe Cafe, Wickenburg; Ricketty Cricket Brewing, Kingman; Kicks on Route 66, Williams; The Palace Restaurant and Saloon, Prescott; Copper Bistro, Globe; Guayo's El Rey Cafe, Miami*

**LODGING:** *Hotel Valley Ho, Scottsdale; Prickly Pear Inn, Cave Creek; Flying E Dude Ranch, Wickenburg; Hampton Inn & Suites, Kingman; Grand Canyon Railway Hotel, Williams; The Hassayampa Inn, St. Michael's Hotel, Prescott Resort and Bucky's Casino, Prescott; Noftsgger Hill Inn, Globe*

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Fort Smith federal prisoners and guards posed on the courthouse steps, circa early 1880s. Deputy U.S. Marshall Bass Reeves may have brought some of these convicts to face justice in Judge Isaac C. Parker's Federal Court for the Western District of Arkansas.

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -

BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

# ACROSS THE OLD SOUTHWEST

Trailing the life and career of black lawman Bass Reeves across Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Wyatt Earp, Pat Garrett and Wild Bill Hickok were tough lawmen of the West. But no outlaw ever wanted Bass Reeves on his trail.

"Outlaws tried to avoid him at all cost if they could," Art T. Burton tells me. "Once given the warrant for arrest, if you tried to hide, Reeves would find you; if you tried to run, Reeves would catch you; if you tried to shoot it out, Reeves would kill you."

Burton's 2006 biography, *Black Gun, Silver Star: The Life and Legend of Frontier Marshal Bass Reeves* (University of Nebraska Press), was a Spur Award finalist

from *Western Writers of America*. And Burton's earlier book that includes a wealth of information on the legendary lawman, *Black, Red & Deadly: Black and Indian Gunfighters of the Indian Territory, 1870-1907* (Eakin Press, 1991), has been optioned by actor Morgan Freeman and Revelations Entertainment for a possible TV series. Reeves's character also appeared in HBO's *Watchmen* last year, and David Gyasi plays him in director Wes Miller's *Hell on the Border*, released in December.

Now's the perfect time to follow the trail of this black lawman of the West.

## Historic Van Buren

Likely born in June 1838 in Crawford County, Arkansas, Bass Reeves and his family were slaves—the property of William S. Reeves. As a free adult, Bass later lived in Van Buren, and when he retired as a deputy U.S. marshal in 1907 at age 69, his mother was reportedly still living in Van Buren at age 87.

Van Buren might be overshadowed by its neighbor Fort Smith—where Bass became famous—but six blocks of the city's Main Street comprise a National Historic District with buildings restored to their late

# BASS REEVES

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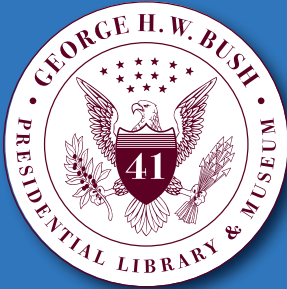
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Born into slavery, Bass Reeves (inset) pinned on his deputy U.S. marshal's badge in 1875, and when he retired at age 69 in 1907, he was one of the most respected—and feared—lawmen in the West. His storied career is celebrated in a spectacular 25-foot, bronze monument in Fort Smith's Ross Pendergraft Park on Garrison Avenue.

— BASS REEVES STATUE COURTESY ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND TOURISM/  
BASS REEVES IMAGE COURTESY FORT SMITH CVB —

19th-century/early 20th-century appearance. A one-room schoolhouse sits on the county courthouse grounds. Bass, of course, never attended the school. Teaching slaves to read and write was prohibited in the pre-Civil War South, and Bass would remain illiterate his entire life. The Drennen-Scott Historic Site became the home of businessmen John Drennen and Charles G. Scott and illustrates life in antebellum Arkansas.

**The War Between the States**

When Bass was around eight years old, the Reeves family moved to Grayson County, Texas, with six slaves. They settled in Peters Colony northwest of Sherman, where the Sherman Museum, housed in a 1914 Carnegie Library, preserves the region's history. Bass soon became skilled with horses and learned—with support from the white family that owned him—how to handle firearms.



The Fort Smith National Historic Site's museum exhibits, amidst the preserved remnants of interior walls of the old barracks-jail-courthouse building, recount the role of the U.S. marshal service in meting out justice for Judge Isaac Parker and his federal court.

When the Civil War broke out, one of the Reeves sons, George, served as captain, later colonel, in the 11th Texas Cavalry before resigning in 1864 and returning home. In a 1901 newspaper interview, Bass said he served as George Reeves's manservant during the war and was at the battles at Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge. Burton discredits those stories but says that Bass possibly was with the 11th in the December 1861 battle at Chustenaullah, when Confederate forces routed Union-sympathizing Creek and Seminole Indians and sent them fleeing to Kansas. A historical marker commemorating the battle can be found off state Highway 20 near Skiatook in Tulsa County.

## WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

### CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

Designed by internationally renowned architect Moshe Safdie, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art might look ultra modern, but the art throughout this eclectic museum in Bentonville, Arkansas, is a virtual U.S. history lesson. Galleries showcase five centuries' worth of American art, including works by 19th-century Western masters Albert Bierstadt, George Catlin and Frederic Remington, to modern-era legends Georgia O'Keeffe, Norman Rockwell and Andy Warhol. The 120-acre compound also includes miles of trails. Admirers of Western photographs should find plenty to look at in *Ansel Adams: In Our Time*, which opens May 23 and runs through September 7. For more information, visit [CrystalBridges.org](http://CrystalBridges.org).

### GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**GRUB:** Daniel Allen's Catfish, Van Buren, AR; Ralph's Pink Flamingo BBQ, Fort Smith, AR; Sam's Olde Tyme Hamburgers, Rogers, AR

**LODGING:** Beland Manor Bed & Breakfast, Fort Smith, AR; Inn at Carnall Hall, Fayetteville, AR



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After the Civil War, Bass Reeves returned to Arkansas from the Indian Territory and settled his family in Van Buren. Today, Van Buren has a well-maintained historic district with museums dedicated to local history, including the 1836 Drennen-Scott House (left).

- COURTESY ARKANSAS OFFICE OF PARKS AND TOURISM -

If Bass had been there, that battle might have made him wonder exactly what he was doing riding with white men bent on keeping him in bondage. According to family lore, Bass decked George Reeves in a dispute over a card game and fled into the Indian Territory. He might have served in a Union

regiment, but while living in Indian Territory, he learned the Muscogee language, learned the country, learned more about firearms—becoming ambidextrous—and tracking. Seminole Indians also taught the six-foot, two-inch Reeves how to make himself seem smaller in the saddle.

Mostly, Burton says, “he had to learn how to stay alive.”

“It was hell,” Burton says of Oklahoma during the Civil War. “A lot of people got killed. It was a pretty bad place to be. This was

the most ravaged part of the country during that time.”

Honey Springs near Rentiesville, Locus Grove, Bayou Menard near Fort Gibson, Webbers Falls, Fort Towson, Fort Coffee near Spiro, Fort Davis near Bacone and other sites reveal just how far west the Civil War

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# WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

The visitor center for the Fort Smith National Historic Site is in the old barracks/courthouse/jail building (right). The original fort was built in 1817 and the complex of military and federal buildings was where Judge Isaac

Parker directed deputy U.S. marshals such as Bass Reeves to retrieve criminals on warrant from the Indian Territory between 1876 and 1896.

— COURTESY ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND TOURISM —



## SEQUOYAH'S CABIN

In 1829, Sequoyah, the Cherokee silversmith who created the Indian nation's written language, built a cabin near present-day Sallisaw, Oklahoma. Today, that cabin—enclosed for protection inside a stone building in 1936—teaches visitors Cherokee history and an introduction to the Cherokee syllabary. Located in a ten-acre park about a half-hour drive west of Fort Smith, the park is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays (except December 24-25 and December 31-January 1). **For more information, visit [VisitCherokeeNation.com](http://VisitCherokeeNation.com).**

## GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**GRUB:** Mahylon's, Muskogee, OK; Tucker's Onion Burger, Oklahoma City, OK; Polly Anna Café, Woodward, OK; Meers Store and Restaurant, Meers, OK; Tally's Good Food Café, Tulsa, OK; McCormick's Grill, Boley, OK

**LODGING:** Hayes House Bed & Breakfast, Muskogee, OK; Pollard Bed and Breakfast, Guthrie, OK; Goff House Inn, El Reno, OK

raged. Today, the Choctaw Nation Museum (Tuskahoma), Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House (Okmulgee), Chickasaw Council House and Museum (Tishomingo), Seminole Nation Museum (Wewoka) and Cherokee National History Museum (Tahlequah) are good places to learn about the history and culture of these peoples.

## Back to Arkansas

By 1870, with the Civil War over and all slaves freed, Bass and his family—wife,

Jennie, and four children—settled in Arkansas. He bought a farm near Van Buren and scouted and tracked for the federal marshal's office. By 1880, he was living in a house on the corner of Second and Vine. In 1875, after Isaac Parker became the district judge for western Arkansas and the Indian Territory, Bass pinned on a deputy U.S. marshal's badge in Fort Smith. He wasn't the first black federal lawman...but became the most famous.

"Reconstruction Fort Smith was under

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TOP 10  
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Fort Sill was founded in 1869 to be a key outpost in Gen. Phil Sheridan's Southern Plains' Indian Wars. In the interim years, Fort Sill became one of the primary encampments of the United States Army Indian Scouts (left). Today, visitors to the Fort Sill Historic Landmark and Museum will learn about the frontier outpost's role in Indian Territory and Oklahoma history when Bass Reeves was in service in the region as a deputy U.S. marshal.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

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The Hutchinson County Historical Museum features exhibits of the battles at Adobe Walls and other events of this transformative period in American history.

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For more information visit [hutchinsoncountymuseum.org](http://hutchinsoncountymuseum.org)

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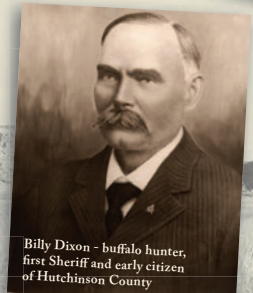


Hutchinson County Historical Museum

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Comanche Chief  
 Quanah Parker



Billy Dixon - buffalo hunter,  
 first Sheriff and early citizen  
 of Hutchinson County



The last survivor of the Battle of 1874, Chief Yellow Fish, his wife  
 and Mrs. Billy Dixon at the  
 Indian monument  
 ceremony in 1941



Quanah near  
 the time of his  
 death in 1911



*This ad is sponsored by the Friends of the Hutchinson County Historical Museum*



Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves spent much of his career enforcing the law in the Indian Territory, the future state of Oklahoma. The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City has an extensive exhibit on American Indian history and culture in the state.

- COURTESY THE NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM -



Republican control,” Burton says, “and it was a frontier town. It was very diverse — black, Indian, white. Juries were integrated. In the federal courts, guards, cooks, bailiffs—all of them were black until the Democrats regained control.”

Fort Smith preserves its history well. A 1906 warehouse is home to the Fort Smith

Museum of History, which was founded in 1910. Even the visitor center is housed in a historic building—Miss Laura’s Social Club, a former bordello.

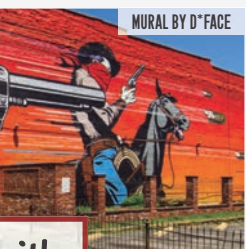
Still unfinished, the U.S. Marshals Museum aims to have its interior completed and collections installed by late this year or early next year.

The best place to learn about Reeves and the law of Fort Smith is at Fort Smith National Historic Site, where Parker’s courtroom, located in the old Army post’s military barracks, and the famed gallows are well-preserved. So is the basement cellblock—“Hell on the Border.” Bass spent six months in that dungeon after

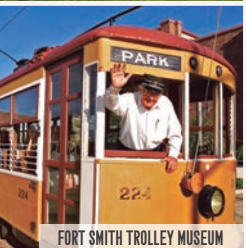
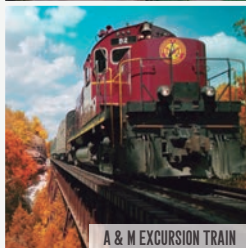
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being charged with shooting to death his cook, William Leech, while rounding up criminals in the Chickasaw Nation in April 1884.

Also visit the Clayton House, the home of William Henry Harrison Clayton, one of Parker's chief prosecutors. In 1887, Clayton helped defend Bass for the 1884 killing. Bass, who said the shooting was accidental, was acquitted.

Bass spent most of his career chasing outlaws. "He was all over the Indian Territory," Burton says. He rode as far west as Fort Sill (Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum), Fort Reno (Fort Reno Visitor Center and Museum) and Fort Supply (Fort Supply Historic Site). "That's quite a long way," Burton says, "especially when you're traveling on horseback."

Contemporary newspaper accounts report Reeves returning with wagons filled with prisoners—Indians, black men, sometimes women and white men. "Reeves is the most successful marshal that rides in the Indian country," the *Fort Worth Gazette* reported on June 17, 1881. "He is... a holy terror to the lawless characters in the west. ...It is probable that in the past few years he has taken more prisoners...than any other officer."

### Paris to Muskogee

By 1893, Reeves was riding for the U.S. Court for the Eastern District of Texas in Paris. The Lamar County Historical Museum and Sam Bell Maxey State Historic Site offer good regional history lessons, and Western history buffs might want to check out the grave of cattle baron John Chisum.

Four years later, Reeves started working out of the federal court in Muskogee, where, today, the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Three Rivers Museum and nearby Fort Gibson Historic Site are must stops for history buffs.

Another town to visit is Boley, about 80 miles southeast of Muskogee. Founded in 1903, Boley was one of dozens of predominantly black settlements in Oklahoma. In 1905, another black federal deputy, W.R. "Dick" Shaver, the new marshal of Boley, and white outlaw Dick Simmons shot and killed each other. Boley's history and legacy are recalled at the Boley Historical Museum, and the town also holds the Boley Rodeo and BBQ Festival every Memorial Day weekend.

In May 1902, Reeves and a white deputy marshal, David Adams, were sent to Braggs, about 10 miles south of Fort



Fort Reno was founded in 1874 adjacent to the Darlington Indian Agency to help protect and pacify the local Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. Visitors to Fort Reno can walk the grounds of two cemeteries, the Fort Reno Post Cemetery (above) for U.S. Army veterans, many from the Indian Wars, and a POW cemetery for German and Italian prisoners who were incarcerated at the fort during World War II.

When following lawman Bass Reeves's trail in Texas, a key historic site to visit in Paris, Texas, is the Sam Bell Maxey House State Historic Site, as are John Chisum's grave and the Lamar County Historical Society.

Gibson on Highway 10. A "race war" had reportedly broken out between white and black settlers. Details are sketchy, but the riot seems to have started when whites whipped a black man who allegedly had been caught stealing a hog. On May 20, the two lawmen returned to Muskogee with 24 prisoners, 15 whites and nine blacks. "The deputies," the *Dallas Morning News* reported, "made the arrests without resistance."



Later that year, one of Reeves's sons, Bennie, shot and killed his wife in a jealous rage. Reeves went out and arrested his own son after telling Marshal Leo Bennett, who suggested that another lawman bring in the killer: "Give me the writ." Bennie

Reeves surrendered, was convicted, and sentenced to the federal pen in Leavenworth, Kansas.

By the time Bass retired, he said he had arrested more than 3,000 felons and shot and killed another 14. After he died on

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January 12, 1910, of Bright's disease, the *Muskogee Phoenix* called him "a faithful servant of the law and a brave officer," noting his "courage, honesty and faithfulness to official duty."

But Bass wasn't just mourned and praised in Oklahoma. As far away as Indiana, *The Logansport Pharos* reported Bass's death, calling him "the most noted man hunter in the territory."

His reputation has grown in the 21st century, thanks to magazine articles, books and finally some notice in Lala Land. It's about time. As Burton says, "Reeves is a role model for men and women in law enforcement today." ✘

**Johnny D. Boggs** won a Spur Award in 2012 for his novel about Bass Reeves, *Legacy of a Lawman*.

## WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

### EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE

"I like Ike," Spur Award-winning author Preston Lewis says. Maybe because, as Lewis points out, Dwight David "Ike" Eisenhower was an avid reader of Western novels—even if he didn't care much, in his later years, for Zane Grey. The two-story house in Denison, Texas, where the 34th president was born October 14, 1890, was restored in the 1950s and donated to the state parks system in 1958. Operated by the Texas Historical Commission since 2008, the home offers not only a glimpse at Ike—the family moved to Abilene, Kansas, before Ike turned two—but also a look at a middle-class Texas family in the last years of the 1800s. Guided tours are available. For more information, visit [THC.Texas.gov](http://THC.Texas.gov).

### GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**GRUB:** Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, Sherman, TX; Cotton Patch Café, Denison, TX; Scholl Bros Bar-B-Que, Paris, TX

**LODGING:** Davis on Morton Bed & Breakfast, Denison, TX; Old Magnolia House Bed & Breakfast, Paris, TX



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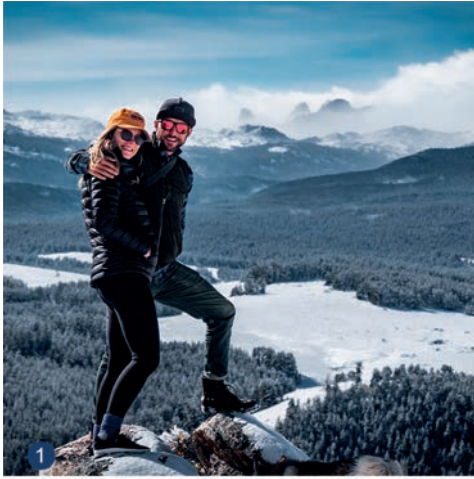
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# Sheridan

—... WYOMING —

If you've booked a stay at a guest ranch or mountain lodge, spend an hour tossing a fly line into a stream, cover a bit of ground on horseback, or photograph moose, elk, deer, and migratory birds as you take in the majesty of the **Bighorn Mountains (1)**. The Bighorns are home to hundreds of miles of trails, many leading into the **Cloud Peak Wilderness** - Wyoming's most epic hiking destination. Stop at **Spear-O-Wigwam**, a historic ranch where **Ernest Hemingway** finished work on *A Farewell to Arms*; from July 19-26, Sheridan County will host the **International Hemingway Conference**, a celebration of the life and work of the legendary artist. Head north to **Ranchester**, home to the **Connor Battlefield State Historic Site**, which preserves the history of the August 29, 1865 **Battle of the Tongue River**. Attractions include the **Buckshot Saloon**, **T-Rex Museum**, **Silver Spur**, and the **Innominate Coffeehouse & Bakery**.

Return to **Sheridan** for a wander through Wyoming's most beautiful downtown. Explore shops, galleries and boutiques, enjoy incredible public art on every corner, grab a bite to eat at a gastro pub or food truck, then experience beautiful western art at the **Bozeman Trail Gallery**, take a sip of history at **The Mint Bar**, Sheridan's notorious former speakeasy, and cap your day with a delicious burger and brew in the industrial digs at **Smith Alley Public House (3)**. The next day, head out to **Story** for a visit to the state **Fish Hatchery**, and the historic site of the **Wagon Box Fight**. Not far from Story is **Fort Phil Kearny (2)**; the fort, known to Indians as the "hated post on the Little Piney," played an important role in **Red Cloud's War**. The area around the fort was the site of the **Fetterman Fight** in 1866 and the **Wagon Box Fight** in 1867. Take your lunch with awe-inspiring mountain views at the all-new **Mydland Market** on 5th St., and walk it off at nearby **Soldier Ridge Trail**. Embrace Sheridan's craft culture with an evening visit to one of our award-winning breweries (**Black Tooth**, **Luminous**, **Smith Alley**), the **Koltiska Distillery**, or **The Vault Winery**. On your third day, head to **King's Saddlery** to see master rope makers and leather crafters at work. Try tossing a rope yourself in the

**Don King Museum (4)**. Spend your afternoon enjoying polo in Big Horn, then explore **The Brinton Museum**; the **Ranch House**, originally built in 1892, was expanded in 1927-28 to accommodate the Brinton's collections of Indian artifacts, art, historic documents and over 600 oils, watercolors and sketches by American artists including **Gollings**, **Kleiber**, **Remington** and **Russell**. Head out to **Dayton**, the trailhead to the beautiful **Tongue River Canyon**, a recreation area known for its scenic beauty and endless cave system. Enjoy coffee and pie at the **Branding Iron Cafe** or a milkshake and sandwich at the **Dayton Mercantile (6)**. Don't miss the **Gallery on Main**, the perfect spot to pick up local art and enjoy wine tastings from **Jackson Hole Winery**. Visit Sheridan during **WYO Rodeo Week (5)**, celebrating 90 years in July 2020. If you can't be here during the WYO, consider an immersive experience like the **Bots Sots Remount Horse Sale**, **Don King Days**, or the **Sheridan County Rodeo** for a true old west cowboy experience.

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The Little Laramie River flows out of the Snowy Range of the Medicine Bow Mountains through Centennial Valley. In 1875, gold was discovered in the mountains, and the town of Centennial was built at a former Union Pacific railroad camp.

— ANDREW J. RUSSELL, COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY

BY CYNTHIA J. VANNOY

## GOLD IN THOSE WYOMING HILLS

Crisscross the Cowboy State and discover the miners' bonanza trails and historic camps.

**GOLD!!** The glittering metal that dreams and fortunes are made of. California in 1849 and Alaska in 1896 were the most well-known American gold rushes, but Wyoming had three major gold strikes from 1850 until 1895. The biggest was at South Pass City, and went on for ten years; Centennial, in the 1850s, and Bald Mountain City, in the 1890s were the three most promising areas for gold. Let's follow the miners on their journeys through Wyoming.

### Southeastern Wyoming

The first strike was in 1850, when gold was discovered near Keystone, Wyoming. Later, Cheyenne, Wyoming, was the jumping off point for many miners, as the UP Railroad came to Cheyenne in November of 1867.

Although it wasn't built until 1911, the Historic Plains Hotel in Cheyenne is representative of hotels of the late 19th century. Small rooms, a restaurant on the ground floor and, what was probably a real luxury in the 1911, an elevator. The elevators are original, and very tiny, the story being that it kept cowboys from bringing their horses into their hotel rooms.

I enjoyed my stay at the Plains Hotel, and felt as if I had stepped back in time. Don't be surprised by the size of the rooms; they do have all the modern amenities.

In 1875, Col. Stephen W. Downey of Laramie discovered gold in the Medicine Bow Mountains on Centennial Mountain. As miners and prospectors started coming to the area, they established a community in 1876 and named the town Centennial in

honor of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Laramie City, founded in 1868, was the hub of industry, where miners bought supplies before heading into the Medicine Bow mountains in search of gold, and then came back when the streams froze and the snow locked in the mountains.

Most of the gold was gone by 1877, but Centennial endured and it is still a small town today, complete with a small museum, two cafes, a bed and breakfast and a motel.

The Mountain View Hotel was built in 1907 in time for the July 4th celebration of the first train to Centennial. At the time, the hotel cost \$8,000 and featured 20 guest rooms, a dining room and a "most improved system of plumbing."



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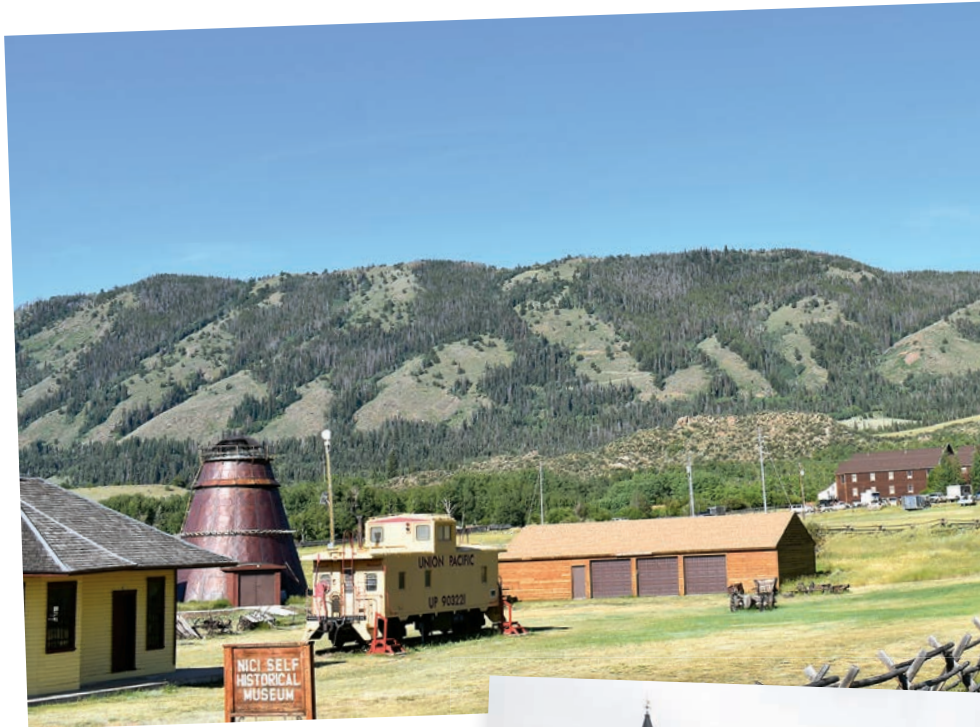
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Crafted by the hands of Mother Nature, Ayres Natural Bridge, located just south of the Oregon Trail, is one of only three natural bridges in the United States with water beneath. Considered one of Wyoming's first tourist attractions, scenery seekers enjoy this breathtaking wonder that includes a picnic area, hiking paths, a sand volleyball court, fishing areas and horseshoe pits. The site is open 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 15 through Oct. 15.

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It was restored, and in 2007 boasted six guest rooms and suites all with private bathrooms, though the history of the building has not been diminished with these modern amenities.

Although the Mountain View was booked up the week I was there, I did eat at the Bear Tree Cafe, which serves not only burgers but interesting sandwiches, such as the Tomato Hummus. There is also a tavern and an outdoor patio that has live music from local musicians.

Centennial, an hour's drive from Laramie, sits at the base of the Medicine Bow Mountains. There are still several remains of miners' cabins and old mines around the town and up into the Medicine Bows. Several hiking trails lead to the old cabins and the old mine sites.

**South Pass City**

Going north, following the gold strikes, the best known gold camp in Wyoming was South Pass City. First established as a stage, Pony Express and telegraph station on South Pass along the Oregon Trail, the original town was about ten miles southwest of the gold mining community and was only two miles from South Pass. When the Overland Stage company abandoned the northern route due to Indian hostilities and moved south, the first South Pass City was abandoned.



In August 1861, Samuel Clemens (later known as Mark Twain) passed through the first South Pass City on his way west. He wrote about the experience in *Roughing It*, first published in 1872: "...we have in sight of South Pass City...South Pass City consisted of four log cabins, one of which was unfinished."

When gold was discovered in 1866, the town grew up nearer the mines, but the founders decided to retain the name, South Pass City. Two other towns, Miner's Delight and Atlantic City, also grew up. Miner's Delight is gone, but Atlantic City has about 50 residents, and a merchantile/cafe that serves a variety food and drink.

Today, the gold rush-railroad town of Centennial, which was founded in 1876 and named in honor of the nation's 100th birthday, is home to the Nici Self Historical Museum in the Centennial Railroad Depot (left) and the restored Mountain View Hotel, originally built in 1907.

- CYNTHIA VANNOY -

Since 1897, Cheyenne Frontier Days has been held at the end of July in the state's capital city. Billed as the "World's Largest Rodeo and Western Celebration," Frontier Days (below) draws over 200,000 in attendance over 10 days, with many of the activities and the parade held downtown near the historic Union Pacific Railroad Depot (below).

- ALL IMAGES COURTESY THE WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED -





The mine that made the town is the Carissa Mine, about a half mile above the town. Although a great deal of gold was produced, many owners of the mine had bad luck and it changed hands several times over the years of operation.

The gold boom lasted about ten years, then the gold declined, although some gold and silver are still being mined today. In 1867 the community boasted about 2,000 people. One of the better known residents was Esther Hobart Morris. In 1870 she became the first woman in the United States to serve as a justice of the peace and was instrumental in helping to

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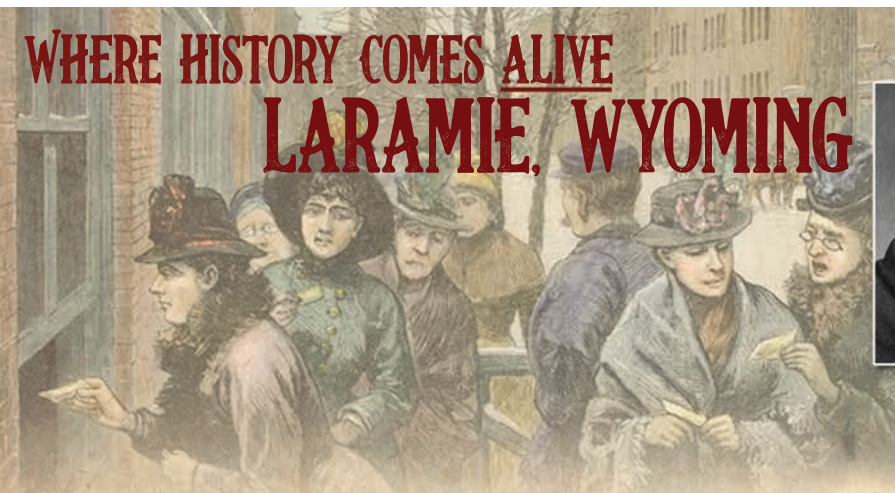
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After touring the historic sites in Laramie and Centennial, take a scenic drive on the Snowy Range Scenic Byway and enjoy a hike on the Lakes Trail in the Snowy Range of the Medicine Bow Mountains.

## WHERE HISTORY COMES ALIVE LARAMIE, WYOMING



Laramie, WY 1870 - Louisa was the first woman in the United States to cast a ballot under laws granting women and men fully equal voting rights. Amelia was one of six to serve on the first grand jury to include women.

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South Pass City pioneer resident Esther Hobart Morris (inset) was the first female justice of the peace in the United States when she swore her oath of office in the mining town in 1870. Today, the state of Wyoming operates the historic trail and gold mining town, including the Carissa Mine (right) as a state park from May 10 to September 30.

— ESTHER H. MORRIS PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/CARISSA MINE PHOTO COURTESY THE WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM —



introduce a bill to give Wyoming women the right to vote in 1869. Nationally, woman suffrage did not become law until 1920.

Today, South Pass City is an authentic and well-preserved ghost town that gives a sense of what it was like to live during that bygone era. Thirty historic buildings stand on 39 acres of land. A yearly festival, Gold Rush Days, recreates the glory days of the town.

The nearest town is Lander, about an hour away. We stayed at a fairly new hotel/casino, Shoshone Rose. The large rooms offer scenic

views from their large windows. We ate at the Cowfish Restaurant in downtown Lander. I mean, with a name like that you just have to try it. Food is rather pricy, but excellent, with an innovative menu of steaks, seafood and pasta dishes, and a full bar—a good place to enjoy a relaxing evening when in the area.

### Big Horn Gold

The last gold strike was in 1892, when a mining company purchased a group of claims in the Big Horn Mountains, near Sheridan, Wyoming. Discoveries of fine-grained gold north of Bald Mountain were made in 1890. In 1892, the Fortunatas

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Mining and Milling Company purchased a group of claims on the head of the Little Horn River and Porcupine Creek. The excitement led to the establishment of Bald Mountain City, the most extensive attempt at a settlement in the Big Horn Mountains. At one time there were as many as 50 buildings, including a saloon, meat market, an “eating house,” a hotel, blacksmith shop, general store and drug store.

In 1895, with talk of a rich vein being discovered, mining machinery was hauled up the steep slopes by ox team from Dayton. Fortunatus poured about a half million dollars into the effort, and in late 1896, Fred D. Smith, mining engineer at the University of Montana, exposed the claims as being exaggerated. Although some mining continued near Bald Mountain City as late as 1903, the gold was not commercially viable.

After several attempts on a road that was rougher than I wanted to travel, I finally found, if not the Bald Mountain City townsite, at least Half-Ounce Meadows, along Half Ounce Creek, where

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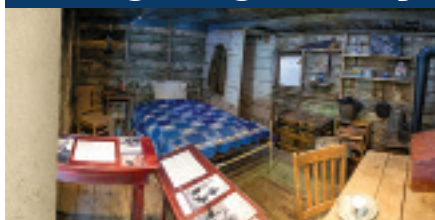
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After exploring the gold mining history of the Big Horn Mountains, drive into Sheridan and enjoy an evening in the city's historic downtown, including a stop at the legendary Mint Bar.

a great deal of panning went on. I found one ruin near there, and although the logs appeared to be hand-hewn and of the era of the late 1800s, there was no concrete evidence that it was a miner's cabin during the time of the gold rush.

Another ruin is about five miles away, on a high, rocky, windy ridge that also was constructed of very large hand-hewn logs, and could have started life as a miner's cabin. Seeing as the elevation of the area is around 9,000 feet, with deep snow in the winter, cold winds and chill temperatures, it is little wonder that the settlement didn't survive.

Because the gold rush lasted for the six years that the Sheridan Inn was being constructed (1892), and the inn was right

next to the railroad, it is safe to assume that some of those with gold fever stayed at the Sheridan Inn on their way to Bald Mountain City. Today, the Historic Sheridan Inn is a fine hotel, with 22 modern rooms furnished in the period, although at present there is no restaurant on the premises.

Early prices at the inn were \$1/day for a room, 25¢ for breakfast and 50¢ for lunch or dinner.

From Centennial, through South Pass, and the Carissa Mine; to as far north as Bald Mountain City, Wyoming's gold mining towns added a rough and rugged side note to the history of Wyoming. ❏

*Cynthia Vannoy* still lives on the Wyoming ranch where she was raised. She enjoys researching and writing about Wyoming and frontier history, and traveling, especially to historic sites and museums.

## WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

### WYOMING GOLD SEEKER TRAILS

**GETTING THERE:** Centennial, the first gold town in Wyoming is almost a ghost town, as are the rest of the Medicine Bow Mining camps. However, some businesses still exist, and few people make a living there. Drive the 30 miles from Laramie on State Highway 130, have a nice lunch at one of the rustic cafes in Centennial. From there, one can drive through the scenic Medicine Bow Mountains on Highway 130, through Saratoga and Rawlins, then take U.S. Highway 287 to State Highway 28. South Pass City is reached by a series of gravel roads, which are not always well marked, so make sure you leave enough time. To get to Bald Mountain City, one can either take U.S. Highway 14A from Lovell up the

Big Horn Mountains, or leave from Sheridan on U.S. Highway 14, then take U.S. 14A from Burgess Junction.

### GOOD EATS & LODGING:

**GRUB:** Bear Tree Tavern and Cafe, Old Corral Steakhouse and Mountain View Cafe, Centennial; Historic Atlantic City Mercantile, Atlantic City; Cowfish, Lander; The Mint Bar, Sheridan

**LODGING:** Plains Hotel, Cheyenne; Old Corral Hotel, Historic Elk Mountain Inn and The AmericInn, Laramie; Miner's Delight Inn, Atlantic City/South Pass area; Shoshone Rose and Casino, Lander; High Country Lodge and Bear Lodge Resort, nearest to Bald Mountain City; Historic Sheridan Inn, Sheridan



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In July 1875, photographer Orlando S. Goff captured a moment in the frontier life of a commanding officer's wife at Fort Abraham Lincoln, titled "Group Listening to the Piano, Living Room of the Custer Home." Hostess Elizabeth "Libbie" Custer (center, front) listens to piano music with the Wadsworth girls, 1st Lt. Winfield S. Edgerly, Capt. Tom Custer and Boston Custer. Libby's famous husband, post commander Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, is notably absent from the photograph.

— PHOTO BY ORLANDO S. GOFF, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT, LIBI\_00019\_00215. —>

BY CANDY MOULTON

## PILLARS OF THE PLAINS

A century since women received the right to vote, travel to North Dakota and discover the heroines of the Peace Garden State.

Two of the most recognized women in the Old West are Sacajawea and Elizabeth Custer and both of them have stories tied to the history of western North Dakota. Their stories are just two of many connected to this Great Plains landscape.

Captain William Clark and Captain Meriwether Lewis with their Corps of Discovery, started building a tri-sided fort near the Missouri River on November 2, 1804, and they would remain there through the winter. Their post, called Fort Mandan, about a dozen miles from present-day Washburn, North Dakota, was downstream

from villages occupied by Mandan and Hidatsa Indians. At Mandan, Lewis wrote in his journal on February 11, 1805, "one of the wives of Charbono was delivered of a fine boy." This wife of Toussaint Charbonneau, the interpreter Lewis and Clark had hired to accompany them upriver later in the spring, was a woman of many names, known as Sacajawea (Sacagawea)—or in North Dakota, Sakakawea. She was Lemhi Shoshone, but had been abducted by Hidatsa raiders near the Three Forks of the Missouri and was later traded to Charbonneau, a French-Canadian trapper.

### Fort Mandan

During that winter of 1804-05, Lewis and Clark and their men stayed close to Fort Mandan, though they visited regularly with the Mandans, seeking information about what they would find upriver when they departed in the spring. They knew that Charbonneau spoke a variety of languages and would be helpful as they set off. Sacajawea was often with him in the quarters at Fort Mandan and no doubt Lewis and Clark realized that her knowledge of the territory they would be traveling through would be useful to their mission. Her fluency

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The Custer House was Libbie and George Armstrong Custer's home at Fort Abraham Lincoln from 1873 until the 7th Cavalry's commander and his command were killed at the Battle of Little Bighorn in June 1876. After the fort was closed in 1891, most of the fort was disassembled and repurposed by local settlers. The Custer Home was rebuilt in 1989 and is a popular centerpiece of Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park's living history programs and tours.

— CUSTER HOUSE COURTESY NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM —

in Shoshone and her ability to communicate with Charbonneau in Hidatsa were reason enough to take the young woman with them in the spring to travel the Missouri River in two pirogues and on foot.

The location of Fort Mandan is not known for certain—it is most likely now under the waters of the Missouri River—but visitors can step into the areas where the Mandans and other Missouri River tribes lived. The Knife River Villages, now a national historic site, are an hour northwest of Bismarck. One of the Knife River locations is Awatixa Village, also called Sakakawea Village. It had as many as 60 earth lodges, and the depressions of the sites of Mandan lodges are still visible.

## Bismarck and Fort Abraham Lincoln

Gain an overview of North Dakota's history at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck and visit Fort Abraham Lincoln, which overlooks On-a-Slant Village, a Mandan campsite that includes reconstructed earth lodges. The Mandans occupied the site on the flats along the Missouri River from about 1575 to 1781. Fort McKeen was built nearby in 1872 and the following year a cavalry post was

constructed and the combined installations were renamed Fort Abraham Lincoln. When Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer arrived as the commander of the new post, he brought his wife Elizabeth (Libbie). This post quickly became one of the largest and most important on the Northern Plains.



Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery's trail guide Sacajawea and her baby Jean Baptiste Charbonneau stand prominently on the grounds of the North Dakota Capitol building. Leonard Crunelle's 12-foot bronze was dedicated on October 13, 1914.

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The North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum (left) is part of the State Capitol grounds complex in Bismarck. Exhibitions at the museum tell the story of the northern Plains state and its heritage of Indian people.

Seven miles south of Mandan is Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park (below) and the reconstructed On-A-Slant Mandan Indian Village. Visitors will learn about the cultural history of the Mandan people and their vital role in Plains history and why the village was abandoned because of a smallpox epidemic in 1781.



Custer and the 7th Cavalry drilled on the parade ground while Libbie entertained in the commander's house. She had family around including sister-in-law Margaret Calhoun. In addition to George, his two brothers Tom and Boston Custer, brother-in-law James Calhoun, and nephew "Autie" Reed all served in the Army and were stationed at Fort Lincoln.

The 7th Cavalry marched away from the fort on May 17, 1876. The departure was impressive as a dozen companies of troops, Indian scouts and 150 wagons carrying equipment and supplies strung out in a column that was two miles long. With soldiers, civilians, teamsters, and the Indian scouts, the group numbered about 1,200 men and 1,700 animals, including a herd of cattle and extra horses and mules. With other women left behind at the fort, Elizabeth Custer and Margaret Calhoun watched the column until it disappeared into the distance.

The fort would have been very quiet after the cavalry departure. The women visited each other and went about their daily duties until the devastating news reached them in late June that Custer's command had fallen in the battle at the Little Bighorn in Montana Territory.

Libbie Custer, her heart no doubt breaking after learning the news of the fight, picked up her shawl and accompanied Capt.

William McCaskey of the 20th Infantry, one of the men who had informed her of Custer's death, to visit the other women at the fort and tell them of their own husbands' fates. Once the sad duty had been carried out, Libbie Custer returned to her own home, where they had held family gatherings and other social events. She packed her things and departed the fort, traveling to her family's home in Monroe, Michigan. She later wrote that "a wounded thing must hide." But Libbie Custer would pick herself up and spend the rest of her life writing books that honored her husband's legacy.

### The Great Confluence

The area near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers became the site of Fort Union, the most important fur trading site on the Upper Missouri during

the 19th century. This American Fur Company post became a key location for trading with members of several Indian tribes including the Assiniboine, Blackfeet, Plains Creek, Crow, Hidatsa, Mandan and Ojibwa (Chippewa). Indian women were at the post with their families to engage in trade; some were painted by George Catlin after his travel through the area in 1832. Arguably the most important woman associated with Fort Union was Natawista, the daughter of Two Suns, a leader in the Blood tribe of the Blackfoot Confederacy. Born in about 1825, she traveled with her father to the Fort Union Trading post when she was about 15 years old. There she married Alexander Culbertson, the chief trader at Fort Union.

Because trade was so important to the tribes, it was not uncommon for a headman,



The Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site (left) on the North Dakota–Montana border 25 miles west of Williston, North Dakota, is a living history center dedicated to the early years of the fur trade on the Upper Missouri and Yellowstone rivers. In about 1830, Natawista, a Blackfoot woman, married the post’s chief trader, Alexander Culbertson, and quickly became one of the most influential women on the Missouri River fur trade frontier.

French nobleman and Dakota cattle ranching entrepreneur Marquis de Morès built the 26-room Chateau de Morès (below) for his wife, Medora, on a bluff overlooking the meat-packing, railroad town he named in her honor. Today, the mansion is restored and maintained as a state historic site, while Medora is a summer tourism destination and gateway community to Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

or chief, to forge relations with fur traders through the arranged marriages of their daughters.

Natawista would serve an important role at Fort Union, bearing five children and assisting her husband with trading duties. She served as a translator and a hostess, gaining some credibility as a diplomat who bridged cultures.

As Indians, Sacajawea and Natawista had deep connections to the Western lands and the lifestyles of their people, which required them to adapt to ever-changing conditions.

Elizabeth Bacon had fallen in love with George Armstrong Custer, and following their marriage, she willingly traveled with him to his assignment posts in the West.



Besides being European and wealthy, the marquis was an entrepreneur. He had convinced his father-in-law to provide the financial backing necessary to start his own company, the Northern Pacific Refrigerator Car Company. The business raised cattle, butchered them at the packing plant, and then shipped the meat to markets using

### Historic Medora

Medora von Hoffman, the daughter of a wealthy New York banker, likely never expected she would live in the Wild West. When traveling in Europe she met and married a wealthy French nobleman, the Marquis de Morès. He came with her to America and began learning about the American West. He saw the place as a land of opportunity and came to western North Dakota in April 1883. The marquis selected an area where the Northern Pacific Railroad crossed the Little Missouri River, bought nearly 9,000 acres, and, near the original town of Little Missouri, built a new town on the east bank of the river—naming it Medora, for his wife.

refrigerated railroad cars to keep it fresh in transit.

The operation lasted just three years, failing due to competition and partially because eastern consumers did not like the taste of the range-fed beef. But the marquis had not pinned all his hopes and dreams on one business. In addition to ranching and feeding cattle, he raised sheep and horses, had a freighting company and stage coach line that linked Medora with Deadwood, South Dakota, and he established and operated ice houses along the route of the Northern Pacific between Helena, Montana, and Duluth, Minnesota, using his refrigerated railroad cars to ship not only beef, but also other goods, including salmon, from the West Coast to the East Coast.

Medora managed the couple’s 26-room summer home, the Chateau de Morès, built on a bluff overlooking the town that bore her name. This home is now a North Dakota State Historic Site.

Another early resident of the area was Theodore Roosevelt, who came in 1883 to



American-born Medora von Hoffman, Marquise de Morès, moved back to France with her husband Antoine Vallombrosa, the Marquis, after the failure of his ranching operations. She lived out her life in Paris.



The area had everything the Marquis de Morès wanted and needed for his enterprise: abundant water, grass and shelter for cattle, direct shipping on the railroad to markets in the East, and ice on the river to use in a packing plant.




*The Medora Musical* is produced every summer in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt (inset), whose life was greatly influenced by his years living and ranching nearby. The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame (below) tells the story of ranching in the state.

hunt buffalo. Before leaving the region he bought a share of Chimney Butte Ranch, locally known as the Maltese Cross. Roosevelt left North Dakota to return to New York and a political career, but was devastated by the deaths of his mother and wife, within hours of each other. His baby daughter survived, but after the deaths of the women Roosevelt returned to North Dakota where he expanded his ranch holdings. Cattlemen in the region brought more and more head of livestock to the area. And then disaster struck with a severe winter in 1886 that killed hundreds of thousands of animals. The Great Die-Up devastated many ranchers' operations, including Roosevelt's.

Those experiences in the West were profound for Roosevelt, and when he became President of the United States, he implemented conservation measures that preserved lands across the nation. The land he explored and the badlands where he hunted, are now part of the 70,000-acre Theodore Roosevelt National Park, one of the primary attractions in the Medora area.

During the summer the *Medora Musical* is performed in an outdoor amphitheater, sharing stories related to Roosevelt from his



time in the region to the charge up San Juan Hill with his Rough Riders during the Spanish American War. While in the area, visit the Maltese Cross Cabin and the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame. 

**Candy Moulton** is a regular *True West* road warrior who makes her home near Encampment, Wyoming. She invites everyone to her hometown museum June 12 and 13 for "True West"—a history symposium featuring Bob Boze Bell, Johnny D. Boggs and other TW writers.



## WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

### LEWIS AND CLARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Many cultures and explorers have been drawn to western North Dakota and their stories are featured at this center in the Williston area. The primary focus is on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, presented through period artifacts to illustrate that journey. But there were people living in this region long before the Corps of Discovery came through, so the center includes displays about how the Mandan and Hidatsa people farmed along the Missouri, and where they lived and traded, and the changes brought by the white homesteaders in the 19th century. A number of 19th-century artists came through this region to experience and sketch the people and the places, and their artwork is now known around the world. Among the artifact and art displays at the center are works by Swiss painter Karl Bodmer and items related to German Prince Maximilian zu Wied. One exhibit shows the cultural changes brought about by the fur trade and the use of steamboats on the Missouri River. For more information visit: [ParkRec.ND.gov](http://ParkRec.ND.gov)

### GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**GRUB:** *Pirogue Grill, Bismarck; Peacock Alley, Bismarck; Blarney Stone Pub, Bismarck; Powerhouse Bar and Grill, Mandan; Dakota Farms Family Restaurant, Washburn; Lonnie's Roadhouse Café, Williston; Pitchfork Fondue, Medora; Theodore's Dining Room, Medora; Little Missouri Dining Room & Saloon, Medora*

**LODGING:** *Ramkota, Bismarck; Holiday Inn, Bismarck; Bismarck KOA, Bismarck; Winterton Suites, Williston; Eagle Ridge Lodge, Medora; Sully Creek Campground, Medora*



Since deep veins of silver and gold were discovered near the present-day Nevada towns of Virginia City and Dayton in the 1850s, the Silver State's economy and growth has been driven greatly by the mining industry. Wyatt and Josie Earp and Wyatt's brother Virgil followed the silver to both Tonopah and Goldfield, where the 20-mule wagon train (above) was leaving toward the mines in 1905.

— PHOTO OF GOLDFIELD WAGON TRAIN COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

BY WILL BAGLEY

# HISTORY HAUNTS NEVADA'S BYWAYS

Discover the remarkable heritage of the Silver State from Las Vegas to Elko.

History haunts western Nevada, where the state's highways cross the Great Basin and some of the most formidable geography in North America. The first Anglo explorers to traverse its stark mountains and salty playas included fur trade legends Jedediah Smith, Joseph R. Walker and Peter Skene Ogden, whose paths John C. Fremont followed behind his personal pathfinder, Kit Carson. Prospectors and miners followed overland

trails as surely as vaqueros and buckaroos followed grass and rangeland—and legendary stories follow them all.

## North to Tonopah

Most Nevada visits start and end in Las Vegas. To explore the Silver State's history, head north on U.S. 95 to Tonopah and Goldfield. Tonopah is the most colorful mining camp in Nevada, a state packed with

colorful mining camps. None of its competitors for the title "Queen of the Silver Camps" have a Clown Motel or are rated the #1 Stargazing Destination in America.

James L. Butler discovered the Mizpah lode in the spring of 1900 after nearly 30 years of chasing the big bonanza. (His wife, Belle, named it Mizpah, for a Hebrew salutation meaning, "May the Lord watch between us.") By March 1902 more than two



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After visiting the Tonopah Mining Park (left) during the day and a meal at the historic Mizpah Hotel, a short walk away from Main Street's bright lights will reveal a night sky that is rated the best stargazing in the country.

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thousand people were digging silver, “and the camp is attracting men as fast as it can, so that at no distant day Tonopah will be the liveliest spot on earth,” Baker said. “It is now for the ages.”

Baker told *San Francisco Call* reporter Alfred Dezenendorf he had named the town after his dog, which made Tonopah “the best-known pup in Nevada.” Since 1907, the Mizpah Hotel has been Tonopah’s most luxurious lodging. Though it was long shuttered, in 2011 the Cline family opened its doors after restoring the hotel to greatness. You can share the haunted hotel with a kindly spirit, the Lady in Red.

Western legends had a natural affinity for boomtowns and big money. After making a pile in Nome, Alaska, Wyatt and Josie Earp arrived in Tonopah in 1902 and opened the Northern Saloon. Virgil Earp came to nearby Goldfield, the next big Nevada boomtown, two years later to work as a bouncer. He became a Goldfield deputy sheriff in January 1905, and Wyatt and his saloon soon followed. In April, Virgil contracted pneumonia and died on October 18, 1905. Wyatt Earp abandoned Goldfield shortly thereafter.

Tonopah’s history still resonates in today’s headlines. Its miners staged a riot against Chinese workers in 1903, which caused China to boycott U.S. imports. Its long tradition of boom and bust endures. Since 2014, Solar Reserve has spent almost a billion dollars building a revolutionary solar



In the capital, Carson City, the Nevada State Museum exhibits the state’s history in a modern wing (below, right) and in the historic Carson City U.S. Mint Building.

energy project nearby using liquid salt for storage. The plant began producing power in November 2015 but now faces bankruptcy.

### The Capital City

Carson City began life in about 1852 as a trading post named Eagle Valley. No historian has written history better than Sally Zanjani, especially her *Devils Will Reign: How Nevada Began*. She shows how Carson City began when “Lucky Bill” Thornton arrived in Eagle Valley about 1852. His luck ran out in 1858 when a group of vigilantes lynched him. The town boomed in 1860 when the lawyers showed up. But the Comstock mines had generated a rush, and the lawyers banked on Carson City’s

beautiful location (and their political connections) to make it the territorial capital. An enjoyable walking tour of the old town’s west side will take you to the historic 1862 St. Charles Hotel, the original 1870 Nevada State Capitol and Federal buildings, plus the mansions of countless venerable silver barons.

History fans who visit Carson City’s Nevada State Museum in 2020 can help this treasure-house of history celebrate its sesquicentennial. The original building began life on February 4, 1870 as a U.S. Branch Mint to process the ocean of silver flowing from the Comstock Lode. Throughout the year you can buy planchets of Nevada silver from the Coeur Rochester mine near

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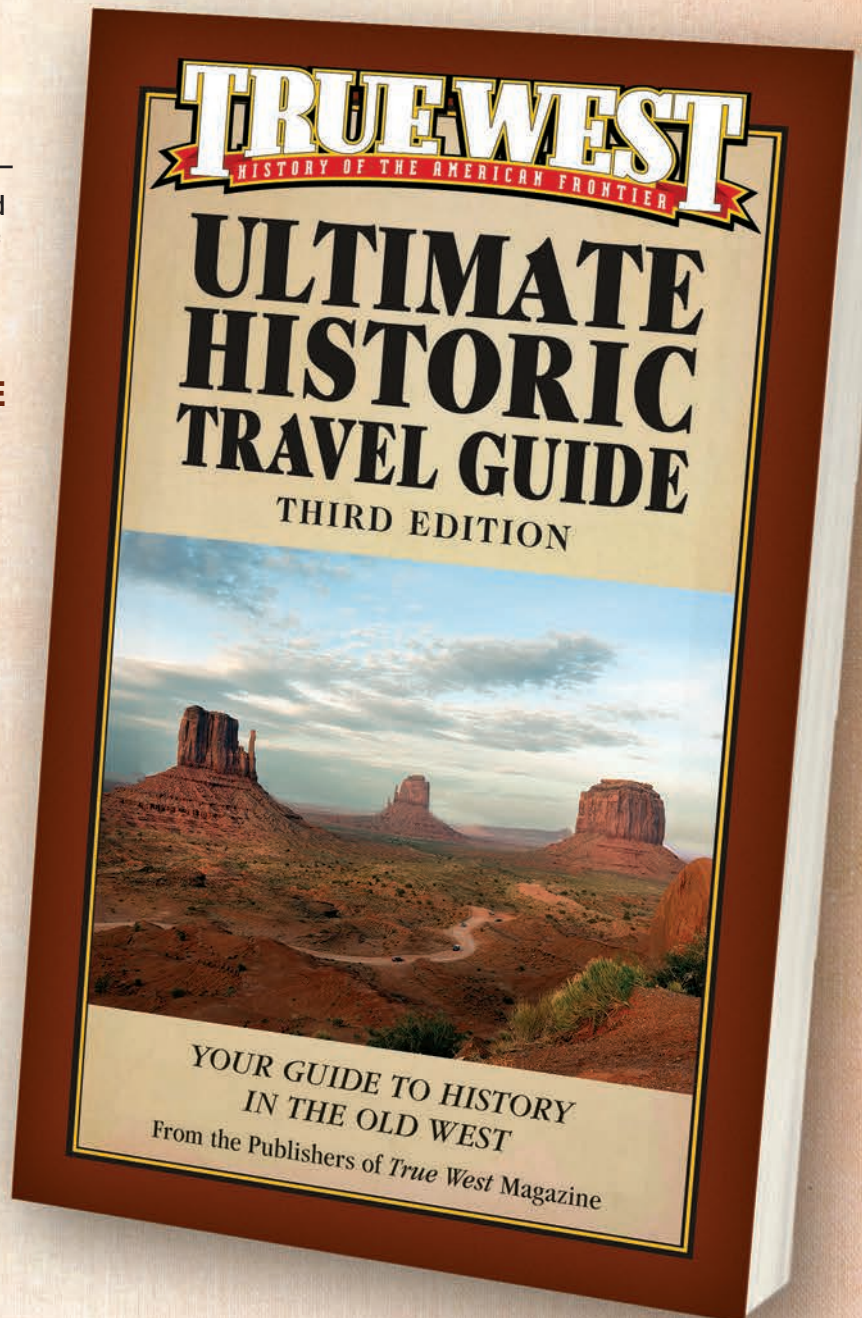
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Driving U.S. 50 across the state of Nevada should be on every Old West travel bucket list, including a stop in the historic mining community of Eureka, Nevada.

Lovelock and get a limited series of medallions pressed on Historic Coin Press—the original coin press used when the mint opened 150 years ago. The most popular is a replica 1870 Liberty Seated Half Dollar, complete with the “CC” mint mark, the first coin to come off the press. “Interest in the replica 1870 half dollar has been tremendous,” said museum director Myron Freedman.

Carson City hosts the flagship of Nevada’s seven local railroad and cultural museums. It displays bottles, clothes, firearms, and a mysterious mountain howitzer that John C. Fremont may (or may not) have abandoned when the pathfinder was lost in the Sierra Nevada in 1844. It also exhibits the world’s largest Columbian

mammoth, discovered on the Black Rock Desert. “Nevada’s Changing Earth” displays over 300 rock and mineral specimens ranging from a two-foot-long smoky quartz crystal to prime examples of native copper, silver and gold. Other cases display fossils, including horn coral, ammonites up to three feet long, a replica ichthyosaur, and petrified and opalized wood

**The Loneliest Highway**

Head east from Carson City on historic U.S. Highway 50 and three hours will take you to a “living ghost town,” Austin. Why should you drive all the way to the town closest to Nevada’s geographic center? Again, it’s about history and stories, which are impossible to ignore on America’s



When on a road trip across Nevada’s U.S. 50, enjoy a stay in Austin, a historic mining camp along the old Pony Express route. The local museum’s exhibits recount the isolated town’s history, including what daily life was like for women on the Nevada frontier.



Loneliest Road. Highway 50 served as the route for the Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Company—the Pony Express—and “Stagecoach King” Ben Holladay’s Overland Stage road. Celebrities who rode mail wagons to California included Horace Greeley, Sir Richard Burton and Mark Twain.

Austin sits on the western slope of the Toiyabe Range at an elevation of 6,605 feet. Legend has it a Pony Express pony kicked over a rock, its rider spotted silver veins, and so started an 1862 rush. The next year local storekeeper (and Mark Twain schoolmate) Reuel Colt Gridley auctioned a sack of flour for \$250 to benefit the United States Sanitary Commission, which helped Civil War wounded. The winner declined to take the flour, gave it back to Gridley, and told him to sell it again. He did, repeatedly, until he had \$8,000 more in donations. The story spread to Virginia City, where Twain claimed it raised some 40,000 greenback dollars. *Roughing It* reported Gridley traveled 15,000 miles selling the sack across the United States.

Since 1866 the Gothic-revival spire of St. Augustine’s Church, the oldest Catholic building in Nevada, has dominated Austin’s hilltop skyline. Folk-artist Rafael Jolly decorated the interior in 1939 with 14 vibrantly colored murals celebrating the lives of Jesus and St. Augustine. Local resident Jan Morrison led a 10-year, million dollar-plus restoration, completed in 2014, which transformed this architectural treasure into a community center with a spectacular 19th-century pipe organ.

Tycoon Anson Phelps Stokes (of Phelps Dodge Corporation fame) visited Austin in 1863. He managed to get a 93-mile narrow gauge railroad line built by 1880 through the Reese Valley that connected Austin to the Central Pacific main line north at Battle Mountain. It became the money-losing Nevada Central Railway but somehow managed to roll on until 1938. In 1896 Stokes bankrolled a three-story stone tower modelled after a medieval barbican he had seen in Italy. Its

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Strolling Elko's Main Street, visitors should schedule extra time to browse and shop one of the nation's oldest and storied saddle shops, J.M. Capriola Co. With an internationally renowned reputation of excellence for its leather work and Garcia bits and spurs, Capriolas—founded in 1929—is also home to the Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum.

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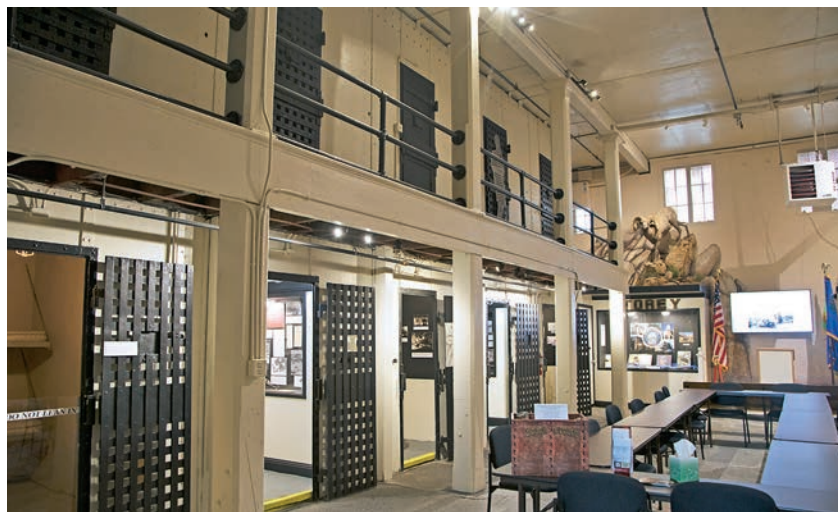


impressive granite ruin, now known as Stokes Castle, is located on Austin's west end and offers expansive northern and southern views. The Stokes clan used the tower for a few weeks in 1897 but never came back.

**Buckaroo Country**

From Austin, continue west on U.S. 50 to the historic gold and silver camp, Eureka. Take the time to at least have lunch and visit the well-restored Eureka

Opera House. From the historic mining town, drive north across Diamond and Pine valleys on Nevada Highway 278 to Carlin and its intersection with Interstate 80.



Open year round, the Courthouse Slammer & County Museum opened in Virginia City in 2016. Housed in the 1876 Storey County Courthouse and its historic two-tier jail, the museum's exhibitions tell the story of the Comstock Lode and the county's colorful history.



Nevada is home to some of the West's best living history museums, including Fort Churchill State Historic Park. After a self-guided tour of the fort's adobe ruins, visit the park's museum (above) to enjoy a living history demonstration and learn about the role of the frontier army.

## WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

### CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

To see the elephant on the trail meant you had seen it all, including the best and worst the West had to offer. Where the Hastings Cutoff rejoined the California Trail west of Elko is now the premier place to get briefed for a trail trip over I-80. The center shows off the remnants and ruts of the wagon roads that carved the Great Basin's early history into the earth. It starts with a bronze elephant scaring the hat off a gold seeker. It challenges you to fill your wagon with what you need so it won't join the mountains of junk that lined overland roads. The center's displays take you across the entire two thousand-mile trek from the Missouri River jumping-off spots to the Sacramento Valley, with special insights into the Western Shoshonis and Northern Paiutes. **For more information, visit [CaliforniaTrailCenter.org](http://CaliforniaTrailCenter.org).**

### GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

Between Spain and France, Basque shepherds have tended flocks in the Pyrenees since Hannibal's elephants marched through. When sheep invaded the American West late in the 19th century, Basques followed and created Nevada's best meals. You can find tasty Basque Food Family Style at:

**GRUB:** *The Star Hotel, Elko; Toki Ona, Elko; The Martin Hotel, Winnemucca; Louis' Basque Corner, Reno; Villa Basque Deli & Café, Carson City; J. T. Basque Bar & Dining Room, Gardnerville*

**LODGING:** *Stockmen's Casino, Elko; Gold Country Inn & Casino, Elko; Thunderbird Motel, Elko; The St. Charles Hotel, Carson City; The Mizpah Hotel, Tonopah*


Twenty-one miles east, one of the Silver State's most notorious railroad towns, Elko, coalesced as a Hell-on-Wheels instant town when the Central Pacific Railroad arrived in 1868. It's still a vibrant community and headquarters of the Western Folklife Center, which this January hosted its 36th annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Elko (or perhaps Cody, Wyoming) was the first place to sponsor a cowboy poetry festival, but such a great idea had to spread like wildfire to celebrations in Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, Arizona and Utah.

Even though it was born as the old wagon roading was being replaced, Elko stands at the center of the California Trail's history. The Elko Hot Hole, a geothermal pool on the south edge of town, began life as a popular overland campsite and laundromat. When Amos Batchelder saw the spring in September 1849, it spewed "forth volumes of steam like a cauldron of boiling water" that could be seen for miles. Less than a year after Elko was born, the spot became the White Sulphur Hot Springs resort.

Elko is such a prime historical site that every decade the Oregon-California Trails Association holds its annual convention at

the town's fine facilities and will return on September 19-23 this year.

The Hastings Cutoff left the main California Trail at Fort Bridger in 1846 and rejoined the main trail at the confluence of the Humboldt's South Fork with the main river. Lansford Hasting's notorious shortcut actually added ten miles to the old road, not to mention its brutal crossing of a 90-mile waterless plain. (Historians agree the Great Salt Lake Desert did as much to doom the Donner Party as the snows of the Sierra.)

After enjoying Elko, Interstate 80 will take you west to Battle Mountain, Winnemucca, Reno and Donner Pass, but now Highway 50 will take you around the Dead Camel Mountains across 12- and 27-mile deserts to Virginia City. Heading south takes you past the 1860 adobe ruins of Fort Churchill and back to Carson City. From the state capital, the intrepid traveler can return south on U.S. 95 to Las Vegas or continue to follow the historic route of the California Trail over the Sierra Nevada to Sacramento, California. 

In 2019 Western Writers of America gave **Will Bagley** its highest honor, The Owen Wister Award for outstanding contributions to the American West and its literature.



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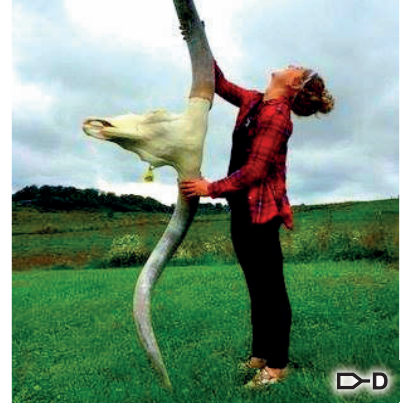
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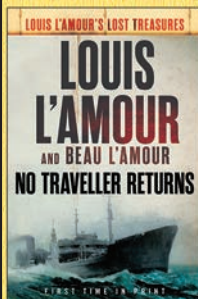
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# WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR APRIL 2020



## COUNTRY THUNDER

Florence, AZ, April 16-19: Eric Church, Luke Combs and Ashley McBryde headline a weekend of country music showcasing more than 20 musical acts. 866-388-0007 • [CountryThunder.com](http://CountryThunder.com)

## MUSIC

### LLANO FIDDLE FEST

Llano, TX, April 3-5: Texas musicians of the past are celebrated with a competition featuring some of the best fiddlers from Texas and beyond. 325-247-5354 • [LlanoFiddleFest.com](http://LlanoFiddleFest.com)

## RE-ENACTMENTS

### BANDERA CATTLE COMPANY GUNFIGHTERS

Bandera, TX, April 4, 11, 18, 25: Experience the excitement of the Wild West with the award-winning Bandera Cattle Company Gunfighters. 830-796-3045 • [BanderaCowboyCapital.com](http://BanderaCowboyCapital.com)

## RODEOS

### 8TH ANNUAL WYOMING ROUGHSTOCK RODEO SCHOOL

Casper, WY, April 3: Instructors have the experience and knowledge to make novices' rodeo dreams come true. 307-358-2642 • [SaddleBroncProductions.com](http://SaddleBroncProductions.com)

## STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS

### OKLAHOMA QUARTER HORSE SPRING SHOW

Oklahoma City, OK, April 3-7: The region's finest quarter horses compete for ribbons and prizes in a wide array of classes. 405-440-0694 • [OKQHA.org](http://OKQHA.org)

## TRADE SHOWS

### TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS

Alpine, TX, April 16-18: The nation's second-oldest trappings show offers cowboy gear and Western art at the Museum of the Big Bend. 432-837-8143 • [MuseumoftheBigBend.com](http://MuseumoftheBigBend.com)

### SOUTHWEST FARM & HOME EXPO

Elk City, OK, April 4-5: Novices and professionals alike can shop and learn about products and services for farm, home, lawn, garden and ranch. 580-225-0207 • [VisitElkCity.com](http://VisitElkCity.com)

### TWMag.com:

View Western events on our website.



## ART SHOWS & AUCTIONS

### SCOTTSDALE ART AUCTION

Scottsdale, AZ, April 4: More than 350 lots of the finest Western paintings and sculptures will be auctioned online. 480-945-0225 • [ScottsdaleArtAuction.com](http://ScottsdaleArtAuction.com)

### COWGIRL UP! EXHIBITION

Wickenburg, AZ, April 1-30: The Desert Caballeros Western Museum presents its annual exhibition of works by contemporary female Western artists. 928-684-2272 • [WesternMuseum.org](http://WesternMuseum.org)

### MAYNARD DIXON'S AMERICAN WEST

Scottsdale, AZ, April 1-30: Scottsdale's Museum of the West offers a groundbreaking exhibition of the West's greatest artist, Maynard Dixon. 480-686-9539 • [ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org](http://ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org)

## AWARD SHOW

### WESTERN HERITAGE AWARDS

Oklahoma City, OK, April 17-18: The awards honor the best in literature, music, film and television that reflect the heritage of the American West. 405-478-2250 • [NationalCowboyMuseum.org](http://NationalCowboyMuseum.org)

## ENCAMPMENTS

### SPRING TRADERS ENCAMPMENT

Bartlesville, OK, April 17-18: Hosted by Woolaroc's Mountain Men Wes and Roger Butcher, the camp has quickly become a favorite for re-enactors. 918-336-0307 • [Woolaroc.org](http://Woolaroc.org)

## HERITAGE FESTIVALS

### ROSE TREE PARADE & FESTIVAL

Tombstone, AZ, April 11-12: The blooming of the "World's Largest Rose Tree" planted in 1885, is celebrated with a parade and folkloric dances. 520-457-3326 • [Tombstone.org](http://Tombstone.org)

### FIESTA SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio, TX, April 16-26: Old San Antonio and Old Mexico celebrations include fandangos, art shows and a pilgrimage to the Alamo mission. 877-273-4378 • [Fiesta-SA.org](http://Fiesta-SA.org)

### ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Nebraska City, NE, April 24-26: The home of the first Arbor Day, in 1872, celebrates with free trees, a chili cook-off and a parade. 800-514-9113 • [NebraskaCity.com](http://NebraskaCity.com)

### WILD WILD WEST FEST

Andrews, TX, April 17-18: Western heritage is celebrated with cowboy mounted shooting demonstrations, a BBQ cook-off, live music and more. 432-523-2695 • [WildWildWestFest.com](http://WildWildWestFest.com)

### COWBOY WAY JUBILEE AT FORT CONCHO

San Angelo, TX, April 30-May 3: A cowboy comic-con features Western stars, authors, workshops and demos, with cowboy music all day, every day. 580.768.5559 • [CowboyWayJubilee.com](http://CowboyWayJubilee.com)

### HISTORY CONFERENCE

61st Annual Arizona History Convention Tucson, AZ, April 16-18: Arizona historians, including *True West's* Bob Boze Bell, Stuart Rosebrook and Marshall Trimble, gather to share scholarship on Arizona. 520-628-5774 • [ArizonaHistory.org](http://ArizonaHistory.org)

- CHRIS STAPLETON, 2019, COUNTRY THUNDER -

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# Gunfighting Gals and Death Chairs



**Ask The Marshall**

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian and vice president of the Wild West History Association. His latest book is *Arizona Oddities: Land of Anomalies and Tamales*; History Press, 2018. 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](mailto:marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu). Please always include your name, city and state.



Mesa Verde National Park protects the largest set of Anasazi ruins in North America.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

## Who were the Anasazi?

*Duff Hale  
Midlothian, Texas*

The Anasazi were among the prehistoric peoples who lived in the Four Corners area of Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. They probably evolved from the Desert Culture in about 200 B.C. They began to practice agriculture and pottery-making around A.D. 500. They cultivated corn, beans and squash, which enabled them to remain in one place. They also grew cotton along the Little Colorado River. Sometime around A.D. 1050 they began moving to the tops of mesas and into the cliffs. Most likely someone was threatening them.

They had a complex religion. Although they are commonly referred to as Anasazi, the Hopi prefer Hisatsinom, or "Person of Remote Past of Ancient Time." The politically correct term is "Ancestral Pueblo."

There is evidence of violent warfare prior to them moving into cliff

dwellings. Hopi Elders say they had no enemies before the arrival of the Navajos, around A.D. 1400, so was the violence a fight among themselves? Anasazi versus Anasazi?

They went into decline around the 13th century, and that is a great mystery. Why did they leave those beautiful canyons? Was it climate change, environmental stress, denuding forests, long droughts, crop failure, periodic famine or perhaps all of the above?

## Did any gunfights involve women?

*Jed Green  
Fort Smith, Arkansas*

On April 18, 1886, a couple of brothel madams, Etta "Grasshopper" Clark and "Big Alice" Abbott, got into a brawl in El Paso and Alice was shot in the crotch. Two years later, Alice got her revenge: she hired two thugs to burn down Etta's house. Some rough stuff. It's likely there were similar events in those bawdy houses.

In reality, shootouts between men were rare back in the day, so it's not surprising that there are few recorded gunfights between women.

## A Deadwood saloon claims to have Wild Bill Hickok's death chair above the door. Is it the real deal?

*Paul Pena  
Jacksonville, Arkansas*

Saloon # 10, the site of Hickok's murder and located at 624 Main St., burned in the great fire in 1879. Today's saloon bearing the same name is located at 657 Main St. The Death Chair you saw isn't authentic; it just resembles the original.



— COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM —

## George Armstrong Custer's brother, Boston, and nephew, Autie Reed, were at the Little Bighorn, serving in civilian roles. Did they pick up guns and fight?

*Dave Stephens  
Phoenix, Arizona*

Actually, both were in safe areas when the fight broke out. Boston was bringing more ammo to the front when he was killed. Autie was a cattle herder, but he was given approval to get a gun and join the fight. Based on what we know, which is pretty sketchy, they fought bravely. Both were killed, scalped and mutilated atop Last Chance Hill.

## Was Juan Cortina a real bad guy or just fighting for his people? A lot of Tejanos were scared of this guy, the "Robin Hood of the Rio Grande."

*Joe Manriquez  
Whittier, California*

In some ways he was a lot like Pancho Villa, Joaquin Murrieta and Augustine Chacon. Some Mexicans along the border thought him a hero and others feared or hated him. Most Anglo Texans considered him to be a terrorist.

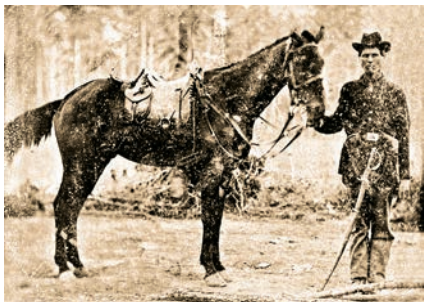
Cortina was different in that he came from upper-class Mexican society. Much like Mariano Vallejo in California and Benito Juarez in Mexico, he championed civil rights. In 1859, angered by what he believed to be brutal treatment of



Juan Cortina was a major political figure in Mexico-U.S. border conflicts for five decades.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Tejanos, Cortina staged a war against Anglo leaders and the Texas Rangers. He lost that fight, but he took up arms again two years later, fighting on the side of the Union in the American Civil War. Again beaten, Cortina retired to Mexican politics. Later, he was imprisoned for being on the wrong side of the political battles. He died under house arrest in Mexico City in 1894.



A Union cavalryman shows his mount saddled with an Army-issued McClellan saddle.

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### Did the U.S. Cavalry use only the McClellan saddle?

Phillip R. Brown  
Jackson, Tennessee

The McClellan saddle was adopted by the U.S. Cavalry in 1859. It was designed by George B. McClellan after a tour of Europe where he studied various cavalry saddles. He based the U.S. design on a Hungarian saddle used by the Prussian cavalry. It's also a modification of the Mexican tree saddle that was popular at the time. During the early years of the Civil War, Confederate cavalry used a similar saddle invented by Walter H. Jenifer, commonly known as the Jenifer. As the fighting dragged on in the war, their horses lost weight and the bony withers were injured by it. So the Confederates went to the McClellan.

Modifications of the McClellan were in use until World War II and are still used for ceremonial purposes and mounted police. The advent of tanks, barbed-wire barricades and automatic weapons during World War I brought about the end of mounted troops. The last time U.S. cavalrymen—on horses—saw action was in the Philippines in 1942.



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# What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

**Growing up in Brooklyn** was fun, interesting, and research for future books.

**My mother and father** bought me a typewriter when I was 15 years old. That was the only support I ever got for my plans to be a writer, and even that was unintentional.

**My favorite Western movie** is John Wayne's *Big Jake*.

**Something most people don't know about** is that I was terribly shy when I was younger, had virtually no personality until I started interacting with other writers from all over the country and the world.

**The first story I sold** was "Murder Among Witches," to *Mike Shayne's Mystery Magazine*, 1974. I thought I had it made, didn't sell another one for three years.

**Working for the NYPD** was eight years of an interesting education, which was very useful later in my career.

**If I could have a piece of pie with Wild Bill Hickok**, I wouldn't sit with my back to the door.

**Max Brand** was never a big influence on me.

**The Clint Adams *Gunsmith Series*** is second nature to me, now. Even after 37 years and almost 500 books, if I suddenly hit a \$10 million lottery, I'd still write them.

**Founding *Mystery Scene Magazine*** is something I'm proud of. It's still going 33 years later, and it's what Ed Gorman and I intended it to be, informative and educational.

**A mystery writer I** owe my life to is Ross Macdonald. He and Paul Newman (*Harper*) put me on this path when I was 15 years old, and I will always owe them.

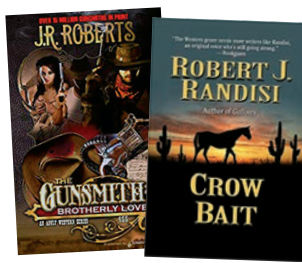
**Arthur Conan Doyle** was part of my reading as a young man, but no great influence on my career. Just enjoyable.

**I've always been too busy writing to explore anything...** I write every day and night, have never been blocked because I won't allow it... Maybe I could have explored a way to possibly write faster...*nahhhhh!*

**A Western novelist I** truly enjoyed was Ben Hass, when he was writing his Fargo series as "John Benteen."

**Writing under a pseudonym** was a necessity when I started in the '80s. It was the only way to write four different series for four different publishers at one time.

**Elmore Leonard...** I knew Dutch, he gave me a blurb for one of my early private eye novels. He influenced my crime writing, not my Western writing. His writing showed me there are more than three ways to write in third person. Even his third-person narrative took on the personality and language of the characters, rather than being omniscient.



Robert J. Randisi says, "When I was 15 I had to decide between music and writing, and I chose writing. At the time I played guitar, piano and cello. Today, Randisi can be found regularly hosting awards ceremonies and occasionally singing with the band (below). If you'd like to take a listen, go to YouTube where you'll find a video of him singing at a Western Fictioneers Convention.



— ALL IMAGES COURTESY ROBERT J. RANDISI —

## ROBERT J. RANDISI, AUTHOR

Bob Randisi is the author of over 550 western novels, including 470 novels in the ongoing *Gunsmith* series (1982–Present, as "J.R. Roberts"). A *Gunsmith* book has been published every month since January of 1982. Other series he is responsible for are *Lady Gunsmith*, *Roper*, *the Widowmaker*, *Angel Eyes*, *Tracker*, *Mountain Jack Pike*, *The Sons of Daniel Shaye*, *The Gamblers*, *Lancaster*, *Decker the Bounty Hunter* and *Ryder*. He has also written many stand-alone Westerns.

**The Private Eye Writers of America...** What can I say? I'm proud of how far PWA and the Shamus Award have come from when I first envisioned them in 1981. It has supported and enhanced what was once a sub-genre, supported and launched careers.

**My life** has been enhanced, informed and inspired by being a novelist, so being one has never been a challenge to me. The only challenge I could even acknowledge was getting published in the first place. Once that was done, the rest was gravy...

**Being married** for 26 years I have lived with a lady who is a writer. Talk about something that enhances, inspire and challenges, that's it. But it's not simply that I live with a writer, it's that I live with someone who is a fine writer, a great editor and a muse.

**The best advice I ever received** is the same advice I give—sit down and do it!

**What history has taught me** is that there's really nobody you can count on but yourself. People, influences come and go. In the end the only one who is always there is me.



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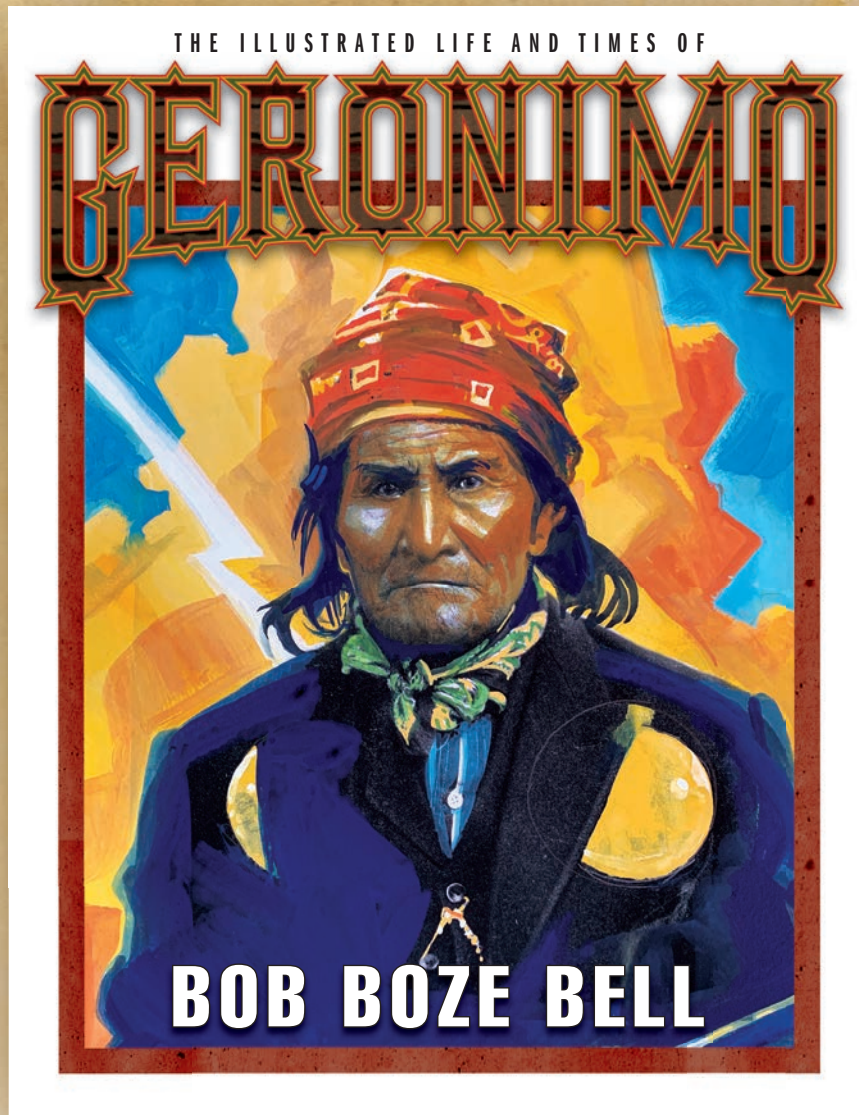
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