

Chapter 1 : PBS - THE WEST - Frederick Jackson Turner

The "Frontier" is defined as "a region at the edge of a settled area". The "American Frontier," began with the first days of European settlement on the Atlantic coast and the eastern rivers. From the start, the "Frontier" was most often categorized as the western edge of settlement.

A massive haul of 40, buffalo hides stored in a hide yard. National Archives 8 of 49 Coaches travel down a carriage road. National Archives Outlaw John Sontag lies dying on the ground after a shootout with a posse. National Archives 10 of 49 A mountainside camp set up for miners. San Juan County, Colorado. National Archives 11 of 49 John Heith, after joining in a robbery that turned into a massacre, is lynched by a mob. National Archives Buckboard wagons cross a river. National Archives 13 of 49 A rider in the desert refills his keg with water from a well. National Archives 14 of 49 Apaches, including the war hero Geronimo, after their surrender to General Miles. The train behind them will carry them into exile. National Archives Men gamble over a game of Faro inside a saloon. Wikimedia Commons A man, at the site of a new town, looks for a lot. National Archives The first blacksmith shop in town. National Archives Land in a new territory is auctioned off in this tent. National Archives The first house built in Dodge City, a sod home built in Wikimedia Commons 21 of 49 Men outside a crude ranch play poker. Wikimedia Commons 23 of 49 A town starts to grow. The crowd that has gathered is bidding on land that is being auctioned off. National Archives Men lay down track for a new railroad, connecting the wild frontier with the world. National Archives A gold rush town in Dakota. National Archives A little girl feeds the chickens. National Archives 27 of 49 A family outside their home. A Native American servant holds their child. National Archives A saloon on the streets of an Old West town. Wikimedia Commons Typical downtown street of a town on the American frontier. National Archives 31 of 49 A cow carries seven children to school. National Archives A teacher and her students stand in front of a sod schoolhouse. National Archives 33 of 49 A town gets flowing water for the first time. National Archives 34 of 49 Correspondent Fred W. Loring was killed by Apaches less than 48 hours after this picture was taken. National Archives 35 of 49 A Pony Express rider on horseback. National Archives Cowboys herd cattle across a river. Wikimedia Commons A group of trappers and hunters outside their cabin. National Archives 38 of 49 Mine workers coming out of the mine shaft. National Archives 40 of 49 A fishing camp set up by some Chinese settlers of the American frontier. Point San Pedro, California. National Archives 41 of 49 Shoshone tribe members dance on a Native American reservation while soldiers look on. National Archives 42 of 49 Apaches deliver hay to American settlers. National Archives 45 of 49 Cheyenne natives, after trying to escape from their reservation and return to their home land, are held prisoner. Wikimedia Commons The execution of a man on the gallows. Deputy Marshalls pose with the clerical force. National Archives A sand storm moves across farmland.

Chapter 2 : The American frontier: pioneers, settlers, and cowboys, " by William C. Davis

The American frontier comprises the geography, history, folklore, and cultural expression of life in the forward wave of American expansion that began with English colonial settlements in the early 17th century and ended with the admission of the last mainland territories as states in

Enormous popular attention in the media focuses on the second half of the 19th century, a period sometimes called the Old West, or the Wild West. As defined by Hine and Faragher, "frontier history tells the story of the creation and defense of communities, the use of the land, the development of markets, and the formation of states. In securing and managing the West, the U. First promoting settlement and exploitation of the land, by the end of the 19th century the federal government assumed stewardship of the remaining open spaces. As the American frontier passed into history, the myths of the west took firm hold in the imagination of Americans and foreigners alike. The term "Old West" Edit The American frontier moved steadily westward from the s to the s with occasional movements north into Maine and Vermont, and east from California into Nevada. The "West" was always the area beyond that boundary. Most often, however, the term "American West" is used for the area west of the Mississippi River during the 19th century. After the 18th century and the push beyond the Appalachian Mountains , the term "Old West" is generally applied to anywhere west of the Mississippi River in earlier periods and westward from the frontier strip toward the later part of the 19th century. Thus, the Midwest and parts of the American South , though no longer considered "western," have a frontier heritage along with the modern western states. Colonial frontier Main article: Thirteen Colonies In the colonial era, before , the west was of high priority for settlers and politicians. In the earliest days of European settlement of the Atlantic coast, from about to , the frontier was essentially any part of the forested interior of the continent beyond the fringe of existing settlements along the coast. English, French, Spanish and Dutch patterns of expansion and settlement were quite different. Only a few thousand French migrated to Canada; these habitants settled in villages along the St. Lawrence river, building communities that remained stable for long stretches; they did not leapfrog west the way the British did. Although French fur traders ranged widely through the Great Lakes region they seldom settled down. Likewise, the Dutch set up fur trading posts in the Hudson River valley, followed by large grants of land to rich landowning patroons who brought in tenant farmers who created compact, permanent villages. They did not push westward. By contrast the British settlements gave priority to land ownership to individual farmers.. In contrast, the English colonies generally pursued a more systematic policy of widespread settlement of the New World for cultivation and exploitation of the land, a practice that required the application of legal property rights to the new conditions. The typical New England settlements were quite compact and small"under a square mile. Conflict with the Native Americans arose out of political issues, viz. Early frontier areas east of the Appalachian Mountains included the Connecticut River valley, and northern New England which was a move to the north, not the west. The French and Indian Wars of the s resulted in a complete victory for the British, who took over the lands west to the Mississippi River. By the early s Americans were moving across the Appalachians into western Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio. Their most famous leader was Daniel Boone.

Chapter 3 : 6 Legendary Mountain Men of the American Frontier - HISTORY

The development of mines in Colorado had drawn isolated frontier settlements into that region, and Montana and Idaho were receiving settlers. By this time, the frontier was found in these mining camps and the ranches of the Great Plains.

The work of salvation always marches onward. Like all stories of sanctity, this one begins with a choice. As the Founding Fathers worked to ratify our Constitution, a Marylander named Edward Fenwick chose the novitiate of the Order of Preachers over the typical array of prestigious options awaiting a wealthy, foreign-educated, young American. Born in 1773, this year marks his 237th birthday. Fenwick began his Dominican and priestly formation at Bornheim College, Belgium in 1791. While he had completed his secondary studies at Bornheim without hiccup, the near-constant unrest from the tremors of the French Revolution greatly hampered the progress of his priestly formation. After his ordination in 1795, a quick stint in a prison at the hands of revolutionaries, and several years of teaching in England, Fenwick longed to return to his fatherland with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the preaching charism of the Friars. Upon receiving permission to establish a Dominican foundation in the United States, Fenwick was sent by Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore to the Kentucky frontier, where settlements of Catholics numbered in the several thousand and priests assigned to minister numbered at one. Obedient and zealous, Fenwick, joined by two conferes, charged west, where in 1799 they founded our very own Province of St. Joseph, the first Dominican province in the United States, and began a vigorous ministry to the sacramentally undernourished across the region. It was there, over the next 15 years, that Fenwick truly came into his own as a priest and missionary. However, Our Lord in his mercy lightens for me these trying experiences, and sweetens them with very sensible consolations. The unassuming Father Fenwick, founder of the Catholic Church in Ohio, was the obvious choice, though much to his displeasure. He had long maintained a keen awareness of his own human limitations, feeling that his want of proper theological training in Belgium was a significant hindrance to his priesthood. Despite such significant doubts about his worthiness, Fenwick would hold nothing back in his years as bishop of Cincinnati. When the diocese was strapped for funds, he went all the way to Europe to petition for aid. As of late, the Church has suffered gravely from the public and private moral failings of its shepherds. In his waning days, fatigued by the cholera he had contracted on yet another journey north to the Natives, and still insisting on his inadequacies as a Dominican and a bishop, Fenwick traveled home by coach with an old friend who was one of his first converts from Kentucky. At sunset, they stopped at an inn to receive care from physicians and prayed for endurance through the night. In these tough goings, may we do the same. Almighty God, through the intercession of Edward Dominic Fenwick, we ask you to guide and protect your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Edward Dominic Fenwick, O. The New Era,

Chapter 4 : American Frontier - Ohio History Central

The American frontier is sharply distinguished from the European frontier—a fortified boundary line running through dense populations. The most significant thing about the American frontier is, that it lies at the hither edge of free land.

European Union[edit] In the European Union , the frontier is the region beyond the expanding borders of the European Union itself. EU has designated the countries surrounding it as part of the European Neighbourhood. This is a region of primarily less-developed countries, many of which aspire to become part of the union. Current applicants include Turkey and many small countries in the Balkans and South Caucasus. Romania and Bulgaria joined EU in 2007. If all or most East European states become members, the frontier may be the boundaries with Russia and Turkey. Muscovy and Russia[edit] The expansion of Russia to the north, south Wild Fields and east Siberia , the Russian Far East and Russian Alaska exploited ever-changing frontier regions over several centuries and often involved the development and settlement of Cossack communities. Settlers at the frontier thus frequently referred to themselves as "the outsiders" or "outside residents" and to the area in which they lived as "the outside districts". At times one might hear the "frontier" described as "the outside borders". The use of the word "frontier" was thus frequently connected to descriptions of frontier violence, as in a letter printed in the Sydney Morning Herald in December which described murder and carnage at the northern frontier and calling for the protection of the settlers saying: American frontier , British colonization of the Americas , French colonization of the Americas , and Spanish colonization of the Americas Voyageurs passing a waterfall The word "frontier" has often meant a region at the edge of a settled area, especially in North American development. It was a transition zone where explorers, pioneers and settlers were arriving. Frederick Jackson Turner said that "the significance of the frontier" was that as pioneers moved into the "frontier zone," they were changed by the encounter. For example, Turner argues in that in the United States, unlimited free land in this zone was available, and thus offered the psychological sense of unlimited opportunity. This, in turn, had many consequences such as optimism, future orientation , shedding the restraints of land scarcity, and the wastage of natural resources. In the earliest days of European settlement of the Atlantic coast, the frontier was any part of the forested interior of the continent lying beyond the fringe of existing settlements along the coast and the great rivers, such as the St. English, French, Spanish and Dutch patterns of expansion and settlement were quite different. Only a few thousand French migrated to Canada. These habitants settled in villages along the St. Lawrence river, building communities that remained stable for long stretches, rather than leapfrogging west the way the English and later Americans did. Although French fur traders ranged widely through the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds, as far as the Rocky Mountains , they did not usually settle down. French settlement in these areas was limited to a few very small villages on the lower Mississippi and in the Illinois Country. They did not push westward. The typical English settlements were quite compact and small—under 3 square kilometres 1 square mile. Conflict with the Native Americans arose out of political issues, i. Early frontier areas east of the Appalachian Mountains included the Connecticut River valley. Most of the frontier movement was east to west, but there were other directions as well. The frontier in New England lay to the north; in Nevada to the east; in Florida to the south. Throughout American history, the expansion of settlement was largely from the east to the west, and thus the frontier is often identified with "the west. They emphasized the relationship between the center and periphery. Katerberg argues that "in Canada the imagined West must be understood in relation to the mythic power of the North. Innis considered place as critical in the development of the Canadian West and wrote of the importance of metropolitan areas, settlements, and indigenous people in the creation of markets. Turner and Innis continue to exert influence over the historiography of the American and Canadian Wests. The Quebec frontier showed little of the individualism or democracy that Turner ascribed to the American zone to the south. The Nova Scotia and Ontario frontiers were rather more democratic than the rest of Canada, but whether that was caused by the need to be self-reliant at the frontier itself, or the presence of large numbers of American immigrants is debated. Swiss immigrants camped on the shores of Lake Winnipeg in the autumn of 1811. The Canadian political thinker Charles Blattberg has argued that such events ought to be seen as part of a process in which Canadians

advanced a "border" as distinct from a "frontier" — from east to west. According to Blattberg, a border assumes a significantly sharper contrast between the civilized and the uncivilized since, unlike a frontier process, the civilizing force is not supposed to be shaped by that which it is civilizing. Blattberg criticizes both the frontier and border "civilizing" processes. Canadian prairies[edit] The pattern of settlement of the Canadian prairies began in , when the American prairie states had already achieved statehood. Like their American counterparts, the Prairie provinces supported populist and democratic movements in the early 20th century.

Chapter 5 : Frontier - Wikipedia

In American history the frontier is the process of settlement of new lands in the West, plus the geographical zone of settlement, together with the impact on the frontiersmen and the nation at large.

Jim Bridger Jim Bridger. The journey marked the beginning of a year career that saw him discover new routes across the frontier, survive an arrow wound to the back, marry three different Indian wives and found a trading fort on the Oregon Trail. He made one of the earliest excursions to the Yellowstone region, and famously became the first Anglo-American to see the Great Salt Lake. Upon tasting its briny waters, he incorrectly concluded that it was part of the Pacific Ocean. After the decline of the fur trade, Bridger reinvented himself as a trader and wilderness guide. Though illiterate and small in stature, Carson was also a natural frontiersman who learned half a dozen native languages and knew the wilderness like the back of his hand. In , his skills caught the attention of explorer John C. His fame only grew during the Mexican-American War, when he slipped past enemy lines at the Battle of San Pasquale and made a mile barefoot trek to San Diego to fetch reinforcements. Carson went on to serve as wagon train guide and Indian agent before becoming a Union army officer during the Civil War. The former mountain man later died from an aneurysm in , a year after being mustered out of the army as a brigadier general. **Jedidiah Smith** Drawing of Jedediah Smith. Public Domain Jedidiah Smith developed his thirst for adventure by reading the journals of Lewis and Clark as a boy, and he later followed in their footsteps during a legendary career as a trapper and explorer. Tasked with scouting out new hunting grounds in the Dakotas and Wyoming, he helped lead an expedition that rediscovered South Pass, a key Rocky Mountain crossing that became part of the Oregon Trail. Smith went on to explore huge swaths of the West as the owner of his own fur trading company. He traversed the Mojave Desert into Southern California in , and later became the first explorer to journey the Pacific coastline from California into Oregon. His scouting parties were ambushed and decimated by Indian attacks on multiple occasions, and he famously had his ribs smashed and his scalp partially torn off in a grizzly bear mauling. He wore his hair long for the rest of his life to cover the scars. Smith tried to retire from the hazards of the wilderness in , but just a year later he was attacked and killed by Comanche Indians while traveling the Santa Fe Trail. At the time of his death, the great explorer was just 32 years old. **James Beckwourth** James Beckwourth. Public Domain The son of a black woman and a white man, James Beckwourth was born a slave on a Virginia plantation before being taken to Missouri as a boy. After receiving his freedom in the s, he signed on with a fur trapping expedition and headed west to the Rocky Mountains in search of adventure. He eventually spent at least six years living among the tribe, learning their language and marrying as many as ten different native women. Beckwourth even claimed that he became a powerful war chief and fought in several battles against the Blackfeet. He helped found a trading post that grew into the modern town of Pueblo, Colorado, and in he discovered a new route through the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The crossing, known as Beckwourth Pass, later became a popular route for prospectors headed to the gold fields of California. **Joseph Walker** Photograph of Joseph Walker. Public Domain Like Jedidiah Smith, Tennessee native Joseph Walker was a born explorer who pursued fur trapping and scouting as a way of financing his wanderlust. He first ventured west in as part of an illegal trapping expedition to Spanish-controlled New Mexico territory, and later served as a guide for the likes of Benjamin Bonneville and John C. While working for Bonneville in , Walker led an expedition that bushwhacked its way from Wyoming to California across the Sierra Nevada. His party was forced to eat their horses just to survive, but after exiting the mountains they became the first white men to encounter giant sequoia trees and the wonders of the Yosemite Valley. It was a sight Walker would never forget. Walker later worked as trapper, scout, wagon train guide and ranch owner, but he continued to explore the blank spots on the map at every opportunity. In , at the age of 62, he set off on a two-year prospecting expedition across New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado. By the time his failing eyesight forced him to retire in , he had spent some five decades on the frontier and served as a guide for hundreds of soldiers and pilgrims. We strive for accuracy and fairness. Twice a week we compile our most fascinating features and deliver them straight to you.

Spies and scouts, mothers and homestead keepers, women quietly made their mark on America's changing western frontier. History and lore of the American frontier have long been dominated by an.

Visit Website Case in point: Daniel Boone , one of the most celebrated folk heroes of the American frontier, renowned as a woodsman, trapper and a trailblazer. In several encounters, the tribal connections he had forged helped him save the lives of white cohorts the Indians wanted to kill. And with Boone traveling frequently, surveying land and blazing trails, his wife Rebecca provided much-needed stability and labor: Below, a look at several women whoâ€”while birthing babies, managing homes and businesses, and engaging in the political lives of their communitiesâ€”quietly made their mark on the American frontier. Native American Diplomat and Spy The daughter of a Mohawk chief in upstate New York and consort of a British dignitary, Molly Deganwadonti went on to become an influential Native American leader in her own right and a lifelong loyalist to the British crown before, during and after the American Revolution. Born in at a time when the Mohawk, part of the larger Iroquois federation of tribes, were increasingly subject to European influence, Molly grew up in a Christianized family. In , at the age of 18, she accompanied a delegation of Mohawk elders to Philadelphia to discuss fraudulent land transactionsâ€”a moment that is cited as her first political activity. After his wife died, she became his mistress. And although her race and class prevented them from being officially wed, they were common-law married and had nine children together. Johnson had acquired , acres of land in Mohawk Valley, and Molly, like other women of her time, came to manage a large and complex household, entertaining dignitaries both European and Indian. Their partnership proved politically fruitful, giving Johnson a familial connection to the powerful Iroquois tribes and earning Molly, who hailed from a matrilineal clan, increasing prestige as an influential voice for her people. Known as a persuasive speaker, she is credited with convincing Iroquois leadership to fall in with the British camp. Throughout the war, she acted as a spy, passing intelligence about the movement of colonial forces to British forces, while providing shelter, food and ammunition to loyalists. When they ended up on the losing side, Molly and her family fled for Canada, where she and other loyalists established the town of Kingston. After the war, the British paid her a pension for her services. Originally from Liverpool, England, Anne sailed to America at the age of 19, after both her parents died. She eventually married a veteran frontiersman and soldier named Richard Trotter and settled in Staunton, Virginia. Richard, who joined the Virginia militia as tensions between frontiersmen and Native Americans grew, was killed in the Battle of Point Pleasant, West Virginia in late She dressed in buckskin pants and a petticoat, left her son with neighborsâ€”and sought revenge. With rifle, hunting knife and tomahawk in hand, Anne became a scout and messenger recruiting volunteers to join the militia and sometimes delivering gunpowder to the soldiers. She couriered messages between Point Pleasant and Lewisburg, West Virginiaâ€”a mile journey on horseback. Her most famous ride took place in After soldiers at Fort Lee got word that the Native Americans were planning to attack, and discovered that their gunpowder supply was desperately low, Anne galloped to the rescue. She rode the miles to Lewisburg, where she switched horses, loaded up with gunpowder and rode back to Fort Lee. As the group worked to defend new settlements from Native American attacks, Mad Anne once again used her skills as a scout and courier. A Young Woman of the Woods Daniel Boone rescuing his daughter Jemima from the Shawnee, after she and two other girls were abducted from near their settlement of Boonesboro, Kentucky. His daughter Jemima earned her own spot in the history books on July 14, Demonstrating their own knowledge of frontier ways, the quick-witted teens left trail markers as their captors took them awayâ€”bending branches, breaking off twigs and leaving behind leaves and berries. Their rescue team, led by Daniel Boone himself, took just two days to follow the trail and retrieve the girls. The rescuers included Flanders Callaway, Samuel Henderson and Captain John Holder, each of whom later married one of the kidnapped girls. This event became such an integral part of frontier lore, author James Fenimore Cooper included it in his classic novel *The Last of the Mohicans*. Born in or in what is now Idaho, Sacagawea was a member of the Lemhi band of the Native American Shoshone tribe. At the age of 12, she was kidnapped by a war party of Hidasta Indians enemies of

the Shoshone and taken to their home in Hidatsa-Mandan villages, near modern-day Bismarck, North Dakota. Around 1804, Sacagawea, along with other Shoshone women, was sold as a slave to the French-Canadian fur trader Toussaint Charbonneau. She soon became pregnant, giving birth to son Jean-Baptiste Charbonneau in February 1805. Meanwhile, after the U.S. After more than a year of planning and initial travel, the expedition reached the Hidatsa-Mandan settlement. When a squall nearly capsized a vessel they were traveling in, Sacagawea was the one who saved crucial papers, books, navigational instruments, medicines and other provisions, while also managing to keep herself and her baby safe. Sacagawea died at the age of 25, not long after giving birth to a daughter. Clark became legal guardian to both her children. Leaving Independence, Kentucky in 1803, Mary and her husband, William Donoho, headed to Santa Fe, bringing along their 9-month-old daughter. Together, the Donohos created La Fonda, an inn for travelers at the end of the trail. It was here that Mary gave birth to two more of her five children—all of whom she eventually outlived. Later in the 19th century, with the allotment of land to Native Americans, women are given pieces of property that they owned in their own right. She, her husband and others were killed by Indians in a savage attack on the mission. Soon after marrying Marcus Whitman, a physician and fellow missionary in 1836, they left for Oregon Country and settled in what would later become Walla Walla, Washington. She wrote of the travails of rugged travel, such as fighting the current while fording strong rivers, and getting all of her belongings soaked each time. And she described learning of Indian ways: Marcus held church services and practiced medicine while Narcissa taught school and managed their home. Already struggling with the unfamiliar customs of the Native Americans, she fell into a deep depression after her beloved toddler daughter drowned in the river behind her house. Her sorrow eased somewhat when she and her husband adopted a family of mixed-race children. On November 29, 1847, tensions between the missionaries and the local Cayuse turned deadly. Accounts say that after Narcissa refused to share milk with some tribespeople—and shut the door in their face—they struck Marcus with a tomahawk in the back of his head, and shot and whipped Narcissa. In total, nine white people were killed and two more died days later. After Mary Donoho, Susan Magoffin was one of the first white women to travel that trail. She detailed the plant life and terrain of her journey, as well as her personal challenges. On her 19th birthday, July 31, 1841, she lost a pregnancy, possibly due to a carriage accident. She wrote in her diary: She contracts yellow fever, loses another child, is responsible for setting up and maintaining homes, and finds herself repeatedly pregnant and uncomfortable. The Magoffins eventually abandoned their trading life and settled back in Kirkwood, Missouri. Susan Shelby Magoffin died in October 1849 at age 38.

Chapter 7 : The American Frontier (books)

When the going gets tough, the tough get going, or so goes the saying. In these turbulent times of ecclesial crisis, a flashback to the early days of the Catholic Church in America—days in which plenty of tough folks faced plenty of tough goings—would serve well to remind us that, even in the.

Colonial America Before , the frontier was any part of the forested interior of the continent beyond the 10 to 50 mile fringe of existing settlements along the coast. English, French, Spanish and Dutch patterns of expansion and settlement were quite different. Only a few thousand French migrated to Canada; these habitants settled in villages along the St. Lawrence river, building communities that remained stable for long stretches; they did not leapfrog west the way the Americans did. Although French fur traders ranged widely through the Great Lakes region they seldom settle down. They did not push westward. The typical English settlements were quite compact and small—under a square mile. Conflict with the Native Americans arose out of political issues, viz. Early frontier areas east of the Appalachian Mountains included the Connecticut River valley. By the early s Americans were moving across the Appalachians into western Pennsylvania , Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio. Early National Era, ss see Second Great Awakening the moving frontier After the Revolutionary war ended , the Americans in large numbers poured into the west. In some areas they had to battle the Indian tribes. The War of marked the final confrontation between major Indian forces trying to stop the advance, with British aid. American frontier militiamen under Andrew Jackson defeated the Creeks and opened the Southwest, while militia under William Henry Harrison defeated the Indian-British alliance at a battle in Canada. The death in battle of the Indian leader Tecumseh dissolved the coalition of hostile Indian tribes. In general the frontiersmen battled the Indians with little help from the U. Army or the federal government. Indeed, the regular army set up a line of forts designed to keep the Indians and settlers apart. As settlers poured in the new areas went through the territorial stage and became states, typically dropping the legalistic practices favored by eastern upper classes, and adopting more democracy and more egalitarianism. They have condemned the frontier thesis for its Euro-centric and racist assumptions, ridiculing Turner for his depiction of enlightened whites and savage natives and for discounting Indian agency. Other maintain that the frontier was neither especially democratic nor equal. Nevertheless, the Turnerians have counterattacked, saying that the critics confuse 21st century moralistic sensibilities with historical reality. Agreeing that the frontiersmen did not jettison all European ideas, the Turnerians argue they decisively remoulded and reshaped them to meet American conditions. The critics who suggest that democracy emerged from boss-ridden urban machines like Tammany Hall have surely misunderstood what American democracy means.

Chapter 8 : 7 of the Gutsiest Women on the American Frontier - HISTORY

In shooting: The American frontier Rifle shooting in the North American English colonies was a way of life both on the frontier, as it progressed westward, and in the farming settlements of the Atlantic seaboard, where the rifle was used for protection and hunting as well as for.

However, this was not always the case, as English, French, Spanish and Dutch patterns of expansion and settlement were quite different. Early on, thousands of French migrated to Canada and French fur traders ranged widely through the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds and, as far as the Rocky Mountains; however, they rarely built settlements. The Dutch however, did establish permanent villages and trading posts in the Hudson River Valley; but, did not push westward. In the course of the 17th century, the frontier had advanced up the Atlantic river courses and the tidewater region became the settled area. In the first half of the 18th Century, another advance occurred. Trappers and traders followed the Delaware and Shawnee Indians to the Ohio River as early as the end of the first quarter of the century. Governor Spotswood, of Virginia, made an expedition in across the Blue Ridge. The end of the first quarter of the century saw the advance of the Scotch-Irish and the Palatine Germans up the Shenandoah Valley into the western part of Virginia, and along the Piedmont region of the Carolinas. In Pennsylvania the town of Bedford indicated the line of settlement. The King attempted to arrest the advance by his proclamation of , forbidding settlements beyond the sources of the rivers flowing into the Atlantic, however, his proclamation would be in vain. From the beginning, the East feared the result of an unregulated advance of the frontier , and tried to check and guide it, but, would never be able to stop the flow of people heading westward. During this time, thousands of settlers, such as Daniel Boone , crossed the Alleghenies into Kentucky and Tennessee , and the upper waters of the Ohio River were settled. Some areas, such as the Virginia Military District and the Connecticut Western Reserve, both in Ohio, were used by the states to reward to veterans of the war. When the first census was taken in , the continuous settled area was bounded by a line which ran near the coast of Maine, and included New England except a portion of Vermont and New Hampshire, New York along the Hudson River and up the Mohawk about Schenectady, eastern and southern Pennsylvania, Virginia well across the Shenandoah Valley, and the Carolinas and eastern Georgia. Beyond this region of continuous settlement were the small settled areas of Kentucky and Tennessee , and the Ohio River, with the mountains separating them and the Atlantic area. For the next century, westward expansion would increase following the Louisiana Purchase in and the subsequent Lewis and Clark Expedition By the settled area included Ohio, southern Indiana and Illinois , southeastern Missouri , and about half of Louisiana. These settled areas often surrounded Indian lands, whom the settlers protested against, which would later result in the Indian Removal Act of In the meantime, the Federal Government was continuing to expand the nation. This included what would become the states of California , Nevada , Utah , parts of Arizona , Colorado , New Mexico , and Wyoming ; and in the United States bought an additional tract of land from Mexico. These new territories attracted hundreds of thousands of settlers. Minnesota and Wisconsin still exhibited frontier conditions, but, the distinctive frontier of the period was found in California , where the gold discoveries had sent a sudden tide of adventurous miners, and in Oregon , and the settlements in Utah.

Chapter 9 : The American Frontier – Page 2 – Legends of America

The American frontier holds a mythic space in our imaginations. And because of that, it's a place we envision more through the stories of the Wild West than through its actual history. The real American frontier wasn't always as dramatic as it's made out to be in films, but it was a dangerous place, an untamed land.

Daniel Boone escorting settlers through the Cumberland Gap In the colonial era, before , the west was of high priority for settlers and politicians. The American frontier began when Jamestown , Virginia was settled by the English in . In the earliest days of European settlement of the Atlantic coast, until about , the frontier was essentially any part of the interior of the continent beyond the fringe of existing settlements along the Atlantic coast. Only a few thousand French migrated to Canada; these habitants settled in villages along the St. Lawrence River , building communities that remained stable for long stretches; they did not simply jump west the way the British did. Although French fur traders ranged widely through the Great Lakes and mid-west region they seldom settled down. French settlement was limited to a few very small villages such as Kaskaskia, Illinois [8] as well as a larger settlement around New Orleans. Likewise, the Dutch set up fur trading posts in the Hudson River valley, followed by large grants of land to rich landowning patroons who brought in tenant farmers who created compact, permanent villages. They created a dense rural settlement in upstate New York, but they did not push westward. These areas remained primarily in subsistence agriculture, and as a result by the s these societies were highly egalitarian, as explained by historian Jackson Turner Main: The typical frontier society therefore was one in which class distinctions were minimized. The wealthy speculator, if one was involved, usually remained at home, so that ordinarily no one of wealth was a resident. The class of landless poor was small. The great majority were landowners, most of whom were also poor because they were starting with little property and had not yet cleared much land nor had they acquired the farm tools and animals which would one day make them prosperous. Few artisans settled on the frontier except for those who practiced a trade to supplement their primary occupation of farming. There might be a storekeeper, a minister, and perhaps a doctor; and there were a number of landless laborers. All the rest were farmers. North Carolina was representative. However frontier areas of that had good river connections were increasingly transformed into plantation agriculture. Rich men came in, bought up the good land, and worked it with slaves. The area was no longer "frontier". It had a stratified society comprising a powerful upper-class white landowning gentry, a small middle-class, a fairly large group of landless or tenant white farmers, and a growing slave population at the bottom of the social pyramid. Unlike the North, where small towns and even cities were common, the South was overwhelmingly rural. Land ownership brought a degree of independence as well as a vote for local and provincial offices. The typical New England settlements were quite compact and small—under a square mile. Conflict with the Native Americans arose out of political issues, namely who would rule. In the peace treaty of , France lost practically everything, as the lands west of the Mississippi river, in addition to Florida and New Orleans, went to Spain. Otherwise lands east of the Mississippi River and what is now Canada went to Britain. Steady migration to frontier lands[edit] Regardless of wars Americans were moving across the Appalachians into western Pennsylvania, what is now West Virginia, and areas of the Ohio Country , Kentucky and Tennessee. West of the mountains, settlements were curtailed briefly by a decree by the Royal Proclamation of . However the Treaty of Fort Stanwix re-opened most of the western lands for frontiersmen to settle. Pioneers housed themselves in a rough lean-to or at most a one-room log cabin. The main food supply at first came from hunting deer, turkeys, and other abundant game. Clad in typical frontier garb, leather breeches, moccasins, fur cap, and hunting shirt, and girded by a belt from which hung a hunting knife and a shot pouch—“all homemade”—the pioneer presented a unique appearance. In a short time he opened in the woods a patch, or clearing, on which he grew corn, wheat, flax, tobacco, and other products, even fruit. Homespun clothing replaced the animal skins. Land policy[edit] The land policy of the new nation was conservative, paying special attention to the needs of the settled East. By the s, however, the West was filling up with squatters who had no legal deed, although they may have paid money to previous settlers. The Jacksonian Democrats favored the squatters by promising rapid access to cheap land. By contrast, Henry Clay

was alarmed at the "lawless rabble" heading West who were undermining the utopian concept of a law-abiding, stable middle-class republican community. Rich southerners, meanwhile, looked for opportunities to buy high-quality land to set up slave plantations. The Free Soil movement of the 1840s called for low-cost land for free white farmers, a position enacted into law by the new Republican Party in 1862, offering free acre 65 ha homesteads to all adults, male and female, black and white, native-born or immigrant. Map of the Wilderness Road by After winning the Revolutionary War, American settlers in large numbers poured into the west. In 1788, American pioneers to the Northwest Territory established Marietta, Ohio as the first permanent American settlement in the Northwest Territory. It was later lengthened to reach the Falls of the Ohio at Louisville. The Wilderness Road was steep and rough, and it could only be traversed on foot or horseback, but it was the best route for thousands of settlers moving into Kentucky. In 1791, Indians killed over travelers on the Wilderness Road. No Indians lived permanently in Kentucky [24] but they sent raiding parties to stop the newcomers. Johnson's Battle of the Clouds, who later became Vice president The War of 1812 marked the final confrontation between major Indian forces trying to stop the advance, with British aid. The British war goal included the creation of an independent Indian state under British auspices in the Midwest. The death in battle of the Indian leader Tecumseh dissolved the coalition of hostile Indian tribes. In general the frontiersmen battled the Indians with little help from the U. Army or the federal government. They rejected the British plan to set up an Indian state in U. They explained the American policy toward acquisition of Indian lands: The United States, while intending never to acquire lands from the Indians otherwise than peaceably, and with their free consent, are fully determined, in that manner, progressively, and in proportion as their growing population may require, to reclaim from the state of nature, and to bring into cultivation every portion of the territory contained within their acknowledged boundaries. In thus providing for the support of millions of civilized beings, they will not violate any dictate of justice or of humanity; for they will not only give to the few thousand savages scattered over that territory an ample equivalent for any right they may surrender, but will always leave them the possession of lands more than they can cultivate, and more than adequate to their subsistence, comfort, and enjoyment, by cultivation. If this be a spirit of aggrandizement, the undersigned are prepared to admit, in that sense, its existence; but they must deny that it affords the slightest proof of an intention not to respect the boundaries between them and European nations, or of a desire to encroach upon the territories of Great Britain. Then when population reached 1800, the territory applied for statehood. Louis, Missouri was the largest town on the frontier, the gateway for travel westward, and a principal trading center for Mississippi River traffic and inland commerce but remained under Spanish control until 1803. The Louisiana Purchase of [edit] Thomas Jefferson thought of himself as a man of the frontier and was keenly interested in expanding and exploring the West. Between 1803 and the 1840s, the federal government purchased the actual land from the Indian tribes then in possession of it. Additional sums were paid to the Indians living east of the Mississippi for their lands, as well as payments to Indians living in parts of the west outside the Louisiana Purchase. He charged Lewis and Clark to "explore the Missouri River, and such principal stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean; whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct and practicable communication across the continent for the purposes of commerce". By 1811, Astor had taken over independent traders to create a profitable monopoly; he left the business as a multi-millionaire in