

OUR 21ST ANNUAL HERITAGE TRAVEL ISSUE

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

# TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

## Robert Duvall

The Legendary  
*Lonesome Dove*  
Interview

By Henry C. Parke

PLUS:

The Goodnight-  
Loving Trail

The Real History Behind  
*Lonesome Dove*

Texas Cowboys, Outlaws  
and a Blood Feud

Abilene, Kansas

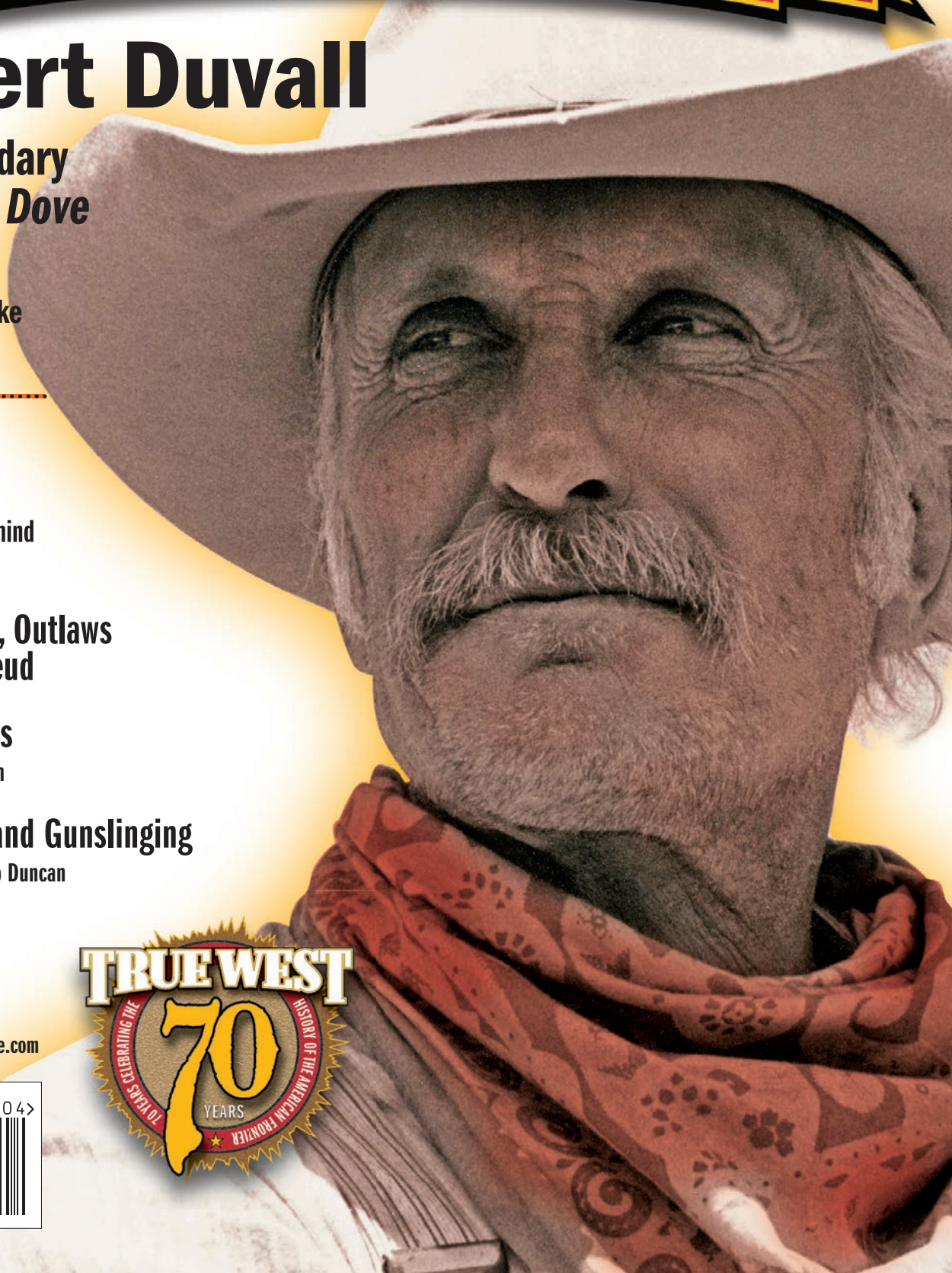
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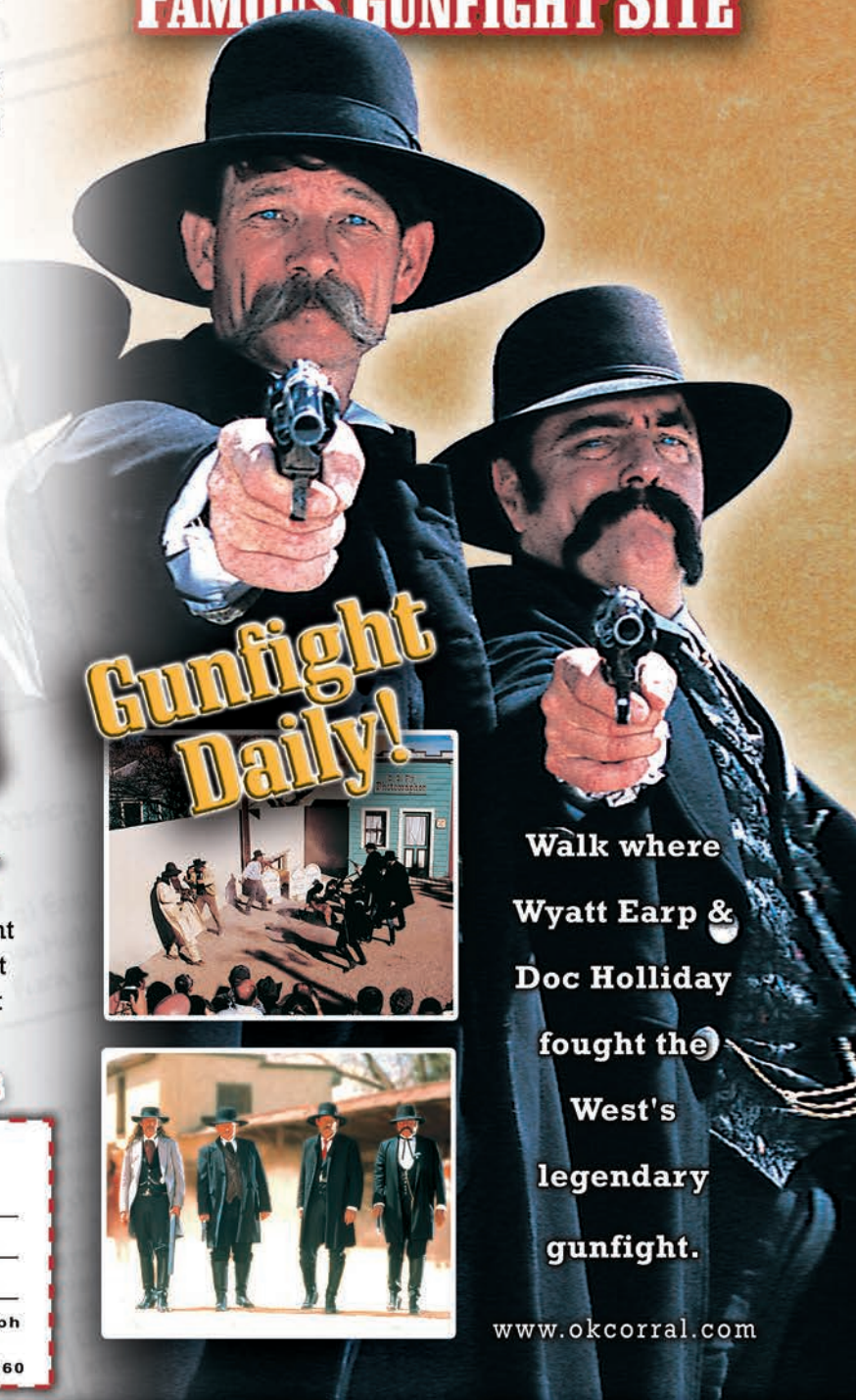
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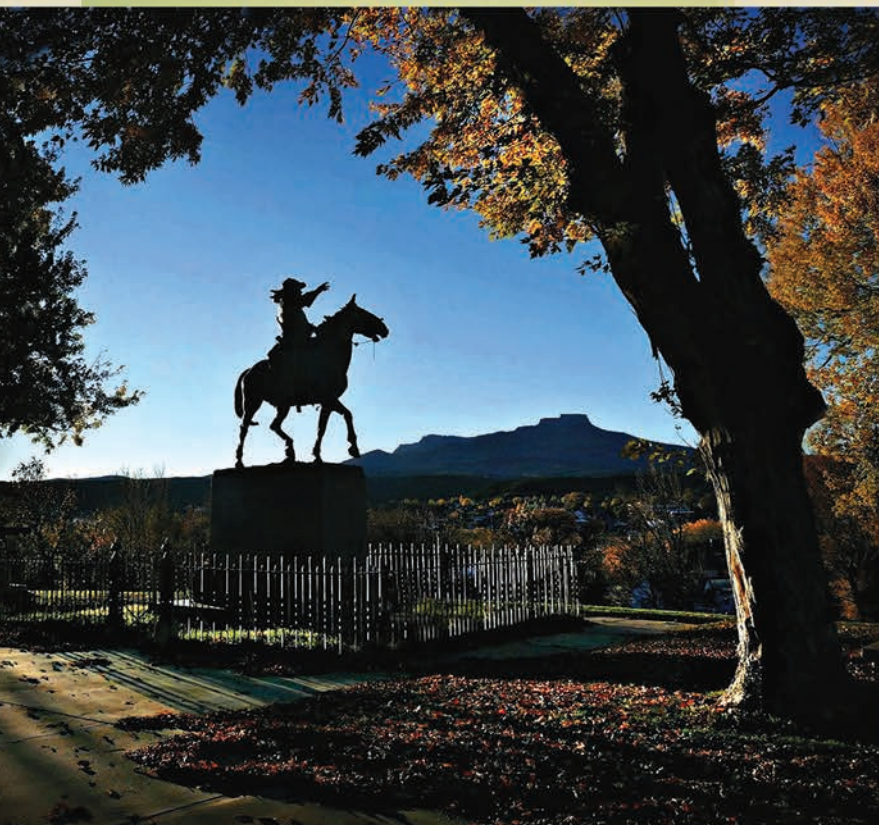
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### **TALLYHO COACH AT HOT SPRINGS, DAKOTA TERRITORY**

With the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872 and the expansion of railroads into the hinterlands of the West, Western tourism to natural wonders and health spas grew exponentially. Stagecoaches brought tourists, such as this group on holiday in 1889 from Sioux City, Iowa, to the Hot Springs from the Buffalo Gap train depot or on day trips into the Southern Black Hills.

John C.H. Grabill, Courtesy Library of Congress



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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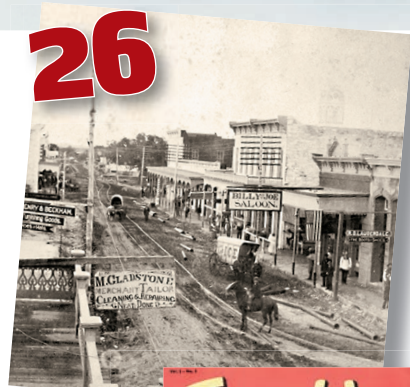


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—By Johnny D. Boggs



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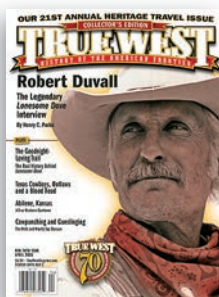
Discover the Western Frontier on a tour of three gateway states to the Old West.

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—By Mike Cox



Cover Design  
by Dan Harshberger

Photo of Robert Duvall in "Lonesome Dove"  
Courtesy CBS Television

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## Old Vaquero Sayings



*"Be wary of half-truths.  
You may get the wrong half."*

### Quotes

*"When the ranch is in peace, no other life is more perfect."*

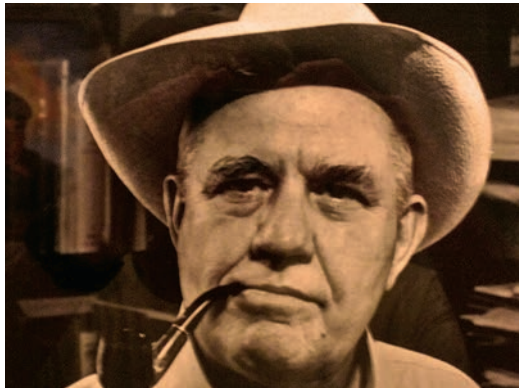
*—Charles Goodnight*

*"Every civilization dies from indifference toward the unique values which created it."*

*—Nicolas Gomez Davila*

**"No cowboy ever quit while his life was hardest and his duties were most exacting."**

*—J. Frank Dobie*



J. Frank Dobie, Author and Western Folklorist

Courtesy National Portrait Gallery IMG 4376

*"A man on a horse is spiritually, as well as physically, bigger than a man on foot."*

*—John Steinbeck*

**"I can't begin to tell you the things I discovered while I was looking for something else."**

*—Shelby Foote*

*"A lovely horse is always an experience.... It is an emotional experience of the kind that is spoiled by words."*

*—Beryl Markham*

*"You know horses are smarter than people. You never heard of a horse going broke betting on people."*

*—Will Rogers*

*"It's the way you ride the trail that counts."*

*—Dale Evans*



Cowgirl Extraordinaire Dale Evans and her Horse Buttermilk

Courtesy Republic Pictures

*"I go about looking at horses and cattle. They eat grass, make love, work when they have to, bear their young. I am sick with envy of them."*

*—Sherwood Anderson*



*"Are we there yet?"*

CartoonStock.com

# Kingman Kin

Where real cowboys and Hollywood legends collide.

**H**ere's a classic film story that involves my hometown, Kingman, the Hotel Beale and my shirt-tail kin. As the story goes, Buster Keaton was traveling through Kingman in 1924-25 and he stayed at the Hotel Beale. When he went into the bar for a drink, he happened to meet a local cattleman who always stayed at the Beale when he came into Kingman on business. That cowman, promoter and former gunfighter (see page 46) was Tap Duncan. (My aunt Sadie Pearl married his grandson.) The cowboy and the comedian hit it off, and Tap's Diamond Bar ranch came up and the next thing you know, Buster leaves, goes back to Hollywood and returns to Mohave County with a film crew, and they film a movie Buster wrote, called *Go West*, around the Diamond Bar, which is north of Red Lake (above), but you knew that. Anyway, Buster's costar, Brown Eyes, got second billing, because as one wag put it, "She did all her own stunts."

Thanks to Jim Hinkley, of Route 66 fame, I finally got to see the full version of Buster Keaton's *Go West* (1925). There is a sequence at a train siding which some of us think is probably Hackberry (where Tap shipped his cattle). If you want to watch it, go to [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com) and type in Buster Keaton's *Go West*.



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



Courtesy MGM



Courtesy Mohave Museum of History and Arts, Kingman, Arizona



Local cowboys gathered around a shipment of gold produced at the Tom Reed Mine in Oatman. The photo was taken at Kingman railroad platform in 1915 with Harvey House in right background. Identified in photo left to right: Joe Carrow, Red Lynch, Byron Duncan, Charley Duncan, Tap Duncan (center, wearing his promoter outfit, white hat, bow tie and boots), Nolan Tyree, Smith and Ramon Contreras. The gold is a \$176,000 run, which was taken to the San Francisco World's Fair for exhibition by Murrie Carrow. Ironically, Tap was run over by a car and killed in 1944, not 50 yards from where this photo was taken.

Courtesy Mohave Museum of History and Arts, Kingman, Arizona

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

## THANKS FOR THE LOVE

I want to thank you (and the *True West* crew) for allowing me to be part of *True West's* "Best of the West 2023!"

To be in print with Geronimo, Custer, the Kid and rustlers is too much for the young dreamer (the Tom Sawyer) in me. The original artwork is fabulous. Pages and pages of yesteryear and the infamous. The Old West comes alive, and I can hear my grandpa's voice from the past—what a treat for this ole man.

—Raymond V. Carter Jr.  
Bandera, Texas

I sincerely appreciate what you and your staff do with the magazine. The truth, as I see it, is your heart, soul and art have made *True West* into a version of yourself and your childhood dreams. Thanks for letting us dream with you.

—Brad Ireland  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Bring it on, baby. I just received the Feb/Mar issue in the mail. And once again it blew my boot socks off. How is it possible that EVERY new issue is better than the last?!?!?!?

—Jon Rogers  
Tucson, Arizona

Thank you! Your gratitude inspires us every day! —SR

## WYATT EARP—FIGHTIN' ILLINI!

On page 15 of your January 2023 issue, Sherrie Walton claims in her letter that John Wayne, Buffalo Bill Cody and Wyatt Earp were born in Iowa.

Pardon me! Wyatt Earp was born in Monmouth, Illinois, which is across the Mississippi River about 30 miles due east of Iowa. His birthplace is still a small historical attraction in Monmouth.

—Charles Thompson  
La Plata, Missouri

*You are correct, sir! Thank you for reminding us that Wyatt Earp was born and raised in Monmouth, Illinois, before his parents moved the family to Pella, Iowa, in 1849-50. Of course, the senior Earps weren't finished living in the Prairie State: the family moved to Turtle, Illinois, in 1856. Three years later the Earps returned to Pella, where they stayed until May 1864, when Nicholas Earp loaded up the family and joined a wagon train to San Bernardino, California. Wyatt himself lived with his younger brother Morgan in Peoria from 1871-72, where they made a living running a sporting house.*

*We highly recommend if you are traveling through Illinois to take a detour to Monmouth and visit the Wyatt Earp Birthplace Museum. Learn more at VisitForgottonia.com. —SR*



Wyatt Earp in an original tintype photograph (far left). Notice that his buttons are on the "wrong side"—a quirk of the tintype process. The image (near left), has been flopped to show a "normal" view of the photo.

True West archives

## ANOTHER MIRROR IMAGE

In your January 2023 article "Power of Pictures," there is a photo titled "Loaded for Bear" of James B. "Jim" Hawkins. It would appear that Jim is holding a Winchester 1873 Saddle Ring Carbine. But there appears to be



James B. "Jim" Hawkins

Courtesy Chuck Parsons

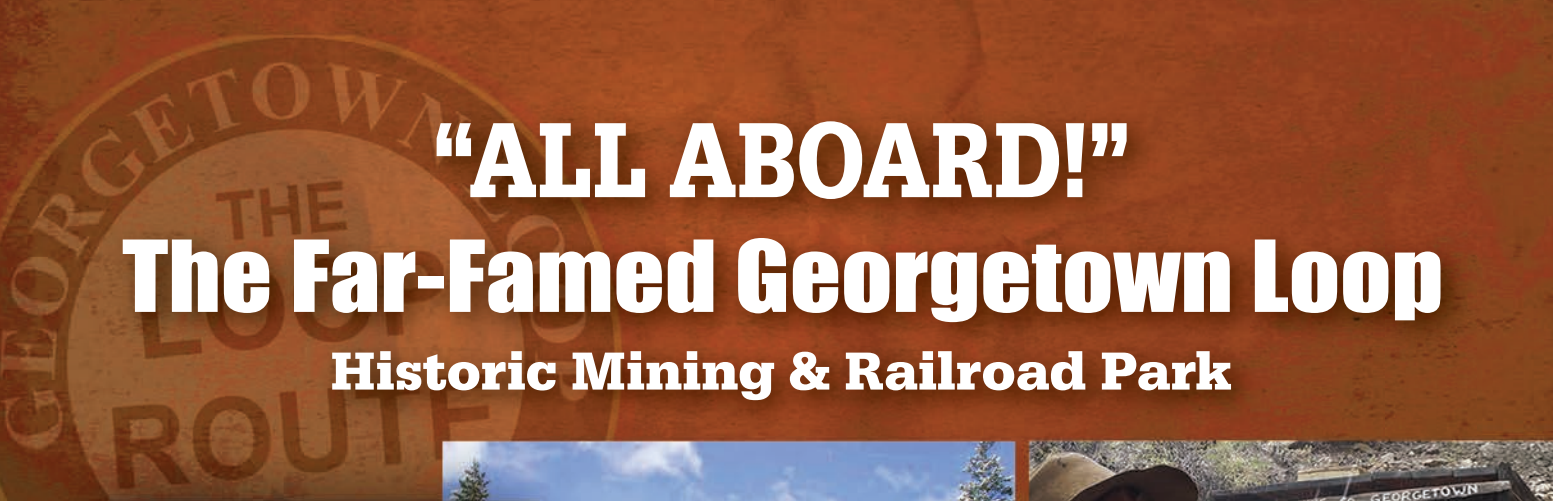
something wrong with this photo or this rifle is very unique. All Saddle Ring Carbines came with a ring on the left-hand side of the rifle, while this one is on the right-hand side. Also, the picture is showing the right-hand side and the loading port is not there. All 1873 Winchester lever-actions have a loading port on the right-hand

side. The rifle does not look like a photographer's prop, but it does not appear correct in the photo. Can you clear this up for me?

—Mark J. Bates  
Mono, Canada

*Great question. The photograph of Texas Ranger James B. "Jim" Hawkins, seen on page 34 of our January 2023 issue is a tintype image. These early photos enjoyed their widest use during the 1860s and 1870s, although the medium persisted with lesser use up into the early 20th century. Tintypes usually produce a mirror image, such as Ranger Hawkins' photograph, reversed left to right from reality. Sometimes the camera was fitted with a mirror or right angle prism so that the result would be right reading. In Hawkins' photo, that was not done, thus the Winchester, as well as everything else in this view is reversed, as if one is looking into a mirror. Hawkins is actually holding his carbine in his left hand, but the reversed image makes it look like his Winchester has its component parts reversed.*

—Firearms Editor Phil Spangenberg




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BY MARK BOARDMAN

# A Champion of the Small Ranchers

*Nate Champion became a martyr in the Johnson County War.*

**F**or some residents of Johnson County, Wyoming, in the 1890s, Nate Champion had the perfect name. He was a champion of the rights of small ranchers in the area. But for others—the cattle barons—he was nothing but a rustler who threatened their herds and profits.

Champion was born in Texas in 1857 but later made his way to Wyoming. There, he was a cowboy and owned a small spread. By the early 1890s, he was leading efforts to organize the small ranchers in Johnson County. The aim: to conduct a roundup of unbranded cattle on the open range. The large ranches claimed that all the cattle were theirs. Legal authorities tended to stay out of the argument, so the barons took matters into their own hands.

Nate Champion was the first target on a list of men to be killed. The theory was that if they killed the leader of the small ranchers, then the organization would fall apart. The barons put together a mercenary “army” of about 50 men, many recruited from Texas. They made their way from Cheyenne to Champion’s KC Ranch, not far from the town of Buffalo.

On April 9, 1892, before dawn, the so-called invaders surrounded Champion’s cabin. Two visitors came out first; they were captured and later released. Champion’s partner, Nick Ray, came to the door to see what was going on; he was shot and mortally wounded.



Nate Champion, a martyr of the Wyoming range wars, is still regarded as one of the great heroes of the Cowboy State.

True West Archives

The army then opened up, firing indiscriminately at the home. Champion fought back, holding off the invaders

for most of the day (and keeping a running diary of the events). As darkness neared, the invaders set fire to the cabin. Champion ran out the back door, shooting as he went. He was hit an estimated 28 times and died near the building.

The army then prepared to make its way to Buffalo, intending to capture the town (which favored the small ranchers). It wasn’t to be. A couple of passersby had seen the siege and spread the alarm. About 200 townsmen headed off the invaders at the TA Ranch, where the invaders were surrounded in a barn. An army unit managed to save them; they were arrested and taken to Buffalo to face murder charges. But the cattle barons used their money to delay legal proceedings that nearly bankrupted Johnson County. Charges were dropped. Nobody was ever tried in the death of Nate Champion.

But, in several ways, Champion was the victor. Democrat candidates across the state, most of whom supported the small ranchers, were overwhelmingly voted into office in the next election. The small ranchers gradually claimed and fenced off the open range lands. And Nate Champion’s grave, at Buffalo’s Willow Grove Cemetery, was and is something of a shrine to a man who stood up to the powers that be.



# DISCOVER SAN ANGELO

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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

# You Had to Look Hard— The Marquis de Morès Did

*His wife's beautiful name graces the charming town he left behind.*

“Little Misery” was about the only name you’d find in this part of the Dakota Badlands in the early 1880s. It sums up what life was like here for the few soldiers stationed to protect the railroad at the Little Missouri Cantonment Camp they nicknamed “Little Misery.”

Yet, this is where a Frenchman with an impressive title decided to stake his claim.

The Marquis de Morès was an imaginative, ambitious man who once proclaimed, “I will be the richest financier in the world.” He never made it, but he never had to worry about buying groceries, either.

His name was Antoine de Vallombrosa. He so adopted this spot in western North Dakota that he created a town, and in 1883, built his wife a 26-room, two-story “hunting lodge” for summer visits. He named the town after her. That’s how we got Medora, one of the most charming Old West towns still in existence.

These days, Medora is in a thriving mode, as more and more visitors discover its treasures.

The Chateau de Morès was the first and draws some 50,000 visitors a year. It’s filled with thousands of personal items and furniture from the family that used it from 1883-86. The family maintained ownership until 1936, when the marquis’ oldest son, Louis, partnered with the State Historical Society to make the home a historic site, and a caretaker was hired to look after the property.

Of course, restoration has always been a big priority here. “In 2022 we were able to do significant repair and painting,” notes Anne Killiam, the chateau’s site supervisor. “Almost every one



In 1883, the Marquis de Morès Antoine de Vallombrosa built Chateau de Mores on a bluff above the town he founded and named after his wife, Medora. Today, the mansion is restored and one of the jewels of North Dakota’s state historic sites.

All Images Courtesy Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, North Dakota

of the 26 rooms got good care.” They also completed a major restoration of the caretaker’s cabin built in 1939.

In the chateau’s rooms one can get a glimpse at the life of a family—and of a man who owned a beef packing plant, a stagecoach line, a freighting company, refrigerated rail cars, a cattle and sheep ranch, and dabbled in real estate. The town he created saw him as a “wild Frenchman” and didn’t warm up to him. But Medora was beloved by the community. She was admired for her equestrian and shooting skills, and it didn’t hurt that she came back to visit the

chateau in 1903 and threw a ball for the local ranchers.

These days, Medora has lots to offer, including a town built to serve visitors, a popular summer musical review and the upcoming Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library that will open in a couple years.

But it all started because a Frenchman looked at this spot 140 years ago and didn’t see misery; he saw magic. ❖

**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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BY STEVE FRIESEN

# The Lawful and the Lawless

*Firearms at the Rock Island Auction tell stories of violent days of frontier law and order.*

**R**ock Island Auctions presents firearms collectors with thousands of choices each year. Some of those firearms may not be inherently unique, but they receive their value from the stories associated with their users. In December 2022, firearms linked to both the lawful and the lawless were among the standouts at the Rock Island Company's Premier Firearms Auction.

Theodore Roosevelt's Smith and Wesson New Model Number 3 was shipped to him on May 12, 1898, perhaps arriving in time for him to use it in the Spanish-American War. By that time, he had served as New York City Police commissioner, and not too many years later, he would become vice president and then president of the United States. The provenance of this revolver was enough to gather \$910,625, the highest price at the auction.

A Smith and Wesson revolver associated with the Sioux War also was sold at the auction. The story accompanying that firearm stated it was used to kill Sitting Bull when he resisted arrest by tribal police during the Ghost Dance. More provenance was needed to definitively prove it, so it sold for just \$26,438.

On the losing side of an earlier conflict, the Civil War, Jesse James became one of America's most notorious outlaws. A Smith and Wesson First Model Schofield revolver reported to have belonged to him, with holster, factory letter and other documents, brought \$152,750. The Civil War figured prominently in other offerings at the auction. A Burnside Carbine presented by President Abraham Lincoln to Kentucky Congressman John J. Crittenden went for \$105,750. The Crittenden story is just one of many poignant stories of families split by the



Theodore Roosevelt's newly ordered Smith and Wesson New Model Number 3 may have arrived in time for him to use it when the Rough Riders shipped off to Cuba. Eventually given to his butler, the revolver sold for \$910,625 at auction.

All Images Courtesy Rock Island Auctions

conflict; Crittenden supported the Union while his eldest son fought for the Confederacy.

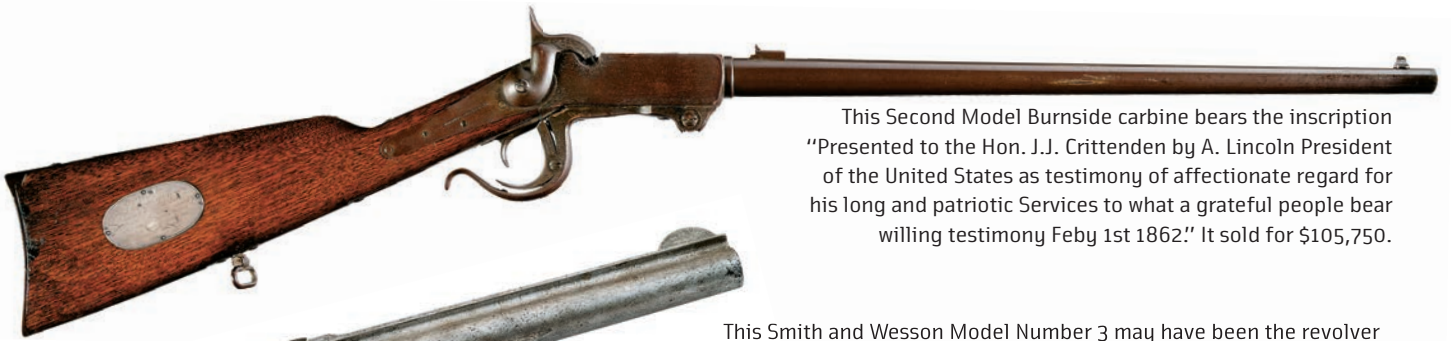
Cowboy D.B. Gardner founded the Pitchfork Ranch in Texas. With an eye to enforcing the law, he also started the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association to fight cattle rustlers. His Colt Model 1862 Pocket Navy Conversion Revolver sold for \$5,288. Cattlemen, lawmen and outlaws alike used the Colt 45, nicknamed the Peacemaker. The Colt Single Action Army Sheriff's Model revolver was a variation on it. An 1889 model sold for \$64,625 at the auction.

From Theodore Roosevelt to Jesse James, Rock Island's Premier Firearms Auction offered plenty of tantalizing tales of the lawful and the lawless for collectors of the West.



Smith and Wesson shipped this First Model Schofield revolver to the Springfield Armory in 1875. It may have fallen into Jesse James's hands after it was sold off as surplus. It sold at auction for \$152,750.

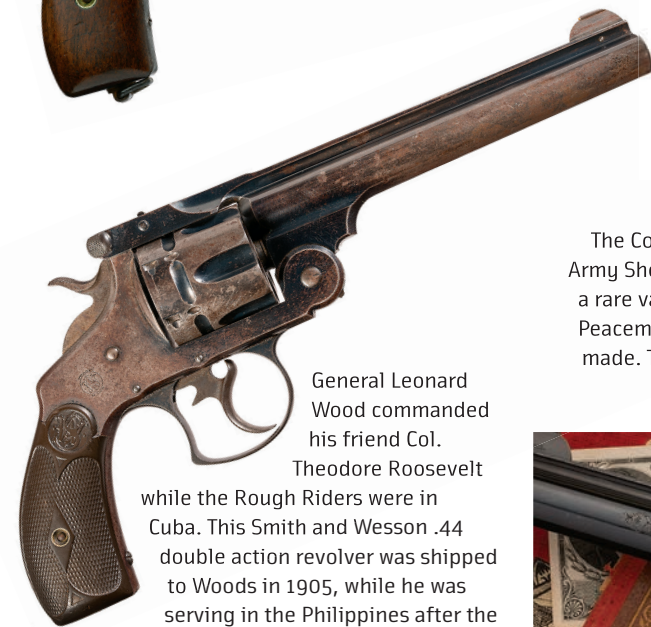
Steve Friesen comes to "Collecting the West" with over 40 years of experience in collecting for museums, including evaluating and acquiring artifacts from the American West.



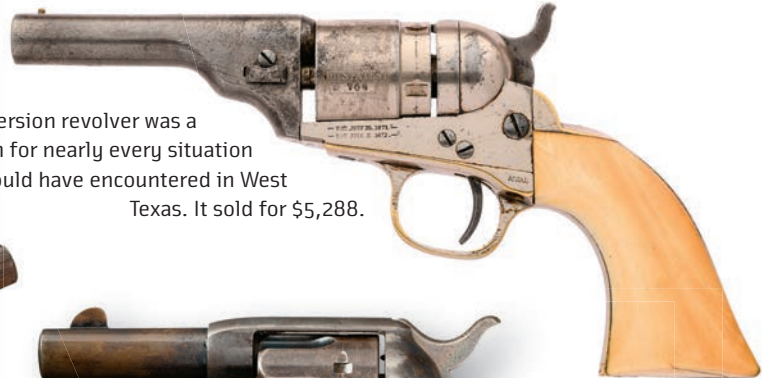
This Second Model Burnside carbine bears the inscription "Presented to the Hon. J.J. Crittenden by A. Lincoln President of the United States as testimony of affectionate regard for his long and patriotic Services to what a grateful people bear willing testimony Feby 1st 1862!" It sold for \$105,750.



This Smith and Wesson Model Number 3 may have been the revolver that killed Sitting Bull. Since the provenance was not definitive, it fetched a lower price than hoped at the Rock Island Auction.



This Colt Pocket Navy Conversion revolver was a relatively small but handy firearm for nearly every situation its owner, rancher D.B. Gardner, would have encountered in West Texas. It sold for \$5,288.



The Colt Single Action Army Sheriff's Model was a rare variation on the famous Peacemaker revolver with only 1,000 made. This example sold at the Rock Island auction for \$64,625.

General Leonard Wood commanded his friend Col. Theodore Roosevelt while the Rough Riders were in Cuba. This Smith and Wesson .44 double action revolver was shipped to Woods in 1905, while he was serving in the Philippines after the Spanish-American War.



The wild, unlawful years of the West had waned by the time this Smith and Wesson New Model Number 3 revolver was exhibited at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. When the exhibition closed, it was shipped to a champion target shooter rather than a lawman. This beautiful piece sold for \$94,000.

## UPCOMING AUCTIONS

**April 14-15, 2023**

Scottsdale Art Auction (Scottsdale, AZ)  
ScottsdaleArtAuction.com • 480-945-0225

**May 19-21, 2023**

Premier Firearms Auction #88  
Rock Island Auctions (Rock Island, IL)  
RockIslandAuctions.com • 800-238-8022

**June 19, 2023**

Arms & Armor, Civil War & Militaria  
Heritage Auctions (Dallas, TX)  
HA.com • 214-528-3500

BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

# Two Rode Together

OLIVER LOVING AND  
CHARLES GOODNIGHT MADE  
HISTORY IN 1866, AND 120 YEARS  
LATER LARRY MCMURTRY MADE  
THEM LEGENDS.



The Goodnight-Loving Trail has inspired songwriters and novelists. Cattleman Charles Goodnight became one of the iconic figures of Texas and the West—and helped save the American bison from extinction. Oliver Loving, whose death in 1867 led to one of Robert Duvall’s most endearing acting roles, has a Texas county and an Eddy County, New Mexico, village named after him.

Goodnight and Loving are credited with blazing the trail to deliver cattle to the Bosque Redondo Reservation at Fort Sumner in New Mexico Territory in 1866, and the trail eventually stretched to Denver and Cheyenne.

“The trace that led from Texas to Fort Sumner is generally known as the Goodnight Trail, while that which Goodnight later blazed direct to Cheyenne is called the Goodnight and Loving Trail, though sometimes the terms are used interchangeably,” J. Evetts Haley wrote in *Charles Goodnight: Cowman and Plainsman* (Houghton Mifflin, 1936).

At least, that’s the legend. Two historians, however, have recently suggested



that maybe the trail should be known as the Chisum Trail.

## Chisum vs. Goodnight & Loving

“Erroneous popular mythology holds that Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving made the first drives across West Texas and up the Pecos River to New Mexico markets in 1866 and 1867,”

When Texas cattlemen Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving decided to partner up and drive a herd of 2,000 cattle from Newcastle, Texas, to Fort Sumner, New Mexico Territory, in the spring of 1866, they both had to have their cowboy crews round up and brand their cattle before heading West.

All Images Courtesy True West Archives Unless Otherwise Noted

The Goodnight-Loving cattle drive included 18 men, 2,000 cattle and a remuda of horses to keep the cowboys in good mounts along the length of the rugged trail over the Overland Trail to the Pecos River, north to Fort Sumner.



James Bailey Blackshear and Glen Sample Ely argued in *Confederates and Comanches: Skullduggery and Double-Dealing in the Texas-New Mexico Borderlands* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2021). “In fact, this route was established prior to Goodnight and Loving and was known as the Chisum Trail decades before Goodnight’s biographer branded it the Goodnight-Loving Trail.”

The authors partially base that argument on an 1897 civil engineer’s map that “labels the cattle route leading from the Concho River watershed to Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos River as ‘the Chisum Trail.’”

Doing a scan on *Newspapers.com* and *NewspaperArchive.com*, granted, isn’t sound scholarly research, but the earliest findings of Chisum Trail (not including misspellings of the famed Texas-to-Kansas Chisholm Trail) that I found is 1884; Goodnight Trail, 1885; and Goodnight-Loving Trail, 1923. Chisum moved his Texas cattle operations to New Mexico in the late 1860s, basically following much of the Goodnight-Loving route.

“The Goodnight trail was called for the man who opened it and drove cattle over it for years, Charles Goodnight,” the *Galveston (Texas) Daily News* reported on November 25, 1892. “It started in the country southeast [actually, southwest] of Fort Worth and led southwestward to

the Pecos, which it crossed at Horsehead crossing, followed the river up through New Mexico and went over into Colorado, ending near Pueblo.”

### West from Texas

With the establishment in 1863 of the million-acre reservation near Fort Sumner, beef was needed at that remote outpost in present-day De Baca County before 1866. The *Santa Fe Gazette* ran a notice from the Army’s Department of New Mexico’s chief commissary seeking delivery of “good marketable Beef Cattle” to be delivered to Fort Sumner: 200 by May 31, 1864; 300 by June 30, 1864; and 500 by July 31, 1864.

By then, Chisum was tired of selling beef to the Confederacy. Born in 1824 in Tennessee, Chisum had moved to Texas by 1837, where he worked in Paris as a store clerk. After stints as owner of grocery stores and in politics (Lamar County clerk, 1852-54), Chisum turned to ranching in North Texas, where he lived in Bolivar (near present-day Sanger) from 1856-62. When the Civil War broke out, he was placed in charge of getting herds to the Confederate army along the Mississippi River. Chisum later moved his operations to the Colorado River country east of present-day San Angelo and also ran a store in Trickham, which became a point on the Western cattle trail.

After the fall of Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1863, Chisum learned that selling beef to the Confederacy was a money-losing enterprise. By 1864, a Confederate dollar was worth a dime. “Union contractors,” Blackshear and Ely wrote, “paid in a currency that actually had value.”

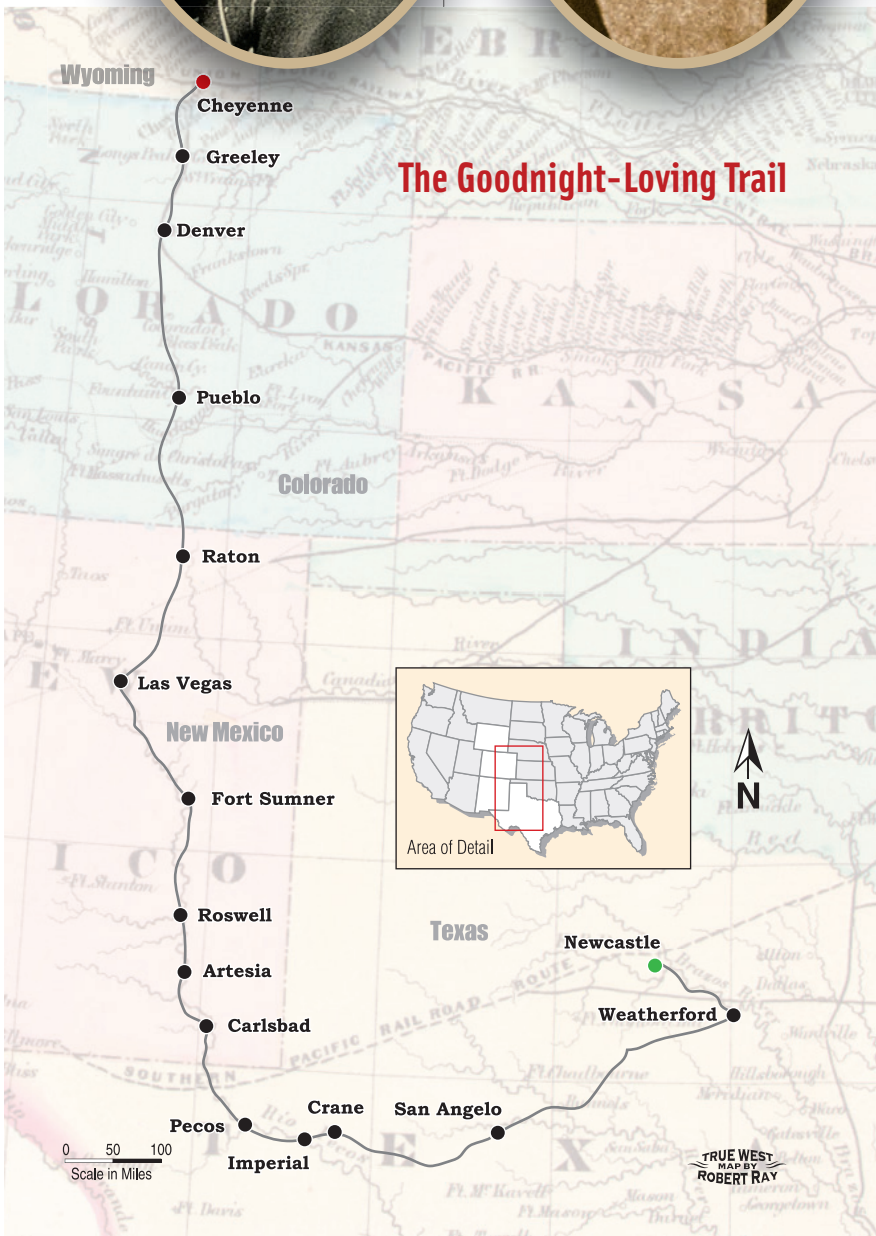
Enter Union operators James Patterson, William C. Franks, Thomas L. Roberts and James Conwell. They rode into Texas and, with Chisum’s help, gathered a herd of Confederate cattle and moved them into New Mexico Territory in the spring of 1865. Patterson and his associates weren’t alone. Other Unionists managed to slip Texas beef into Mexico by loosely following John Butterfield’s Overland Mail Company route (September 16, 1858-March 21, 1861). Chisum soon had a New Mexico connection, relocated there, and, Blackshear and Ely wrote, “West Texas cowmen were calling this Texas-New Mexico cattle road the ‘Chisum Trail.’”

Not that it matters because in 1866 Goodnight and Loving teamed up to make history and legend.

### A Legendary Partnership

Goodnight was born in Illinois in 1836, and his family moved to Texas when Goodnight was nine, four years after his father’s death. At age eleven, Goodnight started hiring out to farms.

The partnership of Charles Goodnight (left) and Oliver Loving (center) in the cattle business competed directly with Texas-New Mexico cattleman John Chisum (right) and his beef contracts for Fort Sumner.



He tried other jobs, and in 1856, three years after his mother remarried, Goodnight partnered with his stepbrother, John Sheek, in the cattle business. In 1857, Goodnight and Sheek moved their cattle operation to Palo Pinto County.

Loving, a Kentucky native who moved to Texas in 1843 when he was 30, had driven herds up the Shawnee Trail, and in 1860 he partnered with John Dawson to bring 1,500 cattle to Denver. Commissioned to drive cattle to Confederate forces on the Mississippi River later that year, Loving soon found himself in a situation similar to Chisum's. The Confederate government reportedly owed Loving between \$100,000 and \$250,000 after the war.

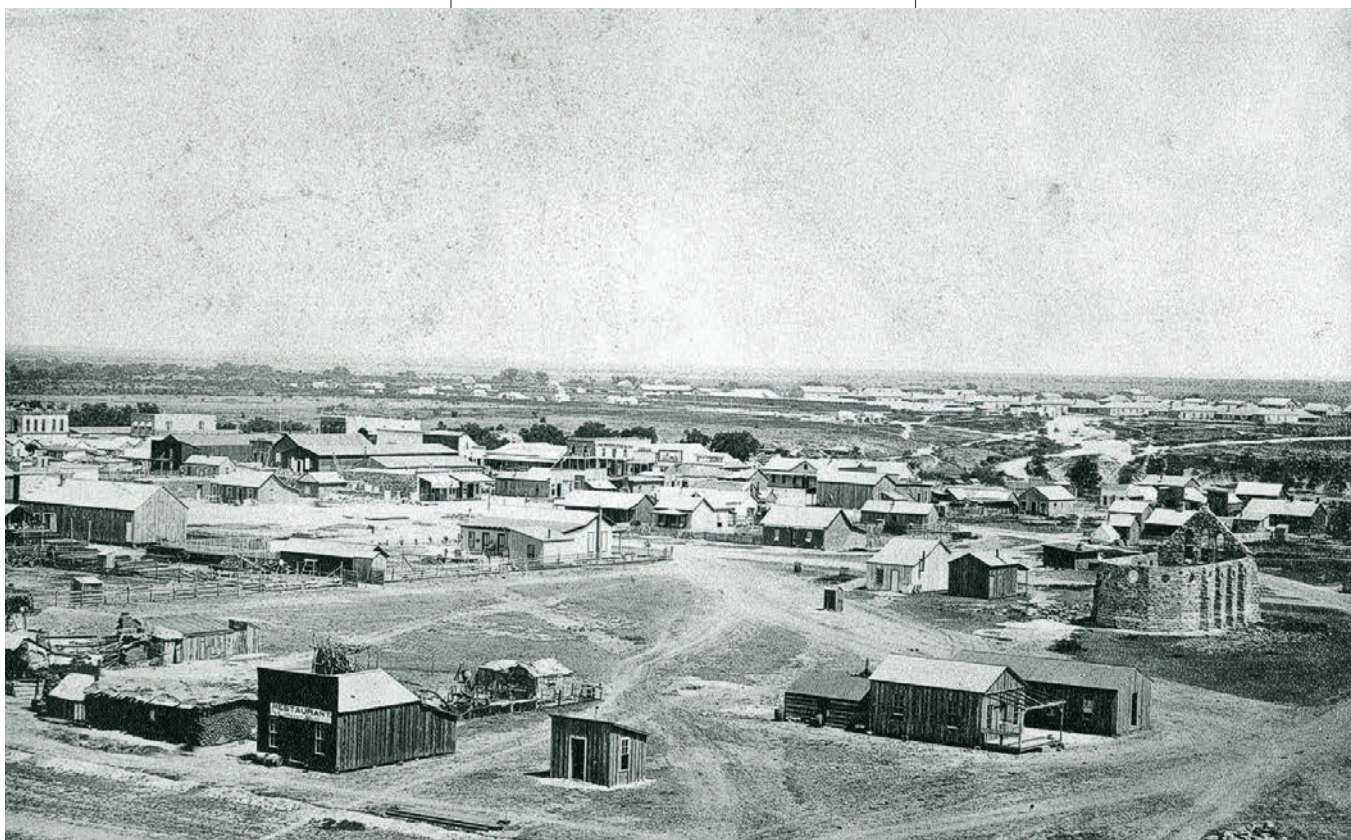
It was Goodnight's idea to take a herd to Bosque Redondo, and newspapers had spread word that there was a market for beef at Fort Sumner.

The Office of Supervising Commissary announced that it sought bids for delivery of 6,000 cattle, beginning July 1, "for issue to the Indians on the Bosque Redondo Reservation."

"The cattle," the notice in the March 22, 1866, edition of the *Leavenworth (Kansas) Daily Conservative* read, "must all be weighed upon the scales at Fort Sumner or other point of delivery upon the Reservation, under the personal supervision of the A.C.S. at Fort Sumner, and his certificate of weights must accompany the accounts

Founded in 1867, Fort Concho was an important frontier outpost that protected

San Angelo—and more importantly—the water along the Concho River, necessary for the cattle drives west along the Goodnight-Loving Trail.



of the Contractors when presented for payment.”

Goodnight could have asked Chisum for advice. “He was a great trail man,” Goodnight said years later. “No one had any advantage of him as an old-fashioned cowman, and he was the best counter I ever knew. He could count three grades of cattle at once, and count them accurately even if they were going at a trot.”

Goodnight did seek Loving’s input. Loving warned Goodnight of the hardships on such a drive across dry country. Seeing that Goodnight was undeterred, the older cowman said, “If you will let me, I will go with you.”

“I will not only let you, but it is the most desirable thing of my life,” Goodnight replied. “I not only need the assistance of your force, but I need your advice.”

Their herds joined south of Fort Belknap in present-day Newcastle, and on June 6, 1866, the drive of 2,000 cattle and 18 men—including former slave

Bose Ikard and “One-Armed” Bill Wilson—started west.

Staying on the Butterfield route, men and livestock trod past Camp Cooper and Fort Phantom Hill and through Buffalo Gap near present-day Abilene, then pushed on toward Fort Chadbourne and the Middle Concho River near present-day San Angelo, where they rested for what lay before them: The Staked Plains.

### Beating the Odds

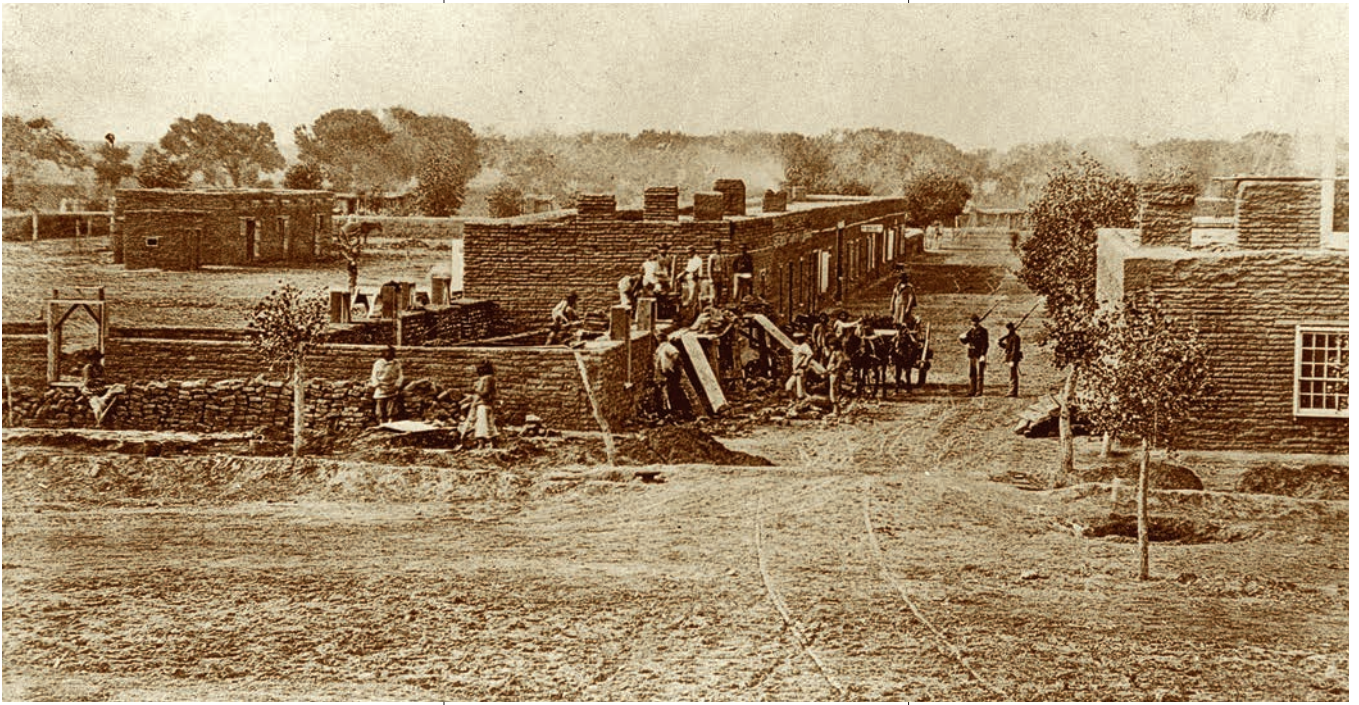
They moved through Castle Gap and, 12 miles later, reached the Pecos River at Horsehead Crossing and the country Goodnight called “the graveyard of the cowman’s hopes” and “the most desolate country that I had ever explored.”

Pushing north, they crossed the Pecos River at Pope’s Crossing, not far from the New Mexico border. The crossing vanished with completion of Red Bluff Dam and Reservoir in 1936.

“Immense numbers of cattle are now in this Territory and many more are en route from Texas,” *The (Santa Fe) New Mexican* reported on July 21, 1866. “We hear many rumors about the beef contract at the Bosque, and some who are not aware how things are managed in this country, will be enlightened by the developments that will be made as soon as facts and figures can be gathered.”

Goodnight and Loving learned how things were managed when they reached Fort Sumner. Government contractors bought only steers, and the Texans had driven a mixed herd. You’d think that, if indeed Goodnight sought out Chisum’s advice, ol’ John would have mentioned the fact that Sumner was a steer-only market. Maybe he did. Maybe Goodnight and Loving also had eyes on the northern plains.

They sold the steers at Sumner for \$12,000, and Goodnight returned to Texas, while Loving and his crew pushed



the 700 to 800 remaining cattle to Denver. There, John W. Iliff, called the “Cattle King of Colorado” when he died in 1878, bought the herd.

The Goodnight-Loving partnership was strong, so they drove another herd in 1867, taking the same route. Loving might have thought it was a good time to get out of Texas.

A notice in the *Dallas Herald* said the Parker County sheriff directed Loving to appear in district court in Weatherford in August after Robert E. Bell filed a petition against Loving and his son, James, alleging that Bell was owed \$1,432.92 for cattle that had been delivered in October 1866. “Said amount is now due and unpaid, for which [Bell] prays judgment against said defendants for said debt and costs of suit.”

By the time that notice appeared in the press, however, Loving was dead.

Riding ahead of the herd to initiate contract bidding at Sumner, Loving and Wilson were attacked by Indians in southern New Mexico. Loving was wounded, so he sent Wilson for help—which gave us Larry McMurtry’s *Lonesome Dove* and made Duvall the favorite trail boss and ex-Texas Ranger of many Americans. A group of Hispanic traders found the wounded Loving and

brought him to Fort Sumner, where he died from gangrene on September 25.

Goodnight pushed the herd into Colorado, where he began a ranch and cattle-relay station near Trinidad. In 1868, Goodnight returned to Fort Sumner, loaded Loving’s coffin into a wagon and brought him back to Texas for burial—in Weatherford’s Old City Greenwood Cemetery. Haley called this bit of legend “the strangest, and most touching funeral cavalcade in the history of the cow country.”



In June 1868, Oliver Loving and “One Arm” Bill Wilson knew the dangers when they rode ahead of the Goodnight-Loving crew along the Pecos River in June 1868. Out in the open, riding by day against the advice of Goodnight, they were caught near a bluff of the Pecos River and lost their horses. Loving was fatally wounded during the attack.

The establishment of the Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation for Navajo and Mescalero Indian tribes adjacent to Fort Sumner, New Mexico Territory, in 1863 created a need for beef to feed the tribes and the soldiers. This led John Chisum, Oliver Loving and Charles Goodnight to establish a cattle trail to Fort Sumner.

Bose Ikard, who died in 1929 at age 85, is buried nearby, complete with Goodnight’s praise: “Served with me four years on the Goodnight-Loving Trail, never shirked a duty or disobeyed an order, rode with me in many stampedes, participated in three engagements with Comanches. Splendid behavior.”

### North to Wyoming

Later in 1868, Goodnight contracted with Iliff to drive cattle to the Union Pacific Railroad in Cheyenne, Wyoming, extending the Goodnight-Loving Trail again: to Pueblo, east of Denver to the South Platte River, past Greeley and then along Crow Creek to Cheyenne. To save the expenses of Uncle Dick Wootton’s toll road and avoid rugged Raton Pass, Goodnight later moved the trail through Trinchera Pass, not far from Capulin, New Mexico.

But Goodnight and Loving (and Chisum) weren’t the only cattlemen



In 1884, Charles Goodnight settled down with his wife, Mary Ann “Molly” Dyer Goodnight, in the home he built for her in Armstrong County. Molly died in 1926, and Charles continued to live in the house until he died in 1929. Today, the cattle baron’s home has been restored as the Charles Goodnight Historical Center and J. Evetts Haley Jr. Visitor Center.

who would follow their trail. “By 1870,” Haley wrote, “the trade along the Goodnight and Loving Trail was well established, and the amount of money handled by its Western bankers was noted as enormous.”

In 1885, Kansas closed its borders to Texas cattle drives, and with ranges in Colorado and points north needing cattle, the trail became a popular route through Texas and New Mexico.

Popular with Texans anyway. Not necessarily non-Texans.

“The Northern New Mexico association have pledged themselves to see that no cattle are trailed from Texas northward west of the old Goodnight trail,” the *Galveston Daily News* reported July 24, 1886, “and will institute trespass proceedings against all herds found on the range of any of its members after today.”

Not that it mattered.

“The Big Die-Up”—that tragic winter of 1886-87—killed hundreds of thousands of cattle, especially on the northern ranges. After that, lower railroad



Lonesome Dove Image Courtesy  
CBS Television/Book Cover Courtesy  
Scribner’s

## Lonesome Dove: Larry McMurtry’s American Masterpiece

In 1985, Texas author Larry McMurtry published his 11th novel and 12th book, *Lonesome Dove*. Nearly four decades later, the Pulitzer Prize-winning best-seller is considered one of the greatest and most popular American novels of all time. What many may not remember is that it was also a major turning point in McMurtry’s life and writing career. Up to that year, the Archer City, Texas, native was best known as a novelist of the 20th-century West. Like his Western peers Max Evans, Jim Harrison, Ivan Doig, Thomas McGuane and J.P.S. Browne, he mined his own experiences and life to write about the West he knew and loved.

He had also found fame as a screenwriter and competed for national headlines in Hollywood and New York with contemporaries Tom Wolfe, Pat Conroy and Ken Kesey. He had transcended the label Western writer—until he wrote *Lonesome Dove*—his first 19th-century Western novel. And while an 843-page novel cannot be considered a whim, McMurtry himself never considered it as great an American novel as it is. He was even quoted as saying it was “the *Gone With the Wind* of the West, which is good and bad.” I would challenge McMurtry’s modesty and suggest that in the pantheon of American literature, *Lonesome Dove* should be side-by-side with James Fennimore Cooper’s *The Last of the Mohicans*, Mark Twain’s *Huckleberry Finn*, Willa Cather’s *O Pioneers!*, Edna Ferber’s *Cimarron*, John Steinbeck’s *Grapes of Wrath*, Wallace Stegner’s *Angle of Repose* and—of course—Margaret Mitchell’s *Gone With the Wind!*

—Stuart Rosebrook



shipping rates and more efficient range management took over.

Long cattle drives and trails like the Goodnight-Loving, Goodnight, Chisum, or whatever you want to call it, became a part of Western legend and history.

**Johnny D. Boggs’s** trail-drive novels include *A Thousand Texas Longhorns* and *Return to Red River*. *Longhorns East* and *Bloody Newton* are due out this fall from Kensington.



Charles Goodnight first drove cattle north on an extension of the Goodnight-Loving Trail across Colorado to Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1868. For the next two decades, cattle drives north to Wyoming expanded ranching across the Cowboy State until the “Big Die-Up” of 1886-87.

Courtesy Library of Congress

# ROWDY COWBOYS, OUTLAWS, AND A BLOOD FEUD

L.R. Millican's life in Lampasas, Texas,  
was both lucky and legendary.



L.R. Millican became a cowboy and then a young deputy sheriff when he lived in Lampasas, Texas. Circa 1877.

COURTESY JEAN DREISS

Lampasas, for a time, was on the edge of a lively frontier in Texas, and much blood spilled as that border exhaled dust and stampeded westward. Rowdy cowboys, outlaws and others shooting up saloons was commonplace on the frontier. Lawlessness, always ready to engage, leveled its Winchesters and six-shooters at the innocent, guilty and unwitting. Gun smoke lifted, and the targeted lay wounded or dead.

Leander Randon "L. R." Millican lived in Lampasas as a teenager and young adult, having been born in Millican, Texas, August 27, 1853. When he became the youngest deputy sheriff in Lampasas in September 1872, he had already earned a reputation for being even-tempered, responsible and fearless. "He had a strange power over bad men. They seemed to wince and cower under the steady gaze of his unflinching gray eyes. He was afraid of no man in the flesh," family friend Buren Sparks once observed.

Life's circumstances shaped Millican. During the catastrophic Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1867 in East Texas, Millican's family had fled Millican, a town established by their ancestors, and headed to Lampasas to escape death. J. W.

Weaver, Millican's stepfather, who died en route, was buried along the way. Millican's mother, Marcella, succumbed on December 16 after reaching Lampasas, where her sister Amanda Nichols lived. Nichols and her husband, Lorenzo D., then helped raise L.R., age 14, and his younger brothers, Marcellus and Wilbur.

Millican sought employment as a teenager. He delivered mail as an outpost express rider, warily watching for Comanches on the route between Lampasas and Austin, and then worked as a young cowboy on John Sparks's ranch in Lampasas County.

While Millican earned a living, William Lewis "Lou" Shroyer of Lampasas County did the same. In 1870 Shroyer was a local 26-year-old stock-raiser, the U.S. Federal Census indicated. His wife was named Mary. By October 1873, the young family had two sons, and by 1876, Shroyer was a wanted outlaw. Millican and Shroyer crossed paths in Lampasas.

## A Christmas to Remember

When December 1871 galloped into Lampasas County, the residents celebrated the holiday season. Celebratory events brought much more than the usual "good tidings of great joy." This became the Christmas to remember. "The festivities began Christmas Eve with whisky drinking and firing of six-shooters and Winchesters on the streets, and the popping of firecrackers by the kids. All night long and the next two days and nights was this racket kept up," the *Lampasas Leader* reported in a retrospective on December 30, 1898. Weaver Saloon, the "center of attraction" became "riddled with bullets" during the hijinks, but surprisingly nobody was harmed, the *Leader* said. Tillman "Till" Weaver, the owner of the saloon, was Millican's step-uncle.

Millican prevented misdeeds from escalating during the 1871 Christmas Eve program held upstairs in a two-story two-room rock structure. Millican escorted his cousin Albina Nichols and Vic Bradford, a Nichols boarder, to the yuletide event. Festivities included music, conversation, flickering candles and neatly wrapped gifts.

Drunken Ben Horrell, probably a likable young man but possibly amused by the absurdities that freely imbibed alcohol rendered within his brain, was

A photo from a stereoview card depicts Third Street in the commercial district of Lampasas, Texas. The Billy Joe Saloon burned during August 1884.

COURTESY LAMPASAS COUNTY MUSEUM



primed for target practice, whether indoors or outside. The Christmas chairman began distributing gifts, and Horrell, wanting to shoot out candle flames, bellowed, "Throw the candles out the window!" The Horrell brothers could be wild and were fighters. Originally held in good standing in Lampasas, events, choices and the fight for survival possibly drove some of the brothers to lawlessness in subsequent years.

Millican quickly snuffed out two candles and escorted Nichols and Bradford to the stairway, quietly urging them and others to leave. Horrell loudly bawled more directives. Millican, using

a ploy involving the recognition of good manners, asked Horrell for assistance to keep the young men back so that older men, women and children could exit down the narrow stairs first. Seemingly eager to help, Horrell bounded over wooden benches, knocking them aside.

After the building had emptied, Horrell demanded target practice. Millican and Horrell now stood outside. Millican threw a candle into the air, and Horrell expertly killed it, its brief life extinguished. The immediate danger dissipated after Horrell shot another candle.

The 1871 holiday events continued merrily. Shroyer, highly spirited on Christmas Day, waved a six-shooter and rode his horse into a saloon. The revelers drenched the horse in alcohol, the *Leader* said. More misdeeds occurred. A man named John West rode his horse into Dr. W. A. Frazier's drugstore. On Christmas night the building serving as the courthouse inexplicably burned down on the north side of the business square. The county's early legal records went in smoke.



## A Youthful Lawman

The ensuing months brought changes. On September 9, 1872, 19-year-old Millican received his formal emancipation papers in Lampasas from Judge E. B. Turner, who had removed the youth's status as a minor. Justice of the Peace Thomas Pratt soon commissioned Millican as a deputy sheriff.

Sometime prior to Millican's commission, Shroyer was in town for a friend's trial. A crowd gathered, expecting trouble. Reports of the event and words exchanged during the confrontation surfaced later.

Sheriff Shadrack (Shadrack) T. Denson asked if anyone would accompany him to disarm Shroyer. No one volunteered, but finally a tall young man said, "I'll go." Millican stepped forward without a gun but would use something more effective—carefully selected words, calm demeanor and a level gray gaze.

Denson approached Shroyer and asked for his gun, explaining that trouble was developing, and no one

except a law official was to wear a gun in town.

"Well, I don't know whether I will give up my gun or not," Shroyer said.

Millican then pointed to the gathered men and quietly explained to Shroyer that they were ready for trouble if it arose, although nobody wanted it. "Now you can, if you will, do more to help us than anybody in town. All you have to do is lay aside your guns, get your crowd together, keep it away from whisky, to keep things peaceable. Otherwise, nobody can reckon the consequences," Millican said.

Shroyer eyed Millican and Denson.

"All right, boys. I'll keep my boys from making a fuss," Shroyer finally conceded. "We will stroll over, and I will leave my guns with old Uncle Till." He kept his word, handing his guns to Weaver in the saloon.

As a nod to the pervading lawlessness and ruthlessness on the Texas frontier, consider Shroyer's premature death. Wild Bill Longley, Texas outlaw, befriended, shot and killed Shroyer in

"In 1882 Waco architect W. C. Dodson designed a courthouse and jail for Lampasas. Dodson designed courthouses for at least five Texas counties. The native limestone structure would house all county offices in one building for the first time and was finished in 1883. This photograph shows workers excavating for the foundation in 1882," a Lampasas County Museum representative said.

COURTESY LAMPASAS COUNTY MUSEUM

Dry Frio Canyon, Uvalde County, January 10, 1876. Why? A bounty had existed on Shroyer.

## The Horrell Brothers

Millican's life became entwined with some of the Horrell brothers: Ben, Mart, Merritt, Sam and Tom. Although they appeared to respect Millican, on one occasion one or more of them pilfered his horses. Millican, alone, a pistol in his pocket, sought the Horrells and took back his horses. Millican was part of a



Teenage Georgia Katherine Saunders, around age 14, married L.R. Millican 11 years later in 1878. Photo circa 1869.

COURTESY MILLICAN FAMILY DESCENDANTS



posse that searched for the Horrells and others following a series of March 14, 1873, shootings in Jerry Scott's Lampasas Saloon that resulted in the deaths of four state police officers. Authorities eventually captured and arrested Mart Horrell, James Grizzell and Allen Whitcraft (Whitcraft) for their part in the officers' deaths. Additional fugitives remained elusive. On May 2 the Horrells and a group of men broke Mart and others out of jail in Georgetown, Texas.

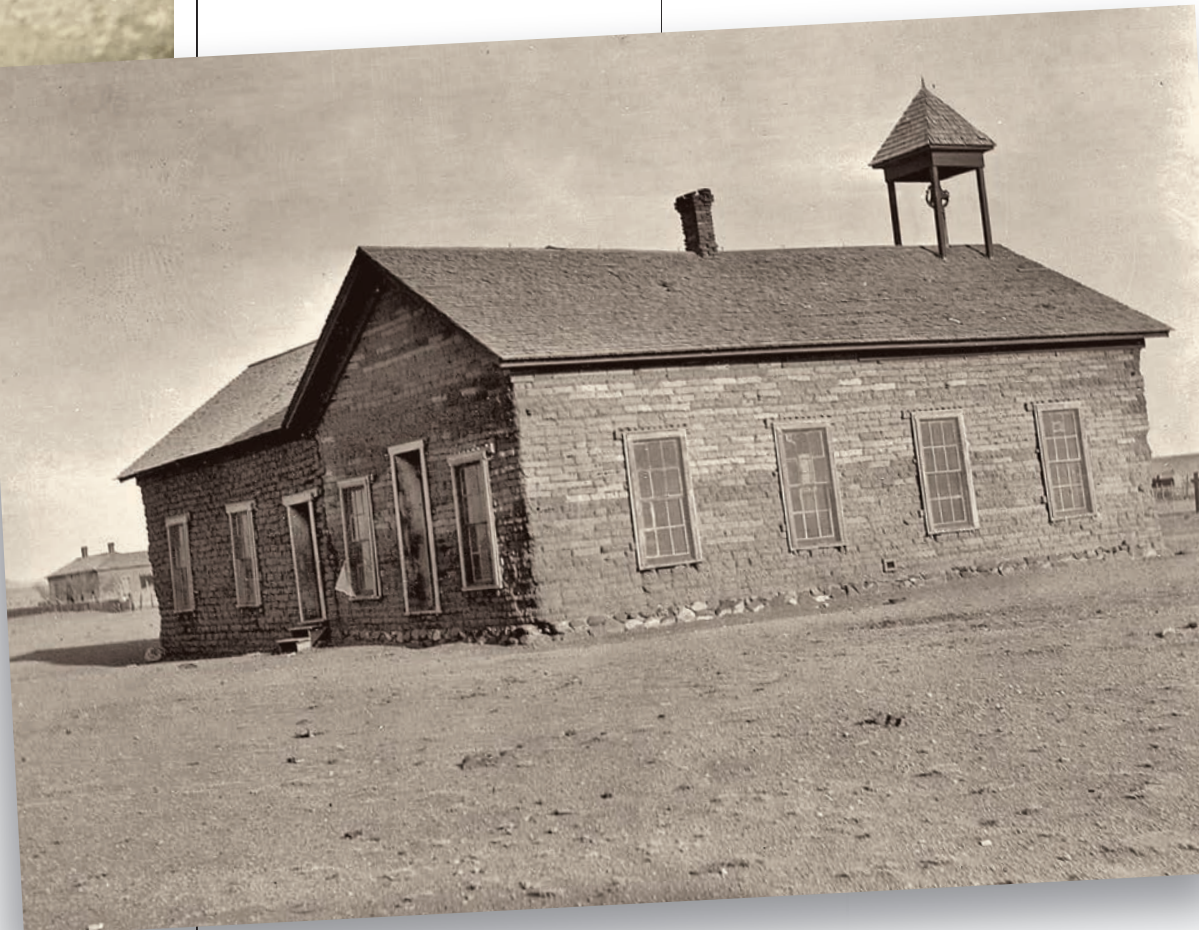
Some of the Horrells and their cattle started for Lincoln County, New Mexico Territory, later in 1873. Disagreements tied to a faulty land sale to the Horrells,

cattle sale proceeds, water rights and racial tensions developed there. Ben's drunken spree on December 1, 1873, in Lincoln resulted in his death, triggering the ill-fated Horrell Wars in Lincoln County. By February's end 1874, the beleaguered family had returned to Lampasas.

The year 1874 was pivotal for Millican. In August he was converted at an old-time Methodist Camp meeting, Cherokee Creek, San Saba County. On December 20 he adopted Baptist doctrines and was baptized the following day. He was licensed to preach the first Sunday in February 1875. The First Baptist Church of Lampasas ordained him in February

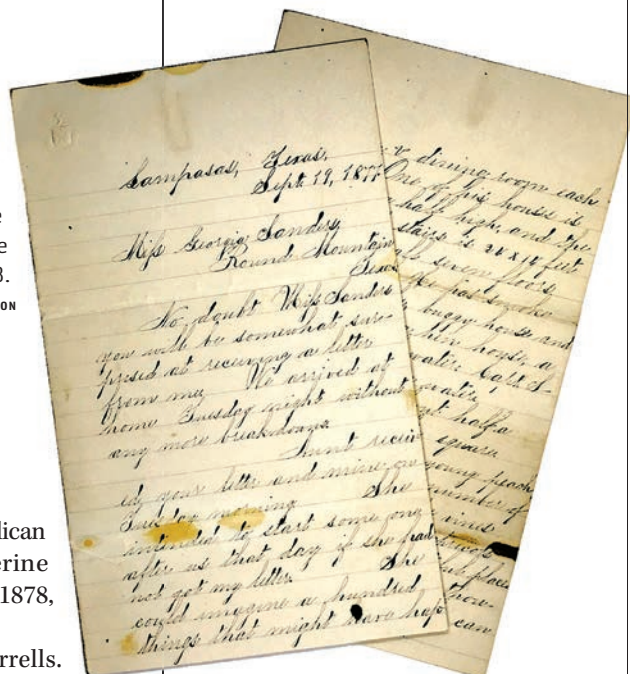
L.R. Millican officiated at the 1895 dedication ceremony for the First Baptist Church, Alpine, Texas. The small church was built from adobe brick.

COURTESY OF ARCHIVES OF THE BIG BEND, SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY, ALPINE, TEXAS



L.R. Millican wrote a courtship letter September 19, 1877, to Georgia Katherine Saunders, who became his wife in 1878.

COURTESY LAVERNE BENTON

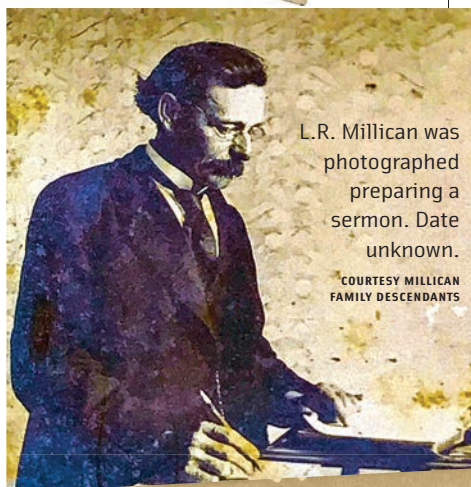


1878. Shortly thereafter, Millican married Georgia Katherine Saunders on February 12, 1878, in Blanco County.

Trouble dogged the Horrells. Cattle rustling charges arose more than once. On January 22, 1877, Pink Higgins sought Merritt Horrell in the Gem Saloon in Lampasas. "Mr. Horrell, this is to settle some cow business," Higgins said, fatally shooting him and igniting the lethal Horrell-Higgins blood feud.

## Lawman to Preacher

The Horrells turned to Millican, now a Baptist preacher. At the family's request, he officiated the burial service for Merritt. Millican counseled the remaining



L.R. Millican was photographed preparing a sermon. Date unknown.

COURTESY MILLICAN FAMILY DESCENDANTS

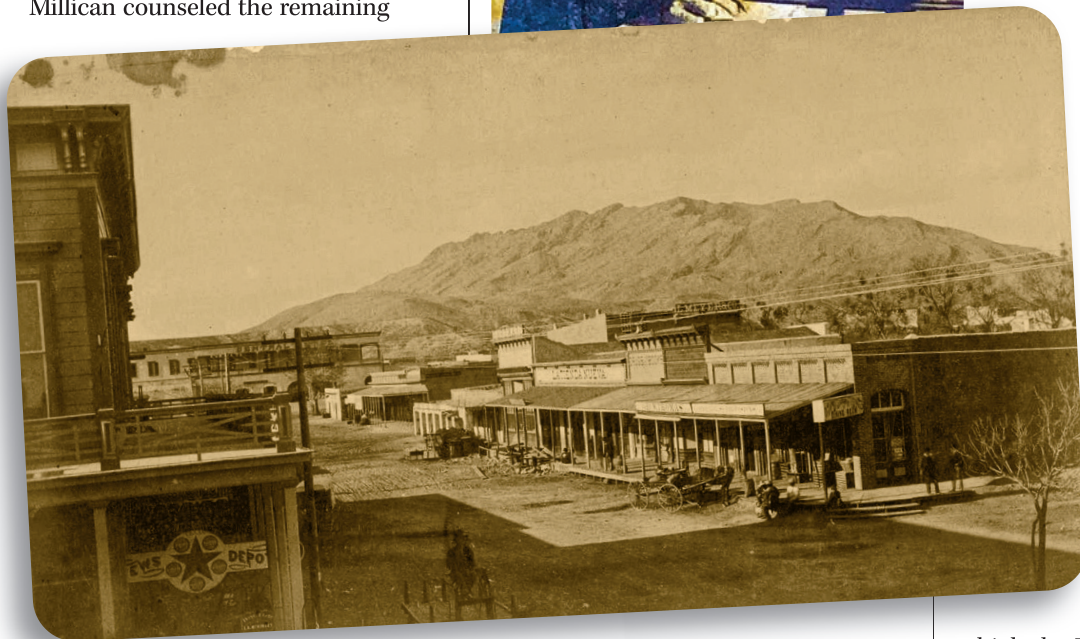


brothers afterward, suggesting they embrace religion. Although expressing a desire to do so, they felt their lives had reached a turning point, and a dark road lay ahead for them.

The Horrell-Higgins feud blazed throughout 1877, climaxing in a deadly shootout June 7 in Lampasas. Major John B. Jones, commander of the Frontier Battalion of Texas Rangers, and his men were dispatched to Lampasas to provide order. Jones served as the intermediary to effect a peace treaty in late July,

which the Horrells signed July 31 and the Higgins faction on August 2.

Lampasas held steady. Millican, his religious pamphlets and black frock flying, galloped his unruly horse



L.R. Millican eventually became an El Paso preacher. It appears tame here, but outlaws and prostitutes made their homes in this frontier town. Bandits hid out in the nearby rugged Franklin Mountains.

COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS LIBRARIES, THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY, CREDITING EL PASO PUBLIC LIBRARY

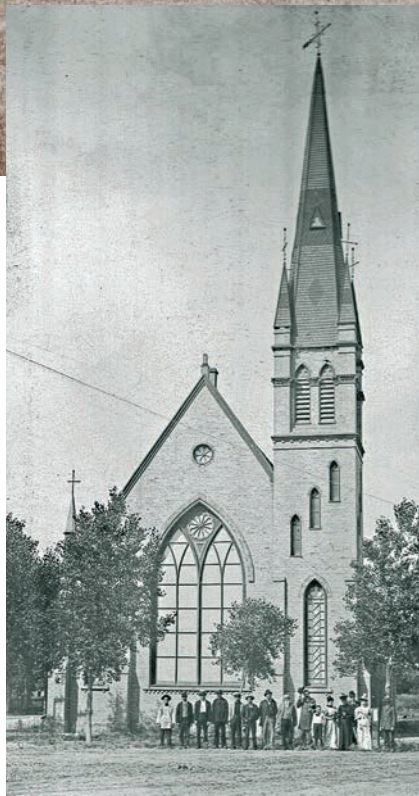


westward in the early 1880s. With a horizon plainly visible within his serene gray gaze, Millican, the “Cowboy Preacher,” increased his Western flock. He established or financially stabilized Baptist churches in the Texas Hill Country, West Texas and New Mexico. Ironically, preaching in a Pecos, Texas, saloon in later years, Millican converted a young man named James Samuel Horrell, son of John W. and Sarah of Lampasas.

Millican’s human life ended April 18, 1938. The Horrells were part of his history and that of Lampasas.



**Kenyon Bennett** researches in Texas and writes about Old West history. Her current long-term projects focus on cattle drives and a circuit-riding preacher from Lampasas County, Texas. She is the features coordinator and journalist for *The Democrat Tribune* and *The Dodgeville Chronicle* in southwestern Wisconsin.



Tall L.R. Millican, seventh from right, tipped his hat at the Chinese Mission in El Paso, Texas. Circa 1905-1906.

COURTESY PHYLLIS POEHLMANN

A Lampasas County Museum description reads: “Built in 1883 by a group of Houston and Galveston businessmen that included George and John Sealy, the elegant Park Hotel was situated on 200 acres of land that included Hancock Springs. Sporting a footprint about the size of a football field, the Park Hotel was said to have been one of the largest wood-frame hotels in the country. Equipped with electric bells in each of its 200 guest rooms, the luxury hotel also featured richly furnished parlors; music, reading and writing rooms; a billiard room with four tables; and a grand dining room. Its staff included an English manager, a liveried orchestra and French chefs. The hotel burned to the ground one icy night in February 1895.”

COURTESY LAMPASAS COUNTY MUSEUM

# VAQUEROS, BUCKAROOS and COWBOYS

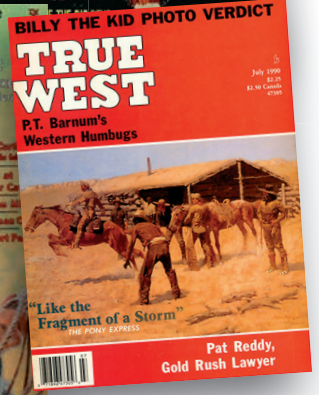
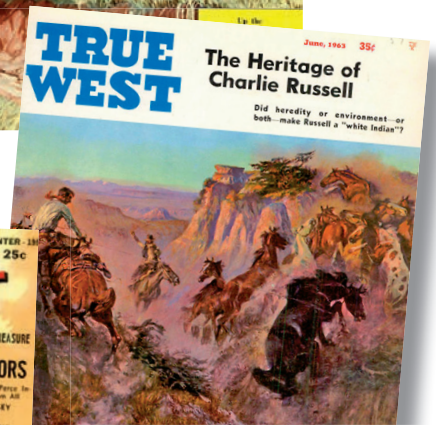
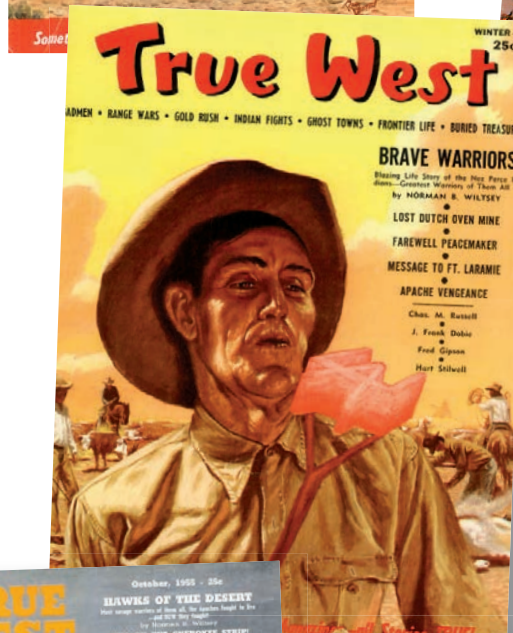


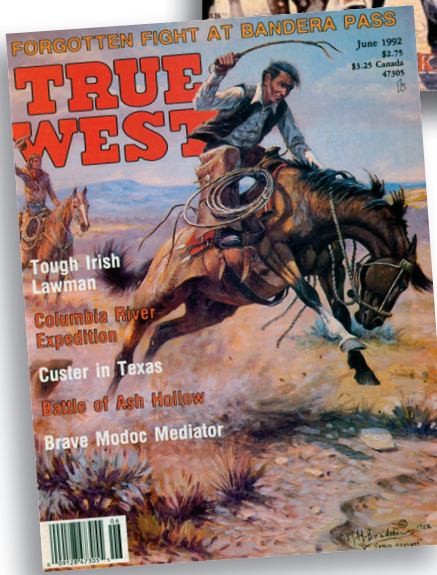
For 70 years, *True West* magazine's editors and contributors have been among the greatest chroniclers of the American cowboy.

*True West's* founding publisher Joe Small was a Texan, and there isn't anything more Texan than a cowboy. From our first issue in the summer of 1953, which featured an illustration of a cowboy on the cover (right, top left), to the present day, we have published hundreds of articles on the iconic knight of the West, the humble working cowboy—from his origin as a Spanish vaquero to the modern cowhand. Few history publications have published as many articles and historical photographs about the history of the iconic Old West waddie as *True West* has.

In honor of our 70th year, we have created a photo essay of our covers that looks back on our coverage of the cowboy from trail drives to movies, from ranching to literature, themes which we have explored in the main features of this issue on Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving, Larry McMurry's *Lonesome Dove* and American icon and Western star Robert Duvall.

Happy trails!





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# CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

## TAPPED OUT!

### TAP DUNCAN VS BILL HAYES

“YOU CAN HAVE IDAHO,  
BUT YOU S.O.B.S  
BETTER NOT FOLLOW  
ME TO ARIZONA.”



“If you monkeyed with Tap  
Duncan, you were monkeying  
with a rattlesnake!”

—Choc Hamilton

Courtesy Tap Lou Duncan Weir

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of Mary Hall-Bailey  
and Tap Lou Duncan Weir

OCTOBER 15, 1894



Tap Duncan paused inside a corral made of Joshua tree trunks at Patterson Well on his Diamond Bar Ranch in northern Mohave County, Arizona. His full name was George Taplin (not Taplan, as it has been erroneously reported) Duncan.

Courtesy Tap Lou Duncan Weir



A political rally is being held in Tucker's Saloon in Bruneau, Idaho. After the speeches have finished, words are exchanged between two well-known local cowboys, Taplin Duncan and William Hayes. The two decide to go outside to settle their differences.

As Duncan walks through the swinging doors, he hears a pistol being cocked behind him. Realizing he is about to be shot in the back, Duncan pulls his pistol

and turns, shooting three times. Hayes gets off three shots himself. Duncan, described by a newspaper as an expert shot, fires three more times, hitting Hayes all three times near the heart.

Hayes fires three times as well, hitting Duncan in the belt buckle, which slows the bullet as it goes under the skin and slides around to lodge in his back.

Duncan, wounded in the gut, escapes, while Hayes attempts to run toward a door about 10 feet away, only to fall dead on the doorway step. ★



Tap Duncan always maintained he fought three adversaries during the gunfight in which he killed Hayes (the inquest only names Hayes). In the 1930s Duncan told a Mohave County cowboy, Choc Hamilton, how he got away: “I ran back into the bar, prying spent shells out of my gun. The bartender told everyone my gun was loaded and I'd shoot. I escaped out the back by wading through a canal and hiding under a tarp in the back of a wagon driven by a friend!”

All illustrations by Bob Boze Bell

## Aftermath: Odds & Ends

A hearing was held at Tap Duncan's bedside on October 22. The court was "led to believe that William Hayes called the defendant out with the intention of killing him and that the defendant did the killing in self defense and therefore the court ordered the defendant discharged," Justice of the Peace William C. Schenck recorded in his ledger.



According to Duncan family lore, the dead man's son was being groomed to avenge his father's death. Duncan didn't want to kill a mere boy, so he went to the family and told them he was leaving the state, saying as he left: "You can have Idaho, but you S.O.B.s better not follow me to Arizona."



Duncan purchased a new wagon to transport him and his wife, loaded their goods and herded a string of saddle horses toward Arizona. (According to Hayes family lore, Duncan stole the horses.) After stopping in Wells, Nevada, to fix the wagon, the Duncan wagon train crossed the Colorado River at Bonelli's Landing and headed into Arizona's Mohave County. Duncan often told the story that as the wagon train came through the towns of White Hills and Chloride, one of the cowboys would ride wide around the towns and meet the wagon on the other side. His name was Tom Ketchum.



Duncan acquired a reputation as a promoter (he cut a deal to have Buster Keaton film five shorts on his ranch in 1925). Over the years, he received many visitors, including legendary writer Louis L'Amour, who claimed Tap Duncan taught him everything he knew about "cowboying"



Duncan was run over by a car just off Route 66 in Kingman and died in 1944.

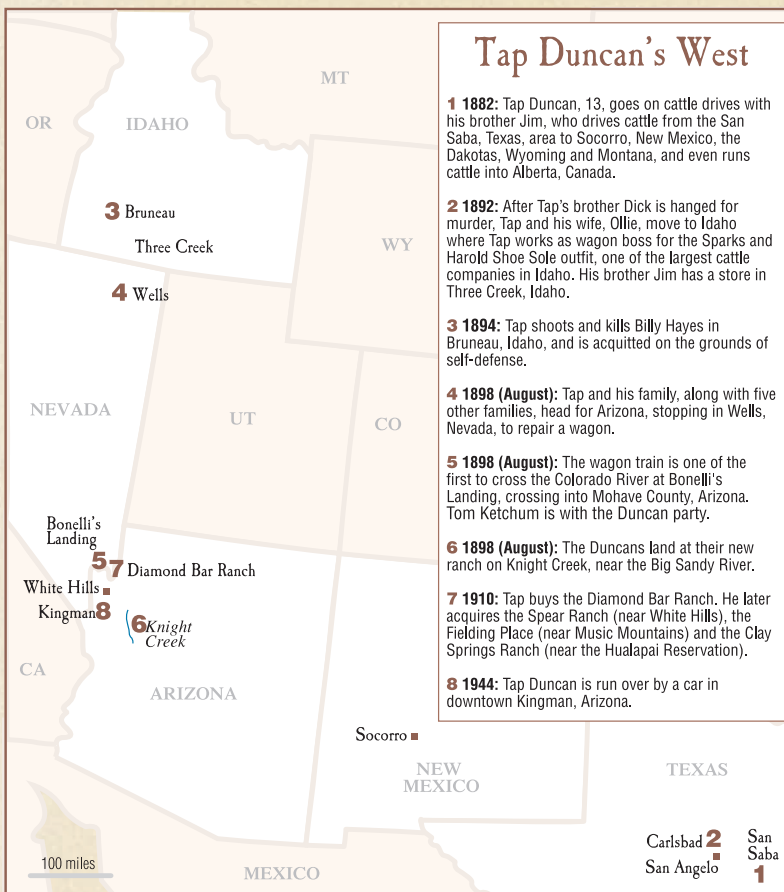


Recommended: *Bruneau Then and Now: A History of Bruneau, Idaho, 1811-2010* by Mary Hall-Bailey, published by Caxton Printers.



Tucker's Saloon in Bruneau, Idaho, as it appeared in 1900. The gunfight erupted just outside the door at center left. Bill Hayes (inset) was buried in the local cemetery, and his kin still live in the area. Although to them Tap Duncan is the bad guy, the news reported that Hayes was a "bad man."

Photo Courtesy Mary Hall-Bailey



Tap Duncan has often been mentioned in connection to the Kid Curry shootout and suicide in 1904. Duncan was friends with the Ketchums (Tap's brother Bige married Tom "Black Jack" Ketchum's sister Nancy, and Kid Curry apparently used Tap Duncan as an alias. Tap is also mentioned in newspaper reports from Clayton, New Mexico, as rumors were rampant that a gang of cowboys led by Tap was planning to free Black Jack Ketchum before he could be hanged. No gang materialized, but it is interesting that the newspapers mentioned Tap.

**Editor's Note:** *True West's* Western film and TV editor Henry C. Parke has been a regular columnist and contributor to the magazine since 2015. If you'd like to read more of Henry's columns and features, like "The Godfather of Westerns" from the April 2016 issue, please go to [TrueWestMagazine.com](http://TrueWestMagazine.com) and subscribe for full access to 70 years' worth of exciting issues of *True West*.

BY HENRY C. PARKE

# THE GODFATHER OF WESTERNS

Robert Duvall talks about the iconic *Lonesome Dove*,  
on the cusp of a special cast reunion.



With seven Emmys won, *Lonesome Dove* is unquestionably television's most respected Western achievement. The roles were so good, the nominations of Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones as Best Actor, and Diane Lane and Anjelica Huston as Best Actress, may have split the vote and cancelled each other out.

The miniseries had such a profound effect on the filmmakers and actors that many careers are now seen as pre-*Lonesome Dove* and post-*Lonesome Dove*. Jones had been a respected film and TV actor for nearly two decades, but *Lonesome Dove* made him a star. Lane's performance solidified her transition to adult roles, as was true for Ricky Schroder, who went from teen heartthrob to leading man. With his Emmy win, Simon Wincer went from being an obscure director of Aussie TV episodes to perhaps the most in-demand Westerns director since John Ford.

Duvall, on the other hand, was already a star. Famous for his portrayal of Tom Hagen, the adopted son of Don Corleone, in 1972's *The Godfather* and 1974's *The Godfather: Part II*, Duvall had been nominated for Oscars in *The Godfather*, 1979's *Apocalypse Now* and *The Great Santini*, and won the statue for 1983's *Tender Mercies*. Millions of schoolkids knew him—and generations of them still do—as Boo Radley in 1962's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He had hardly stepped before a TV camera in 20 years, but he knew this would be no ordinary miniseries. "In fact," he says, "on *Lonesome Dove*, I walked into the dressing room and said, 'Boys, we're making the *Godfather* of Westerns.'"

He spoke to *True West* from his home in Virginia on January 5th [2016], his 85th birthday.

**True West:** Do you still feel that Gus McCrea in *Lonesome Dove* was the best role you ever had?

**Robert Duvall:** Probably. There are other parts I liked. I played a Cuban barber [in 1993's *Wrestling Ernest Hemingway*], with Richard Harris, which was one of my favorite parts. Man, I worked on that accent. Another one of my performances I liked was when I played Stalin [1992's *Stalin*]. I try to do different things.

But I would say *Lonesome Dove* was like my *Hamlet* or my *Henry V*, so to

Up until 1989, the world thought of Robert Duvall as Tom Hagen from *The Godfather*. Generations of schoolchildren first met him as Boo Radley in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. That all changed with *Lonesome Dove*.

All *Lonesome Dove* images courtesy Wittliff Collections, Texas State University, unless otherwise noted



Larry McMurtry originally intended for John Wayne to play Woodrow Call, James Stewart to play Gus McCrae and Henry Fonda to play Jake Spoon. Ten years later, he got a vastly different cast, one that uplifted his project into what many consider to be the greatest miniseries of all time. The cowboys of *Lonesome Dove* left to right: Robert Urich (back to the camera), Timothy Scott, Tommy Lee Jones, D.B. Sweeney, Robert Duvall, Danny Glover and Ricky Schroeder.

I don't know why they waited so long, but they're going to finally do it in Fort Worth, in the beginning of April.

Will Danny Glover be there? I didn't see his name. Way back, I wanted Morgan Freeman for that part, but he wasn't well known that far back.

*What were the other actors like to work with?*

Diane Lane was fine; wonderful to work with. And Ricky Schroder. It's interesting, because her husband, I think they're divorced now, Josh Brolin, was up for the part [of Newt], but he was a week late, because Ricky Schroder got it a week prior.

Originally we wanted Freddy Forrest for [Robert Urich's role], but then Freddy ended up playing Blue Duck. Robert was very nice to work with.

Anjelica Huston was great to work with. And she'd grown up riding horseback, riding on hunts with her father in Ireland.

*Did you have any doubts about a non-American director for your Western?*

No, Simon Wincer had done stuff. He came in well-prepared, and we went to work. And Dougie Milsom—the cinematographer—was terrific: he'd done *Full Metal Jacket*.

We had 16 weeks to work, and it was nice; it was concentrated. First 10 days around Austin. Then down around Del Rio, Texas, near the border. Then up to New Mexico. Then up to Angel Fire Mountains farther up in New Mexico, to suffice for Montana's Rockies, because we couldn't afford to go there.

speak. When it was over, I felt like I could retire; I felt I'd done something fully and completely. He was a very complex guy. He said, we killed off all the people that were interesting. That was years ago, but it was a fine character to be able to play.

*How much are you like Gus McCrae?*

McMurtry still thinks we [Tommy Lee Jones and I] should have switched parts, and I totally disagree with the guy.

Way back, my second wife—and I thank her eternally for this—said, 'I read a book I like better, maybe, than Dostoyevsky's. *Lonesome Dove*.' She said, 'They're going to offer you the other part, but you have to play Augustus McCrae, because it's the most like you.'

You always try to find in yourself what the character calls for. They had offered the part to James Garner. I said to my agent, 'If you can get him to change parts, I'll do it.'

He called back four hours later, said Garner's got a bad back. He can't go horseback for 16 weeks. I said, 'Now go after that part.'

It was so well-written, the adaptation by [William] Wittliff. It was something that just drew me along. I was riding a lot of horses then, so I was very comfortable; I felt ready when we went. I had a little leverage; I wish I'd had more.

They asked, 'Who do you want for Call?' I said, 'Tommy Lee Jones.'

We had a true Comanche Indian to play Blue Duck, but they wouldn't go

for that. We went to [Jones's] ranch in San Saba; we herded cattle, riding Argentine polo saddles. He was a very open guy.

*I'm told you designed the Gus McCrae hat.*

They insisted, some of the powers that be, that I wear a Mexican sombrero to play Gus. I said, 'I will not play the part if that's the case.'

I had to go to the producers. I showed them pictures of Texas Rangers on the border, and they all wore the kind of hats I wore in the movie. I said, 'Let me pick my own hat,' which, finally, they allowed.

*How did starring in Lonesome Dove affect your career?*

It's a lot like when I got an Oscar [1983's *Tender Mercies*]; a lot more recognition in airports. Wherever I go, people refer to that.

When I was made an honorary Texas Ranger, a woman came up to me. 'Mr. Duvall, we watch this once a year. I wouldn't let my daughter's fiancé marry into the family until he'd seen *Lonesome Dove*.'

In other places I go, too, but especially in Texas. It's kind of a landmark for people.

*There are several events coming up celebrating roughly the 25th anniversary of Lonesome Dove.*

Finally! Finally! It's more like the 28th or 29th anniversary!



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Diane Lane earned critical acclaim and an Emmy nomination for her role as the prostitute with a heart of gold, Lorena Wood, who works out of the Dry Bean saloon. Even after she got her ticket out of town, Gus McCrae remained her protector and defender.

I was fortunate to be in, what I think I'm correct in saying, the two biggest film epics of the 20th century: *The Godfather I and II*, and *Lonesome Dove*.

*Earlier in your career, you played villain Ned Pepper in True Grit, working with two legends, Director Henry Hathaway and John Wayne.*

Henry Hathaway—we won't talk about him. But we'll talk about John Wayne, definitely. He was a wonderful man. Good actor, good guy. So good in *The Shootist* at the end of his career.

Back to Hathaway. I don't want to badmouth him, but he's the guy who said, 'When I say action, tense up,

Goddamnit!' There's a difference between intensity and tenseness. I didn't enjoy working with him, and I didn't think he treated Kim Darby so well.

*You played Jesse James in The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid.*

Right. I said, 'Let's get Gene Hackman to play my brother, Frank.' They said he wasn't well known enough back then. Now he's retired. Retired! Jesus, it's funny.

*How does playing villains compare with heroes?*

You try to find the human being in yourself that will parallel what the

script calls for. I call it the journey from ink to behavior; you find the behavior that the character calls for.

I always try to find the contradictions. Even when I played Stalin, I tried to find the contradictions, some kind of vulnerability in the guy, whoever it is. I could find it with Gus McCrea because he was a romantic anyway.

*What does the American West mean to you?*

It's an elusive thing. Like when you go to England or wherever, they want to know about the West. That thing of pushing forward; pushing outward. The frontier.

*What's your next project?*

I'm trying to get two Elmer Kelton things that have fallen through. Can't get 'em done—Netflix or anybody.

You know, they can be Westerns, but you have to find the human thing in them, aside from horses and hats and spurs and Indian fighting. You have to find the humanness in the characters. For good and for bad, I think the Western kind of defines us. The English have Shakespeare; the French, Moliere; the Russians have Chekov. But the Western is ours, from Canada down.



**Henry C. Parke**, Western Film and TV Editor for *True West*, is a screenwriter, and blogs for the INSP Channel, and at [HenrysWesternRoundup.blogspot.com](http://HenrysWesternRoundup.blogspot.com). A book based on his *True West* columns, *The Greatest Westerns Ever Made*, will be published by TwoDot in spring 2024.

## TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

For the first time ever, every issue of *True West* magazine is now online, including Henry C. Parke's original article as it appeared in the April 2016 issue. To learn more about how you can read all of Parke's articles and subscribe to *True West* Archives, go to [TrueWestMagazine.com](http://TrueWestMagazine.com).

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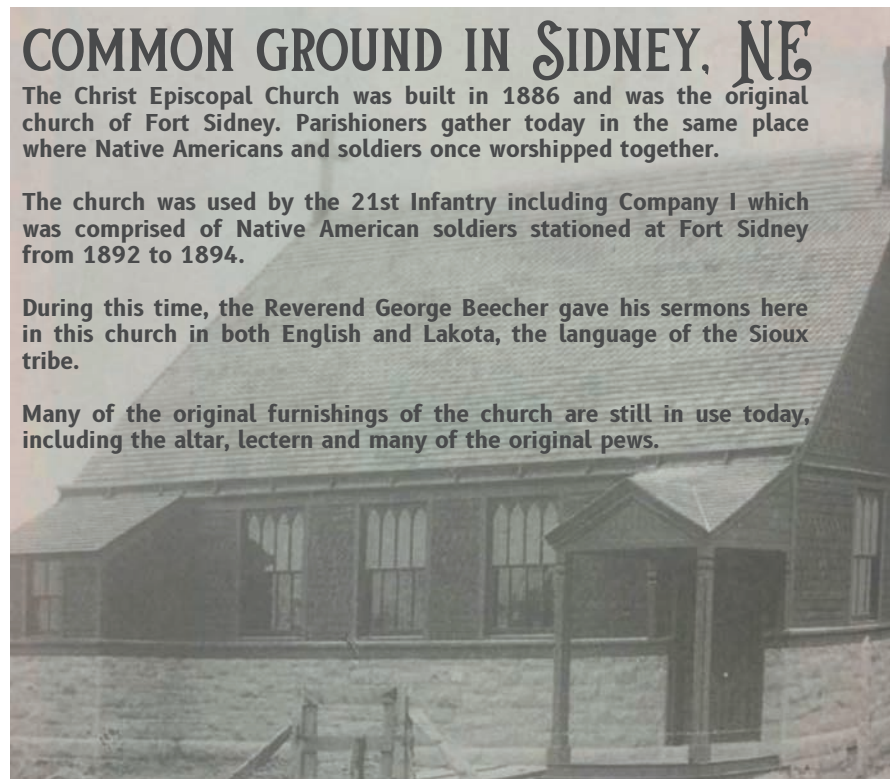
## COMMON GROUND IN SIDNEY, NE

The Christ Episcopal Church was built in 1886 and was the original church of Fort Sidney. Parishioners gather today in the same place where Native Americans and soldiers once worshipped together.

The church was used by the 21st Infantry including Company I which was comprised of Native American soldiers stationed at Fort Sidney from 1892 to 1894.

During this time, the Reverend George Beecher gave his sermons here in this church in both English and Lakota, the language of the Sioux tribe.

Many of the original furnishings of the church are still in use today, including the altar, lectern and many of the original pews.



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BY SHERRY MONAHAN

## You Can Never Just Have One

*Corn bread and biscuits were staples of Southern cuisine in Arkansas.*



As seen on Yellowstone

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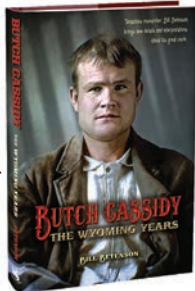
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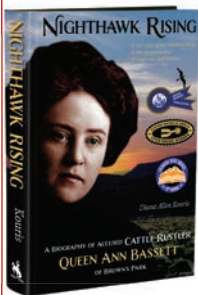
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### BUTCH CASSIDY THE WYOMING YEARS

Author Bill Betenson is Butch Cassidy's great nephew. Betenson has traveled all over the West and Argentina to track down old accounts, descendants of Butch's cohorts, records from dusty courthouses, and seldom seen photographs. Now he turns his considerable mastery to Butch's Wyoming days, perhaps the most engrossing period of a captivating life.



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Corn bread, whether made with cornmeal or combined with flour and a reliable baking powder or yeast powder, has been a simple and inexpensive staple of Arkansas cooking for well over 150 years.

Historic photo by Arthur Rothstein, 1935, Courtesy NYPL Digital Collection; Trademark Labels Courtesy Library of Congress

**B**iscuits and cornbread were staples in Arkansas homes, restaurants and hotels. Early biscuit recipes called for cream of tartar or saleratus (baking soda) until baking powder came along in the 1850s. Adulteration of all three of those products became a problem, and companies like the Royal Baking Powder proudly advertised theirs was not. Biscuits and corn bread were frugal and fairly easy ways to fill empty bellies, and flour and cornmeal were readily available to Arkansas pioneers.

In 1860, the Des Arc newspaper reported that a man who lived "down East" lived so long on corn bread that his hair turned silk—like what grows on the grain. They also noted, "his toes are so full of corns that he expects to see them covered with husks the next year." Corn bread was typically made with cornmeal or a combination of cornmeal and flour and was leavened with baking soda or powder. But in 1877, Dooley's Yeast Powder suggested their product produced the most delicious and light biscuits, rolls, muffins, waffles and even

corn bread. It was available at general stores, as were cornmeal, flour and sugar.

In 1880, Reverend Mr. Wiley of Little Rock walked into the local tinner's shop to buy a coffee pot. After he made his purchase, he sat down on a bench used for cutting tin that had a long knife on it. He lifted the coattails of his frock to prevent wrinkles, but when he stood to leave, he pressed the treadle and sliced off his coattails. He believed the tinner cut them off and the devil made him do it. The tinner tried to explain, but the reverend swore out a warrant for the poor tinner. When they went to trial, the reverend explained his version of the story and then the tinner took his turn. The justice was amused and asked the good reverend what was in his coattail pockets. The reverend told him he had a bottle of whiskey and a pound of soda. The justice was surprised and told the reverend he wasn't supposed to have whiskey on him and that he must acknowledge that was "prima facie" evidence of his drinking. The reverend replied, "Well, I'll tell you.

I got the whiskey for communion purposes. It's all right to talk about wheat bread and wine, but if you want to please my congregation, you have to spread out corn bread and whiskey, and plenty of it." He lost his suit but vowed to take it to a higher court and would not be fooled by a machine put in operation by the devil.

In 1896, the W.W. Dickinson Hardware Company offered a "Dickinson Cooking Bee" biscuit baking competition to promote a new enamel range they were selling. The prime object was to show that the new Buck range was so easy to use that a child could operate it. The contest was open to girls ages of six to 14. They had 115 entries with the youngest being six-year-old Juliet Kettering. The girls took turns making their biscuits at Dickinson's and the paper reported, "One little girl brought a bottle of buttermilk along with her. She explained that buttermilk biscuits were the best, and she was afraid Mr. Dickinson would not have any buttermilk." The winner, Lou Ella Percival, received a toy version of the new Buck range with a complete set of nickel cooking utensils. As a bonus, all the contestants were included as members of the newly formed Buck Little Rock Cooking Club.

By the late 1890s, wheat and flour prices had risen, and a Little Rock newspaper wrote, "The high prices of wheat and flour are hard on the ordinary man, but it need not hurt anybody. Cornbread is palatable and nourishing and is reasonably cheap. Let's raise corn and eat cornbread."



### CORN BREAD

2 ¼ c. yellow cornmeal  
 2 ½ tsp. baking powder • ½ tsp. salt  
 2 tbsp. sugar or molasses • ¼ c. buttermilk  
 2 tbsp. sour cream • 2 eggs

Combine the dry ingredients in a large bowl and stir to blend. Combine milk, sour cream and eggs together. Add that to the dry ingredients and stir until blended. Pour into a hot, greased 8-inch cast-iron skillet or cake pan. Bake at 375° for 20-24 minutes or until done.



Recipe adapted from the *Fort Smith New Era*, December 1, 1869.

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

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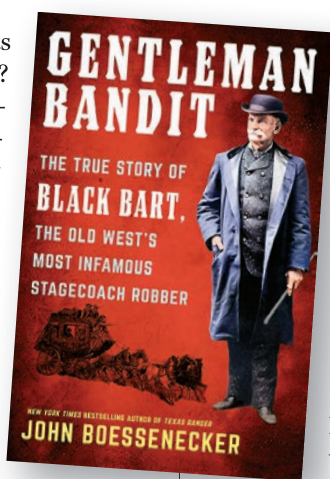
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## The Rascal Highwayman

John Boessenecker's new biography of Black Bart, plus three new history-travel books, a Southern Plains adventure and a collection of rip-roaring Western tales.

**W**ho really was Black Bart? Prolific, award-winning Western historian John Boessenecker seeks to answer this question with his outstanding research and literary style in *Gentleman Bandit: The True Story of Black Bart, the Old West's Most Infamous Stagecoach Robber* (Hanover Square Press, \$32.99).



Many of us only know the surface story of the most popular and overly dramatized Western heroes, heroines, lawmen, outlaws and soiled doves. Black Bart is one of those well-worn hero-villains whose life has been fictionalized from dime novels to B-movies, from TV Westerns to comic books.

The dandy, bowler-wearing highwayman who robbed the rich (Wells Fargo and wealthy stage travelers) but didn't kill because of his personal code of right and wrong was right out of the original ballads of Robin Hood. Ironic, too, as Charles Boles was born in England in 1829 before his family emigrated to upstate New York in 1830.

Charles "Black Bart" Boles was the perfect character for fictioneers of the Western myth—and still is. But the intrepid San Francisco historian has revealed in *Gentleman Bandit* the layers of the life of a complex man who carried many burdens before he turned to his most successful venture in life: professional highwayman. His days of

wanderlust before becoming America's greatest stagecoach robber were weighted by his memories of his brothers' early deaths in California, his failure as a father and farmer and the unseen wounds of war from his service in the Illinois Volunteers in the Civil War. This is truly the strength of Boessenecker's research and writing: we gain empathy and a deeper understanding of the real person behind the mythologized stage robber.

Like in his last book, *Wildcat: The Untold Story of Pearl Hart, the Wild West's Most Notorious Woman Bandit*, Boessenecker details in his "Acknowledgment" in *Gentleman Bandit* a good review of previously published works on his subject. He also provides details on the untapped archives and private resources he has accessed and discovered in his research. The result is pure literary gold: Boessenecker delivers the most in-depth and thought-provoking biography of the iconic and over-fictionalized Western character ever published. He has now set the standard on Black Bart research, which may never be equaled again. As a historian, I really appreciate Boessenecker's attention to detail, his well-annotated endnotes and his persistence in discovering the truth on a subject he started researching five decades ago—when he was just 19 years old.

—Stuart Rosebrook

## ROUGH DRAFTS



Photo by Johnny D. Boggs

Joseph M. Marshall III

**Lakota author Joseph M. Marshall III to receive Western Writers of America's Owen Wister Award**

Western Writers of America has announced that Oglala/Sicangu Lakota author, historical consultant and actor Joseph M. Marshall III is the 2023 Owen Wister Award honoree for lifetime contributions to Western literature.

The award is scheduled to be presented at the 2023 WWA convention in Rapid City, South Dakota, June 21-24, when the award-winning author will also be inducted into the Western Writers Hall of Fame, housed at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming.

Marshall, whose first language is Lakota, was born in 1945 and grew up on South Dakota's Rosebud Reservation. He is the author of *The Long Knives are Crying*, a novel about the Battle of the Little Bighorn that was a 2009 Spur Award finalist for Best Western Long Novel. His novel *Hundred in the Hand* (2007) told the story of the 1866 Fetterman battle.

His nonfiction titles include *The Journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History* and *The Day the World Ended at Little Bighorn: A Lakota History*, which was the 2008 PEN/Beyond Margins Award winner. But many of his books are about Lakota beliefs, customs and spirituality such as *The Lakota Way: Stories and Lessons for Living*, a finalist for the PEN Center USA West Award in 2002.

"After reading the list of past honorees for the Owen Wister Award, I am profoundly humbled and honored to be included," Marshall said. "I am extremely grateful for this recognition, and I will always treasure this moment in my life."

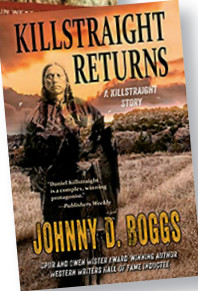
—Stuart Rosebrook

## The Curious and Amazing West

Renowned historian and author Mike Cox rounds out his “Finding the Wild West” series of books with two additional volumes from TwoDot (\$19.95): *The Mountain West* and *The Pacific West*.

Both offer Cox’s unique brand of engaging storytelling and reliable history packaged in fun-to-read and easily accessible books. *The Mountain West* explores Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana, while *The Pacific West* covers California, Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska. In these, Cox describes some well-known tales of Wild West history, but his strength as a researcher emerges when he uncovers truly fascinating and unknown stories relating to these states. For example, did you know that the fellow who helped found the Studebaker Company started out making wheelbarrows and wagons bound for the California goldfields? Neither did I. Wheelbarrow Johnny’s story and hundreds more just like it can be found in these two volumes and are a must for the traveler, writer or just plain curious.

—Erik Wright, assistant editor of  
The Tombstone Epitaph



## Adventure on the Southern Plains

*Killstraight Returns* (Five Star, \$25.95)

is a departure from Johnny D. Boggs’s usual fare. Demon-strating his chops as an author, he maintains a very high degree of tension unleashed finally in two incidents. A smallpox epidemic adds suspense and dread along with the possibility of a Comanche uprising or massacre of Indians. His protagonist is a Comanche tribal policeman who is treated as a human being, not as a caricature. Killstraight has become the

subject of a series of dime novels in which he is drawn much larger than life. As it turns out this is a plot by a would-be Buffalo Bill showman who wants the Comanche to star in his show. There are a number of interesting characters who seem destined to reappear, including antihero newsman Kyne and a Cherokee warrior.

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

## Renegades, Rakes and Revenge

In *Mud, Blood, and Beer: A Collection of Western Stories* (Five Star, \$25.95), L.J. Martin, the prolific author of Westerns, mysteries and thrillers, delivers eight short stories and a novella that should please fans of traditional Westerns. But many of these stories put a twist on “traditional,” as Martin delivers rapsSCALLIONS Louis L’Amour never would have dreamed up. Railroaders, preachers, cooks, gunmen, lawmen, miners, con artists, heroic villains and villainous heroes and a bit of history are on hand. Justice is usually delivered, but not always in the way readers might expect. Wry humor often peppers these short stories, while the novella, “Eye for Eye,” is a standard revenge oater with a savage tone.

—Johnny D. Boggs, author of  
The Cobbler of Spanish Fort and  
Other Frontier Stories

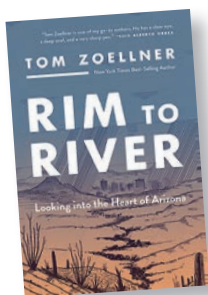


Photo by Lacy Johnston

## TEXAS WRITER AND RANCHER SHARES HER FAVORITES

**Natalie Bright**, is the author of *Keep 'Em Full and Keep 'Em Rollin': The All-American Chuck Wagon Cookbook* (TwoDot) which won a Will Rogers Medallion Award. She writes books for kids and adults, blogs about ranch work and raising Angus cattle at Prairie Purview and enjoys talking to groups about Texas Longhorns. She is currently researching the history and food of Kansas cow towns for her next book, titled *End of Trail Eats* (TwoDot).

- 1 ***In the Days of the Vaqueros*** by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books): His seminal work explains the origins of wild range cattle work.
- 2 ***Cowboy Culture: A Saga of Five Centuries*** by David Dary (Alfred A Knopf): The University of Kansas professor’s masterpiece focuses on the cowboy of North America and has won numerous accolades including the Western Writers of America Spur Award.
- 3 ***The Western Cattle Trail 1874-1897: Its Rise, Collapse, and Revival*** by Gary and Margaret Kraisinger (Self-published): This groundbreaking work is the result of a lifetime of research based on curiosity about an unknown trail the authors lived near in Kansas.
- 4 ***Charles Goodnight: Cowman and Plainsman*** by J. Evetts Haley (University of Oklahoma Press): No Western library would be complete without a book about the inventor of the chuck wagon and his influence on short grass country.
- 5 ***The Cattle Towns*** by Robert R. Dykstra (University of Nebraska Press): This is a gritty social history based on the arrival of the cow trailing industry in frontier communities.



## A Fresh Take on the Grand Canyon State

When a book promises to “look into the heart of Arizona,” you open the cover with skepticism. Really? The 48th state hasn’t been exposed enough?

The short answer is no. Not until Tom Zoellner’s *Rim to River—Looking into the Heart of Arizona*, just published by the University of Arizona Press (\$24.95). This is his account of his 2019 walk the length of Arizona, interspersed with essays that tell the whole story, pimples and all, of a state too often written as “one big, bad waste of desert.” It helped that he’s a fifth-generation Arizonan and can write the hell out of a sentence.

He fulfills his promise and takes us right to the heart of Arizona. I’d never, ever been there before.

—Jana Bommersbach, coauthor  
with Bob Boze Bell of Hellraisers and  
Trailblazers: The Wild Women  
of the West

## Robert Duvall – A Western Career

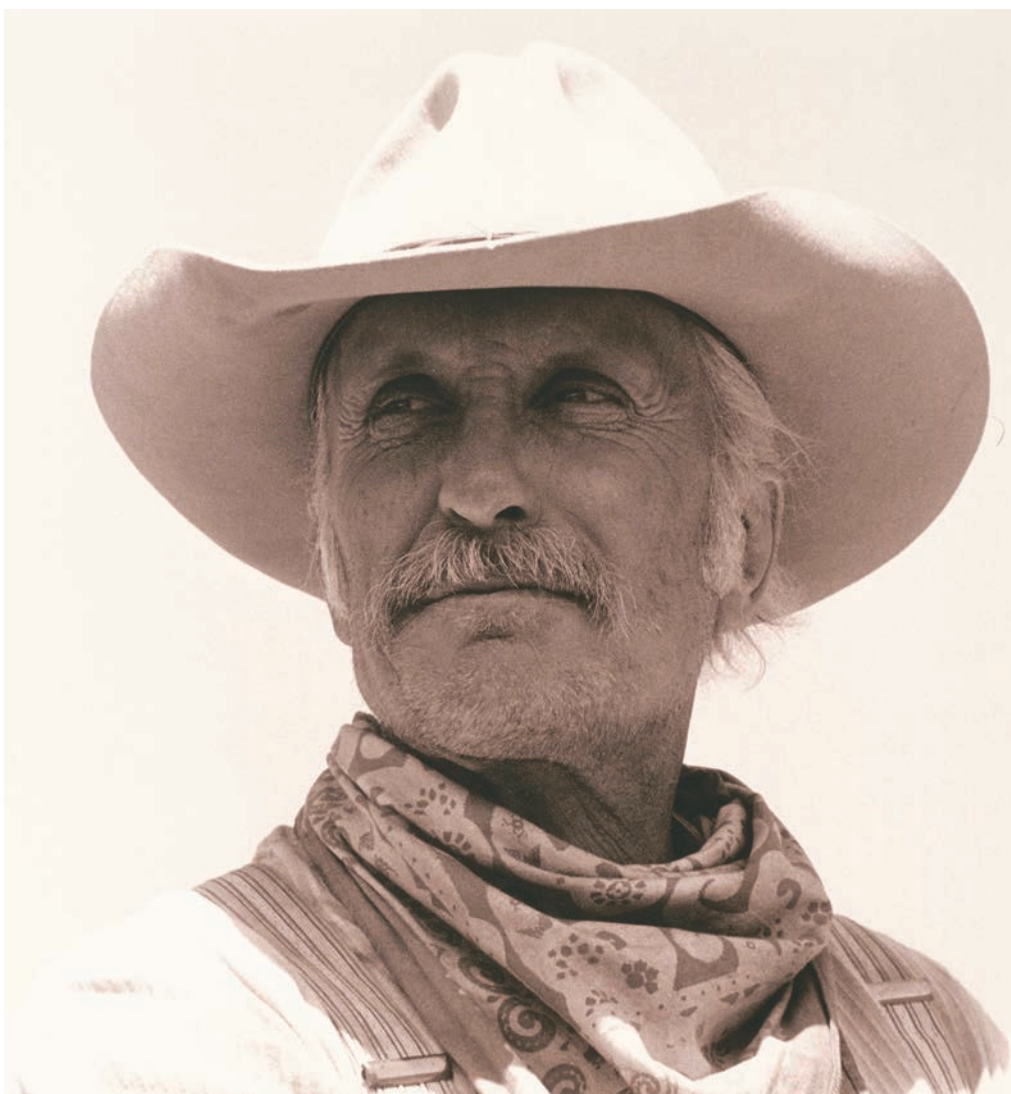
*The actor is not ready to hang up his hat and spurs.*

**R**obert Duvall would be one of the finest actors in the history of film if he never appeared in a single Western. And he would be one of the finest actors ever to appear in Westerns if he'd only been in *Lonesome Dove*. But he's done so much more; he took a long time to reach that landmark, and he's gone far since. In January of 2023, the same month that he turned 92, his newest film, an Eastern in the time of the Western, *The Pale Blue Eye*, premiered on Netflix. Involving the investigation of a West Point murder, which reflects no honor on the institution, it might have had particular appeal to a self-described Navy brat who, being the son of Rear Admiral William Duvall, spent much of his youth at Annapolis.

Still, he took more after his mother, amateur actress Mildred Duval. He not only didn't attend Annapolis, but he also further disappointed his father by enlisting in the Army in 1953, attaining the rank of Private First Class before retiring a year later. The G.I. Bill made it possible

for him to study under renowned acting teacher Sanford Meisner in New York. Among his classmates and roommates were Dustin Hoffman, Gene Hackman and James Caan, who would all remain close friends.

Over the next few years, Duvall performed in plays ranging from the farce *Room Service* to *Witness for the*



During an acting career that began in 1952, Robert Duvall has had many iconic roles in almost every genre of stage, television and film. But it was his role as Gus McCrae in the 1989 CBS miniseries adaptation of Larry McMurtry's novel *Lonesome Dove* that redefined him as one of America's best-known and most popular Western stars.

Courtesy Wittliff Collections, Texas State University



In the 1960s, a young Robert Duvall (center) was sought after as a guest star or cast member on weekly television series, including the popular NBC Western *The Virginian*.

Courtesy NBC Television

*Prosecution*, to what he's called "the catalyst" of his career—the role of Eddie Carbone, the over-protective guardian in Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*. His television career began in 1959 with a prison-break drama, followed by the *Playhouse 90* production of *John Brown's Raid*, directed by Sidney Lumet, who later directed Duvall in *Network*. Duvall became busy guesting on television, and two years later, his first movie role made him a star character actor. He played simple-minded Boo Radley, who becomes an unexpected hero in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. His stunning performance put him on the radar of every Hollywood casting agent, including those for Western series.

Ironically, it also typecast him. On *Stoney Burke* he's a slow-witted stableman who's harassed by an ambitious reporter. On a *Shane* episode, he's a farmer whose bad luck drives him mentally around the bend. On *The Virginian*, his hot-tempered character's obsession with hanging a man for murder makes us suspect he killed his own father. And on the *Wild Wild West*, he was the mad scientist "the Falcon," dressed in robes right out of a *Flash Gordon* serial. "I had to pay the rent," he recalls with a laugh. "Some of it was pretty bad, but you had to make a living."

#### LUCKY BREAKTHROUGH

Considering his niche, it's fortunate that *True Grit* cast him as gang leader Lucky Ned Pepper, and not the outlaw who communicates by animal-sounds.



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The father of Mattie Ross (Kim Darby) has been murdered by Tom Chaney (Jeff Corey), who has joined Pepper's gang. Mattie hires Rooster Cogburn (John Wayne) to track down Chaney. Although Ned Pepper is not seen until over an hour into the film, Duvall makes a strong impression as a thoughtful, worried villain. When prisoner Mattie tells him that a boy died saving Pepper's life, he replies wistfully, "I'm happy he done what he done, but he shoulda kept his head and looked out for hisself." It's not a line you can imagine Bruce Dern delivering.

In 1971's *Lawman*, Duvall fills the screen less than 30 seconds in: he leaps from a hotel doorway onto his horse and, his tongue clamped in his teeth, fires a shot that not only shatters the hotel window, but an oil lamp, setting the lobby ablaze. In this surprisingly good, unheralded Western from *Death Wish*-director Michael Winner, Duvall is Adams, one of

a bunch of drunken ranchers celebrating the end of a cattle drive by hurraing the town. When a local dies in the fracas, Marshal Burt Lancaster is sent to bring a half-dozen back, either for trial or burial. Duvall has several scenes with Lancaster, and makes a decent plea to be let go. "I didn't kill anybody that night and I can't afford the time to go back to stand trial. I got under a hundred head, and nobody but a woman and my old dog to hold down my place. I'm gone more than a week, I got nothing to come back to. You have no right to take that from me."

The following year, Duvall not only played Corleone lawyer Tom Hagen in *The Godfather*, but also played Jesse



In one of her finest roles in film or television, Angelica Huston played Clara Forsythe Allen, the former love interest of Robert Duvall's Gus McCrae in *Lonesome Dove*.

Courtesy CBS Television

James in *The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid*, opposite Cliff Robertson's Cole Younger. Many reviewers thought he played James as crazy. But Cole knew better: he knew the manic Jesse didn't really have a "vision" for the raid, but found Cole's own robbery plans discarded in an outhouse.

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Also in 1972, Duvall's character-range expanded to include evil land barons in *Joe Kidd*, with a script by Elmore Leonard, and direction by John Sturges. Predating *Quigley Down Under*, Frank Harlan (Duvall) wants to hire Joe Kidd (Clint Eastwood) as a hunting guide. But he's really hunting Mexicans who possess Spanish land-grants, especially John Saxon. And he doesn't play fair: "You hurt one of my men, I'll kill ten of your people!"

**GODFATHER TO LONESOME DOVE**

Over the next decade, Duvall played unforgettable roles, in films like *The Outfit*, *The Godfather Part 2* and *Network*. He was Dr. Watson in *The Seven-Percent Solution*, and Lieutenant Colonel Kilgore in *Apocalypse Now*. And in 1983 he received his well-earned Best Actor Oscar for *Tender Mercies*, as a once-great country music star, ruined by alcohol, and now trying to mend his life.



Following Robert Duvall's success as villain Ned Pepper opposite John Wayne's Rooster Cogburn in *True Grit* (1969), he was cast as the villainous Frank Harlan opposite Clint Eastwood's heroic title role in *Joe Kidd* (1972).

Courtesy Universal Pictures

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

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Hutchinson County is the site of the 1864 Battle of Adobe Walls, the second-largest battle ever fought between the United States Army and Indians on the Plains. Kit Carson's expert strategic retreat saved him and his troops from the fate that befell Custer 12 years later in 1876. As migrants headed west, Plains Indians were drawn to the trails to trade - and often, to raid. The raids increased along the Santa Fe Trail in 1864 and threatening emigration and commerce between the New Mexico Territory and the states. In the fall of 1864, General James H. Carleton sent Colonel Christopher "Kit" Carson and about four hundred men on a campaign against the Kiowa and Comanche Indians of the high plains to open the trail once and for all. The resulting battle was one of the largest in the history of North American Indian Wars - yet this conflict has had a seemingly undeserved erasure from western history. The 1864 Battle of Adobe Walls was Kit Carson's last fight, when he and 321 New Mexico and California volunteers and 75 Utes took on well over a thousand Comanche and Kiowa warriors. Hutchinson County Historical Museum helps keep this story alive with exhibits, artifacts, photos and documents of this dramatically transformative period in American history.

This painting of the Battle of 1864 by western artist Nick Eggenhofer (1897-1985), can be seen at the Ft. Union National Monument near Watrous, New Mexico.



HCHM also displays the artifacts and tells the stories of early ranching and farming in Hutchinson County, and also the story of the Borger Oil Boom in 1926 that altered the course of the Texas Panhandle economy.

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Following the success of *Lonesome Dove*, Robert Duvall became one of the most beloved Western stars and was regularly cast in long-format TV miniseries. *Broken Trail* paired him with veteran director Walter Hill and his role as Prentice "Prent" Ritter is considered one of his career bests.

Courtesy AMC

But it was 17 years after *Joe Kidd* before Duvall made his next Western, the miniseries *Lonesome Dove*. "When you get into movies, you want to get out of TV. But once you've got good footholds in movies, you don't mind going back to do television like *Lonesome Dove*. Why not? It's all 'action' and 'cut' anyway."

The role of Texas Ranger Gus McCrae, which made Duvall an icon, almost wasn't his, even though he was wanted for the film. Director Simon Wincer recalls, "He had been offered the part of Call, that Tommy Lee Jones played. But he said, 'No, I've done that character before. I want to do Gus.'"

Diane Lane, who plays Lorena,

remembers, "He was in character the whole time, but I didn't know it. When it came time to do our promotion of *Lonesome Dove*, I looked at him and I thought, 'Who is that? And what have you done with Gus?' because he was the actor, not the character. I had so much fun with Gus; but that lives forever on film."

### DUVALL'S WESTERN RENAISSANCE

As John Ford has his Cavalry Trilogy, *Lonesome Dove* begins Robert Duvall's Cowboy Trilogy, with three different, great directors: *Lonesome Dove* by Simon Wincer, *Open Range* by Kevin Costner, and *Broken Trail* by Walter Hill. In all three he played an older,



*Open Range* producer, director and star Kevin Costner had such respect for Robert Duvall as an actor he gave the veteran star top billing in the award-winning Western film.

Courtesy Buena Vista Pictures



In 2015, Robert Duvall directed, wrote and starred in what is currently his last Western film, *Wild Horses*. Duvall fans are still hoping he will be cast one more time in an Old West role.

Courtesy Entertainment One Films

wiser cowman moving herds of cattle or horses across vast lands, with younger men—Ricky Schroder, Kevin Costner or Thomas Haden Church—learning by his example along the way. Duvall has called Gus McRae the best role he ever had. “*Broken Trail* was second to *Lonesome Dove* for me. That guy was very interesting. I broke some ribs when I did *Open Range*. I’ve had some horse accidents. I’ve got to get on a bomb-proof horse now.”

Duvall has appeared in other fine Westerns as well. In an earlier Walter Hill film, *Geronimo—An American Legend*, he plays Al Sieber, chief of scouts in the Apache Wars, with grudging respect for the Apache people, especially as a soldier. In *Gods and Generals*, the sequel to *Gettysburg*, he played Robert E. Lee, actually a relative on his mother’s side. Director Ron Maxwell recalls that Martin Sheen played Lee in his first film, based on the book *The Killer Angels*. “In the same way that two actors can play Hamlet, and you’ll see two different interpretations, if you think of the book title, Sheen’s Lee was more of the angel, and Robert Duvall’s tended to be more of the killer.”

He’s also done a pair of contemporary Westerns, *A Night in Old Mexico*, written by *Lonesome Dove* screenwriter Bill Wittliff, and *Wild Horses*,

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*Lonesome Dove* producer-writer Bill Wittliff had a long and productive relationship with Robert Duvall. Their last collaboration was *A Night in Old Mexico* (2013), which was penned by Wittliff.

Courtesy Phase Four Films

which Duvall co-wrote and directed. At 92, is he likely to hang up his spurs any time soon? In *Old Mexico*, when a mobster says to him, “An old man like you should die in bed,” he replies: “Not this cowboy.”

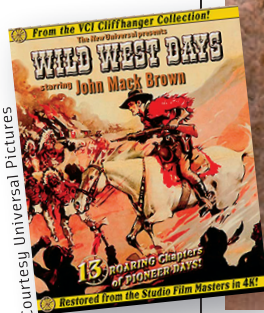
## BLU-RAY REVIEW

### WILD WEST DAYS

(VCI Entertainment—Blu-ray 4K Restoration, \$29.95) Kentucky Wade (Johnny Mack Brown) and his pals come to the aid of Larry Munro (Frank McGlynn Jr.) when varmints learn he’s discovered platinum on his land and plot to seize it from him! Brown, once romantic lead to Mary Pickford and Garbo, found his true calling in serials and B-Westerns, and this 13-chapter 1937 cliffhanger from Universal contains all of the elements you could wish for: fires, stampedes, collapsing rope bridges, boulders rolling down mountains! It’s made by pros in all departments, who started with Hoot Gibson, and *The Perils of Pauline*. And those who’d enjoy a respite from political correctness can glory in dialogue like, “Can’t we save them from those red devils?” and “Red Hatchet make big fire, make all white men plenty warm.”



Henry C. Parke, Western Film and TV Editor for *True West*, is a screenwriter, and blogs for the INSP Channel, and at *Henry's Western Roundup.blogspot.com*. A book based on his *True West* columns, *The Greatest Westerns Ever Made*, will be published by TwoDot in spring 2024.



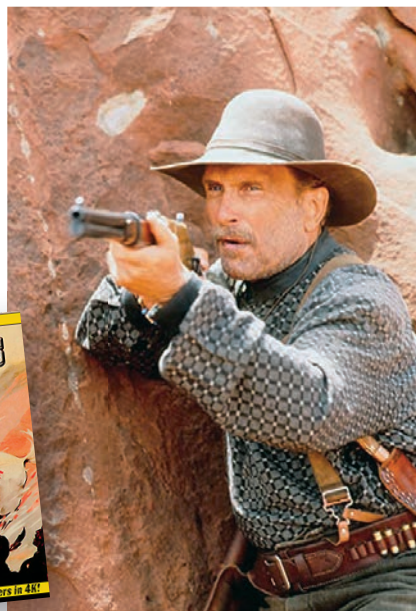
Courtesy Universal Pictures

## THE MANY WESTERN ROLES OF ROBERT DUVAL



Mac Sledge, *Tender Mercies* (1983)

Courtesy Universal Pictures



Al Sieber, *Geronimo, An American Legend*

Courtesy Columbia Pictures

Robert E. Lee, *Gods and Generals*

Courtesy Warner Bros



Ned Pepper, *True Grit*

Courtesy Paramount Pictures



Jesse James, *The Great Northfield, Minnesota Raid* (1972)

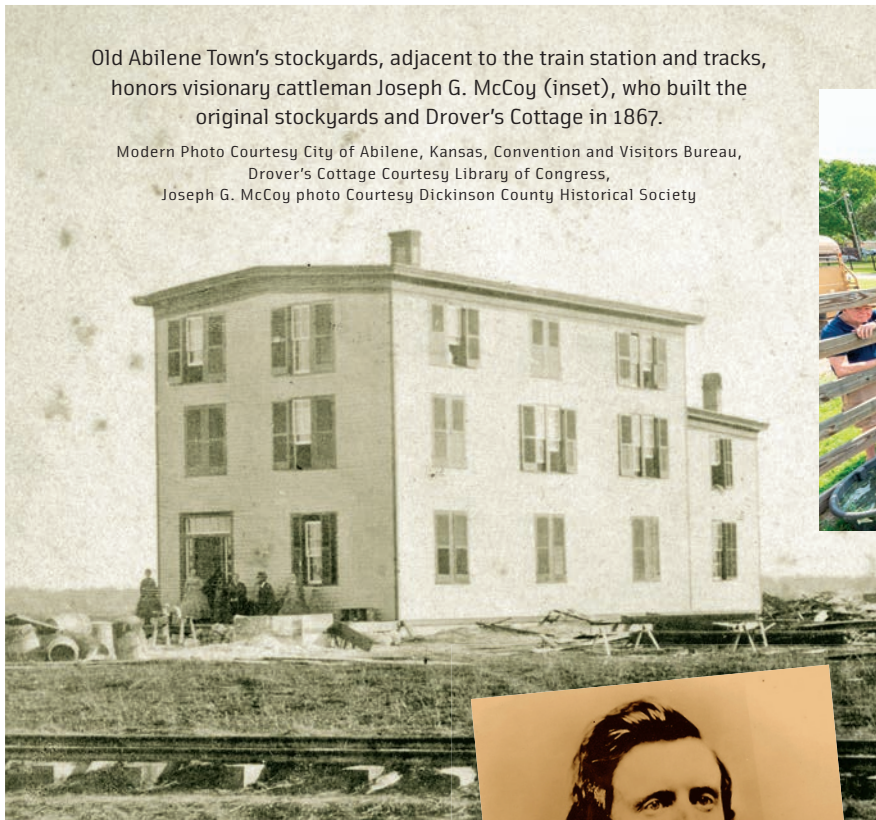
Courtesy Universal Pictures

# Abilene, Kansas

*The once lawless cattle town is now one of the West's most historic Old West destinations.*

Old Abilene Town's stockyards, adjacent to the train station and tracks, honors visionary cattleman Joseph G. McCoy (inset), who built the original stockyards and Drover's Cottage in 1867.

Modern Photo Courtesy City of Abilene, Kansas, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Drover's Cottage Courtesy Library of Congress, Joseph G. McCoy photo Courtesy Dickinson County Historical Society



Hickok left town, only to be fatally shot in a card game in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, in 1876.

☑ Years later, Abilene's **Dr. A.B. Seelye** made a fortune in patent medicines.

☑ **Charles Parker**, the Carousel King, grabbed the brass ring making amusement park rides and equipment.

Of course, Abilene's favorite son was **Dwight D. Eisenhower**, 34th president of the United States and a leading U.S. Army general during World War II. Ike, as he was later known, was born in Dennison, Texas, in 1890, but grew up in Abilene.

In a 1945 homecoming speech, he told the crowd: "The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene."

Abilene celebrates its historymakers, most notably at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, Museum and Boyhood Home. He is buried there alongside his wife, Mamie, and firstborn son, Doud.

The cattlemen, cowboys, lawmen and misfits of the West are remembered at Old Abilene Town, a 60-year-old recreation of Abilene's wild cowtown era when Texas Street was lined with saloons,

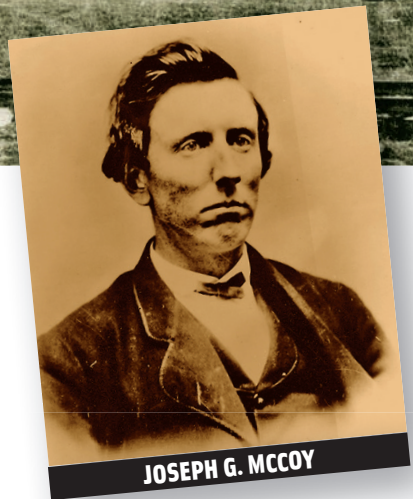
**T**he railhead town of Abilene, Kansas, had a wild range of characters vital to its prosperity on the frontier from the late 1860s into the 20th century.

Abilene, 150 miles west of Kansas City, was a boomtown from 1867 until 1871, when cowboys drove more than a million Texas longhorn cattle on the Chisolm Trail to its stockyards. From there the cattle were shipped by rail to eastern markets.

"Abilene was certainly one of the wild and wooliest towns in the West," said Julie Roller Weeks, Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau director.

*Some of Abilene's key figures included:*

☑ Illinois cattleman **Joseph McCoy**, Father of the Texas Cattle Trade, who built Abilene's stockyards.



☑ **T.C. Henry**, the town's first mayor in 1869 and Wheat King, who convinced area farmers to grow winter wheat.

☑ Lawmen **Tom "Bear River" Smith** and **Wild Bill Hickok**, who were charged with keeping a lid on the rowdy cowboys and drovers on Texas Street. Smith was killed in 1870 by a homesteader north of Abilene, and

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A favorite activity for visitors to Old Abilene Town is a stagecoach ride.

Courtesy City of Abilene, Kansas, Convention and Visitors Bureau



If all the wonderful historic sites and hometown hospitality were not enough for visitors to Abilene, the city is now home to the World's Largest Belt Buckle. The public attraction was unveiled on December 21, 2022, and is 19 feet 10 ½ inches wide and 13 feet 11 ¼ inches tall (not including the frame).

Courtesy City of Abilene, Kansas, Convention and Visitors Bureau

The family fortune came from selling Dr. Seelye's patent medicines across 14 states, starting in 1890. The beautifully restored home includes a 1920 Steinway grand piano that

resident tour guide Terry Tietjens plays for visitors. Guests can also try their luck on a box ball bowling alley.

If that's not enough, visitors can also track down a 28-foot spur outside Rittel's Western Wear, a dozen pairs of giant, decorated cowboy boots scattered around town and the newest attraction—the World's Largest Belt Buckle.

"You can't see it all in one day, that's for sure," Roller Weeks said of Abilene's attractions.



**Peter Corbett** has been writing about the West since 1980, including 35 years as an Arizona journalist.

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gambling parlors, dance halls and boardinghouses. A new version of the Alamo Saloon has the back bar from the original Alamo.

Visitors on the dusty streets and boardwalk of Old Abilene Town are entertained by cancan dancers and gunslingers staging mock gunfights.

The Great Western Cattle Company Building at Old Abilene has a 1/24-scale model of 1870s Abilene with 40 replica buildings.

Wild Bill Hickok, although he didn't last long as Abilene's marshal, is still remembered here with the 78th annual Wild Bill Hickok Rodeo, set for August 1-4 at the fairgrounds.

Another Abilene attraction is Dickinson County Heritage Center, which features history exhibits, a telephone museum and a blacksmith shop. Also, take a spin on a 1901 C.W. Parker Carousel.

Across town, tour the 1905 Seelye Mansion, built by Dr. and Mrs. A.B. Seelye.



Dr. A.B. Seelye built his 1905 mansion on the profits of patent medicines. Today, the Seelye Mansion and Gardens have been completely restored as a museum, considered one of the eight wonders of Kansas architecture.

Courtesy Carol M. Highsmith's America Project in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress

# WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY



*Dwight D. Eisenhower*  
by Robert L. Dean at the  
Dwight D. Eisenhower Library,  
Museum & Boyhood Home

Courtesy Carol M. Highsmith's America Project in the  
Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress

## FIRST STOP

Plan your visit at the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau in the restored 1928 Union Pacific Railroad Depot, 201 N.W. Second St.

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

## I LIKE IKE LIBRARY

Set aside a few hours to tour the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, Museum & Boyhood Home.

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

## RIDE THE RAILS

The Abilene and Smokey Valley Railroad runs on select days from May to October with steam trains, dinner runs and regular tours on a 10.5-mile roundtrip to Enterprise, Kansas.

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

## GIANT COWBOY BELT BUCKLE

Abilene has a new roadside attraction touted as the World's Largest Belt Buckle—just shy of 20 feet wide and 14 feet high. Get a selfie with it in Eisenhower Park at Pine and N.W. Fourth streets.

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

## HITCH A RIDE TO ABILENE'S PAST

Old Abilene Town presents a sample of the Old West with historic buildings, staged gunfights, cancan dancers, country music and a cattle drive.

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



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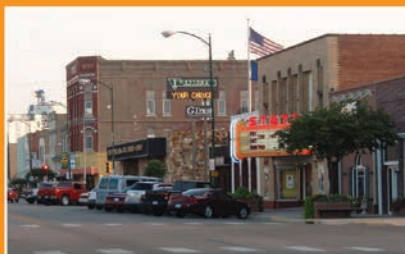


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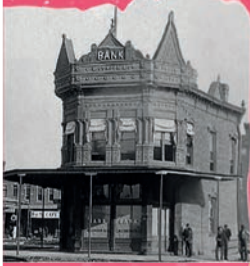
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I remember my parents loading my sister, Katherine, and me into the family station wagon. It was the late 1960s and our vacation destination was almost always my grandmother's home in Phoenix, Arizona. To avoid the heat in the summer, my folks usually left very early in the morning (like 1 a.m. early) from North Hollywood. On Interstate 10, the city gave way to the desert outside Palm Springs. My dad never missed a gas stop in Blythe before crossing the Colorado River. Before the interstate was completed, the Arizona leg of the trip was on U.S. 60, past the cotton fields and little villages of the Harquahala Valley, into the cowboy town of Wickenburg, then south into Phoenix as the sun was coming up. We always felt a great relief to be back at my grandmother's and excited for the adventures our parents had planned for us.

Over 50 years later, I still love the excitement of a road trip with my wife and family. The thrill of planning the

vacation, mapping the route, researching the places we will see—it never grows old. The anticipation is priceless. We just don't leave at 1 a.m. in the morning.

At *True West* magazine, 70 years since our first issue, we still believe there is no better way to experience the American West than to pack your bags, load up your car and hit the road.

In this 21st edition of our travel issue, we feature getaways written by six seasoned Western writers whose passion for the West and their home states is infectious. We invite you to pull out your maps—and dreams—and take a road trip to Arizona, Missouri-Arkansas-Oklahoma, Montana, South Dakota, Texas and/or Wyoming. We know you will make dreams come true and will start planning your next road trip as soon as you return home!

—Stuart Rosebrook



# Wyoming

Discover the cattle ranching history of the Cowboy State on three heritage travel adventures.



Eaton's Guest Ranch  
Wolf, Wyoming

Courtesy Wyoming Office of Tourism

BY CANDY MOULTON

## Cattle Trails to the Bighorn Basin

Scotsman Peter McCulloch immigrated to the United States in 1853, spent time in Boston and St. Louis, and served during the Civil War in the Union Army with the Missouri Mounted Volunteers, often carrying dispatches throughout Missouri and Arkansas and later becoming a wagon boss. He then worked with a survey party staking out the transcontinental railroad for the Union Pacific Railroad in Nebraska, but by 1864 he was at Fort Bridger.

Judge William A. Carter, whose family roots are at Carter's Grove in Virginia, had served as the post sutler at Fort Bridger, and his presence in the Bridger Valley led him to begin raising cattle for his Carter Cattle Company. Peter McCulloch became the range foreman for Carter's operation, establishing himself as a top-notch cowboy and manager.

In 1879, McCulloch ramrodded a crew that trailed 3,800 head of Carter cattle into the Bighorn Basin. McCulloch took the cattle from the Bridger Valley near Evanston and Fort Bridger across the Red Desert to South Pass, through the Lander area and across the Wind River Basin before continuing into the Bighorn Basin, where he established a headquarters west of where Cody would eventually be established, on Carter Creek, named for his boss.

McCulloch and Carter had effectively expanded Wyoming's cattle operations across the western half of the Wyoming Territory. The McCullough Peaks, east of Cody, well known as the habitat for one of Wyoming's wild horse

herds, are named for Peter McCulloch, but, as often happens, the spelling is different.



Historic Fort Bridger, circa 1858

True West Archives

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restaurants, bars, food trucks, lounges, breweries, distilleries, tap rooms, saloons, and holes in the wall are spread across Sheridan County. That's 101 different ways to apres adventure in the craft capital of Wyoming. We are also home to more than 40 hotels, motels, RV parks, and B&Bs.

4

seasons in which to get WYO'd. If you're a skijoring savant, you'll want to check out the Winter Rodeo in February. July features the beloved Sheridan WYO Rodeo. Spring and fall are the perfect time to chase cool mountain streams or epic backcountry lines.

∞

Sheridan features a thriving, historic downtown district, with western allure, hospitality and good graces to spare; a vibrant arts scene; bombastic craft culture; a robust festival and events calendar; and living history from one corner of the county to the next.

Cheyenne Frontier Days Parade  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Gates Frontiers Fund Wyoming Collection within the  
Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress

Some of the earliest livestock in the Upper Green River Basin around Pinedale and Big Piney were cattle herds trailed in from the west: Nevada and Oregon. The Green River Drift—a cattle trail in use since the 1890s to move cattle between summer and winter ranges—is a 58-mile-long route that has been on the National Historic Register since 1913. The Drift is still used by members of the Green River Cattle Association and crosses both public and private land. History of the ranching and homesteading culture of the Upper Green is interpreted at the Sommers Homestead Living History Museum north of Pinedale (open Friday through Sunday during the summer). Restored buildings include the 100-year-old



two-story log homestead house, the shop, log icehouse, underground cellar, log bunkhouse, meat house, log barn and historic outhouse.

## Dubois

A gateway to Jackson Hole, Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park, Dubois maintains its small-town persona. The area is known

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Grand Encampment Museum  
Encampment, Wyoming  
Courtesy Grand Encampment Museum

has evidence of visits by Butch Cassidy, who had ranch property near the town, shopped at Welty's General Store and did business at the post office.

## Following the Texas Trail and Nelson Story

Cowboys drove cattle from Texas in 1866 over a route across New Mexico and Colorado that became known as the Goodnight-Loving Trail, named for the two men who forged the route, Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving. They sold their herd to John Wesley Iliff, who became a major cattleman with head-

for its Whiskey Mountain herd of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Learn more about the sheep at the National Bighorn Sheep Center. The early ranching history of the area is highlighted at the Dubois Museum, Wind River Historical Center. Dubois



Dubois, Wyoming  
Gates Frontiers Fund Wyoming Collection within the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress

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The Douglas Railroad Museum & Visitor Center is housed in the historic FE & MV Railroad Passenger Depot. The building is listed on the National Historic Register and is surrounded by seven historic railcars, as well as the Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad 4-8-4 Steam Locomotive #5633.



Visitors to the museum are invited to go inside many of the rail cars, including a day coach, a dining car and a sleeper, as well as a little red caboose! And ask to see the model train on display in the back room.



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quarters in present-day northeastern Colorado by the town of Iliff that he helped establish.

Once Iliff bought that Goodnight-Loving cattle herd in 1868, he pushed the animals on to range even farther north. The Goodnight-Loving or Texas Cattle Trail made its first incursion into Wyoming near Cheyenne. It ultimately extended to the west and north, as cowboys pushed animals across eastern Wyoming and on into Montana Territory.

Fort Bridger Rendezvous  
Fort Bridger, Wyoming

Candy Moulton

The Texas Cattle Trail passed near the present communities of Pine Bluffs, Cheyenne, Chugwater, Lusk, Moorcroft and Sheridan. There are markers to the trail near Lusk on U.S. 18/20, along Highway 387 west of Wright, and in Moorcroft.



Cody, Wyoming's namesake, Buffalo Bill, circa 1883

True West Archives



Grand Encampment, Wyoming,  
circa 1900

True West Archives

In a separate cattle drive, Nelson Story in 1866 brought a cattle herd from Texas through Kansas and along the Oregon Trail to Fort Laramie. There he began following the route to Montana along the hotly contested Bozeman Trail—a trail that Lakota and Northern Cheyenne tribal members resisted because it was an incursion into their territory.

By the time Story's herd arrived at Fort Phil Kearny, one of the three forts established to provide protection to travelers along the Bozeman Trail, he was told not to go any farther due to attacks by tribal warriors. Story did not heed the warnings and pushed his herd on. They crossed the Yellowstone River and turned west, finally reaching Virginia City, Montana Territory's prominent gold camp, in early December.

Less than a month later the Lakota struck a major blow against the frontier army, when they lured soldiers led by Lt. William J. Fetterman over Lodge Trail Ridge just north of Fort Kearny and into the decisive battle that led to the deaths of Fetterman and the 80 men who were in his command. In less than a year the military withdrew from the region, and Little Wolf, of the Northern Cheyenne tribe, burned Fort Kearny.

More than a decade after Nelson Story took his herd through the Powder River Basin and along the Bozeman Trail to Montana, John B. Kendrick brought a herd of Texas cattle to the area, ending his drive in



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1879 in Sheridan, where he established the Kendrick Cattle Company. He later became Wyoming's governor and then senator and built a spectacular mansion home for his family, that is now the Trail End State Historic Site.

## Sundance

Harry Alonzo Longabaugh spent 18 months in the town jail after he pleaded guilty to stealing a horse, saddle and



The "Sundance Kid" by Edward E. Hlavka  
Sundance, Wyoming

Courtesy Wyoming Tourism

gun from an employee of the VVV Ranch near Sundance, Wyoming. His time in the jail ended when Wyoming Governor Thomas Moonlight pardoned him, but there was a lasting connection to the town when he became known

as the Sundance Kid. Learn more about Longabaugh's time in the town that gave him his better-known name with a visit to the Crook County Museum.

## Cherokee Cattle Trails

The Cherokee Trail, stretching some 900 miles from Fort Gibson (on the Texas Trail) to Fort Bridger, became the major thoroughfare to the West, and was a route to California, making it the longest branch of the California National Historic Trail. About 100,000 head of livestock traveled over this trail prior to 1861. Cattle drives on its route involved cowboys from Arkansas taking cattle to California, and it was also used by Mormons driving herds to Utah.

The first use of the trail took place in 1849, when a wagon train led by Lewis Evans, including Cherokee Indians and gold-seekers from Arkansas traveled across Oklahoma and Kansas to the Santa Fe Trail, which they followed to Bent's Old Fort and continued west to the site of Pueblo, Colorado, before heading north.

Passing near where Laramie, Wyoming, would be established as a railroad town when the Union Pacific was built nearly two decades later, the travelers then headed west around the north side of the Medicine Bow Mountains and Elk Mountain. They went through the area that later became



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Cowboy working cattle on the ZT Ranch in Pitchfork Park County, Wyoming

True West Archives



Rawlins and then across the Red Desert, eventually reaching Fort Bridger to join the main trail to California, even then busy with argonauts intent on getting to the goldfields.

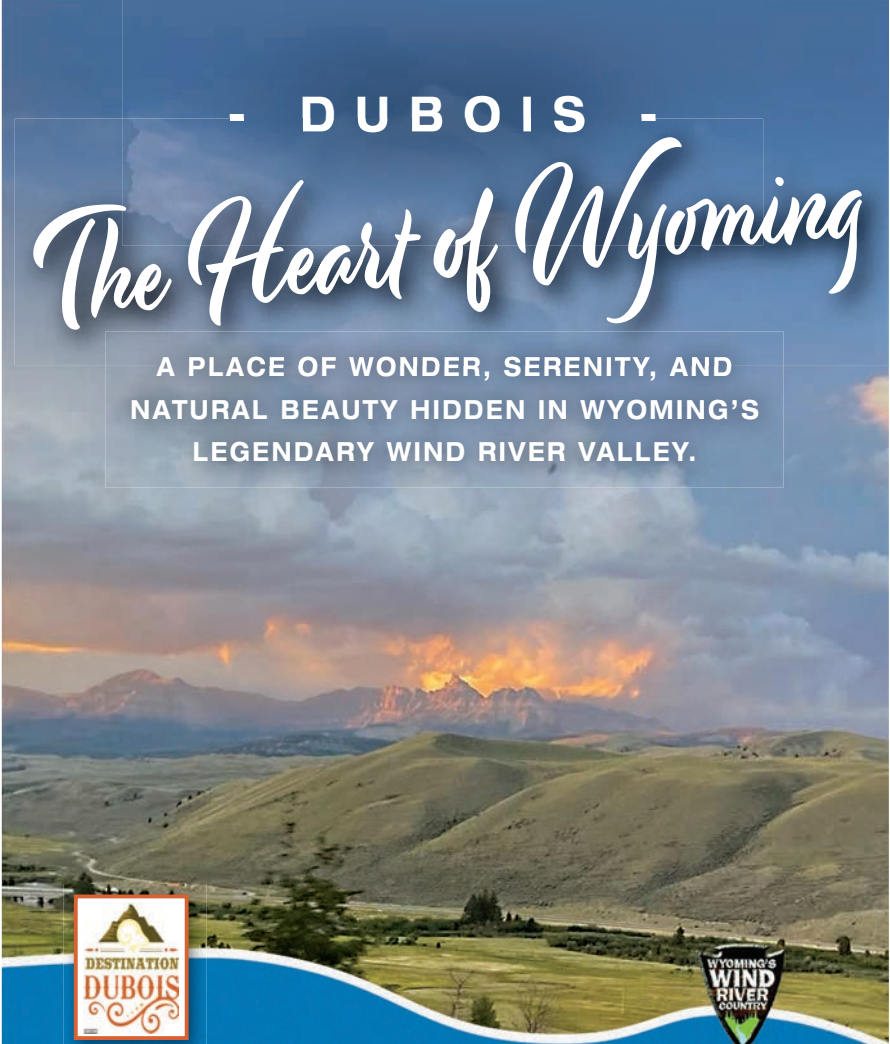
The first cattle drive into North Park Colorado and on into the North Platte and Encampment River valleys of Wyoming was on a different trail the Cherokees forged in 1850. This south branch of the Cherokee Trail took them north of Walden, Colorado, then along the eastern flank of the Sierra Madre, across the Encampment River just north of Riverside, and west to pass near the present-day town of Baggs and on west across the Red Desert to Fort Bridger. Follow their route by taking Highway 230 west out of Laramie to Encampment, Highway 70 (open late May to late October) to Baggs, then head north on Highway 789 to Interstate 80 and follow it west to Fort Bridger.

This southern branch used by the Cherokee people was short-lived, but the northern Cherokee Trail across Wyoming eventually became the same route as the Overland Trail, a major pathway used by travelers, particularly in the 1860s during the last significant years of overland wagon travel, before the Union Pacific Railroad arrived, giving travelers another way to cross the West.

## Evanston

The Union Pacific Railroad construction pushed across Wyoming in 1867-69, spawning tent cities and leading to the establishment of Wyoming Territory. Evanston might have been just one of many end-of-tracks towns that grew quickly and then disappeared, but the Union Pacific later determined it would become a headquarters community. This gave it permanence, and the community still celebrates its diverse history at the Unita County Museum and with the unique collections of the Chinese Joss House Museum.



Candy Moulton hangs her hat near Encampment Wyoming, within sight of ruts on the South Branch of the Cherokee Trail.



- DUBOIS -

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# WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY

## MUSEUMS

**Cattle Trails to the Big Horn Basin:** Fort Bridger State Historic Site, Fort Bridger; Sommers Homestead Living History Museum, Pinedale; Museum of the Mountain Man, Pinedale; Museum of the American West, Lander; Meeteetse Museum, Meeteetse; Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody

**Texas Trail and Nelson Story:** Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum, Cheyenne; Messinger's Old West Museum, Cheyenne; Nelson Museum of the West, Cheyenne; Pioneer Memorial Museum, Douglas; Stagecoach Museum, Lusk; West Texas Trails Museum, Moorcroft; Crook County Museum, Sundance; Jim Gatchell Museum, Buffalo; Fort Phil Kearny State Historic Site, Buffalo; Trail End State Historic Site, Sheridan; King's Saddlery and Don King Museum, Sheridan

**Cherokee Cattle Trails:** Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site, Laramie; Laramie Plains Museum, Laramie; Grand Encampment Museum, Encampment; Little Snake River Valley Museum, Savery; Carbon County Museum, Rawlins; Fort Bridger State Historic Site, Fort Bridger; Bear River State Park, Evanston

## GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

**Eats:** Rib & Chop House, Cheyenne; O'Dwyers Public House, Laramie; The Bear Trap, Riverside; 307 Grill, Encampment; Bon Rico, Evanston; The Busy Bee Café, Buffalo; Mint Bar, Sheridan; The Invasion Bar and Grill, Kaycee; Bearlodge Bakery, Sundance; Cowboy Café, Dubois; The Irma Hotel, Cody; Cowboy Bar, Pinedale; The Rifleman Club Bar, Rawlins; Su Casa, Sinclair; Longhorn Saloon & Grill, Sundance

**Sleeps:** Little America, Cheyenne; Historic Plains Hotel, Cheyenne; Spirit West River Lodge, Encampment; Occidental Hotel, Buffalo; Sheridan Inn, Sheridan; Mill Inn, Sheridan; Saratoga Hot Springs Resort, Saratoga; Hotel Wolf, Saratoga; Best Western Premier Ivy Inn, Cody; Chambers House Bed & Breakfast, Pinedale; Virginian Hotel, Medicine Bow

**Dude Ranches:** Eatons' Ranch, Wolf; A Bar A Ranch, Encampment; Vee Bar Guest Ranch, Laramie; Crossed Sabres Ranch, Cody; Blackwater Creek Ranch, Cody; Lazy L&B Ranch, Dubois; Triangle C Ranch, Dubois; Medicine Bow Lodge & Guest Ranch, Saratoga; Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch, Shell; Paradise Guest Ranch, Buffalo; Triangle X Ranch, Moose; Spotted Horse Ranch, Jackson

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# Montana

Discover the historic trails that built the Big Sky State.

BY QUACKGRASS SALLY



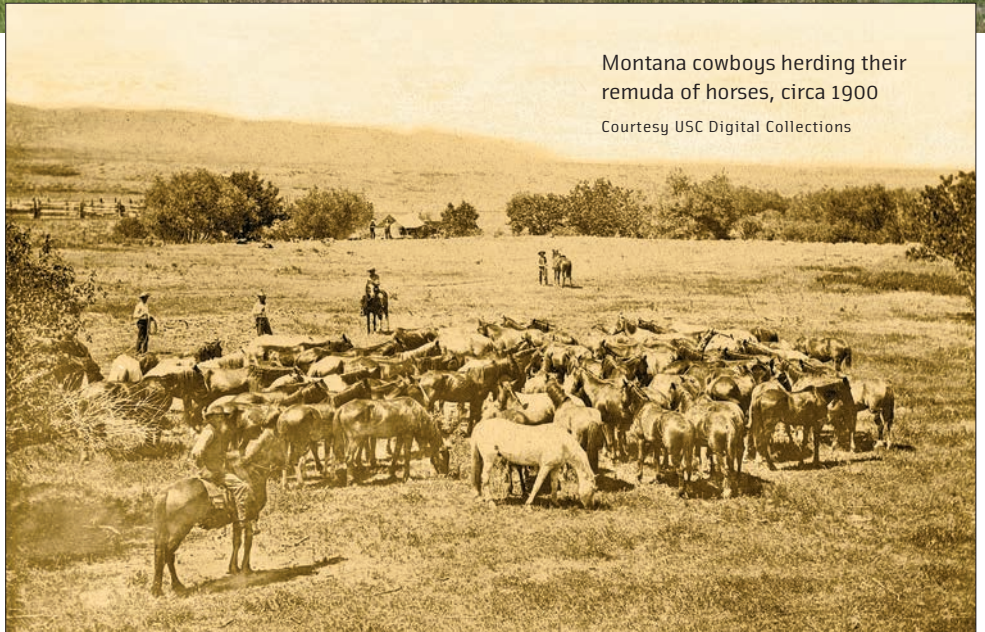
Big Sky Country, Montana

Courtesy Carol Highsmith Archives, Library of Congress

## Trails

Montana has always been a land of many trails. For centuries the Native peoples crisscrossed these lands on game trails their ancestors had followed, finding food and campsites in its mountains, valleys and plains. When Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and the Corps of Discovery trekked west and reached this region in 1804-06, they were the first White explorers to use these routes and see these lands. Clark's journal noted that the fertile landscapes were made all the more wondrous by the abundant rivers, lakes and streams which fed it. Quickly on their heels, fur trappers and traders followed that trail until the 1840s, when the dwindling supply and demand for beaver no longer drew them.

Gold was discovered in Virginia City, Montana, in 1863, and soon a flow of gold



Montana cowboys herding their remuda of horses, circa 1900

Courtesy USC Digital Collections

miners were following the Bridger Trail (Bridger Road), which connected the Oregon Trail to the goldfields of Montana. The influx of people wanting to head northwest prompted John Bozeman and John Jacobs to scout out a new route

from central Wyoming to Montana. This new Bozeman Trail created a more direct route through the Powder River country, the region of the Lakota, Cheyenne, Crow and Arapaho people, who quickly resented the growing stream of White



Virginia City from Alder Gulch, Montana, Circa 1870

Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections

settlers into their lands. Raids on the settlers grew and unrest was brewing between the cultures.

In 1864, Col. William O. Collins, the commandant at Fort Laramie, became worried about the conflicts along the Bozeman Trail. He requested Jim Bridger lead a party of settlers along the new route to the gold mines in what was now Montana Territory. Over that spring and summer, 10 wagon trains made the trip, two guided by Bridger himself. The following year the unrest along the Bozeman Trail grew, forcing Maj. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge to order Brig. Gen. Patrick E. Conner to lead the first Powder River Expedition to end the raids along the trail. For years the unrest continued, reaching a head in 1876, when the Lakota and Cheyenne people vanquished Lt. Col. George A. Custer and the U.S. Army at the now famous Battle of Little Bighorn.

## Cattle

Trails brought miners and settlers to the Montana Territory but they also brought the cattlemen. One of the first

major cattle drives to Montana was made by Nelson Story Sr. in 1866. Having been a gold miner himself and after his “big hit” at Alder Gulch, in Virginia City, Montana, years earlier, Story knew the demand for fresh meat in the goldfields was as intense as the hunt for gold.

With the end of the Civil War and the economy of Texas devastated, Story decided that with the extreme number of cattle roaming all over Texas, he could gather up a large herd for very little expense. Using his mining profits, it is estimated he spent nearly \$10,000 for approximately 1,000 head of Texas longhorns (some say it might have been up to 3,000 head) and was determined to herd them northward along the Bozeman Trail to the goldfields of Montana.

When Story and his wranglers reached Fort Phil Kearny, between what is now Buffalo and Sheridan, Wyoming, the U.S. Army demanded Story quit his drive north because of the growing unrest with the Indians. The newly seasoned Texan trail boss was determined to continue moving his herd and disregarded the Army’s orders. Throughout the rest of the trail drive, Story had encounters with Lakota warriors. During one skirmish, a man was killed, but in December 1866, the herd arrived in what is now present-day Livingston, Montana. Story soon established a thriving cattle business, selling to hungry gold miners at 10 times

the Texas prices. By 1870, Nelson Story had built himself a ranch in the Paradise Valley of Bozeman, becoming the leading cattleman on the open-range of the northern plains.

When the Northern Pacific Railroad arrived in Montana in 1881, the earlier hardships of ranching greatly improved, and Nelson Story used his cattle fortune to invest in banking, mercantile and grain. The Story Flour Mill opened in 1882, producing 100 bushels a day of fine Montana flour and became a major source of flour for the U.S. Army at Fort Ellis. He later supplied flour to the Crow Indian Reservation in southeastern Montana, which helped make him the first millionaire of Montana. By 1884 the Montana Stockgrowers’ Association was formed, and before long, with the use of barbed-wire fencing, the vast open ranges were no more. Land preservation and smaller ranch herds became the norm, and in 1889, the territory of Montana became a state.

## Tobacco Gold

On a sunny May afternoon in 1863, several men were camping along a small stream surrounded by groves of alder trees. William Fairweather and Henry Edgar decided to prospect and see if they could pan enough gold to buy some tobacco. When the first small pan showed over two dollars’ worth of gold,

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the men knew the gulch had the makings of a good claim. This discovery of gold in Alder Gulch was the foundation of the town of Virginia City, one of the biggest boomtowns in Montana Territory.

Word of gold in Montana spread, and soon miners and fortune seekers alike flocked to the territory. The hillsides of alders were clear-cut for building materials and fuel, and the town grew. In 1864 the city was the most populated place in Montana with over 5,000 inhabitants. At its peak, it is estimated 10,000 people lived in what they referred to as "Fourteen-mile City" for all the small settlements that lined the gulch.

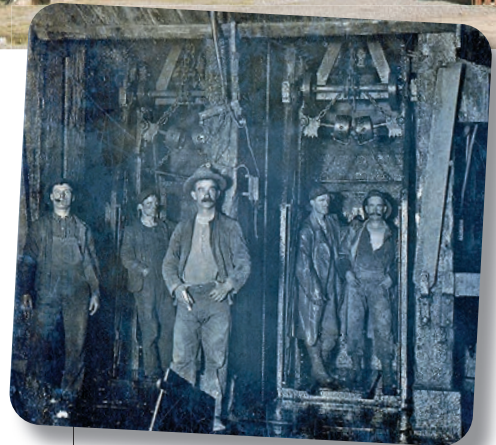
By 1865, Virginia City was designated as the new Territorial capital of Montana. It became a hub for activities and was dubbed the "Social City," where diverse supplies and people came together. A wide variety of businesses prospered, and over 1,200 buildings lined its streets. In the early years, Alder Gulch and Virginia City included Euro Americans, Indians, Mexicans and African Americans. By 1870, about one third of the population of Virginia City was Chinese.

At first, the mining around Virginia City was done using hand tools, sluice boxes and pans. Lode, or hard-rock mining, was also taking place in the upper part of Alder Gulch, but it took much more man power and was much harder than the placer mining and never seemed to be as productive. (Hard-rock mining is generally defined as the extraction of metals using underground mining methods.) By 1867, the norm was hydraulic mining, in which jets of pressurized water from hoses washed down the hillsides of dirt. Piles of rocks and hydraulic



cuts filled the area. In 1898 large floating dredges chewed up the ground, leaving behind distinctive tailings and dredge ponds. Many communities along the dredges' paths in the gulch were completely destroyed, but Virginia City was never dug up, as its foundations were not built on gold-bearing gravels. The railroad's arrival into Montana brought with it an increased demand for gold and silver. A branch-line railroad reached Alder Gulch in 1901, but it did not extend the 10 miles to Virginia City because the tracks would have interfered with the dredging operations.

Mining in Alder Gulch had long-reaching effects on settlement and the trails of the West. Its gold contributed to the expansion of transportation and the national economy. It wasn't until the Virginia City newspapers announced the discovery of gold in Last Chance Gulch (Helena, Montana) that many of its people moved farther north to make their fortunes. The territorial capital was relocated to Helena, and before long, construction in Virginia City had



Underground Miners  
Original Mine, Butte, Montana  
Courtesy SMU DeGolyer Library

declined, with many of its older places falling into ruin.

In 1899, Henry Edgar, one of the men who first discovered gold at Alder Gulch, along with members of the Montana Historical Society (established in 1865) decided that the history of Virginia City needed to be preserved. By 1907 the town was well into fulfilling that wish. Five road agents buried at Boot Hill were identified, reburied and given new headstones. Preservation continued with the Thompson-Hickman Museum, built in



Virginia City, Montana

Courtesy Montana Office of Tourism

## Montana Copper

With the backdrop of the Rocky Mountains' Continental Divide, Butte began as nothing more than a camp of miners, looking for gold and silver in the late 1800s. The growing numbers of successful miners and those who followed had the town enlarging at an almost daily rate. In addition, Butte businesses were creating a downtown district which soon was referred to as "Uptown Butte." A huge fire in 1879 devastated the city, burning down the entire central business district. When its citizens and the city council decided to rebuild, a new law went into order, requiring all new buildings in Uptown Butte to be built of brick or stone. (Most of these buildings are still standing in Butte today.)

After the turn of the century, gold and silver were still readily mined, but it was the introduction of electricity that

*Continued on page 74*

1918. With the growing number of automobile travelers in the 1920s, tourists started to arrive and learn the story of the Alder Gulch area. In 1928 a large marble marker was placed at the spot where Henry Edgar and his partner found their tobacco gold. Today, Virginia City is considered one of the best preserved placer mining camps of the 1860s West. With its preserved architecture

and historical significance, Virginia City has gained national recognition with almost 500,000 visitors annually. Main Street, Virginia City and the Thompson- Hickman Museum will let you step back in time to discover this Montana gold boomtown. Visit historic buildings filled with thousands of preserved artifacts from daily life in a mining town. Enjoy the Brewery Follies and the Virginia City Players for fun entertainment for the whole family.

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*Continued from page 71*

expanded the copper mining. This growth created the bustling city's nickname: "Richest Hill on Earth." By the 1890s, Butte was reported to supply over 25 percent of the world's copper and up to 50 percent of the United States' copper. It became the largest city between Chicago and San Francisco, with over 100,000 people.



Nevada City Hotel  
Nevada City, Montana

Courtesy Montana Office of Tourism

From the beginning, Butte's mining success drew immigrants from all over the world. By 1900, one-fourth of the city's residents were Irish. The wide mixture of cultures gave Butte a rather wild reputation, with its numerous saloons, as well as Mercury Street's "Venus Alley" or red-light district. Butte became famous for its variety of ethnic foods, and diners could find Scaninavian lelse, Cornish pastys and Irish stews and meats in its dining places. Along with the Irish, Butte was home to a large number of Chinese immigrants. One famous establishment in Butte, the

Pekin Noodle Parlor, is still the oldest continuously running Chinese restaurant in America.

In 1899, Standard Oil Company, wanting to invest in the area, purchased numerous mines and smelters. The conglomerate was called the Amalgamated Copper Mining Company, which soon became Anaconda Mining Company.

Throughout the 1900s this company maintained mining operations in Butte, merging into the Arco Company, until all mining operations stopped in 1983. Today, visitors can learn about the history of Butte and mining in Montana at The World Museum of Mining, which is an amazing stop in which to explore the history of mining in the state. With over 50 exhibit buildings and an underground tour, it offers a glimpse into this unique industrialization of Montana and America. Wander through a turn-of-the-century mining town and visit over 50 buildings, from the 100-foot-high headframe to the heart of Hell Roarin' Gulch.

Displays and exhibits focus on mining and the related culture that made Butte. Enhance your visit by taking an underground guided tour into the depths of the Orphan Girl Mine to learn the history of mining, and see the Orphan Girl vein and the original workings of the mine.

**Quackgrass Sally** is a working ranch wife and freelance author in Montana. She writes about the West from her own experiences, having ridden her horse and driven her covered wagon thousands of miles along the Western historic trails.

## WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY

### MUSEUMS

Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman; Gallatin History Museum, Bozeman; Bozeman Art Museum, Bozeman; World Museum of Mining, Butte; Madison Valley History Museum, Ennis; Montana Historical Society Museum, Helena; C.M Russell Museum, Great Falls; Headwaters Heritage Museum, Three Forks; Three Forks Headwaters Railroad and Trident Heritage Center, Three Forks; Yellowstone Gateway Center, Livingston; Livingston Depot Center, Livingston; Western Heritage Center, Billings; Yellowstone County Museum, Billings; Carbon County Museum, Red Lodge

### GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

**Eats:** Palace Restaurant & Saloon, Virginia City; Bale of Hay Saloon, Virginia City; Bacchus Pub, Bozeman; The Molly Brown Bar, Bozeman; Pekin Noodle Parlor, Butte; The Silver Dollar Saloon, Butte; Old Saloon, Emigrant; Gold Bar & Western Bar, Helena; Celtic Cowboy, Great Falls; Timber Bar & Grill, Big Timber; The Murray Bar, Livingston; Montana Club, Billings

**Sleeps:** Fairweather Inn, Virginia City; Nevada City Hotel, Virginia City; Kimpton Armory Hotel, Bozeman; Copper King Mansion, Butte; The Barrister Bed & Breakfast, Helena; The Jeffers Inn, Ennis; Historic Murray Hotel, Livingston; Northern Hotel, Billings

**Dude Ranches:** Diamond J Ranch, Ennis; Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, Emigrant; Hubbard's Six Quarter Circle Ranch, Emigrant; Rocking Z Guest Ranch, Wolf Creek; Sweet Grass Ranch, Big Timber; Elkhorn Ranch, Gallatin Gateway; Nine Quarter Circle Ranch, Gallatin Gateway; Lone Mountain Ranch, Big Sky

# Arizona

Discover the Grand Canyon State's rich history of ranching, mining and railroads in its small towns.



BY STUART ROSEBROOK

Hackberry General Store, Old Route 66  
Hackberry, Arizona

Courtesy Carol M. Highsmith Archive,  
Library of Congress

With the growth of Las Vegas, Nevada, many visitors fly into the city that never sleeps to begin a tri-state Southwestern adventure in the Silver State and to its neighbors, Utah and Arizona. But for those intending to visit communities in Central and Southern Arizona, Phoenix is their hub. In either case, heritage travelers to Northern Arizona from Las Vegas or Phoenix will soon discover in Kingman or Williams, respectively, one of the most historic routes of Western travel: Route 66.

## Northern Arizona

A list of the icons of the West usually is full of the famous and infamous, mustangs and buffalos, cowboy hats and boots, stately saguaros and giant redwoods. But, right in the middle of that list will always be a highway that sparks international recognition upon its

utterance: Route 66. And Arizona just happens to be the state with the longest stretches of the historic Mother Road. From the California to New Mexico boundaries, Route 66 travelers will discover the history of America in the West.

Long before the first stretch of U.S. Highway 66 was excavated and paved, the route we know today at Route 66 and Interstate 40 across Northern Arizona had been traversed for centuries. Water determined routes in the arid climate, and the construction of Beale's Wagon Road, the Santa Fe Railway, Route 66 and I-40 all followed the water. Long before the latter two, the Army, ambitious settlers and the railroad set up camps, way stops and towns at key sources of water. Driving in from Las Vegas, travelers to Northern Arizona can arrive in Arizona on I-40 via U.S. 95 through Needles, U.S. 93 to Kingman (via the Hoover Dam, a highly

recommended stop and tour), or take the long way: U.S. 95 to I-40 to Arizona 10 near Topock for a great side road to the historic mining town of Oatman (watch out for the donkeys!).

For travelers coming from Las Vegas, Kingman on I-40 is the first major stop in Northern Arizona. Those feeling nostalgic for the bygone days of the U.S. highways before the interstates, should schedule a weekend in Kingman to visit its Route 66 museums, shops and restaurants. Check in at the Kingman Visitor Center first to get an introduction to the city and local happenings. While in town, before heading north and east on Old Route 66, stop by the local Mojave History and Art Museum, the town's railroad museum and Bonelli House. Before you go, plan your stay in Kingman at [ExploreKingman.com](http://ExploreKingman.com).

From Kingman to Williams, travelers have two route options: either 115 miles



Mohave Museum of  
History and Arts  
Kingman, Arizona

Courtesy Mohave Museum  
of History and Arts

Sharlot Hall Museum  
Prescott, Arizona

Stuart Rosebrook



on I-40 or the scenic old Route 66, which, if you have the time, could easily include an overnight or two in Peach Springs on the West Rim of the Grand Canyon on the Hualapai Indian Reservation. The drive on 66 through the small villages of Hualapai, Anteres, Hackberry, Valentine, Crozier, Truxton and Seligman is an enjoyable, slow trip into the past, including an old-fashioned hamburger and ice cream at Delgadillo's Snow Cap Drive-In in Seligman.

## Gateway to the Grand Canyon

In 1901, the Santa Fe Railway opened its rail line to its luxurious El Tovar Hotel on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Ever since, Williams has been known as the Gateway to the Grand Canyon. With the construction of Route 66 in the 1920s, travelers would arrive in Williams by car or passenger train and enjoy the friendly, Western atmosphere of the mountain town before taking the train to and from the natural wonder. In 1989, after a 21-year hiatus, the Grand Canyon Railway began operating daily, and once again, travelers could park and stay in Williams and take the train to the national park. The modern railway even has package deals for visitors to stay in Williams and at the Grand Canyon, a classic way to enjoy both the fun-filled town and the park.

Williams is a four-season city and has shopping, restaurants and hotels for all

tastes and budgets. The summertime is filled with events, including parades, rodeos, and Route 66 auto rallies. The Grand Canyon Railway has its own special events including Steam Saturdays, when excursions on the first Saturday of the month, March to September, are pulled by a restored steam locomotive. In the winter, the very popular Polar Express train excursions in November and December are for all ages. A great way to plan your stay in Williams is to contact the Williams Visitor Center at [ExperienceWilliams.com](http://ExperienceWilliams.com).

## Central Arizona

Arizona's Yavapai and Maricopa counties are two of the largest in the country. Visitors who want to experience almost every aspect of the Grand Canyon State will find it in these historically, geographically and culturally diverse counties. From day trips to weeks-long adventures, consider three towns as the perfect headquarters for experiencing all these counties have to offer: Prescott, Wickenburg and Cave Creek.

## Prescott

Nicknamed "Everybody's Hometown" by an intrepid booster, Prescott offers a friendly, mile-high mountain atmosphere and historic downtown, welcoming millions of visitors annually.

The original territorial capital of Arizona, Prescott almost immediately became an important crossroad of commerce in the fledgling territory. Today, Prescott is the Yavapai County Seat and one of the state's most significant commercial, educational and tourism centers.

The 136th annual Prescott Frontier Days and the World's Oldest Rodeo is scheduled for June 28-July 4. Get your tickets early, as it quickly sells out. Those who love a parade will want to be in town for the annual Frontier Days Parade on July 1. This year's theme is "Dances with Bulls" and honors the skills of the rodeo bull fighters.

Prescott, with its historic downtown plaza, is also an outdoors, festival and history lovers' destination. Because it is surrounded by the beautiful Bradshaw Mountains and within driving distance to the historic mountain mining town of Jerome, outdoor enthusiasts flock to Prescott year round. Almost every weekend from May to October, the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza is host to a festival, while in December, Prescott transforms itself into Christmas City.

Museums that celebrate the community's history and heritage are must-visits when in the mountain town. Sharlot Hall Museum, which will celebrate its centennial in 2028, is the state's premier terri-

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Prescott Frontier Days' World's Oldest Rodeo in Prescott, Arizona, celebrates its 136th year in 2023. The rodeo will run from June 28 to July 4.

Courtesy Stuart Rosebrook

torial living history center. Downtown, the Prescott Western Heritage Center provides a great introduction to the county's history and nonprofit volunteer history organizations. The Phippen Museum has the state's best cowboy art collection, and the Indigenous Peoples Museum is the perfect stop at which to learn more about Arizona's original residents.

Start at Prescott's Chamber of Commerce or go to [Prescott.org](http://Prescott.org) to plan a vacation to the mile-high city that proves every day why it's "everybody's hometown."

## Wickenburg

Located in the beautiful high Sonoran Desert of Maricopa County, Wickenburg is one of the oldest communities in central and northern Arizona. Founded in 1863 after the discovery of gold in the area, the mining and ranching town was built along the banks of the Hassayampa River and quickly grew into one of the territory's most important crossroads and commercial communities. Over 150 years later, Wickenburg is still an important hub of economic activity for the county, best known today for its Western

ranch resorts, ranching, roping and arts community.

When I visit Wickenburg, I love to park downtown and walk around the highly walkable city. Enjoy the local shops, art galleries and restaurants while making time to visit the world-class Desert Caballeros Western Museum. One of the most popular and well-attended museum events is the annual "Cowgirl Up! Art from the Other Half of the West, Invitational Exhibition & Sale," which is now in its 18th year and will be on exhibit from March 31 to September 3, 2023. If you love festivals, parades and rodeos, make plans to attend the 75th Annual Rush Days and Senior Pro Rodeo next February.

Planning a visit to Wickenburg? Go to [OutWickenburgWay.com](http://OutWickenburgWay.com) for all the latest events and information, or stop in at the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center in the historic Santa Fe Railway station on Frontier Street.

## Cave Creek

In Maricopa County, Cave Creek may be one of the most eclectic and fun towns to visit and live in. Abutting Tonto National Forest on the far northeastern end of the suburban sprawl of the Valley

of the Sun, the once isolated ranching and mining town is a mecca for horse lovers, artists, bikers, tourists, sports lovers and even a few miners. Despite the summer heat, Cave Creek is a four-season destination as its elevation and low-density desert community is always about 10 degrees cooler than downtown Phoenix.

The core of downtown Cave Creek is walkable and bikeable between antiques shops, restaurants, bars and art galleries. But don't be surprised if you have to dodge some road apples along the way, because locals still ride their horses into town and tie them up at their favorite watering holes. A great way to enjoy the town's Western heritage is at the annual Cave Creek Rodeo, held in March.

The Cave Creek Museum celebrates the town's Western past and provides a good overview of the community's mining, ranching and cultural past and present. The funky town is well-known for its popular watering holes El Encanto, Tonto Bar & Grill, the Horny Toad, the Hideaway and Buffalo Chip Saloon and Steakhouse, but don't miss a meal or drink at the local gems: Janey's, Indian Village, Z's House of Thai and the Grotto Café.

Cave Creek's Visitor Center is a great place to start when visiting the desert burg, and the town's website [CaveCreekAZ.gov](http://CaveCreekAZ.gov) carries all the latest information on local hotels, restaurants, shops, entertainment and upcoming events.

## Southern Arizona

Like many Western states, Arizona's economy was built on the strength of its natural resources. From the first Spanish settlements in southern Arizona in the

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Photo: Jack Olson



Tombstone Stagecoach, 1915  
Courtesy USC Digital Collections

late 17th century to the present day, rich veins of silver, gold and copper, especially copper, led to major and minor mining operations across the region. Many of the historic Arizona mining settlements across southern Arizona can still be visited today and enjoyed for their history, culture and natural beauty.

## Tombstone

Is there an Old West town in America with greater renown than Tombstone? I would dare say that only Dodge City and Deadwood challenge Tombstone for pre-eminence as the most infamous and iconic boomtown of the Wild West. “The Town too Tough to Die” is thriving in its role as a living history center of Cochise County’s frontier past. The southeastern Arizona city has established itself as a four-season destination and as one of the most popular communities in the state for historic reenactments and Old West festivals, including Vigilante Days in February, Wild West Days in March, the Rose Festival in April, Wyatt Earp Days in May, Doc Holliday in August and Helldorado Days in October.

In addition to the festivals, Tombstone has a grand collection of local and state museums. Many visitors start their tours at Boothill Graveyard and then go to the Tombstone County

Courthouse State Historic Park, both of which provide strong introductions into the town’s history. Downtown, a tour of the Tombstone Epitaph Museum, the Birdcage Theatre and the O.K. Corral, at minimum, should be scheduled during a long weekend stay. And, of course, don’t miss a chance to enjoy the lively atmosphere at Big Nose Kate’s and the Crystal Palace saloons.



Visitors Center,  
Arizona and New Mexico Railway Station  
Clifton, Arizona

Courtesy Road Travel America

The city’s visitor center at 395 E. Allen Street is always a great place to begin a visit to Tombstone, or better yet, before you hit the road, go online to *DiscoverTombstone.com* for all the latest information on the Western town.

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## Bisbee

Like its central Arizona kin, Jerome and Prescott, Bisbee is a historic testament to Arizona's territorial mining heritage. But while the first settlers in Prescott had gold fever, it was silver and copper that led to the founding of Bisbee. The owners of the Copper Queen mine assayed a rich vein of copper in 1880 and for 95 years the mine operated as one of the most productive in the state and country.

When visitors book themselves into one of the local hotels, inns and bed and breakfasts in the mile-high border city they will be able to easily immerse themselves in the rich history of Bisbee. The highly walkable historic district (steep for some, so driving is an option for the higher reaches of the city) is filled with great shops, restaurants and bars. The historic entertainment district, the Queen Mine and Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum are all walking distance from each other, while the nearby communities of Naco and Warren (don't

miss a visit to the historic baseball field) are a short drive away.

A trip to Bisbee should not be considered complete without a stop at the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum and taking the Queen Mine tour. The docents who take you underground on little trains are usually retired miners and when they ask you to turn off your headlamps, the darkness and stillness of the mine are truly remarkable and an experience you won't soon forget.

Want more information on visiting Bisbee? Stop by the visitor center or go to [DiscoverBisbee.com](http://DiscoverBisbee.com) to plan your tour.

## Clifton

Clifton, like Tombstone and Bisbee, was founded in 1873 because of the rich ores in the neighboring mountains and drainages of the San Francisco River and its tributaries. Copper soon became the dominant ore of the local mines of the Greenlee County boomtown. Mines,

smelters and railroads were built, and the district became—and still is—one of the richest copper mining communities in North American history. In the 1920s, the Coronado Trail, U.S. Highway 191 (originally U.S. Highway 666) connected Clifton with the White Mountains of eastern Arizona. Ever since, the scenic highway (aka the Devil's Highway) has been renowned equally for its switchbacks and natural beauty. It offers one of the great driving experiences in Arizona and the American Southwest.

Today, visitors to Clifton can relax in the historic district of Clifton. Stop in the Visitors Center, where the welcoming staff can guide you to local lodging, restaurants, museums, shopping and outdoor activities. Before you go, learn more at the city's website, [CliftonAZ.com](http://CliftonAZ.com).

Stuart Rosebrook loves the backroads of Arizona and has been writing professionally about the Grand Canyon State for nearly 40 years.

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Long Soldier, 1989, David McGary (1958-2003)  
Collection of Molly McGary

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# WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY

## MUSEUMS

**Northern Arizona:** Mojave Museum of History and Arts, Kingman; Kingman Railroad Museum, Kingman; Powerhouse Visitor Center, Kingman; Bonelli House, Kingman; Arizona Route 66 Museum, Kingman; Kolb Studio, Grand Canyon National Park; Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff; Riordan Mansion State Historic Park, Flagstaff; Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff; Walnut Canyon Visitors Center, Flagstaff

**Central Arizona:** Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott; Indigenous Peoples Museum, Prescott; Phippen Museum, Prescott; Western Heritage Center, Prescott; Fort Verde State Historic Park, Camp Verde; Jerome State Historic Park, Jerome; Tuzigoot National Monument, Clarkdale; Desert Caballeros Western Museum, Wickenburg; Cave Creek Museum, Cave Creek; Spirit of the West: Scottsdale's Museum of the West, Scottsdale; Heard Museum, Phoenix

**Southern Arizona:** Arizona Historical Society Museum, Tucson; Tombstone County Courthouse State Historic Park, Tombstone; Rose Tree Inn Museum, Tombstone; Birdcage Theater, Tombstone; Tombstone Western Heritage Museum, Tombstone;

Tombstone Epitaph Museum, Tombstone; Boothill Graveyard, Tombstone; Gunfighter Hall of Fame, Tombstone; Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, Bisbee; Queen Mine, Bisbee; Muheim Heritage House Museum, Bisbee; Bisbee Restoration Museum, Bisbee; Fort Bowie National Historic Site, Bowie; Amerind Museum, Dragoon; Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum & Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame, Willcox; Chiricahua Regional Museum, Willcox; Kartchner Caverns State Park, Benson; Benson Historical Museum, Benson; Fort Huachuca Museum, Sierra Vista; Greenlee County Historical Society, Greenlee

## GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**Eats:** Mi Lindo Jalisco, Kingman; Mr D'z Rt 66 Diner, Kingman; Delgadillos Snow-Cap, Seligman; Grand Canyon Brewing Company, Williams; El Corral on 66, Williams; Museum Club, Flagstaff; The Palace Restaurant & Saloon, Prescott; Matt's Saloon, Prescott; Bobby D's BBQ, Jerome; Spurs Cafe, Wickenburg; Charley's Steak House, Wickenburg; El Encanto, Cave Creek; Tonto Bar & Grill, Cave Creek; Big Nose Kate's Saloon, Tombstone; Crystal Palace Saloon, Tombstone; Cafe Roka, Bisbee; Contessa's

Cantina, Bisbee; Big Tex BBQ, Willcox; PJ's, Clifton

**Sleeps:** La Quinta Inn, Kingman; Hampton Inn, Kingman; Grand Canyon Railway & Hotel, Williams; Sheridan House Inn, Williams; Little America, Flagstaff; Hotel Monte Vista, Flagstaff; Hassayampa Inn, Prescott; Hilton Garden Inn, Prescott; Jerome Grand Hotel, Jerome; The Conner Hotel, Jerome; Los Viajeros Inn, Wickenburg; Creekside Lodge & Cabins, Mayer; Prickly Pear Inn, Cave Creek; Rancho Mañana Resort, Cave Creek; Allen Street Inn, Tombstone; Boarding House Inn, Tombstone; Copper Queen Hotel, Bisbee; Bisbee Grand Hotel, Bisbee; Dos Cabezas Retreat Bed and Breakfast, Willcox; Clifton Hotel, Clifton

**Dude Ranches:** White Stallion Ranch, Tucson; Tanque Verde Ranch, Tucson; Elkhorn Ranch, Tucson; Tombstone Monument Ranch, Tombstone; Triangle T Guest Ranch, Dragoon; Rancho Los Baños, Douglas, Arizona and Sonora, Mexico; Cold Creek Ranch, Clifton; Sprucedale Guest Ranch, Alpine; Rancho de la Osa, Sasabe; Rancho de los Caballeros, Wickenburg; Kay El Bar Guest Ranch, Wickenburg; Flying E Ranch, Wickenburg; Stagecoach Trails Guest Ranch, Yucca

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# PRESCOTT, ARIZONA · TRUE WEST, REAL ADVENTURE.

# Arkansas-Oklahoma-Missouri

Discover the Western Frontier on a tour of three gateway states to the Old West.

BY ERIK J. WRIGHT



A road trip through the states of Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma would quickly prove to nonbelievers that the violent ways of the frontier flourished here, too. While the thick underbrush, tall trees and rolling hillsides conflict with the popular image of the Western United States, the three gateway states embody the spirit and the history of the Wild West.

## Arkansas

Beginning in the state's far northeast corner near the Missouri bootheel lies Paragould, the county seat of Greene County. For decades, from the 1870s through the turn of the century, Greene County and Paragould was an epicenter of violence and lawlessness. Named for the railroad magnates whose tracks

crossed in the middle of town, Paragould is perhaps most famous for the 1909 murder of Charles Gragg by James Trammell. The killer fled to San Francisco and was apprehended before fleeing a second time, never to be heard from again by local authorities. But it turns out that Trammell had escaped to New South Wales, Australia, where he died an old man in 1966. Today, the site of the killing is preserved as a boutique clothing store along a quaint and restored downtown shopping district.

Traveling southwest past Little Rock you'll find Hot Springs. If one can look past all the glitz and glamour of the gangster era, the intrepid visitor will discover a rich Western history. It was here that legendary lawman Bat Masterson visited and stayed at the famed Arlington Hotel.

The Oklahoma Land Rush of 1893 created a great deal of chaos and work for law enforcement across the Oklahoma Territory.

True West Archives

In March 1899, Hot Springs Chief of Police Thomas C. Toler and Garland County Sheriff Bob Williams fought for authority over the town's gambling and the illegal kickbacks that came with it. The feud boiled over with supporters from both factions on Central Avenue in Hot Springs, and five were killed and three wounded.

North and west of Hot Springs sits the state's most famous symbol of frontier law and order: the courtroom of the "Hanging Judge" Isaac Parker. Established in 1872, the federal court for the Western District of Arkansas oversaw legal proceedings in Arkansas and the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). A no-nonsense



Fort Smith National Historic Site  
Fort Smith, Arkansas  
Courtesy NPS.gov



judge, Parker quickly earned a fearsome reputation, and the jail which Parker oversaw soon became known as “Hell on the Border.”

Located nearby is the U.S. Marshals Museum when, once completed, will highlight the history of the marshalcy since 1789. Just north of the museum is Crawford County, Arkansas, and the

in 1846 moved with his owner to Texas. During the Civil War, it is believed, Reeves escaped and fled to the Indian Territory, where he lived until the 13th Amendment took effect. He returned to Arkansas as a farmer, and in 1875 he was appointed as a deputy U.S. marshal for the Western District of Arkansas because of his ability to speak several Native languages. Reeves served as one of Parker’s most trusted and dependable deputies and worked in that capacity until 1907 with a record of 3,000 felony arrests.

after his formal surrender in 1875. Once off the warpath, Parker became interested in elevating his status among his fellow Comanches, as well as his reputation with fellow cattlemen in the area, so he built the two-story, 10-bedroom house with large white stars on the roof. Some believe the stars represented, in Parker’s view, the rank of a military general.

Another notable Indian leader has a story at Lawton. The notorious Geronimo, who helped to lead the final Apache resistance until his surrender in 1886, died at Fort Sill in 1909 as a prisoner of war. His grave can be visited, but it is found on the military installation, and visiting the site requires special permitting from the fort’s visitors’ center.

Getting back on the outlaw trail with the Doolin Gang you can travel just a few miles northeast to the crossroads settlement of Ingalls. Here, on September 1, 1893, a running battle occurred when two wagonloads of federal officers tried to catch the gang. Shots were exchanged between the parties, and in the explosive fight an outlaw named Arkansas Tom was killed along with three of the officers.

In the western part of the state near the town of Cheyenne is the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site. Here, on the freezing morning of November 27, 1868, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer



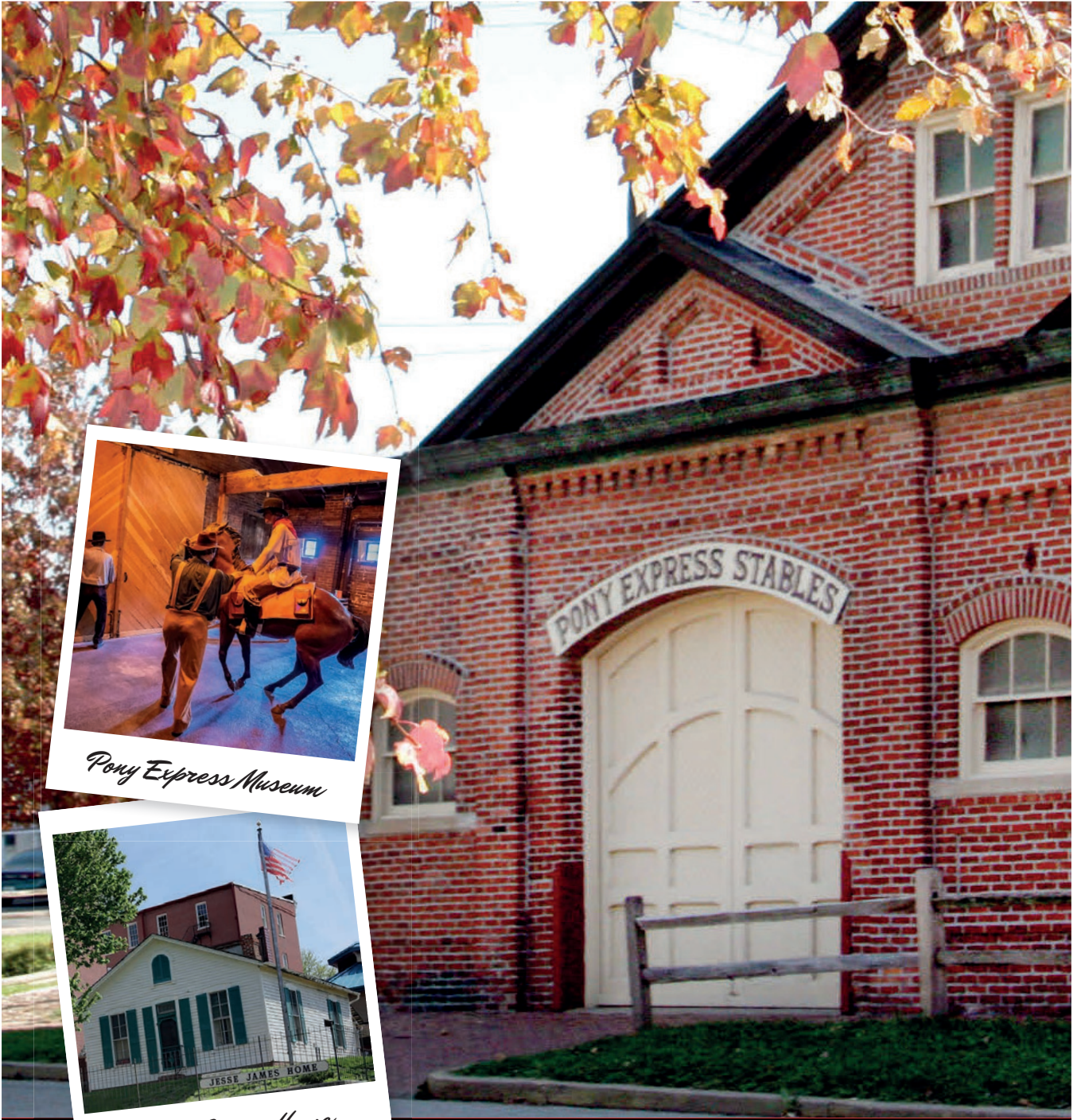
Guards watching over prisoners awaiting trial at the United States Federal Courthouse at Fort Smith, Arkansas  
Courtesy NPS.gov

## Oklahoma

Outlawry in the Sooner State is well-documented history. From Judge Parker’s deafening gavel on the other side of the border to many outlaw gangs, Oklahoma is sure to please even the most scrupulous Old West buff. From Fort Smith, you can drive just north of Oklahoma City to the city of Guthrie. There, you can visit the gravesite of notorious outlaw Bill Doolin and see where he led a monumental jailbreak of 13 prisoners in 1896. Doolin was killed by U.S. Deputy Marshal Heck Thomas in Lawton, which lies southwest of Oklahoma City.

While in Lawton, visit the famous Quanah Parker Star House in nearby Cache. The house was built by famed Comanche chief Parker many years

birthplace of Bass Reeves, the first Black deputy U.S. Marshal west of the Mississippi River. Born into slavery in 1838, Reeves and his family were enslaved by an Arkansas lawmaker and



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Pony Express Museum  
St. Joseph, Missouri  
Courtesy St. Joseph CVB

and four brigades of the 7th Cavalry overran a sleeping village of Cheyenne people and killed an estimated 60 men, women and children. The massacre was part of the overarching fight for control of the Great Plains during the height of westward expansion.

## Missouri

Missouri may very well be the cradle of the American frontier. It was from Missouri that the Lewis and Clark expedition left for their journey to the Pacific—and back. Missouri was also home to the American fur trade empire with the St. Louis landing being an eyewitness to many notable figures, including James Beckwourth, Hugh Glass, Manuel Lisa, William Ashley and Andrew Henry. Missouri is also the final resting place of frontier figures William Clark, Samuel Hawken, John Colter, Jim Bridger, William Tecumseh Sherman and Dred Scott. If

one can ignore the urban sprawl in places like St. Louis and Kansas City, the sights and sounds of these long-forgotten stories may still be heard.

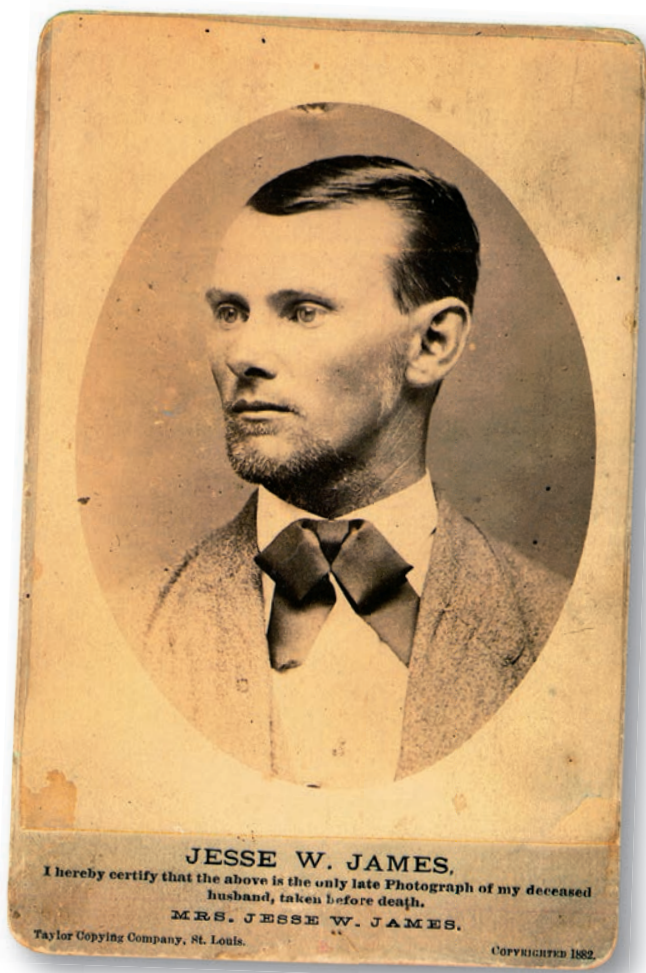
During the California Gold Rush many Missourians were seen as a lesser class of miner and were often called “Pukes” by those who dismissed their rough and tumble ways. The name may have originated from the number of ‘49ers who hailed from Pike County, which is just north of St. Louis along the Mississippi River.

It was from the banks of the Missouri River at Westport Landing that the great migration in 1848 jumped off. Here, thousands of hardy individuals and brave families set their sights west toward Utah, California and Oregon. Missouri was also home to some of the most notorious outlaws in the frontier West. Beginning with the Civil War era, Confederate guerilla leader William Quantrill terrorized the countryside while apprehending escaped slaves. The group under his leadership later became known as “Quantrill’s Raiders” and was responsible for many violent

attacks on towns in Missouri and Kansas. Emerging from this chaos of war and scorched-earth tactics were young outlaws, including the James Gang. Jesse and his brother, Frank, were both from Kearney, Missouri, in the northwest part of the state and first gained notoriety after they joined pro-Confederate guerilla groups.

After the Civil War, outlaws like the James boys continued to pillage by robbing trains and banks, and ultimately Jesse James became one of the most symbolic of all the American outlaws. His death at the hands of Robert Ford, also a Missourian, in April 1882 would be avenged in 1892 at Creede, Colorado, by Ed O’Kelley, a native of Harrisonville, which is just south of today’s Kansas City.

Missouri’s most famous contribution to the lore of the violent days of the frontier West may be the unbelievable—but true—duel between James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok and Davis Tutt in the town square in Springfield. In July 1865, just after the end of the Civil War, Springfield was a hub for



Jesse James  
True West Archives

soldiers, spies and scouts who filled that city's gambling halls and saloons. Hickok, who had been on friendly terms with an Arkansan named Davis Tutt, became enraged when Tutt grabbed a prized pocket watch belonging to Hickok for collateral over a gambling debt. Hickok warned him to return the watch, but Tutt refused and the two met in the town square. Shots rang out simultaneously from both pistols at the in-

credible distance of 75 yards. Tutt dropped from a mortal wound to the chest while Hickok was not wounded. Hickok's status of frontier celebrity was just beginning when, after the affair, a reporter named George Ward Nicholls from *Harper's New Monthly* worked to embolden the story of Hickok for national readers.

A trip through the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri would be a family-friendly adventure through time. Load up the car with the kids, snacks and some history books and go off in search of the hidden treasures of each state's gems of true Western history.

**Erik J. Wright** published his first article in *True West* at age 16. He now serves as the assistant editor of *The Tombstone Epitaph* and lives in Paragould, Arkansas.

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# WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY

## MUSEUMS

**Arkansas:** Historic Arkansas Museum, Little Rock; Old State House Museum, Little Rock; Fort Smith National Historic Site, Fort Smith; Fort Smith Belle Grove Historic District, Fort Smith; United States Marshals Museum, Fort Smith; Museum of Native American History, Bentonville; Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie, Stuttgart; Historic Washington State Park, Washington; Pea Ridge National Military Park, Garfield; Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, Prairie Grove; Sultana Disaster Museum, Marion

**Oklahoma:** Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City; National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City; First Americans Museum, Oklahoma City; Cherokee Heritage Center, Park Hill; Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur; J.W. Arms & Historical Museum, Claremore; Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa; Woolaroc Museum and Wildlife Preserve, Bartlesville; Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie; Three Rivers Museum, Muskogee; Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Muskogee

**Missouri:** Missouri History Museum, St. Louis; Gateway National Park Museum, St. Louis; Independence Historic District, Independence;

National Frontier Trails Museum, Independence; James Farm, Kearney; Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum, Ridgedale; Arabia Steamboat Museum, Kansas City; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Westport Landing, Kansas City; Pony Express Museum, St. Joseph; Patee House Museum and Jesse James Home, St. Joseph; Missouri State Museum, Jefferson City; Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Republic

## GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

### Eats:

**Arkansas:** 1812 Pizza Company, Paragould; The Ohio Club, Hot Springs; McClard's BBQ, Hot Springs; Doe's Eat Place, Fort Smith; Riverfront Steakhouse, Little Rock; Rockin' Pig Saloon, Eureka Springs

**Oklahoma:** Cattleman's Steakhouse, Oklahoma City; McClintock Saloon & Chophouse, Stockyards City; Smokin' Joe's Stilly, Stillwater; Blue Belle Pizza Parlor & Saloon, Guthrie; Spudder Restaurant, Tulsa

**Missouri:** Arthur Bryant's BBQ, Kansas City; The Majestic, Kansas City; O'Malley's 1842 Pub, Weston; Fox & Fire Barbecue, Kearney; A Little BBQ Joint, Independence; Hank & Aces Pit BBQ, St. Joseph; Sweet Smoke BBQ, Jefferson City; Pappy's Smokehouse, St. Louis

### Sleeps:

**Arkansas:** White House Inn B&B, Paragould; The Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa, Hot Springs; 1886 Crescent Hotel & Spa, Eureka Springs; Grand Central Hotel, Eureka Springs; Inn at Carnall Hall, Fayetteville; Beland Manor Bed and Breakfast, Fort Smith; Capitol Hotel, Little Rock

**Oklahoma:** The Campbell Hotel, Tulsa; The Mayo Hotel, Tulsa; The Colcord Hotel, Oklahoma City; The Stone Lion Inn, Guthrie; Pollard Bed & Breakfast, Guthrie

**Missouri:** The Elms Hotel and Spa, Excelsior Springs; Whiskey Mansion Inn, St. Joseph; Silver Heart Inn, Independence; St. Louis Union Station Hotel, St. Louis; The St. George Hotel, Weston

### Dude Ranches:

**Arkansas:** Horseshoe Canyon Ranch, Jasper; Hidden Valley Guest Ranch, Eureka Springs; Double D Lazy J Ranch & Bed, Breakfast & Barn, Perryville

**Oklahoma:** Wolf Creek Ranch, Pawhuska; Rebel Hill Guest Ranch, Antlers

**Missouri:** Bucks and Spurs Guest Ranch, Ava

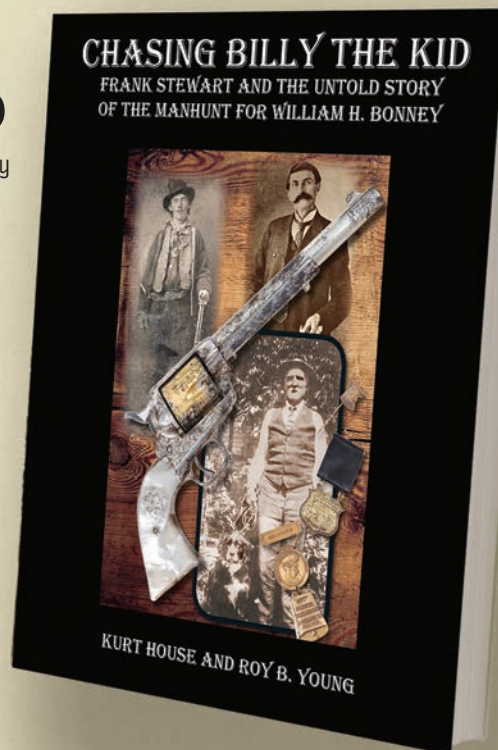
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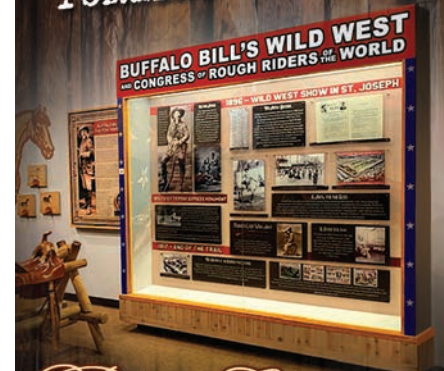
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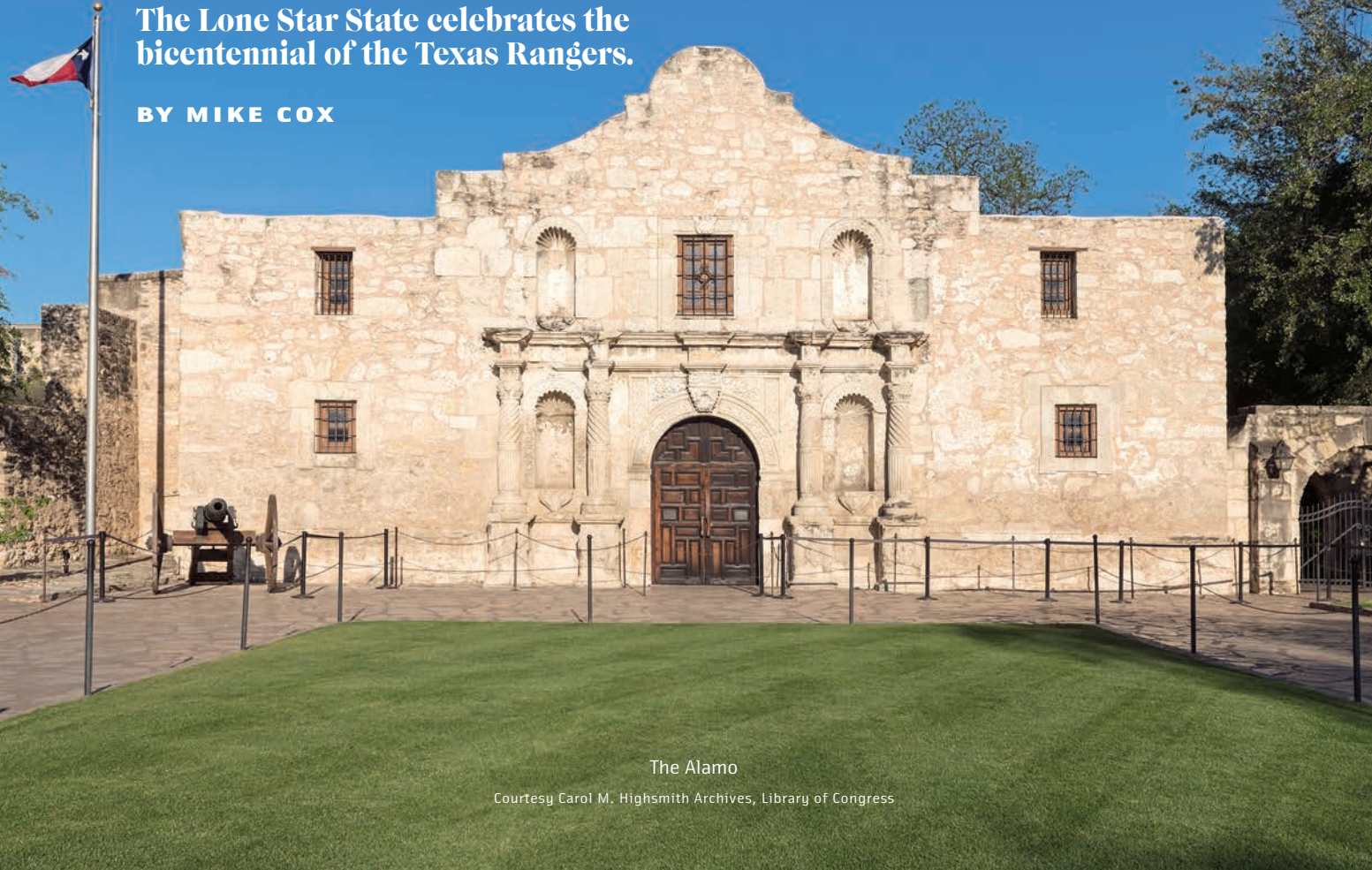


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# Texas

The Lone Star State celebrates the bicentennial of the Texas Rangers.

BY MIKE COX



The Alamo

Courtesy Carol M. Highsmith Archives, Library of Congress

Admired by many, denounced by some, the Texas Rangers trace their 200-year history to a 177-word document penned by Texas colonizer Stephen F. Austin on August 5, 1823. In that document, he said he intended to employ 10 men “to act as rangers for the common defense...”

Considered the Ranger “Magna Carta,” the document was written at Sylvanus Castleman’s log cabin about five miles northwest of present La Grange. Castleman’s place served as de facto headquarters for Austin’s fledgling colony and was the birthplace of the Rangers. To learn more about Castleman and his land, visit the Fayette County Heritage Museum and Archives, 855 S. Jefferson St. in La Grange.

Later in 1823, Austin platted a town-site near the Brazos River and named it San Felipe. For 13 years, the village reigned as the capital of his colony and the social, economic and political

hub of Anglo settlement in northern Mexico.

As conceived by Austin, paramilitary companies did “range” his colony in the 1820s, but not until 1835 did the ranging concept become formalized in Texas. That happened at San Felipe when a body called the Permanent Council met there to grapple with two critical issues—a dictatorial Mexican government and the threat of hostile Indian tribes.

Daniel Parker offered a resolution on October 17, proposing a three-company, 70-man standing ranger force. By November, a larger group calling itself a “Consultation” further discussed Parker’s idea. On the 24th the body passed an “Ordinance Establishing a Provisional Government.” Article 9 of an appendage labeled “Of the Military” authorized a “corps of rangers.” For the first time the Rangers became an arm of the government.

San Felipe’s chance of continuing as an important Texas city ended during the 1835-36 revolt against Mexico. After the fall of the Alamo in March 1836, with General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna marching in their direction, residents torched the town and fled eastward. The community never regained its prewar stature but is one of Texas’s most significant historical sites. San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site (220 Second St., San Felipe) features a new museum, interpretive trails and a bronze statue of Stephen F. Austin.

## On the Ranger Trail

Up the Brazos from San Felipe is the old town of Washington—better known as Washington-on-the-Brazos. A delegation of Texans gathered there March 1, 1836, to formalize the rebellion against Mexico. The next day, meeting in a drafty frame building, the delegates



Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park  
Washington, Texas  
True West Archives

adopted a declaration of independence. Three of the 59 signers were current or former rangers.

A replica of the small structure where that happened is the centerpiece of Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park (23200 Park Road 12, Washington, Texas). Nearby is the Star of the Republic Museum, a facility devoted to the near decade-long history of the Republic of Texas.

In 1833-34, in present Limestone County, the family and followers of Elder John Parker built a split-cedar log stockade with two blockhouses and began farming the adjacent land.

Their compound, Fort Parker, soon figured in one of the classic dramas of American frontier history: the capture of nine-year-old Cynthia Ann Parker and her subsequent rescue by Texas Rangers. Much less known is that before that, the fort served as a rendezvous point for the first government-authorized Ranger force.

In the summer of 1835, four volunteer ranger companies arrived at the fort to join with a fifth company. Captain Robert M. Coleman, who had strongly advocated creation of a tax-funded ranger force to protect settlers, led the men. The rangers bought

supplies from the Parkers and, after reorganizing, left the fort in August. The rangers had a few Indian skirmishes, but the battalion was mustered out of service in mid-September.

Had rangers remained stationed at Fort Parker, what happened in the spring of 1836 might have been averted. On May 19, 1836, several hundred Comanche and Kiowa warriors attacked the fort. They killed five men, including family patriarch John Parker—father of Ranger proponent Daniel Parker. Five women and children were kidnapped, including little Cynthia Ann Parker. The others escaped.

The reconstructed fort is off Farm to Market Road 1245, on State Park Road 35, north of Groesbeck. Initially a state park, the fort is now managed by the city of Groesbeck.

A year to the day after the attack, former ranger James Parker led an armed group to the abandoned fort and buried five sets of remains. Now known as Fort Parker Memorial Park, a large monument marks the mass grave.

## From Waco to San Antonio

For an overview of Ranger history, visit Waco's Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum (100 Texas Ranger Trail). First known as Fort Fisher (a short-lived ranger post established there in 1837), the museum opened in 1968 and has expanded since then. Sited on 32 acres on the south bank of the Brazos near downtown, the complex was later rebranded the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.

In addition to exhibits telling the Ranger story, two works of Ranger-related public art stand outside the museum: A bronze of noted Ranger and surveyor George B. Erath and a larger-than-life bronze of an early-day horseback Ranger bearing the Texas flag. Inside is a third piece, a life-

size Ranger statue, *Old Ranger*.

Since its founding in 1839 as the capital of the Republic of Texas, Austin



Texas Rangers Heritage Center Pavilion  
Fredericksburg, Texas  
Courtesy Texas Rangers Heritage Center

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"A Ways to Go" by Robert Pummill (b. 1936) Oil, 40x30



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Construction began in 1853 on a limestone statehouse to replace the original frame capitol, which was in poor repair. There, in 1874, legislators created the Frontier Battalion of Rangers. For the first time in Texas history, the Rangers were vested with law enforcement authority.

The Rangers were led by Major John B. Jones, a former Confederate officer who furthered the force's reputation as effective Indian fighters and prairie peace officers. Jones died in July 1881 and is buried in Austin's Oakwood Cemetery (1601 Navasota St.)

In November 1881, fire gutted the 28-year-old capitol, and Ranger brass officed in a temporary statehouse until completion of the present red granite capitol in 1887. The Ranger headquarters remained there until the creation of the Texas

The Texas Rangers Company D was stationed in Realitos, Texas, and was as famous for its courageous actions in the field as it was its notorious member, Baz Outlaw, back row, second from left.

Courtesy Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

Department of Public Safety in 1935, when the agency relocated to Camp Mabry on Austin's west side. The DPS remained headquartered at Camp

Mabry (35th and MoPac Blvd.) until a new complex opened in North Austin in 1953. The Texas Military Museum on post explores the long connection between the state's military and the Rangers.

The Bullock Texas State History Museum (1800 Congress Ave.) has three floors of permanent and changing exhibits. The museum's website *TheStoryofTexas.com* includes a history of the Rangers.



Gonzalez Memorial Museum  
Gonzalez, Texas

Courtesy Gonzalez Memorial Museum

The Texas State Cemetery (909 Navasota St.), final resting place of 30 Rangers and hundreds of other Lone Star notables, began with the death of one of those Rangers—Edward Burleson. In addition to his time as a Ranger or soldier, from 1841 to 1844 he'd served as vice president of the Republic of Texas. When he died in 1851, he was laid to rest on donated acreage in east

Austin. That afforded Burleson one additional distinction—his was the first

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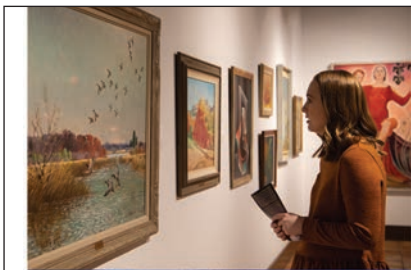
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Robert Farrington Elwell, *Untitled (Prairie Fire)*, c. 1930, 22 x 30 in., oil on canvas

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grave in a cemetery now considered the Arlington of Texas. In 1910, the remains of Stephen F. Austin were relocated to the cemetery.

In the heart of San Antonio, stands the most historic structure in Texas, if not the entire Southwest—the Alamo. The old Spanish mission, overrun by the Mexican army on March 6, 1836, is considered a shrine to liberty. While millions know the story, far fewer are aware that 32 Rangers died in the battle.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas maintained the Alamo until 2015, when the state General Land Office assumed control. The state has improved site interpretation, undertaken needed restoration and recently opened the two-story, 24,000-square-foot Alamo Collections Center. That facility houses the extensive collection



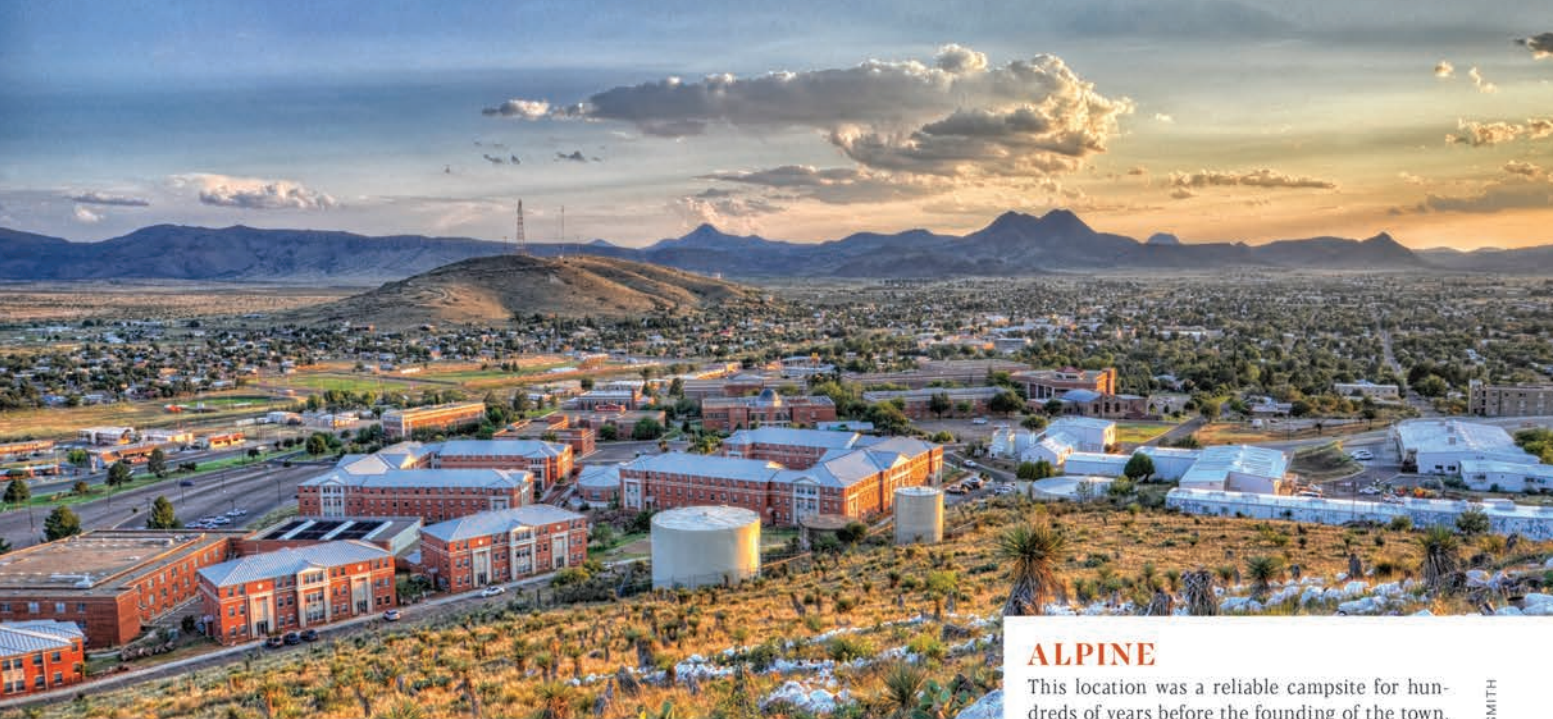
The Alamo

Courtesy NYPL Digital Collection

of Alamo artifacts assembled over the years by British rock star Phil Collins.

Just across from the Alamo, German immigrant William Menger opened a two-story hotel in 1859. The Alamo City's finest hostelry throughout the 19th century, the Menger hosted presidents, generals, cattle kings, actors, famous writers and other notables. Many Rangers and former Rangers spent time at the hotel, including Captain John S. "Rip" (Rest in Peace) Ford. Much expanded, the Menger (204 Alamo Plaza) remains open today.

In 1881, Albert Friedrich opened the Buckhorn Saloon. Soon, accommodating customers short of funds, Friedrich offered to trade drinks for trophy steer horns and deer antlers. Before long, the



# WEST TEXAS HISTORY

**DESERT MOUNTAIN VISTAS.** Golden grass-land plateaus. The open spaces of the Big Bend region's landscapes embody the very definition of "The West." While the land evokes the wide sweep of geologic time, human prehistory and the eventual development of ranching as an economy and a culture, communities like Marfa and Alpine are the living record of lives and livelihoods built over the century and a half since the arrival of the railroad. Much has changed, but traces of the past remain to be discovered.

## MARFA

Marfa, Texas is still making history. In 1886 the Presidio County Courthouse opened surrounded by miles of untamed grasslands. At that time Marfa was just a water stop on the railroad. In 1911 the Cavalry established Camp Marfa to protect the border as the Mexican Revolution raged about 100 miles south. Before WWI the Marfa Army Airfield trained pilots and the Cavalry fort became Fort D.A. Russel where German POWs were held. Once the Military was decommissioned in 1946 the population dropped by 60%,

leaving a once-bustling main street with empty storefronts.

Those empty shops and decommissioned fort drew the attention of artist Donald Judd, who was seeking space for permanent, large-scale works of art. He purchased the former Fort D.A. Russel, now known as the Chinati Foundation, where 13 artists have works in the permanent collection. Since Judd's death in 1994, the Judd Foundation has made his formerly private live and work spaces available through guided tours.

Today, Marfa is home to artists, architects, historians, bakers, makers, and average joes. Stop by the Marfa Visitor's Center, located in the historic USO Hall for information while you're in town, or plan ahead at [visitmarfa.com](http://visitmarfa.com).

## ALPINE

This location was a reliable campsite for hundreds of years before the founding of the town, thanks to a generous spring. The high quality water source later made the location attractive to the new railroad, which first arrived in 1882.

Ranching drove the local economy for many decades, supporting businesses such as the historic Hotel Ritchey (for laborers) and Holland Hotel (for owners). Both are still standing today.

The massive Kokernot 06 Ranch was founded in 1912, and in 1947 Herbert L. Kokernot, Jr. built Kokernot Field, then as now the home of the Alpine Cowboys baseball team. Kokernot Municipal Park was an additional gift from "Mr. Herbert" to benefit the Alpine community.

Sul Ross Normal College began in 1923 as a teachers' school; now a State University, SRSU has contributed immeasurably to the culture and prosperity of the town since its founding.

The Alpine Visitor Center provides a popular walking and windshield tour of historic structures. Find out more at [visitalpinetx.com](http://visitalpinetx.com).

# IN ALPINE AND MARFA



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South Texas Heritage Center,  
Witte Museum  
San Antonio, Texas  
Courtesy Witte Museum

saloon's walls were covered with impressive mounts. The Buckhorn (318 E. Houston St.) remains in business. The Former Texas Rangers Association maintains an 8,000-square-foot Ranger museum there.

The South Texas Heritage Center (3801 Broadway St.) is a new addition to the nationally known Witte Museum. The center focuses on the diverse cultures that shaped South Texas, from the Comanches to the Spanish, Mexicans, Germans and others, as well as cowboys and outlaws.

In the 1830s, Rangers periodically camped under a stand of trees along a spring-fed stream running through what is now downtown Seguin. The large trees, still standing (southeast corner, Gonzales and Travis Sts.), came to be called the Ranger Oaks.

Demonstrating they had business acumen as well as fighting skills, in 1838 Matthew "Old Paint" Caldwell



National Ranch Heritage Center  
Lubbock, Texas  
Courtesy NRHC



Texas Ranger Museum  
Waco, Texas

Courtesy Texas Ranger Museum

and two other Rangers partnered to develop a town on land that included their former campsite. Thirty-three men—mostly Rangers—bought shares in the venture. The new town was named for Texas hero and former ranger Juan N. Seguin. The Seguin-Guadalupe County Heritage Museum (114 N. River St.) tells this historic community's story.

Seguin's grave lies beneath a flat granite tombstone at 789 S. Saunders St. A larger-than-life bronze statue



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# WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY

## MUSEUMS

Bob Bullock State History Museum, Austin; The Alamo, San Antonio; Witte Museum, San Antonio; Frontier Times Museum, Bandera; Gonzalez Memorial Museum, Gonzalez; Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum, Waco; Texas Ranger Heritage Center, Fredericksburg; Fayette County Heritage Museum and Archives, La Grange; San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, San Felipe; Fort Parker Memorial Park, Groesbeck; Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park, Washington; Seguin-Guadalupe County Heritage Museum, Seguin; National Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock

## GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

**Eats:** 11th Street Bar & Grill, Bandera; Arkey Blue's Silver Dollar Saloon, Bandera; Buckhorn Saloon, San Antonio; La Fonda On Main, San Antonio; Saltgrass Steakhouse, Waco; Lonesome Dove, Austin; Scholz Garten,

Austin; Broken Spoke, Austin; Come and Take It Bar & Grill, Gonzalez; J. Cody's Steakhouse & BBQ, College Station; Evie Mae's BBQ, Wolfforth

**Sleeps:** The Menger Hotel, San Antonio; The Crockett, San Antonio; Emily Morgan Hotel, San Antonio; Pivovar, Waco; Kenmore Inn, Fredericksburg; The Driskill Hotel, Austin; Hotel Ella, Austin; Lone Star Court Hotel, Austin; The Dilworth Inn, Gonzalez; Belle Oaks Inn, Gonzalez; Cavalry Court, College Station; Cotton Court Hotel, Lubbock

**Dude Ranches:** Flying L Ranch Resort, Bandera; West 1077 Guest Ranch, Bandera; Dixie Dude Ranch, Bandera; Mayan Dude Ranch, Bandera; Rancho Cortez, Bandera; Wildcatter Ranch, Graham; Prude Ranch, Fort Davis

depicting him astride a horse at the Battle of San Jacinto stands in the city's Central Park bounded by Austin, Nolte, South River and Donegan Streets.

The best-known early day Ranger was Capt. Jack Hays, a Tennessee-born surveyor credited with establishing the Ranger reputation. In 1847, Hays got married in Seguin's two-story Magnolia Hotel. One of the city's oldest structures, the restored hostelry remains in business today.

When news reached Gonzales in 1836 that the Alamo had fallen, Gen. Sam Houston ordered the town burned. Escorted by the Texas army, townspeople—including the grieving widows and children of the 32 Rangers who'd volunteered to help defend the Alamo—fled eastward.

A monument to the men of the Gonzales Ranging Company stands outside the Gonzales Memorial Museum (414 Smith St.). A sculpted bronze

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plaque on the red granite cenotaph lists the names of those now known as "The Immortal 32."

In 1897, aging former Texas Ranger John S. "Rip" Ford, as a newspaper editor, Indian fighter, soldier and politician, helped organize the Texas State Historical Association as well as the forerunner of today's Former Texas Rangers Association.

## Ranger Ring of Honor

More than a century later, the Former Texas Rangers Foundation (the nonprofit arm of the FTRA) began raising funds to build a heritage center dedicated to Ranger history and the many Rangers who died in the line of duty over the last 200 years.

In Fredericksburg, the first phase of the Texas Ranger Heritage Center (1618 Main St.) opened in 2015. Sitting on 12 acres adjacent to old Fort Martin Scott (the first frontier fort established in Texas), the complex includes a 50-foot limestone campanili; a Ranger Ring of Honor built around a 20-ton, five-point concrete Ranger badge replica 30 feet in diameter; an outdoor pavilion; an amphitheater; and a historical reenactment area. The heritage center's second phase will include a museum with interactive displays and a Ranger archive.

A bronze statue of a Ranger leading a pack mule, originally placed in front of the old Pioneer Memorial Hall at San Antonio's Witte Museum was refurbished by the FTRA and moved to the heritage center by the pavilion. Also standing near the pavilion is a bronze of an 1850s Ranger holding a Sharps rifle.

The Ranger Ring of Honor features plaques listing the names of all known Ranger line-of-duty deaths. Carved along the circumference of the badge are five Ranger-defining traits: Courage, Determination, Dedication, Respect and Integrity.

Longtime Texas writer Mike Cox, an elected member of the Texas Institute of Letters, has written 40 nonfiction books, including four volumes on Texas Ranger history.



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*Cattle on an Early Mexican Hacienda, 1945-1946, Oil on canvas covered masonite, 20" x 33.75"; Tom Lea, Dallas Museum of Art, gift of LIFE Magazine, 1950.32*

**On exhibit:** *Western Beef Cattle*, a rarely exhibited series by El Paso artist Tom Lea; outstanding works from The John L. Nau III Collection of Texas Art; and several pieces from the museum's permanent collection. For more information, go to [www.museumofthebigbend.com](http://www.museumofthebigbend.com)



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# South Dakota

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the West River cattle  
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West River South Dakota is cattle country. The Missouri River bisects the state from north to south, the eastern portion is called East River, and the western, the West River. Ancient glaciers forced the Missouri south along their western edges while West River's streams and rivers, untouched by glaciers, continued cutting through the prairie from west to east. The Black Hills rise from the prairie to the west, while to the south, badlands stretch from west to east.

Rolling prairie, rich in grama and wheat grass, supported herds of bison, pronghorn, mule deer and elk. Cheyenne and Lakota tribes inhabited the land, and, after acquiring horses, metal spearpoints and arrowheads as well as firearms, they flourished.

The cattle industry got a late start in West River. The 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty established the Great Sioux Reservation which included most of West River. In 1877, the federal government removed from the reservation, the Black Hills and

a 50-mile stretch of land along Dakota Territory's western border. By 1886, professional hunters had decimated the West River bison herds. In 1889, the federal government diminished, then broke up, the Great Sioux Reservation into five smaller reservations, as Dakota Territory became the states of North and South Dakota. Most of West River became public domain—open range.

Through its treaty with the Lakota tribes, the federal government promised to provide them beef. Herders drove cattle from the east to the Lakota agencies, Standing Rock and Cheyenne River along the Missouri River, and after agencies were established at Rosebud and Pine Ridge, and along South Dakota's southern border, Nebraska and Texas cattlemen drove herds to those agencies.

By 1878, West River cattle herds were thriving on the open range in the Belle Fourche area north of the Black Hills. The government had not opened the range for homesteading, so anyone could

High Plains Heritage Museum  
Spearfish, South Dakota

All Images Courtesy Chad Coppess  
Unless Otherwise Noted

use it. In 1880, cattlemen formed the Black Hills Livestock Association, and by the winter of 1881-82, the 60 members of the association had an estimated 264,000 head of cattle. At first, most of the animals were Texas longhorns, later replaced by Herefords and Shorthorns; and many cowboys were from Texas.

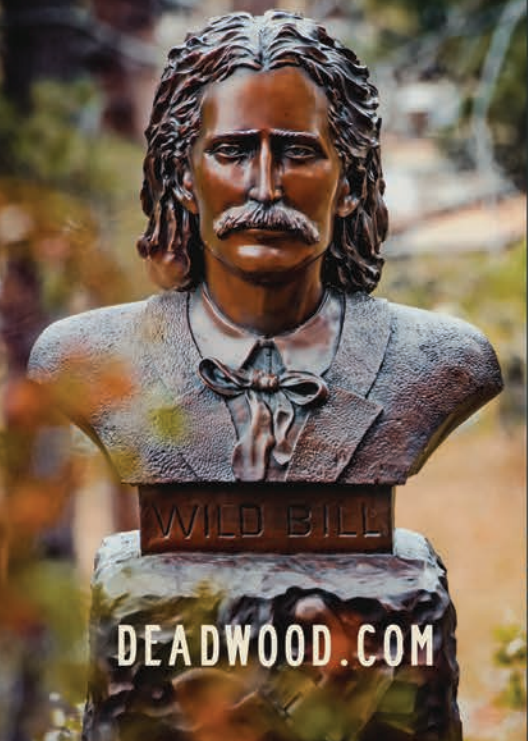
Cattle outfits increased and expanded throughout the open range. There were no fences, and cattle tended to drift, especially during the winter. The cattlemen needed to recover their cattle, brand the calves and castrate the males. The livestock associations organized roundups in the spring and fall. The range was divided into districts. A cattleman was designated as district foreman, and each outfit sent a cowboy, called a rep, to take charge of any cattle belonging to the outfit. The reps worked



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WHERE THE WEST IS STILL WILD



UNTAMED SINCE 1876



Days of '76 Rodeo  
Deadwood, South Dakota

Working cattle could be dangerous business. The cowboys needed to be alert for whatever nature might throw their way. George Gunn recalled a 1902 spring roundup where they were trailing a herd of 1,000 head along a ridge north of the White River. George wrote:

"...Ray Kehiler and I stayed behind [the herd] to haze up the drags or stragglers.

"All of a sudden, like a bolt out of the blue, we were struck from the NW with one of the worst wind, hail and lighting storms ever known in that part of the country. As the herd turned tail to flee from the storm, naturally Ray and I were in the thick of the rushing cattle rapidly making down the slope. When our mounts turned with heads down in the storm,

together cooperatively under the direction of the foreman. They rode over a wide area, bringing back all cattle they found to a central location where they separated the animals into the owners' herds. Calves were branded with the

brands their mothers carried, and male calves were castrated. The cowboys then herded the cattle back to their home ranges. Fall roundups were held to separate out animals destined to be trailed to shipping locations.

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Black Hills Roundup  
Belle Fourche, South Dakota

our single rig saddles flew up behind, and we were unloaded out front.”

Ray’s horse ran off, but George was able to catch his. “When the storm hit,

the four horses [pulling the mess wagon] jackknifed and the wagon rolled to the bottom of the canyon, scattering all contents along the way. Fortunately, no one in our outfit was hurt; several were left hatless and horseless. We tried to make a temporary camp and spent the rest of the dark night in our wet beds.”

In the early 1900s, railroads were built across West River, bringing homesteaders and ending the open range. Many homesteaders couldn’t make a go of it and left. Land was consolidated into larger holdings, so today there are cattle ranches, large and small. You can still find vistas of vast grasslands as the old-time cowboys would have seen.

Here are some suggestions for your West River tour.

### Mobridge

The railroads established shipping points along the Missouri River. Cowboys drove West River cattle to the river, where they were either ferried or swam across and then loaded onto eastbound trains. Located on the Missouri’s east

bank, Mobridge was one of these destinations. The town’s name was a contraction of “Missouri River Bridge,” future site of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway bridge. The completion of the bridge in March 1908 doomed Evarts, LeBeau and other downriver shipping points. One of Mobridge’s major events is the Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo held every Fourth of July along with a parade and carnival.

### Fort Pierre

Fort Pierre, on the Missouri’s west bank began as a trading post in 1817. The Verendrye Museum houses vintage saddles, cowboy hats and trappings, guns and more. The Casey Tibbs South Dakota Rodeo Center features Casey’s memorabilia of nine World Champion rodeo events, as well as those of trick rider Mattie Goff Newcombe, and other South Dakota rodeo champions. For over 90 years, Fort Pierre has held a Fourth of July rodeo with all the traditional events: bull riding, calf roping, barrel racing and saddle bronc riding.

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North of town is Scotty Philip Cemetery, where Scotty Philip is buried. Philip, a West River cattleman, acquired buffalo from Fred Dupree and others to save the buffalo, earning his nickname "the Buffalo King."

To the south is the 116,000-acre Fort Pierre National Grasslands, one of three in South Dakota, where cattle graze and wildlife abound. Bring your horse and

### Interstate 90 Stops

Driving Interstate 90 from east to west, and after crossing the Missouri River, visit Oacoma. Stop at Al's Oasis for a buffalo burger. Further west, stop at Murdo and visit the Pioneer Auto Museum. It has, not only an extensive vintage car collection, but many Old West items. The next must stop is the

1880 Town, a collection of buildings and antiques gathered from all over West River. There are plenty of cowboy and ranching items to hold your attention. Any West River trip must include a stop at Wall Drug. It's more than a drug store. Items range from inexpensive souvenirs to high quality Western boots, hats, clothing and gear. Wall Drug has one of the best Western bookstores in the country.



### Rapid City

Rapid City, at the edge of the Black Hills, is West River's largest city and location of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, which has represented livestock producers since 1892. Every January, Rapid City hosts the Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo. The eight-day extravaganza includes 10 breeds of cattle sales, a two-day horse sale, livestock seminars, Country Western entertainment, over 300 vendors and more. Visit the Journey Museum's pioneer exhibits. Six miles south is Fort Hays. Enjoy good food and entertainment at the Chuckwagon

ride across the prairie. You can camp but there are no campsite facilities.

Annual Bison Roundup, Custer State Park  
Custer, South Dakota

Supper and Music Show. Stroll around the Western-themed grounds that includes buildings from the *Dances with Wolves* Fort Hays set.



## Custer State Park

Custer State Park in the southern Black Hills is home to 1,400 head of buffalo descended from Scotty Philip's herd. View the herd and other animals on the park's Wildlife Loop and attend the Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival held each autumn.

## Deadwood

Deadwood is associated with mining, saloons and gambling, however, it has a cowboy element. Since 1924, Deadwood has held the Days of '76 Rodeo and Parade each July. The Days of '76 Museum exhibits past rodeo and parade items, including one of South Dakota's largest collections of wagons, carriages and stagecoaches, and it has an extensive firearms collection.

## Belle Fourche

Belle Fourche is where South Dakota's story with cattle began. When the railroad reached town in 1890, cattle were rapidly shipped out, and it became one of the world's largest cattle shipping points. It is still an important railhead today. For over one hundred years, Belle Fourche has held the five-day Black Hills Roundup and Rodeo around the Fourth of July. It includes a carnival, a mile-long parade, the Miss Rodeo South Dakota contest and fireworks. The Tri-State Museum has exhibits on ranching and the roundup and rodeo.

## Lemmon

If you want a small-town experience, drive to Lemmon near the North Dakota border. The town was named after the renowned open-range cowboy turned cattleman Ed Lemmon. View local artist John Lopez's Western-themed sculptures, including *Boss Cowman*, tour the world's largest Petrified Wood Park and examine pioneer ranching items in the Grand River Museum. Looking for wide-open, desolate country? Top off your gas tank, load up your cooler and drive the backroads of northwestern South Dakota's Harding County.

According to Beef 2 Live's website, South Dakota has the most cattle per person in the United States: 3,650,000 cattle to 844,877 humans. When in West River, leave the main highway, and you'll be in cattle country.



Western Writers of America member and Will Rogers Medallion Award recipient, **Bill Markley** has spent lots of time exploring South Dakota's West River Country. His latest book is *Wild Bill Hickok and Buffalo Bill Cody: Plainsmen of the Legendary West*.

## WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY

### MUSEUMS

South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center, Pierre; Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center Museum, Fort Pierre; Verendrye Museum, Fort Pierre; The Klein Museum, Mobridge; 1880 Town, Midland; Adams Museum, Deadwood; Days of '76 Museum, Deadwood; Black Hills Mining Museum, Lead; High Plains Western Heritage Center, Spearfish; The Journey Museum and Learning Center, Rapid City; Tri-State Museum, Belle Fourche

### GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

**Eats:** Silver Dollar, Mobridge; Cattleman's Club Steakhouse, Pierre; Buffalo Bodega Restaurant & Saloon, Deadwood; Deadwood Social Club-Saloon #10, Deadwood; Desperados, Hill City; Firehouse Brewing Company, Rapid City; Chuckwagon Supper and Music Show, Rapid City; R-Bar, Lemmon

**Sleeps:** Hitching Horse Inn, Pierre; Custer State Park Resort, Custer; The Kleemann House, Custer; The Bullock, Deadwood; Alpine Inn, Hill City; Historic Town Hall Inn, Lead; Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City; Dakota Lodge, Lemmon

**Dude Ranches:** Crow Creek Ranch, Belle Fourche; Circle View Guest Ranch, Scenic; Nemo Guest Ranch, Nemo; Triple R Dude Ranch, Keystone

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# WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR APRIL 2023



Photo by Stuart Rosebrook

**BANDERA CATTLE COMPANY GUNFIGHTERS**  
Bandera, TX, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Experience the excitement of the Wild West with the award-winning Bandera Cattle Company Gunfighters. 830-796-3045 • [BanderaCowboyCapital.com](http://BanderaCowboyCapital.com)

## ART SHOWS

### DESERT CABALLEROS WESTERN MUSEUM'S COWGIRL UP! EXHIBIT & SALE

Wickenburg, AZ, March 31-September 3: In 2006, Desert Caballeros Western Museum embraced a revolutionary idea: an annual exhibition showcasing the brightest contemporary female artists working in the Western genre. Over a decade later, CU! remains one of the major national events for women Western artists.

928-684-2272 • [WesternMuseum.org](http://WesternMuseum.org)

### SCOTTSDALE ART AUCTION

Scottsdale, AZ, April 14-15: A consortium of leading American art dealers has organized a Western art auction to be held annually in Scottsdale. Under the banner Scottsdale Art Auction, dealers Mike Frost (Bartfield Galleries of New York City), Jack A. Morris, Jr. (Morris Fine Arts, Hilton Head Island, SC) and Brad Richardson (Legacy Galleries of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and Scottsdale) joined together and presented their first sale on April 2, 2005, at Richardson's Legacy Gallery on Main Street in Scottsdale, Arizona. 480-945-0225 • [ScottsdaleArtAuction.com](http://ScottsdaleArtAuction.com)

## AWARD SHOW

### WESTERN HERITAGE AWARDS

Oklahoma City, OK, April 14-15: The awards honor the best in literature, music, film and television, reflecting the heritage and history of the American West.

405-478-2250 • [NationalCowboyMuseum.org](http://NationalCowboyMuseum.org)

## HERITAGE FESTIVALS

### ROSE TREE PARADE & FESTIVAL

Tombstone, AZ, April 7-9: The weekend kicks off with the crowning of a Tombstone High

School student as the Rose Queen under the World's Largest Rose Tree in the courtyard of the Rose Tree Museum. A pancake breakfast, old-fashioned box lunch auction and the annual Rose Parade are just a few of the celebration's featured events each year.

520-457-3326 • [TombstoneRoseTree.com](http://TombstoneRoseTree.com)

### FIESTA SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio, TX, April 20-30: Old San Antonio and Old Mexico celebrations include fandangos, art shows and a pilgrimage to the Alamo mission.

877-273-4378 • [FiestaSanAntonio.org](http://FiestaSanAntonio.org)

### WILD WILD WEST FEST

Andrews, TX, April 21-22: The fest celebrates Western heritage with cowboy mounted shooting demonstrations, a BBQ cook-off, live music and more.

432-523-2695 • [WildWildWestFest.com](http://WildWildWestFest.com)

### ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Nebraska City, NE, April 28-30: The home of the first Arbor Day, in 1872, celebrates with free trees, a chili cook-off and a parade.

800-514-9113 • [NebraskaCity.com](http://NebraskaCity.com)

## MUSIC

### LLANO FIDDLE FEST

Llano, TX, March 31-April 2: Texas musicians of the past are celebrated with a competition featuring some of the best fiddlers from Texas and beyond.

325-247-5354 • [LlanoFiddleFest.com](http://LlanoFiddleFest.com)

## STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS

### 8TH ANNUAL WYOMING ROUGHSTOCK RODEO SCHOOL

Casper, WY, March 31-April 2: The school's instructors have the experience and knowledge to make attendees' rodeo dreams come true.

They have diverse backgrounds—from the professional rodeo arenas to the heart of the West's wide ranches.

307-358-2642 • [SaddleBroncProductions.com](http://SaddleBroncProductions.com)

### OKLAHOMA QUARTER HORSE SPRING SHOW

Oklahoma City, OK, April 5-8: Oklahoma and the surrounding region's finest quarter horses compete for ribbons and prizes in a wide array of classes.

405-440-0694 • [OKQHA.org](http://OKQHA.org)

## TRADE SHOWS

### SOUTHWEST FARM & HOME EXPO

Elk City, OK, April 1-2: Novices and professionals alike can shop and learn about products and services for farm, home, lawn, garden and ranch.

580-225-0207 • [VisitElkCity.com](http://VisitElkCity.com)

## WRITERS CONFERENCES

### 63RD ANNUAL ARIZONA HISTORY CONVENTION

Tempe, AZ, April 13-15: The annual convention invites anyone interested in Arizona history to attend. Amateur and professional historians explore Arizona's rich and colorful past during presentation of papers, talks, workshops, discussions, book displays and field trips. The first two days of convention sessions will be presented only online.

520-628-5774 • [ArizonaHistory.org](http://ArizonaHistory.org)

**TWMag.com:**

View Western events on our website.





**Marshall Trimble** is Arizona's official historian and vice president of the Wild West History Association. His latest book is *Arizona Oddities: Land of Anomalies and Tamales*; History Press, 2018. If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 or e-mail him at [marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu](mailto:marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu). Please always include your name, city and state.

# Crazy Horse, Preachers and Horse Thieves

## Was Crazy Horse part White?

Ronnie Bishop  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Crazy Horse was born to parents from two different bands of the Lakota division of the Sioux, his father being an Oglala and his mother a Miniconjou.

## Which, in your opinion, is the most historically correct movie or television series?

Suzanne Evans  
San Antonio, Texas

The dress in Western films is much better today than it was during the period prior to the 1970s. Hollywood is much better at getting it right and using reenactors as extras.

It's pretty hard to pick a best and worst, but for fiction I like *Lonesome Dove*. I like any Western that stars Sam Elliott.

They've never gotten the so-called Gunfight at O.K. Corral correct. In *Tombstone*, Virgil Earp was shot in the right arm; in real life, it was his left arm that was crippled. And they turned parts of the film into a Spaghetti Western.

I'm still looking for a historically accurate film on the gunfight near the O.K. Corral.

## Was stealing a horse a hanging offense?

Bill Haines  
Tucson, Arizona

Not from a legal standpoint. But some horse thieves were lynched. Horses were valuable as transportation and integral parts of several occupations, so many people weren't willing to put up with the crime.



As there are no known photographs of Sioux leader Crazy Horse, Bob Boze Bell's portrait is based on sketches and known descriptions of the courageous chief.

True West Archives



Oregon cowboys had some extra time on their hands and dramatized the lynching of a horse thief for photographer George C. Blakely, circa 1900.

Courtesy Native Sons of Oregon, Oregon Pioneer Association, Indian War Veterans and Historical Society

## What can you tell me about the legend of El Tiradito in Tucson?

Vanessa Hughes  
Tucson, Arizona

*El Tiradito* is located in Tucson's Barrio Viejo and is supposed to be the world's only shrine for a sinner. One story is that, in the 1870s, there was an ill-fated love affair between a young sheepherder named Juan Oliveras and his mother-in-law. His father-in-law came home from his sheep ranch early one day and caught the two in an amorous "situation." The older man killed Juan. Since Juan was guilty of a sin (adultery), he couldn't be buried on consecrated ground, so he was buried on the site where he was slain.

As time went by, the women in the barrio began to romanticize the affair and visited the site to light candles and pray that he be forgiven. Soon it became a shrine for parents concerned about their flirtatious daughters.

The shrine is located on 400 S. Main Avenue between Cushing and Simpson streets and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## Did the pastors of churches in Old West towns do that as a full-time occupation, or did they usually have to work other jobs to make it financially?

Wesley Brown  
Saginaw, Michigan

Many Methodist circuit-riders who went from community to community on a regular route relied on the help of the individuals and congregations they served.



Methodist ministers were assigned a circuit of churches to serve, and after the Civil War, they became a common sight on the trails and roads to and from the developing towns of the American West.

"Harper's Weekly," October 12, 1867, Courtesy Library of Congress

But others, especially those who were married and settled down, found additional jobs to help make ends meet. Methodist Reverend James Hardin served various places in North Texas (including the village of Dallas, for a time). With his growing family, the pastor owned and ran a farm and a school. One of his sons found a different way to get by: gunman John Wesley Hardin.

### What was Billy the Kid's real name?

David Mills  
The Villages, Florida

The Kid's official birth name was William Henry McCarty Jr. His birthplace is not certain, although some say New York City. In 1873 his mother, Catherine McCarty, married William Antrim and the family settled in Silver City, New Mexico. To avoid confusion with two Williams in the family she began calling the youngster by his middle name, Henry.

Henry Antrim began using William H. Bonney as an alias after he shot and killed Frank "Windy" Cahill during a fight in Arizona. The reason he chose Bonney is unknown, but some speculate it was because that was his biological father's name before his mother married a man named McCarty.



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# What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

**Growing up in Sikeston**, Missouri, meant that as soon as we were old enough to have a bicycle, the entire town was open to us, as long as we were back home by the time the streetlights were on.

**My dad** was a truck driver/owner for most of his life. He was in the Army during WWII, and Mother would put me and my two younger brothers, Tom and Phil, in the car and follow him from Army base to Army base until he deployed overseas.

**When I was quite young**, I used to attend the Saturday matinees to watch Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Red Ryder and others. Then, my dad bought the entire series of Zane Grey books, and I was hooked.

**My teacher**, Mr. Robert Walker, made the biggest impact on my education. It was from Mr. Walker that I developed a thirst for research. It was also from Mr. Walker that I developed a rather significant ability as a public speaker.

**I cannot remember when** I didn't want to be a writer.

**If I could speak** to Mark Twain, I would have him tell me how his growing up on the Mississippi River in Hannibal, Missouri, influenced his early writing career. I've always related because I grew up very close to the Mississippi and was always fascinated by watching the great barges and river boats ply its waters.

**I'm not sure** how many pseudonyms I used, considerably over 20, I'm sure.

**The draft** was in full swing when I graduated from high school, and every young man realized that we would have to deal with it. Rather than face the draft, I joined the Army, and discovered that I very much liked it.

**Before my first deployment** to Vietnam, I was in Korea as an NCO, then after receiving my appointment to Warrant Officer, I was with the 7th Cavalry (Custer's Own) in Germany. I loved my time in the 7th, and became historical officer for the regiment.

**I got tremendous satisfaction** from flying helicopters during combat missions, and received the Air Medal with the "V" device for valor. But I also flew in Germany and at Fort Eustis, Virginia, where I taught maintenance test flight procedures.

**Like writing**, flying had always been a boyhood ambition for me. During WWII there was an Army Air Corps training base in my hometown, and the sky was always full of the blue and yellow training planes. I'm sure that's where my love of flying first developed.

**My first** published novel was *Girls of Carnation House*, set in Korea, and to my total surprise, it sold to Saber Books, the first publisher I sent it to.

Robert Vaughan received the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Will Rogers Medallion Award at the annual awards banquet in Fort Worth, Texas, on October 29, 2022.



Photo by Joseph Owrtey

## ROBERT VAUGHAN, AUTHOR

Robert Vaughan sold his first book when he was 19. That was 57 years and nearly 500 books ago. He also wrote, produced and appeared in the History Channel documentary *Vietnam Homecoming*. His books have hit the *NYT* bestseller list seven times. Now, known primarily as a Western novelist, he has also written about America's conflicts from the Civil War to Vietnam. His father served in the military, and Robert followed him in the 1950s, entering Army aviation. He lives with his wife, Ruth, in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

**I'm not sure you can** inspire someone to develop a writing discipline. I, and almost every writer I know, write because we are driven to it. We can no longer go a day without writing, than we could go a day without brushing our teeth. I once heard this referred to as "A Divine discontent to write," and that works for me.

**Westerns are loved** all over the world. It is the quintessential story of good versus evil.

**My current marriage** is at 48 years and counting, and I consider myself blessed to have found a lifetime mate.

**What history has taught me** is that studying history can provide a guideline (think of it as GPS) for how best to live your life. And, in this case I am speaking, both of the history of mankind and one's personal history. I am a great believer in the old saying: Those who do not know history's mistakes are doomed to repeat them.



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