

Chapter 1 : Frontier Forts > Texas and the Western Frontier

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Drawing a map in the sand by Erwin E. Smith A review of the story of the American desperado will show that he has always been most numerous at the edge of things, where there was a frontier, a debatable ground between civilization and lawlessness, or a border between opposing nations or sections. He does not wholly pass away with the coming of the law, but his home is essentially in a new and undeveloped condition of society. The edge between East and West, between North and South, made the territory of the bad man of the American interior. The far Southwest was the oldest of all American frontiers and the stubbornest. We have never, as a nation, been at war with any other nation whose territory has adjoined our own except in the case of Mexico; and long before we went to war as a people against Mexico, Texas had been at war with her as a state, or rather as a population and a race against another race. The frontier of the Rio Grande is one of the bloodiest of the world and was such long before Texas was finally admitted to the union. There was never any new territory settled by so vigorous and belligerent a population as that which first found and defended the great empire of the Lone Star. Her early men were, without exception, fighters, and she has bred fighters ever since. The allurements which the unsettled lands of the Southwest had for the young men of the early part of the last century lay largely in the appeal of excitement and adventure, with a large possibility of worldly gain as well. The men of the South who drifted down the old River Road across Mississippi and Louisiana were shrewd in their day and generation. They knew that eventually Texas would be taken away from Mexico, and taken by force. Her vast riches would belong to those who had earned them. Men of the South were even then hunting for another West, and here was a mighty one. The call came back that the fighting was good all along the line; and the fighting men of all the South, from Virginia to Louisiana, fathers and sons of the boldest and bravest of Southern families, pressed on and out to take a hand. They were scattered and far from numerous when they united and demanded a government of their own, independent of the far-off and inefficient head of the Mexican law. They did not want Coahuila as their country, but Texas, and asked a government of their own. Lawless as they were, they wanted a real law, a law of Saxon right and justice. Men like Crockett, Fannin, Travis and Bowie were influenced half by political ambition and half by love of adventure when they moved across the plains of eastern Texas and took up their abode on the firing line of the Mexican border. If you seek a historic band of bad men, fighting men of the bitterest Baresark type, look at the immortal defenders of the Alamo. Some of them were, in the light of calm analysis, little better than guerrillas; but every man was a hero. They all had a chance to escape, to go out and join Sam Houston farther to the east; but they refused to a man, and, plying the border weapons as none but such as themselves might, they died, full of the glory of battle; not in ranks and shoulder to shoulder, with banners and music to cheer them, but each for himself and hand to hand with his enemy, a desperate fighting man. The early men of Texas for generations fought Mexicans and Indians in turn. The country was too vast for any system of law. Each man had learned to depend upon himself. Each cabin kept a rifle and pistol for each male old enough to bear them, and each boy, as he grew up, was skilled in weapons and used to the thought that the only arbitrament among men was that of weapons. Part of the population, appreciating the exemptions here to be found, was, without doubt, criminal; made up of men who had fled, for reasons of their own, from older regions. These in time, required the attention of the law; and the armed bodies of hard-riding Texas Rangers, a remedy born of necessity, appeared as the executives of the law. The cattle days saw the wild times of the border prolonged. The buffalo range caught its quota of hard riders and hard shooters. And always the apparently exhaustless empires of new and unsettled lands "an enormous, untracked empire of the wild" beckoned on and on; so that men in the most densely settled sections were very far apart, and so that the law as a guardian could not be depended upon. Alamo Battle It was not to be wondered at that the name of Texas became the synonym for savagery. That was for a long time the wildest region within our national confines. Others slipped north into the Indian Nations, and left their mark there. Some went to the mines of the Rockies, or the cattle ranges from Montana

to Arizona. Many stayed at home, and finished their eventful lives there in the usual fashion — killing now and again, then oftener, until at length they killed once too often and got hanged; or not often enough once, and so got shot. To undertake to give even the most superficial study to a field so vast as this would require a dozen times the space we may afford, and would lead us far into matters of history other than those intended. We can only point out that the men of the Lone Star State left their stamp as horsemen and weapon-bearers clear on to the north, and as far as the foot of the Arctic Circle. Their language and their methods mark the entire cattle business of the plains from the Rio Grande to the Selkirks. Theirs was a great school for frontiersmen, and its graduates gave full account of themselves wherever they went. Among them were bad men, as bad as the worst of any land, and in numbers not capable of compass even in a broad estimate. Some citizens of Montgomery County, Texas, were not long ago sitting in a store of an evening, and they fell to counting up the homicides which had fallen under their notice in that county within recent memory. They counted up seventy-five authenticated cases, and could not claim comprehensiveness for their tally. Many a county of Texas could do as well or better, and there are many counties. It takes you two days to ride across Texas by railway. A review of the bad man field of Texas pauses for obvious reasons! That out of such conditions, out of this hardy and indomitable population, the great state could bring order and quiet so soon and so permanently over vast unsettled regions, is proof alike of the fundamental sternness and justness of the American character and the value of the American fighting man.

Chapter 2 : The Edge Fitness Clubs | Voted Best Gym

*The Edge of the West and Other Texas Stories [Bryan Woolley] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Twenty-four true Texas stories include subjects as diverse as H. Ross Perot, Doak Walker, Roy Orbison, Barefoot Sanders.*

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 s called for low-cost land for free white farmers, a position enacted into law by the new Republican Party in , 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 , 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 alone, 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 , who later became Vice president The War of 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 , 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 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 and the s, 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 , Astor had taken over independent traders to create a profitable monopoly; he left the business as a multi-millionaire in

Chapter 3 : Llano Estacado - Wikipedia

Get this from a library! The edge of the West and other Texas stories. [Bryan Woolley] -- Twenty-three favorite "true" Texas stories from his career as one of the premiere journalists and newspaper feature writers of Texas.

Wind turbines Agricultural land and canyons on the eastern side of the Llano Estacado Several interstate highways serve the Llano Estacado. Interstate 40 crosses the northern portion from east of Amarillo to Tucumcari, New Mexico. Interstate 27 runs north-south between Amarillo and Lubbock, while Interstate 20 passes through the southern portion of the Llano Estacado west of Midland and Odessa. History[edit] Spanish conquistador Francisco Coronado , the first European to traverse this "sea of grass" in , described it as follows: I reached some plains so vast, that I did not find their limit anywhere I went, although I traveled over them for more than leagues The region became part of the Comancheria , a Comanche stronghold until the final defeat of the tribe in the late 19th century. When we were upon the high table-land, a view presented itself as boundless as the ocean. Not a tree, shrub, or any other object, either animate or inanimate, relieved the dreary monotony of the prospect; it was a vast-illimitable expanse of desert prairie George Getz Shumard noted, "Beyond the mountain appeared a line of high bluffs the Llano Estacado which in the distance looked like clouds floating upon the horizon. Carter described it in while pursuing Quanah Parker with Ranald S. As far as the eye could reach, not a bush or tree, a twig or stone, not an object of any kind or a living thing, was in sight. It stretched out before us-one uninterrupted plain, only to be compared to the ocean in its vastness. Charles Goodnight in describing what it takes to be a scout, " The vast majority of the area is rural , covered by large ranches and irrigated farms. The Llano Estacado is slightly larger in area than the state of Indiana. The southern extension of the High Plains, the region is some miles north to south and miles east to west. The roads are straight and meet mostly at right angles. Cotton is an essential crop with irrigation, but faces declining prices at times on the world market. The Llano Estacado is sometimes humorously described as "85 percent sky and 15 percent grassland. Mahon , Kent Hance , and Robert L. The area has a large number of churches per capita. Lubbock, known for a wide variety of denominations, also holds the distinction of being the most populous city on the High Plains from the Dakotas through Texas. Prohibition did not end on the Texas Plains in with repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution , but continued for years at the county level. Even in , some forty Texas counties, most in the Llano Estacado, remain officially "dry" to the sale of alcoholic beverages. But after a High Plains thunderstorm, water quickly fills the ponds, only later soaking into the underlying porous sandstones just below the surface to add to the groundwater in the Ogallala aquifer. Early pioneers depended dearly on water from these surface ponds for themselves and their livestock, considering how few streams are on the High Plains. The 20th century has witnessed a concerted effort to tap the more reliable Ogallala water sands. Predictably, the consequent high dependency on groundwater has removed more water than is naturally replaced, raising concern for Panhandle citizens and planners as to future water supplies. Oil and gas production is also prevalent on the Llano Estacado. Overuse of the aquifer in the past has persuaded some farmers to return to dryland crops, leading to less rainwater reaching the playas. Their economic impact on our area is in the billions of dollars In popular culture[edit] The Lone Ranch: The Llano Estacado figures prominently in the narrative. Roger Deakins was nominated for the Academy Award for best cinematography for this movie. Outdoor shots show us the extensive beauty of the Llano Estacado landscape.

Chapter 4 : Bad Men of Texas – Legends of America

Edge of the West and Other Texas Stories by Bryan Woolley Twenty-four true Texas stories include subjects as diverse as H. Ross Perot, Doak Walker, Roy Orbison, Barefoot Sanders, Ralph Yarbrough, playing poker with the poker champion of the world, visiting Washington on the Brazos, and following the Trail of Beers en route to the Texas OU game.

The Caddo Indians by Ann M. When visited by Spanish and French explorers around , they were organized into three allied confederacies, the Kadohadacho on the great bend of the Red River, the Natchitoches in west Louisiana, and the Hasinai in east Texas. The Cahinnio, who were allies of the Kadohadacho, lived along the Ouachita River. Each confederacy was made up of independent communities, but all had similar languages and customs. The Caddo were sedentary farmers who grew corn, beans, pumpkins, squashes, watermelons, sunflowers, and tobacco. Hunting for bear, deer, small mammals, and birds was important, as were fishing and gathering shellfish, nuts, berries, seeds, and roots. People who lived on the edge of the plains also hunted bison in the historic period. People living near saline marshes or springs made salt by boiling brine in large shallow pans. Horses and captives were also traded to the French for European goods in the early historic period. The Caddo also made elaborately decorated pottery vessels until metal and ceramic replacements were acquired from traders. Men typically hunted, held most civic and religious roles, and were involved in warfare. Men and women shared some tasks in preparing gardens and building houses. During celebrations and ceremonies, each gender occupationally had its own special activities as well. Before trade clothing became common, men wore breechcloths and moccasins with deer and bison skins added in winter. Women wore deerskin or woven skirts. In warm weather they went topless, and they wore a skin wrap in winter. Deerskin shirts with colored and beaded designs and fringes were sometimes worn by both sexes, and other elaborate deerskin garments were used on ceremonial occasions. Both men and women also decorated their bodies with painting and tattooing. Women in particular sometimes tattooed their faces, arms, and torsos with elaborate designs. Men had several hairstyles; the most common was short with a long braided or otherwise decorated lock. Women wore their hair long and braided or tied close to the head. Communities consisted of widely dispersed households separated by garden plots and woodlots. Each household or farmstead consisted of dwellings and work areas for one or more closely related families. The size, shape, and number of dwellings varied. Some houses were circular, conical, and covered with thatch. Others were oval or rectangular, made of timber stuck vertically into the ground and daubed with mud, and roofed with thatch or bark. An elevated corncrib, outdoor work platform, and upright log mortar for pounding corn usually stood near the dwelling. Inside the house were sleeping and storage platforms where baskets and supplies were kept, and a central fireplace. Woven mats, made usually by women and often elaborately decorated, covered floors and benches, and were important ritual items. Each community also had at least one temple or religious building, originally on an earthen platform mound, where sacred objects were kept and the most important rituals were performed. Society was organized by households and clans. Social position, marriage prospects, and some political roles were based on clan membership. Political leaders of the community, tribe, and confederacy were a ranked set of offices, with a priest, or xinesi, holding the highest civil and religious position in the confederacy. Other leaders took care of various secular or sacred activities, and one group, shamans or connas, performed a variety of rituals and treated illnesses. The Caddo world was populated by many supernatural beings who had varying degrees of importance and power, with a supreme being, Ayo-Caddi-Aymay, having authority over the others. A series of rituals performed to ensure favorable relations between people and these supernatural beings and forces organized the annual cycle of life. The multilayered organization of Caddo society provided a way to interact with Europeans. When European travelers approached, they were usually met along the path by a contingent of greeters from the community. The travelers would be escorted to the dwelling of the caddi, the community leader, or to a special structure, and be seated in a place of honor. Here community leaders shared with the Europeans a smoke of tobacco from a calumet-an elaborately decorated pipestem and bowl, which created a bond of friendship that extended to all members of the respective communities. In this way the

Caddo recognized the relationships among different members of their own confederacy, and they were able also to incorporate Europeans within their hierarchically organized society. The Caddo were important trading partners and allies of both France and Spain during the colonial era. However, epidemic diseases; competition and occasional hostilities with the Osage, the Cherokee, and the Choctaw; and the westward spread of American settlement eventually encroached on their domain. The Ouachita valley communities moved shortly after A. A large number of Caddos now live near Binger, Oklahoma, where their modern tribal center is located. Bibliography Newkumet, Vynola B. A Traditional History of the Caddo Confederacy. The Historic Indians of Arkansas. Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin

Chapter 5 : 9 Unsolved Mysteries of the Wild West | Mental Floss

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The principal physical regions of Texas are usually listed as follows: Its characteristic rolling to hilly surface covered with a heavy growth of pine and hardwoods extends into East Texas. In the increasingly arid west, however, its forests become secondary in nature, consisting largely of post oaks and, farther west, prairies and brushlands. This geologic fault or shearing of underground strata extends eastward from a point on the Rio Grande near Del Rio. It extends to the northwestern part of Bexar County, where it turns northeastward and extends through Comal, Hays, and Travis counties, intersecting the Colorado River immediately north of Austin. The fault line is a single, definite geologic feature, accompanied by a line of southward- and eastward-facing hills. The resemblance of the hills to balconies when viewed from the plain below accounts for the Spanish name for this area: North of Waco, features of the fault zone are sufficiently inconspicuous that the interior boundary of the Coastal Plain follows the traditional geologic contact between upper and lower Cretaceous rocks. This contact is along the eastern edge of the Eastern Cross Timbers. This fault line is usually accepted as the boundary between lowland and upland Texas. Below the fault line, the surface is characteristically coastal plains. Above the Balcones Fault, the surface is characteristically interior rolling plains. From north to south, it extends from the Red River to within about 25 miles of the Gulf Coast. Interspersed among the pines are hardwood timbers, usually in valleys of rivers and creeks. Cattle raising is widespread, along with the development of pastures planted to improved grasses. Lumber production is the principal industry. There is a large iron-and-steel industry near Daingerfield in Morris County based on nearby iron deposits. Iron deposits are also worked in Rusk and one or two other counties. A great oil field discovered in Gregg, Rusk, and Smith counties in has done more than anything else to contribute to the economic growth of the area. This area has a variety of clays, lignite, and other minerals as potentials for development. The principal industry is diversified farming and livestock raising. Throughout, it is spotty in character, with some insular areas of blackland soil and some that closely resemble those of the Pine Belt. The Post Oak Belt has lignite, commercial clays, and some other minerals. It is narrowest below the segment of the Balcones Fault from the Rio Grande to Bexar County and gradually widens as it runs northeast to the Red River. Its rolling prairie, easily turned by the plow, developed rapidly as a farming area until the s and was the principal cotton-producing area of Texas. Now, however, other Texas areas that are irrigated and mechanized lead in farming. Primarily because of this concentration of population, this belt has the most diversified manufacturing industry of the state. Between the Sabine and Galveston Bay, the line of demarcation between the prairies and the Pine Belt forests to the north is very distinct. The eastern half is covered with a heavy growth of grass; the western half, which is more arid, is covered with short grass and, in some places, with small timber and brush. The soil is heavy clay. Grass supports the densest cattle population in Texas, and cattle ranching is the principal agricultural industry. Rice is a major crop, grown under irrigation from wells and rivers. Cotton, grain sorghum, and truck crops also are grown. Chief concentration has been from Orange and Beaumont to Houston, and much of the development has been in petrochemicals and the aerospace industry. Cotton, grain, vegetables, and citrus fruits are the principal crops. Cattle production is significant, with the famed King Ranch and other large ranches located here. Much of the acreage is irrigated, although dry-land farming also is practiced. The Rio Grande Plain shows characteristics of both the Gulf Coastal Plains and the North Mexico Plains because there is similarity of topography, climate, and plant life all the way from the Balcones Escarpment in Texas to the Sierra Madre Oriental in Mexico, which runs past Monterrey about miles south of Laredo. The Rio Grande Plain is partly prairie, but much of it is covered with a dense growth of prickly pear, mesquite, dwarf oak, catclaw, guajillo, huisache, blackbrush, cenizo, and other cactus and wild shrubs. It is devoted primarily to raising cattle, sheep, and goats. The Texas Angora goat and mohair industry centers in this area and on the Edwards Plateau, which borders it on the north. San Antonio and Laredo are its

chief commercial centers, with San Antonio dominating trade. There is some farming, and the Winter Garden, centering in Dimmit and Zavala counties north of Laredo, is irrigated from wells and streams to produce vegetables in late winter and early spring. Primarily, however, the central and western part of the Rio Grande Plain is devoted to livestock raising. The rainfall is less than 25 inches annually, and the hot summers cause heavy evaporation, so that cultivation without irrigation is limited. Over a large area in the central and western parts of the Rio Grande Plain, the growth of small oaks, mesquite, prickly pear *Opuntia* cactus, and a variety of wild shrubs is very dense, and it is often called the Brush Country. It is also referred to as the chaparral and the monte. Monte is a Spanish word, one meaning of which is dense brush. From north to south, they extend from the Red River to the Colorado River. Annual rainfall ranges from about 30 inches on the east to 20 inches on the west. In general, as one progresses westward in Texas, the precipitation not only declines but also becomes more variable from year to year. However, there is much level, cultivable land. It is a limestone-based area, usually treeless except along the numerous streams, and adapted primarily to raising livestock and growing staple crops. Sometimes called the Fort Worth Prairie, it has an agricultural economy and largely rural population, with no large cities, except Fort Worth on its eastern boundary. The two southward-extending bands are connected by a narrow strip along the Red River. Their soils are adapted to fruit and vegetable crops, which reach considerable commercial production in some areas in Parker, Erath, Eastland, and Comanche counties. This area, commonly known as the High Plains, is a vast, flat, high plain covered with thick layers of alluvial material. Historians differ as to the origin of this name. Others think that the *estacado* refers to the palisaded appearance of the Caprock in many places, especially the west-facing escarpment in New Mexico. Like the Balcones Escarpment, the Caprock Escarpment is a striking physical feature, rising abruptly, , and in some places almost 1, feet above the plains. Unlike the Balcones Escarpment, the Caprock was caused by surface erosion. It continues as an east-facing wall south through Briscoe, Floyd, Motley, Dickens, Crosby, Garza, and Borden counties, gradually decreasing in elevation. South of Borden County, the escarpment is less obvious, and the boundary between the High Plains and the Edwards Plateau occurs where the alluvial cover of the High Plains disappears. Stretching over the largest level plain of its kind in the United States, the High Plains rise gradually from about 2, feet on the east to more than 4, in spots along the New Mexico border. Chiefly because of climate and the resultant agriculture, subdivisions are called the North Plains and South Plains. The North Plains, from Hale County north, has primarily wheat and grain sorghum farming, but with significant ranching and petroleum developments. Amarillo is the largest city, with Plainview on the south and Borger on the north as important commercial centers. The South Plains, also a leading grain sorghum region, leads Texas in cotton production. Irrigation from underground reservoirs, centered around Lubbock and Plainview, waters much of the crop acreage. It lies between the Rio Grande and the Colorado River. Its upper boundary is the Pecos River, though the Stockton Plateau is geologically and topographically classed with the Edwards Plateau. The Edwards Plateau varies from about feet high at its southern and eastern borders to about 2, feet in places. Almost the entire surface is a thin, limestone-based soil covered with a medium to thick growth of cedar, small oak, and mesquite and a varying growth of prickly pear. A few crops are grown. The Hill Country is characterized by rugged hills with relatively steep slopes and thin soils overlying limestone bedrock. High gradient streams combine with these steep hillslopes and occasionally heavy precipitation to produce an area with a significant flash-flood hazard. Toyah Basin To the northwest of the Edwards and Stockton plateaus is the Toyah Basin, a broad, flat remnant of an old sea floor that occupied the region as recently as Quaternary time. Located in the Pecos River Valley, this region, in relatively recent time, has become important for many agricultural products as a result of irrigation. Additional economic activity is afforded by local oil fields. On the Colorado River in this area, a succession of dams impounds two large and five small reservoirs. Uppermost is Lake Buchanan, one of the large reservoirs, between Burnet and Llano counties. Below it in the western part of Travis County is Lake Travis. Between these two large reservoirs are three smaller ones, Inks, L. Johnson formerly Granite Shoals , and Marble Falls reservoirs, used primarily to produce electric power from the overflow from Lake Buchanan. Lake Austin is along the western part of the city of Austin. The recreational area around these lakes has been called the Highland Lakes Country. This is an interesting area with Precambrian and Paleozoic rocks found on the

surface. Granitic domes, exemplified by Enchanted Rock north of Fredericksburg, form the core of this area of ancient rocks. It consists of broad interior drainage basins interspersed with scattered fault-block mountain ranges. Although this is the only part of Texas regarded as mountainous, these should not be confused with the Rocky Mountains. Of all the independent ranges in West Texas, only the Davis Mountains resemble the Rockies, and there is much debate about this. Texas west of the Edwards Plateau, bounded on the north by New Mexico and on the south by the Rio Grande, is distinctive in its physical and economic conditions. It abruptly ends about 20 miles south of the boundary line, where Guadalupe Peak, 8, feet, highest in Texas and El Capitan 8, feet are situated. El Capitan, because of perspective, appears to the observer on the plain below to be higher than Guadalupe. The Diablo Plateau below the Guadalupe Mountains. Photo by Robert Plocheck. It has no drainage outlet to the sea. The runoff from the scant rain that falls on its surface drains into a series of salt lakes that lie just west of the Guadalupe Mountains. These lakes are dry during periods of low rainfall, exposing bottoms of solid salt; for years they were a source of commercial salt.

Chapter 6 : The Caddo Indians

by Bryan Woolley With An Introduction by Molly Ivins. Twenty-four true Texas stories include subjects as diverse as H. Ross Perot, Doak Walker, Roy Orbison, Barefoot Sanders, Ralph Yarbrough, playing poker with the poker champion of the world, visiting Washington on the Brazos, and following the Trail of Beers en route to the Texas OU game, by one of the state's great journalists and novelists.

Frontier Forts Main Texas and the Western Frontier It is not probable that white settlements will be made here for a century to come, if ever. Area of settlements at the edge of the western frontier circa to and the U. Within a short time, settlers moved beyond the lines of defense and into unprotected lands. Photo by William S. Bison, traditional sustenance for the Plains tribes and later a rich commodity for Anglo hide traders, were to come perilously close to extinction by the end of the nineteenth century. Photo courtesy Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The fertile terraces of the Brazos River attracted settlers who began small farms in the Peters Colony of northwest Texas. Western settlers being attacked by Indians. Small communities on the edge of the frontier suffered the brunt of Indian attacks in early years and served as a buffer for the larger towns. Detail from Harpers Weekly, ca. Note the stations at army forts across Texas. Diseases took as great a toll on settlers as they did on Indians in some years, particularly young children and the elderly. Gravestones, such as this one marking the death of a child in the s central Texas community of Hoover Valley, are a poignant reminder of the harsh frontier conditions. Anglo Texans greeted the end of the U. All too quickly the lure of nearly free and unbroken land attracted a multitude of pioneers. In response, the U. Army in began establishing a new line of forts a hundred miles beyond the original vanguard. For Hispanics and Indians, who also claimed much of this wild land as their home, the years of early statehood left them struggling merely to survive. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that ended the late war cast many Tejanos into a perilous future, with their new citizenship shadowed by an alien legal system and powerful economic forces. Some would fight to hold what they had, and find their recourse outside the law. The situation for the Comanches was even more ominous. The effects of contact had visited the Penateka southern bands with lethal consequences. Dependence on the material goods of Anglos and a taste for alcohol broke both tradition and will. Ecological changes, moreover, upset the annual migration of the great bison herds, a condition that would persist into the years of the Civil War. Armed with superior weaponry and well tutored in double-dealing, they further contracted the kingdom of these one-time Lords of the Plains. To Anglos, so many unrestrained Indian tribes and disgruntled Tejanos posed a psychological threat illuminated by the very real prospect of actual raids. Northern Comanches, joined by Kiowas and individuals from other tribes, splashed across the Red River from the Indian Territory and often probed the length of the frontier line, keeping settlers on constant alert. Additionally, the usual run of rootless and lawless whites took advantage of frontier conditions to prey upon the livestock of isolated settlers. Settlers bet their lives and property on the wager that chaos would quickly give way to order. In the estimation of these plucky newcomers, the prospective rewards were certainly worth the risks. Like their predecessors, the Spanish colonists who in the s had settled the borderlands along the Rio Grande, they learned that all manner of hardships might be survived with a bit of luck and the support of neighbors, though often far afield. As the s unfolded, signs of progress offered encouragement. However meager, any number of villages sprang up between the first and second line of U. This expansive watershed came to be known as Northwest Texas. Settlements such as Fredericksburg, New Braunfels and Castroville provided a bit of European culture on the frontier in spite of continued threats of Indian attacks. In the Southern Overland Mail, better known as the Butterfield stage, began cutting a path across the plains and prairies between its terminals at Saint Louis and San Francisco. From Sherman to El Paso a series of stations presented anchors around which communities seemed surely to emerge. Other newcomers to northern Texas learned that the Western Cross Timbers, a veritable "cast iron forest," provided natural fencing. Just when it seemed as if the frontier was beginning to join the mainstream of Texan society, Anglo-Indian conflicts and the Civil War reversed most of this material progress. For their part, the state and federal governments were often at odds, flip-flopping between policies of peace and war. Adding to the sense of anxiety, the federal

government in leased four leagues of land for an Indian reservation along the Brazos River below Fort Belknap. That spring, Texans led by ranger captain Rip Ford reported the defeat of over determined warriors at the Battle of the Washita, in Indian Territory. Not far from there, near Wichita Village, U. Meanwhile, The White Man grew ever more vocal. Words grew into deeds, climaxing in the Reservation War of that pitted militiamen of Northwest Texas against the Indians on both reservations. While no pitched battles ensued, the affair resulted in the expulsion of the native peoples. At last it seemed as if Anglo Texans had gained control of the frontier. The Civil War cost pioneer folk both the protection of the federal troops and much of its home guard, as many militiamen took up arms and marched east to defend the South. Indians, revitalized by feelings of revenge, took advantage of the situation and attempted to reclaim their former homeland and hunting grounds. Rio Grande City, circa This peaceful scene belies the violence that frequently erupted in this and other early Texas border towns. As the artist-soldier Capt. Lee wrote, Rio Grande City "could boast more crimes of murder, robbery, assassination, and outlawry generally, than all the rest of the Texas cities. Click for full image. For many Tejanos, however, the treaty brought an alien legal system along with a change in citizenship. Some victims of the new economic and political order fought back outside the law. Treaty page 1 , courtesy the Library of Congress. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress. As settlers pushed farther west on the Texas frontier in the s, new army posts were constructed to provide a measure of protection. Substantial houses of stone and plaster with a European flair were built in early settlements such as Castroville. The house shown is that of Henri Castro, founder of the s colony west of San Antonio. Click to see full image. The threat of Indian raids was a constant source of anxiety for settlers on the Texas frontier, particularly after U. Perhaps no pioneers in the history of the American West experienced such trying conditions as those who remained on the Texas frontier during the Civil War years. Flag raising at Fort Davis, a community fort on the Brazos River. Settlers who "forted up" in family compounds during the Civil War years found time for celebrations amid worry over Indian raids and lack of supplies. Longhorn cattle, a hardy hybrid of Spanish criollo stock and English cattle," thrived on the Texas plains and prairies, giving rise to the occupation known as "cow hunting. While markets in the interior went begging for goods to send to the Confederate army, there was little the pioneers could produce in bulk. The scarcity of supplies and hard currency, moreover, left them to their own ingenuity. The one commodity they enjoyed in abundance was beef. From the brush country of South Texas to the grassy rolling plains of Northwest Texas, the lean, hardy breed of longhorn cattle proliferated. Belknap has declared unfit to inhabit. Most observers of the Civil War years claimed the Comanches and Kiowas rolled back the frontier a hundred miles in places; certainly the population thinned considerably. Even so, cow hunters actually extended their reach, adapting to the unfamiliar environment, even against the mortal peril of Indian raids. One outfit, near old Camp Cooper, was reportedly tending a herd of 25, head of longhorn when warriors forced them to flee. Most of the war parties were small in number, and the raids were short and sharp, but not all one-sided. An overburdened state cavalry and what was left of the local militias sporadically patrolled the frontier and kept their adversaries on guard. The single most serious incident during these years came in the fall of The "Elm Creek Raid" in Young County reportedly involved a party of between five hundred and a thousand Comanches and Kiowas who raided the middle Brazos, virtually denuding the range of cattle and horses and besieging the citizen post Fort Murrah. If not for some of the home guard and a few isolated but well armed settlers who engaged the warriors, the death toll of the Texas pioneers would have been much worse. Along with the livestock, the war party returned to Indian Territory with almost a dozen women and children captives. Moreover, they forbid frontierspeople to raise arms and organize. The raids continued, bringing so many reports of depredations that their very scale created disbelief. Map adapted from Donald Frazier in Cashion Clear Fork pioneers Judge J. The bride, shown at the age of 15, was born on the westernmost edge of the Texas frontier as the Civil War broke out. Click for more detail. After the Civil War, federal troops returned to man their posts on a frontier that had become more volatile during their absence. The small north Texas town of Jacksboro, shown here in , was charged with new life when Fort Richardson was established nearby and still thrives. Thousands of Longhorns were herded along the dusty trails across Texas during the latter half of the nineteenth century bringing herds from as far south as the Rio Grande to markets in Kansas and other points. Notorious river boat gambling queen Lottie Deno parried her skills at the

game into a profitable business at the Fort Griffin Flat. Tonkawa Indians, such as these young boys, were a common sight in the town of Fort Griffin, given its proximity to their village on the Clear Fork of the Brazos. Tonkawa men served as scouts for the U. By , however, a line of federal forts approximating the antebellum configuration arose anew on the Texas frontier. Some, like Forts Richardson and Bliss, breathed life into towns such as Jacksboro and El Paso, respectively, while entirely new communities sprang up alongside other federal posts. Of these, a few survived their tumultuous frontier beginnings, such as Saint Angela now San Angelo, alongside Fort Concho and Fort Stockton in the shadow of the post that bore the same name. As long as the soldiers patrolled the frontier, however, all the "fort towns" thrived by providing goods and services to the military. Most of those who settled near the posts were earnest pioneers who came west to take advantage of legitimate business opportunities. From the surrounding countryside they provided forage for army horses and mules and foodstuffs for the soldiers.

Chapter 7 : Physical Regions of Texas | Texas Almanac

The Edge of the West and Other Texas Stories + Add to Wishlist Twenty-four true Texas stories include subjects as diverse as H. Ross Perot, Doak Walker, Roy Orbison, Barefoot Sanders, Ralph Yarbrough, playing poker with the poker champion of the world, visiting Washington on the Brazos, and following the Trail of Beers en route to the Texas OU.

We generally refer to a geographic area the core of which is Europe and North America after the sixteenth century. Sometimes we add Australia and less frequently Latin America. Latin America is seen to be some kind of a mixture of the West and the Nonwest. The epicenter of the "West" is actually even smaller, being limited to the civilization of western Europe and some of the U. Non-geographically, the "West" is also the concept of a scientific and technological culture that has come to colonize the "Nonwest"â€”politically, economically, militarily and ideologicallyâ€”over the last four centuries. The West has had a dominating world discourse for so long because its scientific and technological approach revolutionized the relationship of humans to nature and to one another. This is what we call "modernity". The concept of modernity is confused in the West because aspects of industrial culture are indissolubly blended with western ideological values. Nonwesterners easily take apart what they see as a more or less neutral modernity cars and cell phones from western beliefs. To put it another way, modernity happened in the world in western clothesâ€”it could have happened in another guise, perhaps East Asian, and that would have been another story. Nonwesterners are relating to each other without the mediation of the West. This essay is about some of the shifting western attitudes towards nonwestern arts and cultures especially in the last century. Until fairly recently, the West looked on the Nonwest as exoticâ€”that is, as something not quite normal from its point of view, alternating between admiration for or denigration of it. Despite the patronizing tone of much western commentary, the West appears to have needed its idea of the Nonwest in order to define its own identity as always in opposition to it. As a result of this, westerners have not wanted to obliterate nonwestern culture; on the contrary, many idealistic westerners have tried to encourage native arts and cultures to remain native i. They saw nonwesterners as potentially split between "authentic" native and modern aspects, which is ironic because they have been unable to see themselves as split between their modernity and westernness. I will discuss this western process of "nativization" in the second half of this essay. Modernization has progressed so far in the arts that many of the works of nonwesterners are indistinguishable from the works of western artists, thus wiping out the difference between west and Nonwest entirely in this realm. Yet the story of the paradigm shifts of how this came about is worth telling. To them, the Orient was the equivalent of the Nonwest. The word "Orientalism," as Said and others use it, is a western denigrating attitude towards the Orient as a place of tyranny, irrationality, laziness, effeminacy and unchanging-ness. Both types of Orientalism were current in ancient Greece. Tacitus in particular praised the barbarian Germans for their bravery, loyalty, and honesty despite the poverty of their culture and in contrast to the soft and corrupt Romans. It is not my aim to recite the long history of exoticism in the West, but merely to point out its existence prior to the eighteenth century when modern attitudes emerged. Generally, the earlier centuries up to the sixteenth and seventeenth saw other peoples through the lens of religion, dividing the world into Christians and heathens. Strange objects had curiosity value and along with fossils, bones and shells they found their way into curiosity cabinets as individual oddities. The gods of other peoples were represented in engravings as Christian devils. In some seventeenth century prints of the Aztec patron god Huitzilopochtli, the image resembles neither Aztec gods nor Aztec style but the devil. A major paradigm shift occurred in the eighteenth century that can be described as "schizophrenic": The word "aesthetics" was coined by Baumgarten in to describe this newly conceptualized realm of human activity. Most cultures do not have a word for this western concept of "art" and often someone from our culture invented one for others. The devilish idols of the past century had become the works of art and a steady stream of travelers went East and West to search them out to illustrate and publicize in books. New explorations were undertaken in the eighteenth century. However, this time the paradigm was not the bloody conquest of Mexico and Peru, as it had been in the sixteenth century, but the sexual welcome of South Sea Island women. The newly found natives were friendly, and these explorations raised questions about the

nature of man in the state of nature, that is, in contrast to the prohibitions and inhibitions characteristic of civilized western life. As early as the sixteenth century Montaigne audaciously presented the New World cannibal as superior to the Frenchman—following, of course, the time honored device of Tacitus. Nonwesterners were still considered to be bloody, lazy and promiscuous, but these qualities were excused and admired on the grounds of greater naturalness and honesty in their life than in life in the West. The eighteenth century was the time of the Marquis de Sade, whose violence was accepted as a part of human nature. The twentieth has been remarkably positive. The history of Primitivism and Orientalism is one of ambivalence over or undervaluation, depending on what the West looks for as a corrective in itself. Only rarely, if ever, is the nonwestern other seen for what it is. The center of both Primitivism and Orientalism was and is Paris. It is here that Bougainville brought the news of the friendly Tahitian women 10 ; that Montesquieu wrote the *Lettres Persanes* 11 ; that Picasso discovered African art; and the first exhibit of nonwestern contemporary art, *Les Magiciens de la Terre*, was held in . The effect of these primitivist tendencies on the arts of the West was very pronounced. We generally consider neoclassical art as cloyingly western, but around those simple, imaginary Greek forms had the power of the primitive. By , the Neoclassic lost its force to shock and destroy and stronger measures were needed to reveal the primitive inside the civilized western soul. The creation of Modern art with the inspiration of primitive art was a complex process that abandoned the western tradition of mimetic art for a new conceptualism. This shift was clever and necessary in that, by , mimetic representation was taken over by photography and film media. The conceptual language of Modern art came closer to the rest of the world whose art had always been less mimetic. Modernism was thus potentially global from its inception. Indian woman with Franz Boas and George Hunt holding up a blanket The overvaluation of the nonwestern in modernism helped to maintain the necessary fiction that these cultures have continued to exist in more-or-less unchanged form from their primitive Edens to the present time. People in the West wanted to know how the natives had lived and not how they live today. Anthropologists like Franz Boas used blankets to cut out all signs of modern life in their nostalgic ethnographic photos. So long, of course, as headhunting and human sacrifice were given up. The western search was for a pure and uncontaminated exotic culture—uncontaminated by us—that could be voyeuristically experienced. It is what the Native American artist Jimmie Durham calls the search for "virginity. During much of the twentieth century, many westerners, often art teachers, sought to revive the declining native arts in commercial workshops. While ostensibly for the benefit of the natives, this obsession with maintaining their authenticity was a desire on the part of westerners to maintain an "other" outside of themselves. Psychologically it can be said that this was to justify the existence of a hidden nonwestern "id" in rebellion against a western "ego", a split within the western self. Originally primarily an attitude of the elite intelligentsia, these ideas have filtered down via Hollywood films to a larger public. Nevertheless, modernist art along with its primitivism remained an elite taste in the West, and actual nonwestern art had an even smaller audience. This agenda came to its florescence in the theoretical attitude of what is now called Poststructuralism. In their most influential work, *Anti-Oedipus* , Deleuze and Guattari idealized a new humanity that would live in a semi-schizophrenic mental state not governed by a western, oedipal ego but instead consisting of equal yet partial psychic elements supposedly characteristic of the non-rational world view of nonwestern peoples. Roland Barthes idealized the traditional Japanese ethos and aesthetic in the nineteen sixties in similarly glowing terms as if it still existed unsullied in his time, despite the thousands of Japanese cars rolling out of modern factories. This Poststructuralist primitivism came out of Paris, the deep wellspring of exoticism in Europe. The original French title of this account, *Tristes Tropiques* —translated as *A World on the Wane* in the first English edition—expresses all this guilt and nostalgia towards the nonwestern other. The various interlinked utopian issues of free sex, "back to the land," and altered states of consciousness were all revolts against capitalist western cultures. How did this Orientalism-Primitivism come to another shift? It was not by the West and least of all by the U. It was demolished brick by brick by nonwesterners. While the West was imagining and emulating nonwesterners, they were critically evaluating the West and adapting facets of that life that they found useful. A wonderful painting by Omar Onsi from Lebanon shows a clutch of black-clad Lebanese women staring at a western painting of female nudes in an exhibition. This process is of course as old as contact. The Plains Indians

adapted the horse and weapons of the white man in the eighteenth century. The anthropologist Giancarlo Scoditti told me sadly that the Kitawa Islanders where he did his fieldwork gave up their pottery for plastic containers. When he remonstrated with them in the name of beauty and tradition to keep the pottery going, they argued that plastic is more durable, unbreakable and in all ways superior to their pottery. Was he trying to keep a superior material away from them? It is we who live in a world of myth while nonwesterners are often remarkably pragmatic. The best known native photographer is Seydou Keita of Mali, who got a camera as a gift in and used it for snapshots while he made a living as a carpenter Fig. By that he meant that people began to wear western clothes and wanted to look as modern as the figures in western magazines. He had props like bicycles and radios in his studio as well as costumes and accessories his clients could choose for their photos. So much acculturation would have been considered a sign of inauthenticity in the past and seen as a regrettable development. But between and , the "authentic" nonwestern native disappeared all over the world. Even the most remote Amazon villagers had access to camcorders and made applications to fund their own survival from granting agencies. The Metropolitan Museum now has nearly half a dozen Seydou Keita photos in its collection. This acceptance was neither immediate nor simple. The major question was how to classify these images—were they modern or native? An instance of this dilemma concerned the large Australian aborigine canvases that look like modern abstractions and would look at home in The Museum of Modern Art but when offered to museums by donors the museums did not know where to put them they seemed to be "contemporary art" but those curators did not want them. The curators of native art did not want them either because they were not traditional. These objects were in a classificatory limbo for a decade or more and their fate was uncertain. It was a fascinating cultural question as to which side the decision would fall. There was no one centralized decision—each institution made its own. The returns are now in: These are considered to be regional ethnic arts, not works of mainstream modern art. The aboriginal acrylics go with the bullroarer and the didjeridoo, not Picasso and Pollock. This protects western modernism as unique and it places the nonwestern squarely back in Orientalist and Primitivist territory. Contemporary artists of ethnic origin complain in vain. Now I am being told both by the right and the left, that I belong to the "Ethnic Minority" community and that my artistic responsibility lies within this categorization I am no longer your bloody objects in the British Museum.

Chapter 8 : The Edge of the West and Other Texas Stories

The Edge of the West Other Texas Stories by Bryan Woolley, Bryan Wooley. (Hardcover) We see that javascript is disabled or not supported by your browser - javascript is needed for important actions on the site.

Minimalist artist Donald Judd made Marfa a household name. Taking in this concrete box installation is free. Now called the Chinati Foundation, the buildings include work by 11 other artists, including Dan Flavin and Claes Oldenburg. Since the 19th century, people have reported seeing balls of light from an unknown source dance along the horizon. Opening hours vary, so call before you go. At other times of the year, you might find the occasional yoga class or a camp cooking demonstration. The Texas sky is almost reason enough for this road trip. Just past Valentine, be sure to stop by Prada Marfa, an art installation meant to look like a Prada boutique. According to artist Michael Elmgreen, putting a shop in the desert was meant as a critique of the luxury goods industry. El Cosmico in Marfa is a fun and whimsical place to stay. Choose from a yurt, trailer or teepee. West Texans are used to driving long distances, and they drive them fast. The full mile scenic drive takes about two hours without stopping. If you want a break from driving, turn right toward Fort Davis for a shorter part of the loop. Events include daytime solar viewings, educational twilight programs and night-time star parties, featuring a "tour" of the constellations and telescope viewings. Be sure to make reservations and dress warmly, even in summer. Check the calendar for living history days, when cavalry, infantrymen and Buffalo Soldier reenactors give you a sense of life on the frontier. Kids might enjoy picking up a Jr. Related content 50 awe-inspiring natural wonders for your bucket list The more unusual The unusual at Fort Davis often happens in the dark "if your timing is right. You might be there at the right time to take a tour by lantern at the Fort Davis National Historic Site. If you happen to hit town during a full moon, check to see if the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center is offering a night hike. Another option is Texas , also a pretty drive itself from Alpine nearly straight to Terlingua. Not only is it a beautiful drive that winds through rocky hills, meandering up and down like a gentle rollercoaster, it gives you the most time on the River Road Farm to Market , known as the most scenic drive in Texas. Texas desert featuring an ocotillo plant, indigenous to this area and parts of northern Mexico. The road snakes alongside the Rio Grande, which forms the border between the United States and Mexico. Cutting through the southern edge of rugged Big Bend Ranch State Park, the River Road, or El Camino del Rio, is framed on both sides by mountains, cliffs, canyons and otherworldly rock formations. There are scenic vistas all along the River Road, so take advantage of the pull-outs. The steepest inclines in Texas will have you using second gear. This narrow slot canyon on the edge of Big Bend Ranch State Park offers a nice, if perhaps a little claustrophobic, walk. High walls of rock rise on both sides as the trail gets narrower closer to the drop off to the Rio Grande. Crumbling adobes from its time as a mining town and desert plants make for some great photos, too. Just being in Terlingua is on the unusual side of travel experiences. The main activity is sitting on the porch at the Terlingua Trading Company and talking to locals, who are often unusual themselves. Next door is the Starlight Theater, where "ties are prohibited" and you can enjoy some Texas music with your meal. Lisa Wyatt Roe is a freelance writer and editor in Austin, Texas.

Bad Men of Texas Drawing a map in the sand by Erwin E. Smith A review of the story of the American desperado will show that he has always been most numerous at the edge of things, where there was a frontier, a debatable ground between civilization and lawlessness, or a border between opposing nations or sections.

But are the historical records to be believed? Jameson, the famed treasure hunter, hardcore Texas cowboy, and author of over 90 books on Old West history—including *Unsolved Mysteries of the Old West* and the *Beyond the Grave* series. He tends to approach the official record more like a single piece of evidence amongst a larger crime scene. Bonney escaped from Lincoln County Jail in New Mexico while awaiting hanging for the murder of Sheriff William Brady, the record will tell you that Sheriff Pat Garrett tracked the outlaw, better known as Billy the Kid above, right, to a residence in Fort Sumner where he shot and killed him. Even one of his deputies present for the shooting said that the man Garrett shot was not the fugitive they had been looking for. His case was eventually thrown out by the governor of New Mexico, who agreed to meet with him. The Governor did not believe Roberts was Billy the Kid. Roberts died a short time later, reportedly ashamed by the media circus that followed his confession. Jameson, however, is one of many convinced that Roberts was the real deal. A statistical facial recognition analysis comparing Roberts to known images of The Kid suggested that the two men were actually one and the same. Where is the Head of Pancho Villa? Wikimedia Commons This bandit-turned-hero of the Mexican Revolution retired from the battlefield after negotiating terms of withdrawal with the Mexican government in 1911 only to be assassinated in an ambush three years later. Another story held that the head was on its way to be studied by neurologists in Chicago. Others claimed the infamous Yale fraternal organization known as Skull and Bones held the skull in their vault for use in ritual rites. Jameson says that the evidence behind all of these theories is scant. Sublett even showed the location of the mine to a number of people, though none were ever able to find it in subsequent searches. Pterodactyl engraving via Wikimedia Commons Multiple newspaper articles from California and Arizona in the late 1800s report sightings of a giant winged creature resembling what would likely be called a pterodactyl today. Above the mouth of this cave was an ancient pictograph of an enormous horned bird. Jameson, who says he has one of the original feathers in his collection, asserts that the feathers have been examined by a number of ornithologists, but that the species responsible for producing them has yet to be identified. It was said that Waltz mined his claim in the Salt River Valley of Arizona every winter between 1860 and 1870, though the source of his ore was never found. Wikimedia Commons It has been said that Butch Cassidy and his accomplice Henry Alonzo Longabaugh "the Sundance Kid" were the only outlaws who lived to see themselves portrayed on film. Though the record states "and Hollywood would have you believe" that the famous bank robbers were killed in a gunfight with the Bolivian military after fleeing the U.S. Wikimedia Commons The legend of the Victorio Peak Treasure begins in the 1850s when a dying soldier stumbled into a New Mexico monastery and confessed his knowledge of a secret cache of gold ore in the mountains to a monk named Padre Felipe LaRue. LaRue put together a band that purportedly located the mine and successfully drew ore from it for three solid years. A New Mexico couple named Ernest and Ova Noss were said to have stumbled upon a narrow entrance to this mine while hunting in 1860, and then returned several times to collect the heavy gold ingots from the secret location. When Ernest tried to open the mine further with a blast of TNT, it was inadvertently sealed despite repeated attempts to reopen it. When the White Sands Missile and Bombing Range was expanded in 1945 to include the land, Ova Noss supposedly sent a party to investigate and they reported that Army officials were seen digging near the site. Still, the Army never made any mention of the Victorio gold. In the 1950s, a locked steel door was said to have been found covering the site of the original shaft. Whatever the case, a reported 88 solid-gold ingots were brought forth from the mountains of New Mexico by the Noss couple, and it is unlikely the public will ever know exactly what became of the site and its associated treasure. Wikimedia Commons Bloody Bill Longley had more than 30 killings to his name before he was hanged at the age of 27, suggesting that Longley was one of the most prolific and psychopathic gunslingers in the Wild West. But was he successfully executed and buried in Texas? Longley had escaped prison twice before his

recorded execution in Did a third escape keep this notorious killer from the gallows indefinitely? Where Is Cochise Buried? Dragoon Mountains via Wikimedia Commons The body of legendary Apache Chief Cochise is buried somewhere in the wilderness of his former Chiricahua stronghold southeast of Tucson, Arizona, but the exact location of his remains is unknown to this day. Cochise and his band of Apaches occupied the area near the former location of Fort Bowie for about 15 years, most of which were marked by extreme violence on both sides. Cochise died in , presumably of natural causes, and his body was buried in a traditional ceremony along with his horse and dog somewhere near his homestead.