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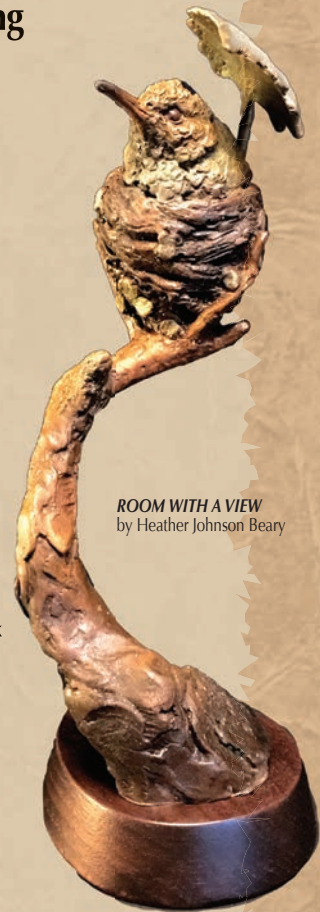
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JESSE JAMES RIFLE

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.

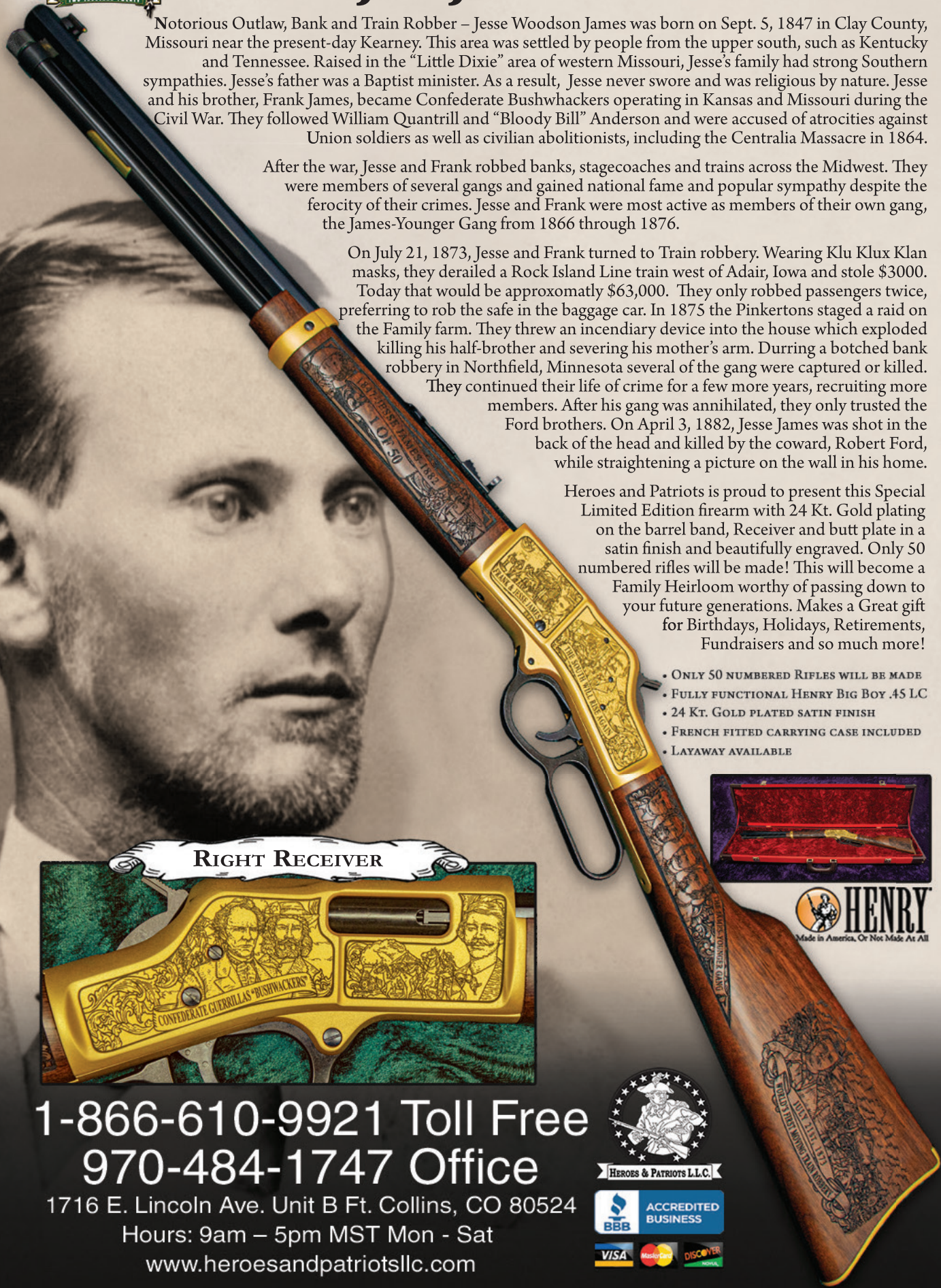
After the war, Jesse and Frank robbed banks, stagecoaches and trains across the Midwest. They were members of several gangs and gained national fame and popular sympathy despite the ferocity of their crimes. Jesse and Frank were most active as members of their own gang, the James-Younger Gang from 1866 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. During a botched bank robbery in Northfield, Minnesota several of the gang were captured or killed.

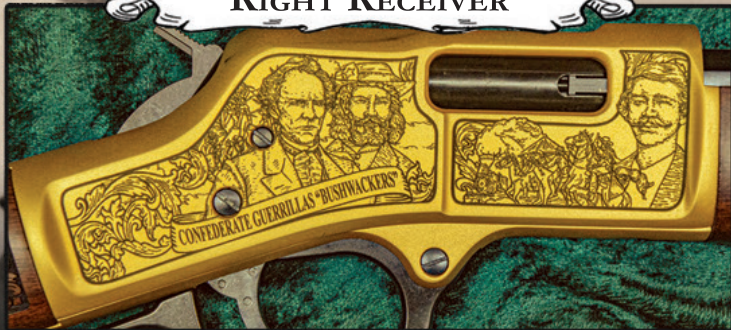
They continued their life of crime for a few more years, recruiting more members. After his gang was annihilated, they only trusted the Ford brothers. On April 3, 1882, Jesse James was shot in the back of the head and killed by the coward, Robert Ford, while straightening a picture on the wall in his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

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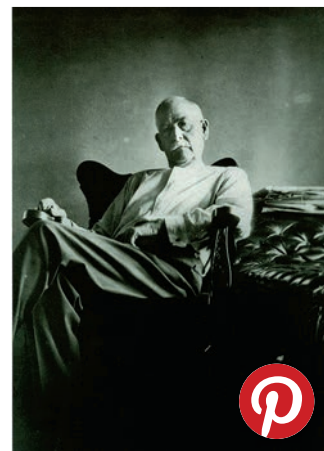


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Wyatt Earp, photographed in 1923, outlived most of his frontier contemporaries, living out his last days with Josephine Marcus in a rented bungalow in downtown Los Angeles. Find all your favorite Western figures on our Western Icons board.

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



— PHOTO COURTESY JEFF MOREY —

Outlaw John Shaw gulped his last whiskey while surrounded by 15 cowboys as the sun rose over the cemetery in Canyon Diablo, Arizona Territory. One problem: John Shaw was already dead. Read more about Old West outlaws on True West's Facebook page.



[Facebook.com/TWMag.com](https://www.facebook.com/TWMag.com)



True West Art Director Dan Harshberger and Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell share a Montgomery Ward moped, circa 1962. See more historic photos on Bob Boze Bell's blog.

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



— PHOTOGRAPH OF UNITA UTES ATTRIBUTED TO E.O. BEAMAN BY LESSARD —

Based on his adornments and painted body, this photograph of Unita Utes likely shows the warrior and his bride. For more historical facts and photographs, follow True West on Instagram at @TWMag.

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—By Stuart Rosebrook



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Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

Old Vaquero Saying

“God did not create hurry.”



Quotes

“A Ranger is an officer who is able to handle any given situation without definite instructions from his commanding officer or higher authority. This ability must be proven before a man becomes a Ranger.”

– Ranger Captain Bob Crowder

“I think that what separates our planet Earth from all the other planets is (1) the infield fly rule and (2) Boz Scaggs.”

– Thom Ross, artist and True West contributor

“Reject your sense of injury and the injury itself disappears.”

– Marcus Aurelius

“The worst pandemic in modern history was the Spanish flu of 1918, which killed tens of millions of people. Today, with how interconnected the world is, it would spread faster.”

– Bill Gates

“We have art so that we shall not die of reality.”

– Friedrich Nietzsche

“You can’t wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club.”

– Jack London

“Open your eyes, look within. Are you satisfied with the life you’re living?”

– Bob Marley

“I have a view about great art, whether it’s stories, poetry, music, whatever. None of it tells you anything new; it merely reminds you of something you already know but forgot you knew. And that’s what Larry [McMurtry] did. You start reading *Lonesome Dove*, and you feel you already know these people. That’s its great magic.”

– Bill Wittliff

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—they must be felt with the heart.”

– Helen Keller

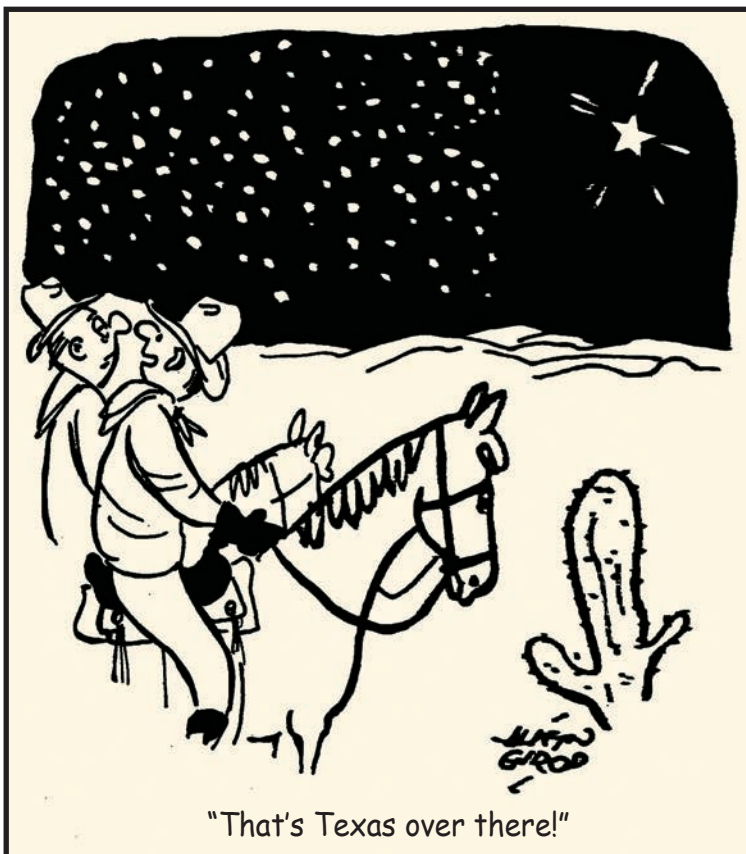
– THOM ROSS COURTESY THOM ROSS –



“When it comes time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song, and die like a hero going home.”

– Chief Aupumut, Mohican

True West Classic Cartoon JULY-AUGUST 1960



Want to enjoy more classic True West cartoons and great Western history from the True West Archives? Subscribe today at TWMag.com.

Survival Time

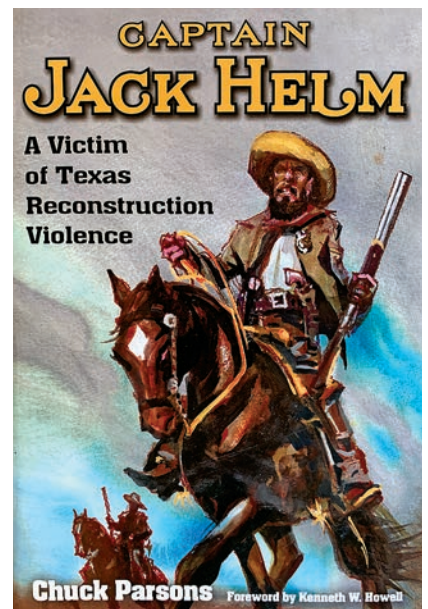
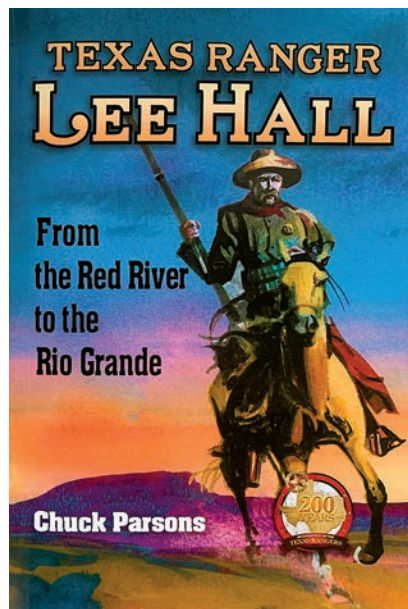
This fight has commenced.

History was being made as we finished this issue. The *True West* offices had been closed for over a week when we were getting this issue ready for the printer, and since we were all working from home, we were suffering from the isolation blues.

So, we held our first Zoom conference call on March 24, and it was illuminating, hopeful, and I must say, it is the future of our business.

The essence of the Zoom call is that the entire staff, all 12 of us, were on a conference call. About half of us were on video and the rest were just audio. We got to hear about sales efforts (our advertisers are holding strong), and we learned about our online sales (a subscription offer netted 190 new subs in the first two hours!). All of this points to a new way of doing business. One thing that will remain the same is that we are even more committed to giving you the history you want: straight up, with honesty and dedication. As our friend Randy Jensen put it: "Tough times never last but *True West* always will."

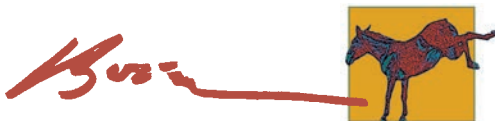
This issue is one of the best I have ever had the pleasure of working on. I attribute this to the talent and dedication that our editor, Stuart Rosebrook, brings to the table. Between him and our production and creative team, you are getting the very best scholarship and graphic sophistication I have ever experienced in my long tenure at this magazine. Not to mention our great feature writers Johnny D. Boggs, Chuck Parsons and our newest contributor, Ben Friberg, who have turned in some of their very best work. Enjoy this issue. If this team has anything to do with it, there will be many more to follow.



For the Love of the Texas Rangers

We have a long history of covering the Texas Rangers and *Lonesome Dove* in this magazine. Our best-selling issue ever (top, left) is highly collectible, and our very first True Westerner Award was presented to Larry McMurtry and Diana Osana in Tucson in March 2013 (top, right). Longtime friend of the magazine, Chuck Parsons, has two new books from the University of North Texas Press out on the Rangers, and he has great taste in artwork (yes, I did the covers).

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



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

OUR READERS REMIND US OF THE VARIABLES AND VAGARIES OF HISTORIC TRUTHS, “WELL-ESTABLISHED” FACTS, HEADLINES AND HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS.

CHRISTIAN, ANIMIST OR BOTH?

I read with interest Win Blevin’s article “Death of a Mountain Man” on Jedediah Smith (December 2019), particularly his statement that “[t]he irony may be that Smith made the mountaintop his altar in a different sense—that he replaced, symbolically, the altar of the Christian church with his mountaintop as an object of worship.” What basis does Blevin have for this assumption?

We have numerous letters by Smith verifying his strong Christian faith including a letter he wrote to his brother in 1831 (the year of Jed’s death) that heavily quotes from the King James Bible. This does not sound like a man whose devotion to Christianity was flagging and veering to animistic mountain worship, but instead a man so engrossed with the Christian Scriptures, he quoted three times from the Bible in a short missive.

*Aaron Robert Woodard, PhD
author of The Revenger: The Life and Times
of Wild Bill Hickok
Hartford, South Dakota*

THE WHITE INDIAN IN THE TREE

I read with great interest the statement in the box titled “The Mysterious Sniper On Sharpshooter Ridge” (page 42, February/March 2020 issue) that “a dead white man was found in a burial tree near the village.” In all my reading on the Little Bighorn, I’ve never heard of this. Can you let me know the source?”

*Robert Schwarzwald
Chesapeake, Virginia*

It came from a map made by an unnamed officer with the Gibbon/Terry command. It was noted along the tree line next to the river where the entire command camped on the evening of June 28/29. They only made four miles carrying the wounded and spent the night below Custer Hill on the opposite side of the river. He was buried on a scaffold or in a tree burial, as I recall meaning he probably was with the Sioux. Most Cheyenne were buried in rock crevices.

*Michael Donahue
Park Ranger/Historical Interpreter,
Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument
Belton, Texas*

FRONTIER PHOTOGRAPHER CHRISTIAN BARTHELMESS

I’m Rosemary Barthelmess Zettler, granddaughter of Christian Barthelmess, the photographer whose work you included in Stuart Rosebrook’s “Eyewitness to History” in the February/March 2020 issue. What immense joy your coverage gave me. You made the heart of this 93-year-old lady truly sing!

*Rosemary Zettlere
Aliso Viejo, California*



Frederic Remington’s dramatic painting *Jedediah Smith’s Party Crossing the Mojave Desert* evokes the courage and physical challenges Smith (inset) and his fur trapping parties regularly experienced in their ventures across the West. Win Blevin’s classic mountain man biography *Give Your Heart to the Hawks*, which was excerpted in the December 2019 issue, explores, with some controversy (see, at top), the life of the Christian fur trapper.

— JEDEDIAH SMITH PORTRAIT COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/FREDERIC REMINGTON PAINTING COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

HISTORIAN DELUXE: BOB UTLEY

Thank you for the video* of excerpts from your interview with Bob Utley about his encounter with Trooper Charles Windolph and early career working at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. Viewing it brought tears to my eyes for several reasons. It’s wonderful to have a record—written and video—of one of our most respected historians turning 90 years of age. For me, watching Utley share memories from his life working at the battlefield is heartwarming; it touches me deeply.

*Bob Reece
Harlingen, Texas*

I was pleased to see the recognition accorded to Bob Utley by Bob Boze Bell. In addition to being a world-class expert on the Indian Wars, Mr. Utley is also a past Chief Historian for the National Park Service. In this role he pushed for and obtained support for the National Historic Preservation Act, the guiding light for all efforts to preserve American history including the National Register of Historic Places.

*Bob Rybolt
Randallstown, Maryland*

*The video interview of historian Bob Utley is available exclusively to subscribers at TrueWestMagazine.com

CHIEF JOSEPH

I wanted to write and say I recently bought the Chief Joseph issue (“I Will Fight No More Forever” and “On the Trail of Yellow Wolf” by Candy Moulton, February-March 2020) as it directly applies to my husband and his family as they are direct descendants of Old Chief Joseph (Chief Joseph’s dad). By the way, Yellow Wolf is also linked to my husband’s family who made it into Canada and are the non-treaty signing Nez Perce from the Wallowa Bands.

*Geneve Bean-Allen
Culdesac, Idaho*

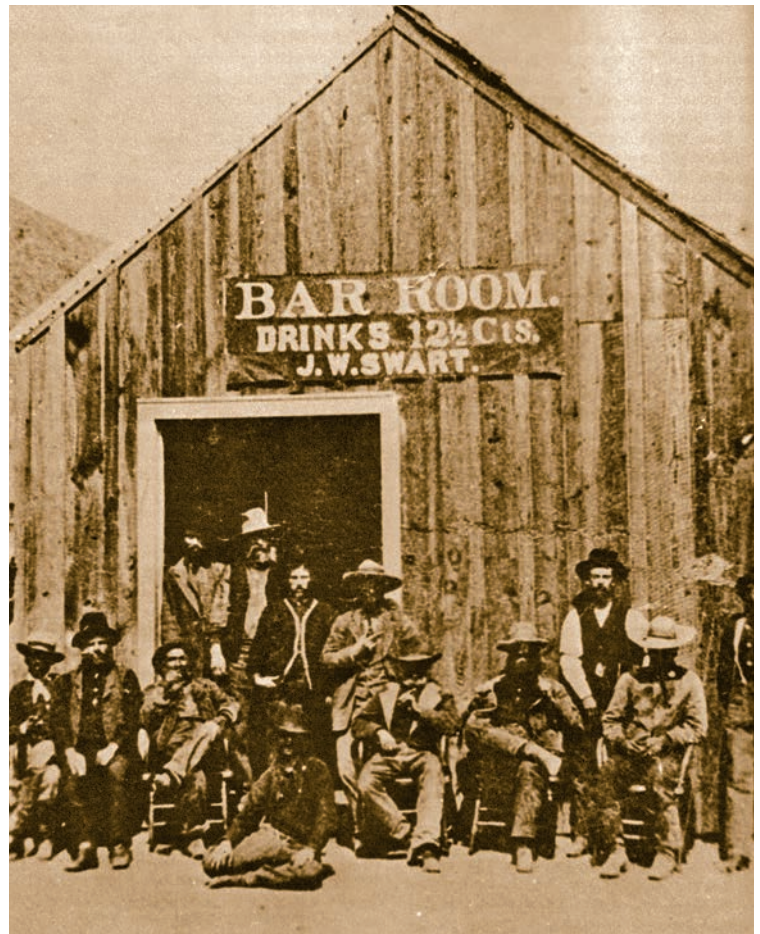


A year after Chief Joseph and his bands of Nez Perce surrendered at the Battle of Bear Paw in Montana Territory, the lauded Indian leader was living as a prisoner of war at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. During his imprisonment, which lasted eight years before he could return to Oregon, he sat in 1878 for this portrait by Cyrenius Hall. Some descendants of his family live today in Idaho (see letter above) and Washington.

– COURTESY NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, NPG.68.19 –

Today, Charleston, Arizona, is a ghost town in Cochise County, but during the 1870s and 1880s, the San Pedro River mill town was a notorious hangout for outlaws and cow-boys, many of whom were known to share a drink at J.W. Swart’s Bar Room (below).

– COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



SWART OR STEWARD

In John Boessenecker’s January 2020 article “Ride the Devil’s Herd” you have a picture of a watering hole owned by one J.W. Steward. But the sign above the door reads, “J.W. Swart.” Did he simply run out of room or what?

*Gary L. Sowers
Redding, California*

Interesting question and spot on. Our intrepid fact-checkers missed that difference in spelling and the correct spelling is Swart, which is Dutch for black. A descendent of Jacob W. Swart believes his Charleston, Arizona Territory, saloon-owning relative is standing in the doorway with the tall-crowned white hat.



BY MARK BOARDMAN

Handsome Jack

Wichita outlaw-turned-hotelier died the way he lived—violently.

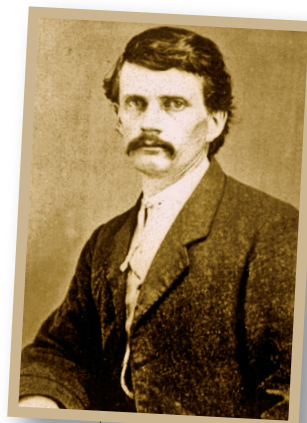
“ Handsome Jack” Ledford had a reputation around Wichita, Kansas, in late 1870. On the surface, he was respectable—married to a local girl, proprietor of the swank Harris House Hotel, a community leader. But the background whispers said he used to run an outlaw gang through Kansas and Indian Territory, robbing and rustling and killing. That was in the past. Maybe.

The Army believed that Ledford and cohorts had attacked one of their wagon trains in the fall of 1870—stealing the cargo and murdering some teamsters. Officials wanted him brought in. So they contacted Deputy U.S. Marshal Jack Bridges. There was a problem with this. Some months before, Bridges and Ledford had a disagreement. Handsome Jack pistol-whipped the lawman, who responded with threats to shoot the hotelier the next time he saw him. The bad blood remained.

On February 28, Bridges put together a posse that included 25 soldiers from nearby

Fort Harker, and they began searching for Ledford throughout Wichita. He wasn't at his home or the Harris House, or at any of his favorite watering holes. Finally, somebody suggested checking a privy behind a saloon; in fact, he'd taken refuge there. They surrounded the hide-out-house and ordered the suspect to surrender. Instead, Ledford came charging out, firing guns in each hand as he advanced. The posse responded; Handsome Jack was hit in the back and arm. He died a few minutes later. But before he went down, Ledford managed to put a bullet through the right arm of his nemesis, Deputy Marshal Bridges—a serious wound that required months of recuperation.

Local authorities were a bit suspicious of the whole event, especially given the history between Bridges and Ledford. That afternoon, a justice of the peace authorized arrest warrants for three men, including the deputy



marshal, charging them with first degree murder in the shootout. But the entire posse had already left town. There's no indication the warrants were ever served, and the three were not arrested or tried.

But there's a strange historical connection to the killing of Handsome Jack Ledford. Just a couple of doors down from his hotel, widow Catherine McCarty and her sons lived above her laundry business. It's quite likely that the three saw part of the fight. Even more probable, the McCartys viewed the scene just after the battle, when crowds gathered to see what had gone on.

Catherine's oldest boy Henry might have been fascinated by what he saw. In a few years, under the name William H. Bonney (alias Antrim, alias The Kid, alias Billy the Kid), he would have some similar disagreements in Lincoln County, New Mexico.



Arch enemies Deputy U.S. Marshal Jack Bridges and “Handsome” Jack Ledford’s final shootout in Ledford’s back alley hideout of Wichita, Kansas, led to the outlaw-hotelier’s death and Bridges being charged with first-degree murder. Ledford, a Civil War veteran, is buried in Wichita’s Highland Cemetery (right).

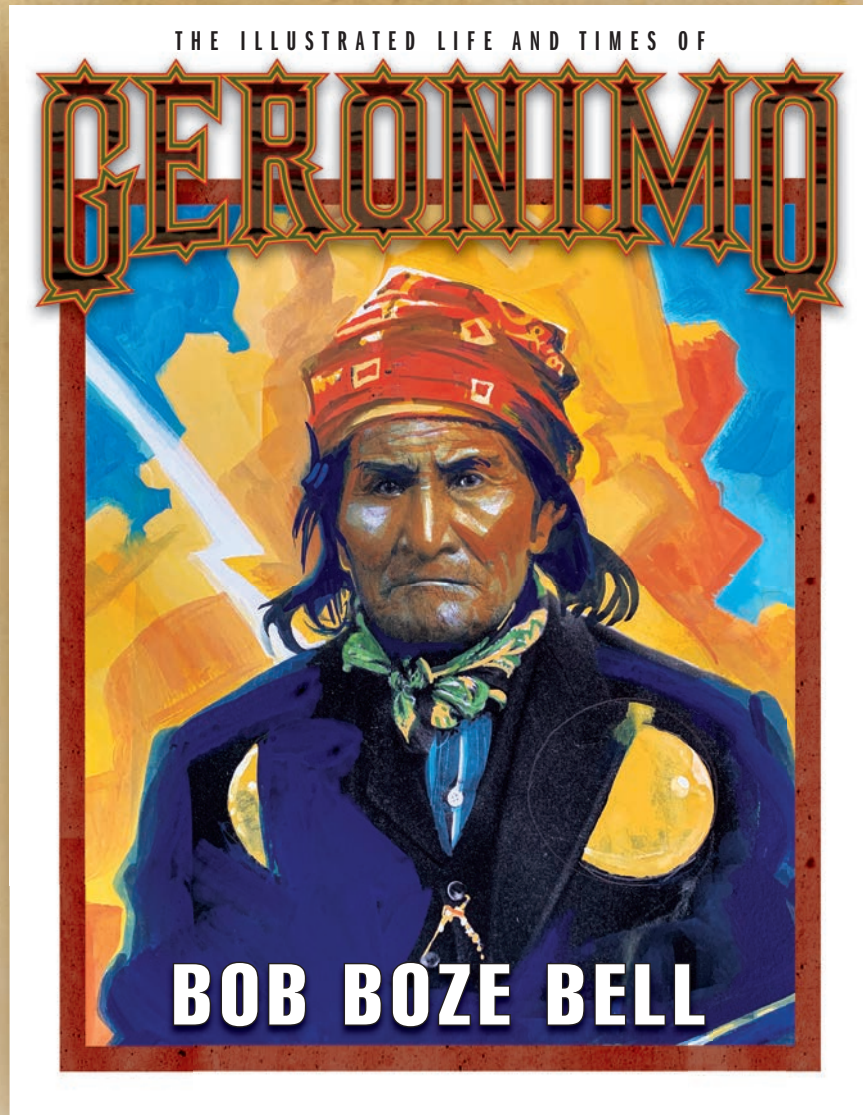
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Bell’s trade-mark blend of superb artwork, authoritative research, and fast-paced prose—always accompanied by a wicked sense of humor—makes this another masterful, must-have Boze western book.”

—Paul Andrew Hutton



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BY JOHN LANGELLIER

Firearms, Folk Art and Cowboy Collectibles

The new year of Western auctions starts strong with Brian Lebel's Old West Auction.



A Stetson may be a cowboy's crowning glory, but a pair of spurs separates the men from the boys. Jesus M. Tapia (1856–1931) was one of the finest artisans ever to handcraft these jingling essentials, which went for \$29,500.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF BRIAN LEBEL'S OLD WEST EVENTS. ALL PRICES INCLUDE BUYERS' PREMIUMS. —

As I made my way through room after room and aisle after aisle of tables at the 30th Annual Old West Auction in Mesa, I felt as if I were going behind the scenes at some of the West's greatest museums. Even with easy internet access these days, there is nothing like seeing and handling authentic links to the past.

In addition to the treasure trove at the show, the auction on Friday and Saturday hosted more than 800 people over the two nights. According to a release from Brian Lebel's Old West, bidders contributed to more than \$1.3 million in sales with a 94 percent sell-through rate. Cordy Rich's decades of combing galleries, shows and auctions served as the centerpiece of the live sales with one of the top lots, a classic Henry rifle's bid of \$70,800 with premium, numbering among the January 24-25 stars. Another fine example from Rich's holdings, a superbly engraved M1860 .44 caliber Army

revolver, fetched \$47,200, a considerable amount over the \$18,000 high estimate.

Not everything that brought impressive prices were firearms. Among the many diverse pieces that went on the block, a carved, wooden "Robb Princess" cigar store Indian realized \$13,310, while a pair of incredible Jesus Tapia spurs were purchased at \$29,500.

Not to be outdone, silver screen cowboys were sought after as well. It should have come as no surprise that Clint Eastwood's *Pale Rider* hat far exceeded its estimated \$500 to 800. When the gavel fell, one of many determined bidders paid \$7,865 for this iconic movie item.



This fall, the University of North Texas Press will release **John Langellier's** newest title, *Scouting with the Buffalo Soldiers: Lieutenant Powhatan Clarke, Frederic Remington, and the 10th Cavalry in the Southwest*.



Although barely two decades old, Dale Harwood's Traditional Cowboy Arts Association exhibition saddle demonstrated that an object's age has nothing to do with its collectability.

Combining form and function, this saddle sold for \$26,550.



The \$60,000 to \$70,000 estimate for this splendid Henry repeating rifle .44 caliber rimfire, S/N 10587, was on target with a bid of \$70,800 bringing the firearm home to some fortunate collector.



William F. Cody in the persona of Buffalo Bill helped establish the legendary West. His *Wild West* featured many colorful characters such as Capt. A.H. Bogardus, who along with his sons, went on the road to thrill crowds with their target shooting and other antics. A colorful mid-1880s lithograph, believed to be the only surviving copy, was well worth the \$17,700 price.



This magnificent M1860 Colt Army, S/N 154301/E, graced the cover of the impressive catalog for the 30th Annual Mesa Old West Auction. The revolver, which came boxed with powder flask and other accessories, sold for \$47,200.



A descendent of Scottish ship carvers, Samuel Anderson Robb (1851-1928) proudly carried on the family tradition. His tobacco figure was a classic 19th-century rendition that sold for \$13,310.

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Western Portraits, Unsung Heroes and Villains of the Silver Screen

Here's a book of old-timey-style photographs, along with biographies of unforgettable movie and TV Western personalities.

Those of us who love Westerns recognize certain actors the moment they appear on the big or small screen. Several have become stars like Karl Malden, Bruce Boxleitner, Bo Hopkins and David and Robert Carradine. Many others are recognized merely by their faces, although their names may not be as well-known by the average moviegoer.

Fans of the cinema will undoubtedly appreciate the efforts of photographer and film director, Steve Carver (*Lone Wolf McQuade*) in creating a colorful collection of 19th-century-style portraits of the good, the bad and the questionable character actors of movies and TV, and those whose jobs keep them behind the camera. Carver's

All of the photographs in the hardcover book *Western Portraits, The Unsung Heroes & Villains of the Silver Screen* were shot in color, then converted to frontier-era-style sepia tone. This pre-sepia, color shot shows *True West*'s Firearms Editor, Phil Spangenberg, depicting a buffalo hunter with his "Big Fifty" (.50-90) Shiloh Sharps, and his Cimarron Firearms "45," single-action revolver. Phil has worked both behind and in front of the camera in *Hidalgo*, *Wild Wild West*, *American Outlaws*, Mel Gibson's *Maverick*, the History Channel's *Wild West Tech*, *Tales of the Gun* and many other shows.

- ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE CARVER PHOTOGRAPHY -



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Among the collections you'll find stories of area cowboy Wild Horse Robbins and his adventures gathering wild mustangs and an outstanding collection of American Indian artifacts. Rodeo contractor Charlie Irwin's larger than life bib-overalls are always a favorite among children visiting the museum. Equally popular is the jackalope, created right here in Douglas, Wyoming!



The museum is also home to a tepee used in the movie *Dances with Wolves*. If you think tepee architecture is simple, be sure to read the information on what went into building a tepee to ensure its stability and the escape of smoke from the apex.

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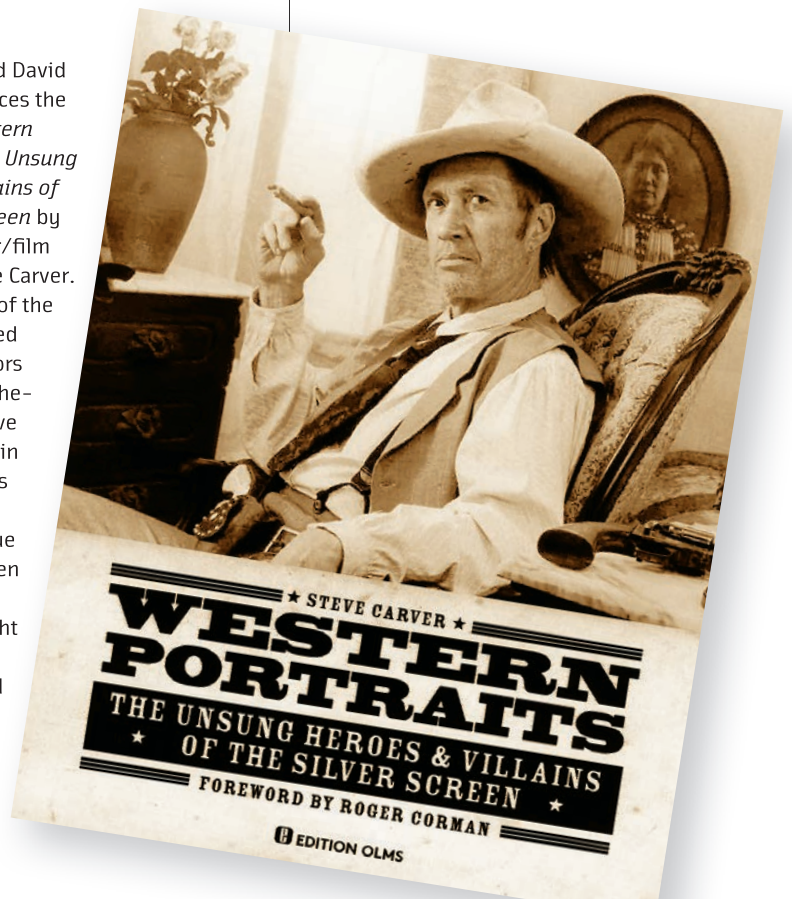
hardcover book, *Western Portraits, The Unsung Heroes & Villains of the Silver Screen*, published by Edition Olms AG, uses a unique photographic technique that required extended time exposures, creative lighting and special photographic equipment to create sepia images similar to those of the classic photographs of Edward Sheriff Curtis and other late 19th- and early 20th-century portrait photographers. Twenty-three years in the making, Carver's collection—of 83 of film-dom's most respected character actors and behind-the-scenes creative personalities—offers a unique look at the men and women who've so colorfully brought the Old West to the screen.

Each personality, dressed in period duds, was photographed in a different authentic Western setting—a cabin, teepee, saloon, etc.—complete with period props, firearms and other frontier furnishings. Gun fans will especially enjoy seeing the array of Colt revolvers and shotguns, as well as Sharps, Springfield, Winchester and Henry rifles packed by the personalities. Each image tells a story simply through the character and the scene. Film biographies on each entry were written by award-winning novelist/film journalist/screenwriter C. Courtney Joyner, the work's co-author. As an additional treat, the foreword was penned by famed movie



Bruce Boxleitner has starred in many Westerns including *How the West Was Won*, *Kenny Rogers' Gambler* TV features, *I Married Wyatt Earp*, *Wild Times*, *Aces N' Eights* and more. In *Western Portraits*, outlaw Boxleitner stands ready to shoot it out with the law, well-armed with what appears to be an 1892 Winchester, his Peacemaker Colt and a backup '77 Colt Lightning in his waistband. For extra insurance his .45-70, 1873 Springfield carbine is nearby. Besides his work in Westerns, Bruce is a favorite with science fiction fans of the shows *Babylon 5* and *Tron*.

Screen legend David Carradine graces the cover of *Western Portraits, The Unsung Heroes & Villains of the Silver Screen* by photographer/film director Steve Carver. Featuring 83 of the most respected character actors and behind-the-scenes creative personalities in Westerns, this colorful work offers a unique look at the men and women who've brought the Old West to the big and small screen.





Cowhand Al Fleming has just rounded up his gear before saddling up. Packing his hogleg Colt in cross-draw fashion, a double-barreled scattergun and an 1892 Winchester wait to be stored in the outfit's wagon. Although Fleming often worked behind the scenes in Westerns, doing makeup, designing and constructing period-correct costuming (he's wearing buckskin trousers of his own making), and other historical consulting work, his towering frame and Western appearance brought him onscreen in a number of oaters including *Wild Bill*, *How the West Was Won*, *Wagon Train*, *Lawman* and TV's *Magnificent Seven*.



Lovely Barbara Luna, who's appeared in over a hundred TV and feature films, gets serenaded, before whirling around the cantina's dance floor. Watch out, though, this beautiful señorita packs more than charm in her flowing dances; she has a Storekeeper's model Colt 1877 Thunderer to tuck behind her fan... just in case that hombre to her right gets a little rambunctious! Luna has starred in trail dust sagas including Disney's TV *Zorro*, *Tales of Wells Fargo*, *Death Valley Days* and the feature *Firecreek*, among others.

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Just idlin' his time away in the barn...until the ramrod of the outfit shows up, Tom Bower is an actor who can morph into about any character needed, from comedic to serious. A veteran of many Westerns, he's played memorable parts in frontier-period films like TNT's *Riders of the Purple Sage*, *Buffalo Soldiers* and *The Avenging Angel*, and on the big screen in *Appaloosa*, and PBS's *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*, to list just a few.

producer/director Roger Corman, who offered his thoughts on the importance of America's iconic genre, the Western.

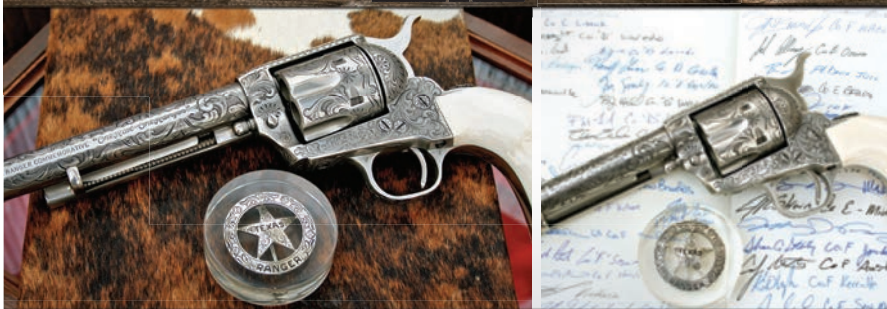
Western Portraits, The Unsung Heroes & Villains of the Silver Screen features portraits of the cinema's familiar faces, including Hugh O'Brian (*The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp*), L.Q. Jones (*The Wild Bunch, Ride the High Country, Flaming Star*), Richard Herd (*Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman, The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr.*), Clu Gulager (*The Tall Man, The Virginian*), Mitchell Ryan (*Monte Walsh, High Plains Drifter*), Martin Kove (*Wyatt Earp, Once Upon a Time in...Hollywood*) and others. You'll enjoy perusing the photos of the actors, and see some behind-the-scenes personalities, like Rob Word, film producer and creator of the internet's popular *A Word On Westerns* celebrity interviews, which has received 10 million views as of this writing. There's even a couple of faces you wouldn't expect to see in a work on Western films—comedians Buddy Hackett and Louis Nye, and you can read of their Western connections.



Bobby Carradine's portrait looks as if he's saying, "I don't got to show you no stinkin' badge!" The frontier detective got his film career off to a great start as one of John Wayne's young drovers in one of the Duke's classics, *The Cowboys!* Since then, he's been in other notable Westerns like *The Long Riders*, Tom Selleck's remake of *Monte Walsh* and *Django Unchained*, along with several other non-Western roles, including the wildly popular *Revenge of the Nerds* feature comedies.

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I was humbled to have been selected to pose for this volume because of my own career, both behind and in front of the camera in movies, television, and producing and performing in live Wild West shows around the world. Besides being a feature writer for *True West*, *Guns & Ammo* and other magazines, I've had the opportunity to serve as a historical consultant for movies and TV, and as a gun coach to Charlton Heston, Mel Gibson, Tom Berenger, Milla Jovovich, Patrick Swayze and Rob Lowe, to name a few. Yours truly has also appeared onscreen in *The Mountain Men*, *Wild Wild West*, *Hidalgo* and other oaters, along with

Few actors have left the powerful impressions that R.G. Armstrong has, portraying the iron-willed, sometimes good and sometimes wrong-doing, law of the Bible or the gun, characters. With memorable roles in the classic Westerns *Ride the High Country*, *Major Dundee*, *Pat Garrett and Billy The Kid* and so many more, his powerful frame, steady eyes and resolute depictions, have left us with a legacy of unforgettable performances.



Nobody messes with lawman Richard Herd, with his Colt smokewagon in one hand and a double-barreled scattergun in the other and a no-nonsense look on his face. While you may not immediately think of veteran actor Herd appearing in a Western, he's certainly done his share of shoot-'em-ups, having guest-starred in cowboy favorites like *Support Your Local Sheriff*, *The War Wagon*, *Kate Bliss* and *the Ticker Tape Kid* and *Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman*.



"Who says women can't ride or shoot?" says cowgirl Stefanie Powers, a veteran actor and accomplished equestrienne who's proficient in the outdoor action often required in doing Westerns. Having ridden a long trail full of varied cinematic credits, this strong, pretty lass has broken cowboys' hearts and shown off her Wild West capabilities in horse operas including John Wayne's *McLintock!*, *Lancer* and *The Magnificent Seven Ride!* and in TV's *Kung Fu*, *Bat Masterson* and more.

Gun-totin' beauty Ruta Lee beautifully dresses up her Victorian ladies' boudoir set with her double-barrel shotgun. Ruta has co-starred in 10 feature films including *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *Bullet for a Badman*, and played over 50 TV roles in Westerns like *Gunsmoke*, *Maverick*, *Rawhide* and *Wagon Train*. Ruta Lee is also one of the most delightful ladies you'd ever have the pleasure of meeting.

a featured portrayal of a bad hombre in the DVD flick *Vengeance Trail*. For TV, my work varied from appearing as a fire-arms/Old West "expert talking head," and as a mounted re-enactor, to casting players for a number of shows, and doubling as an assistant director for several scenes in quite a few documentaries. These included the History Channel's *Wild West Tech*, *Conquerors*, *The Texas Rangers* and *Tales of the Gun*; the Discovery Channel's *Unsolved History*; episodes for the American Heroes Channel; and other cable network presentations. Looking back, I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been able to make much of my living in such colorful and enjoyable pursuits.

If you are a Western film fan, you're going to enjoy the intriguing images and interesting text in this 264-page, 8½ by 10½-inch hardcover volume. Retailing for \$50, this is much more than a coffee table book; it's a captivating and informative "Who's Who" of the celluloid West. I'm sure you'll love it.

Author's Note: *If you would like to purchase a copy of Steve Carver's Western Portraits, The Unsung Heroes & Villains of the Silver Screen, it is available at Amazon.com.*



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



These five well-armed Texas Rangers and their dog are believed to have served under the leadership of legendary Ranger Captain Rip Ford in the Texas territory between the Rio Grande and Nueces River in 1850 and 1851. Most of their action was fighting the Comanches, including the capture of war chief Carne Muerta.

- COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS -

The



Real Texas Rangers

Armed AND Dangerous

Nearly two centuries ago, Texas founding father Stephen F. Austin unofficially created the Texas Rangers to protect his fledgling colonists farming and ranching near the colony's capital of Velasco, along the Brazos River near the Gulf Coast. Ever since Austin's visionary call to arms in 1823, the Texas Rangers have been greatly admired, honored, respected—and feared—enforcers of the law. They have served in war and peace—on both sides of the border in the colony, republic and state. They fought in the Texas War of Independence, the Mexican and Civil wars and defended Texas against invasions from Mexico countless times. The Rangers' hard-fought battles with their Mexican adversaries earned them the nickname "*Los Diablos Tejanos*"—"the Texas Devils."

Since *True West* began publishing from Austin, Texas, in 1953, the history of the Texas Rangers—and the men who wore the badge and rode the Texas range in defense of the Lone Star State—has remained a constant source of inspiration for our editors, contributors and readers. In 2020, as Texas begins a three-year bicentennial commemoration of the storied law-enforcement agency, *True West's* editors have asked two of our regular contributors, Ranger historian Chuck Parsons and Western author and film historian Johnny D. Boggs, to share their expertise on the men who wore the star of a Texas Ranger and on the 35th anniversary of Larry McMurtry's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Lonesome Dove*.

So, saddle-up and ride the whirlwind as Parsons and Boggs take you down the trail of Texas's legendary lawmen and define why they remain icons of the Old West.



BY CHUCK PARSONS

La Frontera

FROM THE SETTLEMENT OF TEXAS TO THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION, THE TEXAS RANGERS WERE THE MOST RESPECTED—AND FEARED—LAW ENFORCERS IN LONE STAR STATE HISTORY.

During the 1820s the province of Texas was an ideal place for spreading terror. Comanche raiding parties swept down from the Great Plains to kill settlers or anyone who got in their way, and to kidnap women and children. The vastness of what is today Texas was a problem for the Mexican government. Moses Austin came up with an idea: colonize the area with Americans from the southern states, providing history with “The Old 300” families who were brave enough—or foolish enough—to leave the security of their homes in the South to forge a new life in this great frontier.

In 1823 Stephen F. Austin employed ten men to do an impossible task: protect the early settlers. This marks the beginning of the iconic Texas Rangers. John “Jack” C. Hays, Sam Walker, Ben McCulloch, John B. Jones, Frank Hamer... these are just a few of the names which have become familiar to all. Men such as these became the mold for others to follow. Today the Texas Ranger is recognized throughout the world as the symbolic figure of the quintessential peace officer.

Few Texas Rangers have come from Texas... and one who gained fame was from North Carolina: Jesse Lee Hall, born in 1849. After the Civil War, adventure drew him to Texas, where he became a lawman first in Grayson County, then in Austin. He gained fame as a lieutenant under Capt. Leander H. McNelly. He then was made captain. His philosophy was



Captain James Abijah Brooks posed with members of his Company F in south Texas during the troubles with the insurrectionist Catarino Garza. Brooks is standing at far left; typically, the captains carried only a revolver as weaponry. This 1891 photograph shows his men booted and spurred with Winchesters at the ready.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

the same as his first captain: get the job done, no matter what. His targets were thieves and murderers of all types, on either side of the Rio Grande.

From 1875 to 1880, Hall was a ranger. He fell to no outlaw’s bullet, but to the heart of a young woman who insisted he resign from the Rangers if he wanted her hand in marriage. He didn’t insist on her becoming a Texas Ranger’s wife. If he had, he may have become one of the “Four Great Captains” along with John R. Hughes, Bill McDonald, James A. Brooks and John H. Rogers. Or he may have fallen to an outlaw’s bullet as Capt. Frank Jones.

Hall resigned from the Rangers and eventually served during the Spanish-American War and later in the Philippine Insurrection. Wounds suffered in battle there forced him to leave the service. He died in 1911 and is buried in the National Cemetery in San Antonio.



Although unidentified, these eight bust photos gathered and framed by a collector, could easily be Texas Rangers of the late 1850s through 1860s period. They are wearing period clothing and some eagerly show off their weapons.

Chuck Parsons' works focus on the real Texas Rangers and the outlaws they chased. His biographies of Wes Hardin, Jack Helm and John R. Hughes established him as a quality researcher. His latest book is *Texas Ranger Lee Hall: From the Red River to the Rio Grande* (University of North Texas Press, 2020).



John Woodard "Wood" Saunders (left) and J. Walter Durbin were photographed in south Texas. Wood Saunders began as a Ranger under Capt. Neal Coldwell in 1874 in Company F. He served off and on for many years, serving under Capt. Lamar P. Sieker, George H. Schmitt, Frank Jones and John R. Hughes. Saunders was in the squad on Pirate Island when the ambush resulted in the assassination of Capt. Frank Jones. He was honorably discharged in 1903. During those many dangerous years he also served as a "protection man" on the huge XIT Ranch in the Panhandle of Texas, served as a deputy in El Paso County, a deputy under Pat Garrett (after the killing of the Kid) and a U.S. Customs Agent before his death on July 11, 1913, in San Antonio. This image also shows John Walter Durbin, who served nearly as many years as Saunders. He left the service for a brief period with "Bass" Outlaw and John R. Hughes to earn a higher salary guarding mine shipments in Mexico. Durbin later became sheriff of Frio County from 1892 to 1896, then served on the police force in San Antonio. He died on September 19, 1916. "Lawing" was truly in his blood.



This view shows Capt. Ira Long with Company B, Frontier Battalion, during the late 1870s, preparing to start on a scout, somewhere near Fort Concho in West Texas. At left, the men are loading the mules with necessary scouting rations. Captain Long is mounted Ranger second from left. This image has "Saunders & Lester, Photographers" stamped on back.



Frequently published in Texas Ranger biographies, these four fortunately bear identification. Standing from left are J. Walter Durbin with James "Jim" W. King. Seated are George Parker and Robert McNamar. This image was made in Rio Grande City in October 1887.



This exquisite image of Lee Hall is the first known photograph of the lawman. The original is a mere .5" x 1" held in a 2.75" x 1.75" gutta percha frame of floral design. This locket with image was certainly a gift from Hall intended for—perhaps—future wife Bessie C. Weidman or it could have been intended for an unknown lady.

— COURTESY THE KURT HOUSE COLLECTION —

The Real Texas Rangers

This photo is one of a group of great images of Company D at Camp Leona near Uvalde, Texas, by photographer Frank Chapman. With the absence of Capt. Frank Jones, young Austin Ira Aten, in temporary command is standing with coffee cup in hand. Seated on the ground, from left: J.W. King, Frank Schmid, Ernest Rogers, Calvin G. Aten—younger brother of Ira Aten, Walter Jones, Charles Fusselman, J. Walter Durbin, James R. Robinson, John R. Hughes and Bazel L. "Bass" Outlaw. With the assassination of Fusselman and then Frank Jones, Sgt. John R. Hughes became captain of Company D.



This Texas Ranger from the 1870s is obviously proud of his weaponry, the carbine and matched revolvers prominently displayed for the photographer and future generations. Unfortunately, no identification was provided.



A youthful Samuel H. Walker, whose name is immortalized by a pistol, the "Walker Colt," was photographed without the pistol. Walker became the first hero of the Mexican War because he bravely delivered war messages to Gen. Zachary Taylor during the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. Together, Walker and Samuel Colt redesigned the five-shot Paterson revolver into a six-shot .44 caliber revolver, named the Colt Walker. Walker later returned to the Mexican War battlefields but was killed October 9, 1847, at the Battle of Huamantla.



Noah H. Rose, collector of Western frontier photographs of the early 20th century, identified this image as Augustine Montaigne "Gus" Gildea, as he appeared in 1878, when he was associated with John Selman and his group of desperadoes. Gildea himself may have termed this band of outlaws as "Selman's Scouts," who operated in New Mexico and claimed he was first lieutenant under outlaw John Selman. Gildea left several autobiographies, none complete or totally truthful. He was a wanted man, however, as Governor Lew Wallace listed wanted men of Lincoln County and in addition to Billy the Kid's was Gildea's name. He wisely left Lincoln County and found more peaceful pursuits in Arizona and Texas and drove at least one herd of cattle to Montana. In addition to his wanderings, he served in Company D Frontier Battalion from 1887 to 1890. This is an excellent image of a frontiersman "armed to the teeth" with six-shooter, knife, belts of ammunition and rifle.

James Thomas "Tom" Bird and friend John James Haynes were two young men from Blanco County who sought adventure a little further west. Haynes (at right) raised cattle and ranched while Bird became a Texas Ranger in the Frontier Battalion. Bird first served under Capt. Cicero Rufus Perry in Company D, having mustered in on May 25, 1874. He later served under Capt. Daniel W. Roberts, also in Company D, and finally under Lt. George W. Campbell in Company B. Note both wear knee-high boots, are proud of their revolvers, and Haynes with a wide-brim and low-crown hat which features hanging tassels.



The Real Texas Rangers



Standing at left is the tall sheriff of La Salle County, Charles Brown McKinney. This beautiful image shows him ready in the town or more likely in the brasada of south Texas. Note his white-handled Colt with bowie knife just before it, his trouser bottoms stuffed in his boots. In February 1885 McKinney, with former ranger Lee Hall, forged a peace treaty with Dr. O.C. Pope on an island in the Rio Grande which only temporarily stopped senseless killings between Mexicans and Anglos. Next to him is former Capt. L.H. McNelly Ranger George W. Farrow, serving as a deputy.

- COURTESY THE BRUSH COUNTRY MUSEUM, COTULLA, TEXAS -



John Salmon Ford (left) arrived in Texas shortly after the Battle of San Jacinto but joined the Texas army serving under Captain Jack Hays. He later practiced medicine for a number of years, then served in the Texas congress, served as editor of Austin's *Texas Democrat* newspaper. During the Mexican War he served as adjutant of Hays's company; one of his duties was to inform family members of the death of a loved one. He signed his letters with a "R.I.P" which shortly thereafter became his nickname. While in the Texas Rangers he fought Comanches as well as raiders under Juan Cortina. During the Civil War he commanded the 2nd Texas Cavalry and later served as mayor of Brownsville, Texas. In his later years, he wrote profusely of Texas history.

One of the more famous images of Company D showing Captain Frank Jones and a dozen of his men, proudly showing their weaponry. Standing at rear l.-r.: Jim King, Baz Outlaw, Riley Barton, Charles Henry Vanvalkenburg Fusselman, William "Tink" Durbin, Ernest Rogers and Walter Jones. Seated from l.-r.: Bob Bell, Cal Aten, Captain Jones, J. Walter Durbin, Jim Robinson and Frank Schmid. This beautiful image of Company D was made in Rio Grande City and backstamped "L.P. Beckham Photographer." Of this group, King, Outlaw, Fusselman and Captain Jones died violently, the former after service in the Rangers, while Fusselman and Jones were killed in the line of duty. The border then, as now, was a dangerous place.



Company D was not the only company of the Frontier Battalion who posed for a photographer. This image shows Capt. James A. Brooks with his Company F (left) somewhere in south Texas in 1888. This is a unique image as it also shows John H. Rogers, a future ranger captain. Standing l.-r.: Frank Carmichael, Bob Bell, Curren "Kid" Rogers, younger brother of John H. Rogers, Gene Bell and Jim Harry. Seated l.-r.: Tupper Harris, Sgt. J.H. Rogers, Capt. James A. Brooks, Charles Rogers and Bob Crowder.



This is among the frequently exhibited Ranger images of the 1890s period, probably because the photographer posed the men well showing their weapons. Standing are Pvts. Robert Speaks and Jim Putman, the latter having survived the bloody shootout with Fine Gilliland in the Glass Mountains of West Texas. Seated are Alonzo "Lon" Oden and Cpl. John Reynolds "Border Boss" Hughes. Oden later wrote of his experiences as a Texas Ranger. This image of four men of Company D was made at Shafter in Presidio County.



Ranger Capt. Joseph Shely and his men of Company F were photographed in 1882. Standing, from left: James M. Buck, first sheriff of La Salle County; Samuel E. "Pete" Edwards; Captain Shely; George W. Farrow; William T. "Brack" Morris; and Charles Norris. Seated, from left: Washington W. Shely, younger brother of the captain; Tom Mabry; Robert Crowder; and Cecelio Charo.

- COURTESY WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA LIBRARIES, N.H. ROSE COLLECTION, #1409 -



Captain L.H. McNelly in 1872 was tasked to find and capture the Adjutant General of Texas, James Davidson, suspected of stealing thousands of dollars from the State Treasury. McNelly followed his trail to Montreal, Canada, but Davidson had managed to elude McNelly and eventually settled in New Zealand, never to return to Texas. This image is one of two made by Montreal photographer James Inglis.

- COURTESY THE ALBERT AND ETHEL HERZSTEIN LIBRARY, SAN JACINTO MUSEUM OF HISTORY, LA PORTE, TEXAS -

Lonesome Dove

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER LARRY MCMURTRY'S VISIONARY NOVEL WAS PUBLISHED, IT STILL INSPIRES OUR LOVE OF OLD WEST HISTORY.

The *Dallas Times Herald* newsroom was abuzz that summer of 1985. Practically everyone had a copy of Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove*.

We knew or at least knew of McMurtry, the Archer City native often seen wearing his "Minor Regional Novelist" sweatshirt. Those of us longing for a career in fiction could only dream of being that kind of minor regional novelist. McMurtry's *Horseman, Pass By* (1961), *Leaving Cheyenne* (1963), *The Last Picture Show* (1966) and *Terms of Endearment* (1975) had been adapted as movies, winning 10 Academy Awards with 16 other nominations. But in *Lonesome Dove*, McMurtry left behind his 20th-century West for an epic, 843-page cattle drive from South Texas to Montana.

Long novels of the West were not unheard of in the mid-1980s—such as James Michener's *Centennial* (1974) and Lucia St. Clair Robson's *Ride the Wind* (1982)—but the critical and commercial reaction to *Lonesome Dove* boggled the mind. Holding its own against Tom Clancy's *The Hunt for Red October*, John Irving's *The Cider House Rules* and Louis L'Amour's *Jubal Sackett*, *Lonesome Dove* sold almost 300,000 copies in hardcover and more than a million when



it was released in paperback. In 1986, the novel won the Pulitzer Prize.

My newspaper colleagues told me not to give up on *Lonesome Dove*. It took some of them 40 pages, even 140 pages, before they "really got into it." But McMurtry hooked me with the first line: "When Augustus came out on the porch the blue pigs were eating a rattlesnake—not a very big one." After knocking off work on the sports desk around 1 a.m., I returned home and read the last 180-plus pages, finishing at sunrise, in tears.

What surprised McMurtry was how readers interpreted his novel. As he later wrote, "I thought I had written about a harsh time and some pretty harsh people, but, to the public at large, I had produced something nearer to an idealization...."

The idea for the novel started as a screenplay for *The Last Picture Show* director Peter Bogdanovich, who wanted to make a period Western starring John Wayne, James Stewart and Henry Fonda. McMurtry's screenplay, "Streets of Laredo," never got produced, and after Wayne's death, McMurtry bought the rights back and began turning the idea into a novel. (*Lonesome Dove* contains some character names and plot elements from *Bandolero!*, a 1968 Western starring Stewart



Born in Matagorda County, Texas, in 1855, Charles A. Siringo started cowboying at age 16 for legendary Texan Abel Head "Shanghai" Pierce. By 1877, Siringo was driving cattle to Dodge City for the LX Ranch. His autobiography *A Texas Cow Boy: or, fifteen years on the hurricane deck of a Spanish pony, taken from real life* (above) is referenced by McMurtry's character Woodrow F. Call in *Streets of Laredo*, the second volume of the *Lonesome Dove* series.

— COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —



In 1985, when contemporary novelist Larry McMurtry's ambitious epic Old West novel *Lonesome Dove* was published, the romantic, idyllic portrayal of the American cowboy, cattle drives and Texas had been replaced with the anti-Western, modern Western heroes (Clint Eastwood's *Dirty Harry*, Larry Hagman's J.R. of *Dallas*). So, it was to Archer City, Texas, native McMurtry's great surprise that his epic violent frontier tale of the Lone Star State, which he thought of as more revisionist-Western than traditional Western, reignited America's romance and love affair with the true history of the real men and women who fought and died to settle the Western frontier.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

and written by James Lee Barrett from a story by Stanley L. Hough.)

McMurtry borrowed from the 1860s cattle drives of Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving from Texas to New Mexico, Nelson Story's 1866 drive from Texas to Montana and Andy Adams's 1903 novel *The Log of a Cowboy*. He then added strong women characters and mesmerizing prose to create what *Los Angeles Times* reviewer John Horn called "McMurtry's loftiest novel, a wondrous work, drowned in love, melancholy, and yet, ultimately, exultant."

In McMurtry's story, aging ex-Texas Rangers Woodrow Call and Augustus McCrae head the cattle drive. "McMurtry examines their bond—an unspoken and hardly understood friendship," the *Los Angeles Daily News* reviewed. "In western fiction, a like relationship seldom has been more finely crafted."

The Western film was supposed to be reinvigorated in 1985, but *Pale Rider* and *Silverado* never lived up to box-office and critical expectations. The Western TV-film revival would have to wait until *Young Guns* hit theaters in 1988, raking in roughly \$45 million, and *Lonesome Dove* aired as a four-part miniseries in February 1989, drawing 26 million viewers.

But McMurtry's novel helped pave the way for a slew of Western fiction with a literary bent: Gary Matthews's *Heart of the Country*, Pete Dexter's *Deadwood* and Ralph Beer's *The Blind Corral* (all 1986), Robert Flynn's *Wanderer Springs* (1987) and Glendon Swarthout's *The Homesman* (1988).

Great books, certainly, but *Lonesome Dove* became the 20th-century classic of the West. Says Austin, Texas-based novelist Stephen Harrigan (*The Gates of the Alamo, Remember Ben Clayton*): "It was one of those rare books that had everything: a relentlessly fast-moving story with two central characters—Gus McCrae and Woodrow Call—who were not just interesting on the page while you were reading but would reverberate in your memory for decades afterward."

In 1989, the *Dallas Times Herald* newsroom was abuzz again before the miniseries premiered on CBS. Robert Duvall would be perfect as Call, but Gus? Tommy



McMurtry, a well-read student of Texas Ranger history, cast many of his primary characters in *Lonesome Dove* and the three subsequent volumes in the *Lonesome Dove* series as Rangers—including the real William Alexander Anderson "Big Foot" Wallace in the third volume (the first, chronologically) *Dead Man's Walk*.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Lee Jones is too young to play Call! Robert Urich and Ricky Schroder—they can't act! Will screenwriter William D. Wittliff butcher McMurtry's story? Can director Simon Wincer pull this off?

We didn't know what Michigan-based author Loren D. Estleman, no slouch in the literary Western department (1984's *This Old Bill*, 1987's *Bloody Season*), knew.

TV Guide had sent Estleman to the *Lonesome Dove* set for a story.

"From the moment [Danny] Glover rode past me the first day, wearing Deets's

The Real Lonesome Dove

checked pants, I knew the miniseries was going to be an instant classic,” Estleman recalls.

Adds Harrigan, who also spent time on the set: “You could sense the weight of responsibility that the actors and crew were feeling. They knew Larry McMurtry’s novel was beloved, and that they would never be forgiven for ruining it.”

Estleman interviewed Glover while the actor was being treated for cuts and scratches on his legs. “He said he kept forgetting to put on protective long johns,” Estleman recalls. When Estleman asked



John George Adair and Charles Goodnight, an inspiration for McMurtry’s Woodrow F. Call character, founded the J.A. Ranch in Texas’s Palo Duro Canyon soon after the end of the Comanche Wars in 1876. Both McMurtry and the *Lonesome Dove* production team researched primary sources, including Irwin Smith’s ranch photography, to bring an authenticity to both the novel and the miniseries.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

Glover how a modern actor could identify with an 1870s character, Glover replied: “The moment I’m on a horse, I’m there.”

But it was Duvall who gave Estleman the quote he wanted to use for the title of the *TV Guide* story: “It’s going to be the Western *Godfather*.”

The editors didn’t see that and buried the story inside as part of a sweeps-week feature.

Nominated for 19 Emmys and winning seven, the *Lonesome Dove* miniseries became as revered as McMurtry’s novel, leading *Dallas Times Herald* colleague Frank Wooten to quip: “Next will come the TV series—with Jack Klugman as Gus.” A short-lived series, titled *Lonesome Dove: The Series* (1994-1995) and *Lonesome Dove: The Outlaw Years* (1995-1996), was quickly forgotten. Klugman couldn’t have hurt its reputation even if he had been cast.

But a four-part sequel, *Return to Lonesome Dove*, written by John Wilder and directed by Mike Robe, aired in 1993. McMurtry

had nothing to do with the sequel (and says he never watched all of the original), and got his revenge with his own sequel, *Streets of Laredo*, that came out the same year and killed off the character of Newt, played by Schroder in the original miniseries and sequel. Two other novels by McMurtry in

the series, *Dead Man’s Walk* (1995) and *Comanche Moon* (1997), also became miniseries. None recaptured the magic of the original novel or miniseries, which, Skip Hollandsworth pointed out for *Texas Monthly* in 2016, “were arguably more influential in shaping Americans’ vision of the Old West than the movies of John Ford.”

Decades have not diminished the impact of McMurtry’s original novel or the miniseries.

“Part of the magic of both the book and the miniseries is that Gus and Call are completely original but also archetypal, as perfect a pairing of human opposites as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson or Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock,” Harrigan says.

The novel and miniseries continue to influence writers—and even the families of writers. Says Austin-based novelist Elizabeth Crook (*Promised Lands*, *The Which Way Tree*):

“I didn’t finish reading the book because I got wind of the fact Gus was going to die, and I decided not to go through it. But I went through it in the movie, time and again, and so did my kids—Gus’s death, Jake Spoon’s death, Blue Duck’s.

“My son was 14 when I walked into his room and found the words Jake Spoon said before his hanging scrawled across an entire wall in huge letters: ‘I’d damn sight rather be hung by my friends than by a bunch of strangers.’”



The tacked-up Texas cowboy carrying what appears to be Angora woolie chaps in anticipation of cold-weather work is a sure sign he’s trailed north on the Goodnight-Loving Trail to the Northern Plains—similar to the trail the *Lonesome Dove* cowboys follow in the novel and the miniseries.

— COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —



The youthful, unnamed cowboy who sat for his photo for turn-of-the-last-century photographer Clarence H. Shaw could easily have been an inspiration for Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* teenage drover character, Newt Dobbs.

- COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -

McMurtry's ability to translate historical fact of a cowboy's life on the Western Trail from Texas to Montana (below) into literary, historical fiction is why 35 years after it was published, *Lonesome Dove* is considered the most influential novel in Western literature after Owen Wister's *The Virginian* (1902).

- COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -

"It was Blue Duck's death that impressed my daughter. She was about five when she watched him hurl himself from the jail window, and asked, pensively, 'Mama, did Blue Duck fail his life?'"

"It takes a great, timeless story to make a family sit and ponder the notion of whether a person can fail their life."



Johnny D. Boggs also binge-watched the *Lonesome Dove* miniseries in 1989, starting after knocking off work at the *Dallas Times Herald* and finishing, in tears, at dawn.



1940—Dinner Time at a Cowboys' Camp, Banks of the Yellowstone, Montana, U. S. A.

The Real Lonesome Dove



Diane Lane's portrayal of the town's only prostitute, Lorena Wood, opposite Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones in the 1989 TV miniseries *Lonesome Dove* earned her first Emmy nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Miniseries or a Special. Her tough, sassy, warm-hearted portrayal of Lorena was her first television appearance and only her second Western role; her first was at age 16 as "Little Britches" in *Cattle Annie and Little Britches* (1981).

— COURTESY CBS —



Legendary post-Civil War Texas cattleman Charles Goodnight (left) and Oliver Loving partnered up in 1866 to create a new trail west from Young County near Fort Belknap in north-central Texas to Fort Sumner, New Mexico. McMurtry's research of Goodnight and Loving in preparation for writing *Lonesome Dove* inspired his novel's lead characters Gus McCrae (Loving) and Woodrow Call (Goodnight).

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



Robert Duvall won a Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actor in a Miniseries or Motion Picture Made for Television for his iconic role as former Texas Ranger Capt. Augustus "Gus" McCrae in the CBS/Motown production of McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove*. While well-known for previous star-performances in *True Grit*, *The Godfather* and *Apocalypse Now* (arguably his Lt. Col. Bill Kilgore is a Western character), Duvall's turn as Gus redefined him into one of the most notable Western stars in popular culture history.

— COURTESY CBS —

Star-making roles in *Lonesome Dove* turned actors onto Westerns.

By Johnny D. Boggs

A trail boss walks into a bar.

"Excuse me," says the bartender, "aren't you Robert Duvall?"

No stranger to the genre after *True Grit* (1969), *The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid* (1972) and other Westerns, Duvall's performance as Gus McCrae in *Lonesome Dove* won him a Golden Globe. Duvall certainly channeled Gus in later roles: *Geronimo: An American Legend* (1993), *Open Range* (2003) and *Broken Trail* (2006).

Recalls Loren D. Estleman, covering *Lonesome Dove* for *TV Guide*: "The publicists were afraid to approach Robert Duvall to set up an interview, because he didn't break character gladly."

Duvall still doesn't appear to want to break the Gus character—and who could blame him?

Certainly, *Lonesome Dove* launched Diane Lane's star. Eight years earlier, Lane played "Little Britches" in director Lamont Johnson's underrated Western *Cattle Annie and Little Britches*. After her Emmy-nominated performance as the prostitute Lorena in *LD*, she had parts in Walter Hill's *Wild Bill* (1995) and the Western Heritage Wrangler Award-winning *The Virginian* (2000). Since *LD*, Lane has been nominated for another Emmy, three Golden Globes and an Oscar.

Surprisingly, one *LD* actor who hasn't found much Western success is Danny Glover (Deets). Although Glover appeared in TV's *Buffalo Soldiers* (1997), had an unbilled cameo in *Maverick* (1994) and likely wished he'd skipped *Diablo* (2015), he seemed made for the Western after *Silverado* (1985).

"I asked him if Deets, who was accepted and respected by his colleagues as an equal, was a less racial character than [*Silverado's*] Malachi, who had to fight just to get a drink in a saloon," Estleman says. "He said no. 'Deets is much more racial. Malachi went through life placing no limitations on himself. Deets has obvious limitations about what he can do, where he can go.'"

The actor with the most success in post-*LD* Westerns is Tommy Lee Jones, who scored Golden Globe and Emmy nominations for his performance as Woodrow Call.

Jones directed, starred in and co-wrote the Emmy-nominated *The Good Old Boys* (1995), based on Elmer Kelton's Wrangler-winning comic novel, and pulled the same trifecta for the big screen in the Spur- and Wrangler-winning *The Homesman* (2014), based on Glendon Swarthout's Spur-winning, downbeat novel.

After starring in *The Missing* (2003), Jones gave commanding performances in the contemporary Westerns *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada* (2005) and *No Country for Old Men* (2007).

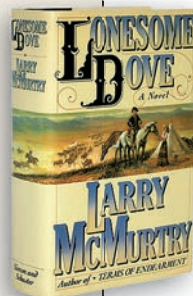
No wonder *The Guardian* has called Jones "the modern-day face of the western."

It all started with *Lonesome Dove*.



A primary reason that *Lonesome Dove's* adaptation from epic novel to ensemble television miniseries resonated with audiences was the dedication of the production team and the cast to portray 1860s frontier life as realistically as possible. Pictured above, left to right: Timothy Scott as Pea Eye Parker, Robert Urich as Texas Ranger Jake Spoon, Tommy Lee Jones as Texas Ranger Capt. Woodrow F. Call, DB Sweeney as Dish Boggett, Robert Duvall as Gus McCrae, Danny Glover as Texas Ranger Joshua Deets and Ricky Schroder as Newt Dobbs.

- COURTESY CBS -



BY BEN FRIBERG

TOO BRAVE TO DIE

THE HEROIC TALE OF THE DAWSON BRIGADE AND HENRY GONZALVO WOODS'S REMARKABLE SURVIVAL AT THE SEPTEMBER 1842 DAWSON MASSACRE

"We have marched a long way to meet the enemy and I do not intend to return without meeting them. I had rather die than retreat." Thus did old frontiersman Zadock Woods cast the deciding vote sending his companions to slaughter.

The situation was this: The Mexican Army invaded Texas and captured San Antonio on September 11, 1842. Couriers raced across the settlements drumming up volunteers to drive off the invaders. Zadock and his sons, Norman and Henry Gonzalvo (Gon), answered the call. Snatching up rifles and cornbread, the three rode for San Antonio, joining more volunteers from nearby La Grange along the way.

Two days hard riding later, the 53 volunteers, through a series of missteps and just plain bad luck, found themselves between the Texan and Mexican forces, slugging it out on Salado Creek north of San Antonio. One hundred and fifty Mexican dragoons started galloping in their direction.

Their captain, Nicholas Mosby Dawson, laid out the options: fall back four miles and join up with other reinforcements they had passed earlier in the day or seek shelter in



Texas Republic volunteer Henry Gonzalvo Woods was one of two men who escaped the Dawson Massacre. On September 18, 1842, Dawson's Brigade, a company of 53 Texan volunteers, met the Mexican army near La Grange and were quickly overrun, killed or captured. The tintype of Woods was taken in the late 1860s shortly before his death, and was recently rediscovered.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY AUTHOR'S COLLECTION
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

a nearby mesquite motte and fight it out. The older men grumbled at the very thought of retreat and Zadock roared out his own challenge sealing their fate.

The dragoons reigned in before the Texans as they took up position behind the trees. A small detachment rode up closer, white flag flapping in the breeze, calling out for parlay. Dawson motioned them away. More dragoons began advancing at a slow trot—until Texan bullets emptied two Mexican saddles. Humors soured. The lancers thundered forward in a blind rage but withering fire from the Texans sent dragoons spinning into the dirt or beating a hasty retreat. Dawson's company held the upper hand—for the moment.

But jubilation died with the sudden crack of a cannon. Hot metal scalped the mesquite grove. Branches, mulch and canister showered down on scrambling men. None had seen a cannon being positioned during all the shooting. Another shot whistled through the trees. Gon Woods heard men and horses screaming in agony, later remembering: "Their canister and grape



CASTLE DE PEROTE, MEXICO.

SURRENDERED APRIL 22ND 1847 TO THE U.S. ARMY, COMMANDED BY GENL. WINFIELD SCOTT.
 COL. F. M. WYCKOFF, 1ST REGT TEXAS VOL. CIVIL & MILITARY GOVERNOR.

B. Co. Capt. Single

K. Co. Blunder

CARRISONED BY

F. L. Bowman, Major 1ST Det. Col.

A. Co. 2ND Artillery, Capt. G. Taylor, U.S.A.

C. Co. Mounted Rifle, Capt. Walker

F. Co. Capt. Bennett

H. Co. Scott

made awful havoc among our men. I received a wound in the shoulder early in the action and my two companions, J. B. Alexander and Elam Scallorn, were killed at my side... Death in every shape stalked through our thin ranks." About a dozen of the Texans and almost all their horses lay dead. Cherokee snipers started picking off survivors. That's when Gon heard his brother scream.

Norman collapsed in a mass of agony, shot across the hip. Zadock threw himself across his son's body as another volley of canister sailed overhead. He raised back up to help his son staunch the blood when a sniper's bullet caught him in the heart. The old man fell dead alongside his writhing son. It was Zadock's 69th birthday.

Gon's cousin and fellow survivor Joseph Robinson grimly recalled the scene: "The fate of our whole company seemed inevitable in death. About two thirds of our number were already among the dead, dying and wounded, and nearly all the horses were killed. Existence was departing for eternity, in the purple streams

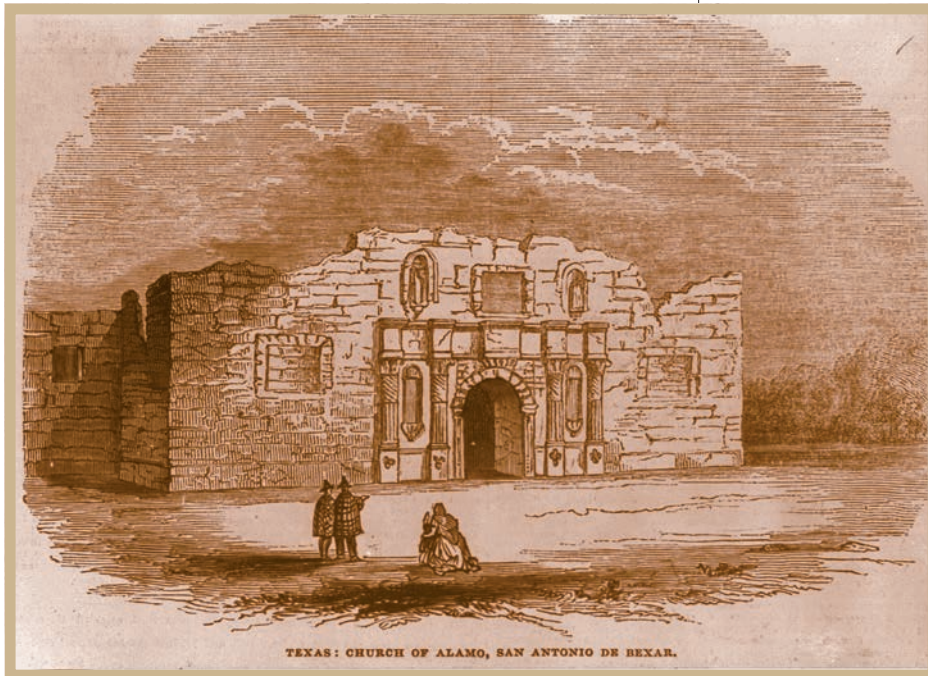
The Mexican army captured 15 men of Dawson's Brigade, including Henry's brother Norman. They were marched a thousand miles to Fortaleza de San Carlos de Perote between Mexico City and Veracruz. Norman and five others would die at the prison known as "The Coffin." On April 22, 1847, Gen. Winfield Scott led the U.S. Army's capture of the notorious castle that had once held within its walls such famous Texas Rangers as Samuel H. Walker, Samuel Maverick Sr. and William A.W. "Bigfoot" Wallace.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



The 53 Texas Republic volunteers who followed Captain Nicholas Mosby Dawson into battle near LaGrange on September 18, 1842, were no match for the 150 well-trained, lance-wielding Mexican dragoons and a battery of artillery.

- COURTESY THE VINKHUIJZEN COLLECTION OF MILITARY UNIFORMS, NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTION -



On September 13, 1842, Gen. Adrián Woll's Mexican army occupied San Antonio after two days of fighting. The occupation of the city, including the Alamo, triggered a swift response from Texas volunteers and rangers who would meet the invaders seven miles southeast of the city on the banks of Salado Creek on September 17-18.

breaking his arm. Gon darted back into the trees and was shocked to see a Texan horse alive and running loose. It took him only an instant to mount. "Woods! Woods! Don't take my horse!" John Church of La Grange ran toward him. Gon fought the temptation to ride out anyway, but he alighted and handed Church the reins. He dove into a patch

of life, through many a fatal wound. Among our dead was an aged veteran, Zadock Woods, nearly 80 (70) years of age. By the side of the grey-haired soldier reclined his son Norman, languid with pain and loss of blood, and telling his brother Gonzalvo that it was his fate there to die, and, handing him a pistol, told him to leave him and make his escape if possible. The scene before us and the thoughts it inspired of those whose fathers, husbands and brothers had here fallen, struck up with mingled emotion of horror and compassion." Even a horrified Mexican officer reportedly declared, "Such men are too brave to die!"

Norman pleaded with his brother to escape and take care of his wife, Jane, and their five children. The brothers embraced one last time. They never saw each other again.

The grapeshot ceased and the Mexicans charged the depleted company. "Then began the work of death in its most horrible forms. Our fire was reserved until within pistol shot distance, when the men clubbed their guns and used their knives. The wounded were massacred like brutes, being fit subjects for Mexican bravery," Gon remembered bitterly.

Contemporary newspaper reports described his escape: Gon "threw down his gun, advanced some 20 paces toward an officer...and in their own language (which he speaks very well) asked for quarter and told him they would all surrender." His offer wasn't accepted. One Mexican fired point-blank but the gun misfired. Two others swung at him with rifle butts, punching his left ear and nearly

of high grass and wormed on his belly through the prairie till he saw what looked to be a large opening between two groups of infantry—a narrow doorway to freedom. He took a deep breath and sprinted.

Hooves thundered up behind before he made it halfway. He spun around, raising his arms again to surrender to the four dragoons charging him. "The first struck at him with a sword; he squatted and the sword passed over his head. At the next blow the sword struck him on the top of his head and cut him to the skull for about three inches. Another one of the four charged upon him with a lance and thrust it at his heart. Mr. Woods caught the lance with both hands, turned it aside, jerked the Mexican off his horse, and ran the lance through his body. He raised the lance and offered battle to the three remaining Mexicans, determined to sell his life at as dear a price as possible. To his joy and astonishment, they fled..."

Gon made for the dead man's horse but the beast would have none of it. It kicked and bit till he managed to get aboard. But now the furious beast refused to move faster than a trot. Gon had finally managed to steer the stubborn animal to the edge of the battlefield when a bullet hissed past. He saw four Mexicans running toward

him. The horse froze. Gon kicked and cursed it, but it stood there waiting to be caught. He leapt from the horse, still clutching the spear as his only weapon, and ran. Luckily, the soldiers just wanted the horse. They did not follow.

Gon dodged into a thicket and collapsed in a tall bed of grass. He could rest at last. "In the stillness of



During the pitched battle of the Dawson Fight, Henry Gonzalvo Woods's older brother, Norman, was horribly wounded. As he ordered his brother to flee, he asked him to take care of his wife, Jane, and their five children. The younger Woods fulfilled his promise and married his sister-in-law, Jane Boyd Wells Woods. They had three children of their own. Jane had her photo taken in the late 1840s with one of the three children, possibly her youngest, Minerva Jane.



JOHN COFFEE HAYS

Texas Ranger Capt. John “Jack” Coffee Hays and his 14-man Ranger company would serve a vital role with Capt. Mathew Caldwell’s Texan volunteers who defeated over 1,200 Mexican soldiers at the Battle of Salado Creek on September 17-18, 1842. Hays is considered one of the Ranger captains who defined the fighting force in the early years of the Texas Republic, the Mexican War and statehood. Serving with Hays’ combined Ranger force of 40 men at Salado Creek were famous Rangers William A.A. “Bigfoot” Wallace, Robert A. “Ad” Gillespie and Henry McCulloch.



Woods’s descendent Annie Williams Saffarrans posed with Henry Gonzalvo Woods’s spear at the Alamo back in the 1930s. Today, visitors to The Alamo can see the lance on display at the Long Barracks Museum.

that beautiful country he thought over the transactions of the last two hours. He thought of his comrades—a few hours since full of courage, life and hope. When he parted with them a few minutes before, most were weltering in their own blood, and the survivors were rapidly falling beneath the murderous blows of a merciless enemy. All was still; and every minute he listened to hear the sound of horses’ feet as his enemies were coming in pursuit. It seemed that night would never come...”

Night finally fell and Gon stumbled off. It took almost a week of running and hiding to make it home and a full two months to recover from his wounds.

Out of Dawson’s company of 53, 15 survived to be taken prisoner. Only two escaped.

Norman was among the survivors, crippled by bullet and sword wounds. He and the others were taken 1,000 miles south to the infamous castle of Perote (The Coffin)—a high-walled prison between Mexico City and Veracruz. The castle would indeed prove a coffin for six of the 15 survivors—including Norman. Still weak from his wounds, he died of typhus December 15, 1843, and was buried in the moat of Perote. Gon made good on his promise to take care of his sister-in-law when he married her a year after Norman’s death. They had three children of their own. One son they named Norman.

Zadock and the others slain were eventually buried in a tomb overlooking the Colorado River at Monument Hill State Park in La Grange alongside the men of the Mier Expedition.

Henry Gonzalvo Woods later became a successful planter, served briefly in the Confederate army and finally met his end on October 17, 1869, shot down in an ambush during the Sutton-Taylor Feud. The lance he took from the Dawson Massacre is on display at the Alamo, and the story of his escape has been passed down for generations by his descendants, enshrining his daring and heroism for generations to come.



Ben Friberg is a seventh-generation Texan who grew up addicted to Texas history, especially the tales of his ancestors involved in the Texas Revolution. He’s been an award-winning photojournalist in Austin for 20 years.



Visitors to Monument Hill State Historic Site can pay their respects at the tomb of the men who died at the Dawson Massacre of September 18, 1842, and the men from the 1842 Mier expedition, who were either executed in the “Black Bean Episode” of March 1843 or subsequently died as prisoners in Perote Prison. Local citizens reburied the dead and built the tomb in 1848. In the 1930s, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas chapter in La Grange restored the gravesite and erected the 40-foot shaft above it.

TRUE WEST
EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

NACO DEBACLE

JEFF KIDDER VS NACO POLICÍA

"IF MY AMMUNITION HAD NOT
GIVEN OUT, I MIGHT HAVE
SERVED THEM THE
SAME WAY."



Chia is one tough customer, pliant but defiant. When accused of stealing, she doesn't slap Jeff Kidder but hits him with her fist. Months earlier, another American was shot in the same cantina.

— ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of Randy Johnson and Nancy P. Allan

APRIL 3, 1908



Arizona Ranger Jeff Kidder rides into Naco, Arizona, to renew his commission. Upon finding out that Capt. Harry Wheeler is chasing outlaws in the Chiricahua Mountains, Kidder crosses the border to "meet friends."

Removing his gunbelt, Kidder sticks into his waistband his silver-plated Colt and into his coat pocket six cartridges from his gunbelt.

Kidder eats supper on the Mexican side, then strolls through the small downtown, visiting several cantinas. Around midnight he spends time with a soiled dove, "Chia." After he dresses and walks to the front door, he notices a silver dollar which he carried in a vest pocket is missing. He goes back inside, grabs Chia by the arm and accuses her of stealing it. Chia strikes Kidder with her fist and starts screaming, "Policía!" Within minutes, two Mexican police officers, Tomas Amador and Dolores Quias, arrive on the scene and open fire.

Tomas's first shot strikes Kidder in the stomach, just left of the navel. Falling to the floor, Kidder pulls his Colt and gets off several shots, hitting

both his assailants. Quias was hit in the thigh; Tomas took a bullet to the knee. Kidder stands himself up and staggers out the doorway into the night.

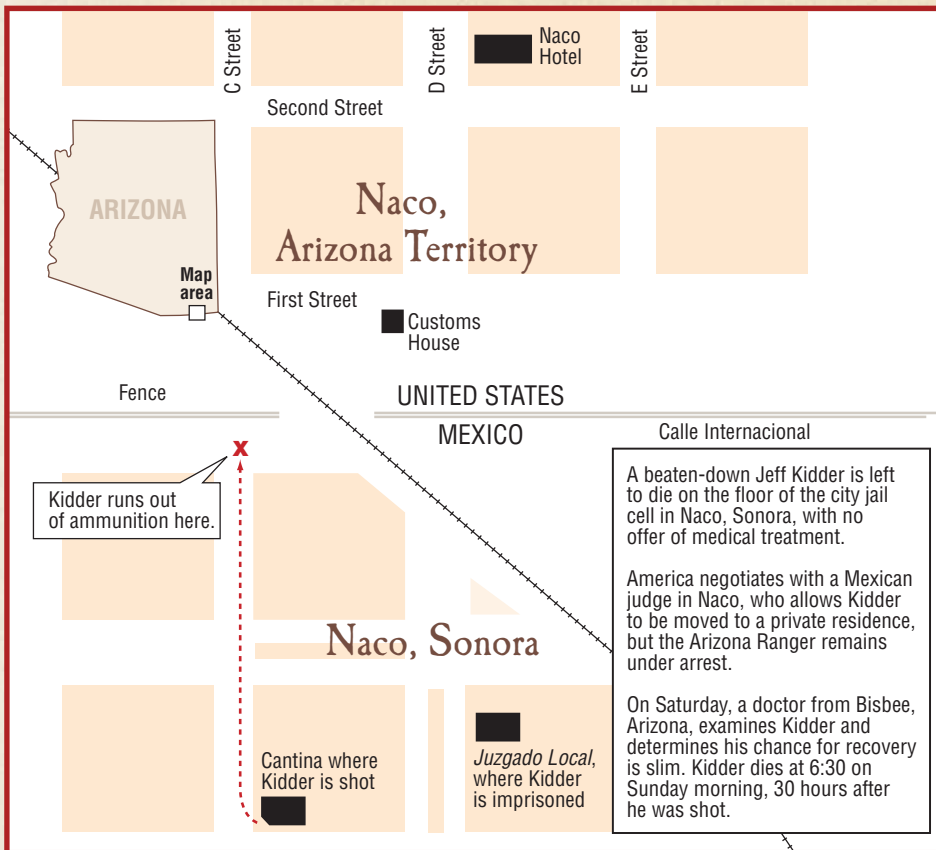
He heads toward the U.S. boundary, some 300 yards (see map, opposite). Several Mexican citizens fire at him, and Kidder angles off to the fence to the left of the border crossing. Too weak to climb through the fence, Kidder reloads his pistol with his last six cartridges.

Led by Chief of Police Victoriano Amador, the brother of an officer who shot Kidder in the cantina, the Mexicans close in on the Arizona Ranger. Kidder nicks the chief in the side, then runs out of bullets as he yells to his attackers that he is all in.

Chief Amador and a score of men rush to Kidder, who is sitting against the fence, and begin hitting him with pistol barrels. They drag him to the *juzgado* (government court and jail) with bystanders kicking him all the way. After stripping him of all his valuables, they dump him onto the floor of a jail cell.



Jeff Kidder (at right) will live for 30 hours after the shooting. On his deathbed, he says: "I had not had a chance to move when two Mexican police came through the doorway with their six-shooters drawn, and one fired, hitting me. I fell and was dazed, but knew that my only chance was to fight while I had a cartridge left. I drew my own six-shooter while sitting on the floor and opened fire. I believe I wounded both of the men, and they went down helpless."



The View from Naco

After Jeff Kidder's death, Capt. Harry Wheeler crossed the U.S./Mexico border to investigate the shooting. He interviewed eyewitnesses and the three wounded officers (one of them allegedly died of his wounds later on). Their stories conflicted wildly, and much of what they said put Kidder in a bad light. A bartender testified Kidder "had taken at least 50 drinks." After hearing their testimony, Wheeler traveled to Cananea to recover Kidder's revolver and badge; the latter he found in a pawn shop.

Because of the political fallout from the gunfight, some 15 cantinas in Naco were closed and 20 Naco policemen and line riders, including the wounded chief, were dismissed. Of course, as is often the case on both sides of the border, some of the discharged officers were soon reinstated.



RANGER HIT IN GUN FIGHT.

"Jeff" Kidder of Arizona Dying in a Mexican Jail.

DOUGLAS, Ariz., April 4.—"Jeff" Kidder, a member of the Arizona Rangers, is wounded and dying in the Mexican jail across the border from Naco, Ariz., and three Mexican policemen of that town are wounded, but not seriously injured, as the result of a fight to-day. Kidder had trouble with a Mexican woman, and when the policemen came in response to her calls for help, Kidder fired upon them.

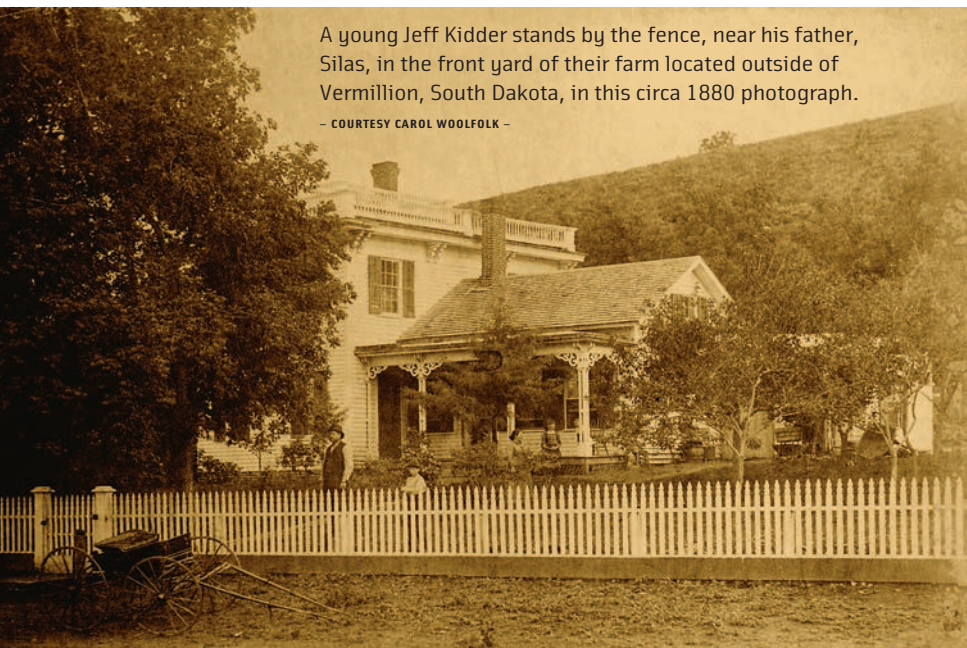
The New York Times—April 5, 1908

Arizona Ranger Jeff Kidder wearing his pearl-handled Colt.

— COURTESY ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY/TUCSON AHS 45084 —

A young Jeff Kidder stands by the fence, near his father, Silas, in the front yard of their farm located outside of Vermillion, South Dakota, in this circa 1880 photograph.

— COURTESY CAROL WOOLFOLK —



Jeff Kidder was good friends with the last captain of the Arizona Rangers, Harry Wheeler (right).



— COURTESY ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY/TUCSON AHS 24748 —

Kidder, in civilian clothes, around the time of his father's death in 1904.

— COURTESY RANDY JOHNSON COLLECTION —

Jeff Kidder, on the mule third from the right, with a group of fellow Arizona Rangers. The second captain of the Rangers, Thomas Rynning, enlisted Kidder. Rynning is shown on the far right.

— COURTESY CAROL WOOLFOLK —



The Arizona Rangers Didn't Outlive Jeff Kidder By Much

Formed in late 1901, the Arizona Rangers was supposedly the territorial version of the Texas Rangers. Across the territory (and sometimes into Mexico), 107 men battled cattle rustlers, horse thieves and desperadoes. But unlike the Lone Star law crew, the short-lived Arizona outfit lasted roughly seven years.

Politics brought down the Arizona Rangers. A Republican administration created the Rangers, so Democrats made it a priority to kill the agency.

Several anti-Ranger bills failed, yet in 1909, the Democrats had veto-proof majorities in both houses of the Territorial Legislature.

GOP Territorial Gov. Joseph Henry Kibbey fought hard against the efforts, but the opposition was too strong. (He was also pushing for Arizona statehood and trying to save his own appointed job—he failed there too.) By the first week of February 1909, both chambers had voted to abolish the Rangers. Kibbey

vetoed the measure on February 15, but the legislature overrode his action that same day. The Arizona Rangers were disbanded immediately.

Ironically, on this same day, Arizona Rangers apprehended horse thief Peter Morris in the Chiricahua Mountains. Ranger John McK. Redmond, who was searching for rustlers in the mountains, didn't hear about the abolishment for four days. "It would have been a pretty 'howdy-do' if I had been killed...." he said.

Beaten and Stripped

After being beaten and stripped of his belongings, including his pistol, his badge, his pocket watch and his Masonic key, Jeff Kidder was left to lie on the floor of the jail cell with no offer of medical attention.

Several hours later, word of the fight reached the American side. A Mexican judge in Naco permitted Kidder to be moved to a private home, but he was still under arrest. By dawn on Saturday, a physician from Bisbee, Arizona, crossed the border to aid Kidder. He determined that Kidder's intestines had been perforated and chances for recovery were slim. A reporter for the *Bisbee Review* interviewed Kidder, who seemed to rally for a brief time.



The Palace Funeral Parlor in Bisbee, Arizona, around the time of Kidder's death. Kidder's funeral took place here in April 1908.

— COURTESY BISBEE MINING AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM 76.39.4 —



The Kidder Massacre

On June 29, 1867, 2nd Lt. Lyman Kidder (Jeff's uncle), along with an Indian scout and 10 enlisted men, took dispatches from Gen. William Sherman to Gen. George A. Custer, who was camped on the Republican River in Nebraska. The men failed to arrive. Custer's scout Will Comstock found their mutilated bodies just north of the banks of Beaver Creek in Sherman County, Kansas. Oglala Lakota leader Pawnee Killer, with a small band of Sioux warriors and Cheyenne Dog Soldiers had killed them. Shown here is *The Kidder Massacre*, drawn by J.P. Davis and published in George A. Custer's *My Life on the Plains* (1874).

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

Before he died, Jeff Kidder claimed he crossed the border to look for a fugitive. He died at 6:30 Sunday morning, 30 hours after he was shot.



When Mexican authorities refused to release Kidder's body, 1,000 American men reportedly gathered to storm the border and bring him back. The authorities relented, and Kidder's remains were taken to the Palace Funeral Parlor in Bisbee, Arizona.



East of Tombstone, Ranger Capt. Harry Wheeler heard about the killing and made it to Bisbee in time for the funeral, where he said, "Jeff Kidder was one of the best officers who ever stepped foot in this section of the country. He did not know what fear was and was hated by the criminal classes because of his unceasing activity in bringing them to justice."

Wheeler believed Kidder had been set up to be killed. A Mexican investigation found some evidence to confirm his suspicion, although nobody was ever charged.



On April 8, members of the Bisbee Elks Lodge escorted Kidder's coffin to the depot; his remains were sent to California for burial.



Recommended: *Deadly Dozen: Twelve Forgotten Gunfighters of the Old West* by Robert K. DeArment, published by University of Oklahoma Press.



Kidder's grave marker, with incorrect birth and date years (should be 1875-1908), at California's Inglewood Park Cemetery.

— COURTESY INGLEWOOD PARK CEMETERY
IN INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA —



CLASSIC TRUE WEST

FROM THE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1959

BY WILLIAM CX HANCOCK
WITH MRS. EDGAR THOMAS NEAL

“...Not a Single Notch!”

Captain Neal was the calmest Ranger of 'em all. Outlaws never doubted that he'd kill if necessary—he just never let it get necessary.

The young Ranger rode out from Rio Grande City through the prickly pear flats where Pancho Morales was rendezvousing with his woman. He tied his horse some distance from the shack, then stealthily closed in on foot. He kicked the back door open and, in spite of his 225-pound frame, stepped inside with the speed of a panther, a Colt gripped in his right hand.

“Raise your hands, Pancho! This is Edgar Neal. Got a warrant for your arrest.”

Pancho and the woman were seated at a rude table, drinking tequila. Fortunately, the light was provided by a kerosene wall-lamp out of the fugitive's reach. His back was toward Neal. With half-raised hands, he got slowly to his feet and faced about.

“Amigo mio,” he said, his eyes venomous slits, “Pancho very sorry we meet like this.”

“Me, too, Pancho. Powerful sorry,” said Neal with moving sincerity. In his youth, he had clerked in a grocery store where the Mexican was a delivery boy. Later, the two had punched cattle together for various South Texas outfits. But now, in 1896, Morales was high on the Texas Rangers' wanted list—a rustler, he had killed several men and eventually murdered a Texas lawman. Edgar Neal had been ordered to bring him in alive.

“Hand over your pistol slow and easy with your fingertips and gun butt first.” He was speaking so kindly that he might have been requesting Pancho to pass the tortillas.

Morales did not comply. “Señor, it is better that Pancho die here than be hanged by

gringos.” He was very tense and obviously getting set to attempt a draw. Neal's non-killing record was hanging by the merest thread.

“I hate to do this to anybody,” said Neal in his most sympathetic manner. “You can imagine, Pancho, how much I hate to do it to an old friend.”

Pancho reflected upon this for a moment while the patient Neal waited. The Mexican began to relax and presently a faint smile of resignation crossed his dark features. Slowly he handed over his pistol as directed and extended his hands, palms together, for the handcuffs.

“Hand over your pistol slow and easy with your fingertips and gun butt first.”

This type of triumph had been repeated in various forms until this soft-spoken, non-smoking, non-drinking, non-swearing young Ranger was heralded throughout the force.

Twenty years a Texas Ranger during some of the most turbulent times once rough-and-ready Texas has known, and 16 years sheriff of faction-ridden, strife-torn, pistol-haunted San Saba County, the fabulous Captain Edgar Thomas Neal never killed a man.

As some of his still-living cronies often remark: “Just because he never killed anybody;

don't think for a moment that there was ever the slightest doubt in anyone's mind that he would kill if necessary. He just didn't let it get necessary.”

The six-foot, two-inch lawman was born in 1870 in Wilson County, birthplace of several famous Texas Rangers, including the nationally-known Captain Frank Hamer. Both attended Rabbit Hill School, and it is an interesting coincidence that Hamer was to send more outlaws spinning into the dust with his blazing Colts than any other lawman in the history of the West, while Neal was never to kill anybody. In later years, it was a standing joke between these two peerless manhunters that they developed their abilities in running down lawbreakers by chasing the countless jackrabbits which infested old Rabbit Hill.

In the heart of Texas lies the beautiful ranching county of San Saba—a region so blessed by nature that the Indian name for it means “Happy Hunting Ground.” Before the Civil War, the people were dedicated to mutual helpfulness and common defense against the Comanche Indians. But post-war days witnessed the development of rampant lawlessness in which honest citizens came to despair of ever receiving justice at the hands of carpetbagger government and rigged courts. Inevitably they took the administration of justice into their own hands, and there came into being the notorious “Mob of San Saba.”

In the earlier stages of its operation, Mob membership included many of the best people.



Company B of the Texas Rangers camped on the San Saba River in September 1896. Left to right on horses: Edgar T. Neal and Allen R. Maddox. Standing: Thomas Samuel "Tom" Johnson (cook) Dudley S. Barker and John L. Sullivan.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Known rustlers were hanged, land-claim jumpers despoiled, and undesirables in general given the bums' rush. But true to the history of mob law, leadership eventually gravitated to selfish and power-hungry individuals.

Came the time when the county found itself gripped in a reign of terror. Resultant homicides had approached half a hundred when a woman, whose father was a member of the Mob, had them murder her prominent husband to free her for further romance.

An "anti-mob" was formed and informed Governor C. A. Culberson of conditions in the county, petitioning him for Rangers to help clean up the mess. He ordered his adjutant general to "send four of your bravest Rangers to San Saba."

Edgar Neal was one of the four Rangers selected. He and Allen Maddox of Company E from Alice rendezvoused at Goldthwaite with Sergeant John L. Sullivan (later a famous captain) and Dudley Barker of Company B from Amarillo—all noted gunslingers. The group quietly assembled a wagonload of supplies and camp gear and set a course southwestward for San Saba County, where they went into camp August 13, 1896, near Regency on the Colorado River—scene of the latest killing in which rancher Bill James had been bushwhacked while peaceably hauling water from the river. The famous old Indian fighter "Uncle Buck" Chamberlain was chosen camp cook and deputy.

The attitude of local authorities alleged to have been Mob-connected was most hostile toward the Rangers. The rank-and-file mobsters

were so openly threatening that Neal's group had to maintain security measures at night around their camp. However, they entered upon long months of patient investigation for purposes of gathering sufficient evidence to seek indictments. Neal's phenomenal ability to inspire trust in people was never more valuable than now as San Sabans began to disclose needed information to him. The lawman, a solitary horseman riding leisurely down lonely trails, became a common sight in San Saba Land—a frightened county, run by a 1,000-man Mob, most of whose members secretly regretted their association but dared not sever the tie for fear of the sinister leader, Bill Ogle.

By the middle of May 1897, the four Rangers were ready to present their evidence to a grand jury. With the concurrence of the adjutant general, they had promised the potential witnesses adequate protection in the form of additional Rangers who, unknown to the Mob, were enroute to San Saba. On Saturday morning preceding the Monday on which the grand jury was to be convened, the Mob began to gather in San Saba with the announced purpose of running the Rangers out of town. Sergeant Sullivan and Allen Maddox, each armed with two Colts, their horses tethered nearby with Winchester tied on the saddles, posted themselves at the northeast corner of the courthouse square. Neal and Barker, similarly armed, took stations at the southwest corner.

Knots of mask-wearing mobsters had their heads together here and there about the square

in deep conversation. Whiskey bottles passed back and forth. By apparent arrangement, the knots began to fuse into two large groups, one edging toward Sullivan and Maddox, the other toward Neal and Barker. The latter group made the first move. As they approached, the two Rangers eased behind their horses for protection as well as quick access to their rifles. The group leader faced Barker, being unable to rib himself into sufficient fury against the kindly Neal. "We're giving you sons-of-b----- fifteen minutes to get out of town," he said. "Fifteen minutes! You hear? Now git!"

The man reached for his pistol. ...



TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Would you like to read William Cx Hancock and Mrs. Edgar Thomas Neal's unabridged November-December 1959 classic on Texas Ranger Edgar Neal? Every issue of *True West* has been uploaded as a digital flipbook. To read the rest of the Ranger feature, subscribe to *True West Archives* at TrueWestMagazine.com. ***Our past awaits you!***

BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

North to the Gold Country

Follow the 1898 Klondike and Alaska miners' overland route from Sacramento to Seattle.



In the fall of 1897, Yukon gold rush partners Jack London, Merritt Sloper, Jim Goodman and Fred Thompson arrived in the boomtown Dawson City and rented a cabin from Seattle bonanza seekers (l.-r.) Marshall Bond, Oliver H.P. La Farge, Lyman R. Colt and Stanley Pearce, with their dogs Buck (Jack) and Pat. The St. Bernard and Scottish Collie mixed-breed dog named Jack is believed to be London's inspiration for the dog Buck in his classic novel, *Call of the Wild*.

— COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —

The 1898 Klondike gold rush and the later rush to Nome, Alaska, have long been legendary. Who doesn't remember Johnny Horton, Sam McGee and White Fang?

Why, Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* remains in print and has been filmed countless times...with Clark Gable, Charlton Heston, Rutger Hauer and others acting alongside a dog named Buck. Hollywood's still at it, with Harrison Ford starring in director Chris Sanders's offering this year from 20th Century-Fox. (Pssst... Charles Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* is better than any of the London adaptations.)

The discovery of gold in northwestern Canada sent an estimated 100,000 people north from 1896 to 1899—though only some 30,000 made it all the way to the Yukon's Klondike, and 4,000 or so of those actually found pay dirt. You couldn't blame Americans for trying, what with the country mired in depression since the Panic of 1893, and newspapers blasting news of riches.

"The tide," Tappan Adney wrote in *The Klondike Stampede* (1900), "was too great to turn."

But those prospectors had to get to Alaska and the Yukon first, and those escapades are practically as intriguing as rugged hikes

up the Chilkoot Trail; crooked Jefferson Randolph "Soapy" Smith's shenanigans in Skagway, Alaska; and harrowing raft rides through Miles Canyon.

The first year of the rush saw 20,000 to 30,000 wannabe millionaires heading north. "A miner intending to go to the Klondike has the alternative of buying on the American side and paying duty, or of paying here," Adney learned in Victoria, British Columbia.

North from San Francisco

Some took the Canadian route, but most set out from a U.S. port.

“All the [Pacific] coastal ports... were locked in an intense struggle for the lion’s share of the booty, each city screaming that it was the only possible outfitting port for the Klondike,” Pierre Berton wrote in *The Klondike Fever: The Life and Death of the Last Great Gold Rush* (1958).

The San Francisco Call reported hopefully on December 13, 1897: “when the spring rush to the Klondike starts[,] ...the principal exodus will be from this city, instead of the more northern ports.”

Gold, of course, was nothing new to San Francisco, and when the San Francisco Historical Society opened its new museum last year, its inaugural exhibit was *Gold Fever!*, which focuses on earlier California gold strikes. Tony Bennett’s city by the bay is worth exploring for its history (Wells Fargo Museum, The Society of California Pioneers, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park) and clam chowder in a sourdough bowl.

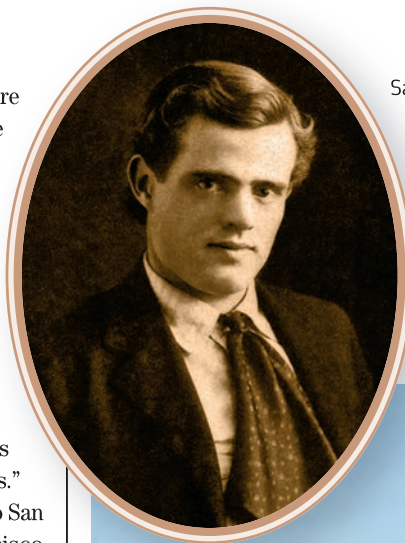
Bring “good health and a good brave heart,” Joaquin Miller told potential prospectors in the *San Francisco Examiner* on March 10, 1898. “Bring faith and hope and charity; charity that you may not quarrel with the frailties of your fellow-miners; but first of all is the heart—the heart of a lion. After good health and a good heart, bring an even, honest, good temper. Don’t try to come here bilious.”

Newspapers lauded their homes’ triumphs and blasted the competition. “Up and down the coast the arguments reverberated,” Berton wrote. “Seattle papers published bitter editorials attacking the claims of Tacoma and San Francisco, and the rival cities retorted in kind.”

Across San Francisco Bay, Oakland (Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, Oakland Museum of California) saw its share of problems attributed to gold fever. “J.R. Fowels,” the *Oakland Tribune* reported February 21, 1898, “the crack first-baseman and heavy-weight batter for the Elmhurst ball tossers, leaves for Seattle Thursday evening. He will probably go into the Klondike district.”

Say it ain’t so, Joe.

But one Oakland resident made a name for himself in the Klondike. Although he spent a lot of time along the waterfront (now Jack London Square), Jack London developed a knack for writing. In July 1897, the 21-year-old took off for the Klondike, where he came



San Francisco native and future author Jack London dropped out of the University of California in Berkeley and embarked from his hometown with his 62-year-old brother-in-law James Shepard on the *SS Umatilla* for Juneau, Alaska, and the Yukon Gold Rush on July 25, 1897. London was 21 years old. Unbeknownst to the young adventurer, his experiences in Alaska and the Yukon would inspire his writing career and dramatic chronicles of the North Country.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



In 1897, the port of San Francisco became one of the major gold rush ports of embarkation to Juneau, Dyea and Skagway, Alaska, to reach the trailheads to the Yukon goldfields. Today, a tour of the museum and ships at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park in the city’s Fisherman’s Wharf district provides an insightful introduction to the role the port played in gold rush history and the settlement of the West.

— COURTESY THE JON B. LOVELACE COLLECTION OF CALIFORNIA PHOTOGRAPHS IN CAROL M. HIGHSMITH’S AMERICA PROJECT, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

away with scurvy and fodder for stories, including “To Build a Fire.” His ranch home in Glen Ellen is a must.

Stop in Sacramento (California State Railroad Museum, Sacramento History Museum, Sutter’s Fort and Leland Stanford Mansion state historic parks) for a look at California/gold history. Then make that long drive north—stopping for more California gold history in French Gulch, west of Redding—to Portland, Oregon (Oregon Historical Society Museum, Oregon History Museum).

Back from Nome in 1902, former Portland police captain John L. Sperry noted this about most Klondikers: “About 75 per cent don’t know gold when they see it, except in the shape of a \$20 gold piece.”

Portland to Seattle

Portland, already boasting a population of roughly 60,000, advertised its virtues for gold-seekers with pamphlets, maps and

promotional publications. Calling for fellow entrepreneurs to kick in with advertising dollars to get the gold-seekers’ business, W.A. Mears warned: “You will have yourself to thank if you see Seattle go ahead with a bound and distance this city in wealth and population.”

Traveling north, you should detour to Mount Rainier National Park, which subbed for the Klondike in the 1928 silent film *The Trail of ’98*, before reaching another port that vied for Klondike cash.

Tacoma, Washington (Tacoma Art Museum, Washington State History Museum) reaped rewards from the gold rush. But Seattle won the Klondike war. In fact, Frank Goodwin developed Seattle’s famous Public Market—after he returned from the Klondike with his share of the wealth.

Seattle (Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Log House Museum, Museum of Pop Culture) had railroads and was the closest U.S. port to the goldfields. It had

*Keystone View Company
Manufacturers and Publishers*



1898
*Woodville Dr. Di. Davis Ho
Seabright, 1898, by St. Seabright*

90-3—Alaskan Outfitting Store, Seattle, Wash., U. S. A.



In 1897, the city and port of Seattle, Washington, was inundated with thousands of gold-seekers gearing up at local merchants (above) before boarding a steamer heading north to Alaska. Visitors to Seattle today can tour the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Seattle Unit Museum (left) to learn firsthand what it was like to be a miner who braved the Alaskan and Yukon wilderness for a possible bonanza in gold.

— KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH, SEATTLE UNIT MUSEUM PHOTO COURTESY NPS.GOV/HISTORIC PHOTO OF SEATTLE COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

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A WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

survived an 1889 fire that swept through the commercial district and was the first continental American city to get news of the gold strike when the steamship *Portland* docked in Seattle on July 17, 1897, bringing 68 prospectors who had boarded in St. Michael, Alaska. Newspapers might have underplayed the story at first, but Seattle soon became the main jumping-off point.

As Berton wrote: "...in 1899 alone, twelve hundred new houses mushroomed up in the city, and the merchants, who before the rush had sold goods worth an annual three hundred thousand, now found that their direct interest in outfitting amounted to ten million."

One visitor heard so much about Seattle from Klondikers that instead of returning home to London, he visited Seattle late in 1897. "I must say," he told *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, "you have a very lively city here."



Johnny D. Boggs is the Western Writers of America's 2020 Owen Wister Award recipient for Lifetime Contributions to Western Literature.

THE WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE

Winchester rifles must have been popular among Alaska/Yukon gold-rushers, and visitors today can get a different look at the firearms legend in San Jose, California. After William Wirt Winchester died in 1881, his widow, Sarah Lockwood Pardee Winchester, moved to San Jose, bought an unfinished, eight-room farmhouse in 1884 and began remodeling. The remodeling job didn't stop until her death in 1922. By then, the house had expanded to 24,000 square feet, 10,000 windows, 160 rooms, plus skylights, chimneys and staircases galore. Why she kept remodeling remains a mystery. Was she haunted? Hoodwinked by some witch doctor? Or displayed exotic architectural tastes? The Winchester Mystery House (WinchesterMysteryHouse.com) offers guided tours. The late Hoyt Axton wrote and recorded a fun look at the story, "Mr. Winchester's Gun," on his 1990 album, *Spin of the Wheel*.



Winchester Mystery House, San Jose, California

- JOHNNY D. BOGGS -

GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

GOOD GRUB: *House of Nanking, San Francisco, CA; Scott's Seafood Grill & Bar, Oakland, CA; Jim-Denny's, Sacramento, CA; Gold Rush Burgers, Yreka, CA; Kala Noodle and Grill, Portland, OR; Boathouse 19 Bar & Grill, Tacoma, WA*
GOOD LODGING: *Chancellor Hotel, San Francisco, CA; The Jack London Lodge, Glen Ellen, CA; Best Western Miner's Inn, Yreka, CA; The Benson, Portland, OR; Ballard Inn, Seattle, WA; 11th Avenue Inn Bed & Breakfast, Seattle, WA*

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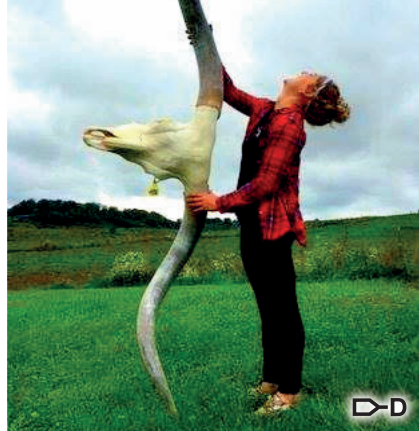
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BY SHERRY MONAHAN

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Cowboy Cuisine

In the cow towns at the end of the trail, cowboys left the beans and biscuits in camp and dined like city slickers.



When the first cattle drives came up the Western Trail to Dodge City in 1875, The Dodge House (center, above) was ready and open for business for meals and rooms for tired and hungry cowboys.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

It's true that cowboys mainly ate beans, biscuits and beef along the trail, but after months of the same old grub, they longed for the end of the trail and a decent meal. Kansas cow towns are the best known because of the Chisholm Trail, but Colorado, Missouri, New Mexico, Wyoming, Montana, Texas and Nebraska had stockyard cities as well.

Those towns saw cowboys and thousands of cattle explode into town come late summer from the 1860s to the 1900s. When these trail-worn men reached the end-of-trail towns, a mighty celebration took place. They wanted women, clean clothes, hot baths, stiff drinks and delicious meals that didn't consist of beans. Since the towns were doing well with cattle money and other business, restaurants and hotels served almost anything. Imagine a cowboy sitting down to supper at the Douglas Avenue House in Wichita, Kansas, and looking at its 1872 menu that offered mock turtle soup, baked ham with champagne sauce, chicken pie, stewed tomatoes, cabbage and fresh vegetables. Their dessert options included strawberry, peach

or lemon pie, marble cake, silver cake, gold cake or ice cream.

Las Vegas, New Mexico, saw its share of cattle and had a large number of ranches. Cowboys visited Mrs. Sampson at the Plaza Hotel where her Sunday bill of fare included Creole soup, baked Mackinaw trout with sauce hollandaise, fricassee of spring chicken *au royale*, baked hunter's style Yorkshire pie and oyster patties *à la Toulouse*. Vegetables included parsnips and cream, string beans and potatoes, and they finished their meal with blackberry pie or lemon ice cream with jelly cake.

Omaha, Nebraska, served as a stockyard city from the early 1870s to well into the early 1900s. In 1891 Restaurant Francais opened and served decadent French meals. The French owners offered cream of asparagus soup with hors d'oeuvres of sausage, butter, olives and sardines to start. Entrees included veal with rice and petite peas or filet mignon with madeira sauce. In between servings, cowboys could order an omelet with rum, toasted bread or quail on toast. If they had room, they could finish their meal with fruit, Roquefort cheese,

mince or apple pie, coffee, fine champagne, Bordeaux wine or cigars.

Denver had stockyards as early as 1865 and remained a sophisticated cattle town for several years as cowboys and ranchers streamed into the city. When the cowboys and their bosses wanted a fine meal, they visited Moon's Oyster Ocean restaurant which offered chicken giblet soup, broiled trout, stuffed roast tame duck, giblet patties and roast beef and mutton. Moon's competitor, Jack Lambert, offered a slightly more upscale menu—and all for 50 cents—that included roast pork with cranberry sauce or corned beef and cabbage served with mashed potatoes, green peas and green (fresh) corn. He also served white, graham and corn bread and his desserts included pudding, two kinds of pie, fruits, tea and coffee.

You don't have to knock off the trail dirt to enjoy a fancy meal like the cowboys did, but I'm sure the owners and patrons alike would appreciate it if you cleaned up. Step back in time in Fort Worth, Texas, when you dine at the Stockyards Hotel that's been in business since 1904. You can also visit the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, New Mexico, which has been open since 1882.



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

LEMON ICE CREAM

2 cups heavy cream

1 cup milk

1 ½ cups sugar

½ cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
or 1 tablespoon lemon extract

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl and stir to combine until sugar is dissolved.

Freeze according to ice cream machine instructions.



Recipe adapted from Wichita, Kansas's
Thursday Afternoon Cooking Club's
Cook Book, 1922.

Fort Smith ARKANSAS

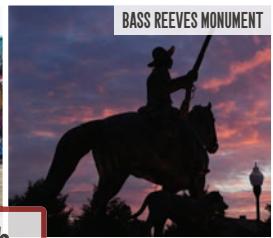
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Kit Carson's War and Peace

Doug Hocking's latest Southwestern history *Terror on the Santa Fe Trail*, plus new histories on the Spanish and Mexican Southwest, the Lakota people and a Western tale of Old Arizona.

For scholars and students of Western American history, the decades of the 1840s and 1850s are typically covered with lessons on the Oregon Territory, Texas, the Mexican War, the Gold Rush and the growing Constitutional crisis over slavery and states' rights.

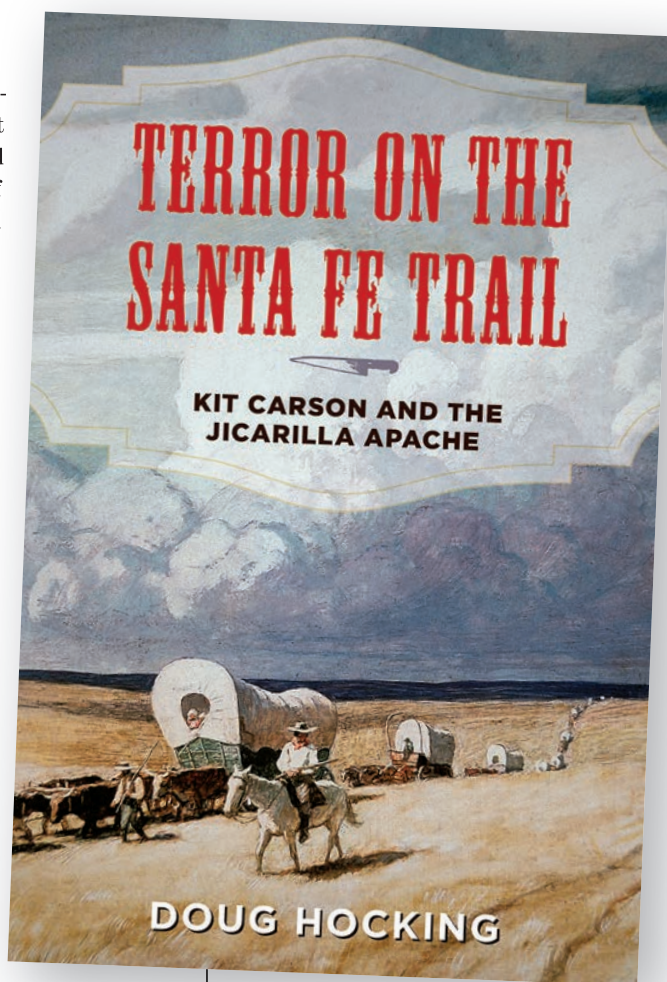
At the conclusion of the James K. Polk presidency in March 1849, thousands of former Mexican citizens and scores of Native tribes with long-established networks of trade, cultural homelands, alliances and enmities were now living under the laws of the American federal government in Texas, the Oregon Territory and the vast former northern territories of Mexico, ceded by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, including New Mexico. Settlers, bonanza seekers, missionaries and federal bureaucrats were traveling across the country and settling in the region from the Olympic Peninsula to the north and to the Rio Grande in the south.

And, right alongside the new American settlers was the U.S. Army building dozens of new camps and posts along key trails and near communities to protect and enforce the laws and will—through military force—of the United States government and the fast-growing Anglo-American Western citizenry.

Greatly overlooked by scholars and educators is one of the first conflicts between the new government and indigenous residents in the United States' new Western lands—the 1848 to 1855 war with the Jicarilla Apaches in the New Mexico Territory. Doug Hocking's *Terror on the Santa Fe Trail: Kit Carson and the Jicarilla Apache* (TwoDot, \$29.95) quickly

fills a gap in the historiography of the Southwest and should be required reading for students of the trail's history and the Territory of New Mexico's first decade. Hocking writes in his introduction: "[T]oday the Jicarilla Apache are nearly forgotten, their great victory at Cieneguilla overlooked, occurring before the Civil War when New Mexico was still a far-off land. These were the warriors who were once the Terror of the Santa Fe Trail, foe, friend and fighting comrades of Kit Carson."

Hocking's *Terror on the Santa Fe Trail* has created an important scholarly resource on the Santa Fe Trail, Kit Carson, the Jicarilla tribe and Army and civilian rule in the first decade of New Mexico Territory history. The well-illustrated volume includes a useful historiography, bibliographical sources, detailed endnotes, an informative glossary and two appendices—"Posts and Forts of the Jicarilla Country" and "Treaties with the Jicarilla"—that are invaluable for students, researchers and educators. Detractors and apologists of



Kit Carson would equally benefit from reading Hocking's thoughtful history of this oft-overlooked chapter in the Apache Wars and Carson's decisive and multiple roles in securing peace for the Jicarilla people—even if he was not able to live to see them secure their own reservation.

—Stuart Rosebrook

ROUGH DRAFTS



— PHOTO BY ROBERT RAY —

Looking for a great reason to visit Wyoming and South Dakota that combines travel, history, the Western Writers of America and *True West*? Consider starting with the free **Grand Encampment Museum History Symposium in Grand Encampment, Wyoming, the weekend of Friday June 12-13.**

This year's theme is "True West," and featured speakers are Bob Boze Bell, Johnny D. Boggs, Candy Moulton, Chris Enss and Steve Friesen.

The event begins on Friday at 7 p.m. at the Grand Encampment Opera House in Encampment with presentations by Boggs, Enss and Bell. **On Saturday, June 13,** a series of talks will feature all speakers, beginning at 9 a.m. **All events are free.** The program is co-sponsored by the Grand Encampment Museum and Western Writers of America. For more information, contact the museum at 307-327-5308.

Before departing Grand Encampment on Sunday, **make sure to schedule time to visit the Grand Encampment Museum, "The GEM of Southern Wyoming."** Start at the Doc Culleton Memorial Building and a tour of the visitor center's exhibits before a walking tour of the 10 historic buildings on site.

From Grand Encampment, **set your GPS for Rapid City, South Dakota, and the WWA 2020 Convention,** which is being held this year at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn at 505 North Fifth St. from Wednesday to Saturday, June 17-20. For more information on the international gathering of Western historians, writers, editors, musicians, poets, publishers, agents and aficionados of the American West, go to WesternWriters.org.

Hope to see you there!

—Stuart Rosebrook

RESCUED



E. ALAN FLEISCHAUER

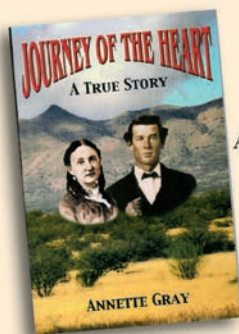
Rescued is currently a semi-finalist for the Laramie Awards for Best Western of 2019.

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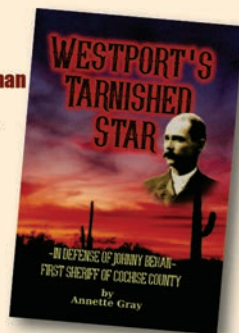


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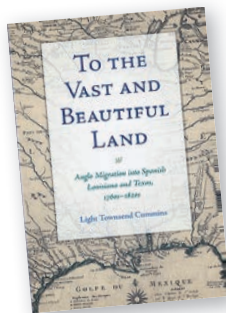
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Anglo Migrants to the Borderlands

To the Vast and Beautiful Land—Anglo Migration into Spanish Louisiana and Texas, 1760s–

1820s (Texas A&M University Press, \$45)—by Professor Emeritus of History at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, Light Townsend Cummins—presents 11 of his essays written over a 30-year period spanning the 20th and 21st centuries, and explaining the immigration of English-speaking people into Spain's Louisiana/Texas borderlands. Cummins, who served as State Historian of Texas from 2009 to 2012, adds this erudite, heavily footnoted volume to his catalog of a dozen authored or edited books. This book is sure to become an important reference work for anyone writing about the settlement of the Louisiana/Texas borderland.

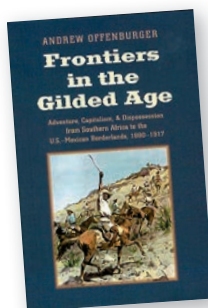
—William Groneman III, author of David Crockett: Hero of the Common Man

Gilded Age Colonialism

In *Frontiers in the Gilded Age: Adventure, Capitalism, and Dispossession from Southern Africa to the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands, 1880–1917* (Yale University Press, \$45), author Andrew Offenburger has ably interwoven the frontier “conquest” during the Gilded Age on two continents: primarily South Africa and the Yaqui territory. A British missionary, a Boer exile and an American adventurer-capitalist entered lands with little respect for the culture and lives of the natives.

Their goals were to steal the Indian and native African land and make themselves rich. African natives were dispossessed and often enslaved. Their role in killing and tearing Yaqui families apart to exile them to Yucatan, highlights their (the missionary harvested Mexican souls, without deference for the people) collaboration with the Mexican government.

—Salomé Hernández, author of No Settlement Without Women: Three Spanish California Settlement Schemes, 1790-1800



Lakota Reappraisal

While S. C. Gwynne's 2010 title *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History* received considerable notice, it was Pekka Hämäläinen's *Comanche Empire*, released by Yale University Press the previous year, which deserved laurels for its solid scholarship. A decade later, *Lakota America: A New History of Indigenous Power* (Yale University Press, \$35) is Hämäläinen's latest foray into American Indian history and culture. Hämäläinen surpasses most of the legions of authors who have delved into the people popularly known as the Sioux, and his work will appeal to serious readers, who will find this a must addition to their libraries.

—John Langellier contributor to Francis Paul Prucha's A Bibliographical Guide to the History of Indian-White Relations in the United States



Shootout in Old Arizona

Brett Cogburn's *Gunpowder Express*, (Pinnacle, \$7.99) is an intriguing combination of history and fiction that takes place during the late 1860s in the Arizona Territory. Widowmaker Jones tries to protect a gold shipment traveling from the Vulture mine at Vulture City to the train station in Phoenix. The adventure takes the reader across a trail that the author calls the “Gunpowder Express,” where there are several attempts to have the shipment taken away. Cogburn has a unique way of developing bad guys while intertwining history with fiction that will keep you reading. I found the book entertaining and full of action. I recommend it as an outstanding read.

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





- COURTESY ANITA LA CAVA SWIFT -

JOHN WAYNE'S ELDEST OF 27 GRANDCHILDREN SHARES HER FAVORITE DUKE BOOKS

Anita La Cava Swift was born in the San Fernando Valley in California and spent the first two years of her life living at her grandfather's Encino home. She shared his love of American history and Western fiction. Anita was 21 years old when he died of cancer, and along with the rest of the family, continues to try to find a cure for cancer by supporting the John Wayne Cancer Foundation (JohnWayne.org). If you love the Duke like she does, you will want these five John Wayne books in your library:

- 1 **John Wayne: The Genuine Article** by Michael Goldman (Insight Editions): A beautiful book for the ultimate John Wayne fan includes actual personal stories from his friends and family members.
- 2 **John Wayne: The Legend and The Man** (Powerhouse Books): This was the first book released by the family, with many never-before-seen photos and essays by Patricia Bosworth, Martin Scorsese, Maureen O'Hara, Ron Howard and Ronald Reagan
- 3 **The John Wayne Code** (Topix Media Lab): This leather-bound book sells out every time we print it! It is a small collection of wisdom and advice from my grandfather along with photos.
- 4 **John Wayne: The Life and Legend** by Scott Eyman (Simon & Schuster): This is the only biography I would recommend about my grandfather. Although not factually correct in some spots, I'll forgive his fiction...
- 5 **True Grit** by Charles Portis (Simon & Schuster): Read any book that John Wayne's Westerns were based on, but my favorite is *True Grit*, perhaps because he made the movie when I was the same age as the heroine. It was not a stretch for my grandfather to play Rooster!

Coming this summer: Texas Ranger Talks!



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BY LEO W. BANKS

Alpine, Texas

Texas's Big Bend town is a rich crossroads of Western heritage.



The Texas Rangers have been patrolling the Big Bend region of Alpine and Brewster County, Texas, for well over 150 years. Ranger Frank Hamer began his career with the famous law outfit's Alpine company in 1906.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

The wilds of West Texas's Big Bend region have always been a crossroads of history, from the Spanish explorations of the 1600s to Comanche raids against settlers. In 1917, Woodrow Wilson sent troops to deal with incursions by Mexican soldiers during that country's revolution.

Founded in 1888 in the foothills of the Davis Mountains, Alpine is the area's largest town, a culturally vibrant and friendly community of 6,000 in a beautiful valley 4,500 feet above sea level. As is typically Texas, the county in which it sits—Brewster County—is larger than the state of Connecticut.

Exhibits at the Museum of the Big Bend offer a good introduction to the area's rich past. These include a first-class collection of maps, one of which is based on the explorations of the Southwest by Jesuit missionary Father Eusebio Kino.

It's rare to stand before an item that was copper-engraved in Paris in 1705. Some maps are on public display and others can be seen by appointment.

The museum's gift shop sells beautiful works of Majolica pottery and handcrafted wooden and metal birds by renowned artist Charley Harper.

Every April, the museum, located on the campus of Sul Ross State University, also

hosts its annual Trappings of Texas celebration, featuring parties and dancing, as well as an exhibition of quality Western art and cowboy supplies.

In July, don't miss the year's biggest event, the Viva Big Bend Music Festival, a weekend party that includes the nearby towns of Marfa, Marathon and Fort Davis.

"There's music everywhere, 60 different shows in four towns that attract 3,000 people," says Director of Tourism Christopher Ruggia.

November's Artwalk is popular, too. Downtown visitors can see numerous outdoor murals with images from Alpine's history and folklore, most by famed artist Stylee Read.

These include one honoring the Texas Rangers. Frank Hamer, the most famous Ranger of them all, joined the group in Alpine in 1906. Later, he tracked down and killed notorious outlaws Bonnie and Clyde.

The Alpine Visitor Center has walking maps of downtown sites like Big Bend Saddlery, selling authentic cowboy gear since 1905; the Kiowa Gallery, specializing in the best West Texas art; and the 1928 Holland Hotel, designed by architects Trost & Trost. It has 27 Southwest-themed rooms, a grand Spanish-Colonial lobby, modern dining, and for drinks and conversation, a pretty courtyard with a fountain and red oak trees.

Be sure to visit the Ritchey Wine Saloon & Beer Garden, built in 1886 as a cowboy and railroad workers' hotel. One of the town's oldest commercial structures, it



Downtown Alpine dates to the 1920s after the city burned in a major fire in 1916. A visitor to the Brewster County seat will enjoy the eclectic set of Holland Avenue businesses, including the Granada Theater. The historic 1946 landmark has been converted into a music and performance hall and a site for community events.

- COURTESY THE LYDA HILL TEXAS COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN CAROL M. HIGHSMITH'S AMERICA PROJECT, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

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© E. Dan Klepper

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visitalpinetx.com



WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY



The *Big Brewster* mural in downtown Alpine (left) delights visitors and residents, alike.

— COURTESY TRAVEL TEXAS —

To plan your trip, stop at the Visitor Information Center, 106 N. Third St. VisitAlpineTX.com

FORT DAVIS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

From 1854 to 1891, this frontier outpost protected westbound pioneers. Watch a 15-minute video and take self-guided tours of five restored buildings. Irony alert: The post was named for Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, future president of the Confederacy, and one of the soldiers stationed there was Henry Flipper, West Point's first black graduate.

NPS.gov

BIG BEND BREWING COMPANY

Stop for a sip of one of their *Tejas* brews or try classic offerings like the Terlingua Gold Pale Ale. The tap room is open and pours five days a week. Tours are available.

BigBendBrewing.com

SCENIC DRIVE

Go 30 minutes north on State Highway 118 to Fort Davis. Continue on 40 minutes to the state park at Balmorhea, which has one of the country's largest spring-fed swimming pools. "It's so beautiful going through Wild Rose Pass in the Davis Mountains," says Ruggia. Get details at the Visitor Center.

VisitAlpineTX.com

THEATRE OF THE BIG BEND

Sul Ross State University's summer theatre has been operating for more than 50 years. This summer's shows will be *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, held in an outdoor hillside venue that could include wandering deer.

SulRoss.edu



Alpine boasts a small but vibrant local music scene that comes alive during the annual Viva Big Bend Music Festival held every July in Alpine and the neighboring towns of Marfa, Marathon and Fort Davis.

— COURTESY OLAF GROWALD, VISITALPINETX.COM —



Visitors examine premier custom cowboy gear at the Museum of the Big Bend's Trappings of Texas exhibition held on the campus of Sul Ross State University.

- COURTESY ROBERT GREESON, VISITALPINETX.COM -

has been restored to look and feel like a Western saloon. It's a lively place with events like Nerd Nite and music by groups such as the Doodlin' Hogwallops. Try drinks at sunset on the balcony overlooking town.

Outdoor fun abounds at 800,000-acre Big Bend National Park, 88 miles from town. It has five visitor centers, 100 miles of paved roads, 150 miles of dirt roads and 200 hiking trails.

Anything you can do under the sun and a floppy hat is available here, including floating the Rio Grande River, which borders the park for 118 miles.

In town, hike Hancock Hill behind the university campus. In the early 1980s, two students carried a metal desk up the hill and sat there to study. They left a notebook in the desk that future hikers could sign, and the tradition continues.

Leave a message for posterity and enjoy a quiet moment. "From atop the hill you have a view that sweeps over the whole valley," says Ruggia. "It's extraordinary."

FUN FACT: The most photographed mural in town, called *Big Brewster*, shows the face of Dan Blocker, the lovable giant who played Hoss Cartwright on TV's *Bonanza*. He graduated from Sul Ross State Teacher's College in 1950 and played football there.



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

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Visitors to downtown Deadwood, South Dakota, will enjoy staying, dining and playing at the historic Bullock Hotel. City pioneers Seth Bullock and Sol Star opened the Bullock in 1894 and today, with its beautifully appointed guest rooms, it is the oldest operating hotel in the mining town. Many people claim Seth Bullock's spirit still wanders the halls of his namesake hotel.

- COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA TOURISM -

633

633

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

Eat! Drink! Sleep!

Western historic hotels and saloons offer guests a chance to experience the Old West with all the conveniences of the modern day.

Travelers who love the Old West and want to experience its history firsthand on a Western heritage vacation have many key decisions to make before hitting the road, including where to visit, eat and sleep. At *True West* magazine, we believe one of the best ways to discover and enjoy history in person is to plan a vacation that combines tours of communities that have made a commitment to preserving their past, including their historical sites, museums, hotels, restaurants and saloons. Fortunately, preservationists, proprietors and community leaders have worked diligently for decades to save, restore and modernize vintage hotels, restaurants and saloons across the Western United States. From boutique

downtown lodges to historic inns and multi-generational guest ranches, hundreds of heritage properties celebrate the lore of the West in their guest rooms, bars and dining rooms.

For this, our 2020 guide to historic hotels, restaurants and saloons, we have selected 20 places exemplifying both the ideals of community preservation and Old West tourism. We encourage you to begin scheduling your long weekend or extended vacation across the Western United States and plan to stay at one of these inns and enjoy meals and libations at the historic restaurants and saloons. Use this guide to inspire your next road trip to eat, sleep and drink where history happened and make memories that last a lifetime.



ARIZONA

BIG NOSE KATE'S SALOON Tombstone, Arizona

Tombstone's Big Nose Kate's Saloon was once the Grand Hotel, originally built in 1881. On October 25, 1881, the night before the Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral, the Clantons and the McLaurys were guests here. This was the place to stay! Nowadays, the changes made to the structure after it burned down and was rebuilt are evident. The bar area, housed in the basement of the old hotel, is now located on the main level. In the basement is a gift shop, but the tunnel leading to the mine shafts still exists. The saloon holds the Grand Hotel's original long bar, the only one that survived the fire of 1882 and still serving thirsty patrons. Imagine setting your elbows down on the very place that the Earps, Doc Holliday and the Clantons once did!

17 East Allen Street, Tombstone, AZ 85638
520-457-3107 • BigNoseKates.info

THE COPPER QUEEN HOTEL Bisbee, Arizona

The Copper Queen Hotel was built in 1898 and completed in 1902. While the town of Bisbee has grown, it has not lost its boomtown heritage. Soon after Bisbee became a town, Phelps Dodge Mining Company built The Copper Queen Hotel as a place for dignitaries and investors to relax in luxury. When completed, the hotel was one of the most modern in the West. Today, The Copper Queen maintains the highest standards while retaining its historic charm to accommodate the modern-day traveler.

11 Howell Avenue, Bisbee, AZ 85603
520-432-2216 • CopperQueen.com

GADSDEN HOTEL Douglas, Arizona

With pink marble pillars, stained-glass windows, gold leaf and an Italian marble staircase, the four-story Gadsden Hotel opened at a cost of \$200,000 in 1907. The luxurious hotel

The Copper Queen (left) is the oldest, continuously operated hotel in Arizona.

- COURTESY ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM -



Originally the 16-room Grand Hotel, Big Nose Kate's is located on Allen Street (right) in the heart of Tombstone's historic district. Tombstone's most luxurious hotel was less than two years old when it burned to the ground in a citywide fire on May 25, 1882. Today, after a variety of modifications to the original structure, Big Nose Kate's (above) embodies the Old West spirit of Territorial Tombstone and the days of the Earps, Clantons, Doc Holliday and Kate.

- HISTORIC IMAGE COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/
BIG NOSE KATE'S COURTESY ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM -





was named for Ambassador James Gadsden, who negotiated the Gadsden Purchase of 1853. Today, the hotel's owners are dedicated to restoring one of Arizona's "grande dame" hotels to its storied past, and rooms can be booked on the mezzanine level. Don't miss a chance to dine and have a drink in the 333 Cafe, Restaurant & Bar and the historic Saddle & Spur Tavern.

1046 G Avenue, Douglas, AZ 85607
520-364-4481 • TheGadsdenHotel.com

THE HASSAYAMPA INN Prescott, Arizona

With Spanish Colonial Revival and Italianate features, the Hassayampa Inn in the historic district of Prescott offers comforting small-town charm while being closely situated near the sights and sounds of Prescott. This prime location is walking distance to the Courthouse Square, art

The historic 1927 Hassayampa Inn (right) on Gurley Street in downtown Prescott, Arizona, has been fully restored to its 1920s glory and is perfectly situated within walking distance of the city's Courthouse Plaza and arts and entertainment district.

- COURTESY THE HASSAYAMPA INN -

galleries and unique one-of-a-kind shops, eateries and antique stores. Designed by Southwest architect Henry Trost, it was built as a luxury hotel in 1927 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

122 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301
800-322-1927 • HassayampaInn.com

When visiting the Gadsden Hotel (above) in Douglas, Arizona, look for the chip in the seventh step of the marble staircase supposedly made by Pancho Villa's horse when the bandit rode his mount up and the stairs.

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





While the luxury of railroad travel on the old Santa Fe Super Chief has long since passed, the La Posada—the Winslow, Arizona, grande dame of Fred Harvey’s Mary Colter-designed hotels on the Santa Fe line—has been fully restored to its early 20th-century glory.

— COURTESY LA POSADA —

**LA POSADA HOTEL
Winslow, Arizona**

In 1927 the Santa Fe Railway decided to build a major hotel in the center of Northern Arizona. La Posada was to be the finest in the Southwest and they chose Mary Jane Colter to design it for Winslow. It was the finest hotel on Route 66 until it closed in 1957. In 1997, a new ownership group began renovations on the hotel and today La Posada has become an icon of the Southwest, a story of redemption and rediscovery.

303 East 2nd Street, Winslow, AZ 86047
928-289-4366 • LaPosada.org

**THE PALACE RESTAURANT
AND SALOON
Prescott, Arizona**

The Palace is Arizona’s oldest frontier saloon and restaurant. Past patrons include the Earp brothers, Doc Holliday and Big

Nose Kate. Prescott’s famous Palace Restaurant and Saloon opened on Montezuma Street. It opened in 1874 as the Cabinet Saloon, where Doc Holliday was sure to have been a patron. The building was destroyed in the Whiskey Row Fire of

1900. Patrons moved the bar across the street and drank and watched Whiskey Row burn to the ground. It was rebuilt in 1901. For the next nine decades, the Palace maintained itself as the centerpiece of Whiskey Row. The 1972 Steve McQueen classic *Junior Bonner*, filmed entirely in Prescott and Yavapai County, featured the famous saloon. (The screenplay was written by my father, Jeb Rosebrook.) In 1996, the Palace was sold and completely renovated. Today, The Palace maintains its history, grandeur and old Wild West atmosphere



Founded in 1864 after gold was discovered, Prescott (left, inset) was Arizona’s first Territorial capital and Yavapai County seat. As the economic center of northern Arizona adjacent to Fort Whipple, Prescott’s downtown grew up around the Courthouse Plaza, with the Palace Restaurant and Saloon first opening its swinging doors as the Cabinet Saloon in 1874. Today, the fully restored Palace (left) anchors Prescott’s historic Whiskey Row on Montezuma Street and is a destination for re-enactors and history lovers with its popular restaurant and historic bar.

— HISTORIC PHOTO COURTESY NYPL/MODERN PHOTO COURTESY THE PALACE RESTAURANT AND SALOON —



The 1886 Crescent Hotel & Spa's hilltop location provides guests with views of the surrounding Ozark Mountains, especially beautiful during the autumn fall leaf-changing season.

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

with its famous bar, a full dining room and regularly scheduled live music.

120 South Montezuma Street
Prescott, AZ 86303

928-541-1996 • WhiskeyRowPalace.com

ARKANSAS

1886 CRESCENT HOTEL & SPA Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Perched high on a crest of the Ozark Mountains, the four-story Crescent Hotel stands like a storybook castle. The Frisco Railroad and the Eureka Springs Improvement Company joined forces to build the “Grand Ol’ Lady of the Ozarks.” The hotel presently offers 72 rooms and four cottages, set amid 15 acres of manicured gardens and lovely woods laced with hiking trails. Guests at the Crescent may dine at the 1886 Steakhouse in the Crystal Ballroom, an elegant space featuring high ceilings, walnut walls and crystal chandeliers.

75 Prospect Avenue
Eureka Springs, AR 72632
855-725-5720 • Crescent-Hotel.com



CALIFORNIA

ALMOST HISTORICAL RIVER CITY SALOON Sacramento, California

River City Saloon has a long, rich history. It is located in the historic Old Sacramento district, where, in 1861, it was one of the original houses of ill repute owned by Johanna Heigle. Shortly after that, it became Parker French's Saloon, owned by Mr. Parker French, who was a colorful Sacramento newspaper man. In 2007, new owners Sean and Erika Derfeld remodeled it to its

original grandeur and renamed it The River City Saloon. One of the architectural highlights of the historic pub is a 1905 Triple Arch Brunswick bar similar to one that was in the pub in 1871.

916 2nd Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
916-443-6852 • TheRiverCitySaloon.com

Walk through the doors of Old Sacramento's Almost Historical River City Saloon and step back in time to an era of gold-seekers and railroaders.

— COURTESY ALMOST HISTORICAL RIVER CITY SALOON —





In the 1850s and 1860s, California miners (left, inset) could escape the drudgery of their diggings with a night at Columbia's City Hotel (left).

— PHOTO OF CITY HOTEL COURTESY COLUMBIA CALIFORNIA STATE HISTORIC PARK/ PHOTO OF MINERS IN COLUMBIA, CALIFORNIA, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

**CITY HOTEL & FALLON HOTEL
Columbia, California**

Columbia's old Gold Rush-era business district has been preserved with shops, restaurants and two historic hotels—the City and the Fallon. Visitors have a chance to “time-travel” to the 1850s, when gold miners rubbed shoulders with businessmen and other residents in Columbia. They experience a bygone era by watching proprietors in period clothing conduct business in the style of yesterday. There are opportunities to ride a 100-year-old stage coach, pan for gold and explore the real working businesses of Columbia. The California State Historic Park was once

known as the “Gem of the Southern Mines.” Between the 1850s and 1870s, over one billion dollars’ worth of gold (at today’s value) was mined in the area. For a time, Columbia was the second-largest city in California. Visitors can relax at one of two comfortable hotels, listen to music in historic saloons, including the What Cheer inside the City Hotel, and take in a performance at the Fallon Theater.

California State Historic Park
22768 Main Street, Columbia, CA 95310
209-532-1479
VisitColumbiaCalifornia.com



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- COURTESY THE BUCKHORN EXCHANGE RESTAURANT -



COLORADO

THE BUCKHORN EXCHANGE RESTAURANT

Denver, Colorado

Denver's oldest eating and drinking establishment, The Buckhorn Exchange, is now in its second century of operation. A city and county historic landmark, the restaurant has liquor license Number One in the state of Colorado. Henry H. "Shorty Scout" Zietz, easily recognized as one of the most colorful figures of the Old West, founded the famous restaurant on November 17, 1893.

The Buckhorn Exchange brims with a 125-piece Old West gun collection, historic artifacts and a rare 575-piece collection of taxidermy.

10th Avenue, Denver, CO 80204
303-534-9505 • Buckhorn.com

THE CLIFF HOUSE AT PIKES PEAK

Manitou Springs, Colorado

The Rocky Mountain retreat with 54 rooms decorated in a

Opened for business in 1873 during Colorado's Pikes Peak Gold Rush, the Cliff House (below) has transformed itself many times over in the century and a half since it first hosted miners on their way to their claims. Throughout the hotel's history the luxury destination has sought to create a superior experience for its guests. Today's Cliff House was completely renovated and restored and is considered one of the finest heritage destinations in the state of Colorado.

- COURTESY THE CLIFF HOUSE AT PIKES PEAK -



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irmahotel.com (307) 581-4221



late-1800s motif opened in 1873 at the base of Pikes Peak. The original 20-room boardinghouse started as a stage stop and in the ensuing decades it was expanded to 200 rooms. With the nearby mineral springs and spring water, the luxury hotel became a popular destination for the rich and famous, including U.S. presidents and European royalty. After the hotel suffered a series of fires, ownership dedicated itself to restoring the historic property in the 1990s, and today the Cliff House at Pikes Peak is one of the finest, most luxurious resorts in the Rockies.

306 Cañon Avenue
Manitou Springs, CO 80829
719-785-1000 • *TheCliffHouse.com*

THE STRATER HOTEL
Durango, Colorado

Walk inside the doors of The Strater Hotel in Durango, Colorado, and open a world of living history that becomes part of every visitor's personal story. The Strater is a complete experience where guests tour through pristine, interesting halls and stay in rooms restored to their 1887 glory. Every detail—from amazing antique Victorian furniture to meticulous Bradbury wallpapers—holds stories of the Southwest, from 1887 through today.

A founding member of Historic Hotels of America, The Strater is Durango's living history museum. Ninety-three unique storied rooms, the Henry Strater Theatre, The Mahogany Grille, The Office Spiritorium and The Diamond Belle Saloon are all steeped in craftsmanship at every level. Visitors enjoy fabulous food and creative drink, shadow boxes that tell stories of the past and the Strater team's genuine connection to every guest—all within the iconic brick building in the heart of downtown Durango. Famous for live music, the Diamond Belle brings saloon girls and Victorian-era bartenders together with guests as they belly up to the historic bar.

699 Main Avenue, Durango, CO 81301
970-945-6511 • *Strater.com*

THE HOTEL COLORADO
Glenwood Springs, Colorado

The Grand Lobby and Baron's Restaurant were restored to reflect their original charm. Guests dine beside an interior waterfall or enjoy beverages near the original grand fireplace. During the summer, guests dine in the scenic courtyard, or warm themselves by fire pits while enjoying stunning views of Mt. Sopris. For 125 years, timeless secrets of extensive journeys have been held within

Built conveniently next to the historic Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Station, the Strater Hotel (above) in Durango, Colorado, has been hosting guests in luxury since 1887. Today, the famous railway (above, inset), which arrived in 1881 and was restored in the mid-1970s, and the hotel, which went through major upgrades and renovations in the 1980s, offer one of the West's most popular heritage railroad-hotel destinations.

- HISTORIC PHOTO COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/
MODERN PHOTO COURTESY THE STRATER HOTEL -

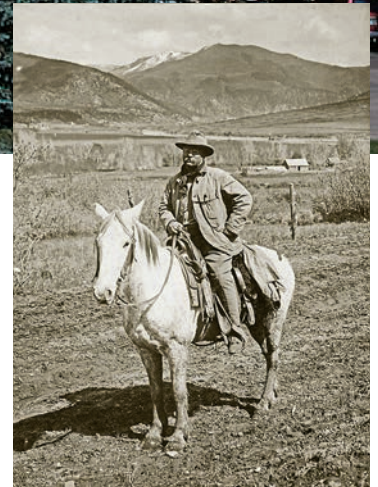
the hotel's walls. The Hotel Colorado welcomes guests into oversized rooms and suites, all with high ceilings, spacious closets, and some with balconies and scenic views. Join the list of legendary figures from the past who have stayed there, and experience a chapter of America's West.

526 Pine Street
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
970-945-6511 • *HotelColorado.com*



With fireworks and fanfare—and investment from silver king Walter Devereaux—The Hotel Colorado (above) opened on June 10, 1893. Designed after the famous Italian Villa de Medici, the mountain resort quickly gained attention of the rich and famous, including President Theodore Roosevelt (right, inset), who enjoyed the great hospitality of the hotel in 1905. Today, Hotel Colorado—almost 130 years later—is one of the state’s premier historic hotels

— HISTORIC PHOTO OF TEDDY ROOSEVELT COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/PHOTO OF HOTEL COLORADO COURTESY COLORADO TOURISM —



KANSAS

HAYS HOUSE

Council Grove, Kansas

Seth Hays, Daniel Boone’s grandson, was the first white settler in Council Grove in 1847. In 1857, Hays built a two-story wood-frame building. The site served as a trading post, restaurant, hotel, courthouse, post office, printing office, meeting and social hall, and offered weary traders journeying between New Mexico and Missouri supplies, meals and rooms. Jesse James and General George Armstrong Custer were a few famous patrons of the Hays House. Today, the Hays House Tavern and Restaurant is famous for being the oldest continuously operated restaurant west of the Mississippi. Inside, diners can find

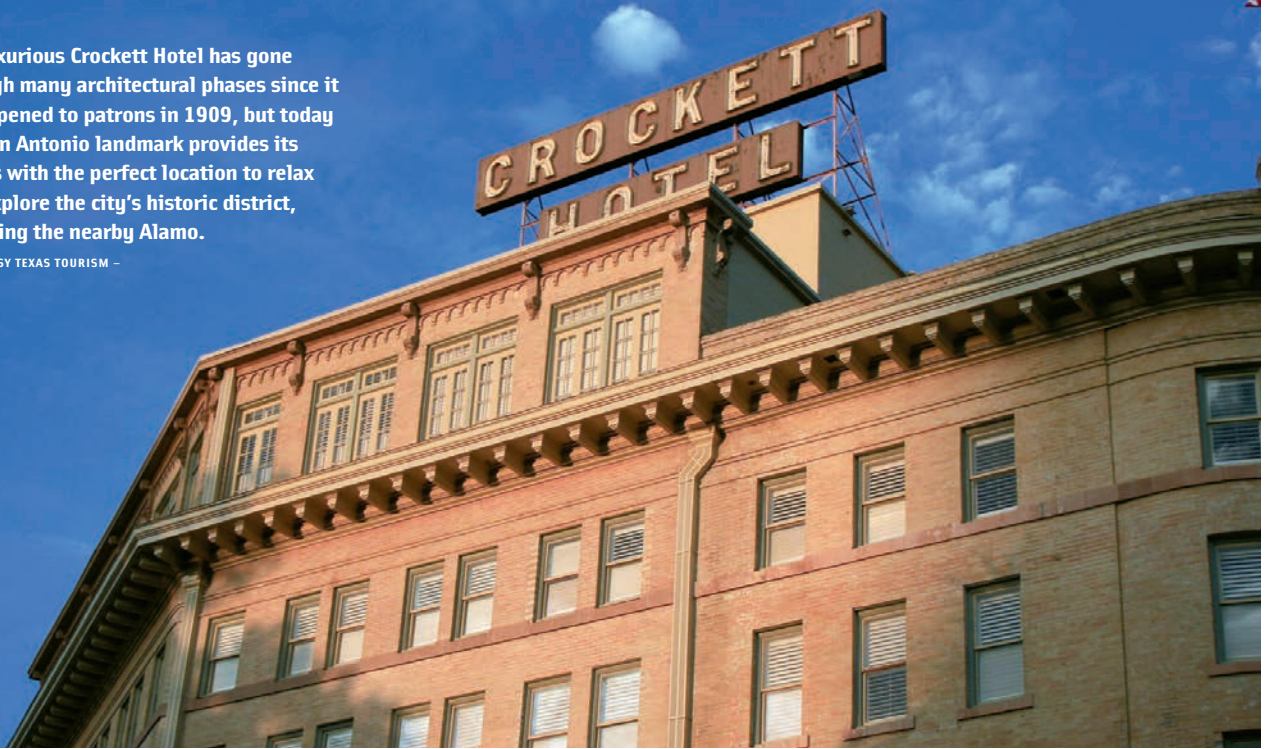


Situated along the historic nearly 200-year-old Santa Fe Trail, the 1857 Hays House (left) in Council Grove, Kansas, would have been a welcome respite for cross-country wagon trains. In 1859, an advertisement in the *Kansas Press* of Cottonwood Falls declared it was “prepared to accommodate the public on reasonable terms. A good stable attached.”

— MODERN IMAGE COURTESY KANSAS TOURISM —

The luxurious Crockett Hotel has gone through many architectural phases since it first opened to patrons in 1909, but today the San Antonio landmark provides its guests with the perfect location to relax and explore the city's historic district, including the nearby Alamo.

— COURTESY TEXAS TOURISM —



historical artifacts, artwork, arrowheads and American Indian relics. The business has had many owners and survived a kitchen fire in its 150-plus years. A group of 25 local residents pooled their money together to buy the business after the fire. The Flint Hills Investors reopened Hays House to the public in May 2012.

112 West Main Street
Council Grove, KS 66846
620-767-5911 • HaysHouse.com

MONTANA

HOTEL ARVON

Great Falls, Montana

The vision of Great Falls founder and Montana mining and ranching entrepreneur Robert Vaughan, the Hotel Arvon opened its doors, along with an adjacent livery, in 1890. Named for Vaughan's daughter Arvonnia, the hotel is located on the Arvon block in the city's oldest commercial building. The beautifully restored inn has 11 historically named suites and 22 luxurious guest rooms. Guests can enjoy dining and drinking next door at The Celtic Cowboy, an Irish pub that honors Vaughan, who embraced his nickname



during his colorful years as Montana pioneer.

118 1st Avenue S, Great Falls, MT 59401
406-952-1101 • HotelArvon.com

TEXAS

CROCKETT HOTEL

San Antonio, Texas

Built in 1909 just behind the Alamo, the historic hotel is within walking distance of many of San Antonio's most popular sites, including the Shrine of Liberty and the popular River Walk.

The building's seven-story west wing was added in 1927. The hotel and its 138 guest rooms were completely renovated in 2007. One of the most striking features of the Crockett today is its six-story-high atrium, created when the hotel enclosed its outdoor courtyard in the 1980s.

320 Bonham, San Antonio, TX 78205
210-225-6500 • CrockettHotel.com

OLD CENTRAL FIREHOUSE BED AND BREW

San Angelo, Texas

Centrally located in downtown San Angelo, Old Central Firehouse was built in 1929. One of the first firehouses in San Angelo, the stately building remained in service as a firehouse until 1976. Newly renovated into a bed and brew, it is near the city's dining and entertainment district, as well as many local historic sites including Fort Concho. Old Central Firehouse provides a unique, relaxing getaway within walking distance to many of the things that make San Angelo so great.

200 S Magdalen Street
San Angelo, TX 76903
325-703-2029 • OCFBedAndBrew.com

WYOMING

BUFFALO BILL'S IRMA HOTEL

Cody, Wyoming

Visit the Irma Hotel—a place that Buffalo Bill Cody called “a gem”—just outside of

Between 2012 and 2016, the 120-year-old Arvon Block building in Great Falls, Montana, was restored and transformed into the historic Arvon Hotel (left) and Celtic Cowboy Irish Pub. Guests who stay in one of the finely appointed suites and rooms are in walking distance of the city's arts and entertainment district.

— COURTESY CREATIVE COMMONS —

Old Central Firehouse Bed and Brew is one of the newest overnight accommodations in San Angelo's historic district. The 1929 fire station served the city until 1976. Owners Jody and Michele Babiash bought the old firehouse and spent a year transforming the second floor into four guest rooms, including The Locker Room (below).

- COURTESY OLD CENTRAL FIREHOUSE BED AND BREW -



Yellowstone National Park. Cody built the hotel in 1902 and named it for his daughter, Irma. Today, you can stay in historic rooms that housed some of the most famous personalities the world has ever known, including Frederic Remington, Annie Oakley and Calamity Jane. You can even stay in Buffalo Bill's private suite. There are a host of other historic and non-historic rooms, all with up-to-date amenities and air conditioning. While at Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel, sample the famous prime rib; choose from an expansive selection at



Today, Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel in downtown Cody, Wyoming, stands as a living tribute to one of the West's greatest boosters. In 1895, William "Buffalo Bill" Cody helped found the city that bears his name and established the TE Ranch outside of town. In 1902, Cody built the Irma to help attract tourists on their way to Yellowstone National Park.

- COURTESY WYOMING TOURISM -



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1192 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY 82414
307-587-4221 • IrmaHotel.com

OCCIDENTAL HOTEL
Buffalo, Wyoming

The Occidental Hotel was founded in 1879 in a tent before the log structure was constructed in 1880. The hotel hosted many famous people of the Old West. Owen Wister, author of *The Virginian*, frequented

the region and based his characters on gunslingers and cowboys he'd met in the Occidental Saloon. The current hotel, built between 1903 and 1908, guarantees today's visitors an Old West experience at its

historic Occidental Saloon, Busy Bee Cafe and The Virginian Restaurant.

10 Main Street, Buffalo, WY 82834
307-684-0451 • OccidentalWyoming.com

William "Buffalo Bill" Cody's vision for a hotel to serve railroad patrons visiting Sheridan, Wyoming, can be experienced firsthand today by guests who stay in one of the 22 historically themed rooms at the beautifully restored Sheridan Inn (right).

— COURTESY SHERIDAN TRAVEL & TOURISM —





Buffalo, Wyoming, was founded along Clear Creek just outside Fort McKinney in 1878. Within a few years the town was incorporated and the Occidental Hotel (left) was one of its first businesses, opening to customers in 1880. Many famous guests have stayed at the historic inn, including Butch Cassidy, Owen Wister and Calamity Jane. The Occidental went through a ten-year restoration in the 1990s and 2000s and is today considered one of the finest historic, frontier-era hotels in the West.

- HISTORIC IMAGE OF OCCIDENTAL COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/MODERN IMAGE COURTESY WYOMING TOURISM -

SHERIDAN INN
Sheridan, Wyoming

The end of the Johnson County War opened the door to expansion of tourism in Wyoming, including the opening of the Sheridan Inn in 1893. A gathering place for travelers for decades, the inn was completely restored and reopened in 2013 with 22 fully restored rooms and a popular banquet facility for weddings and reunions. Ask about the inn's five-bedroom Mountain Lodge, available to rent with a three-day minimum. The Sheridan Inn is the perfect headquarters for exploring the Big Horn region of Wyoming and Montana.

856 Broadway Street
 Sheridan, WY 82801
 307-655-7861 • SheridanInn.com



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Just a short 90 minute drive north of Phoenix, located in the Historic District of Prescott - this hotel offers comforting small town charm while being closely situated near sights and sounds of Prescott. The prime location is walking distance to the Courthouse Square, Art Galleries, Unique One of a Kind Shops, Eateries and Antique Stores.

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 1-800-322-1927 ❖ 928-778-9434



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541-377-6834 • CattleBarons.net

BIRDING FESTIVAL

UTE MOUNTAIN MESA VERDE BIRDING FESTIVAL

Cortez, CO, May 13-17: Observe the local bird population with regional wildlife specialists volunteering as tour guides and guest lecturers.

970-565-1151 • CortezCulturalCenter.org

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

FRONTIER FORTS DAYS

Fort Worth, TX, May 8-9: Experience life at a frontier fort through infantry, artillery and cavalry demonstrations, and military parades.

817-625-9715 • FortWorthStockyards.org

GENERAL SAM HOUSTON FOLK FESTIVAL

Huntsville, TX, May 15: The Sam Houston Memorial Museum's grounds are transformed into a bustling frontier settlement.

936-294-1832 • GSHFF.com

FRIENDS OF HAPPY TRAILS BANQUET

Victorville, CA, May 16: Make plans now to attend with your entire family this annual banquet dinner celebrating Roy Rogers and Dale Evans' Happy Trails Foundation and the work they do to help children. Live entertainment and lots of fun, food, games, raffles, auctions, door prizes and collectibles are included.

760-240-3330 • HappyTrails.org

KERRVILLE FOLK FESTIVAL

Kerrville, TX, May 21-June 7: Singers and songwriters perform at one of the largest folk music festivals in North America.

830-257-3600 • Kerrville-Music.com

JOHN WAYNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Winterset, IA, May 22-23: Come celebrate the life of John Wayne, with a special screening of Duke classic *Big Jake* and special guest Christopher Mitchum. Musical headliner is Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives.

877-462-1044 • JohnWayneBirthplace.museum

WYATT EARP DAYS

Tombstone, AZ, May 23-24: In honor of famed Tombstone lawman Wyatt Earp, activities include gunfights, a chili cook-off and an 1880s fashion show.

520-457-3511 • TombstoneChamber.com



— COURTESY PENDLETON CATTLE BARONS —

RAILROADS

NARROW GAUGE DAY

Durango, CO, May 1: Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad celebrates continuous operation between Durango and Silverton since 1882.

888-872-4607 • DurangoTrain.com

WILD WEST DAYS AT THE LOOP

Georgetown, CO, May 30-31: The Park County Regulators will be joining Railroad Days at the Loop. There will be engines on display at the Silver Plume train yard, a Steam Engine Bounce House in the car museum, old West BBQ at the Devil's Gate Depot and summer desserts like cotton candy and ice cream at the Silver Plume Depot.

888-456-6777 • GeorgetownLoopRR.com

RODEOS

LAS VEGAS DAYS RODEO

Las Vegas, NV, May 6-9: The PRCA rodeo, formerly known as Helldorado Days Rodeo will be held at the Plaza Hotel and hosted by Bar T Rodeo.

702-870-1221 • RodeosUSA.com

BANDERA PRO RODEO

Bandera, TX, May 23-25: This rodeo features PRCA-sanctioned bareback riding, steer wrestling, calf roping and bull riding.

830-522-0054 • BanderaProRodeo.org

COLORADO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION GUN SHOW

Denver, CO, May 16-17: The show offers more than 1,500 tables of antique and modern firearms and cowboy artifacts.

720-482-0167 • CGCA.com

STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS

WESTERN HERITAGE CLASSIC

Abilene, TX, May 7-10: This working ranch rodeo also offers cowboy music and poetry, a fiddler's contest, a parade and a trade show.

325-677-4376 • WesternHeritageClassic.com

TRADE SHOWS

FORT KEARNEY OUTDOOR EXPO

Kearney, NE, May 9: The expo showcases Nebraska's vast outdoor activities, such as shooting, archery and fishing through demonstrations and contests.

888-444-1867 • VisitKearney.org

TWMag.com:

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Living, Loving and Dying in the West



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. Please always include your name, city and state.

How did folks handle death in the Old West?

Frank Perry
Fresno, California

Then and now, death always brings a lot of heartache, especially with family. In the Old West, families had to deal with it more frequently. Childhood mortality was high. It wasn't uncommon for a family with seven births to lose four of the children in childbirth or due to some affliction or epidemic. A wife might die giving birth. A husband might be killed in a work accident, especially mining, ranching and railroading. The average lifespan for a man in 1900 was only 47 years. Science, penicillin, medicine, diets, sanitation and the elimination of such afflictions as smallpox, diphtheria, polio and typhoid increased that number.



Death from disease, childbirth, farm, ranch and industrial accidents, including those from one of the most dangerous professions, railroad brakeman, was a constant specter of daily life on the Western frontier.

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and shared the jug of whiskey. There were some stories that they

battled in earnest at a later point, but that's just a myth.

It's likely that Allison's reputation as a fast draw was exaggerated. He was a drunk who had no qualms about shooting other men—whether they had a chance to draw or not.

Were the trails of wagon trains really littered with the possessions of families who tried to lighten their loads?

John Volz
La Grange, Kentucky

Yes, the trails were littered with furniture and anything else that wasn't critical. Going through deserts or mountains often required lighter loads,

In 1943, Farm Service Administration photographer John Collier Jr. visited William Heck at his Moreno Valley, Colfax County, New Mexico, ranch and had the rancher demonstrate how a cowboy saddles his horse from the left side—just like generations of horsemen had been doing for hundreds of years.

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just to continue the trek. This was especially true on the transcontinental Missouri to Oregon or California journeys.

Is it true that women of soldiers were shared by other troopers in the West?

Charlene Lewis
New York, New York

It's likely there was some wife-swapping on those isolated frontier posts—especially in common-law relationships. That occurred primarily among the enlisted forces. The married officers often had their wives on the post. But having sex with another officer's wife could be a career-ending move. Still, just like in any occupation in mainstream society, there would have been some philandering going on. Young men being men and young women being women, sometimes things happened.

Why do cowboys saddle up on the left side?

Ed Anderson
Apple Valley, California

That dates back to medieval times when most warriors were right-handed and carried a sword on their left side.



What's the story of the duel between Mace Bowman and Clay Allison?

Joe Manriquez
Whittier, California

Bowman was a Texas feudist and sheriff of Colfax County, New Mexico. Allison, even at the time, was a noted shootist. Supposedly, the two met at Lambert's Inn in Cimarron, New Mexico. Over several drinks, they debated who was the faster gun. They put a gallon of whiskey up for the winner of a mock shootout. The two started with their backs to one another, walked several paces, turned and pulled their pistols. Before Allison could get his from the holster, Bowman had his gun cocked and aimed at his opponent's chest. Allison conceded. They then went off

It was much easier to mount from the left. Also, horses are creatures of habit, and studies have shown that the horse's left eye is stronger and they're less suspicious of someone approaching from their left.



James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok was a feared shootist, but unlike Western novel and television gunfighter characters, the legendary gunman did not put a notch in his pistol after killing a man.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Did Old West gunslingers really put notches on their guns?

Clay Olson
Rapid City, South Dakota

If you had asked me that question a few years ago, I probably would have said, "That's the stuff of pulp fiction and Hollywood." But upon some reflection, I would say that a few did carve notches on the grips of their smoke wagons.

Still, it wasn't commonplace. Wyatt Earp reportedly told his biographer, Stuart Lake, "I never knew a man who amounted to anything to notch his guns with 'credits,' as they were called, for men he had killed. Outlaw gunmen of the wild crew who killed for the sake of brag followed this custom. I have worked with most of the noted peace officers. Hickok, Tilghman, Masterson, Bassett and the others of like-caliber have handled their weapons many times, but I never knew one of them to carry a notched gun."



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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

I mostly grew up in San Francisco.

My mother and father met drunk at a USO dance in San Francisco in January of 1944. After their one night in San Francisco's Shaw Hotel, my mother and father never saw each other again.

I grew up wanting to be a cowboy or a baseball player, though the medical and family consensus after a lung lobectomy at the age of five was that I would be dead by 20.

The only thing I truly cared about as a boy was baseball. I lacked serious talent for the game, but I gave the game all I had every day.

The Durham Bulls, when I was the bullpen coach for half the 1980 season, were the only team in pro ball to have had a "poet-in-residence."

I've done okay as a father, though I sure don't have advice for others. Kate is a wonderful mother. We have four adult children, and they've all done well in their pursuits.

We have lived, except for three years in Las Vegas, in the rural American West.

Inevitably you learn that a beloved place has changed and you fear that you will no longer fit comfortably in a place you once flourished in.

Poet Billy Collins notes that dogs are good listeners of poems.

A good glass of whiskey is best enjoyed with a good friend.

The Irish have given the world an astonishing number of great writers.

The love of a woman can send a man to the ends of the earth.

A piece of pie is best with whipped cream or ice cream. There is pleasure in beginning a large meal with dessert.

If I could share a pint with James Joyce, I would want to do it in Paris with Kay Boyle, Ernest Hemingway and Samuel Beckett.

Billy the Kid should receive a New Mexico governor's pardon.

My favorite Western movie is Sam Peckinpah's *The Wild Bunch*. And then Peckinpah's *Junior Bonner* and *Ballad of Cable Hogue*.

My favorite Sam Peckinpah quote is: "We're here to be pros, to get it on, to get it over with, to get the f*ck out." It



— PHOTO BY STEVE RIMPLE —

RED SHUTTLEWORTH, POET, PLAYWRIGHT, WRITER

Named "Best Living Western Poet" by *True West* in 2007, Red Shuttleworth has received three Spur Awards for Poetry and the 2016 Western Heritage Award for Best Poetry Book for *Woe to the Land Shadowing*. A playwright, too, Shuttleworth's plays have been presented widely, most recently *Eight Monologues from Americana West* (directed by Kirk Ellis) as part of the 2019 Western Writers of America convention in Tucson. Red and his wife, Kate, have four adult children...and live nearly off-the-grid in the Columbia Basin of Washington, a shrub steppe of scab rock, sagebrush, rattlesnakes and sections of irrigated Cadillac desert.

is a good thought for writers, because a playwright or screenwriter (or poet or novelist) getting too *thinky* brings on disaster.

To be original, *write from the body*...from how it experiences existence. The body never lies. Sometimes the head is lazy.

A writer's life is built with obsession and compulsion... and the sugar of ego that sustains a true writer even in the worst circumstances.

Billy Joe Shaver with his legendary eighth-grade education, has out-written just about every one of the 24,000 living recipients of a university graduate degree in poetry writing.

Kris Kristofferson was a Rhodes Scholar (a Miltonist), an Army captain (helicopter pilot and Ranger) on a fast track for general, a teacher of English at West Point...and he gave up everything to chase a dream. That is courage.

An American poet is usually swimming in whipped cream. It's very hard to write good poetry from a recliner, though it's a sure place for creating a heart attack body.

Editor's Note: If you would like to read Red's entire interview, subscribe to *True West* and read it online at TrueWestMagazine.com.



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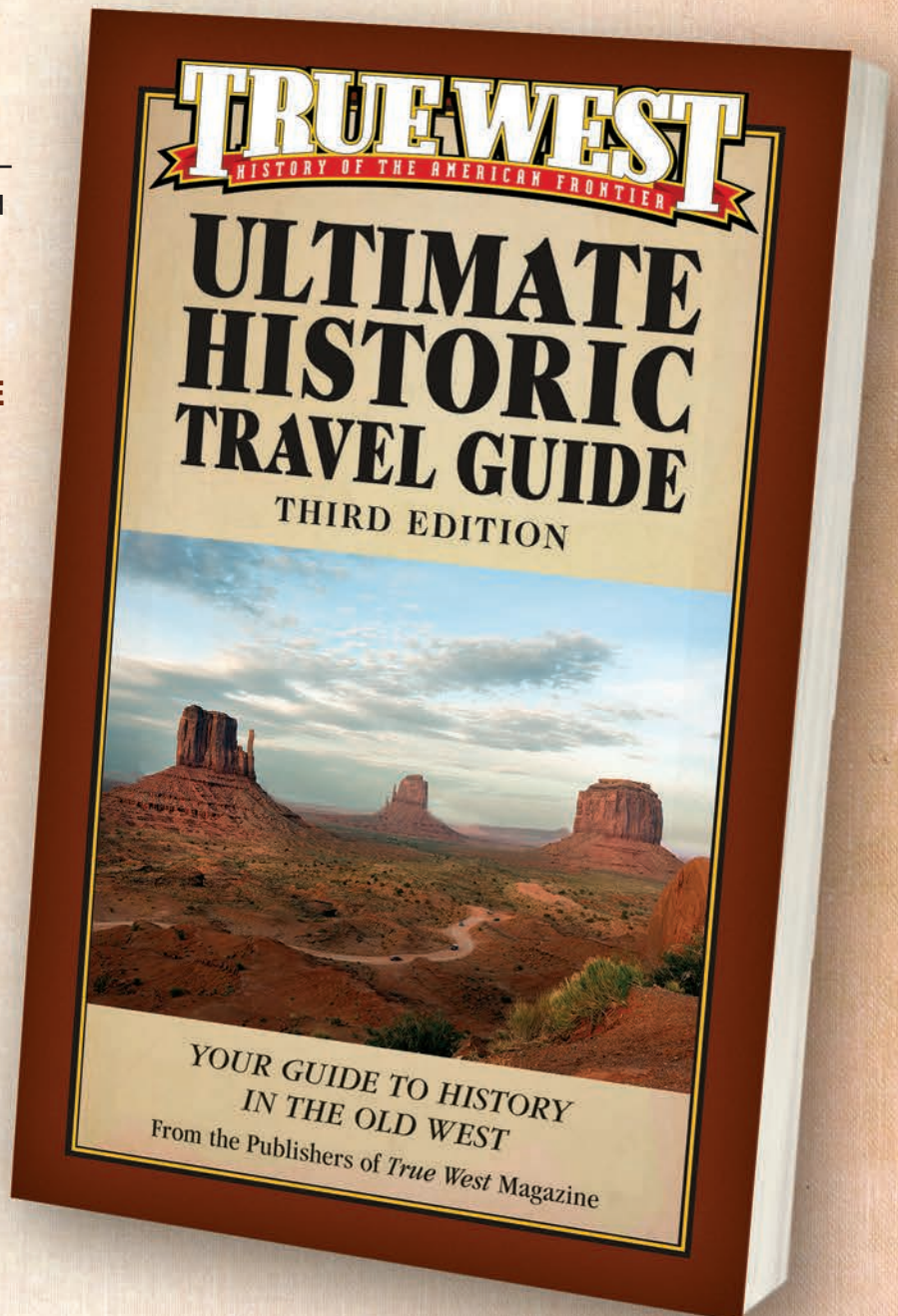
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