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THE SANTA FE TRAIL

*= especially recommended

HISTORIES—THE TRAIL:

*David Dary, **The Santa Fe Trail: Its History, Legends and Lore** (2000)
(good up-to-date account of the Trail's entire history)

Stanley Vestal, **The Old Santa Fe Trail** (1939, reprinted 1996)
(classic older account, with lots of vivid anecdotes and yarns)

HISTORIES—GENERAL / BACKGROUND / SPECIFIC PLACES:

William Brandon, **Quivira: Europeans in the Region of the Santa Fe Trail, 1540-1820** (1991)
(early explorers and crossings of the Great Plains before 1821)

Paul Horgan, **The Centuries of Santa Fe** (1956, reprinted 1994)
(portrait of the city through representative types of its many cultures)

*David Lavender, **Bent's Fort** (1972)
(the story of the famous fur-trading and supply center on the Trail)

Hampton Sides, **Blood and Thunder: An Epic of the American West** (2006)
(Kit Carson, the Navajo, and the US conquest of the Southwest)

TRAVELERS' ACCOUNTS:

*Josiah Gregg, **Commerce of the Prairies** (1844; many reprints)
(famous detailed description by a successful trader)

*Susan Shelby Magoffin, **Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico, 1846-1847:**
The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin (reprinted 1982)
(vivid description by an 18-year old newlywed)

*Marian Sloan Russell, **Land of Enchantment:** Memoirs of Marian Russell along the Santa Fe Trail, as dictated to Mrs. Hal Russell (1954, reprinted 1981, 1985)
(seven-year old Marian traveled the Trail in 1852 and in her old age described her experiences to her daughter-in-law.)

GUIDEBOOKS:

Gregory Franzwa, **The Santa Fe Trail Revisited** (1989)
(very thorough and detailed guidebook for true “rut nuts”)

*Marc Simmons and Hal Jackson, **Following the Santa Fe Trail: A Guide for Modern Travelers** (third edition, 2001)
(extremely clear and useful guide for auto tours along the Trail)

THE INDIAN TRIBES:

S. C. Gwynne, **Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanche, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History** (2010)
(a vivid portrait of the last great war chief of the Comanche, his people and their history)

*Pekka Hämäläinen, **The Comanche Empire** (2008)
(best account of the tribe’s culture and history)

THE MEXICAN WAR ON THE TRAIL:

William Y. Chalfant, **Dangerous Passage: the Santa Fe Trail and the Mexican War** (1994)
(military history of Kearny’s army, the Mormon Battalion, and clashes with the Indians.)

*Bernard de Voto, **The Year of Decision: 1846** (1942)
(vivid and accurate portrayal of “some people who went west in 1846”—Kearny’s Army of the West, Mormons, other settlers and traders.)

Winston Groom, **Kearny’s March: The Epic Creation of the American West, 1846-47** (2011)
(essentially a recent rewrite of de Voto, almost as good as that classic work.)

THE CIVIL WAR ON THE TRAIL:

*Don Alberts, **The Battle of Glorieta: Union Victory in the West** (1998)
(best and most detailed account of this crucial engagement)

Don Alberts, ed., **Rebels on the Rio Grande: The Civil War Journal of A. B. Peticolas** (1993)
(fascinating diary of a Texas soldier equipped with pen and sketchbook)

Thomas Edrington and John M. Taylor, **The Battle of Glorieta Pass: A Gettysburg in the West, March 26-28, 1862** (1998)
(good brief and well-illustrated account)

*Donald S. Frazier, **Blood and Treasure: Confederate Empire in the Southwest** (1995)
(excellent history of the entire campaign)

Martin H. Hall, **Sibley's New Mexico Campaign** (1960, rev.ed. 2000)
(good older account emphasizing the Confederate side)

Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., **The Civil War in the American West** (1991), part 1, "The Glory Road to New Mexico"
(good brief survey, along with coverage of the other events in this vast area)

John M. Taylor, **Bloody Valverde: A Civil War Battle on the Rio Grande, February 21, 1862** (1995)
(good brief and well-illustrated account)

Jerry D. Thompson, **Desert Tiger: Captain Paddy Graydon and the Civil War in the Far Southwest** (1992)
(fascinating study of one of the more colorful participants in the campaign)

William C. Whitford, **The Colorado Volunteers in the Civil War: the New Mexico Campaign in 1862** (1906, repr. 1971, 1994)
(older account drawing on state records and veterans' memories)

BEYOND BLUE AND GRAY:

*Andrew E. Masich, **Civil War in the Southwest Borderlands 1861-1867** (2017)

*Megan Kate Nelson, **The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West**, (2020)

REFERENCE WORKS:

Louise Barry, **The Beginning of the West: Annals of the Kansas Gateway to the American West 1540-1854** (1972)
(1,232-page. compilation of all documentary sources, frontier newspaper reports of events, etc., all arranged chronologically. A wonderful source of detailed information.)

Gregory M. Franzwa, **Maps of the Santa Fe Trail** (1989)
(Every mile of the Trail depicted on modern county maps, with detailed notes and comments.)

*Howard R. Lamar, ed., **New Encyclopedia of the American West** (1998)
(Complete contents available online through the UI Library, for I-Card holders using their NetID and password, at http://vufind.carli.illinois.edu/vf-uiu/Record/uiu_6852626)

David J. Wishart, ed., **Encyclopedia of the Great Plains** (2004)
(Complete contents available online as <http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/>)