

TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE WEST

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021
OUR 68TH YEAR

THE REAL?

Lone Ranger

WAS BASS REEVES
THE GREATEST LAWMAN &
THE *REAL HERO* BEHIND
THE MASK?

By Art T. Burton

PLUS:

MYTH OR FACT?
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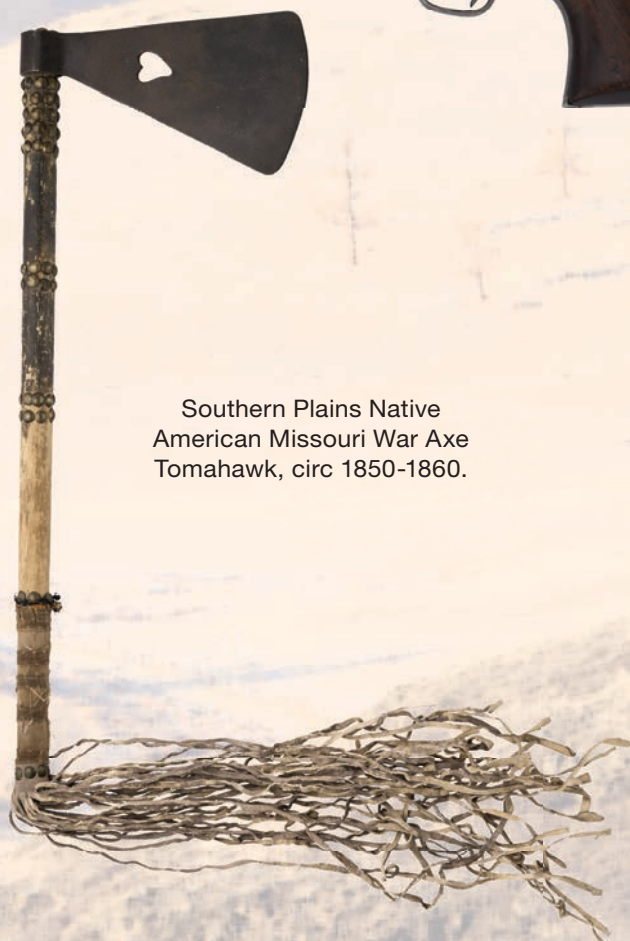
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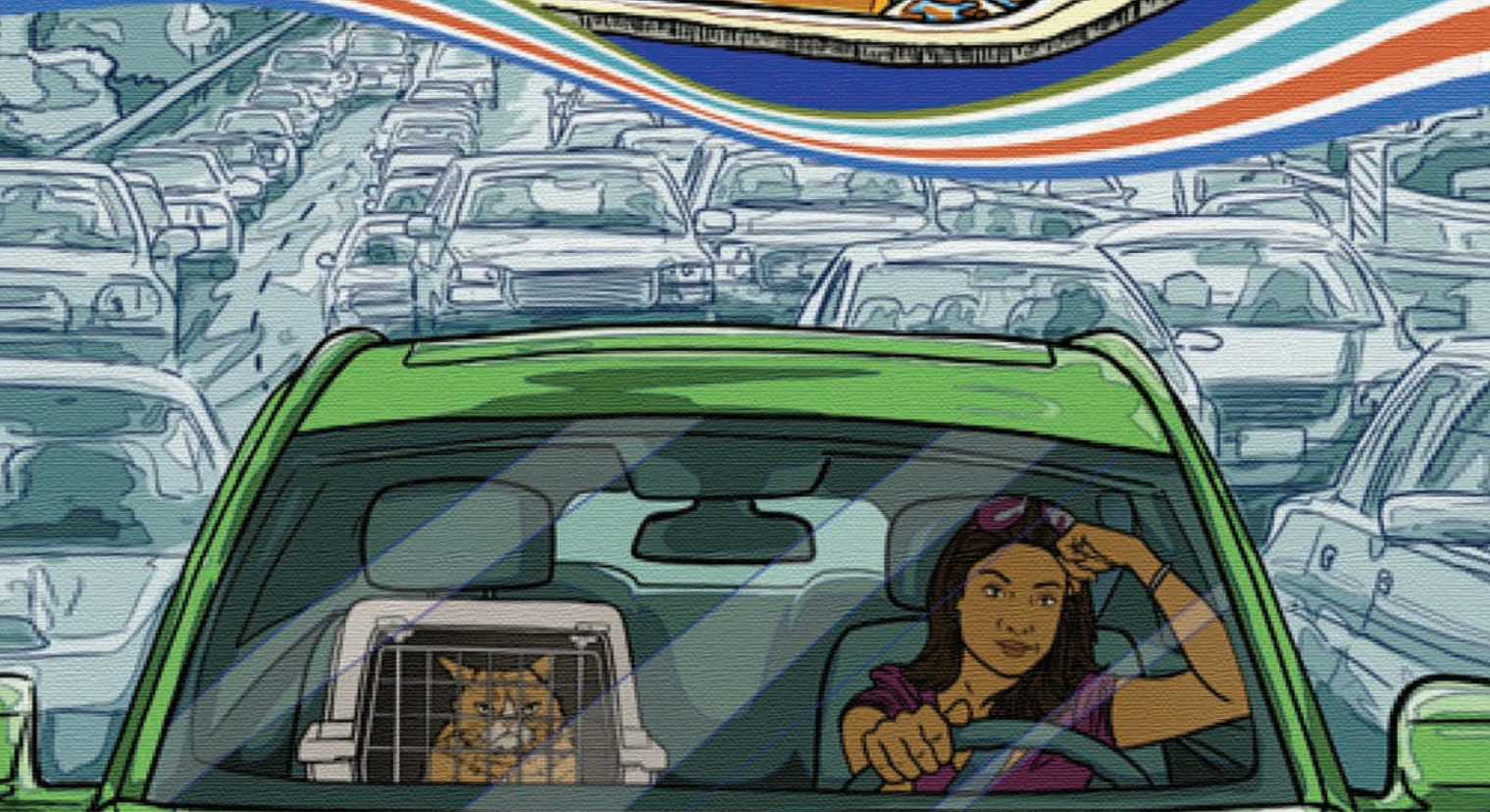
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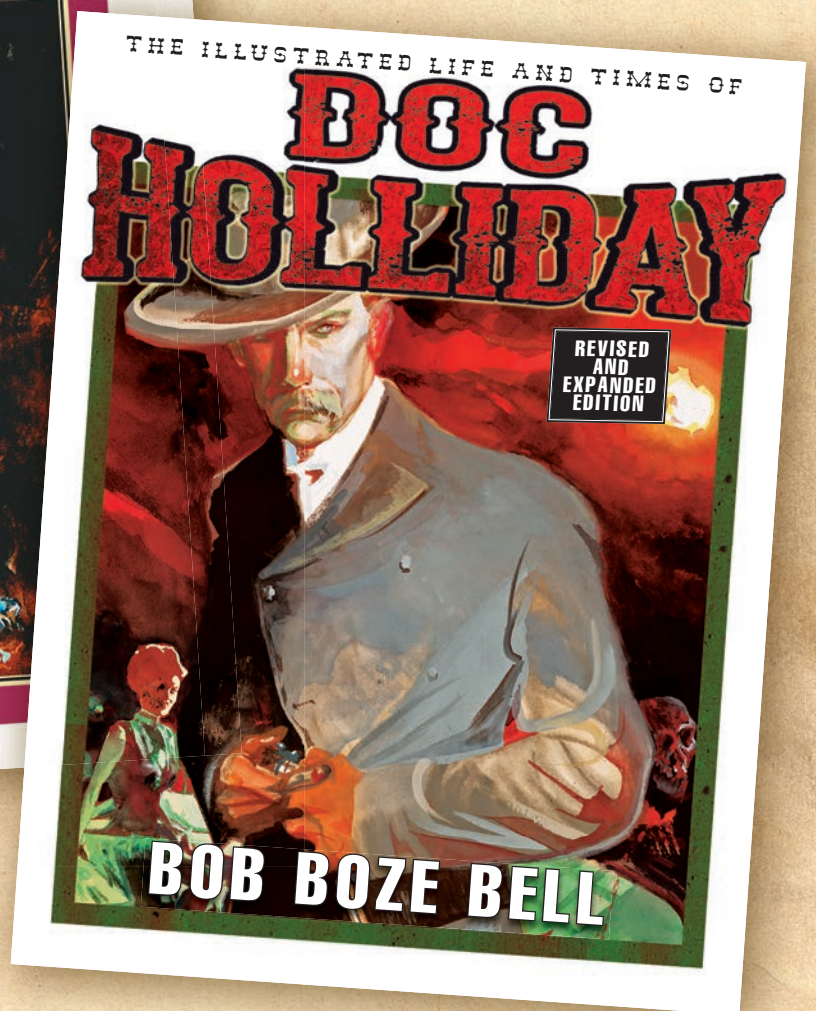
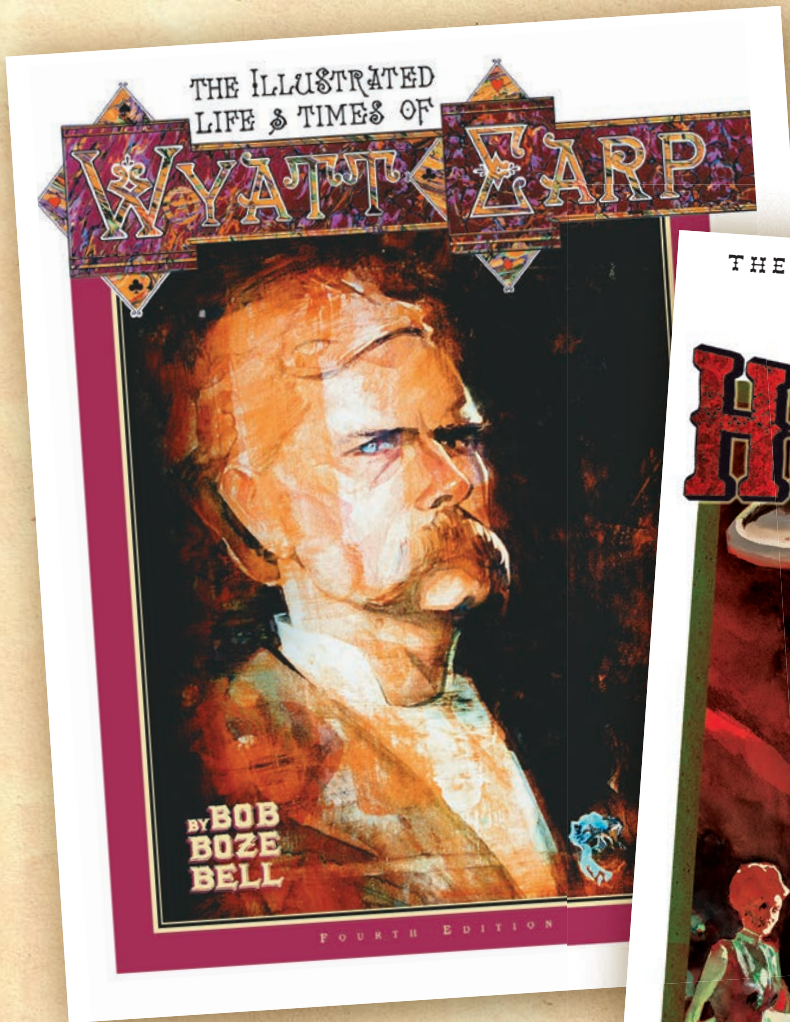
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Bass Reeves, born in 1838 as a slave in Arkansas, grew up in Lamar and Grayson counties, Texas, where he belonged to Col. George R. Reeves. While he was still a young man Bass would escape north into the Indian Territory, he became friendly with the Cherokee, Seminole, and Creek tribes. After the Civil War ended Reeves settled down in Van Buren, Arkansas, as a farmer. He would also serve as a guide for deputy U.S. marshals into the Indian Territory. As a scout and tracker for peace officers Reeves was able to make a decent living and would gain quite the reputation across the state.

In 1875, Judge Isaac C. Parker would commission Reeves as a deputy U.S. marshal. It is believed that Bass Reeves was one of the earliest African Americans to receive a commission as a deputy U.S. marshal west of the Mississippi River. When Reeves began riding for Judge Parker, the jurisdiction covered more than seventy-five thousand square miles. Reeves would go on to work over thirty-two years as a deputy marshal in the Indian Territory. It is said that Reeves arrested thousands during his time as a marshal, even his own son wanted for murder was arrested by Bass himself. Bass Reeves would go down as one of the greatest and most revered lawmen in Western history.

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OPENING SHOT

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A Mammoth Moment

The U.S. Army tested bicycles for the first time in the West in 1896 with the 25th Infantry Bicycle Corps, one of the four Buffalo Soldier regiments. Issued official Army bicycles, Lt. James Moss tested his troopers and the two-wheeled machines on an 800-mile round-trip from Fort Missoula, Montana, to Yellowstone National Park. Their successful and ambitious trek was dramatically recorded at Mammoth Hot Springs, not too far from the Army's barracks at the northwest entrance to the park.

— COURTESY CHARLES YOUNG BUFFALO SOLDIERS NATIONAL MONUMENT, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NPS.COM —



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

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- COURTESY NATIONAL GENERAL PICTURES -

Lee Marvin and Jack Palance had made three movies together before *Monte Walsh*, but it was in the iconic Western adaptation of Jack Schaefer's novel that the two leading men had their greatest chemistry as aging cowboys, Monte Walsh and Chet Rollins. For facts and photos posted daily, be sure to follow us on Facebook.

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The Sioux chief Sitting Bull was arguably the greatest Indian chief of all the tribes in the American West in the 19th century. In the decades since his death, his name has become known to most Americans and treasured by many as the supreme embodiment of Sioux values.

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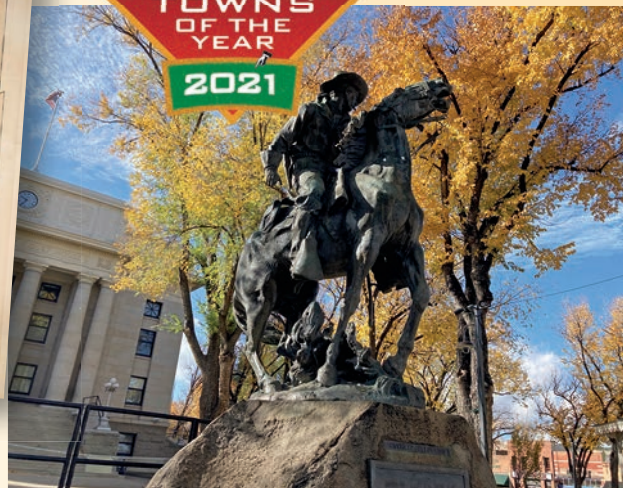
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Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

— "LONE RANGER" IMAGE COURTESY ABC TELEVISION AND BASS REEVES IMAGE COURTESY ART T. BURTON —

Old Vaquero Saying

“Be respectful, even to hateful people, because your mama raised you better.”



Quotes

“We are here, and it is now. Further than that, all human knowledge is moonshine.”

—H.L. Mencken

“A good horse always packs a good man.”

—Will James

Will James was a successful Western author and artist, best known for his books about cowboying and horses, including *Smoky the Cowhorse* and *Lone Cowboy*.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



“Even if you are on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”

—Will Rogers

Oklahoma native and Cherokee tribal member Will Rogers cowboied for a living before he became one of the world’s best-known Western entertainers and humorists. His life was cut short at age 55 by a plane crash in 1934.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

“Survival is the new success.”

—Jerry Seinfeld



“Liberty is not well sold for all the gold there is.”

—Walther (Gualterus) Anglicus, “The Dog and the Wolf”

“Many people would rather die than think. In fact they do.”

—Bertrand Russell

“The Pioneer’s Creed:
The cowards never started.
The weak died along the way.
Only the strong survived.”

—Jim Webb, Born Fighting

“A golden bit does not make the horse any better.”

—Mexican Proverb

“Creative achievement is the boldest initiative of the mind.”

—Robert Grudin

“Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say “This is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better.”

—Studs Terkel

“Life is not a matter of holding good cards, but sometimes, playing a poor hand as well.”

—Jack London



“I shot a man in Reno, just to watch him die. After that, law school was pretty much a given.”

— SHANAHAN
— CARTOON COLLECTIONS.COM —

Black AND Blue on a White Horse

Some things just have to be said.

In this time of renewed racial contention, it is somehow fitting—and timely—that one of the unsung heroes of the Wild West era was a Black man who wore a badge and rode for the law. Talk about a bridge to the present. I think it's high time we celebrated this amazing lawman who logged over 3,000 arrests in a three-decade career and shot it out with, and won, against 14 to 20 bad guys (the record on exact kills is unclear).

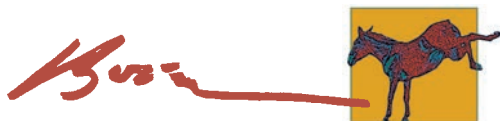
Bottom line: he makes Wyatt Earp look like a part-time mall cop.

And, yes, Bass rode a white horse.

Thanks to author Art Burton, we have an excellent look at who Bass Reeves really was, warts and all (p. 20). And, thanks to Art and Mark Boardman, we can see the pros and cons in the argument of whether Bass was the model for the Lone Ranger, as many have proclaimed (p. 26).

Dan Harshberger and I have been collaborating on covers since the first issue of the *Razz Revue* in 1972. I have to say, in my humble opinion, the cover of this issue is the best one yet. Just the coolest.

Dan and
Bob on
BBB's new
moped,
1961.



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



Someone on our staff asked, "Why wouldn't you just run a photo of Bass Reeves on the cover?" Well, it's what we call "The Banker Shot Problem." A formal, bust portrait sometimes works, but, it's ultimately just, *nyeh*. Looks like a boring banker. As a wing-ding long-shot, I told Dan about my idea to cut the Lone Ranger down the middle, with Clayton Moore on the left and Bass Reeves on the right. You know, like this (above). Dan did a version of this, but his version ultimately knocks it out of the park. Great job! A classic cover.

— ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —

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

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

I enjoyed your recent cover story (September 2020) on Alchesay. Corydon Cooley was my great grandfather and through his wife, Mollie, I am related to Alchesay. I wanted to let you know that Alchesay is misidentified in the small photo with Corydon Cooley that is included in John Langellier's article “A Man for All Seasons.”

I know this because that photograph belonged to my grandmother and was passed down to me. I donated the only original tintype to the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson several years ago. I gave a digital copy to the Pinetop-Lakeside Historical Society Museum along with other old family photos. I see that you credited the Navajo County Library. I don't know how, but they somehow got copies of all the photos I shared with the Pinetop-Lakeside Museum. They have since posted them on their website, with false information in some cases.

For your records, you should know that only two people in the photo that you used in the article have been positively identified. [They are] Corydon Cooley (top left) and Captain George M. Randall (with big mustache and wearing a sombrero). The others pictured are unknown, but I will say that, after comparing other pictures, I have speculated that the man next to Cooley in the uniform jacket could be Alchesay's brother Petone. It is definitely not Alchesay.

*Lonnie A. West
Mesa, Arizona*

Mr. West, bravo on several counts. First and foremost, your informative letter is a cautionary tale about relying on the information provided on the internet, even if it is from an historical society. Not only should the institution have been more careful to avoid posting an inaccurate description, but they should not have made copies for use by another institution, which uploaded erroneous details on the web. More to the point, shame on us for taking the information at face value without confirming its accuracy. We appreciate you taking the time to provide these corrections and confirming Corydon Cooley and George Morton Randall of the 23rd U.S. Infantry appear in this extraordinary tintype.

*John Langellier, Tucson, Arizona
Author of “A Man for All Seasons,”
True West, September 2020*



In the early 1870s, Alchesay (in an officer's frock coat) posed with fellow Apache scouts and white frontiersman Corydon Cooley, to whom he was related through marriage. Cooley's two wives were Pedro's daughters.

— COURTESY PINETOP-LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM —

THE DECEMBER DUDE

I must say that the “Dude” on the December cover doesn't seem authentic. His beard is too trim. And there is no bear grease on his jacket; also, no scars on his face. I suggest a contest asking readers to submit their image of a mountain man.

The Dude's face is too darn pretty.

*Michael Cajero
Tucson, AZ*



While we don't completely disagree with your assessment of ZS Liang's painting *Mountain Man*, we do love your idea of readers submitting their image of a mountain man. They can be sent to the editor at stuart@twmag.com. We will publish our favorites in the October 2021 Western art issue.

CORRECTIONS

On page 77 of the December 2020 issue the Magoffin Home was incorrectly listed as a state historic site to visit in San Elizario, Texas, when in fact it is located in El Paso; on page 43 of the January 2021 issue, the date in the caption referring to the 50th Reunion of the Battle of Little Bighorn should have read June 24, 1926; on page 92 in the January 2021 issue, the Best Living History Farm Museum, Grand Encampment, Wyoming, listing contained an incorrect description. It should have read:

Dedicated to the history of the Upper North Platte Valley, the Grand Encampment Museum is home to one of the finest collections of pioneer buildings in the state of Wyoming. A tour of the living history museum and the 12 historic structures tells the region's rich history of ranching, timber and copper mining. Visitors who tour will also learn about day-to-day life and the cultural heritage of the Encampment area pioneers. GEMuseum.com

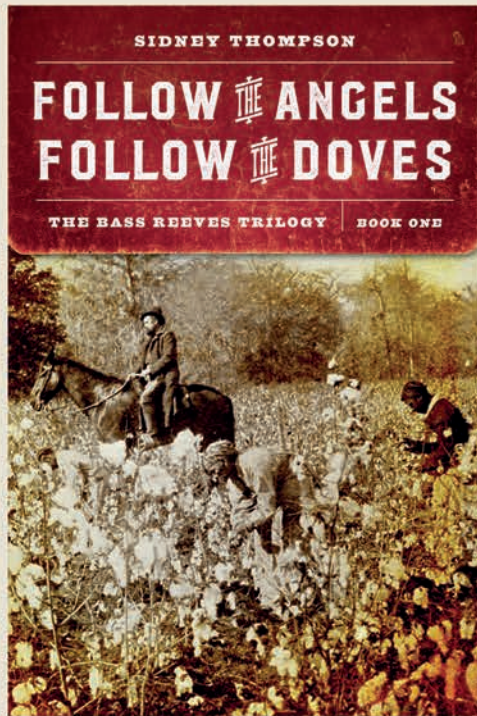


Two-story outhouse at the Grand Encampment Museum.

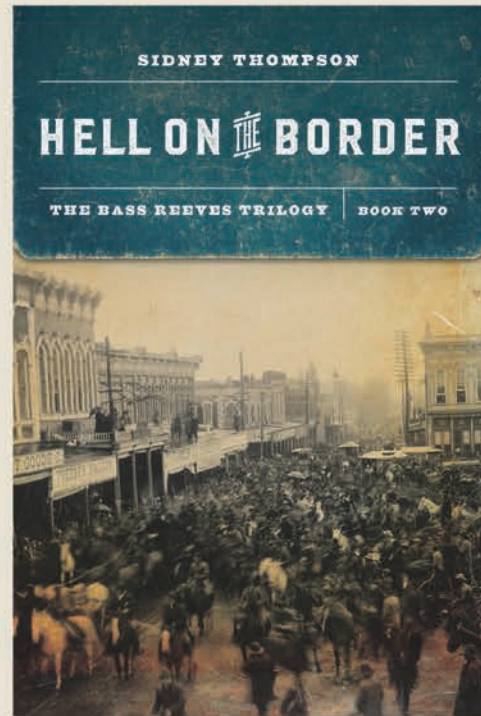
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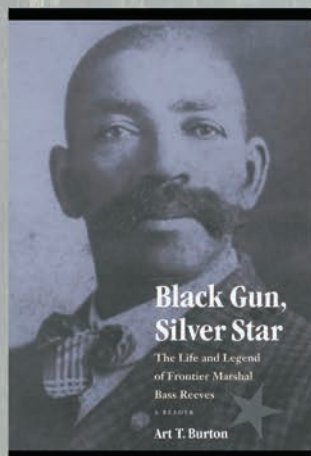
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Book One of the Bass Reeves Trilogy, *Follow the Angels, Follow the Doves* is an origin story in the true American tradition. Before Reeves could stake his claim as the most successful nineteenth-century American lawman, arresting more outlaws than any other deputy during his thirty-two-year career as a deputy U.S. marshal in the Wild West, he was a slave. This gripping historical novel places Reeves firmly in the pantheon of American heroes and follows his quest for freedom.



Set in 1884, Book Two of the Bass Reeves Trilogy tells the story of the Deputy U.S. Marshal at the peak of his auspicious and legendary career. If you finished the first book in this series desperate to see Bass Reeves free, in *Hell on the Border* you will watch him become legendary, and you'll end the novel dying to know what happens next.



A finalist for the 2007 Spur Award, sponsored by the Western Writers of America, *Black Gun, Silver Star* is the bestselling biography of Bass Reeves. It told his story to thousands of readers for the first time and restored this remarkable figure to his rightful place in the history of the American West.



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BY MARK BOARDMAN

Lincoln: Prepare Ye the Way for the Horde

The president paved the way for the great Westward Expansion.

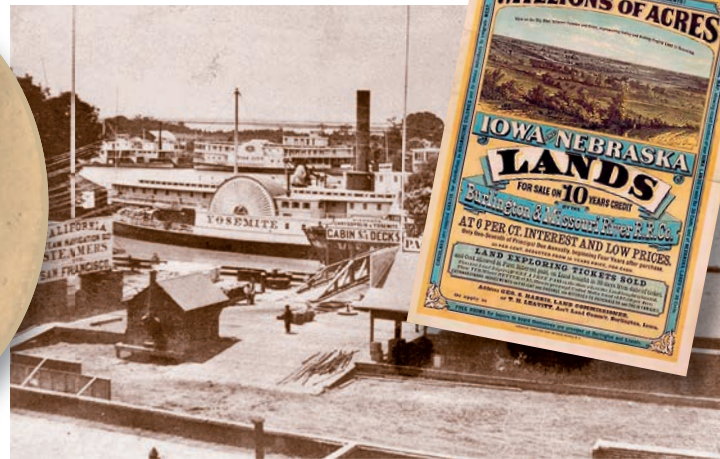
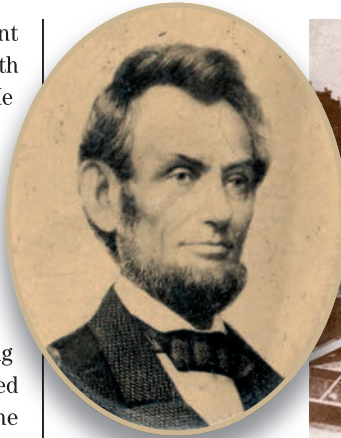
On March 4, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln took the oath of office for the second time. He had big plans for the nation as it worked its way clear of the Civil War. Those plans were placed in jeopardy when Lincoln was assassinated just 41 days later. And yet, many of those projects really took hold and made a mark after his death.

During his first term, the President had been looking West—even been thinking about his retirement. “I have long desired to see California,” said Lincoln. “The production of her gold mines has been a marvel to me, and her stand for the Union, her generous offerings to the Sanitary Commission, and her loyal representatives have endeared your people to me; and nothing would give me more pleasure than a visit to the Pacific shore...”

Lincoln had an affinity for the West, one that he’d already established by 1865. In fact, the year 1862 was a big one for the region, at least in terms of government actions aimed at pioneering and settlement. Over a month and a half period, between May 15 and July 2, Lincoln championed and signed four measures that would forever alter the West. Historian Todd Arrington refers to them as the “Western New Deal.”

The initial two came in mid-May of 1862. The first created the Department of Agriculture and was designed to promote farming—and take ag technology and methods to the West. The second was the Homestead Act. It opened millions of acres of public lands to settlement, farming, ranching, etc., at a relatively cheap cost. It was open to pretty much everyone, not just white males, including blacks in 1868. Ultimately, homesteads reached 30 different states and covered 270 million acres.

The next two acts came in the first days of July. The Morrill Act created the land grant college system. States were given



While President Abraham Lincoln was reelected for a second term in 1864, he would not live to see his dream come true of homesteaders helping settle the West through the Homestead Act of 1862, or ride the transcontinental train with his wife, Mary, to Sacramento to catch the steamer to San Francisco to get a hoped-for view of the great Pacific Ocean from the shores of the California coast.

— LINCOLN TINTYPE BY MATTHEW BRADY COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/HOMESTEAD ADVERTISEMENT COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY/SACRAMENTO DEPOT COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

public lands in the West to sell—then they used the proceeds to start agricultural and technical colleges in their states. Counting additional acts in 1890 and 1894, there are now 102 land grant colleges/universities. Many are located in the West, providing educational opportunities for residents as well as research and other services.

The final act may be the most important. The Pacific Railway Act created the transcontinental railroad, which would improve transportation from east to west. The railroads really opened up the West, and towns along the routes saw huge economic benefits as a result. Lincoln, by the way, made sure that the railroad ran along a northern route—which was very important during the Civil War. The project was completed in 1869, but already additional railroad projects were under construction.

While all of these became law during Lincoln’s first presidential term, sadly, he

wouldn’t live long enough to see their greatest impact. In particular, he spoke of the future transcontinental railroad, of how he and his wife, Mary, would be able to take the train from Illinois to the Promised Land of California.

And if he’d made that trip, there was a special destination. On June 30, 1864, Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act. It gave the Yosemite and Mariposa Big Tree Grove areas to California—with the proviso that they had to be set aside as parks. This was the first real state park in the country. And a little less than eight years later, Lincoln’s favorite general, Ulysses S. Grant—now president—made Yosemite the first national park. That set in motion land preservation that started a different kind of tourism for the West.

Even after he was gone, Abraham Lincoln’s fingerprints were all over the West, setting the stage for the region as we know it today.



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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

Boring History? Not the Way We Tell It

Western Writers of America pack in to save the day.

At the bottom.” Your heart is going to hit the bottom of your stomach in a second when I tell you that was the answer a grade school student gave to the question, “Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?”

Surveys have found that today’s students not only don’t know their history, they don’t care. They find it boring. Some think that Lewis and Clark are guys that Taylor Swift dated.

Those who love history—especially those devoted to writing about Western history—not only find that intolerable, but dangerous. How can you be an informed citizen in a society that is based on “we the people” if you don’t know what “we” did? As someone once said, “Ignorance of one’s past leads to cultural chaos.”

The Western Writers of America are changing that. With the Homestead Foundation, they have launched “Packing the West” to bring Western writers and stories of the 1800s into classrooms—both through in-person presentations (when COVID permits) and films that COVID can’t stop.

“We want to at least expose young people to history, and combine history with reading and writing, because we think they’re the core of life,” says Candy Moulton, executive director of WWA (and a *True West* contributor).

Board president Chris Enss and Candy have led the effort, planned over the last four years.

“We wanted to go into classrooms with a trunk filled with cool things—replicas, so kids could touch them. Arrowheads, maps, books, artifacts. We were ready to launch in March when COVID hit.”

Classrooms were shut down and kids sent home. Did that stop them? Of course not—they’re Western gals, remember, much like the pioneers they are bringing alive for kids who will soon realize history is anything but boring.



Filming the Jim Bridger segment for *Packing the West* at a fur trade tent are reenactors Don Erickson (trader) and Gabriel Bridger Durham (Jim Bridger). The students are the actors in all of the video programs and include Ethan Daly, far left, Madi Dunning and Eduardo Alfaro Jimenez.

— ALL PHOTOS COURTESY WESTERN WRITERS OF AMERICA —

“We quickly pivoted to digital presentations,” Candy adds. “COVID has been our enemy and our friend.”

Then in the late summer, they got a big grant from the Wyoming Business Council to fund their first four films—30-minute documentaries—being launched in schools in Colorado, California and Wyoming. Don’t fear, their plan is to eventually expand into all 17 Western states.

The program focuses on four areas: Western trials, Women of the Old West, American Indians and Legends of Plains. Besides the presentations, they’re also developing a curriculum that can be handed to teachers or home-schooling parents.

The first four films feature stories about Jim Bridger and Letitia Carson; Mary Graves Clarke and Louise Clapps (Dame Shirley); Quanah



Thadd Turner portrayed Bill Cody for the *Packing the West* segment about the Pony Express. Student actress Malinah Nunnaley is “Rose” in the films; in the background Madi Dunning has her microphone adjusted. She plays “Chloe” in the films.

and Cynthia Ann Parker and Chief Washakie; Bill Cody (Pony Express) and Nat Love.

If for some unbelievable reason you don’t know who these people are—now’s a good time to look them up. Your child or grandchild may just want to discuss them soon!



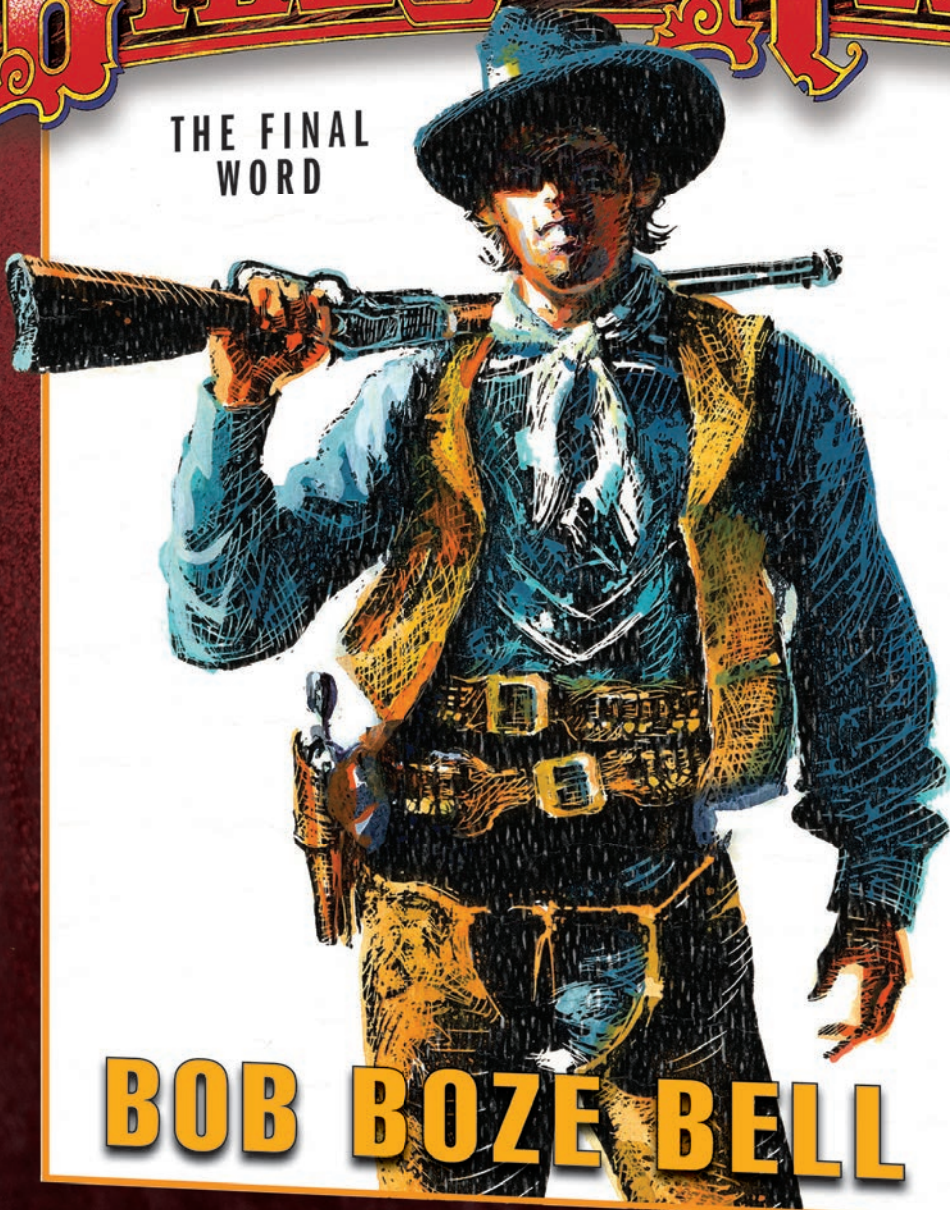
Jana Bommersbach has earned recognition as Arizona’s Journalist of the Year and won an Emmy and two Lifetime Achievement Awards. She cowrote the Emmy-winning *Outrageous Arizona* and has written three true crime books, a children’s book and the historical novel *Cattle Kate*.

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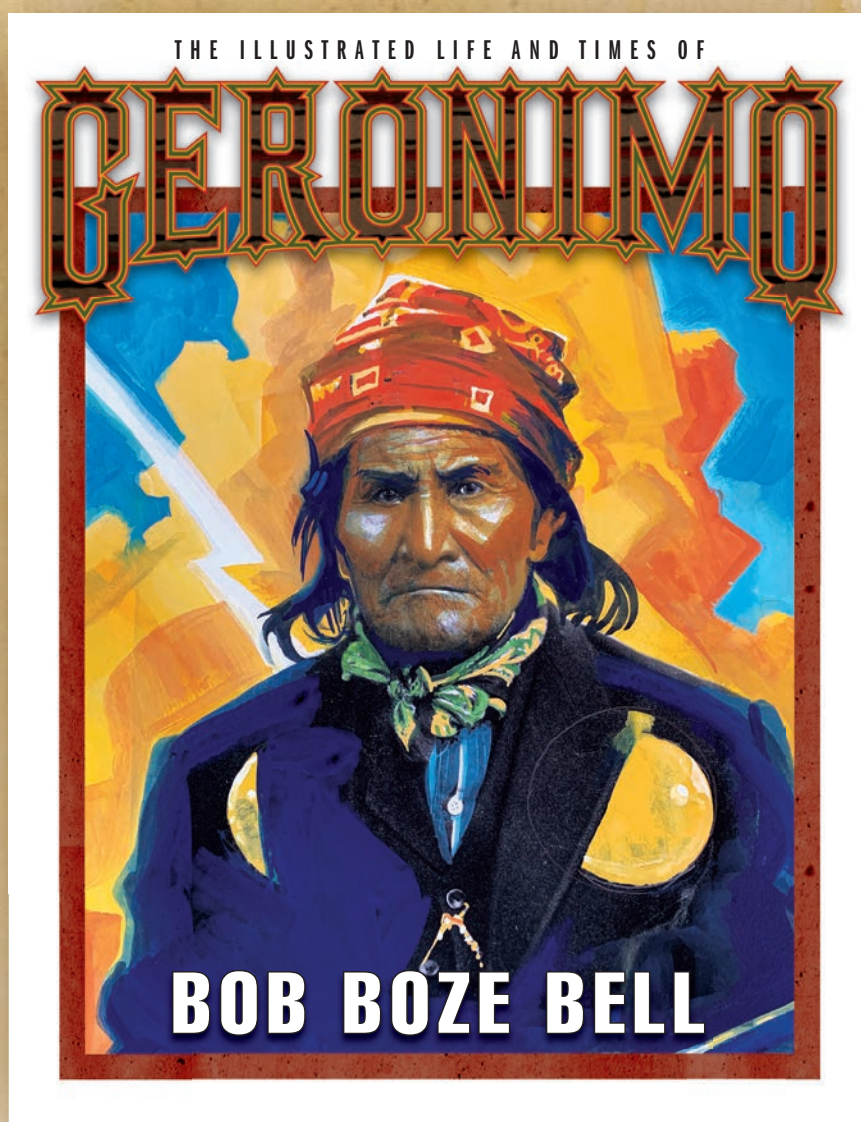
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Cowboy Guns for Self Defense?

There's no reason you can't use your Old West replica firearm to protect home and family.

Replica Old West metallic cartridge firearms are made to enjoy in exciting endeavors like Cowboy Action Shooting, Cowboy Mounted Shooting, Wild West reenactments and other fun events. Although these 19th-century replicas were made for leisure shooting, hunting or competitive events, there's no reason these same guns can't be used to protect life and property. They can be more than just sporting arms or wall-hangers.

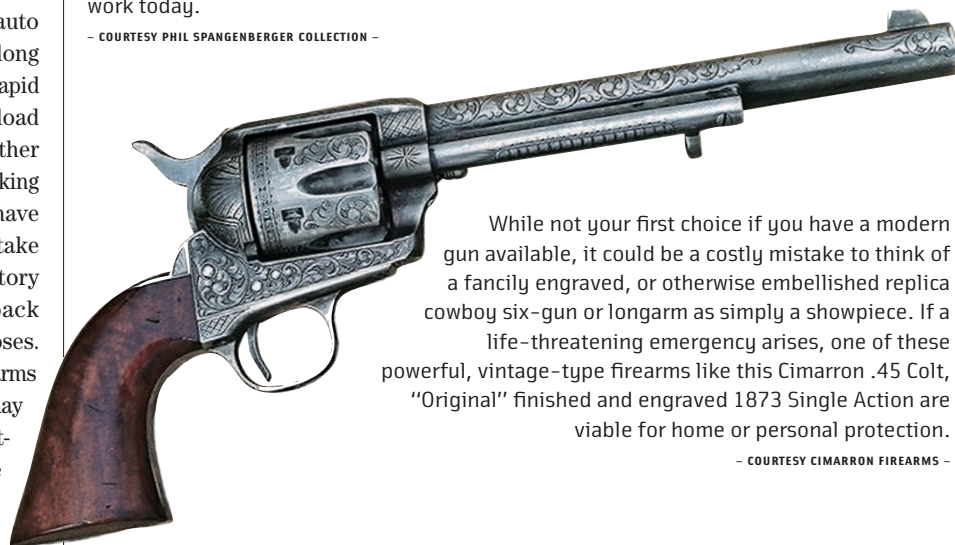
Whether plain-Jane models or fancily embellished guns, cowboy guns are working replicas of those frontier-era metallic cartridge firearms that have served in combat, sometimes under the most adverse conditions. Don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting that these replicas should be your first choice when it comes to defense, but if at a time of need you don't have access to a modern-designed firearm, don't overlook a replica. There's no question that if you are in a situation where reloading is required, you'd be best off with a modern handgun, such as a semi-auto pistol, a double-action revolver or a long gun that can deliver several rounds in rapid succession. The ability to quickly reload via a magazine or a speed loader, rather than the one-at-a-time method of re-stocking the gun is all-important. Replicas do have the advantage of being chambered to take commercially available, modern factory smokeless ammunition, and they pack plenty of power for self-defense purposes.

Another reason not to overlook such arms if they're all you have is that your guns may have been fine-tuned, some with short-stroke actions, and they can perform like the finest modern arms available. Many gun owners involved in the Cowboy Action sports have become proficient



In the mid-1870s, *The Illustrated Police News* published this image depicting Whiskey Bar, California, placer miner Erastus Bradley saving his wife from a knife-wielding attacker. Bradley shot the assailant in the head with his pistol, and a jury ruled it as "justifiable homicide." Revolvers we think of as cowboy guns protected life and property nearly 150 years ago, and if that's all you have at hand when trouble arises, they'll work today.

- COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION -



While not your first choice if you have a modern gun available, it could be a costly mistake to think of a fancily engraved, or otherwise embellished replica cowboy six-gun or longarm as simply a showpiece. If a life-threatening emergency arises, one of these powerful, vintage-type firearms like this Cimarron .45 Colt, "Original" finished and engraved 1873 Single Action are viable for home or personal protection.

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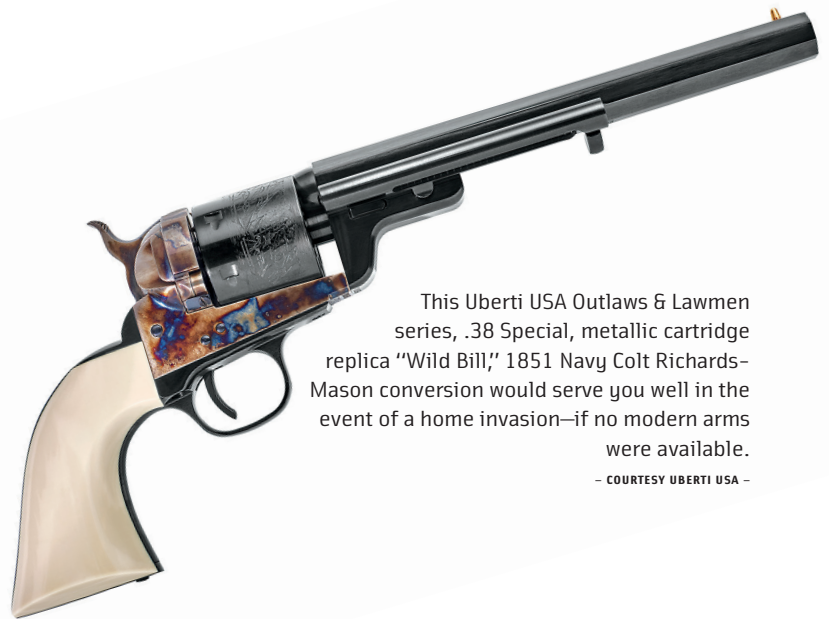
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This Uberti USA Outlaws & Lawmen series, .38 Special, metallic cartridge replica "Wild Bill," 1851 Navy Colt Richards-Mason conversion would serve you well in the event of a home invasion—if no modern arms were available.

— COURTESY UBERTI USA —

with their old-time smoke wagons, like the 1873 peacemaker-styled six-guns, frontier-era lever-action rifles, and exposed hammer or hammerless scatterguns. Thanks to the success of the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) and the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA), sports where most of the shooting is accomplished at short, combat-style distances, many competitors have become crack shots and excellent point shooters. Women, senior citizens and others who've become involved in these sports, have become expert in the use of these vintage-style guns, handling them with the ease, proficiency and the accuracy of professionals.

If trouble arises during these times of civil unrest in many cities, it's best to be prepared to defend your loved ones and your property. If you know how to use your cowboy guns safely and effectively, and have no modern firearms options, they could be the one thing that keep you from falling victim to danger. Cowboy guns for self-defense? You bet!



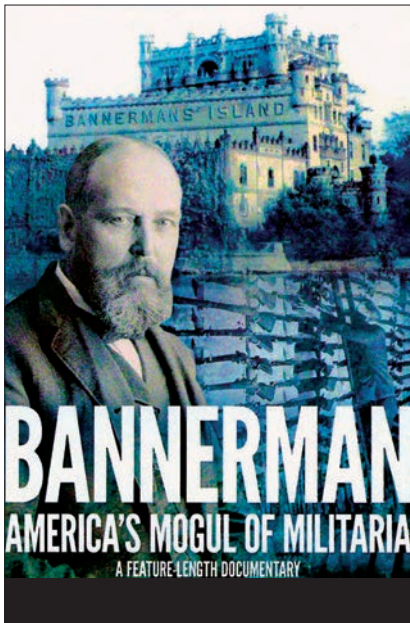
Phil Spangenberg has written for *Guns & Ammo*, appears on the History Channel and other documentary networks, produces Wild West shows, is a Hollywood gun coach and character actor, and is *True West's* Firearms Editor.



Long guns designed for Cowboy Action or Cowboy Mounted Shooting competitions can also be used as home-protection firearms. Repeaters like (top) Taylor's & Company's "Runnin' Comanchero" 1873 Lever-Action Rifle, in .45 Colt, or (bottom) Chiappa Firearms' 12-gauge, 1887 Lever-Action Shotgun, as well as any replica (not shown) double-barreled scattergun's levering or cocking sounds can make any intruder think twice about proceeding.

— RIFLE PHOTO COURTESY TAYLOR'S & COMPANY, SHOTGUN PHOTO COURTESY CHIAPPA FIREARMS —



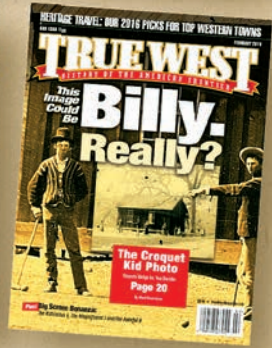


Have you heard of Bannerman Island, with its castle-like fortress where the huge collection of Civil War, and other 19th-century military (for sale) goods were warehoused? Known as Bannerman's Castle, this concrete structure's walls were reinforced with rifle barrels. Following the Civil War, Scottish immigrant Francis Bannerman VI, who started as a junk and used-rope dealer, began buying military surplus small arms, cannons, uniforms and accoutrements at government surplus auctions. He was so successful in bidding, his inventory eventually overflowed his New York warehouses, so he constructed his now-condemned "castle" on the Hudson River.

It was said that Bannerman could outfit banana republic revolutions, and his mail order catalogs became a standard reference for arms collectors. A fascinating 91-minute, well researched DVD, *Bannerman, America's Mogul of Militaria*, tells the story of Bannerman's life and amazing career as the Godfather of the Army-Navy surplus business, highlighted with interviews of modern gun show dealers and collectors who did business there.

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BY ART T. BURTON

BASS REEVES

THE INVINCIBLE LAWMAN

BORN INTO SLAVERY, THE ARKANSAS NATIVE BECAME A LAUDED, AND LEGENDARY U.S. DEPUTY MARSHAL.

Bass Reeves began his life as a slave in the state of Arkansas in July 1838, near the town of Van Buren. He and his family were owned by William Steele Reeves, who was originally from Hickman County, Tennessee. While working as a water boy and field hand with his family as a youngster, Bass would originate and sing songs about guns, rifles, knives, robberies and killings. This troubled his mother greatly as she thought he wanted to be an outlaw. When Bass was eight, the Reeves family moved to northern Texas to Peter's Colony in Grayson County near Sherman, Texas.

Sometime after moving to Texas, Bass became a valet/body servant to William S. Reeves' son, George R. Reeves. Bass also served as bodyguard, coachman and butler. The owner allowed Bass to use guns to hunt and learned that he was a crack shot. Bass won many turkey shoots for his master, which in Texas was prestigious for George. In 1848, George was elected tax collector, and in 1850, he was elected sheriff of Grayson County. In 1855, George was elected to the Texas House of Representatives from Grayson County. At the outbreak of the Civil War, George was made an officer in the 11th Texas Cavalry Regiment, second in command to Col. William G. Young. Bass went with George into the war, serving as his body servant. Early in the war, the 11th Texas Cavalry Regiment fought at the Battle of Chustenahlah in the Indian Territory and the Battle of Pea Ridge, also known as the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern. After the war, George was reelected to the Texas State Legislature, and at his death on September 5, 1882, he was Speaker of the House of Representatives

for the State of Texas. Reeves County in West Texas is named for him.

Family history states that Bass and George got into an argument over a card game during the Civil War. Bass got so upset at being cheated, he beat his master down and knocked him out. For a slave to hit his master in Texas was punishable by death. Bass set out for the Indian Territory and was taken in by Seminole and Creek Indians. Here, he learned Indian languages, the lay of the land and complete mastery of pistols and rifles. Bass was also taught tactics of disguise in riding horses and stealth in combat.

After the war, Bass Reeves settled down outside Van Buren, Arkansas, and maintained a horse ranch and small farm. At this time Bass was married to his wife, Jennie, who was also from Texas, and they had four children. They would later have 11 children in the household. Bass raised horses and served as a scout for deputy U.S. marshals going into the Indian Territory. In this capacity, his familiarity with the land served him well. The federal jail court was in Van Buren for the western district of Arkansas and Indian Territory. In 1871, the federal court and jail were moved to nearby Fort Smith.

After some malfeasance and misappropriations of federal funds, William Story was fired as the judge of the Western District of Arkansas federal court at Fort Smith. President Ulysses S. Grant appointed a U.S. congressman



This is the best known photograph of Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves, possibly the greatest lawman of the Old West.

- ALL PHOTOS COURTESY ART T. BURTON UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED -

from Missouri named Isaac C. Parker to take over the Fort Smith federal court in March 1875.

U.S. Marshal James Fagan was replaced not long after Judge Parker took over the court with a Union veteran, Daniel P. Upham. Earlier, Upham had commanded the Arkansas State Militia and had destroyed the Ku Klux Klan in that state. In the late 1870s and early 1880s, most guards, turnkeys, cooks and bailiffs for the Fort Smith federal court were African Americans.

Bass Reeves was commissioned in late 1875 as a deputy U.S. marshal for the Fort Smith federal court. He was not the first Black deputy U.S. marshal west of the Mississippi River. As early as 1867 there was a posse out of Van Buren, Arkansas, sent to investigate a stagecoach robbery at Atoka, Choctaw Nation, that was led by a deputy U.S. marshal named "Negro" Smith.

Bynum Colbert, a Choctaw Freedmen, was a veteran of an Arkansas United States



Col. George Reeves, Speaker of the House, Texas State Legislature, was the owner of Reeves at the onset of the Civil War.

- COURTESY DEGOLYER LIBRARY, SMU -

Bass Reeves stands in the door of a boxcar on the MK&T Railroad. On the left with a Winchester is Bud Ledbetter and lawmen guarding the shipment near Muskogee, Indian Territory, ca. 1900.



Colored Regiment of the Civil War and served seven years with the 10th U.S. Cavalry Regiment post-Civil War. Colbert began his tenure as a deputy U.S. marshal with the Fort Smith federal court in 1872, three years before Bass Reeves' commission.

In the late 1870s, although Reeves was a deputy U.S. marshal, much of his work was as a posseman for other deputy U.S. marshals, including Robert J. Topping, James H. Mershon and Jacob T. Ayers. In December

1878, Reeves served as a guard at Fort Smith for the executions of a Black man named James Diggs and an Indian named James Postoak, both for murder. In May 1881, Reeves made his first trip to Detroit, Michigan, to the House of Corrections, along with five other deputies transporting 21 prisoners by train via St. Louis.

Reeves became known in the early 1880s for bringing prisoners back to the Fort Smith court

in double digits. Deputies would work out of Fort Smith and venture into the Indian Territory with warrants and open warrants. They would travel with a crew, at least one posseman or more, a cook, a guard and one or two wagons with supplies. Bass would travel west to Fort Sill, north to Fort Reno and sometimes Fort Supply, picking up and arresting felons who broke federal law in the Indian Territory. The round trip would be approximately 400 miles and would take one or two months, depending on high water in the rivers and creeks.

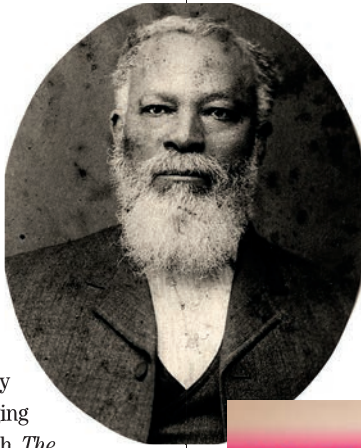
Reeves was an expert with pistol and rifle and could shoot ambidextrously. He was 6'2" tall and extraordinarily strong. The residents of the territory said he could whip any two men with his fist. Research shows that he could shoot accurately with his Winchester rifle up to 500 yards or a quarter of mile, and he had several gunfights during which he shot felons at that distance.

The following is just a short sampling of Reeves' police work in the 1880s. *The Fort Smith Elevator* reported Reeves coming to town in August 1882 with 16



During his 32-year career as a deputy U.S. marshal, Bass Reeves logged thousands of miles on horseback pursuing, capturing and jailing fugitives across the Indian Territory, the future state of Oklahoma. He is seen here astride in Muskogee, Indian Territory, July 1889.

Bass Reeves (circled) attended the celebration of the laying of the cornerstone for the first federal court building in Muskogee, Indian Territory, July 1889.



Court Bailiff George Winston of the Fort Smith, Arkansas, federal court, served with Judge Parker for more than 20 years.

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -

prisoners. The same newspaper reported Reeves in August 1883 bringing in 13 prisoners. *The St. Louis Globe Democrat* in February 1884 reported Reeves bringing in 12 prisoners to Fort Smith. *The Fort Smith Elevator* reported Reeves bringing in 12 prisoners in April 1884. *The Arkansas Gazette* in September 1884 reported Reeves brought 15 prisoners to Fort Smith. The same newspaper in March of 1885 reported Reeves bringing in 13 prisoners. *The St. Louis Globe Democrat* in October 1885 reported that Reeves had arrested 17 felons in the Indian Territory and brought them to Fort Smith.

Reeves' greatest gunfight was in 1884. He tried to apprehend the fugitive Jim Webb, who had been foreman on the Billy Washington Ranch in the Chickasaw Nation. Webb had earlier killed a Black farmer who accidentally burned some grazing land on the Washington Ranch. Reeves and Webb had a gunfight in June 1884 near Bywater's Store, which was a stagecoach stop. Reeves shot Webb with his Winchester at 500 yards after Webb narrowly missed him several times.

Tragically, Reeves accidentally shot his cook on one of his trips into the Indian Territory in 1884. He was brought up on first-degree murder charges in January 1886 and relieved of duty. Reeves was arrested and lodged in the Fort Smith federal jail until he could make bond in June of that year. At his trial in October 1887, Reeves was found innocent. He went back to work as one of the deputies of the Western District of Arkansas at Fort Smith under Judge Isaac C. Parker. Ironically, Reeves was brought up on first-degree murder charges, not manslaughter or criminal negligence, after a new U.S. marshal was hired, the first former Confederate officer Reeves would work for.

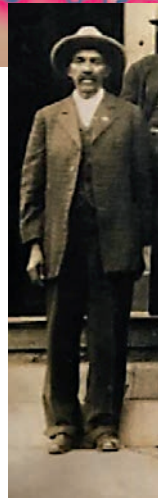
Research shows that Reeves stayed in Fort Smith until 1893. During that era, he made one of his top arrests with the capture of the Seminole Indian fugitive known as Greenleaf in April 1890. Greenleaf had been on the run for 18 years and had murdered three white

men and four Indians and had never been arrested. After his capture by Reeves, residents came

burned it down, but Ned escaped capture and death. Later, he was killed by a large federal posse in 1892, never to prove his innocence. Bass Reeves said the largest haul he made



from as far as 20 miles to see that Greenleaf was in handcuffs before they took him to Fort Smith. Later in November 1890, Bass and his posse raided the home of the legendary Cherokee Ned Christie, who was wanted for murdering a deputy U.S. marshal. It was later proven that Ned was not guilty of the crime. When Reeves located the cabin of Christie in the Cherokee Nation, his posse



while working for the Fort Smith court was bringing in 19 horse thieves from the Fort Sill area.

In 1893, Bass Reeves was transferred to the Eastern District

Bass Reeves at the age of 67 in Muskogee on the first day of Oklahoma statehood, November 16, 1907.



Black members of the Muskogee Police Department in 1908, include Bass Reeves with a cane, R.C. Cotton, Paul Smith and Frank Reed.

When tracking criminals across the Indian Territory, Bass Reeves regularly received assistance from local tribal police, including the Choctaw Lighthorse Policemen, circa 1885.

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -





Bass Reeves's son, Bennie, was arrested by Bass for domestic murder in Muskogee in 1902.

federal court at Paris, Texas. This court at that time had jurisdiction over most of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. Reeves was headquartered at Calvin in the Choctaw Nation and carried many of his prisoners to the federal commissioner at Pauls Valley in the Chickasaw Nation. Reeves remained with this federal district until 1897, when he was transferred to the new Northern District of Indian Territory at Muskogee. At Muskogee, Reeves worked under Leo E. Bennett, the former Indian agent for the Five Civilized Tribes, headquartered at the same town. The Northern District was made up of the Cherokee, Creek and Seminole Nations. The Creek Nation had a heavy African Indian population, as did the Seminole Nation. Muskogee was the principal town in the Indian Territory and had a large African American population with many federal offices in town. Muskogee was unique with two Black business districts that were thoroughly integrated and catered to the diverse population in the frontier town.

After 1900, Muskogee had city police, with two deputy U.S. marshals stationed there, Bass Reeves and a white man David Adams. Adams served as Reeves' posseman, and they were involved in numerous police actions together in and around Muskogee. In May 1902, Reeves and Adams went to the town of Braggs, Cherokee Nation, to quell racial strife. They arrested, without incident 15 white men and eight Black men and brought them to the federal jail in Muskogee. Later, Reeves was made the principal lawman for the large African American community in Muskogee, and he had several

Black assistants in that role. After 1905, Reeves did not arrest as many white felons as he had earlier in his career, due to the large influx of white settlers into the territory and racial attitudes shifting.

On November 17, 1907, Indian Territory became the new state of Oklahoma. The U.S. Marshals office in Muskogee was



Deputy U.S. Marshals, Fort Smith Federal Court, circa 1890

downsized, and Reeves found himself out of work. Reeves was now 69 years old, the only deputy U.S. marshal I have found that started with Judge Parker's regime in 1875 and worked up to Oklahoma statehood in 1907. Reeves' unemployment did not last long because, at the start of the new year in 1908, he was hired as a Muskogee city



During his 32 years with the U.S. marshal service, Reeves worked with all races, including Fort Smith-based lawman Deputy U.S. Marshal Simon Flood.

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -



Judge Isaac C. Parker was only 36 when he was appointed to the federal bench in Fort Smith, Arkansas, in 1875. Bass Reeves was one of the first men he hired as a deputy U.S. marshal.

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -

policeman and given a beat downtown. He liked to brag that there was never any crime reported on his beat.

Reeves died in Muskogee on January 12, 1910, after a short illness. He is believed to be buried in a small cemetery on Fern Mountain Road west of town.

Reeves was interviewed in 1902, and at that time he stated that he had arrested over 3,000 men and women who broke federal law in the Indian Territory. At his death, several newspapers, in and out of state, stated he had killed more than 20 men in the line of duty. Bass Reeves was indeed the Invincible Marshal.



Art T. Burton, a retired college history professor, has written four critically acclaimed history books on the American Western frontier. He is a member of Western Writers of America and the Chicago Westerners Corral, and was made an honorary territorial marshal by Oklahoma Governor David Walters.

BASS REEVES MIGHT BE THE MOST FAMOUS—AND MISTAKENLY IDENTIFIED—BLACK LAWMAN IN THE WEST.

MAN WITH A BADGE

In recent years there has been an influx of images supposedly of Bass Reeves. Most have not been validated and it would be extremely hard to do so in some circumstances. Recently at Cowan's Auctions Inc., a non-validated cabinet card supposedly of Bass Reeves sold for \$12,500. The image came from eastern Kansas, but I personally do not believe it is Bass Reeves. I did locate an image of Bass Reeves standing in the doorway of a railroad car in a photo at a museum in Fort Worth, Texas. Another image shows Bass Reeves with a hunting party, but it also has not been authenticated.



Ned Huddleston aka Isom Dart (1849–1900) cowboied in Texas and the Indian Territory before venturing north to the Montana and Wyoming Territories. He stole horses in Mexico and sold them in Texas. Later he moved to Colorado and changed his name to Isom Dart and became a rancher in Brown's Hole. Soon thereafter, Dart became a member of the Tip Gault gang of rustlers in Wyoming and was killed by range detective Tom Horn in 1900.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



This image purported to be of Bass Reeves was found in Kansas, and it sold for \$12,500 at an auction. After studying the image, I am positive it is not Reeves. The lawman who looks to be African American is too light in complexion and too small in build and height. A close study of the facial features shows it is clearly not Reeves, but it is a nice image of a lawman of color during the 19th century.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

Editor's Note: True West published this photo in the June 2020 "Collecting the West" column, and reported that this photo, listed as Bass Reeves, lawman, was sold as part of Steve Turner's African Americana collection by Cowan's Auctions. Soon thereafter TW was challenged by numerous sources on the authenticity of the photo.



Some have identified the young man and woman as Bass and Jennie Reeves, but there is no information on where the image came from or its date. It might be Bass Reeves, but I am not totally convinced at this time. I would need more information before making a definitive statement on his or her identity.

– COURTESY ART T. BURTON –



A young Bass Reeves is most likely seen in the upper left with a large hunting party. Date and location of the photo are unknown. After studying the image, I believe it is Reeves. The men could have been other lawmen he worked with in Arkansas and the Indian Territory.

– COURTESY ART T. BURTON –

ONCE AND FOR ALL, IS THE LONE

BY ART BURTON

When *The Lone Ranger* debuted on the radio in Detroit in 1933, racism was at a zenith in the United States. That the story could have possibly originated with an African American could never be published or talked about publicly. I wrote about the similarities in my biography on Bass Reeves, *Black Gun, Silver Star*. I stated in the book that we would not be able to prove conclusively that Reeves was the inspiration for the Lone Ranger. We can say unequivocally that Bass Reeves is the closest person to resemble the fictional Lone Ranger on the American Western frontier. Here are the similarities:

- Bass Reeves was a Texan like the Lone Ranger.
- Research shows that the name of the fictional character was Reid, no first name given in the radio or television show. Reid is similar to Reeves.
- Bass Reeves handed out silver dollars; the Lone Ranger gave out silver bullets.
- Bass Reeves rode a gray horse that had the appearance of being white; additionally, he rode sorrel horses during his long tenure as a lawman.
- The deputy U.S. marshals in the Indian Territory were mandated by federal law to take at least one posseman with them when they went into the field to arrest felons. Many of Bass's possemen were American Indians. At one time, he worked with Grant Johnson, an African/Indian who had strong Indian features. Their work together was said to be legendary.

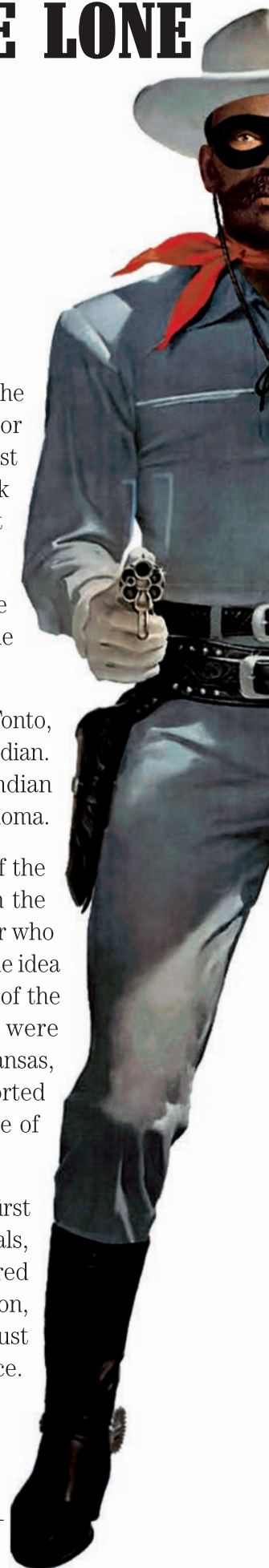
- Many of the white settlers in the Indian Territory did not know or remember Reeves' name. They just referred to him as the 'Black Marshal.' Like "Who was that masked man?"

- Bass Reeves worked in disguise regularly, just as the fictional Lone Ranger did.

- The Lone Ranger's sidekick, Tonto, was stated to be a Potawatomi Indian. That tribe was found in the Indian Territory, now the state of Oklahoma.

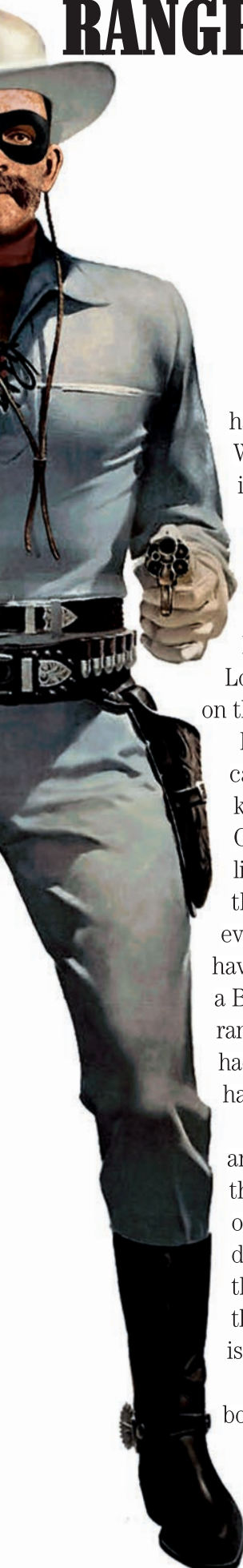
- George W. Trendle, owner of the Detroit radio station that began the Lone Ranger series, was a lawyer who took credit for coming up with the idea of the fictional character. Many of the felons Bass Reeves arrested were convicted in the Fort Smith, Arkansas, federal court and were transported and housed at the Detroit House of Corrections in Michigan.

- When the Lone Ranger was first shown in comics and movie serials, he had a black mask that covered his whole face. Later for television, the black mask was reduced to just cover a smaller portion of his face.



— "Lone Ranger" Image Courtesy ABC Television/Bass Reeves Image Courtesy Art T. Burton —

RANGER BASED ON BASS REEVES?



BY MARK BOARDMAN

Let's get this straight. Art Burton has done important work in the Old West field. His books have given insight to Black and Indian law officers, outlaws and Army scouts—a group who've received scant attention in the past.

But his attempt to connect Bass Reeves with the character of the Lone Ranger? Kemosabe, that's wind on the prairie.

Reeves was a great lawman; nobody can doubt that. But he was little known outside of the Indian and Oklahoma Territories during his lifetime and after. What's the chance that some Detroit radio guys had ever heard of him? And would they have dared base a white character on a Black man—at a time when racism ran rampant in Michigan? If somebody had discovered that, the station would have been burned to the ground.

We can go point by point on Art's analysis and find that most of those things applied to countless lawmen of the Old West. Taking various and disparate facts and trying to connect the dots is always dangerous. Take this fake syllogism: All cats die. Plato is dead. Plato is a cat.

The two predicate statements are both true, but the conclusion is crazy.

You can take a bunch of facts and reach practically any conclusion you want.

But there are two other things to consider. First, some believe that legendary Texas Ranger Captain John R. Hughes—who was likely the model for Zane Grey's Lone Star Ranger—sparked the idea for the Lone Ranger. But he didn't wear a mask, shoot silver bullets, etc., etc.

Then there's this. In 1933, the creators/producers at WXYZ radio in Detroit were discussing how to form the Ranger. In letters (still available), one suggested that he be like Zorro, with a mask and a flare for derring-do. Another letter suggested that the Ranger be a "Tom Mix type." Bass Reeves (or John Hughes) is never mentioned. If this is the case, the Lone Ranger was based on popular culture figures, not real-life lawmen.

In all fairness, Art Burton hedges his bet: "I stated in the book that we would not be able to prove conclusively that Reeves was the inspiration for the Lone Ranger." But many media outlets took the story and ran with it, not looking at the author's caution. As a result, there are many people who believe the Lone Ranger was Bass Reeves, and vice versa. The history field has enough problems (can I sell you a Billy the Kid photo?) without rumors and speculation clouding things.

So, definitely read Art Burton's book on Bass Reeves. It's good; it's important. But let's cry out "Hi-yo Silver, away" to the Reeves-Ranger theory.



BY ART T. BURTON

Bass Reeves and Hollywood

THE REAL LAW-AND-ORDER HERO'S LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO CINEMATIC AND TELEVISION FAME

Interest was generated in Hollywood on Western lawman Bass Reeves after the publication of my first book, *Black, Red and Deadly: Black and Indian Gunfighters of the Indian Territory, 1870-1907*, in 1991. The longest chapter in the book is on Bass Reeves. The first phone call I received interested in Bass Reeves was from actor Lou Gossett, who had just won an Oscar for *An Officer and a Gentleman*. Shortly thereafter, my book was optioned periodically by actor Don Johnson, Suzanne de Pass, Sinbad and Maury Povich, in that order, all looking to make a film or series on Bass Reeves. Nothing came to realization regarding film development.

When my Bass Reeves biography, *Black Gun, Silver Star: The Life and Legend of Frontier Marshal Bass Reeves* published in 2006, actor James Pickens Jr. optioned that book. It was later optioned by Morgan Freeman and his company, Revelations Entertainment Inc., and has currently found a home at a streamer for a television series. In 2015, two docudramas were made about Bass Reeves for cable television, the first was from FOX Television, produced by Bill O'Reilly for his *Legends and Lies* Western series, "Bass Reeves: The Real Lone Ranger." Bass Reeves was portrayed by the actor D. L. Hopkins. The second docudrama was from the Discovery Channel for the second season of its *Gunslingers* series, and was also titled "Bass Reeves: The Real Lone Ranger." Bass was portrayed by Joseph Curtis Callender with onscreen remarks by *True West* magazine editor Bob Boze Bell and me.



Jason Johnson costars as fictional Sam Tanner beside Isaiah Washington as Bass Reeves in the Western *Corsicana*. The film's production was delayed because of the pandemic in 2020 and is currently back in production in 2021.

- COURTESY ROBERT JOHNSON PRODUCTIONS -

In 2017, Bass Reeves was intelligently portrayed by Colman Domingo in the NBC series *Timeless* in the fictional episode titled "The Murder of Jesse James." In January 2020, the independent small-budget movie titled *Hell on the Border* was released. It was filmed in Alabama and starred David Gyasi as Bass Reeves as the lead character. The movie had a weak plot and was not historically accurate. Another independent small-budget movie was directed by and stars Isaiah Washington as Bass Reeves. This film, titled *Corsicana*, based on a fictional storyline had a December 2020 release date but as of this writing had not yet been viewed by the public or critics.



Joseph Curtis Callender starred as Bass Reeves in the AHC docudrama *Gunslingers* episode, "The Real Lone Ranger." Author Art Burton, along with *True West*'s columnist Johnny D. Boggs and executive editor Bob Boze Bell all participated as commentators for the episode that explored the legendary connection between Reeves and the mythical Lone Ranger.

- COURTESY AHC -

Chloe' Zhao, an award-winning movie director stated that she was writing and developing a Bass Reeves biopic movie to be produced by Amazon Prime. Netflix is developing a fictional Black Western movie produced by Jay-Z, who also is providing music, for a 2021 release titled *The Harder They Fall*. This film uses the names of various Black characters of the real Western frontier, including Nat Love, Rufus Buck, Jim Beckwourth and Cherokee Bill. Noted film actor Delroy Lindo will possibly portray lawman Bass Reeves.



James A. House starred in the title role of the 2010 film *Bass Reeves*, one of the first movies to portray the famous Arkansas lawman.

- COURTESY BARNHOLTZ PRODUCTIONS -



British actor David Gyasi (below left) portrayed Bass Reeves in the movie *Hell on the Border*. The 2019 film was written and directed by Wes Miller and filmed on location in Alabama.

– PHOTO AND POSTER COURTESY LIONSGATE –



Jamal Akapo appears as Bass Reeves and Louis Gossett Jr. (left) as Will Reeves, the fictional son of Bass Reeves in HBO's alternate-history series *Watchmen*.

– PHOTOS COURTESY HBO –



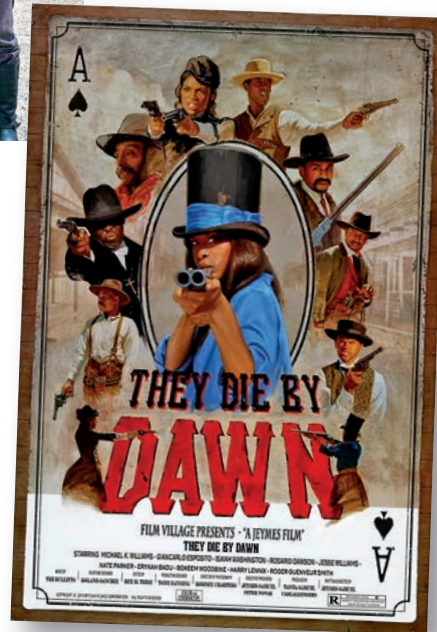
Actor, producer, stuntman, historical reenactor Ernest Marsh (left) stars as Bass Reeves in *The Righteous Twelve*, the latest Reeves Western in production in 2021. Marsh is currently considered the leading historical Reeves reenactor.

– COURTESY AVONDALE PRODUCTIONS –



Colman Domingo starred as the lawman Bass Reeves in the NBC series *Timeless*.

– COURTESY NBC TELEVISION –

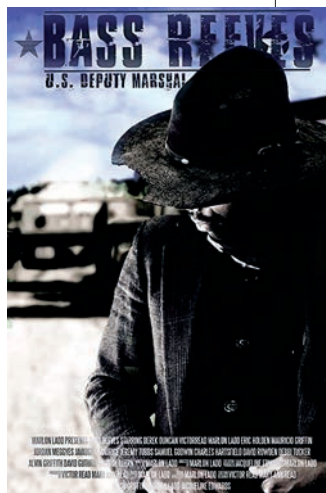


Writer-director Jeymes Samuel directed an ensemble cast in his 51-minute, 2013 Western short, which featured veteran actor Harry Lennix as legendary lawman Bass Reeves.

– COURTESY TIDAL PRODUCTIONS –

Writer-director Marlon Ladd starred as Bass Reeves opposite Derek Ray Duncan as Ben Carver in the 2017 movie *Bass Reeves*. Ladd, who was also executive producer, made the short film on location in Oklahoma.

– COURTESY MARLON LADD PRODUCTIONS –



Guy Davis was cast as the famed deputy U.S. marshal in "Bass Reeves and the Brunter Brothers," a 2017 episode of *Tales of the Wild West*. An unexpected plot twist has Davis' Reeves partnered with Richard Cutting's Wyatt Earp in tracking the wanted (and fictional) Brunter Brothers.

– COURTESY AMAZON PRIME VIDEO –

BY MICHAEL ENGELHARD

Wheels to Fortune

OVER A CENTURY
AGO GOLD-CRAZED
MINERS TRADED IN
THEIR SLEDS FOR
BIKES AND PEDALED
THEIR WAY TO THEIR
ALASKAN BONANZAS.

In late February, as the days grow longer and supposedly milder, down-clad triathletes besting cranes and geese flock to western Alaska for The Iditarod Trail Invitational. “The world’s longest and toughest winter race,” like the eponymous mushing event, honors a roughly thousand-mile, life-saving 1925 serum run from Seward to Nome. Biking, running and skiing, pulling sleds and often pushing their vehicles (and their luck), thrill-seekers cross the Alaska Range into the meat locker interior—vales of booby-trap deadfall, snowdrifts and overflows—before sighting the Bering Strait coast.

This confederacy of pain wears its moxie and ingenuity like merit badges. But it simply follows the tracks of velocipedists who swift-footed toward precious metal when the state was a territory.

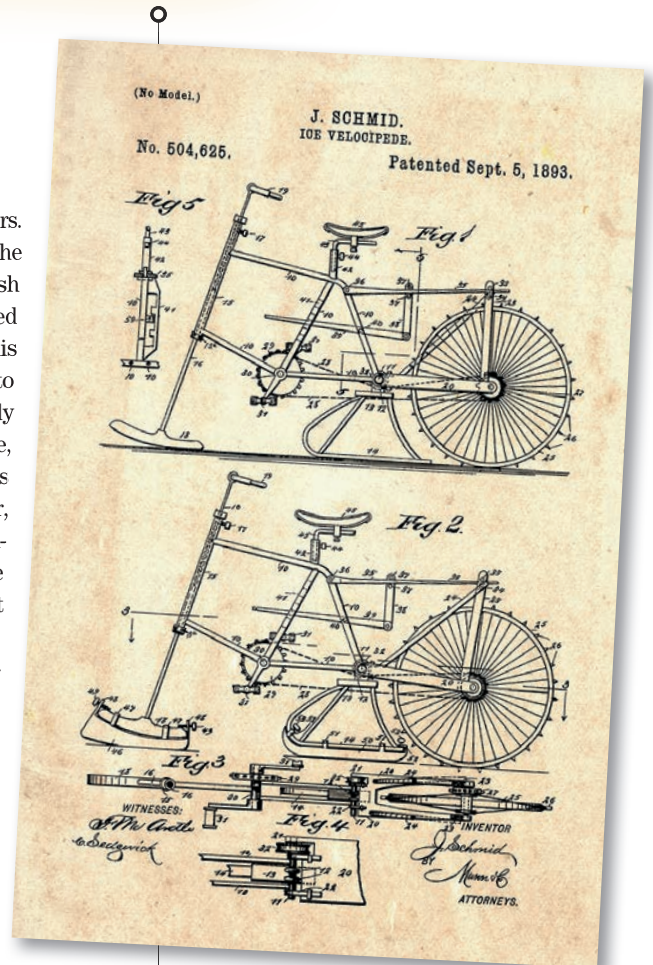
In 1897, greenhorn mobs boarded steamers bound for the Klondike goldfields while bicycles, invented 80 years earlier to counter horse shortages after the Napoleonic Wars, had become a nationwide fad. Sears, Roebuck & Company offered surprisingly modern-looking “Yukon” models for ladies and gents, and black “Buffalo Soldiers” bicycle corps patrolled the Yellowstone country, scaring horses and cows.

The cavalry officer and polar explorer Adolphus W. Greely thought this form of locomotion equal to the telegraph, perfect for quickening long-distance communication

through mechanized messengers. Robert Service, the Bard of the Yukon, who missed the rush there by seven years, commuted by bike from his cabin to his Dawson bank teller job and to court his stenographer lady friend. Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes and a one-time Arctic traveler, in 1896 had endorsed the conveyance: “I believe that its use is commonly beneficial and not at all detrimental to health, except in the matter of beginners who overdo it.” Other physicians feared that, combined with sunburn, exertion and the effort to maintain balance could cause “bicycle face,” a possibly permanent condition characterized by a clenched jaw and bulging eyes. Present-day subarctic devotees, however, are more likely to blister their mugs or lose toes or ears to frostbite.

As soon as news of the bonanza broke, a New York syndicate pledged to construct a bike path to it, “a roadway, lightly constructed of steel, clamped to the sides of the mountains where it is not possible to arrange for a roadbed on a flat surface,” with a roadhouse every 50 miles, “a place of refuge wither the wheelmen, and especially the wheelwomen, can flee for safety when the elements behave badly.” The schemers proclaimed they would have nothing to do with “common methods of transport, such as railroads, boats, pack horses, dog-sleds and Indians.”

A Palo Alto bike dealer promptly sold his inventory to drag a 90-pound sled loaded with photographic equipment across White



The worldwide bicycle craze of the 1890s led to enthusiasts and inventors meeting the needs of bicyclists for all four seasons, including the “ice velocipede,” patented in 1893.

— COURTESY US PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE —

Pass. In rough spots, he put the bicycle on the sled but made up time downhill and on ice-lidded lakes. Two of Boston’s best wheelwomen headed north, hoping to sway 1,000 female fans on their own mounts to reach Dawson with them by exercising their shapely legs. The yellow ore magnetized two youths who were biking around the world for a Chicago paper but hearing gold’s siren call, changed their course. Overcoming

Alaskan and Yukon gold miners biking between settlements and their diggings followed the well-established sled tracks that dog and sled teams created across the wilderness, including this one in Nome, Alaska, in 1906.

— COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ARCHIVES —



“man, woman, or child.” The Klondike Bicycle, probably never built, sported solid rubber tires, weighed circa 50 pounds and, in the words of one 1897 guidebook, was

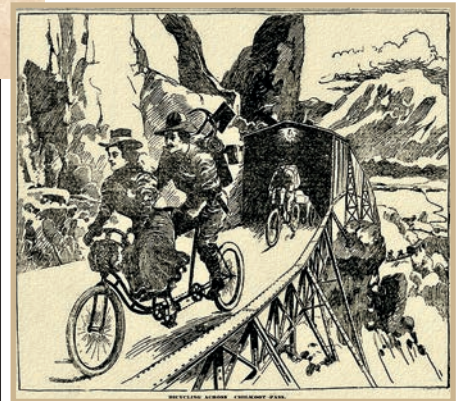
Winter caught up with them outside of Skagway, perhaps at “Rag Town,” a tent cluster also dubbed “Liarsville.” In March, with onions selling for a dollar and fifty cents each, a luckier soul whizzed in the opposite direction from Dawson to Skagway on an eight-day grocery run without mishaps. As the Philippine-American War flared, a bike carrier rushed headlines with the *Klondike Nugget* to Grand Forks, 14 miles from Dawson, and to miners on creeks close by. Catering to the men’s spiritual needs, Reverend John Jameson Wright conducted an “Evangelistic Tour,” visiting camps, pumping his legs for warmth at 40-below. With roadhouses spaced about 20 miles apart, the 400-mile Dawson-to-Whitehorse trail on the Yukon saw hundreds of wheelmen in the spring of 1901. Trading shanks’ mares for steel ponies, they’d mastered

the lack of affordable mules, horses, oxen and even dogs in Seattle and San Francisco, inventive Klondikers beat those globetrotting kids and Bostonian “bloomer girls” on the scramble to Eldorado. Some, freshly disembarked at Skagway, grunted pedal-less contraptions with 200-pound burdens up the aptly named Dead Horse Trail to White Pass. With the required minimum of 1,000 pounds of food and 1,000 pounds of equipment, they faced 10 round-trips from sea level to about 3,000 feet.

Commercial, single-gear models were advertised as the miner’s best choice, as were snowshoe attachments clamped to the frame and bicycles with a ski instead of a front wheel. The Seattle hardware firm Spelger & Hurlbut sold merchandise obtained from Chicago’s Western Wheel Works factory. One reporter wrote that by 1900, “scarcely a steamer leaves for the North that does not carry bicycles.” The Rambler Road Wheel, which dealers touted for Alaska conditions, came with a detachable, heavy-tread tire easily repaired by

designed “more for strength than appearance.” Rawhide shrunk onto its tube frame would allow prospectors to touch it without their skin sticking to steel in low temperatures. It was really a shape-shifting cart; the rider, dismounted, would haul a quarter-ton of goods on four wheels before retracting one outrigger pair and shredding back down to pick up the next load. Bikes proved to be more efficient on hard snow than on boggy, boulder-strewn summer terrain. Dawson stores hawked them to tenderfeet, and a local newspaper speculated that canine freight teams were doomed. Best of all, even a ready-made snow bike cost only a fraction of the cost of a sled or the optional dogs.

If “dog-punchers” eyed bicyclists guardedly, as they did East Coast dandies or cabin-fevered odd ducks, one can hardly blame them. Bizarre do-it-yourself arrangements flourished. Two Argonauts anticipating the Yukon River, which debouches from Lindeman Lake, had left New York with conjoined bikes from whose iron crossbars hung a rowboat that held their possessions.



The popularity of bicycles as an alternative form of transportation for Yukon stampeders led the *The Saint Paul Globe* on November 28, 1897, to announce a planned “Wheelman’s Route to Klondike.”

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

the eye-straining trick of staying in the two-inch double-track firmed up by sled runners.

Cold-weather bikers then, too, were clotheshorses, although by necessity. Docking in Skagway, the nature writer John Burroughs noticed women in short-skirted “bicycle suits” meant to keep

hemlines out of the spokes. Sears that year stocked “The Scorcher,” “The Winner” and “The Flyer.” Men wore a flannel shirt or a onesie “union suit” inside a fleece-lined overall topped by a heavy mackinaw coat or drill parka, two pairs of thick wool socks inside felt boots not so snug as to cut off circulation, plus a beaver-fur ear-flap hat, fur nose guard and fur mittens. No weightweenies, they also might strap a fur robe or bearskin over the handlebars. The mukluks of one wore out, and his toes bruised badly on the ice. Fastened to the springs behind the seat, the canvas pannier of yet another contained a spare shirt and socks, more woolen underwear, a journal in waterproof covering, pencils and several blocks of sulfur matches. At the roadhouses, a peeling nose signaled a salty trail dog; without it, people might think you had come in by sleigh-stage.

When every claim had been staked, and scores of staked ones yielded less than they previously had or nothing at all, the action moved on. Gold strikes near Nome



Dawson City, Yukon Territory, was a small, remote Canadian Indian camp in 1896. Within two years, more than 30,000 Klondike stampedeers invaded the Klondike River Valley hoping to strike gold. Surprisingly, many brought bicycles with them for transportation rather than sleds and dogs.

— COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —

Wooden sidewalks and boardwalks, including one at the Skagway wharf, made it easier for bicyclists and pedestrians to avoid the mud that prevailed much of the year in the streets of the Alaskan boomtown.

— COURTESY DEGOLYER LIBRARY, SMU —

(in 1898) and Fairbanks (in 1902) shifted the human tide. Again, wheelmen rode cold and hard, if not always fast, taking advantage of frozen-stream highways to riches, which could be as smooth as pavement.

On February 22, 1900, likely ignorant of Arthur Conan Doyle’s advice, the trading post owner Ed Jesson left Dawson on an iron steed he bought for gold dust from his poke after a guy who’d just wrangled it up from Skagway sold it to the Alaska Commercial Company store. Young Ed owned a fine dog team but spent eight days taming this newfangled beast, which looked like a “white elephant” attached to his hands. He took dozens of headers into the snow, and after each one, his mutts climbed on top, nearly smothering him. “We will have to put him on the woodpile until he comes out of it,” a few old-timers commented when he’d announced his plan.

Jesson arrived in Nome five weeks later, bruised, tired and almost snow-blind. Abrasive gusts sometimes had stalled him. Fueled by mush, griddlecakes, coffee and muskrat mulligan, he had skirted open water, dodged ice jams—or head-butted them—and zipped full tilt over glare ice, overtaking a big Norwegian on skates who had been dunked. At times, kiting before the wind, he backpedaled to slow down. A small bottle of mercury at one stopover cabin froze solid, which means temperatures dipped close to 40-below. Somebody had planted a ghoulish trail marker, a red, shorthaired dog, on its nose, stiff tail straight up and paws at a trot, “like a circus clown doing his trick.”

Initially, Jesson, not yet having learned to steer with one hand and rub his numb nose with the other, vise-gripped his handlebars two-fisted. On a good day, he covered 100

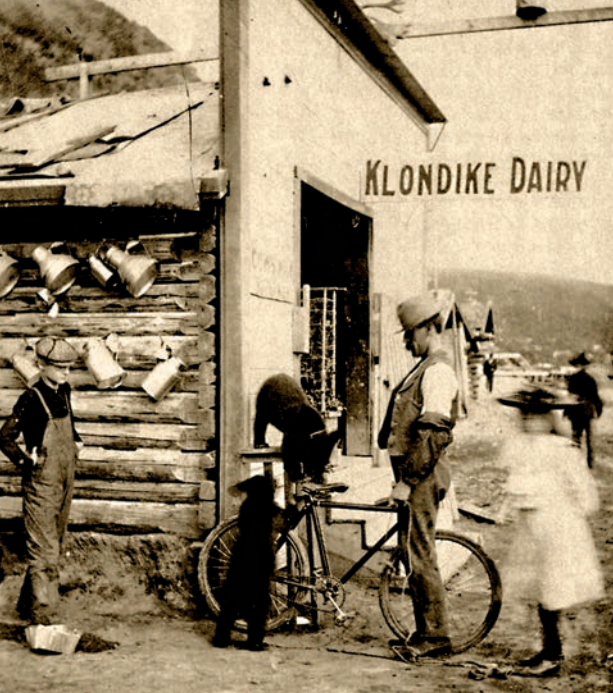


miles. Sharp north winds kept him from crossing Norton Sound at the current location of a safety cabin on the Iditarod Trail, grounding him three days at a busy roadhouse. Then as now, congealed grease, frozen bearings, rock-hard “Flintstone” tires, and knee, elbow or collarbone fractures were common. Taking falls in tailwinds of 60 miles per hour, cyclists saw their transportation skid away on glassy river ice unless they’d held on. “I have ridden bucking horses and been bucked off many a time,” one of them confessed, “but I never saw a bucking horse that could get from under me as quickly as that wheel.” Temperatures drop to levels at which boiling water, tossed

A solo stampeder with his bicycle can be seen to the left amid the long line of mail and freight using traditional dog- and horse-drawn sleds on Valdez Summit, Alaska, sometime after 1900.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —





A slice of life on the Yukon frontier in 1897—a stamper, two children, two pet bear cubs and a bicycle outside the Klondike Dairy in the Klondike River Valley.

— COURTESY ALASKA AND POLAR REGIONS COLLECTIONS, ELMER E. RASMUSON LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS —

one out of sheet metal, helped by a missionary. Still, he praised his boneshaker. “It didn’t eat anything, and I didn’t have to cook dog feed for it.”

Starting in March of the same year as Jesson, Max Hirshberg raced spring’s thaw from Dawson to Nome, where people stole tents and moved houses while the owners were out prospecting. His departure had been delayed by blood poisoning—fighting a hotel fire, he’d stepped on a rusty nail. Drivers of dog teams he approached en route veered off-trail and restrained their barking packs from nipping his heels. (Fellow ice-roadies, meeting mushers at blind corners head-on, created snow angels or augered into berms.) Near trip’s end, Hirshberg fell through ice on the Shaktoolik River and almost drowned. Struggling two hours through ice-cubed water, he lost his watch and a gold poke worth \$1,500 but managed to save his bike. When he got marooned on a sea-ice floe, he jumped to shore, grabbed a driftwood log and, like an overdressed gondolier, poled his ride back to terra firma. Just east of Nome, Hirshberg crashed and busted his chain. Unable to pedal or brake, he threaded a stick through his mackinaw coat for an improvised sail. For once, the wind blew from the right quarter, yet it forced him at times to steer into snowdrifts to stop his wild flight.

He’d turned 20 during his adventure.

The last of 1900’s spring stampeders, the sea captain John Sutherland, rolled into Nome overdue and presumed dead, 62 days after hightailing out of Dawson. When he first glimpsed Norton Sound, the ice had already gone out. So, he walked his bike, detouring 360 miles through swamps with mosquitoes roiling like smoke. The bike frightened some Athabaskans who shot at Sutherland, because their shaman said all the fish would die if they didn’t kill him. Fortunately, soldiers from Fort Saint Michael came to his rescue. The next day, the Indians brought peace offerings and punched the Scotsman to see if he was real. One tried to buy his magic hoops. Twenty



Bjorn H. Svendsen rode a bicycle from Skagway to Dawson on the Stage Line Road. He arrived in the Klondike in March 1897 and stayed until 1904.

— STUDIO PHOTO, CA. 1900, COURTESY DAWSON CITY MUSEUM, DAWSON, YUKON —

pounds lighter than before, Sutherland tipped the scales at 230, regardless. “I rode my bicycle night and day,” he said, and “well, sometimes it rode me.”

While two-wheeled traffic may have irked grizzled Yukoners, the transplants’ progressive antics intrigued Native spectators, always drawing crowds. “White man he sit down, walk like hell,” one quipped when, showing off, Ed Jesson encircled a camp. Others, hollering “Mush!”—the traditional dog handler’s command—urged the passing figure to accelerate.

Hardy women and men still get to roadless Nome by parking their butts, though they shun the heated sno-go (snowmachine) or cushy airliner seats. With their snotsicles and waxy cheeks, breath plumes and hulking silhouettes, they may resemble Team Donner or Scott’s doomed Antarctic expedition. But what is transport for some, for others is mettlesome sport: a personal challenge and homage to pioneer grit.

Michael Engelhard is the author of *Ice Bear: The Cultural History of an Arctic Icon*. As a non-driving cabin dweller on the fringe of Fairbanks, in interior Alaska, he has done his share of winter biking.



An Alaskan pioneer woman in Skagway in 1907, wearing her finest summer clothes and hat, shows off her innovative dog-drawn cart with trailer, built of twin bike frames.

— COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, YEOMANS COLLECTION, KLGO 58599 —

up, blossoms into a crystal-dust Mohawk, air pumps shatter or pedals and cranks snap. In such cold, wrenches adhere to fingertips; the knobby treads of today’s re-enactors expire spontaneously. One single-speed demon in 1908 had so many flats that he stuffed rope into his tires to make it home. On his 1,000-mile journey, Jesson carved wooden replacement pedals, each of which lasted only a day. After buying nuts and bolts, he hacked a more durable



BY J. DAVID HOLT

BILL SAID HE DID. DID HE?

Buffalo Bill Cody rode many a famous mile across the West,
but did he actually ride for the legendary Pony Express?

Near the Pony Express exhibit at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, the docent was asked, “Did Buffalo Bill actually ride the Pony Express?” The docent replied, “Well, Bill said he did.”

Much has been written about William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody and the Pony Express. Much of it he wrote himself. Certainly Cody and the Pony Express are inexorably joined. The Pony Express, which lasted a mere 18 months, would be a small paragraph in the voluminous annals of the history of the American West had not W. F. Cody made it a featured act of his long running *Wild West* show.

In his autobiography (*Buffalo Bill's Life Story* written in 1878 and published in 1879), Bill recounts that he was “now in my fifteenth year” when the Pony Express began operations in April 1860. Although he was only 14 years of age, Bill used this literary device to add an apparent year to his age. Pony Express regulations called for riders 18 years or older, although it is known that a few riders younger than 18 were hired. While it's possible that Bill could have been hired at age 14, it is highly improbable.

Prior to operating the Pony Express, William Russell, Alexander Majors and later William Waddell, whose firm was headquartered in Leavenworth, Kansas, had government contracts to distribute supplies to the U.S. Army on the Western frontier. Bill's widowed mother, needing money to hold

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Which will be forwarded to connect with the PONY EXPRESS leaving
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Every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 11 P. M.

TELEGRAMS
Sent to Fort Kearney on the mornings of MONDAY and FRIDAY, will connect
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EXPRESS CHARGES.
LETTERS weighing half ounce or under \$1 00
For every additional half ounce or fraction of an ounce 1 00
In all cases to be enclosed in 10 cent Government Stamped Envelopes,
And all Express CHARGES Pre-paid.
PONY EXPRESS ENVELOPES For Sale at our Office.
WELLS, FARGO & CO., Ag'ts.
New York, July 1, 1861.

The Pony Express galloped into the imaginations of Americans on April 3, 1860, and with the help of Buffalo Bill and dime novelists, the cross-country mail service lived on as one of the legends of the settlement of the American West.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

onto their farm outside of Leavenworth, Kansas, allowed the extremely young Bill Cody to drive cavayard (extra cattle) with wagon freight trains three years in succession. He worked his way up to relief bullwhacker, relief driver and utility man; but he always returned home, tended to the farm

and attended school over the winter. Bill writes that in one year his wages were paid by Majors directly to Bill's mother each month while he was away. Therein lies Bill's first connection to the Pony Express. Russell and the Codys were personally acquainted. Bill even referred to Russell as “Uncle Aleck.”

In late 1859, the 13-year-old Cody headed to the Rocky Mountains to prospect for gold. With no experience to rely on, he, like so many others, was easily discouraged. He claims to have built a raft as a way to get home to Leavenworth. In Cody's writing of the story, the raft conveniently capsized on the South Platte River near Julesburg, Colorado Territory, the only home station on the Pony Express route in what would become the state of Colorado. It was there that he claimed he rode for the notorious station master Jack Slade.

In his autobiographical recounting of his Pony Express adventures, Bill mentions that the messages they carried “were written on the thinnest paper to be found.” (Correct) “These were carried in a waterproof pouch, slung under our arms.” (Wrong) Obviously, Bill didn't know at the time that Pony Express messages were kept in four locked compartments called cantinas, which were attached to the four corners of what was called a mochila. The mochila could be flung from one saddle over the next saddle as the horses were exchanged. A Pony Express rider would absolutely know of the mochila. A few years after he wrote his autobiography, Bill must have authenticated the equipment for the Pony Express act in his *Wild West* show.



Buffalo Bill Cody was 66 years old and still eager to perpetuate his legend as a 14-year-old express rider when he was the guest of honor at the dedication of the Pony Express Monument in St. Joseph, Missouri, on April 3, 1913. Also in attendance were actual riders “Cyclone” Thompson and Charlie Cliff.

— COURTESY BBCW, P. 6. 648. 05 —

In writing of the dangers of riding through hostile Indian country, Bill reported that “Road agents [robbers] were another menace, and often proved as deadly as the Indians.” The Pony Express, it was known, carried neither precious metals or currency, and no recorded losses to road agents are to be found.

Pony Express rider Jack Keetley is credited with a ride of 340 miles in 31 hours without stopping to eat or sleep. “Pony Bob” Haslam holds the record for the longest run, a 360-mile ride through Paiute territory in 40 hours. In his autobiography,

Cody claims the record. His longest ride, he wrote, was 320 miles in just 21 hours and 40 minutes. Is that even possible?

Cody’s account of his Pony Express experience is full of adventures, almost too many to believe. He writes that he was attacked by 15 Indians on one occasion. Not

likely. Then, about a six-week suspension of Pony Express service, Cody wrote that he volunteered, along with Wild Bill Hickock, to join a party of 40 men in

pursuit of Express horses stolen by Indians. Hickock, Cody wrote, planned the successful dawn attack near Crazy Woman Fork, Dakota Territory (present-day Wyoming), recapturing hundreds of horses, hundreds of miles north of the station. As soon as they returned the horses, Cody records that service resumed.

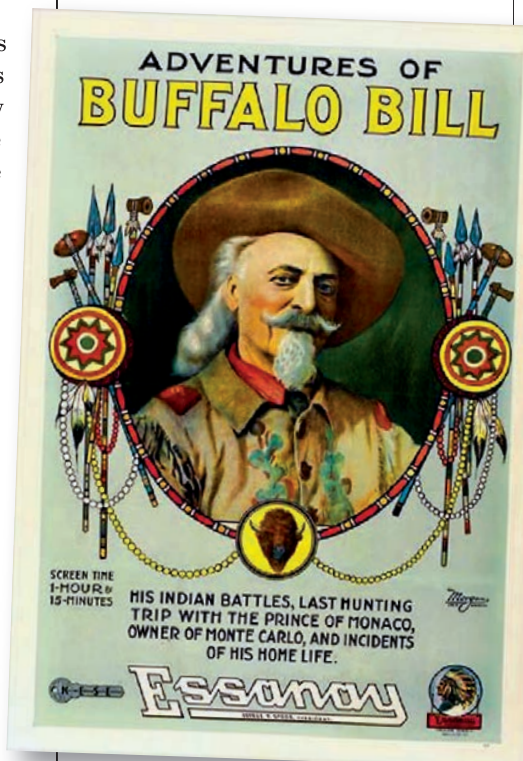
Unfortunately, the only documented suspension of Pony Express service occurred in May 1860 during the Pyramid Lake War in northwestern Nevada. Paiute warriors destroyed numerous Express stations and killed 16 employees, including one rider. The company actually suspended delivery for three weeks (not six), and the suspension of service occurred much farther west than Bill reported he rode.

As for James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickock, Cody wrote, “We rode the Pony Express together.” They did not. While Hickock was employed at the Rock Creek station, he had a famous shootout with the McCanless gang (later changed to McCandless). However, Hickock did not ride for the Pony Express—and never said he did!

By the time Alexander Majors got around to writing his own memoirs in 1893, he was old, ill and penniless. Cody found him in Colorado and helped him by taking

A promoter until the end of his life, Buffalo Bill was 65 in 1912, when he starred in his own three-reel silent bio-pic, *The Life of Buffalo Bill*, and in the 1917 posthumous release, *Adventures of Buffalo Bill*, which promoted his legendary stint as a Pony Express rider. Since 1917, Cody has been portrayed in at least 22 movies and television shows, including the 1953 release *Pony Express* starring Charlton Heston.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —





Young Bill Cody went from working as a stable hand, corral builder and cowboy for Russell and Majors in their freighting business at the age of 11 to a young man unafraid of self-promotion as a bold and fearless Western scout and frontiersman. His prowess as a bison hunter contracted to supply meat for construction workers of the Kansas & Pacific Railroad in 1867-68 earned him the nickname Buffalo Bill.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Majors on as part of Cody's *Wild West* show. For a time, Majors lived at Cody's Scouts' Rest Ranch outside North Platte, Nebraska.

Alexander Majors' memoirs were ghost-written, or at least heavily edited, by Colonel Prentiss Ingraham, a fabled dime novelist and hack. Majors dedicated what amounts to a hodgepodge of recollections to Cody. Cody wrote the preface and paid Rand McNally to print it. After the book was published, Majors complained that Ingraham had taken liberties with his story. Is it at all surprising that Majors' account of Cody's Pony Express experience is an almost verbatim account of Cody's own account of one of his rides?

Frank Christianson wrote in the introduction of his 2011 edited version of Cody's autobiography: "Cody operates securely within the American autobiographical tradition by fashioning an archetype out of his individual and composite experience. Consequently, some events in the [his] narrative may never have happened, others likely happened to someone else, while still others that occurred are either exaggerated or understated... A close examination has shown, for instance, that Cody's claim that he worked for the Pony Express is questionable."

The now-retired but longtime curator of the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave in Golden,

Colorado, Steve Friesen debated with me on the merits of "Did he or didn't he?" Friesen had me nearly convinced that Bill had actually ridden the Pony Express. I arose to leave, turned to the door, and Friesen said, "By the way, Frank Winch, who knew Cody for many years, wrote a timeline of Cody's life. When it came to the Pony Express, Winch wrote, 'He didn't.'"

Winch's extensive chronology of Cody's life, written shortly after Cody's death, can be found in the archives of the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave. Winch knew Cody for many years, as he was a public relations man for the *Wild West* show and wrote a biography for Cody and Pawnee Bill which was sold at the combined shows in 1911 and 1912.

What Frank Winch wrote in the April 1860 entry of the chronology is the most credible evidence for the answer to our question: "It is claimed," wrote Winch, "that Cody was a P.E. Rider. Many talks I had with B.B. He denied to me privately that he ever rode P.E." (Underlines attributed to Winch.)

Convincing evidence exists that Majors did give Cody, a boy in need at age 11, a job riding a mule or a pony delivering messages for his freight-hauling firm between Leavenworth and Atchison, Kansas. And, an even younger Cody did accompany Russell's wagon teams on three different occasions. However, much like P.T. Barnum and the

dime novelists of his day, Cody was never shy of embellishing his past.

After all is researched and written, perhaps the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming, reports it best. At the exhibit that features the Pony Express it is written:

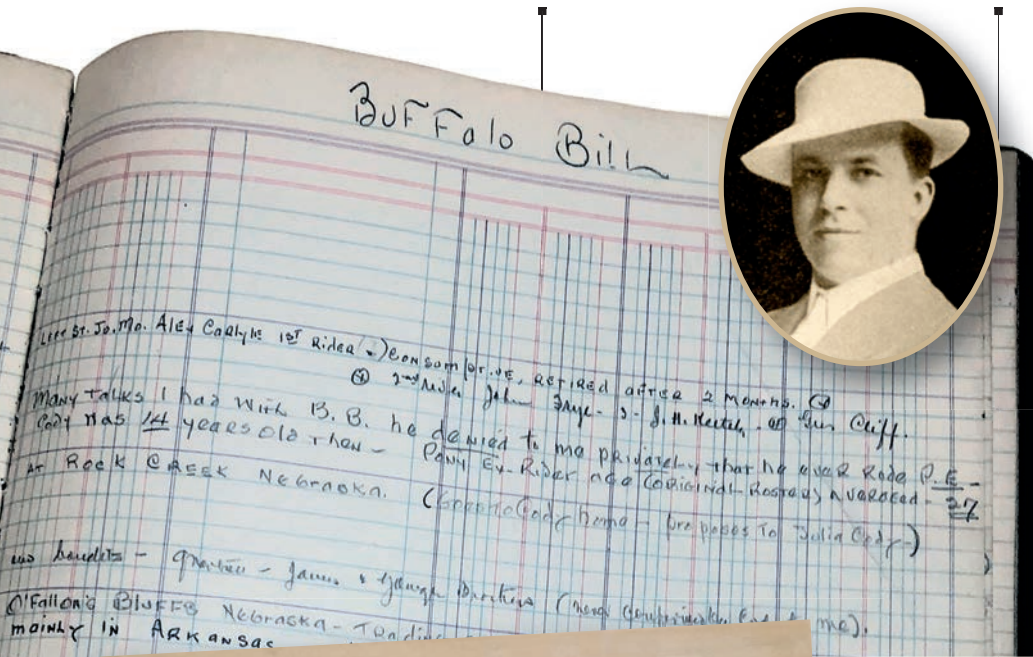
Cody's exploits became legendary. But was he really a Pony Express rider? Evidence is ambiguous, and scholars disagree. However, two points are clear. Cody was a messenger for Russell, Waddell and Majors, and Cody believed he had ridden for the Pony Express. Perhaps he viewed them as one in the same.

The only evidence that Cody rode the Express was Cody's own words and Alexander Majors' autobiography, which was ghostwritten by a writer of questionable authenticity and paid for by Cody himself. To say that William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody did not ride the Pony Express is not revisionist history. It is truthful, accurate history.

If this issue were to be settled in a court of law, the evidence against Cody riding the Pony Express would be overwhelming. It is past time that historians of the American West disregard Cody's claim.



A marketing executive and copywriter, J. David Holt is a first-time contributor to *True West*, but passionate about this topic. He has previously written for *Western Horseman*, *Reader's Digest* and *Kansas City Star Magazine*.



Frank Winch was a confidant, promoter and biographer of his employer, Buffalo Bill Cody. Winch promoted Cody's role as a Pony Express rider, even after Cody told him, as noted in Winch's biographical year-by-year-chronology of Cody's life, that he did not ride for the mail service.

- PHOTO OF FRANK WINCH JOURNAL COURTESY BUFFALO BILL MUSEUM AND GRAVE/FRANK WINCH PHOTO COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST -



THE OVERLAND PONY EXPRESS.—[PHOTOGRAPHED BY SAVAGE, SALT LAKE CITY, FROM A PAINTING BY GEORGE M. OTTINGER.]

While young Bill Cody may not have been an official express rider for the storied, short-lived mail line, his lifelong, mythical promotion of his participation in "building of a nation" helped keep alive in popular culture the legend of the Pony Express long after it ceased operation.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

In American history, few individuals can surpass Buffalo Bill Cody's self-promotion as nation-builder, hero and popular entertainer.

- COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -

TRUE WEST
EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

A DEADLY DUEL AT 500 YARDS

BASS REEVES
VS
JIM WEBB

THE MASTER OF THE
LONG SHOT, INDEED.



Bass Reeves was also a master of surprise and disguise.

— ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of Art Burton

JUNE 15, 1884



Often on his forays into the Indian Territory, Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves and his crew would round up as many as 17 fugitives and criminals, whom they then had to guard every night on the return trip to Fort Smith. When they stopped to camp, the prisoners were shackled to the wagon tongue of the chuck wagon and had to be guarded all night.

Out on the Whiskey Trail in Oklahoma Territory, Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves is hot on the trail of a murderer named Jim Webb, who the lawman had previously arrested and brought to justice in 1883. After a year in jail in Fort Smith, Webb got out on a \$17,000 bond and skipped. Now, Reeves got word that Webb had drifted back into the Chickasaw Nation and was hiding out at Jim Bywater's general store on the south side of the Arbuckle Mountains.

Riding with Reeves is Deputy John Cantrell, who Bass sends ahead to see if Webb is around. Sure enough, Cantrell spots Webb in the store and signals Reeves to come ahead. An eyewitness, D.C. Gideon, describes what happens next:

"As he went dashing up, Webb espied him, and jumping through the open window armed with both revolver and Winchester, ran for his horse that stood about one hundred yards away. Reeves cut him off from his horse and Webb turned toward a clump of bushes, ran about six hundred yards, turned and fired. The first shot grazed the horn of Reeves' saddle; the second cut a button from his coat, and the third cut off both bridle reins below his hand, allowing them to fall to the ground. As Reeves jumped from his horse another bullet... cut the brim from his hat. Reeves then fired his first shot, and before Webb could fall had sent two Winchester balls through his body.

"By this time Reeves' posse and Messrs. Bywaters and Smith came running up. Webb lay on the ground with his revolver in his hand, calling Reeves to come to him. Reeves advanced, but while keeping his gun trained on him told Webb to throw the revolver away. He flung it into the grass out of his reach and the whole party walked up to the dying man.

"Give me your hand, Bass,' said Webb, as he extended his own with an effort to grasp it. 'You are a brave man. I want you to accept my revolver and scabbard as a present and you must accept them. Take it, for with it I have killed eleven men, four of them in Indian Territory, and I expected you to make the twelfth.' Bass accepted the present, and has it now carefully stored away. The dying declaration of Webb was taken in writing by Mr. Bywaters, and thus ended the career of another 'bad' man."



The Master of Surprise And Disguise

Bass Reeves preferred to arrest bad men by surprise to cut down the likelihood they might fire on him. According to Reeves' biographer, Art Burton, Bass "did this in many different ways—from riding up on felons before they woke up in the morning, to using his many disguises and totally catching them off guard." Supposedly, one of Reeves' effective undercover disguises was to dress as a dirt poor farmer and pretend to be harmless. Literally shuffling into an armed camp with his hands in his pockets, Bass invariably got the drop on his unsuspecting prey—sometimes more than one! With over 3,000 arrests to his credit, his achievements in using surprise and disguise are unparalleled and unmatched. Later in his career, Reeves trained many young deputies who worked the Indian Territory.



Bass Reeves, Undercover Farmer

“He could shoot the left hind leg off of a contented fly sitting on a mule’s ear at a hundred yards and never ruffle a hair.”

—Oklahoma Yarn About the Shooting Prowess of Bass Reeves



Aftermath: Odds & Ends

During Judge Parker's 20-year tenure on the bench in Fort Smith, some 75 to 100 deputies died in the line of duty. Bass Reeves made, on average, \$400 a trip, and his biggest haul was bringing in 17 prisoners with a fee of \$900.



The U.S. Attorney General estimated that of the 20,000 whites living in the Indian Territory during the time Reeves was active, only 5,000 were law-abiding. Judge Parker, known as “The Hanging Judge” actually hanged 30 whites, 26 Indians and 23 Blacks.

While being interviewed by a newspaper in 1907, Reeves made the following remarks about the Webb shootout:

“The bravest man I ever saw,” said Reeves, “was Jim Webb, a Mexican that I killed in 1884 near Sacred Heart Mission. He was a murderer; I got in between him and his horse. He stepped out into the open 500 yards away and commenced shooting with his Winchester. Before I could drop off my horse, his first bullet cut a button off my coat and [the] second cut my bridle rein in two. I shifted my six-shooter and grabbed my Winchester and shot twice. He dropped, and when I picked him up I found that my two bullets had struck within a half-inch of each other. He shot four times, and every time he shot he kept running closer to me. He was 500 yards away from me when I killed him.”

Recommended: *Black Gun, Silver Star: The Life and Legend of Frontier Marshall Bass Reeves* by Art T. Burton (Bison Books, University of Nebraska Press)



CLASSIC TRUE WEST

FROM THE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Editor's Note: Award-winning historian and renowned Doc Holliday biographer Gary Roberts began contributing to *True West* 60 years ago (while still a college undergraduate) with his well-researched February 1961 article on the Earp brothers' careers as deputy U.S. marshals. To read more of Roberts' articles, go to TrueWestMagazine.com and subscribe for full access to more than 67 years' worth of exciting issues of *True West*.

Was Wyatt Earp Really a Deputy U.S. Marshal?

BY GARY L. ROBERTS

Wyatt Earp, who has become controversial since his fictionalization by television, did serve in both Dodge City and Tombstone as a legally appointed deputy marshal. *True West* presents the proof with these findings of a revealing probe into government records and the words of a man who knew Earp personally.

The question of whether Wyatt Earp was a bona fide U.S. marshal or an imposter has been asked many times and still is being asked by readers of *True West* and *Frontier Times*.

Just what are the facts that lie behind the mystery of the badge Earp wore while in Tombstone?

Some are of the opinion that doubt about Earp's legal status grew out of Stuart N. Lake's biography, *Wyatt Earp, Frontier Marshal*. Although Lake may have gone astray on some of his material, he can hardly be blamed for the story that Earp was a fraud, legally at least. There are more than 20 books bearing copyright dates from 1907 to 1959, and somewhere in most of them will be found a hint that Earp's status quo may have been in doubt. Only one, however,

comes right out and says such was the case. The others make some mention of it but never go so far as to seriously question Wyatt's legal status.

It is true that there is no record at the Department of Justice in Washington to show that Earp was ever a U.S. marshal. But that proves nothing. Back in the late seventies, U.S. marshals came and went, and how long each stayed on the job depended usually on how many politicians he knew. No accurate record of the appointments was kept until along toward the turn of the century when the business of selecting marshals was systematized.

One night last fall, I was reading Pat Jahns' biography of Doc Holliday. In his book, Jahns quotes a telegram from Marshal Crawley P. Dake to Acting Attorney General S. F. Phillips. This telegram, while it calls no names, is quite evidently a short report on the O.K. Corral fight, and Dake speaks of "my deputies." This could only have been a reference to the Earps.

After having read this, I wrote a letter to the Department of Justice to see if this telegram was authentic. The letter was referred to the National Archives for an answer. From a report written in 1941 by Frank D. McAllister, an employee of the National Archives, I began to comprehend the true picture.

McAllister's first paragraph explains why there is no record of Earp in the Justice Department. Until 1896 the Department of Justice did not keep a systematic record of



Wyatt Earp

deputy U. S. Marshals. Some were recorded, but a larger number were not. In 1896 the fee system was abolished and this was changed. While there is no reference to Wyatt Earp by name, there are several references to the Earp brothers.

The earliest of these references is dated November 17, 1881. It is a letter from S. F. Phillips to Crawley P. Dake concerning one of Dake's deputies, a "Mr. Earp" of Tombstone. According to this letter Earp "...

is disposed rather to quarrel with the Territorial authorities than to cooperate with them."

On December 5, 1881, Marshal Dake sent the following letter to Attorney General Phillips, in connection with the gunfight at the O.K. Corral:

"...the Sheriff of Cochise County in which Tombstone is situated, attempted to interfere with the Messrs. Earp and their assistants (Marshal Dake's deputies) but the attempt has completely failed. The Earps have rid Tombstone and neighborhood of the presence of this outlaw element. They killed several cowboys in Tombstone recently and the Sheriff's faction had my deputies arrested and after a protracted trial my deputies were vindicated and publicly complimented for their bravery in driving this outlaw element from this part of our territory. The Magistrate discharged my deputies on the ground that when they killed Clanton and the McLowerys they were in the legitimate discharge of their duties as my officers. Hereafter my deputies

will not be interfered with in hunting down stage robbers, mail robbers, train robbers, cattle thieves, and all that class of murdering banditti on the border.

“I am proud to report that I have some of the best and bravest men in my employ in this hazardous business—men who are



Morgan Earp



Virgil Earp

trusted and tried, and who strike fear into the hearts of these outlaws.” (Department of Justice Files, Arizona)

According to this letter all of the Earps were federal lawmen. One might even say that Doc Holliday was also a deputy U. S. Marshal.

Earlier in 1881 (November 28th) Acting Territorial Governor John J. Gosper wrote a letter to Marshal Dake about the problem in Tombstone. The letter read: “Another cause of the troubles alluded to is the fact that the present Sheriff of Cochise County and one of the Earp brothers, not your deputy, but a brother to the latter, being in some matter connected with the police force for the City of Tombstone, are candidates or aspirants for the sheriffship at the polls another season; the rivalry between them having extended into a strife to secure influence and aid from all quarters has led them and the particular friends of each to sins of commission and omission greatly at the cost of peace and property.” (Enclosed in letter to S. F. Phillips from C. P.

Dake, December 8, 1881. Department of Justice Files, Arizona.)

Anyone with a reasonable knowledge of the history of Tombstone will immediately recognize the brother spoken of as Wyatt Earp.

In any of these reports the deputy marshal Earp could have been Virgil, Wyatt, Morgan or all three. According to the District Clerk’s office in Tucson, Virgil Earp took the oath of office as a deputy U.S. marshal on November 27, 1879. If, as the letters seem to indicate, Morgan and Wyatt were federal lawmen, their appointments must have come sometime in 1881.

On March 18, 1882, Morgan Earp was murdered while

playing pool with Bob Hatch in Hatch’s billiard parlor. There is nothing in the newspaper account to tell us anything about Morgan’s official status at the time of his death. Although the records are missing, the Subject Index of the Department of Justice lists a letter which tells of the murder of Deputy U. S. Marshal Earp. Only Morgan Earp was killed while in Tombstone, so this letter evidently referred to Morgan.

In April of 1882 the Department of Justice sent a Special Agent to investigate the conditions of Marshal Dake’s office. In his report the Agent stated:

“He (Dake) retains upon his force as Deputy one of the Earp boys of Tombstone who is now an outlaw and with others is hiding in the mountains awaiting their time for a big fight in Tombstone.” (Department of Justice Files of the Appointment Clerk, “Confidential Report of S. R. Martin, Special Agent, April 19, 1882, on Marshal Dake.”)

This report could refer to only one of the Earp brothers, Wyatt. Morgan was dead and



U.S. Marshal Crawley Dake, 1879

As head of the marshals in Arizona, Crawley gives Virgil his commission before Earp goes to Tombstone. A staunch supporter of the Earps, he will be sued by the federal government for the \$3,000 he gives Wyatt to pursue outlaws.

— PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Virgil was in California recovering from his wounds. Warren Earp was with his brother, but in the face of Warren’s youth and inexperience, Dake would have hardly chosen him as a lawman over his brother Wyatt.

From this information it seems that Virgil, Wyatt and Morgan were all deputy U.S. marshals. Virgil went to Tombstone as a deputy U. S. marshal since he took the oath of office in Yavapai County just a few days before he moved to Tombstone. Morgan and Wyatt were later appointed to work with their brother. After Virgil was wounded and Morgan was murdered, Wyatt remained to avenge the death of his brother.

From the evidence available in the National Archives, coupled with that in the District Clerk’s office in Tucson, we see that the Earp brothers had federal authority from first to last in Tombstone.



TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

For the first time, every issue of *True West* magazine is now online, including Gary Roberts’ original, unabridged article as it appeared in the February 1961 issue. Learn how you can read all of Roberts’ articles and subscribe to *True West Archives*, by visiting TrueWestMagazine.com.

Our past awaits you!

BY MIKE COPPOCK

LITTLE-KNOWN CHARACTERS OF THE OLD WEST

Forgotten Hero of Denali

Alaska native son Walter Harper was the first to ascend North America's highest peak, but his fame—and life as a physician—were cut short by tragedy.

Every year roughly 1,200 climbers register with the U.S. National Park Service to climb Alaska's 20,310-foot Denali, North America's highest peak. A little over half make it to the top.

Those who scale her battle minus-30-degree temperatures and 150 mph winds. The first man to reach the top was 21-year-old Alaska native Walter Harper who stood on the summit in 1913—without oxygen—reaching for the hand of an ailing Dr. Hudson Stuck so he could, too, achieve his dream of standing on the highest peak in North America.

Harper was born in 1893, the youngest child of Jenny Albert and legendary prospector Arthur Harper, who abandoned them shortly after his birth. Walter was raised in an Athabascan village until he was 17. Dr. Stuck, an Episcopal missionary, hired him as a trail guide.

The two traveled to missions getting to know each other. When Stuck decided to tackle Denali's summit, Walter was invited along. As they scaled the peak, Stuck's health declined. Walter and guide Harry Karstens did most of the work. The two spent three weeks chopping a three-mile-long staircase over one ridge and then set up five high camps. Finally, as they reached the rocky pinnacle, Walter stepped on top at 1:30 p.m. on June 7, 1913, grasping Stuck's frail hand, guiding him to the summit.

While he played a key role in one of Alaska's historical highs, Harper also became an unwitting participant in one of Alaska's historical lows, the sinking of the *SS Princess Sophia*.

Stuck had encouraged Walter to pursue a medical career. He had been accepted to medical school in Philadelphia at the same time he married Frances Wells in Fort Yukon on September 4, 1918. They



Although Alaskan native Walter Harper helped lead his mentor Episcopal archdeacon and educator Dr. Hudson Stuck to the top of Denali, aka Mt. McKinley, on June 7, 1913, becoming the first to the summit, it was not his greatest accomplishment. The first high school graduate in his family, the son of an Irish trapper and an Athabascan mother, was going to be a physician, before he and his bride were tragically killed in the sinking of the *SS Sophia Princess* five years later.

— COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS, NO. 2002-0098-00013 —

would honeymoon on the *Princess Sophia* on their way to Seattle to catch an eastbound train.

They found Skagway a wild scene. The night before the ship was to embark, the town hosted the Sourdough Dance for newly enlisted troops from Ruby, Alaska, practically the town's entire male population.

The newlyweds boarded on October 23. The ship left Skagway at 10 p.m., three hours behind schedule. Within four hours, the vessel found itself in a blinding snowstorm, more than a mile off course, and aground on Vanderbilt Reef.

Rescue ships could not get close enough to the vessel because of gale force winds and towering waves. The *Princess Sophia's* captain hampered efforts by radioing the ship

In the spring of 1913, Deacon Hudson Stuck recruited Walter Harper and Harry Karstens to help lead and guide his expedition across Muldrow Glacier to the summit of Denali.

— COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS, NO. 1991-0046-00490 —

was in no immediate danger. Then a northern gale struck the ship, her bottom grated off by the reef and she broke apart and sank on October 25, taking the Harpers, 266 other passengers and the crew of 75 to the bottom.



Walter Harper was 16 when he met missionary Hudson Stuck at the Tortella School, an Episcopal boarding school founded by St. Mark's Mission in Nenana. Stuck believed the boy had a great deal of promise and asked him to accompany him on his 1913 expedition to summit Denali.

— PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA—FAIRBANKS, NO. 1991-0046-00531 / NEWS CLIPPING "THE GAZETTE," MONTREAL, QUEBEC, JUNE 21, 1913, COURTESY NEWSPAPERS.COM

MT. MCKINLEY AT LAST CONQUERED
 Highest Point in North America Reached by Archdeacon Stuck's Party
 20,500 FT ABOVE SEA LEVEL
 Water Boiled at 174.9 Degrees
 Saw Flag Pole Erected in 1910 by Thomas Lloyd Expedition

Seattle, Wash., June 20.—Archdeacon Hudson Stuck, the Episcopal missionary, who set out from Fairbanks, Alaska, several months ago to climb Mount McKinley, reached the summit of the highest peak of the great mountain on June 7th, according to a private cable message, which was sent by Archdeacon Stuck from Fairbanks, said: "Expedition successful. Accomplished first complete ascent of Mount McKinley. June 7. H. P. Karstens, R. G. Tatum, Walter Harper and I reached top of south (the highest of all peaks) on a clear day when it was possible to read all the angles of the mountain and other points and make certain that the peak we had conquered was the highest of all. We successfully carried a mercurial barometer to the top and made complete readings and observations which, with simultaneous readings at Gibleben, should permit a close approximation of the true altitude when proper corrections are applied. Water boiled at 174.9 degrees. The present estimate of the summit's height is upward of 20,500 feet."



Harry Karstens, future first superintendent of Denali National Park (formerly Mt. McKinley), was a key guide and team member of the Hudson Stuck expedition that summited McKinley with Walter Harper and Robert G. Tatum.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



After being married on September 4, 1918, in Fort Yukon, Alaska, newlyweds Walter Harper and Frances Wells Harper arrived on October 22 to the overcrowded, bustling port city of Skagway (above). The next day they boarded the *SS Princess Sophia* bound for Seattle and medical school for Walter with their future in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, ahead of them.

— COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —



While Deacon Hudson Stuck's expedition was the first to summit Denali, he and his team did not receive the fanfare typically given their peer adventurers. Undaunted, Stuck continued his mission work across Alaska, including his mentorship of Walter Harper, who accompanied him on many trips across the Alaskan wilderness. Stuck, who never married, considered Harper an adopted son and never fully recovered from Harper's untimely death.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

The Harpers' bodies were recovered, and the couple was buried side by side in Juneau's Evergreen Cemetery. Their marker reads: "Here Lie the Bodies of Walter Harper and Frances Wells, His Wife, Drowned on the Princess Sophia, 25th October 1918. May Light Perpetually Shine on Them. They were Lovely and Pleasant in Their Lives, And in Death They Were Not Divided." ❖

Mike Coppock was born and raised in Western Oklahoma. After graduating from Phillips University in Enid, he has lived in Alaska off and on since 1985. While in Alaska, he taught history in an Alaska Bush community, worked as an editor of two Alaskan newspapers and was a flight specialist for the FAA. He is currently a historical interpreter at Denali National Park.

S.S. PRINCESS SOPHIA HURLED OVER A REEF; 343 LIVES ARE LOST
 Stranded Ship Picked Up by Gale and Sent to the Bottom With All on Board.
 Vancouver, B. C., October 26.—The 268 passengers and crew of 22 men were lost when the steamship Princess Sophia foundered last night, the Canadian Pacific Railway announced today. Not a soul survived, according to the ship's wireless message which, up by the gale, hurried across Vancouver Reef and sent to the bottom in the deep waters on the other side. The vessel was bound southward from Skagway, situated at the head of the Lynn Canal, which is an arm of Chatham Strait, extending northward from the Pacific to the vicinity of Juneau, Alaska. The Canal, which is a natural body of water, is 100 miles long and 5 to 10 miles wide.
 Seattle, Wash., October 26.—Nearly all those aboard the Princess Sophia, it is believed here, were Alaskans who boarded the steamer at Skagway after entering the Yukon River from the interior of the northern territory. They left the river at White Horse and went by train to Skagway. The Sophia struck at 3 o'clock Thursday morning. It was at first thought that she would float on the reefs in that direction evidently failed and the vessel remained fast, later pounding to pieces on the rocks.

The *SS Princess Sophia* was steaming south from Skagway through the Lynn Canal in Chatham Strait toward Juneau when a terrible blizzard pushed the ship a mile off-course onto rocks near the Vanderbilt Reef. Before rescue operations could commence or lifeboats were launched, a northern gale sent the ship into the reef, with all hands and passengers killed, including Walter and Frances Wells Harper.

— PHOTO OF SS PRINCESS COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/NEWS CLIPPING "THE BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE," BROOKLYN, NY, OCTOBER 27, 1918, COURTESY NEWSPAPER.COM —



BY CANDY MOULTON

William Henry Jackson's West

The great photographer influenced the Western preservation movement and the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872.

William Henry Jackson learned how to retouch photographs when he was only 15 and found a job in a photographer's studio in New York. He furthered his understanding of the art of photography while working in a studio in Rutland, Vermont, before serving in the Union Army during the Civil War. He returned to photography after that war and found work in Style's Photographic Gallery in Burlington, Vermont.

Jackson went West in the spring of 1866, arriving in Nebraska City, Nebraska, where he found a job working for a freighting company hauling goods to Montana's mining country. His route took him along the Oregon Trail, where his artistic endeavors included sketching points along the trail. He spent two years traveling the trails and sketching before he opened a photographic studio of his own in Omaha.

Jackson's selection of a new base for his photography put him in the perfect location to find work taking photographs of the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, and that opened the door for him to travel in 1871 with Ferdinand Hayden's Geologic Survey.

We'll begin following Jackson's trail at the Union Pacific Railroad Museum in Council Bluffs, Iowa, which has on display transcontinental railroad construction photographs, including some taken by Jackson, along with a firearms collection, display of railroad signals and lanterns, and one of the three ceremonial spikes used when the Union Pacific and Central Pacific were joined at Promontory Summit in Utah on May 10, 1869.



One of William Henry Jackson's first jobs was as a photographer for the Union Pacific Railroad, which took him to many of the historic sites along the overland trails in Nebraska, including Scotts Bluff. Today, visitors can follow a hiking trail past Eagle Rock through Mitchell Pass, parallel to the original Oregon Trail.

— COURTESY NPS.GOV —

The Durham Museum in Omaha, located in the beautiful Union Station has a wide variety of exhibits including train cars. Railroad Town at the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer in Grand Island, Nebraska, is definitely worth a stop on the drive west from Omaha to Scotts Bluff National Monument. The monument, one of the most significant along the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer and Pony Express national historic trails, is fortunate to have the largest collection of original work by William Henry Jackson.

The monument's archive includes the multi-talented Jackson's drawings, paintings and photographs. Displays include

reproductions since many of the original images are fragile, and there have been some closures of the visitor center during 2020. These images, many of which can also be viewed digitally at WHJCollection.com, shows the full depth of Jackson's work.

Traveling west, you will see many of the places he captured in his art including Fort Laramie, now a national historic site, and Fort Caspar (Platte Bridge Station), which has been recreated in Casper. Some of Jackson's work highlighted important stations along the Oregon-California-Pony Express Trail. Places like Independence Rock and Split Rock are natural outcrops that



William Henry Jackson, a photographer for the Union Pacific Railroad, visited many of the historic landmarks along or near the route, including Scotts Bluff, which he later painted as part of his Western frontier history series.

— COURTESY WILLIAM HENRY JACKSON COLLECTION, SCOTTS BLUFF NATIONAL MONUMENT, NPS.GOV —

Maybe the most important position William Henry Jackson held in his first decade in the West was as the photographer of the 1871 Hayden Survey, which camped along the banks of Yellowstone's Mystic Lake.

— COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —

remain visible, but stations including St. Mary's have now disappeared, making the Jackson paintings and drawings so valuable.

His artwork shows that the variety of travel along the trails he took included wagon trains, freighters, stagecoaches, Pony Express riders and more. He painted Fort Laramie, Red Buttes, and drew an early sketch of Fort Bridger.

Other trail views—some of which he visited—included a mountain man settler view with the Tetons in the background, the Horse Creek rendezvous site in western Wyoming and the Marshall goldfields in California.

In 1871, Jackson traveled with the Hayden Survey, making his way through the region of northwest Wyoming that just a year later would be designated as Yellowstone National Park. The photographs he took on that expedition were used as proof of the wonders of the geyser basins and natural beauty of the area, leading to its designation as the first national park.

Travel to Dubois, Wyoming, and cross Togwotee Pass to enter Jackson Hole (named for David Jackson, no relation to William Henry) and Grand Teton National Park before continuing north into

Yellowstone National Park, which Jackson fully explored as part of the Hayden exploration party. The key places to visit in Yellowstone include Old Faithful, Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and the Mammoth Hot Springs.

From Yellowstone, travel west through West Yellowstone and into Montana, where you will see the gold towns



Today, visitors to Yellowstone National Parks' Old Faithful geyser can thank Hayden Survey photographer William Henry Jackson for his dramatic photographs of the region's geologic wonders, which influenced Congress's decision to protect Yellowstone and create the world's first national park.

— STEREOGRAPH OF OLD FAITHFUL COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS/ MODERN PHOTO OF OLD FAITHFUL COURTESY NPS.GOV —



One of William Henry Jackson's most beloved and influential photos was of Colorado's Mountain of the Holy Cross. The photograph motivated fellow Hayden Survey party member, landscape artist Thomas Moran, to paint one of his most famous landscapes of the West, *Mount of the Holy Cross*.

- BOTH IMAGES COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

of Virginia City and Nevada City. Both have buildings from the gold mining era when Jackson first hauled freight to the region. These are truly some of the best preserved 19th-century structures in Montana, and both towns

are fun to explore. You'll find historic buildings, clothing, merchandise and a variety of food and activities.

Jackson took part in other geologic surveys in the West and Southwest, opened a photographic studio in

A WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

Denver in 1879, and later traveled around the world to Europe, Asia, Africa and Russia.

Quite likely his most known photograph is of Mount of the Holy Cross, taken in Colorado, but images of Devils Gate in central Wyoming and of the terraces at Mammoth Hot Springs are equally recognized.



Candy Moulton makes her home near Encampment, Wyoming.

FROM MONTANA TO MESA VERDE

Jackson may have been inspired by his freighting trips to Montana gold country to later paint *Historic Homecoming*, a scene depicting the meeting of Sacajawea and Lewis and Clark with her Shoshone relatives in western Montana. But he traveled throughout the Southwest taking pictures at Pueblo de Taos, and photographed a variety of Colorado locations, including Garden of the Gods and Mesa Verde.



Visitors to Scotts Bluff National Monument can tour the visitor center or visit WHJCollection.com to see many paintings by multi-talented William Henry Jackson, including *Historic Homecoming*, depicting Sacajawea with Lewis and Clark, reuniting with the famous guide's Shoshone family.

— COURTESY WILLIAM HENRY JACKSON COLLECTION, SCOTTS BLUFF NATIONAL MONUMENT, NPS.GOV —

GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

GOOD LODGING: *Magnolia Hotel, Omaha, NE; Barn Anew B&B, Scottsbluff, NE; The Lodge at Flying Horse, Colorado Springs, CO; Togwotee Mountain Lodge, Moran, WY;*

Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Yellowstone National Park

GOOD GRUB: *Olé Restaurant, Scottsbluff, NE; Fire Rock Steakhouse & Grill, Casper, WY; Gannett Grill, Lander, WY; Cowboy Café, Dubois, WY*

PLACES TO VISIT:

Fort Kearny State Historic Site, Kearney, NE; Chimney Rock National Historic Site, Bayard, NE; National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, Casper, WY; Museum of the Mountain Man, Pinedale, WY; Fort Bridger State Historic Site, Fort Bridger, WY; Heritage & Research Center of Yellowstone, Gardiner, MT; Virginia City and Nevada City Historic Sites, Montana; Garden of the Gods State Park, Colorado Springs, CO; Mesa Verde National Park, Cortez, CO; Pueblo de Taos, Taos, NM

EDITOR'S NOTE: When planning travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, please check ahead for current protocols and hours of operation at lodges, restaurants, historic sites and communities.

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BY SHERRY MONAHAN

The Thrifty Frontier Kitchen

Old West cooks were magicians in the kitchen when it came to making the most of leftovers.



BUSINESS METHODS MUST BE APPLIED TO HOUSEKEEPING
 American Homes Now Run on Extravagant and Basis - Hence the Increased Prices of All Foods

No question of the day is more agitated or of wider popular interest than the undoubted, increased cost of living. Every housewife and housekeeper in this city, as in every other throughout the United States, is exercised all her waking hours, trying to devise schemes for making the dollar meet growing demands on it.

A household page is not the place for political or sociological discussion as to the reasons for this increase. Nor is it proper here to argue about the rights or wrongs of the packers or whether they are charging too much for meat. The truth remains that meat costs more than it used to, and this for the housekeeper whose allowance has not grown any larger presents the gravest problem.

Europeans." The average man is actually proud of eating times a day, which is a thing to do. Patriotic brains also have more independent other nations. Now this to the fact that they eat times a day, partly to this meat usually is cooked. Most women of a lump of beef over the pan and let it fry in it until it is almost unrecognizable, very indigestible, with most of the nourishment out of it.

Meat once a day will not nourishment, no matter how much a man has to work. The men think they require they have been taught

On the American frontier, thrift was not only a necessity but also a philosophy of day-to-day living and survival. At the German Pietists' 26,000-acre Amana Colonies east of Iowa City, Iowa, the women who ran the 50 community kitchens followed thrift to another level, cooking three meals a day, as well as two snack breaks, for the communal village where all resources and property were shared.

- COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS, 1907 -

Frugal frontier cooks often turned their kitchen leftovers into amazing dishes, and many housewives prided themselves on creating unique recipes with them. Various newspaper stories included tips and recipes on how they could do this, which stretched even the smallest of morsels.

Of course, most turned leftover meat pieces, parts and bones into stock for soups, but that was the easiest repurpose. Many leftover scraps of meat and vegetables were turned into soups, too. What happens when you mix leftover corned beef or breakfast bacon, an egg, cold mashed potatoes, flour, and onion and parsley? Crispy golden fried croquettes, naturally! A ragout was another tasty leftover meal that was created using bone broth, chicken pieces, cold rice, dressing, onions and flour and served over fried bread.

Stale or poorly cooked bread was often used to make bread crumbs and bread pudding. Stale cookies were used to make

puddings. *The Abilene Gazette* in Kansas wrote this in 1885: "To those who think this close watching and saving of 'left-overs' has an appearance of meanness or stinginess... let it be said, "it takes judgment, taste, and skill to prepare a ragout, a salmi, or a really good scallop."

Cold mashed potatoes were turned into purees or molded, cut, dipped in flour and fried in butter. Other tips suggested that cooks use mushroom stems to make a sauce Bordelaise for steak, turn leftover tomatoes into a sauce for chops, use soured milk in Johnny cakes and toss random vegetables to create a salad. Egg yolks, leftover from an angel food cake, were turned into a custard or sunshine cake. Leftover egg whites from a custard were made into a mayonnaise or angel food cake. Unused canned fruits or juices were transformed into a roly-poly pudding or frozen ice.

Sometimes leftover kitchen staples were turned into household items and vice versa. For example, lard was used to make

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TRUE WEST BOOKS



Women on the American frontier were all taught early on "waste not, want not," and were encouraged to apply the most thrifty business practices to running a household. The ideals of thrift in the homestead kitchen even extended to the use of animal "barnyard lignite" well into the 20th century—as demonstrated by this North Dakota woman in 1940—to provide affordable fuel for the family stove.

— PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/"MUSKOGEE DAILY PHOENIX AND TIMES-DEMOCRAT" OCT. 9, 1910 NEWS CLIPPING COURTESY NEWSPAPERS.COM —

soap and candles, while a new product called Cottolene was created in St. Louis, Missouri, using beef suet and cotton seed oil to replace lard. Vinegar was used in the kitchen for pickling and cooking but was also used as a cleaner.

Chicken wings were considered scraps and often used for stocks, but Missouri's *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* recommended something else. They suggested the recipe below.

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.

FRONTIER CHICKEN WINGS

12 wings

1 teaspoon fresh pepper

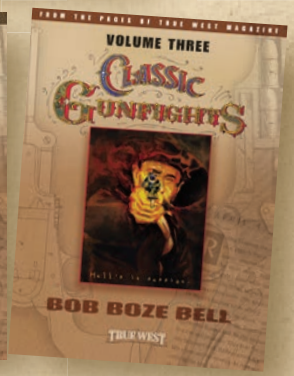
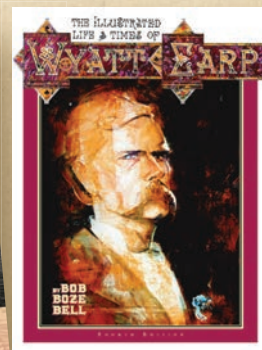
½ cup oil · ½ cup vinegar

1 egg, beaten

Bread crumbs · Oil for frying

Sprinkle the wings with pepper. Combine oil and vinegar and pour over the wings. Refrigerate and marinate for two hours. Place egg in one bowl and bread crumbs in another. Dip the wings in the egg and then the breadcrumbs. Heat ½ inch of oil in a deep frying pan over medium-high heat. Gently place wings in the pan and cook until golden on both sides.

Recipe adapted from the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, September 16, 1894.



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An Officer of Honor and Grit

A remarkable biography of U.S. cavalryman Lt. Powhatan Clark, plus a new history of the Civil War in the Southwest, big new biographies of Billy the Kid and Ned Buntline, and a dramatic novel of the Minnesota frontier.

Biographies of 19th-century American military officers tend to be major tomes recounting the lives of names well-known—Philip Sheridan, George Armstrong Custer, William Tecumseh Sherman, Robert E. Lee, George Crook, et al.—so it is refreshing to read John P. Langellier's latest work, *Scouting with the Buffalo Soldiers: Lieutenant Powhatan Clarke, Frederic Remington, and the Tenth U.S. Cavalry in the Southwest* (University of North Texas Press, \$34.95). Number 19 in the North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series, *Scouting with the Buffalo Soldiers* is an insightful, extremely well-researched biography of a son of a Southern doctor whose life burned bright with unexpected fame from a serendipitous relationship with Remington, the Medal of Honor and a choice European military assignment in Berlin. Langellier's scholarship on details of young Clarke's career trajectory from a privileged Southern family to his day-to-day life as a young military officer commanding Black soldiers in the 1880s and 1890s West is reflective as well as critical. Langellier states, "Clarke at the outset of his military career seemed ambivalent about his lot. Eventually, he evolved from accepting his situation to maintaining that he commanded some of the finest troops on the frontier regardless of skin color."

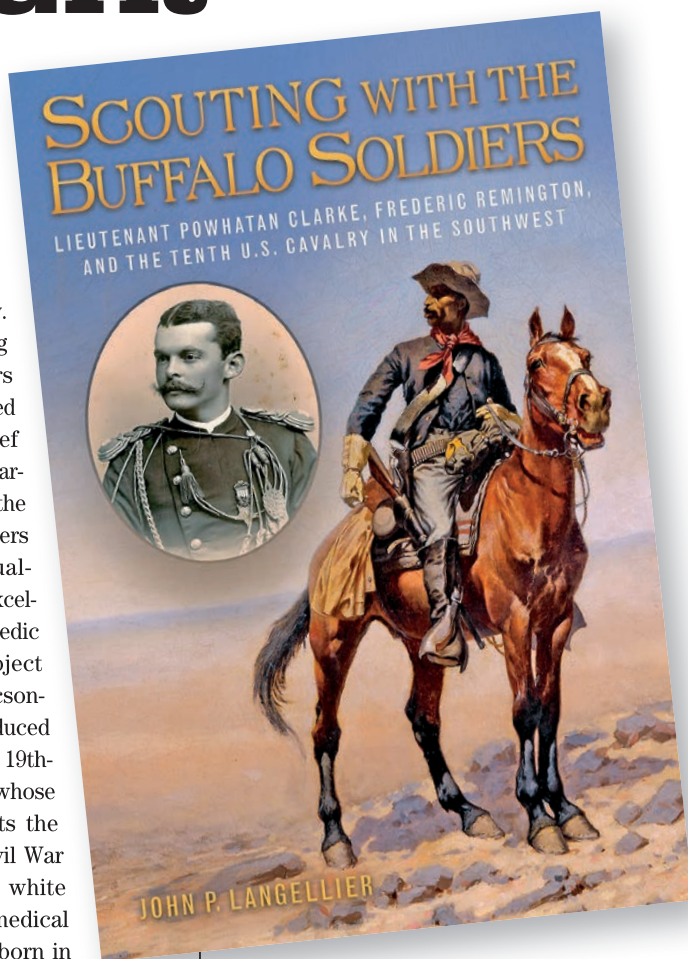
For scholars of mid- to late-19th-century frontier military history, Langellier has also provided an invaluable resource with his extensive and detailed endnotes and

unabridged bibliography. In today's publishing world, many publishers confine authors to abridged bibliographies and brief endnotes (or worse yet, parenthetical notes within the text). Additionally, readers benefit from the dual-strength of Langellier's excellent prose and encyclopedic knowledge of the subject matter. Finally, the Tucson-based historian has produced a model biography of a 19th-century American man whose abbreviated life reflects the many facets of post-Civil War life for the son of a white Southern doctor and medical professor. Clarke was born in Louisiana and raised in post-war Baltimore, Maryland. His path to West Point and a meritorious cavalry career is less a straight line to fame than a life of serendipity, fortuitousness and, ultimately, tragedy.

What would his life have been without his chance meeting of Frederic Remington, which led to the great New York artist's inspiring illustrations of young Clarke's cavalry life and courageous actions in the field? And what if his life had not ended tragically by accident in the swirling waters of the Little Bighorn? Langellier expertly leaves us pondering these questions, and in doing so, provides us a window into the

life, hopes and dreams of a young American man, just married, with the possibility of a long and storied military career ahead of him. Would young Powhatan Clarke have achieved greater success and notoriety in his military career or found his final resting place in Cuba or France? We will never know. But, because of Dr. Langellier's fine research, Powhatan Clarke's life and legacy will not only live on, but inspire further study of the everyday men and women of America during the complex and fractured Gilded Age.

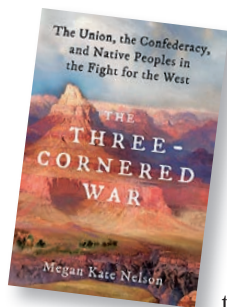
—Stuart Rosebrook



ROUGH DRAFTS



— PHOTO BY ROBERT RAY —



Three-in-one

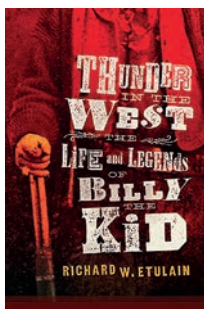
Locating books about the bloodshed in the American Southwest during the Civil War era is easy, but Megan Kate Nelson found the tenacity to combine the Confederate invasion of New Mexico and military campaigns against Apaches and the Diné (Navajos) in a single volume. The result—*The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West* (Scribner, \$28)—is a remarkable achievement. The title comes from a phrase a soldier used to describe the campaigns, and Nelson paints solid portraits of the famous—Kit Carson, Mangas Coloradas, Henry Hopkins Sibley—and the unheralded—Union commander Edward Canby's wife, Louisa; a Diné woman called Juanita; a miner named Alonzo Ickis—while putting all the personalities, blunders and times in historical perspective.

—Johnny D. Boggs, author of *Matthew Johnson, U.S. Marshal*

The Kid, Real and Imagined

Richard W. Etulain's *Thunder in the West: The Life and Legends of Billy the Kid* (University of Oklahoma Press, \$29.95) is an indispensable resource on Billy the Kid in literature and film. The first half of the book provides a thorough retelling of the history of Henry Antrim as it evolved through the continuing work of scholars providing what is likely the most accurate account of his life. It was hard to put down. The second part of the book deals with the changing presentation of Billy in history and legend, including in novels and cinema. The bibliography and discussion of various works make this an invaluable tool.

—Doug Hocking, author of *Tom Jeffords: Friend of Cochise*



Western Books Crossing My Path

My mailboxes (real and virtual) have been filling up with news, notes and announcements of the end of 2020 books and 2021's first quarter releases, and I'm thrilled to say it looks like it is going to be a great year for Western history and fiction fans. One great surprise was a Bass Reeves novel from 2018, *Bass Reeves: The Buffalo Marshal* by Hobart Carraway Jr. (self-published, \$12.99) and the first volume in a new fiction series on invincible Arkansas lawman, *Follow the Angels, Follow the Doves: The Bass Reeves Trilogy, Book One* by Sidney Thomas (University of Nebraska Press, \$19.95).

Here are 12 more I'm looking forward to cracking open and reading this year—and I hope you do too:

Ambitious Honor: George Armstrong Custer's Life of Service and Lust for Fame by James Mueller (University of Oklahoma Press, \$32.95)

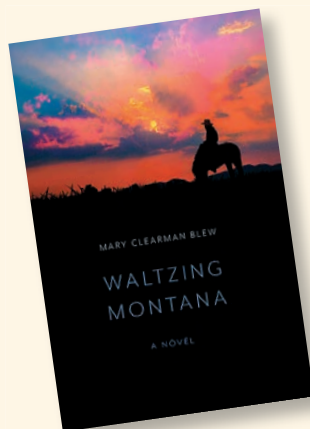
Attacking the Union Pacific: The Truth and the Legend Behind the 1867 Cheyenne Indian Raid at Plum Creek, Nebraska by Thornton Waite (South Platte Press, \$23.45)

Blood and Treasure: Daniel Boone and the Fight for America's First Frontier by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin (St. Martin's Press, \$29.99)

The Company: The Rise and Fall of the Hudson's Bay Empire by Stephen R. Bown (Doubleday Canada, \$22.86)

The Gospel According to Billy the Kid: A Novel by Dennis McCarthy (University of New Mexico Press, \$19.95)

Imagining Wild Bill: James Butler Hickok in War, Media and Memory by Paul Ashdown & Edward Caudill (Southern Illinois University Press, \$26.50)



Murder at the Mission: A Frontier Killing, Its Legacy of Lies, and the Taking of the American West by Blaine Harden (Viking, \$28)

The Texas Tonkawas by Stanley S. McGowen (State House Press, \$29.95)

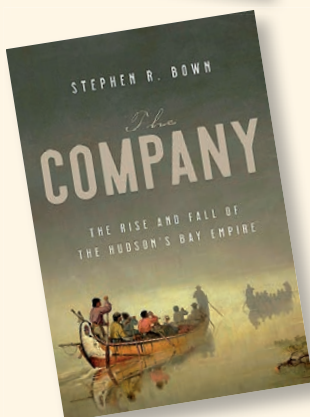
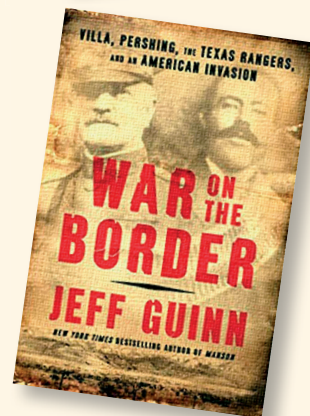
Unsettled Ground: The Whitman Massacre and Its Shifting Legacy in the American West by Cassandra Tate (Sasquatch Books, \$22.49)

Waltzing Montana: A Novel by Mary Clearman Blew (University of Nebraska Press, \$21.95)

War on the Border: Villa, Pershing, the Texas Rangers, and an American Invasion by Jeff Guinn (Simon & Schuster, \$28).

Bonus Book: I've also just learned that award-winning historian John Boessenecker's next Western biography, *Wildcat: The True Story of Pearl Hart, The Wild West's Most Notorious Woman Bandit*, will be published by Hanover Square Press on November 2, 2021.

—Stuart Rosebrook



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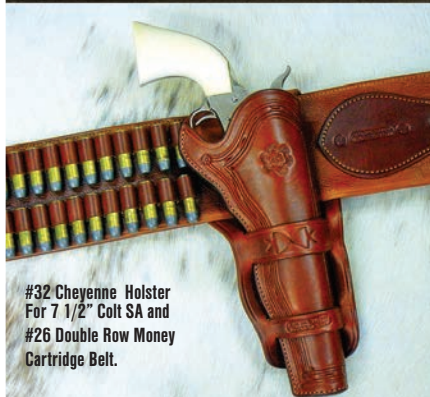
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Legendary Mythmaker

Julia Bricklin, author of the applauded biography *Polly Pry: The Woman Who Wrote the West* (2018), brings a new book to readers with *The Notorious Life of Ned Buntline: A Tale of Murder, Betrayal, and the Creation of Buffalo Bill* (TwoDot, \$25.99.) Many people know of Buntline for his work on the creation of the American myth in dime novels and perhaps most famously for his association with Wyatt Earp's fabled pistol—America's version of King Arthur's Excalibur. Bricklin carefully analyzes the life of Edward Zane Carroll Judson (Buntline) and works out his own life story, which was wrought with scandal and controversy. Buntline served time in prison and later served as a soldier, but his life was marred by alcoholism and polygamy. Despite his own exploits, Buntline elevated the lives of others in his mythological tales of heroism and defeat in over 400 dime novels.

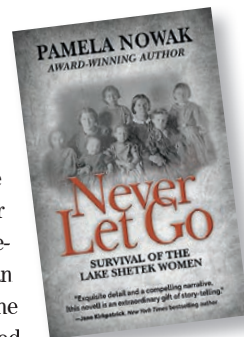
— Erik J. Wright, author of
Phil Foote: Lawman, Outlaw, Hell-Raiser



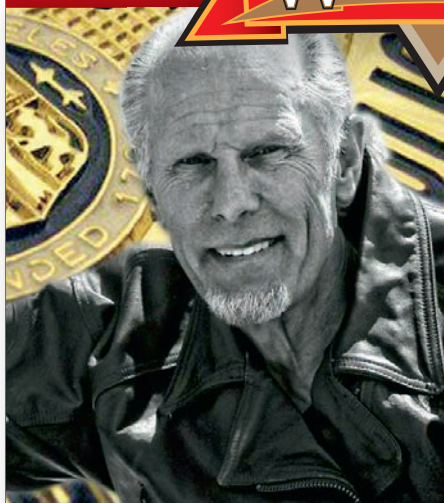
Hard Times on the Minnesota Frontier

Never Let Go: A Novel (Five Star, \$25.95) by Pamela Nowak portrays the true story of five women who experienced the gruesome Lake Shetek Massacre during the 1862 U.S. Dakota War. These Minnesota pioneers settled in Lake Shetek to find better lives. Instead, they experienced the largest Indian war in U.S. history. One woman was abandoned on the prairie with two small children. Another was left for dead in a mosquito-infested slough. Three were taken captive by the Sioux. All endured horrific events that tested their wills to survive. Nowak's precise research and vivid imagination splashes this historic tragedy on the page in stark brilliance. *Never Let Go* holds the reader's attention to the very last sentence. It is a must-read.

— Candace Simar, author of
The Glory of Ordinary Time



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DECORATED LA DETECTIVE-AUTHOR-EDITOR SHARES HIS FAVORITE LAW & ORDER BOOKS

Paul Bishop spent 35 years with the Los Angeles Police Department where he was twice named Detective of the Year. He writes Westerns, mysteries and nonfiction on Western writing, film and television. He is currently the acquisition editor for Wolfpack Publishing and the co-host of the weekly *Six-Gun Justice Podcast*. He is particularly partial to books about Western lawmen who paved the way for modern law enforcement.

— COURTESY PAUL BISHOP —

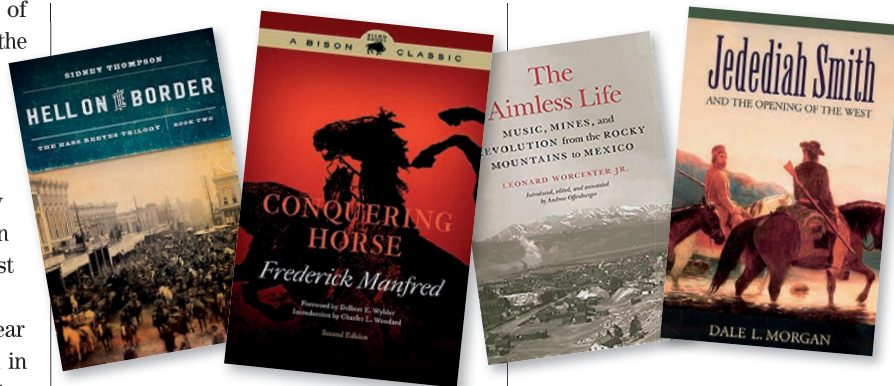
The Legacy of Bison Books

For 60 years, the University of Nebraska Press's treasured imprint has helped lead the way in Western history publishing.

Twenty years after the University of Nebraska Press in Lincoln was founded, the highly respected scholarly press launched Bison Books in an attempt to broaden its readership and scope. Six decades later, the Lincoln-based Western history and literary imprint continues to publish new historical scholarship and regional fiction while maintaining one of the strongest backlists in the Old West genre.

In 2021, Bison Books kicks off the year with Sidney Thompson's second novel in The Bass Reeves Trilogy, *Hell on the Border*, and Mary Clearman Blew's *Waltzing Montana: A Novel* (see Rough Drafts column on page 51). Both Thompson and Blew are highly regarded scholars and authors, and their latest novels are testaments to their literary reputations for challenging the status quo with their highly regarded research, styles and prose.

I also recommend a second look at Bison's fiction backlist, which includes three Western novelists whose literary contributions to the Western oeuvre should be regularly revisited: Glendon Swarthout, Frederick Manfred and A.B. Guthrie Jr. Start with Swarthout's *The Shootist* (currently the only title of his available). Manfred's *Conquering Horse*, the first volume in his five-volume series, *The Buckskin Man Tales*; and A.B. Guthrie's



The Big It and Other Stories, a wonderful collection from the Western storyteller best known for *The Big Sky*.

On the history side of the aisle, Bison Books started off the year with three diverse volumes that should definitely inspire readers: *Backcountry Ghosts: California Homesteaders and the Making of a Dubious Dream* by Josh Sides, *The Life of the Afterlife in the Big Sky State: A History of Montana's Cemeteries* by Ellen Baumler and *The Aimless Life: Music, Mines and Revolution from the Rocky Mountains to Mexico* by Leonard Worcester Jr. All three bring voice to rural communities, the long-forgotten (Baumler's might actually inspire the next *Spoon River Anthology*), and in the case of *The Aimless Life*, bring an important and rare Mexican borderlands memoir back in

print, expertly introduced, edited and annotated by Andrew Offenburger.

Bison's history backlist is extremely deep, and I am going to be regularly commenting and recommending Western classics to reread in 2021. To start off the year, three I believe worthy of revisiting from three of the West's most important authors are: Mari Sandoz's classic biography of her father, *Old Jules*, Dale Morgan's *Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West*; and Robert M. Utley's seminal *Frontiersman in Blue: The United States Army and the Indian, 1848-1865*. Between Sandoz, Morgan and Utley, readers will rediscover some of the finest scholarship, style and prose ever written in Western American history. And what could be more inspiring than that, when building a reading list for the new year?



- ❶ **Texas Ranger: The Epic Life of Frank Hamer, the Man Who Killed Bonnie and Clyde** by John Boessenecker (Thomas Dunne Books): This well-researched, very readable account of arguably the greatest lawman of the West, a man who epitomizes the Texas Ranger credo of One Riot, One Ranger, belongs on the shelf of any lover of Western lore.
- ❷ **Dodge City: Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, and the Wickedest Town in the American West** by Tom Clavin (St. Martin's): It's the great story of Wyatt Earp, two young and largely self-trained lawmen who led the effort to establish frontier justice and the rule of law in the American West.
- ❸ **Killing Pat Garrett, The Wild West's Most Famous Lawman—Murder or Self-Defense?** by David G. Thomas (Doc45 Publishing): Despite an arrest and trial, the killing of Pat Garrett remains unsolved—and

furthermore controversial. This is the definitive book on the subject revealing new information, which might have solved the crime.

- ❹ **The Legend of Bill Tilghman** by G. Wayne Tilman (Kindle Book): This is an historical novel, but it was written and researched by a man who has been a deputy sheriff, investigator and FBI unit chief. He is also a direct descendant of the law enforcement legend who was Bill Tilghman.
- ❺ **When Law Was in the Holster: The Frontier Life of Bob Paul** by John Boessenecker (University of Oklahoma Press): Paul receives long overdue credit for being on the forefront of Arizona and California frontier law enforcement's confrontations with the border, gangs, racism, ethnic violence and police-minority relations—all issues as relevant today as they were during his lifetime.

BY MIKE COX

Fighting for Honor

A Texas Rangers historian reflects on one-sided history and the danger it presents to our understanding of the past—and the present.

The Texas Rangers have been fighting one foe or another for nearly two centuries. Now the world-famous law enforcement body finds itself under fire in a cultural war—and there's already one Ranger down.

In early June 2020, the City of Dallas removed the iconic 12-foot bronze *One Riot, One Ranger* statue at Love Field, an airport fixture since 1963. The reason: Jay Banks, the Ranger who stood as model for sculptor Waldine Tauch, did not enforce school integration in Mansfield, Texas, in the 1950s. That is absolutely correct, but as modern Rangers still must, mid-20th-century Rangers

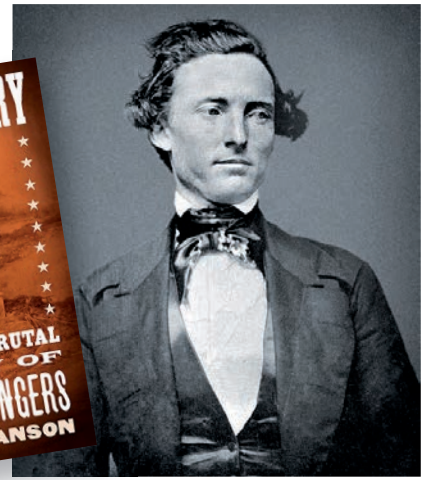
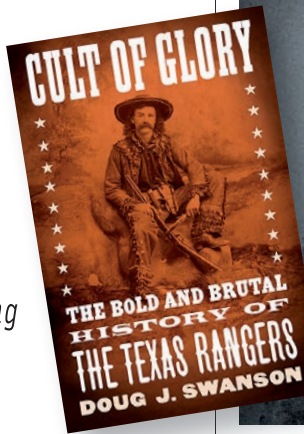
followed orders. They didn't unilaterally set state policy. Wrong as what happened in Mansfield was, Banks and other Rangers would have been out of a job had they not done what Gov. Allan Shivers sent them to do.

Since shortly after the establishment of Stephen F. Austin's Anglo colony in the 1820s, the amalgamated entity that collectively came to be known as the Texas Rangers—ready-to-ride volunteers, paid militia, state or federalized troops, rough-hewn frontier lawmen, worthless political appointees, crooked state cops, honest state cops and finally, well-trained professionals—have

Texas Ranger Samuel H. Walker, circa 1846, served as a ranger from 1844 until 1847, when he was killed while leading a Ranger company in battle during the Mexican-American War.

— MATTHEW BRADY, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

mostly looked for trouble, pursuing hostile Indians to thieves and killers. This time, however, trouble has come to them, primarily in the form of a new, thought-provoking, and well-written if mostly one-sided history of the Rangers by Doug Swanson, *Cult of Glory: The Bold and Brutal History of the Texas Rangers* (Viking, \$28).





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Anyone who has read other Ranger histories knows that the Rangers were often violent, sometimes inept, sometimes nothing but rogue killers and sometimes corrupt. But not all. They also did good—they rescued captive children, they recovered stolen horses and cattle, they arrested (or killed) wanted outlaws, they escorted surveying parties, they protected and policed transcontinental railroad workers, intercepted bootleggers, brought order to oilfield boomtowns, took down corrupt government officials, captured bank robbers and solved cold-case homicides.

Texas Ranger Jay Banks was the artist's model for Waldine Tauch's *One Ranger, One Riot*, which stood at Dallas, Texas's Love Field from 1963 until its removal in June 2020.

— COURTESY AUTHOR'S COLLECTION —

One of Swanson's main themes is that over the decades the Rangers have carefully cultivated their image. That's both true and not true. The Rangers certainly have had some showboaters—from frontier days to the modern era—who never minded being quoted or photographed, but many more kept a low profile and in fact abhorred publicity. (No question, this was sometimes for good reason.) The Ranger myth, while irrefutable, was more an evolving creation of the popular culture and news media than a deliberate Ranger strategy. Today, however, much like Marines, Rangers are quite aware of their reputation and none of them want to be the one to bring embarrassment to the force.

In *Cult of Glory*, primarily using secondary sources, Swanson mostly focuses on Ranger abuses (admittedly often horrific) of American Indians, Mexicans, Blacks and labor organizers with only occasional mentions that they often did the right thing. Like the history of the Rangers, the book is not error-free. On page 62, the author has Samuel Walker in 1844 facing off with a

Comanche "wanted for arrest." Rangers had no law enforcement power at that time and would not have been having a hand-to-hand fight with a hostile Indian they intended to take into custody. On page 197, in discussing the noted Ranger Capt. Leander McNelly, Swanson says Western writer Zane Grey based his novel *Lone Star Ranger* on McNelly. That's incorrect. Researching his book, Grey spent time in and around El Paso with Ranger Capt. John R. Hughes and dedicated it to Hughes and his men.

If our society is to have a reasonable and productive conversation about what was wrong or right about our history and what can be done about it today, this book certainly offers ample fodder for the "what was wrong" camp. But it lacks balance. The late Western writer Elmer Kelton put it well in "My Kind of Heroes," his 1994 speech at the Texas State Historical Association, "There is a dark side to our history. But those who see it only in terms of the warts are as one-sided as those who see only the glory."



Mike Cox is the author of 30-plus nonfiction books and five books on the Texas Rangers.

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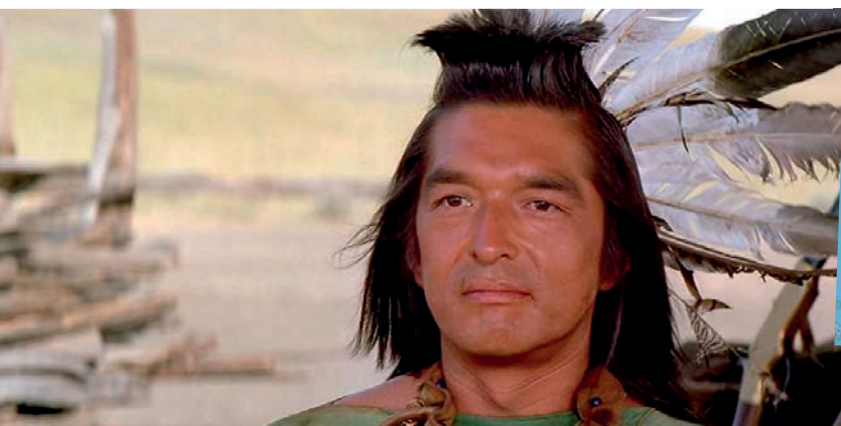
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From Kicking Bird to Malachi

Graham Greene's storied 45-year career in film and television has left a trail of excellence.



A First Nations Canadian member of the Oneida tribe, Graham Greene played his first screen role in 1976, but his big break in film and television came when he was cast as Kicking Bird in *Dances with Wolves*, for which he earned an Oscar nomination for Best Actor in a Supporting Role.

— COURTESY ORION PICTURES —

Graham Greene (right) had an excellent working relationship with his producer, director and costar, Kevin Costner (left), in *Dances with Wolves*, which earned 12 Oscar nominations, and won five Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director.

— COURTESY ORION PICTURES —

One of the most recent of Graham Greene's 150-plus screen characterizations is in INSP's movie *Blue Ridge*, a contemporary Western about Appalachian backwoods clans, with a "Hatfields and McCoys" feel. The Native Canadian actor explains that his character was "the patriarch of his family, and he ran everything with an iron fist. He hated the other family, blamed them for killing his daughter." Greene is happy to see the movie released. "I did a bunch of films that haven't been released yet because of COVID-19 that's going around."

For over a decade, Greene was a busy actor on Canadian television, and in supporting roles in small features, until 1990's *Dances with Wolves* made him not just a familiar face, but a star. He earned an Oscar nomination

for playing Kicking Bird, a performance in an English-language film, but not in English. "It took three months to learn the dialogue. I had no idea what I was saying," Greene recalls, "and I had to learn it phonetically. I'd be running 10 miles a day with my headphones on, listening to the translations, mumbling away in Lakota, and people were looking at me funny. But I got it down."

It was a tremendous undertaking for first-time director Kevin Costner. "He did fine," Greene says. "We stayed out of his way and let him make his decisions. I only questioned him once, [when Kicking Bird] was going nuts looking for a peace pipe. I said, 'He's a medicine person. He would never lose a peace pipe. Why do you want me to do that?' He said, 'Because it looks good.' I said, 'Good enough.'"

Two years later Greene starred with Val Kilmer and Sam Shepherd in the groundbreaking *Thunderheart*, which defined the feel of contemporary 'Res' (reservation) Westerns like *Longmire*, *Yellowstone* and the Tony Hillerman/Joe Leaphorn films. It wasn't hard to convince Greene to do it. "I love The Badlands. My agent said, 'I got a film for you. It's in South Dakota. And you have to ride a motorcycle.' I said, 'I'm in.' 'Want to read it?' 'Don't have to.' Val was a strange fellow to work with. I just couldn't get into his head, what he was thinking, what he was doing. He was very to himself."

Greene's character, Walter Crowhorse, had one foot in the spirit world and one in the physical realm. "Crowhorse was fun because John Fusco wrote a great part.



In another turn as a villain, Graham Greene played Malachi, a nemesis of *Longmire's* leading men Robert Taylor and Lou Diamond Phillips, who insisted that the producers create a role for him in the long-running popular television series.

— COURTESY WARNER HORIZON TELEVISION—

[Director] Michael [Apted] was great to work with. He just dropped the reins and let the actors go.”

While he’s done several period Westerns, Greene has done many more contemporary roles. “I like working in modern times. Doing period films is a lot of work. It’s hard on the crew, the cast, everybody. I guess my favorite one was doing *Molly’s Game*, playing the judge. Aaron [Sorkin], the director, was looking at me sitting behind the bench. I had a puzzled look on my face. He said, ‘Are you all right?’ I said, ‘Yeah. I’ve just never seen the bench from this side before.’”

After a long career of playing good guys, he got to go to the dark side, playing the evil Malachi on *Longmire*. “Yeah, I had fun playing that. They wrote that because Lou Diamond [Phillips] kept bugging them. ‘You’ve got to get Graham Greene on the show.’ So they wrote the part of Malachi. I read it and went, ‘Oh boy, that’s perfect.’ After the second season, they let me just go and do what I wanted because I knew the character so well. Like when I did *Goliath*, playing a nasty casino owner,” opposite Billy Bob Thornton. “It was fun. It said I turned into a crow at night and watched people. I adapted these gestures; tilted my head looking at people, making a clucking noise. Playing villains is fun. Being nice all the time; it’s boring.”

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Graham Greene (right) costarred with Val Kilmer (left) in the 1992 Michael Apted-directed *Thunderheart*. He relished his role of Walter Crow Horse, a character created by the film's screenwriter John Fusco.

- COURTESY TRISTAR PICTURES -

Another of Greene's favorite roles was in the series *Defiance*, in which he and director Michael Nankin talked in a sort of shorthand, he says, "because we knew all these old films the kids had never seen. 'Do you want me to do a Bogart in this?' 'Yeah, that would be great.' And they go, 'What's a Bogart?' "When you slowly turn around, look at somebody, and snarl at them.' One of the things that I really want to do, now that I am getting older and fading fast, is teach kids what to do in front of the camera. Because a lot of them don't know. They'll stare at the ground and mumble. I said, 'No, the camera's going to be over my left shoulder, look at my left



Greene starred as Cliff McGrath in *Blue Ridge*, an INSP Films 2020 release set in present-day Appalachia.

- COURTESY INSP FILMS -

eye; talk to me, not the ground.' I advise them to spend two or three years doing theater, because you've got to learn discipline, or you won't last very long. They ask, 'How did you last this long, Mr. Greene, 40-some years?' And I say, 'I've got a thick skin and a hard head.'"



Returning to the modern West, this time as Officer Ben (right) with Hugh Dillon (left) and Elizabeth Olson in Taylor Sheridan's crime-drama *Wind River*, Greene was awarded the Best Actor Award for his role at the American Indian Film Festival in 2017.

- COURTESY ACACIA FILMED ENTERTAINMENT -



For three seasons, Graham Greene starred as Rafe McCauley in the Syfy Network's *Defiance*, a series about an alien-invaded contemporary American town.

- COURTESY SYFY TV -

BLU-RAY REVIEW

The Grey Fox (1982)

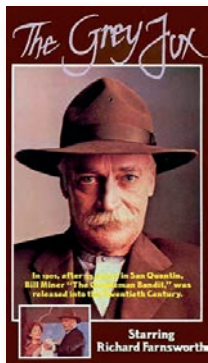
(Kino Lorber - Blu-Ray \$29.95, DVD \$19.95) In 1901, after 33 years in San

Quentin, Old West stagecoach robber Bill Miner is released into a world he scarcely recognizes. Alone and adrift, he happens into a nickelodeon and sees a movie that gives him hope, and a new career: *The Great Train Robbery*. Richard Farnsworth, who spent decades stunting in movies before becoming a twice-Oscar-nominated

actor, is irresistible as the senior train robber, with his gentle blue eyes and steel spine. With Miner's humility, and pride in his professionalism, he's hard not to admire, although his folly is obvious. First-time director Philip Borsos elegantly balances traditional Western elements with Miner's unexpected romance with a lady photographer (Jackie Burroughs). Canada's frontier has never been more beautifully photographed than it was by Frank Tidy. A classic!



Henry C. Parke, Western Films Editor for *True West*, is a screenwriter, and blogs at HenrysWesternRoundup.blogspot.com. His book of interviews, *Indians and Cowboys*, will be published later this year.



- COURTESY ZOETROPE STUDIOS -

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YEAR**

2021





STANDING TALL

BY PETER CORBETT

Despite the pandemic, American Western towns remain strong and determined to be better than ever in 2021.

It's reassuring to know that True Western Towns endure through the worst calamities. It happened more than a century ago during the Spanish Flu epidemic, and it's happening now as the West resists and recovers from Covid-19.

The year 2020 was a harsh one for Western towns, as history buffs and other travelers largely stayed home to stay healthy. Tombstone's board sidewalks and dusty streets were unusually empty when I arrived in the Town Too Tough to Die last summer.

In towns across the West, museums, galleries and historic sites faced bleak times with far fewer visitors and most major events canceled. Tumbleweeds tumbled. "We're Closed" signs hung on vintage wooden doors.

Still, many of our True Western Towns have gone from boom to bust and back to boomtowns more than once. We expect they will rise again when it's safe to get back on the horse to see some new landscapes and Old West haunts.



Peter Corbett moved West to Flagstaff in 1974 to attend Northern Arizona University where he studied English and American Studies. He's been exploring Arizona and the West since then and had a 35-year career in Arizona journalism. He is *True West's* True Western Town columnist.



Historic Neon A-1 Beer Sign, Palace Restaurant & Saloon, Prescott, Arizona

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

1. Prescott

Prescott, Arizona, has held tight to its Western heritage like a rodeo cowboy trying to stay on a bucking bull.

The payoff is apparent to visitors in town for Frontier Days and the World's Oldest Rodeo.

Few towns can match Prescott's Whiskey Row with the Palace and other saloons along Montezuma Street. Before Tombstone, Doc Holliday and Wyatt and Virgil Earp walked these streets and drank on Whiskey Row.

The Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza is the beating heart of Prescott's walkable downtown stretching for several blocks down to the former Santa Fe train depot.

Visitors can enjoy Western hospitality in historic digs at the Hassayampa Inn, a Mission Revival gem built in 1927, and the 1917 Hotel Vendome.

Prescott's reverence for its Western roots started with Sharlot Hall, whose family moved to the Arizona Territory in 1882. She soaked up tales of frontier life, collected



Bull Dogging at Prescott's World's Oldest Rodeo

— COURTESY RODEO MILLER —

artifacts, and in 1928, opened a museum in the Territorial Governor's Mansion.

"She was a rancher and a poet and an activist and politician and a Territorial historian," said Fred Veil, former Sharlot Hall Museum director.

The museum has grown to 11 exhibit buildings on four acres and added a \$3 million Education Center in May.

Sharlot Hall and the town's other museums are notches in the gun belt that helped push Prescott to its No.1 spot on our True Western Towns list.

Western art lovers should see the Phippen Museum and its Arizona Rancher and Cowboy Hall of Fame.

The Western Heritage Center features cowboy art and an exhibit on Prescott



1



2



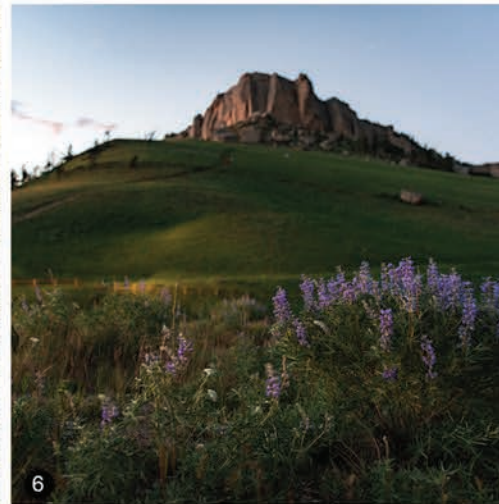
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6

Sheridan

COUNTY, WYOMING, USA.

1. ROAD TRIPPING THE ICONIC BIGHORN MOUNTAINS 2. A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS WITH SHERIDAN TENT & AWNING IN THE NORTHERN BIGHORNS 3. SIBLEY LAKE RECREATION AREA 4. AN EVENING PADDLING PARK RESERVOIR 5. EPIC EXPERIENCES ON HORSEBACK WITH DOUBLE RAFTER CATTLE DRIVES 6. STEAMBOAT POINT AT SUNSET FROM THE BIGHORN SCENIC BYWAY

Wyoming was purpose-built for social distancing. There are more deer and antelope than people 'round these parts, and you won't hear many folks complain about that. We've all got our own spaces, but we love to explore the public ones we share, and we don't mind sharing some of them with strangers. After all, our Bighorn backyard is a wild, untamed realm of endless adventure. With our new streaming webseries titled *The Backyard*, we hope to show everyone beyond the borders of Wyoming what makes the great outdoors special, and why the Bighorns are the ultimate playground for those who choose to go outside and play. In this wild time of social distancing, distrust, and disbelief, we believe that the mountains can bring us closer together, and that there is no place in the world more authentic. Is there a more spectacular experience than backpacking into a part of the Bighorn National Forest

that you have never seen before? We. Think. Not. Each and every trip into these mountains offers blissful solitude, and a respite from the hustle of everyday life. We have worked hard to present some of our backyard's most epic hikes, legendary attractions, national historic landmarks, and much more. With two feet and a heartbeat we hiked and backpacked into uncharted territory in the Bighorn National Forest and shared the stories of some of the most iconic locations in the region. We took a step back into history and experienced Ernest Hemingway's Wyoming firsthand. We kayaked pristine rivers, paraglided from perilous peaks, sussed out outlaw history, and stargazed at the brightest night skies in America. Yeah, there is a metaphor tucked in there somewhere. It was only a matter of time before the clouds broke over 2020. We hope that you have had a chance to see some of these episodes, and that you will continue to celebrate Sheridan County with us as we look ahead to producing Season 2. This time, we plan on

delving deep into centuries of Indian storytelling, diving headlong into local craft culture, and touching the heart of Sheridan's creative community. We also know that it has never been more important to know that you will be safe when you explore Bighorn Mountain Country. While Wyoming is the perfect place for socially-distanced escapes, we will do what we can to keep you informed, and up to date, on any COVID-19 related news and information, travel rules or restrictions, or local health and safety advisories. We believe that the road to recovery from this pandemic begins right here in *The Backyard*, so you can count on us to provide you with information that matters. We hope that you will stay safe, and that our local businesses will continue to benefit by welcoming you to our community. for more information, please visit us at www.sheridanwyoming.org

EXPLORE BIGHORN MOUNTAIN COUNTRY

The world comes out west expecting to see cowboys driving horses through the streets of downtown; pronghorn butting heads on windswept bluffs; clouds encircling the towering pinnacles of the Cloud Peak Wilderness; and endless expanses of wild, open country. These are some of the fibers that have been stitched together over time to create the patchwork quilt of Sheridan County's identity, each part and parcel of the Wyoming experience. Toss in a historic downtown district, with western allure, hospitality and good graces to spare; a vibrant art scene; bombastic craft culture; a robust festival and events calendar; and living history on every corner, and you have a Wyoming experience unlike anything you could have ever imagined. This is Sheridan County, the beating heart of Bighorn Mountain Country.





Freighters on Gurley Street, Prescott, Arizona, 1880

- COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -

moviemaking from silent-film cowboy Tom Mix to tough hombres like Steve McQueen as Junior Bonner and Tom Laughlin playing Billy Jack.

Prescott's other new entry is the Museum of Indigenous People, formerly the Smoki Museum. It's in a 1935 stone building designed to resemble an Indian pueblo.

Prescott celebrates its Western heritage each summer with the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering, a Western history symposium and Whiskey Row Shootout.

Whiskey Row historian Brad Courtney said Prescott also boasts an array of groups dedicated to preserving the town's past. That includes the Prescott Corral of Westerners International, Whiskey Row Social Club and Historic Society, Arizona Territory Society and the John Ford Fourth Cavalry. Plus the Prescott Regulators and Prescott Buscaderos are re-enactors who stage the annual Whiskey Row Shootout.

Visit-Prescott.com



2. San Angelo

San Angelo, Texas, owes much of its existence to the convergence of three forks of the Concho River and an 1882 flood that wiped out the previous county seat, a town called Ben Fecklin.

Fort Concho was established 15 years earlier on the Concho River and grew to 40

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buildings with a garrison of up to 500 men to protect early settlers.

Today it's a National Historic Landmark with 23 restored structures and an annual Winter Rendezvous featuring more than 100 soldier re-enactors and traders camping on the parade grounds.

A 1909 Railroad Depot and Museum and the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts are

Historic Fort Concho, San Angelo, Texas

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

within the town's cultural district. Recent exhibitors include Western bootmaker Jamie Palmer, bit- and spur-maker Wilson Capron and silversmith Lee Bloodworth, who specializes in silver and gold belt buckles etched with ranchers' brands.

M.L. Leddy's Handmade Boots, Downtown San Angelo, Texas

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One of San Angelo's biggest events is the Stock Show and Rodeo that's held over three weeks in February.

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Days of '76 Rodeo, Deadwood, South Dakota

— CHAD COPPESS, COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM —

3. Deadwood

It's hard to go wrong in a True Western Town that has an Outlaw Square, brothel museum and a graveyard where Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane are buried.

That town of course is Deadwood, South Dakota, where Wild Bill and Calamity Jane

are at eternal rest in the Mount Moriah Cemetery. A famous gunfighter celebrated in dime novels, Hickok was shot while playing poker in a Deadwood saloon.

"We're the stuff dime store novels are all about, and we've brought these dime store novels to life since 1876," said Lee Harstad,

Deadwood chamber and tourism bureau executive director.

Deadwood's Brothel Museum opened in August on lower Main Street, an area known as the "Badlands of Deadwood."

Outlaw Square has a stage for entertainment and re-enactors' gunfights.

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ENNIS, MONTANA

Internationally famous for trout fishing, Ennis is a crossroads city on the "Vigilante Trail," a scenic and historic byway between Butte and West Yellowstone.



ELKO, NEVADA

The Western Folklife Center has hosted the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering for 35 years.

VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA

Catch the train at an 1870 depot for a ride on the Virginia and Truckee Railroad with a narrated history of the Comstock Lode.

CHEYENNE, WYOMING

The 125th annual Cheyenne Frontier Days is set for July. Organizers say Cheyenne has the world's largest outdoor rodeo and Western celebration.

Chuckwagon, Mardi Gras, Bandera, Texas

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

CODY, WYOMING

It can take more than a day to see all five museums at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. Stay a night at Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel.

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The Green River Rendezvous Pageant in July re-enacts the early 1800s events that opened the West to settlement.

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Main Street, Deadwood, South Dakota

- CHAD COPPES, COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM -

Deadwood will celebrate its 99th annual Days of '76 in July with a parade and rodeo. It marks the beginnings of Deadwood in 1876 after gold was discovered in the Black Hills.

The town's Days of '76 Museum displays horse-drawn wagons, stagecoaches and carriages. The Adams Museum's collection includes Potato Creek Johnny's gold nugget weighing 7.346 troy ounces.

Deadwood.com

4. Laramie

Laramie was a Wild West boomtown when the Union Pacific Railroad builders arrived in the spring of 1868 in what would become Wyoming.

A triple hanging of early miscreants five months later started the lawless town on a track toward a more civilized future.

"Laramie's history as a hell-on-wheels tent-style city runs deep," said Scott Larson, who runs the Laramie tourism bureau.

He recommends the Legends of Laramie tour to get a glimpse of those early days "highlighting everything from outlaw rule and the Bucket of Blood Saloon, and brothels that are now bookstores."

Laramie embraces its rowdy Western roots and its role in the construction of the transcontinental railroad. The Laramie Railroad Depot, built in 1924, replaced the original Union Pacific depot lost in a 1917 fire. It's a museum now.

Visit the nearby Ames Monument, a 60-foot pyramid that commemorates the railroad ghost town of Sherman and the Ames brothers who were Union Pacific financiers.

In 1872, Wyoming opened its Territorial Prison in Laramie. Visitors can tour the imposing stone building to see what life was like for prisoners including Robert Leroy Parker.

Parker was better known as Butch Cassidy, and he spent 18 months locked up in Laramie for buying a stolen horse.

The town's Cowboy Saloon & Dance Hall and Buckhorn Bar are popular for late-night Laramie.

Since 1940, Laramie has celebrated Jubilee Days to commemorate the anniversary of Wyoming statehood on July 10, 1890.

VisitLaramie.org



Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site, Laramie, Wyoming

- GATES FRONTIERS FUND WYOMING COLLECTION WITHIN THE CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



5. Dodge City

The mid-continent location of Dodge City, Kansas, made it a pivotal crossroads of frontier commerce during the Western expansion.

Buffalo hunters shipped thousands of hides by rail back east. Cattle drives brought Texas longhorns and rambunctious cowboys to Dodge City. It became known as the “Queen of the Cowtowns” and later “The Wickedest Little City in America” because of unfettered gun violence.

This year, the town will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail, the route from Missouri to New Mexico.

The 1,200-mile trail splits west of Dodge City. The southern fork was known as the “Jornado de Muerto”—Journey of Death—because water was scarce. The northern fork had water but crosses mountainous terrain.



Boot Hill Museum,
Dodge City, Kansas

— COURTESY KANSAS OFFICE OF TOURISM —

Visitors can still see remnant wagon ruts of the trail nine miles west of Dodge City.

In 1865, Fort Dodge, was established to protect Santa Fe Trail travelers from Indian attack. A tent city popped up west of the fort and later became Dodge City.

The Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad arrived in 1872 and later built an impressive depot with a Harvey House hotel and restaurant. The refurbished

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By Dan Townsend. Muscogee/Cherokee. 2017. Marine shell.
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 **SAINT JOSEPH MUSEUMS**

depot is home to the Depot Theater Co., which stages dinner theater, murder mysteries and cabaret.

Dodge City's Boot Hill Museum has a collection of more than 60,000 artifacts from the town's early history, including the "Guns That Won the West" exhibit. An expansion is adding the Mariah Gallery for traveling exhibits.

The town's biggest celebration is Dodge City Days, a 10-day festival featuring a parade, rodeo, chuck wagon breakfasts and a cattle drive.

VisitDodgeCity.org

6. Pendleton

"Let 'Er Buck" is the slogan of the Pendleton Round-Up, a 110-year-old rodeo in this eastern Oregon town on the Columbia Plateau.

There was no bucking last year for the first time since World War II, but organizers expect the Round-Up will resume this September. It includes the nonmotorized Westward Ho! Parade and an Indian Village that attracts a Native American encampment of 300 teepees.

Pendleton grew up as a railhead for shipping wool to other markets until the family of weaver Thomas Kay built its first mill in Pendleton in 1893. Since then,



Grand Entry, Pendleton Round-Up, Pendleton, Oregon

- COURTESY PENDLETON, OREGON, CVB -

Pendleton Woolen Mills has become world famous for its colorful blankets that were embraced by Nez Perce, Navajo, Hopi and Zuni Indians.

The Pendleton Underground Tour is a favorite attraction for visitors. The tour goes beneath three century-old buildings to a once-secret world of gambling, bootlegging, opium dens and brothels.

A family-friendly attraction is the 1909 Heritage Station Museum that shares stories and artifacts of 150 years of Umatilla County.

The Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute goes deeper into the history of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla tribes, who have called this region home for 10,000 years.

TravelPendleton.com

VISITDODGECITY.ORG

THE ORIGINAL Adventure

ESTD 1872 Dodge City

When you think Dodge City, you probably think of Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. Shootouts and Saloons. The general stores to wide open spaces to explore. In Dodge City, Kansas, the legend of the old west still lives on, partnered with the new west just waiting to be discovered. From the Longhorn Cattle Drive to the Long Branch Saloon to the Long Branch Water Park, the days in Dodge City are long on fun.

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TOWNS WHERE HISTORY IS HAPPENING NOW

ABILENE, KANSAS

Abilene earned its spurs as the terminus of the 1,000-mile Chisholm Trail. The World's Largest Spur, as recorded by *Guinness Book of World Records*, is at Rittel's Western Wear. It's 27 feet tall and weighs a ton.

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

Pony Express National Museum occupies the horse stables used by the Pony Express when it launched mail service to Sacramento in 1860.

FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

Take a scenic tour on the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad into the Boston Mountains with conductors sharing stories of the area's history.

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

At Fort Smith National Historic Site, visitors can learn the history of frontier Judge Isaac C. Parker and his deputy U.S. marshals, who served justice to some infamous outlaws.

BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA

Bartlesville Area History Museum tells the stories of the Delaware, Cherokee and Osage peoples, who lived in the region before ranchers, outlaws and oilmen arrived.

LINCOLN, NEW MEXICO

Turnstall Store and the Lincoln County Courthouse are windows into the past where the Lincoln County War raged from 1878-81.

TRINIDAD, COLORADO

A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art features the work of Mitchell, known as the King of the Pulp Western Cover Artists.

BISHOP, CALIFORNIA

Remnants of the 1880s Carson & California Railroad Co. are on display at the Laws Railroad Museum. It includes a depot, agent's house and turntable.

MILES CITY, MONTANA

This southeast Montana town stages weekly livestock auctions and an annual Bucking Horse Sale for breeders and rodeo-stock buyers.

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Yakima farmers are leading growers of hops for beer, and the town is home to the American Hops Museum.



Bass Reeves Monument, Fort Smith, Arkansas

- COURTESY FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, CVB -

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O.K. Corral and Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park, Tombstone, Arizona

— PHOTOS BY PETER CORBETT —

7. Tombstone

The O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona, comes to life three times a day for a “deadly” re-enactment of the famous gunfight of October 26, 1881.

Visitors can't seem to get enough of this tangled story of the thin, dusty line between the lawmen and lawbreakers in the Arizona Territory.

Lawmen Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan Earp, with their compadre Doc Holliday, blasted away in a gunfight that killed Frank and Tom McLaury and Billy Clanton. Ike Clanton and

Billy Claiborne fled. Virgil and Morgan Earp, and Holliday were wounded.

That was 140 years ago, and Tombstone still holds onto a semblance of what the town looked like during its short-lived silver-mining boom.

It is after all the “Town Too Tough to Die,” noted April Hinton, who describes herself as a Tombstone volunteer, re-enactor and proud resident.

“If you want to walk through history, just stroll down the boardwalks of Allen Street,” she said. “At any hour of the day, you will see folks strolling in 1880s and Western dress. We

love to engage the public and most [re-enactors] maintain their historic character.”

Head underground for a tour of the Goodenough silver mine, one of the first strikes by Tombstone founder Ed Schieffelin.

Afterwards visit one of Tombstone's watering holes—Big Nose Kate's, the Crystal Palace Saloon or the Tombstone Brewing Co.

Don't miss the 1882 Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park. It has an impressive period courtroom, a replica gallows and exhibits on outlaws, weapons and a detailed explanation of how the O.K. Corral shootout played out.

TombstoneChamber.com



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HERITAGE MUSEUM**



8. Sheridan

In most Western towns, locals haven't seen cowboys herding livestock through town for a long time.

Unless, of course, one finds themselves in Sheridan, Wyoming. That's where Eaton Ranch cowboys drive a herd of galloping horses through downtown every May. The nearby Eaton Ranch boasts of being America's oldest dude ranch, dating to 1879 in North Dakota and in Sheridan since 1904.

"Sheridan's old West bones have fused perfectly with new West sensibilities," said Megan Ahrens, Sheridan County tourism spokeswoman.

Sheridan has its share of throwback institutions such as the 22-room Sheridan Inn, established in 1893 and at one point managed by Buffalo Bill Cody.

The 1907 Mint Bar, the oldest in town, rebranded itself during Prohibition as a cigar



Pow-Wow, Historic Sheridan Inn, Sheridan, Wyoming, 2015

- COURTESY SHERIDAN, WYOMING, CVB -

and soda shop, but the drinking continued in a backroom speakeasy. One can't miss the Mint Bar on Main Street with its bronc rider neon sign. Step inside to see 9,000 Wyoming cattle brands on cedar shingles or order a Ten Sleep Brewing Co.'s Speed Goat Golden Ale on tap.

Brinton Museum, in the foothills of the Bighorn Mountains, exhibits a collection of Western art started by Bradford Brinton in the early 1900s. It includes works by

Frederic Remington, Charles M. Russell and John James Audubon, along with 19th-century photographs by William Henry Jackson and Timothy O'Sullivan.

The Don King Museum features saddles, wagons, Indian artifacts, guns and Western tack.

Trail End State Historic Site has preserved a 13,748-square-foot mansion built by cattle baron John Kendrick from 1908-13.

SheridanWyoming.org



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CUERO, TEXAS

The 1,000-mile Chisholm Trail, marked by John Chisholm in 1864, started outside present-day Cuero.

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma '89er Celebration in April commemorates the Land Run of 1889 that created a town of 10,000 overnight.

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Talk a walk on Canyon Road, home to 100 galleries, adobe shops and territorial homes.

ANTONITO, COLORADO

The Toltec & Cumbres Scenic Railroad is a 64-mile route through mountains, canyons and high desert into New Mexico.

DURANGO, COLORADO

Stay at the historic Strater Hotel and ride the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad to Silverton.

PARK CITY, UTAH

During the 1870s mining boom, Park City had 27 saloons. Skiing replaced mining and plenty of bars remain, including the ski-in High West Distillery.

BISBEE, ARIZONA

Visit Brewery Gulch, the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum and the 1909 Warren Ballpark, one of baseball's oldest.

OATMAN, ARIZONA

Feed and photograph burros left behind long ago by miners.

BODIE, CALIFORNIA

Bodie's mines yielded about \$15 million worth of gold and silver over 25 years. Left behind is a picturesque ghost town that's a California State Historic Park.

OLD SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Step aboard the 1927 *Delta King* paddlewheel riverboat docked at the waterfront and visit the California State Railroad Museum.

THE DALLES, OREGON

Freebridge Brewing serves its craft beers in The Dalles Mint building that was never completed, and no coins were produced.

VIRGINIA CITY/NEVADA CITY, MONTANA

The former mining towns are linked by the Alder Gulch Short Line, a 30-inch narrow-gauge railroad.

IDAHO CITY, IDAHO

This ghost town got its start in 1862 during the Boise Basin gold rush. It features several historic sites and its own Boot Hill Cemetery.



Oklahoma Territorial Museum,
Guthrie, Oklahoma

- COURTESY GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA, CVB -

WALLACE, IDAHO

Hike the Pulaski Tunnel Trail, named for "Big Ed" Pulaski, who led a fire crew of 43 men into a mine tunnel to escape a catastrophic 1910 wildfire.

DOUGLAS/GLENROCK, WYOMING

The Wyoming Pioneer Museum at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds tells the stories of the area's trails and rails.

MEDORA, NORTH DAKOTA

Medora, in the Badlands of North Dakota, is a gateway to Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA

Visit Fort Union, a vital fur trading post on the upper Missouri River between 1828-67.

COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS

Council Grove, a key stop on the Santa Fe Trail, will mark its 200th anniversary this year.



Medora Musical, Medora, North Dakota

- JOHN WEBER, COURTESY TRMF -

9. Wickenburg

Wickenburg, Arizona, is a True Western Town with a lot of brands.

It starts with the chamber's logo—a “W” branding iron, cowboy hat and spurs, along with its slogan: Out Wickenburg Way.

Wickenburg was long known as the Dude Ranch Capital and still has its authentic guest ranches—Kay El Bar, Rancho de los Caballeros and Flying E Ranch.

In the past decade, Wickenburg has become the Team Roping Capital of Arizona with four local roping arenas, including the municipally owned Everett Bowman Memorial Grounds. Close to 1,500 teams competed in a recent event and roping teams chase hundreds of thousands of dollars in prize money.

On the arts scene, Wickenburg's Desert Caballeros Western Museum claims the title of “Arizona's Most Western Museum.” Claiming to be the “Most Western” anything are fighting words in Arizona, but the DCWM has rounded up an impressive permanent collection with works by Maynard Dixon, Charles M. Russell, Frederic Remington and Bill Nebecker.

“The mission is to present an ever-evolving treasure trove of art and artifacts that tells the history of the American West and Wickenburg,” said Julie Brooks, Wickenburg chamber's chief executive.

Wickenburg's signature heritage event is Gold Rush Days and Senior Rodeo, which it has hosted for 73 years.

Other notable attractions include the Vulture City ghost town, 1895 Santa Fe Railroad depot, the single-screen Saguaro Theater and Ben's Saddlery, in business since 1949.

OutWickenburgWay.com

10. Scottsbluff/ Gering

After traveling by wagon for seven weeks across the prairie, emigrants on the Oregon Trail reported great relief when they spied the landmarks of Chimney Rock and Scotts Bluff.

They reassured them they were on the correct route. A quarter million emigrants traveled past Scotts Bluff on the Oregon, California and Mormon trails between 1841 and 1869. Their wagon ruts are still visible today near the sister towns of Scottsbluff and Gering, Nebraska, divided by the North Platte River.

The pioneers' stories are shared with today's travelers at the Scotts Bluff National Monument and the nearby Chimney Rock National Historic Site. Learn about the mystery surrounding the 1828 death of fur-trader Hiram Scott for whom the bluff—or more correctly, bluffs—are named.

Dome, Crown, Sentinel, Eagle and Saddle rocks rise 500 feet above Scottsbluff and Gering.

The national monument is opening a renovated visitor center in 2021 and expanding a wing for its collection of William Henry Jackson paintings.

Chimney Rock opened a new visitor center last year with terrific exhibits, said Brenda Leisy, Scottsdale Bluff Area Visitors Bureau director. In an interactive display, visitors can load weighted items like tools, sacks of flour and spare parts into a Conestoga wagon to get an idea of how much cargo the emigrants could carry with them.



Old West Balloon Fest, Scotts Bluff National Monument, Scottsbluff-Gering, Nebraska

— GREG RAHMIG, COURTESY SCOTTS BLUFF AREA VISITORS BUREAU —

“I couldn't have done it, that's for sure,” Leisy said of the wagon-train travelers. “I wouldn't have made it very far.”

The town of Gering—named for early merchant Martin Gering—will celebrate the centennial of its Oregon Trail Days this July. It's Nebraska's longest running celebration, and includes a parade, art show, beer and wine festival, and a chili cookoff.

ScottsBluffCounty.org



Schoolteacher by J. Seward Johnson, and The Historic Jail Tree, Wickenburg, Arizona


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WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR FEB/MARCH 2021

DOG RACE

INTERNATIONAL PEDIGREE STAGE STOP SLED DOG RACE

Lander, WY, February 3: Lander is one stop on this year's sled dog race that showcases the beautiful state of Wyoming.
307-734-1163 • WyomingStageStop.org

FAIR AND TRADE SHOW

WYOMING STATE WINTER FAIR & TRADE SHOW

Lander, WY, February 1-2: Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the fair and trade show offer a grand selection of arts and crafts by regional artists.
307-332-4011 • WyomingStateWinterFair.org

HERITAGE FESTIVAL

73RD GOLD RUSH DAYS AND SENIOR PRO RODEO

Wickenburg AZ, February 12-14: This event celebrates Wickenburg's origins as a ranching and gold mining center. Founded 73 years ago, Gold Rush Days draws tens of thousands of visitors during the three days of activities.
800-942-5242 • WickenburgChamber.com

BUFFALO SOLDIER HERITAGE DAY

San Angelo, TX, February 28: Join the Fort Concho Buffalo Soldier Living History Unit as they honor the nation's black troops.
325-657-4440 • FortConcho.com

ICE FESTIVAL

CRIPPLE CREEK ICE FESTIVAL

Cripple Creek, CO, February 6-14: Watch sculptors carve ice into works of art, plus enjoy a liquor luge, ice snacks, an ice slide and ice maze.
877-858-4653 • VisitCrippleCreek.com

MUSIC

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Buffalo, WY, Thursdays in February & March: Local musicians gather to perform the best bluegrass, Western and folk music in the land.
307-684-0451 • OccidentalWyoming.com

NATURE FESTIVAL

CRANE WATCH FESTIVAL

Kearney, NE, March 6-April 11: More than 500,000 Sandhill cranes migrate to the Platte River Valley during their northward migration.
800-652-9435 • VisitKearney.org

PARADES

ARIZONA PARADA DEL SOL HISTORIC PARADE & HASHKNIFE PONY EXPRESS

Scottsdale, AZ, March 4-7: Don't miss the arrival of the Hashknife Pony Express re-enactors on Friday and the historic parade through the heart of Old Town Scottsdale on Saturday.
480-990-3179 • ParadaDelSol.us

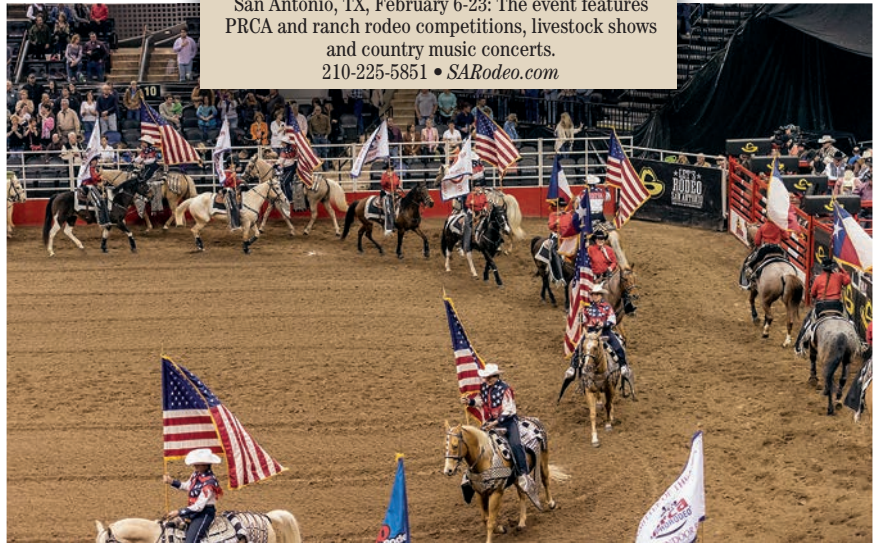
RE-ENACTMENTS

BATTLE OF THE ALAMO COMMEMORATION

San Antonio, TX, February 23 through March 6: The Texas Army and the San Antonio Living History Association portray events leading to the Battle of the Alamo.
210-225-1391 • TexasArmy.org

SAN ANTONIO STOCK SHOW & RODEO

San Antonio, TX, February 6-23: The event features PRCA and ranch rodeo competitions, livestock shows and country music concerts.
210-225-5851 • SARodeo.com



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

GOLIAD MASSACRE RE-ENACTMENT

Goliad, TX, March 27-28: The occupation of Fort Defiance and the 1836 Goliad Massacre are re-created with a memorial service on the last day.
361-635-3752 • PresidioLaBahia.org

RODEOS

WINNEMUCCA RANCH HAND RODEO

Winnemucca, NV, March 3-7: Thirty teams compete for prizes in saddle bronc riding, steer stopping, wild mugging, trailer loading, team roping, ranch doctoring and team branding.
775-623-2220 • RanchRodeoNV.com

CINCH TIMED EVENT CHAMPIONSHIP

Edmond, OK, March 13-15: The best all-around timed-event hands in professional rodeo compete in five rodeo timed events.
800-595-7433 • VisitEdmondOK.com

STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS

OKLAHOMA HORSE FAIR

Duncan, OK, February 7-8: Enjoy the Chisholm Trail Ranch Rodeo, the horse, mule and pony show, an equine trade show and working cow dog clinics.
405-226-0630 • OKHorseFair.com

FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & RODEO

Fort Worth, TX, Closes February 8: Several days of livestock and horse shows, rodeos, concerts and food are offered.
817-877-2420 • FWSSR.com

SCOTTSDALE ARABIAN HORSE SHOW

Scottsdale, AZ, February 11-21: Attendees will see some changes to this year's show to ensure everyone is safe. The public will not be allowed onto the competition grounds. (If that changes, it will be posted on the show website.) The Shopping Expo will run separately from the competition. The public and show participants will be allowed into the expo.
480-515-1500 • ScottsdaleShow.com

TRADE SHOWS

VINTAGE TULSA SHOW

Tulsa, OK, February 19-21: Shop a wide selection of antiques from some of the region's most prominent and professional collectors.
918-619-2875 • HeritageEventCompany.com

WRITERS CONFERENCES

TUCSON FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

Tucson, AZ, March 6-7: For the first time ever, the Tucson Festival of Books presents a free and entirely online festival for 2021. This will be a full virtual festival with live author sessions from all genres, featuring favorite sponsor venues, all offered with the quality attendees have come to expect from the Tucson Festival of Books.
520-621-0302 • TucsonFestivalOfBooks.org

CANCELED EVENTS

COWGIRL UP! EXHIBITION & SALE

OPENING WEEKEND—CANCELED
Wickenburg, AZ
928-684-2272 • WesternMuseum.org

FUTURE EVENTS

BUFFALO BILL BIRTHDAY BASH (NEXT EVENT IN 2022)

Golden, CO: Observe the Wild West showman's birthday with tours by costumed guides and birthday cake at the Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave exhibits.
303-526-0744 • BuffaloBill.org

LONE STAR COWBOY POETRY GATHERING (NEXT GATHERING FEB 18-19, 2022)

Alpine, TX: Mike Blakely, Dale Burson, Allan Chapman, Rodeo Kate and others celebrate the oral and musical traditions of the American West
432-216-2167 • LoneStarCowboyPoetry.com

TWMag.com:

View Western events on our website.





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.

Bat Masterson: Armed and Dangerous



Bat Masterson lived long enough to enjoy the fame associated with his legendary time on the Kansas frontier as a lawman in Dodge City, and he never shied from promoting it, as he did when he notched a pawn shop pistol he sold as "his" frontier Colt to an overeager collector.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Connecticut State Library and records of which make and model and serial number he bought. This is the kind of provenance that brings big bucks. About five years ago, one of his pistols auctioned off for \$96,000.

I've read that when he was a sportswriter for the *New York Telegraph*, some collector was pestering Bat to give him one of his pistols. He went to a pawn shop and purchased an old .45. Then he took his knife and carved 22 notches on the grip. Bat was a practical joker; everyone knows gunfighters didn't carve notches on their pistols. But the story started a rumor. And there are some tales that Bat fulfilled other gun requests the same way.

What was the first brewery in Arizona?

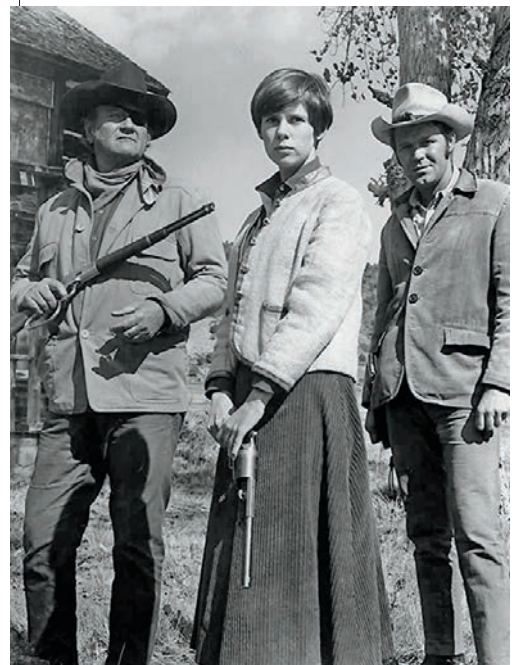
Mark Manning
Mesa, Arizona

A man named Alex Levin opened the first recorded brewery, the Pioneer Brewing Company, in Tucson in 1864. He and other brewers faced many challenges including alkaline water and unreliable supply routes before the railroads arrived in the 1880s. But the rails also brought new competition, as out-of-state beers began flooding the Arizona market.

I was just watching the first *True Grit* movie and badman Tom Chaney tells young Mattie she has "sand." What does that mean?

David Daiss
Sonoita, Arizona

I conjured up a list of a list of words that best-defined "sand" in the Old West. They are: daring, bold, brave, courageous, intrepid, dauntless, plucky and enterprising.



Kim Darby, center, had to have plenty of "sand" and "grit" to star as the movie's leading lady Mattie Ross opposite John Wayne's Rooster Cogburn (left) and Glen Campbell's La Boeuf (right) in the original 1969 Hal Wallis production of Charles Portis's novel *True Grit*.

- COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES -

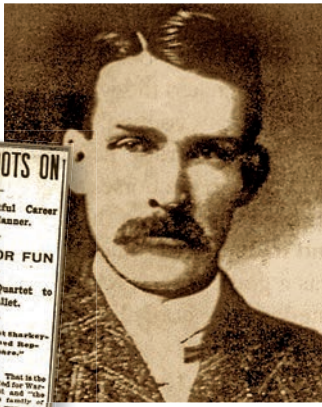
How many of Bat Masterson's Colt SAA revolvers are known to exist, and how many did he own over the years? I have read that he possibly owned seven or eight.

Greg Williamson Jr.
McDonough, Georgia

It's pretty hard to say how many. I checked Robert DeArment's Bat biography, and he mentions a total of eight Colts that would have real provenance—or proof that he owned them. Bat apparently preferred to special-order his Colts direct from the factory rather than buy them across the counter from a local dealer. He liked special extras such as the front sight and was glad to pay for them. There are several 1880s letters to Colt from Bat in the Colt factory collection at the

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Warren Earp's name might have been famous, but it was only in death in a gunfight with a victim of his bullying in Willcox, Arizona Territory, on July 6, 1900, that the youngest of the Earp boys earned the headlines his older brothers gained from braver action in Tombstone.

— WARREN EARP PHOTO COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/
"INTER-OCEAN" NEWS CLIP COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

In almost all movie and television portrayals of Old West shootouts, it was relatively easy for a person to get off by arguing self-defense. Sometimes they wouldn't even be tried. Is this an accurate picture of frontier justice?

Robert Matters
Avon, Indiana

Yes, that's pretty much the way it was. Nearly everyone packed a pistol, so it was easy to claim self-defense, especially if you could afford an attorney. A man could even shoot another in the back and claim he felt threatened.

A good example is the death of Warren Earp on July 6, 1900, in Willcox, Arizona. Earp was known as a bully, and he'd been threatening his erstwhile friend, cowboy and rancher Johnny Boyett. The pair were arguing in Brown's Saloon; Warren dared Boyett to go get his gun. Boyett did so and faced off with his opponent. Earp opened his jacket to show he was unarmed—but dared Boyett to shoot. Bad move. Boyett fired five times; the first four missed, while the last one hit Earp in the chest, killing him. Boyett was arrested. But at a preliminary hearing the next day, Judge William F. Nichols determined that Boyett acted in self-defense, because Earp had threatened and then challenged him to a gunfight. The cowboy went free. This case received a lot of publicity because of the Earp name. But the concept of self-defense was very broad in the Old West, and numerous killers got off by using that as a legal argument.



A.R. Mitchell Museum <i>ARMitchellMuseum.com</i>	p. 65
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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

I thankfully grew up in Bakersfield, in the center of the Oklahoma and Texas of California, Kern County. One hundred miles physically from L.A., but 1,500 miles culturally. It's the home of Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* and of four of the country's ten largest oil fields.

I was a latch key kid, raised by my mother from age seven, who worked hard and taught me I could do anything I set my mind to, even if I didn't have a dime to start with.

A childhood hero was my brother Rex. Four-and-a-half years my senior, he got the highest grades ever achieved in Navy flight and ground school. He was Hot Gun, then the version of Top Gun. He flew a Crusader off the carrier *USS Ranger*.

I cooked my way through college, the only fry cook for 1,500 with three six-foot grills backed by 20 deep fryers. Next I cooked and wrangled at a boys' camp, where a campfire and only a dozen kids 20 miles from the nearest road was a lark.

I wrote my first novel, a thriller, at age 25 and realized I didn't know my butt from a hot-rock. Started again at 40, while living on my 50-foot ketch at Dana Point, California. Had my kids aboard the boat grabbing every sheet out of the printer saying, "What happens next, Dad?" I credit them with finishing my first, a 500-page historical, *Shadow of the Mast*.

Edward Beale is my favorite subject, the most unsung American hero, particularly of the Manifest Destiny era. His best credit comes from Kit Carson, who said, "I can't believe this guy, Ned Beale." I loved writing *Rush to Destiny* and love talking about a guy who crossed the country 13 times on horseback.

I picked Merle Haggard up hitchhiking, carrying his guitar, and I only remember because my hitcher said, "I just got out of San Quinton."

Montana has been a great place for the last 26 years, with fishing a few hundred yards from the house in both stream and river, and hunting in the two-million-acre national forest in our backyard. How could a writer find more inspiration?

Married my high school sweetheart, who gave me four boys. Screwed that one up and later was fortunate to marry the beautiful, talented, Kat Martin, who joined me in many life adventures and the novelist gig, becoming, in her own right, a *NYT* bestselling author of 76 historical and romantic suspense novels.

Novel writing is a true joy. When I begin one, I seldom slow down and NEVER get that excuse called writer's block. Love the research and keep learning with every novel.



— COURTESY LARRY J. MARTIN

LARRY "L.J." MARTIN, NOVELIST, AUTHOR, ENTREPRENEUR

L. J. Martin is a novelist, nonfiction author and member of the Society of Professional Journalists, Western Writers of America, Mystery Writers and International Thriller Writers. He is the author of 55 Western, historical, mystery and thriller novels from Bantam, Pinnacle, Avon, Gale and Wolfpack Publishing, and 12 nonfiction works, including two cooking books and one on greenhouse gardening in Montana. Join him on his webpage LJMartin.com, and his wife at KatMartin.com. Both are active on Facebook and LinkedIn and other social media sites.

Photography is a lifelong hobby and more. Sell some work on the internet—beer money. I still do a monthly video for Wolfpack featuring their new releases.

Designing book covers vents my artistic frustration, and I love the fact that a great cover sells books and often introduces a new writer.

How can you not love a country that limits you only by your hard work and talent? I would die to defend America, as would my wife and sons. Don't tread on her, me or mine.

What history has taught me... Fodder for a book is what it's taught me and still teaches me. Beale, Grant, Fremont, Custer, Sherman, Washington, Jefferson...all, and so many more, heroes. They lived in their time, and excelled, no matter their warts, and we all have them. None more than those who now second-guess their actions. God bless America.



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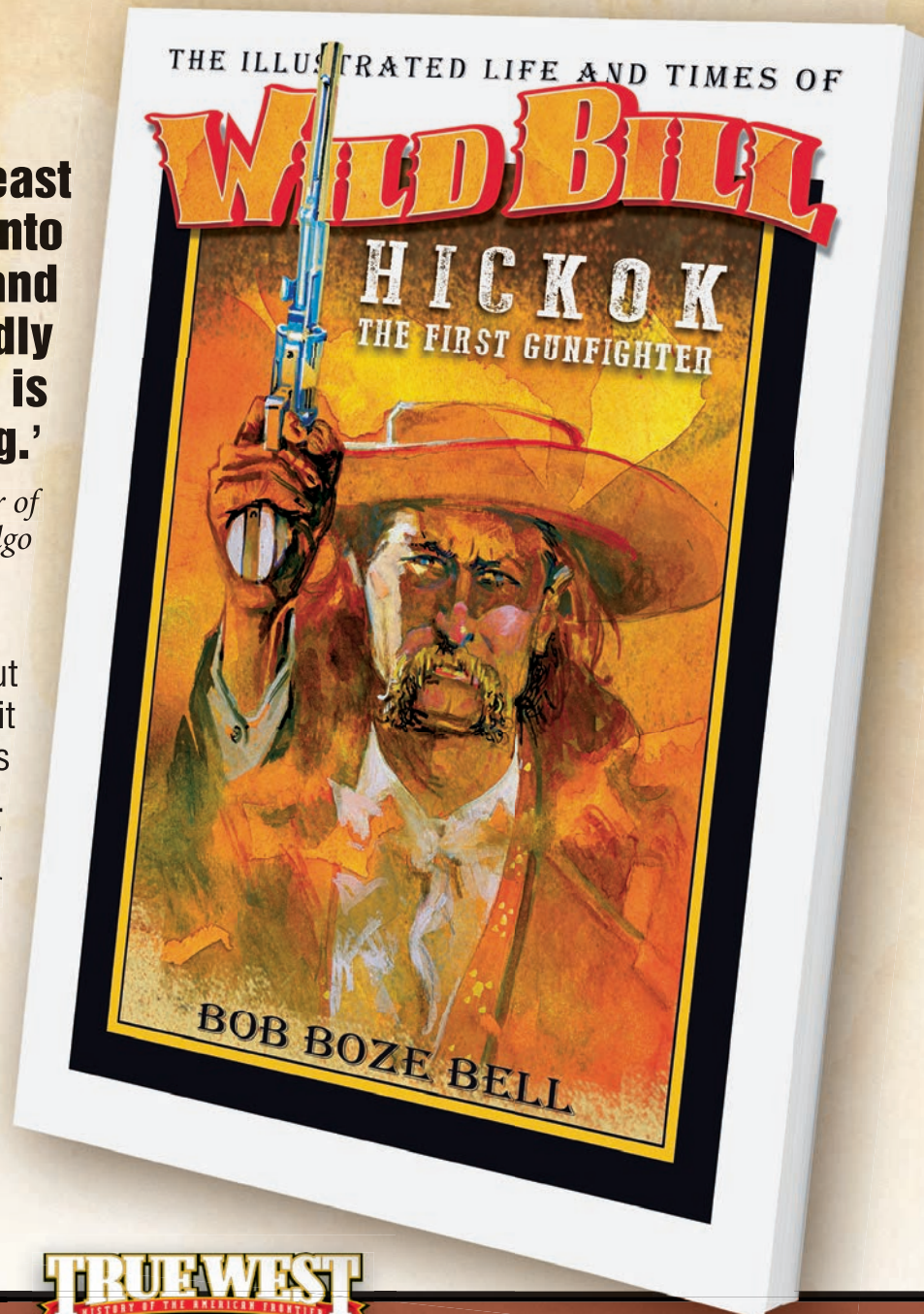
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