The Santa Fe Trail

4

The Cimarron Cutoff


KANSAS
COLORADO
MISSOURI
NEW MEXICO
TEXAS
OKLAHOMA
FORT LEAVENWORTH
FORT OSAGE
FRANKLIN
INDEPENDENCE
BURLINGAME
COUNCIL GROVE
DIAMOND SPRING
FORT ZARAH
FAWNEE ROCK
GREAT BEND
COTTONWOOD CREEK
FORT LARNED
FORT DODGE
CHOUTEAU'S ISLAND
FORT AUBRY
FORT LYON
BENT'S NEW FORT
BENT'S OLD FORT
BIG TIMBERS
MIDDLE SPRING
UPPER SPRING
SOLO SPRING
TRINIDAD
RATON PASS
FORT UNION
WAGON MOUND
LAS VEGAS
SANTA FE
SAN MIGUEL
CANADIAN CROSSING
ARKANSAS RIVER
CIMARRON RIVER
MOUNTAIN ROUTE
CIMARRON ROUTE
SANTA FE TRAIL
RATON PASS
JICARILLA
VTE
APACHE
COMANCHE - KIOWA
KANSA
CHEYENNE
ARAPAHO
PAWNEE
VAIVAJO
PUEBLO

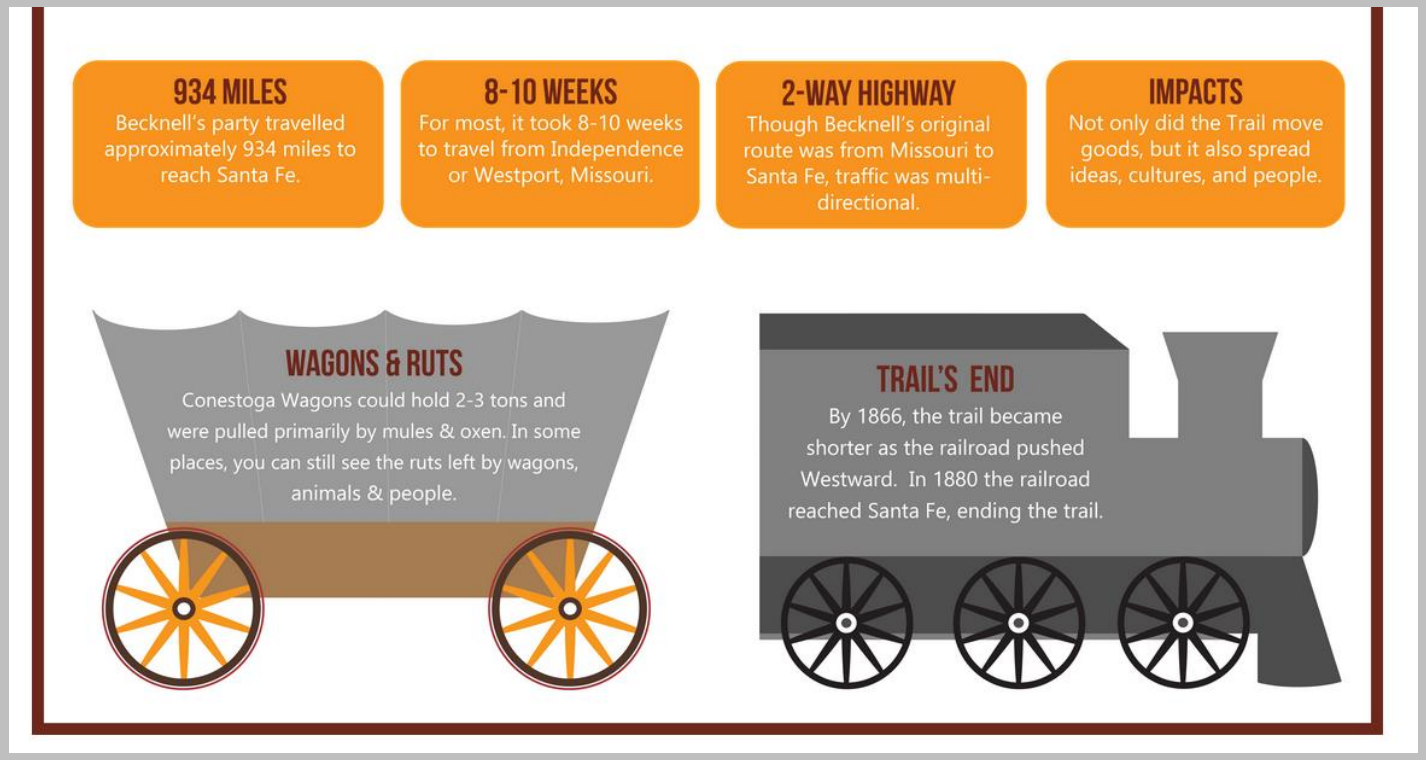

"We passed a fresh made grave today. The head board states his age to be 21 years. . . . Came to his death by accidentally shooting himself through the head. Many such accidents occur on the plains."
—WILLIS READ, 1850
"No one who has not commanded an expedition of this kind, where everything ahead is dim, uncertain, and unknown, except the dangers, can imagine the anxiety with which I start upon my journey."
—EDWARD F. BEALE, 1857
During the gold rush years Cherokee with gold-mining experience from their former homelands in Georgia helped blaze trails west from Arkansas and Oklahoma.
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAIL
NEBRASKA CITY CUTOFF
LODGEPOLE TRAIL
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
SMOKY HILL TRAIL
SANTA FE TRAIL
CHEROKEE TRAIL
AUBRY CUTOFF (opened 1850)
CIMARRON ROUTE
FORT SMITH-SANTA FE TRAIL (ARKANSAS ROUTE)
CHIHUAHUA TRAIL
TEXAS ROAD
SOUTHERN OVERLAND TRAIL (BUTTERFIELD ROUTE)
Forks of the Platte
Ash Hollow
California Hill
Ft. Kearny
Nebraska City
St. Joseph
Atchison
Ft. Leavenworth
Independence
Westport
(now part of Kansas City)
Westport Landing
Topeka
Lawrence
Ft. Riley
Council Grove
Ft. Harker
Ft. Zarah
Pawnee Rock
Ft. Larned
Ft. Hays
Ft. Wallace
Cheyenne Wells
Smoky Hills
Red Hills
Ft. Aubry
The Caches
Ft. Atkinson
Ft. Dodge
Wichita
Bent's New Fort
Bent's Old Fort
Ft. Lyon
Pueblo
Ft. Reynolds
Colorado City
(Colorado Springs)
Pikes Peak
14110 ft
4301 m
Denver
Central City
Ft. St. Vrain
Ft. Morgan
Laporte
Ft. Collins
Ft. Sedgwick
Julesburg
Ft. D.A. Russell
Ft. Sanders
Lower Spring
Middle Spring
Trinidad
Spanish Peaks
13626 ft
4153 m
12683 ft
3866 m
Raton Pass
7834 ft
2388 m
Ft. Garland
San Luis Valley
Elizabethtown
Cimarron
Round Mound
Rabbit Ear Mt.
6058 ft
1846 m
Taos
Abiquiu
Ft. Marcy
Santa Fe
Glorieta Pass
Las Vegas
Wagon Mound
Ft. Union
La Junta (Watrous)
Galisteo
San Miguel
Anton Chico
Ft. Bascom
Albuquerque
Ft. Sumner
Socorro
San Antonio
Ft. Craig
Ft. Stanton
Antelope Butte
Rock Mary
(Oklahoma City)
Fort Gibson
Fort Washita
Preston
Ft. Towson
Sherman
Jacksboro
Ft. Belknap
Dallas
Springfield
Fort Ouachi
INDIAN TERRITORY
KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
NEBRASKA
KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
TEXAS
Llano
TEXAS
Rocky Mts.
Front Range
Sangre de Cristo Mts.
San Juan Mts.
Wasatch Mts.
Sacramento Mts.
San Andres Mts.
Arkansas
Cimarron
Canadian
Republican
Smoky Hill
Solomon
S. Platte
Missouri
IOWA
MISSOURI

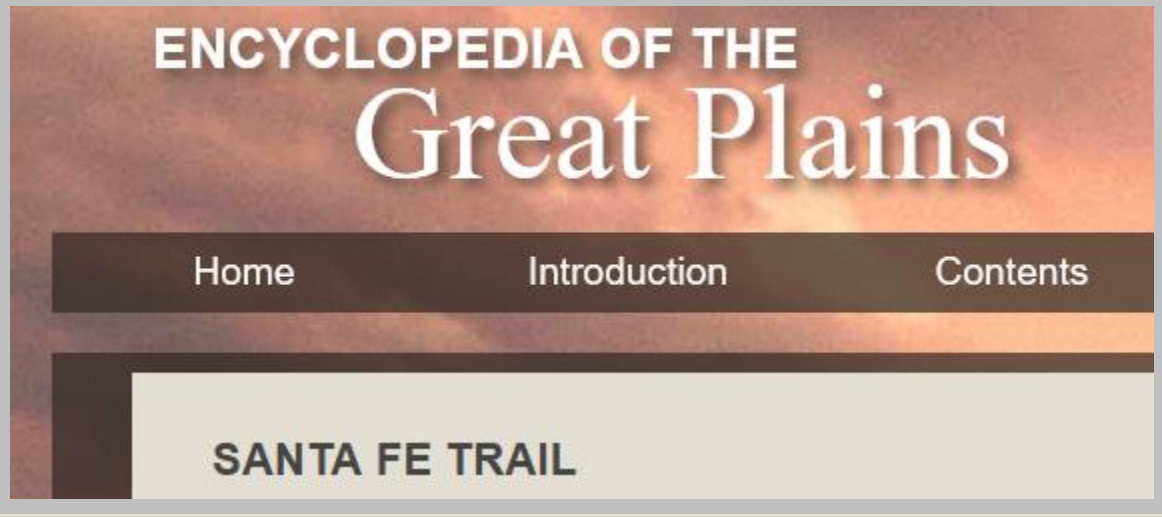
SANTA FE TRAIL

1821 200 YEARS 2021

Commemorate the 200th Anniversary ›

Journey across five states and 200 years of history during the Bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail.





By the 1830s a generally accepted routine had developed along the trail. The traders usually left Independence, Missouri (Franklin, the first terminus, was destroyed by a flood in 1828), in mid-May, when Plains grasses were tall enough to provide su.cient forage for draft animals. Most traders used Murphy wagons, three-foot-wide and sixteen-foot-long canvas-topped vehicles with four-inch-thick iron tires to protect the wooden wheels during the arduous, 775-mile trek. After ten days of travel, the traders paused at Council Grove, Kansas, where they gathered into larger caravans led by an elected captain and division lieutenants and typically consisting of 25 freight wagons and 300 oxen and mules. After the break, the caravans headed toward the Big Bend of the Arkansas, traveling ten to fifteen miles a day. The wagon trains followed the northern flank of the Arkansas River valley to the Middle Crossing, where the trail divided into two branches. The longer Mountain Branch followed the Arkansas River to Bentfs Fort and then proceeded southwest through Raton Pass to Santa Fe. The more heavily trafficked Cimarron Cutoff first crossed the Cimarron Desert and then followed a direct route to Santa Fe.

Santa Fe Trail Research

"Fort Larned Old Guard"

Preserves Cheyenne/Sioux Indian Village Site of 1867!!

"Fort Larned - School Programs"

"Auto Tour's of the Santa Fe Trail"

Best Viewed on a Smart Phone in a Trail Rut!

"Santa Fe Trail Sites - ©Microsoft Research Maps"

An Innovative Way to Look at Santa Fe Trail Ruts

~*~ ~*~ ~*~ ~*~

SFTRS Site Map **Warner Ruts**

The Santa Fe Trail got its start in 1821, with an advertisement in the **Missouri Intelligencer** by William Becknell, seeking men willing to join and invest in a trading expedition to the west. Becknell started on this expedition September 1, 1821 from the **Franklin and Arrow Rock area of Missouri**, ending at the **Plaza in Santa Fe, New Mexico** in November of the same year. His first trip was made with pack animals, the next trip to trade in 1822, Becknell used wagons. The Trail soon became a highway of trade and supply, connecting the southwest area of Santa Fe, New Mexico with eastern trade centers.

Our Santa Fe Trail Research site contains information about **major trail projects** undertaken, & **research articles** by several noted trail historians who granted our site permission to put their work on the net. Read about Trail history, view markers, **take a auto tour** and view photos of important landmarks along the length of the Trail. View sites traders passed as they traveled the Trail. Wagon ruts can still be seen even though the wagon trains carrying trade goods have not trod its length for over one hundred and eighty five years. We have over a thousand pages of documented history, & hundreds of **Santa Fe Trail Photos**. There is a ten year index of **Wagon Tracks**. Instructions on how to order Wagon Tracks and other books from the

To Bluff or not to Bluff, that is the question….

….answered by geology!

The Grand Canyon, created by the Colorado River

The Arkansas River in Kansas

Warbler Bluff, created by the Embarras River

Whether or not bluffs and floodplains form alongside rivers depends on the geology and topography of the location.


Denver
COLORADO
KANSAS
MISSOURI
NEW MEXICO
OKLAHOMA
ARKANSAS
TEXAS
Leadville
Colorado Springs
Salida
Canon City
Pueblo
John Martin Res.
Lamar
Garden City
Dodge City
Hutchinson
Wichita
Topeka
Kansas City
St. Louis
Springfield
Joplin
Ponca City
Kaw Lake
Tulsa
Fort Smith
Lake Dardanelle
Little Rock
Pine Bluff
Oklahoma City
Amarillo
Santa Fe
Dallas
Arkansas
Smoky Hill
Walnut
Cottonwood
Neosho
Verdigris
Spring
Ninnescah
Salt Fork
Cimarron
Beaver
Canadian
North Canadian
Lake Meredith
Caney
Illinois
White
Petit Jean
Eufaula Lake
Poteau
Red
Mississippi
Huerfano
Apishapa
Purgatoire
Mora
Conchas
Kansas
Missouri
0 50 100 150 200 miles

Purgatoire River

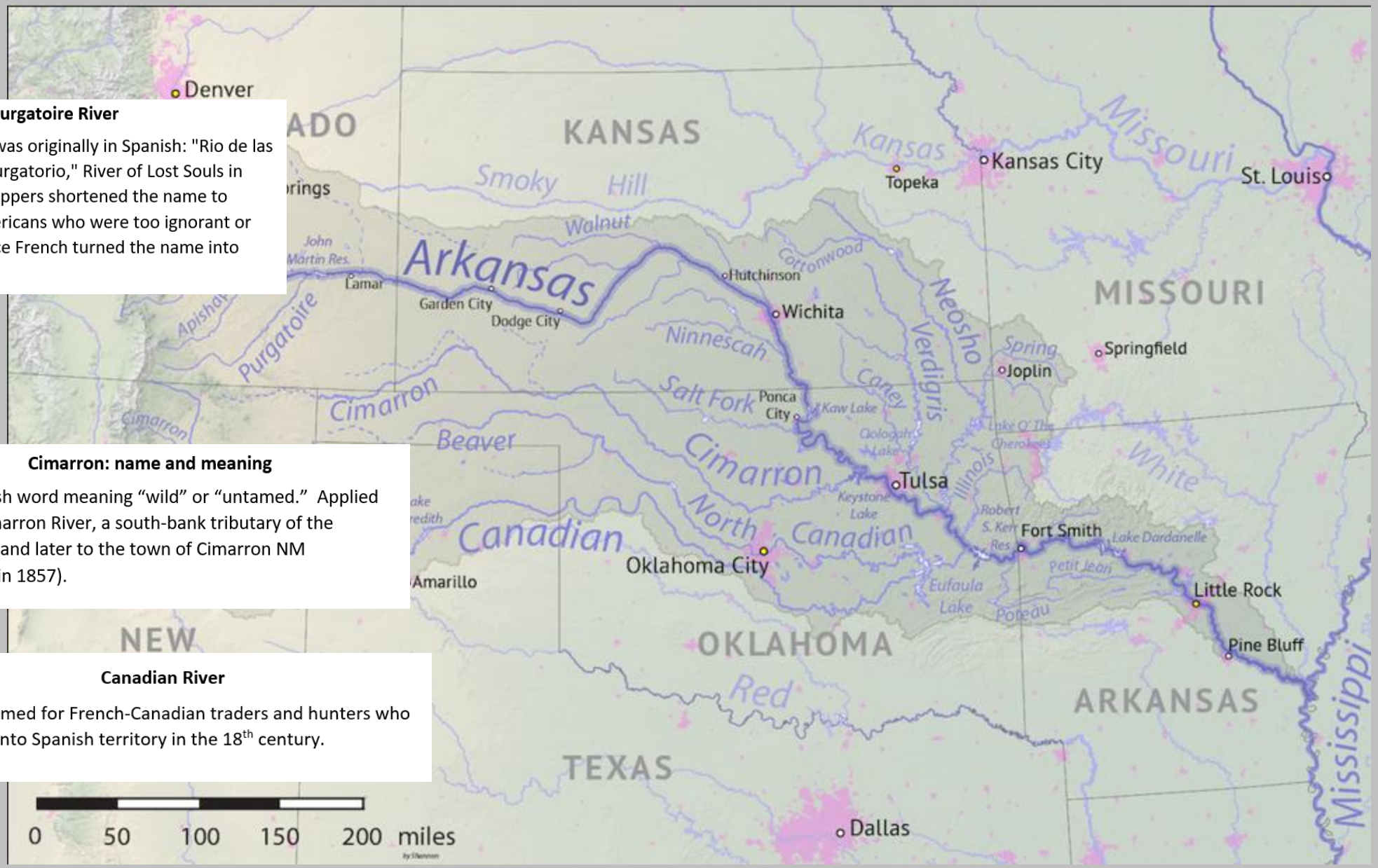
The river's full name was originally in Spanish: "Rio de las Animas Perdidos in Purgatorio," River of Lost Souls in Purgatory. French trappers shortened the name to "Purgatoire" and Americans who were too ignorant or unwilling to pronounce French turned the name into "Picketwire".

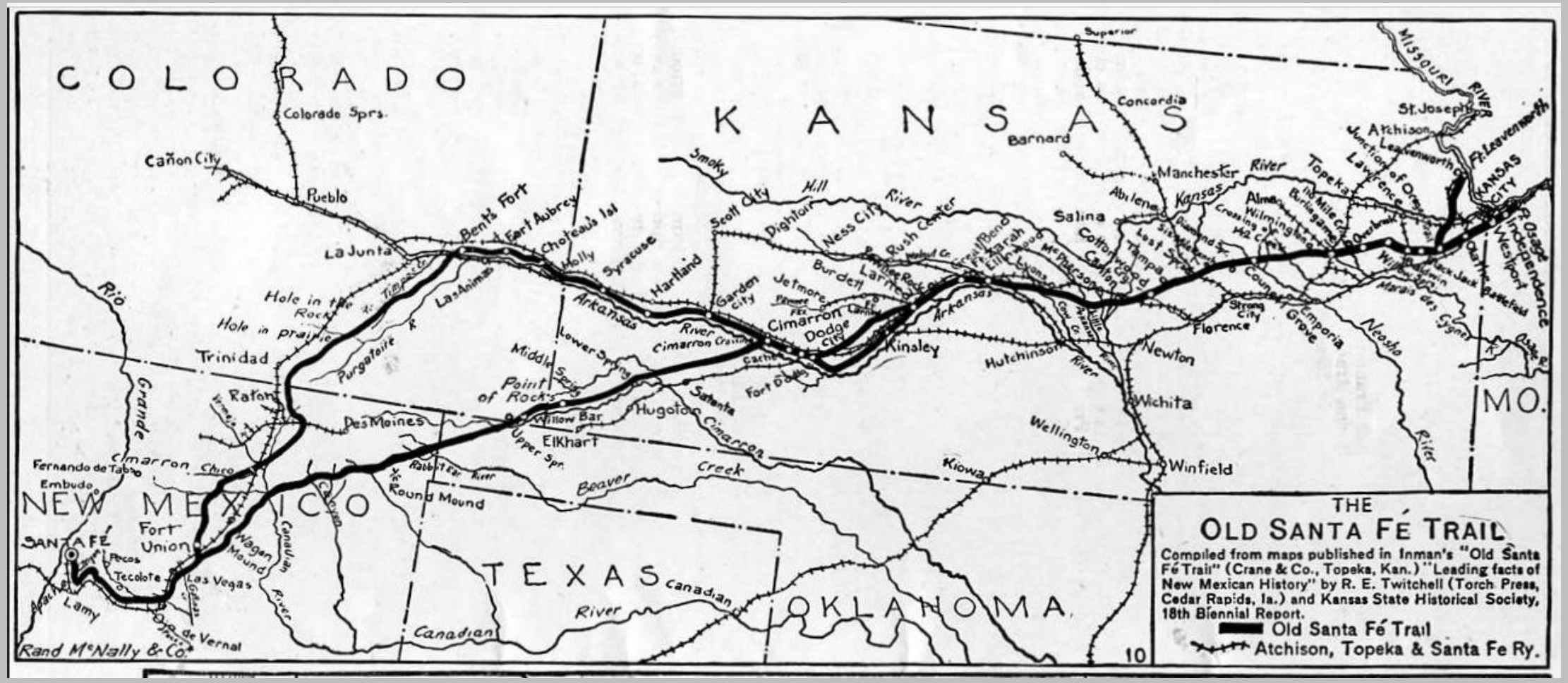
Cimarron: name and meaning

—a Spanish word meaning “wild” or “untamed.” Applied to the Cimarron River, a south-bank tributary of the Arkansas, and later to the town of Cimarron NM (founded in 1857).

Canadian River

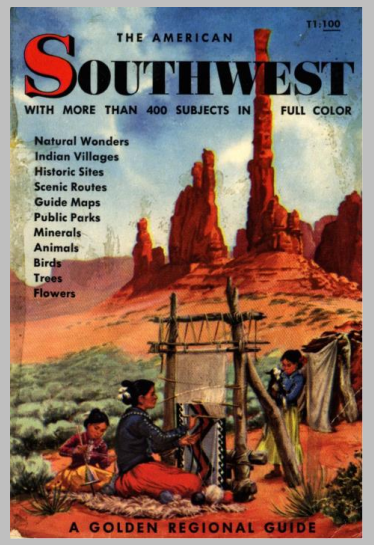
Probably named for French-Canadian traders and hunters who followed it into Spanish territory in the 18th century.

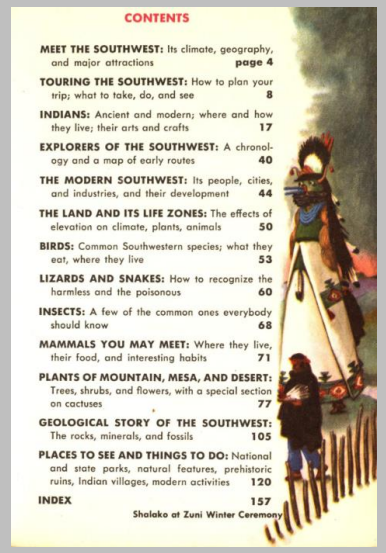




The railroad followed the line of the Mountain Route and replaced it, ending the Santa Fe Trail as it advanced.

We'll look at this in detail in the final class.





CONTENTS

Shalako at Zuni Winter Ceremony

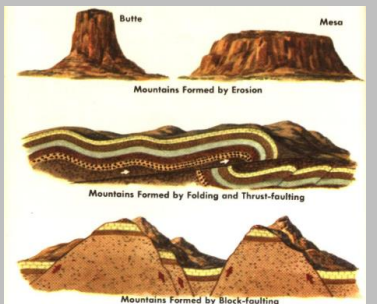
Taos War Dance

PUEBLO DAILY LIFE Although the pueblos are generally alike, each has its own social organization. Secular authority rests in an annually elected governor. Religious activities are controlled by a *cacique* (kah-SEE-kee), who holds office for life. *Principáles* integrate civil and religious matters. Religion, based on the idea that man must live in harmony with nature, transcends all else. It integrates arts, crafts, farming, hunting, and social affairs, and underlies Pueblo legend, poetry, song, ceremony, and dance.

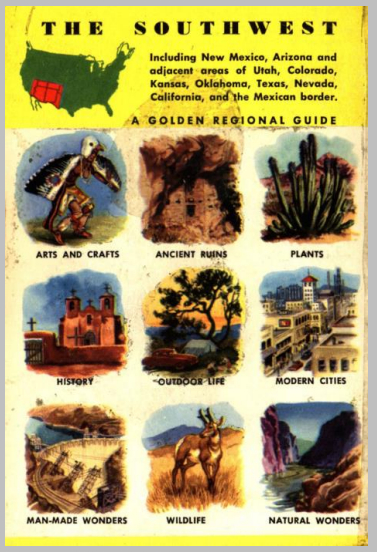
Socially, the people of a pueblo belong to one of two kinship groups, each having several kiva or "church" societies. There is also a kachina, or rain-making, cult. A few pueblos do not permit outsiders to view their masked dances, which are often the final and public performances of sacred rites that have been going on for days. If you are able to see a dance, do not take photographs or make sketches or notes unless you have the specific permission of the pueblo governor. Each pueblo holds a fiesta at a fixed date in honor of its patron saint—a Spanish custom. Early priests gave the name of an appropriate saint to each native ceremonial, to direct the rite into reverence for a Catholic patron. (See p. 13.)

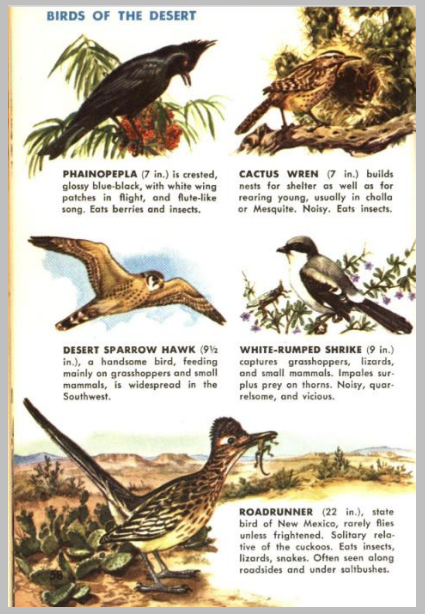
Eagle Dancer

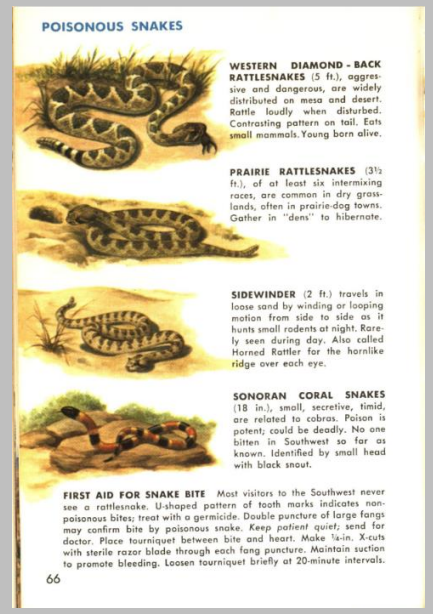
MODERN RIO GRANDE PUEBLO CRAFT WORK

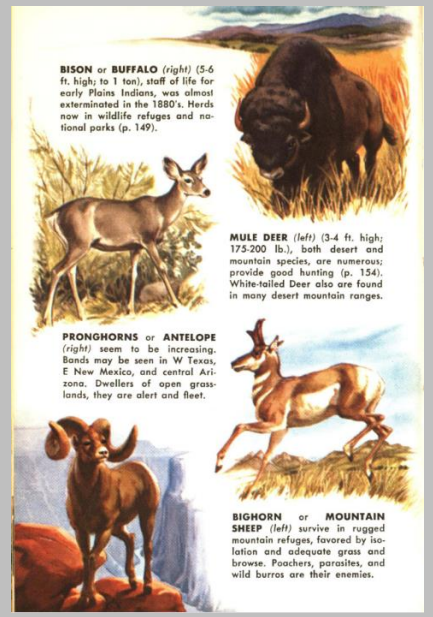


MOUNTAIN MAKING involves complex processes well illustrated in the Southwest. Volcanic mountains are numerous (see p. 117). Where immense areas were evenly lifted, rivers carved wide valleys, leaving buttes and mesas. Squeezing and folding pressures forced older layers up, sometimes pushing them over younger ones. Terrific tensions produced jagged breaks in the earth's crust, and huge blocks were lifted and tilted. Chiseled by erosion, block-fault mountains form the rugged basin-and-range topography of western Utah and eastern Nevada. The Rocky Mountains represent up-bulging of a great rock complex. Erosion has stripped off the covering layers, whose tilted stumps are the hog-back foothills paralleling both sides of the hard core—the Rockies proper.



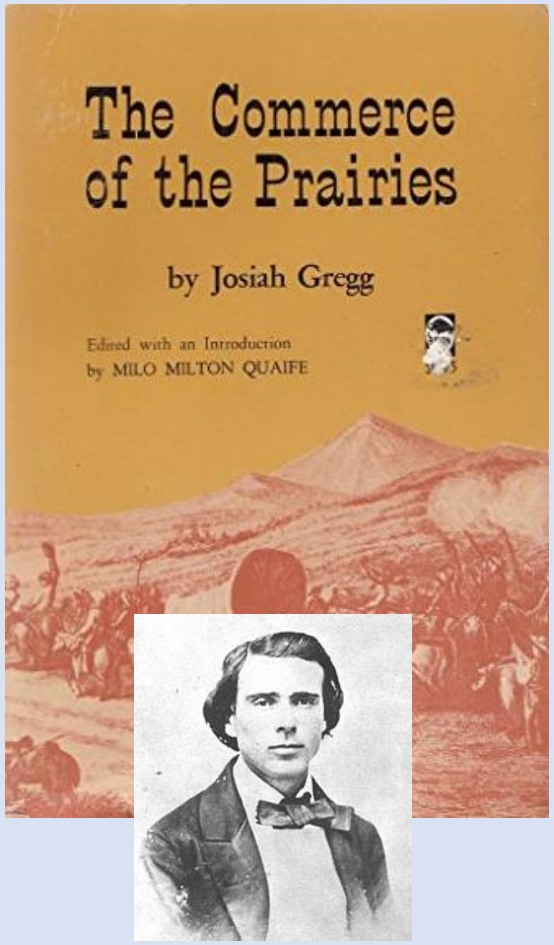


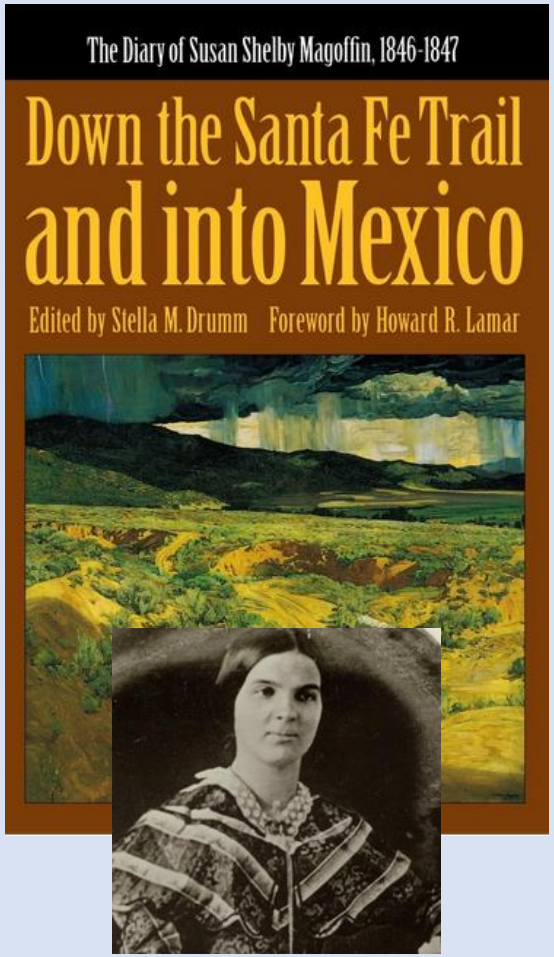


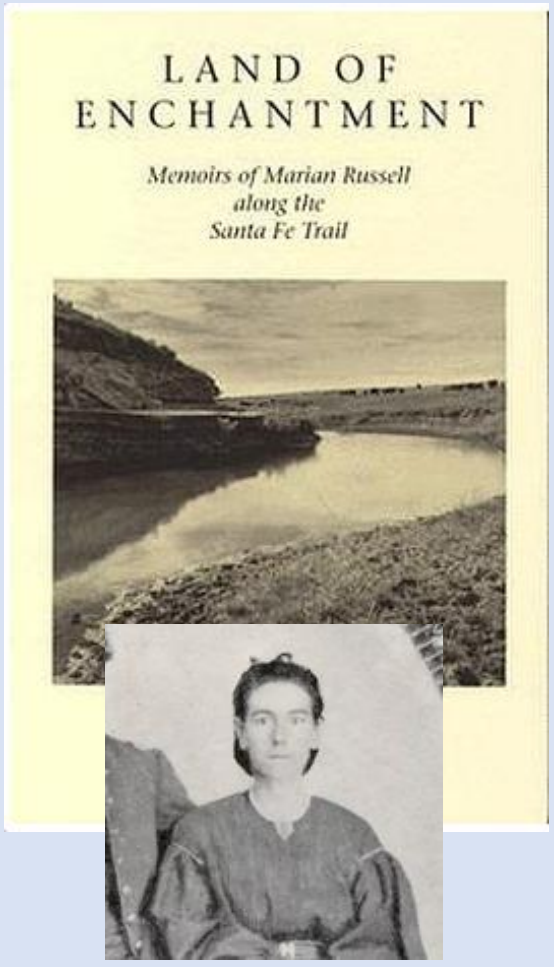


Wildlife on the
Santa Fe
Trail-080p

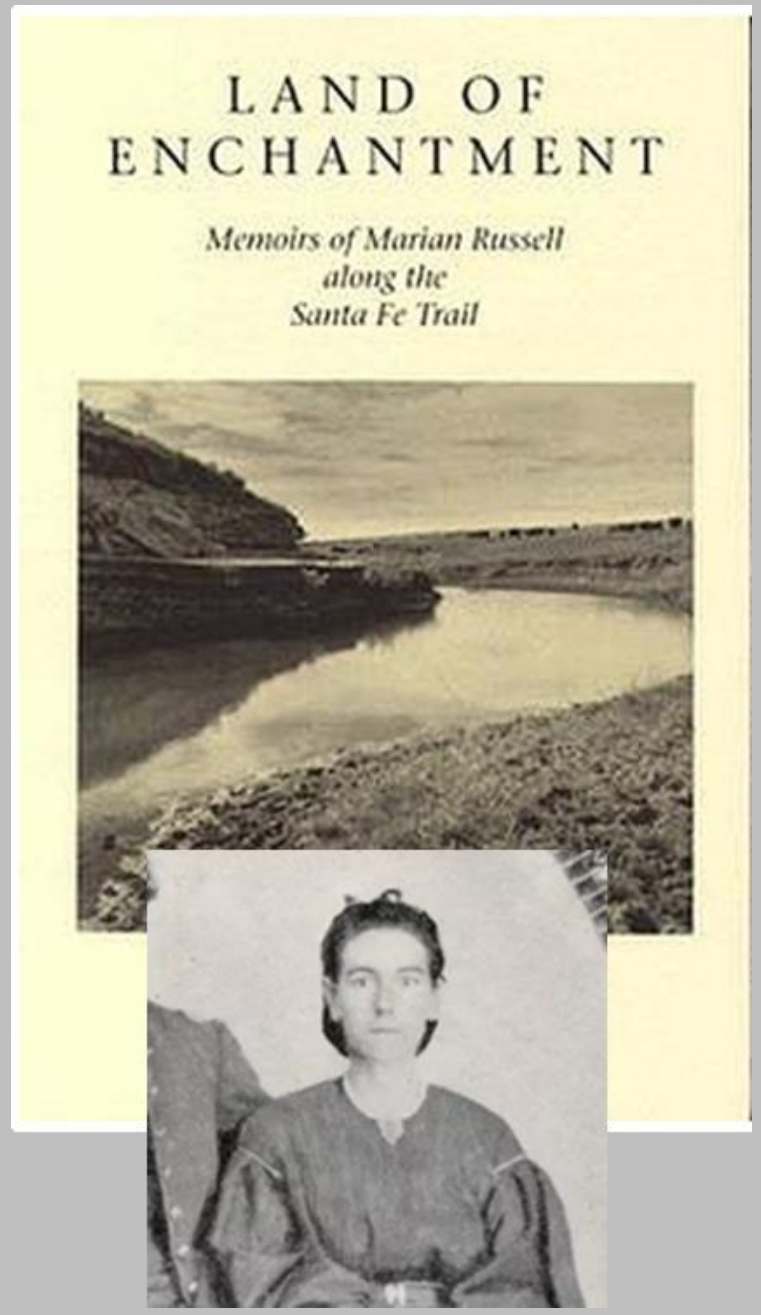
The memoirs of travelers on the Santa Fe Trail provide fascinating information. Here are three famous examples.

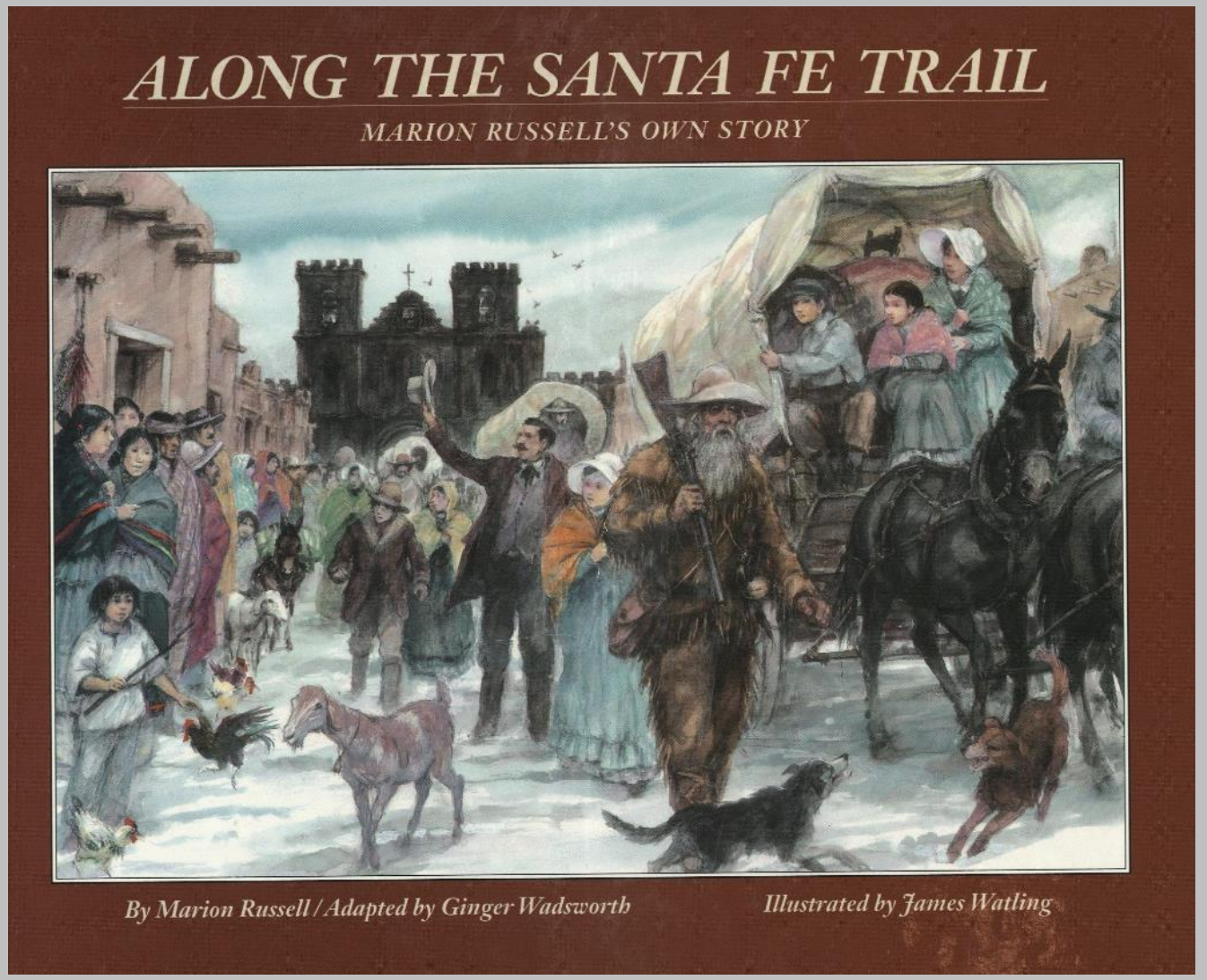




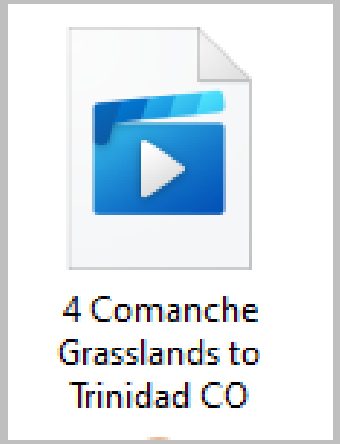



SUSAN SHELBY MAGOFFIN
1827 - 1855
The first woman to write
of traveling the Santa Fe Trail
and El Camino Real
Passed near here
February 11, 1847
She noted a "rude cross"
marking the graves of
earlier travelers. This
would eventually give a
new town the name
LAS CRUCES

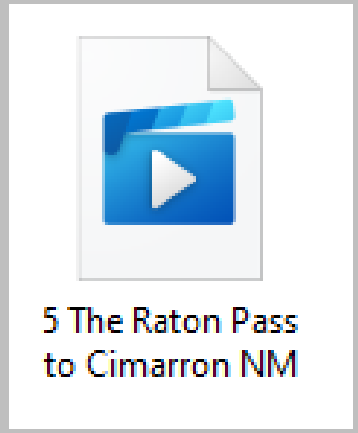

LAND OF
ENCHANTMENT
Memoirs of Marian Russell
along the
Santa Fe Trail


ALONG THE SANTA FE TRAIL
MARION RUSSELL'S OWN STORY
By Marion Russell / Adapted by Ginger Wadsworth
Illustrated by James Watling

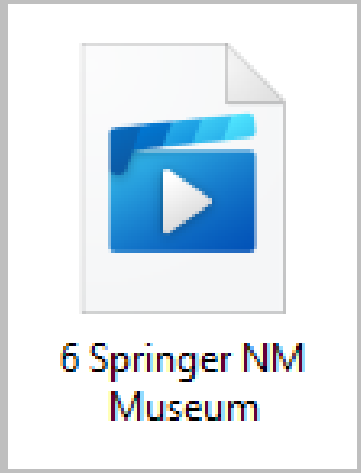

"We passed a fresh made grave today. The head board states his age to be 21 years. . . . Came to his death by accidentally shooting himself through the head. Many such accidents occur on the plains."
—WILLIS READ, 1850
"No one who has not commanded an expedition of this kind, where everything ahead is dim, uncertain, and unknown, except the dangers, can imagine the anxiety with which I start upon my journey."
—EDWARD F. BEALE, 1857
During the gold rush years Cherokee with gold-mining experience from their former homelands in Georgia helped blaze trails west from Arkansas and Oklahoma.
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAIL
SANTA FE TRAIL
CHEROKEE TRAIL
SMOKY HILL TRAIL
FORT SMITH-SANTA FE TRAIL (ARKANSAS ROUTE)
TEXAS ROAD
CHIHUAHUA TRAIL
AUBRY CUTOFF (opened 1850)
NEBRASKA CITY CUTOFF
LODGEPOLE TRAIL
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
INDIAN TERRITORY
Red Hills
Smoky Hills
Llano
TEXAS
OKLAHOMA
KANSAS
NEBRASKA
COLORADO
NEW MEXICO
Nebraska City
St. Joseph
Atchison
Ft. Leavenworth
Independence
Westport
(now part of Kansas City)
Westport Landing
Topeka
Lawrence
Ft. Riley
Council Grove
Ft. Harker
Ft. Zarah
Pawnee Rock
Ft. Larned
Ft. Hays
Ft. Wallace
Cheyenne Wells
Ft. Aubry
The Caches
Ft. Atkinson
Ft. Dodge
Wichita
Springfield
Bent's New Fort
Bent's Old Fort
Ft. Lyon
Pueblo
Ft. Reynolds
Colorado City
(Colorado Springs)
Pikes Peak
14110 ft
4301 m
Denver
Central City
Ft. St. Vrain
Ft. Morgan
Laporte
Ft. Collins
Ft. Sedgwick
Julesburg
California Hill
Ash Hollow
Forks of the Platte
Ft. Kearny
Ft. D.A. Russell
Ft. Sanders
Sidney Barracks
Trinidad
Raton Pass
7834 ft
2388 m
Spanish Peaks
13626 ft
4153 m
12683
3866
Ft. Garland
San Luis Valley
Elizabethtown
Cimarron
Round Mound
Rabbit Ear Mt.
6058 ft
1846 m
Middle Spring
Lower Spring
Taos
Abiquiu
Ft. Marcy
Santa Fe
Glorieta Pass
Las Vegas
Wagon Mound
Ft. Union
La Junta (Watrous)
Galisteo
San Miguel
Anton Chico
Ft. Bascom
Albuquerque
Socorro
San Antonio
Ft. Sumner
Ft. Stanton
Antelope Butte
Rock Mary
(Oklahoma City)
Fort Gibson
Fort Washita
Preston
Ft. Towson
Sherman
Jacksboro
Ft. Belknap
Dallas
Rocky Mts.
Front Range
Sangre de Cristo Mts.
San Juan Mts.
Wasatch Mts.
Sacramento Mts.
Guadalupe Mts.
Arkansas
Canadian
Cimarron
Purgatoire
Republican
Smoky Hill
Solomon
S. Platte
Missouri
Ouachita
Rio Grande
Pecos
Brazos
Colorado
Trinidad


4 Comanche
Grasslands to
Trinidad CO


LODGEPOLE TRAIL
Sidney Barracks
Ft. Sedgwick
Julesburg
Ash Hollow
Forks of the Platte
California Hill
Ft. Kearny
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAIL
NEBRASKA CITY CUTOFF
Nebraska City
IOWA
MISSOURI
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
Ft. D.A. Russell
Ft. Sanders
Laporte
Ft. Collins
Ft. Morgan
Ft. St. Vrain
Denver
Central City
Front Range
Bow Mts.
Medicine
Laramie
S. Platte
Republican
NEBRASKA
KANSAS
St. Joseph
Atchison
Ft. Leavenworth
Westport Landing
Independence
Westport
(now part of Kansas City)
Topeka
Lawrence
Ft. Riley
Solomon
Smoky Hills
"We passed a fresh made grave today. The head board states his age to be 21 years. . . . Came to his death by accidentally shooting himself through the head. Many such accidents occur on the plains."
—WILLIS READ, 1850
Ft. Hays
SMOKY HILL TRAIL
Ft. Wallace
Cheyenne Wells
Ft. Harker
SANTA FE TRAIL
Council Grove
Smoky Hill
INDIAN
Ft. Zarah
Pawnee Rock
Ft. Larned
CHEROKEE TRAIL
Arkansas
Wichita
Springfield
Pikes Peak
14110 ft
4301 m
Colorado City
(Colorado Springs)
Pueblo
Ft. Reynolds
Bent's New Fort
Bent's Old Fort
Ft. Lyon
Ft. Aubry
The Caches
Ft. Atkinson
Ft. Dodge
San Luis Valley
12683 ft
3866 m
13626 ft
4153 m
Spanish Peaks
Ft. Garland
Trinidad
Purgatoire
AUBRY CUTOFF (opened 1850)
Lower Spring
Middle Spring
ROUTE
CIMARRON
Red Hills
TERRITORY
KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
Raton Pass
7834 ft
2388 m
Elizabethtown
Cimarron
Round Mound
Rabbit Ear Mt.
6058 ft
1846 m
OKLAHOMA
TEXAS
Taos
Abiquiu
Wagon Mound
Ft. Union
La Junta (Watrous)
Ft. Marcy
Santa Fe
Glorieta Pass
Las Vegas
Galisteo
San Miguel
Anton Chico
Ft. Bascom
Albuquerque
Rio Grande
CHIHUAHUA TRAIL
Ft. Sumner
Socorro
San Antonio
Ft. Craig
Sacramento Mts.
Ft. Stanton
Llano
TEXAS
Antelope Butte
Rock Mary
(Oklahoma City)
FORT SMITH-SANTA FE TRAIL
(ARKANSAS ROUTE)
During the gold rush years Cherokee with gold-mining experience from their former homelands in Georgia helped blaze trails west from Arkansas and Oklahoma.
Fort Gibson
Fort
Ouachi
TEXAS ROAD
Fort Washita
Preston
Ft. Towson
Sherman
Jacksboro
Ft. Belknap
SOUTHERN OVERLAND TRAIL
(BUTTERFIELD ROUTE)
"No one who has not commanded an expedition of this kind, where everything ahead is dim, uncertain, and unknown, except the dangers, can imagine the anxiety with which I start upon my journey."
—EDWARD F. BEALE, 1857

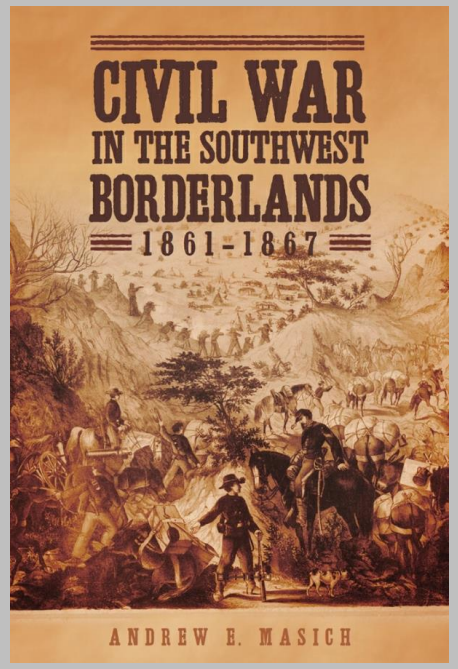

5 The Raton Pass
to Cimarron NM


"We passed a fresh made grave today. The head board states his age to be 21 years. . . . Came to his death by accidentally shooting himself through the head. Many such accidents occur on the plains."
—WILLIS READ, 1850
"No one who has not commanded an expedition of this kind, where everything ahead is dim, uncertain, and unknown, except the dangers, can imagine the anxiety with which I start upon my journey."
—EDWARD F. BEALE, 1857
During the gold rush years Cherokee with gold-mining experience from their former homelands in Georgia helped blaze trails west from Arkansas and Oklahoma.
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAIL
NEBRASKA CITY CUTOFF
LODGEPOLE TRAIL
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
SMOKY HILL TRAIL
SANTA FE TRAIL
CHEROKEE TRAIL
AUBRY CUTOFF (opened 1850)
CIMARRON ROUTE
FORT SMITH-SANTA FE TRAIL (ARKANSAS ROUTE)
CHIHUAHUA TRAIL
TEXAS ROAD
SOUTHERN OVERLAND TRAIL (BUTTERFIELD ROUTE)
Forks of the Platte
Ash Hollow
California Hill
Ft. Kearny
Nebraska City
St. Joseph
Atchison
Ft. Leavenworth
Independence
Westport
(now part of Kansas City)
Westport Landing
Topeka
Lawrence
Ft. Riley
Council Grove
Ft. Harker
Ft. Zarah
Pawnee Rock
Ft. Larned
Ft. Hays
Ft. Wallace
Cheyenne Wells
Smoky Hills
Red Hills
Ft. Aubry
The Caches
Ft. Atkinson
Ft. Dodge
Wichita
Bent's New Fort
Bent's Old Fort
Ft. Lyon
Pueblo
Ft. Reynolds
Colorado City
(Colorado Springs)
Pikes Peak
14110 ft
4301 m
Denver
Central City
Ft. St. Vrain
Ft. Morgan
Laporte
Ft. Collins
Ft. Sedgwick
Julesburg
Ft. D.A. Russell
Ft. Sanders
Lower Spring
Middle Spring
Trinidad
Spanish Peaks
13626 ft
4153 m
12683 ft
3866 m
Raton Pass
7834 ft
2388 m
Ft. Garland
San Luis Valley
Elizabethtown
Cimarron
Round Mound
Rabbit Ear Mt.
6058 ft
1846 m
Taos
Abiquiu
Ft. Marcy
Santa Fe
Glorieta Pass
Las Vegas
Wagon Mound
Ft. Union
La Junta (Watrous)
Galisteo
San Miguel
Anton Chico
Ft. Bascom
Albuquerque
Ft. Sumner
Socorro
San Antonio
Ft. Craig
Ft. Stanton
Antelope Butte
Rock Mary
(Oklahoma City)
Fort Gibson
Fort Washita
Preston
Ft. Towson
Sherman
Jacksboro
Ft. Belknap
Dallas
Springfield
Fort Ouachi
INDIAN TERRITORY
KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
NEBRASKA
KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
TEXAS
Llano
TEXAS
Rocky Mts.
Front Range
Sangre de Cristo Mts.
San Juan Mts.
Wasatch Mts.
Sacramento Mts.
San Andres Mts.
Arkansas
Cimarron
Canadian
Republican
Smoky Hill
Solomon
S. Platte
Missouri
IOWA
MISSOURI


6 Springer NM
Museum


"We passed a fresh made grave today. The head board states his age to be 21 years. . . . Came to his death by accidentally shooting himself through the head. Many such accidents occur on the plains."
—WILLIS READ, 1850
"No one who has not commanded an expedition of this kind, where everything ahead is dim, uncertain, and unknown, except the dangers, can imagine the anxiety with which I start upon my journey."
—EDWARD F. BEALE, 1857
During the gold rush years Cherokee with gold-mining experience from their former homelands in Georgia helped blaze trails west from Arkansas and Oklahoma.
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAIL
NEBRASKA CITY CUTOFF
LODGEPOLE TRAIL
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
SMOKY HILL TRAIL
SANTA FE TRAIL
CHEROKEE TRAIL
AUBRY CUTOFF (opened 1850)
CIMARRON ROUTE
FORT SMITH-SANTA FE TRAIL (ARKANSAS ROUTE)
CHIHUAHUA TRAIL
TEXAS ROAD
SOUTHERN OVERLAND TRAIL (BUTTERFIELD ROUTE)
Forks of the Platte
Ash Hollow
California Hill
Ft. Kearny
Nebraska City
St. Joseph
Atchison
Ft. Leavenworth
Independence
Westport
(now part of Kansas City)
Westport Landing
Topeka
Lawrence
Ft. Riley
Council Grove
Ft. Harker
Ft. Zarah
Pawnee Rock
Ft. Larned
Ft. Hays
Ft. Wallace
Cheyenne Wells
Smoky Hills
Red Hills
Ft. Aubry
The Caches
Ft. Atkinson
Ft. Dodge
Wichita
Bent's New Fort
Bent's Old Fort
Ft. Lyon
Pueblo
Ft. Reynolds
Colorado City
(Colorado Springs)
Pikes Peak
14110 ft
4301 m
Denver
Central City
Ft. St. Vrain
Ft. Morgan
Laporte
Ft. Collins
Ft. Sedgwick
Julesburg
Ft. D.A. Russell
Ft. Sanders
Lower Spring
Middle Spring
Trinidad
Spanish Peaks
13626 ft
4153 m
12683 ft
3866 m
Raton Pass
7834 ft
2388 m
Ft. Garland
San Luis Valley
Elizabethtown
Cimarron
Round Mound
Rabbit Ear Mt.
6058 ft
1846 m
Taos
Abiquiu
Ft. Marcy
Santa Fe
Glorieta Pass
Las Vegas
Wagon Mound
Ft. Union
La Junta (Watrous)
Galisteo
San Miguel
Anton Chico
Ft. Bascom
Albuquerque
Ft. Sumner
Socorro
San Antonio
Ft. Craig
Ft. Stanton
Antelope Butte
Rock Mary
(Oklahoma City)
Fort Gibson
Fort Washita
Preston
Ft. Towson
Sherman
Jacksboro
Ft. Belknap
Dallas
Springfield
Fort Ouachi
INDIAN TERRITORY
KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
NEBRASKA
KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
TEXAS
Llano
TEXAS
Rocky Mts.
Front Range
Sangre de Cristo Mts.
San Juan Mts.
Wasatch Mts.
Sacramento Mts.
San Andres Mts.
Arkansas
Cimarron
Canadian
Republican
Smoky Hill
Solomon
S. Platte
Missouri
IOWA
MISSOURI

Wednesday 28th. A little Mexican boy of nine or ten years came this morning to *mi alma* to *buy him.* His story though affecting is soon told.—Three years since the Apache Indians beside depredations to other families, murdered his father (his mother was then dead) and carried him off prisoner. After three years of hard servitude among them, the little fellow ran off and found his way to the house of an old Mexican, who resides here on the bank of the River in a lone hut the picture of misery. Here this boy has been for two months under the fostering care of the old *compadre* [godfather], but growing weary of this life, which was not better than that with the Indians, he now wishes to be bought with *the sum of $7.00* which he owes the old man for his protection. Tomorrow the money is to be paid & hence forth Francisco is our servant.



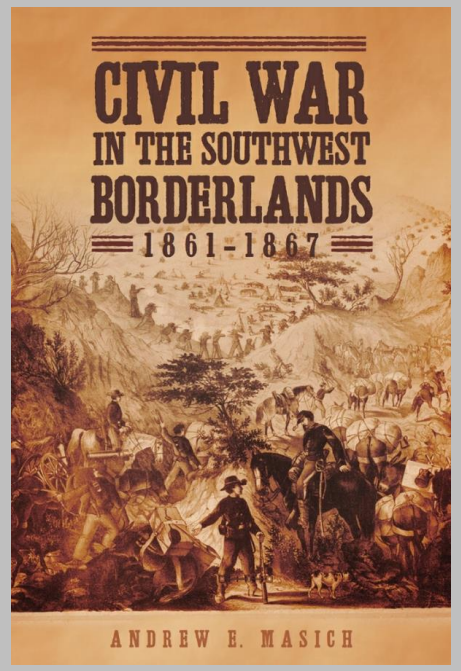
Slavery in the American Southwest—Not what you might expect!

—Black slaves owned by white Southerners were conspicuous by their absence. Most of the handful there were personal servants of southern U.S. Army officers.

The persistence of slavery in the borderlands, however, remained a major obstacle to bringing about peace between the races. Slavery in the Southwest differed from that practiced elsewhere in the United States, but it figured prominently as both a cause and a product of the civil wars of the 1860s.

The slave system practiced by Indians and Hispanos bore some resemblance to the South's peculiar institution and yet there were significant differences that evolved as a result of the conditions and cultures of the borderlands.

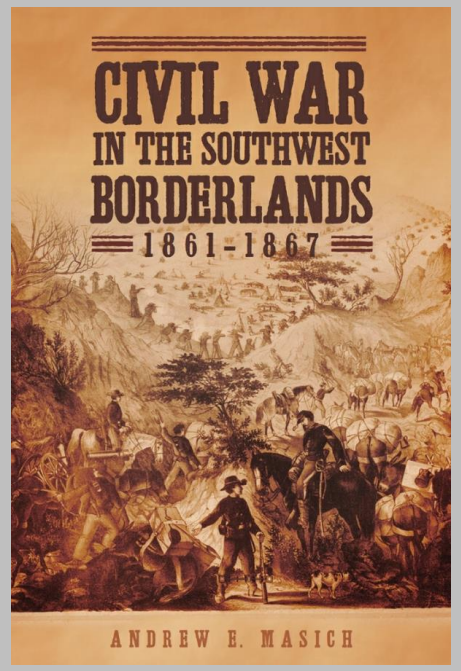
But in the Southwest territories, enslaved African Americans never exceeded one hundred in any given year, and Southern-style chattel slavery did not figure significantly in the mining and agricultural economies.



Slavery in the American Southwest—Not what you might expect!

—Hispanic slaveowners:

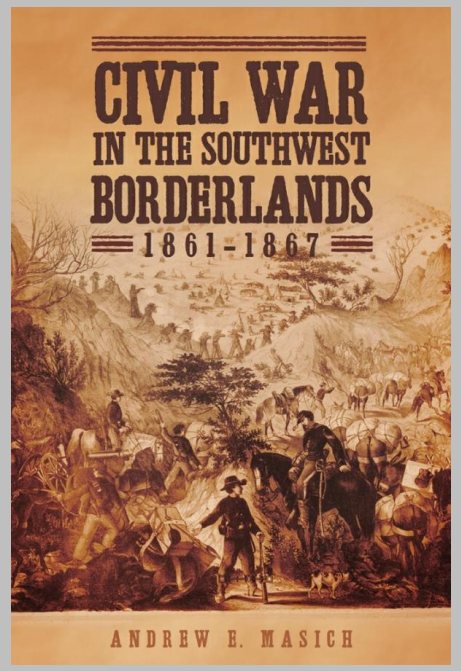
Arizona and New Mexico Hispanos had come to depend on the labor of enslaved Indian captives, primarily Apaches and Navajos, for domestic servants and workers. This paternalistic *crianza* system of slavery was not unlike that espoused, but not necessarily practiced, by Southern plantation owners. In the minds of the practitioners of the evil, slavery and peonage served to civilize, educate, and improve the lives of those enslaved. Of course, Southern slave owners asserted this same argument, and, as in the South, many southwestern slaves and peons resisted their captivity and resented their mistreatment at the hands of even the best-intentioned master. As in Southern slavery, captive women in the Southwest satisfied the sexual appetites of well-off, landowning men and were sometimes taken into households as concubines or second wives. The fact that the enslaved *cautivos* were objectified can be seen in the Spanish word *pieza* (slave), the same word used for an enemy scalp taken as a trophy.[24]



Slavery in the American Southwest—Not what you might expect!

—Navajo, Apache and Comanche slaveowners:

For the Indian peoples of the Southwest, the practice of capturing enemies to replace losses due to war and natural attrition was both ancient and practical. Enforced servitude in an Apache band or Navajo *ranchería* may not have been benign at first; the captors inflicted beatings and physical coercion to force compliance with band rules and family needs. Like the chattel slavery of the South, rape and the threat of physical punishment ensured control of the enslaved people. Apache war parties who returned with captives often bartered them in Mexico or to other bands or tribes for needed supplies or stock. The plight of these captives was terrifying and abusive but as with Southern chattel slavery, commodification also meant that human property had monetary value that often protected captives from the harshest forms of torture or summary execution.

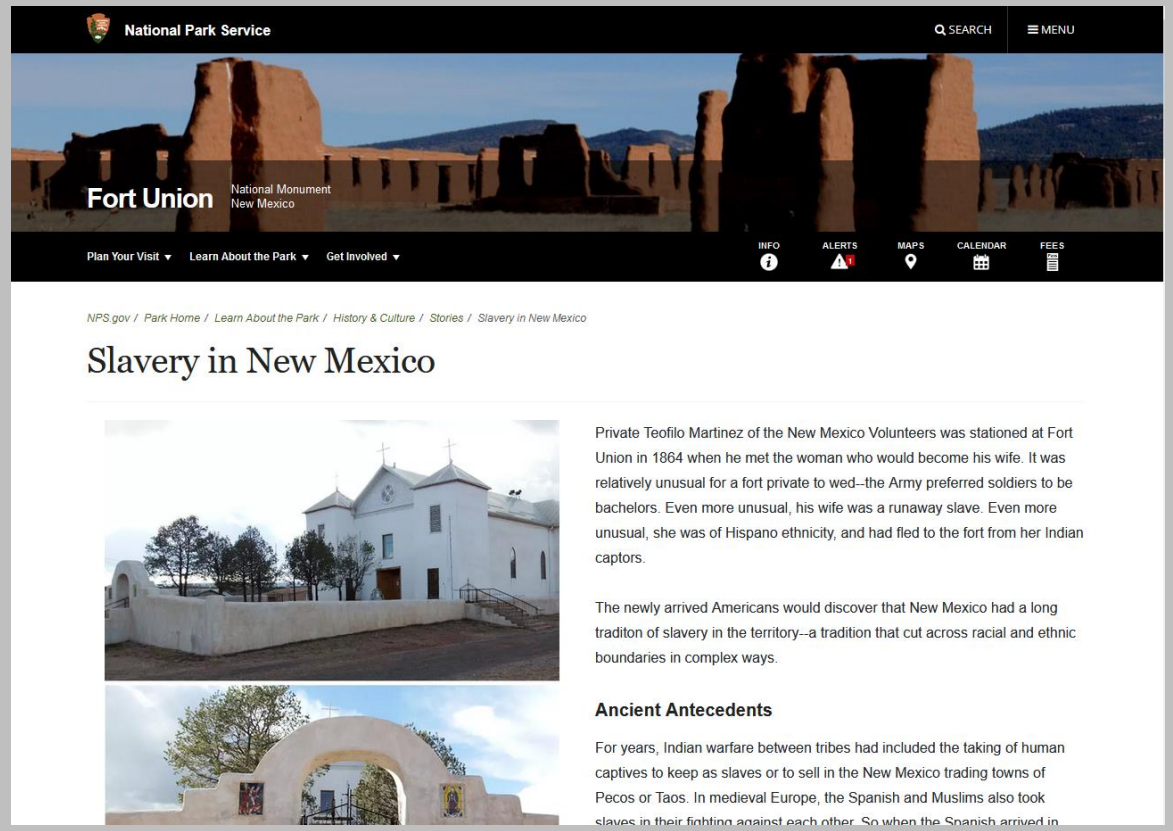


Slavery in the American Southwest—Not what you might expect!

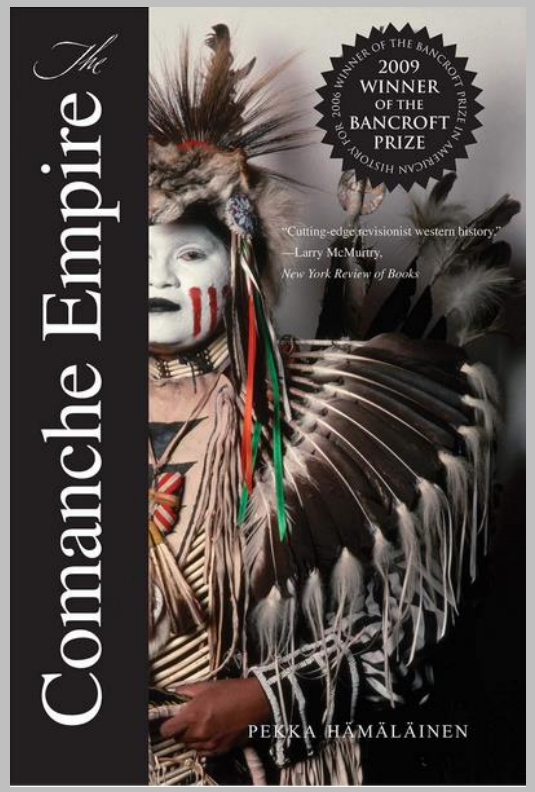
—Navajo, Apache and Comanche slaveowners:

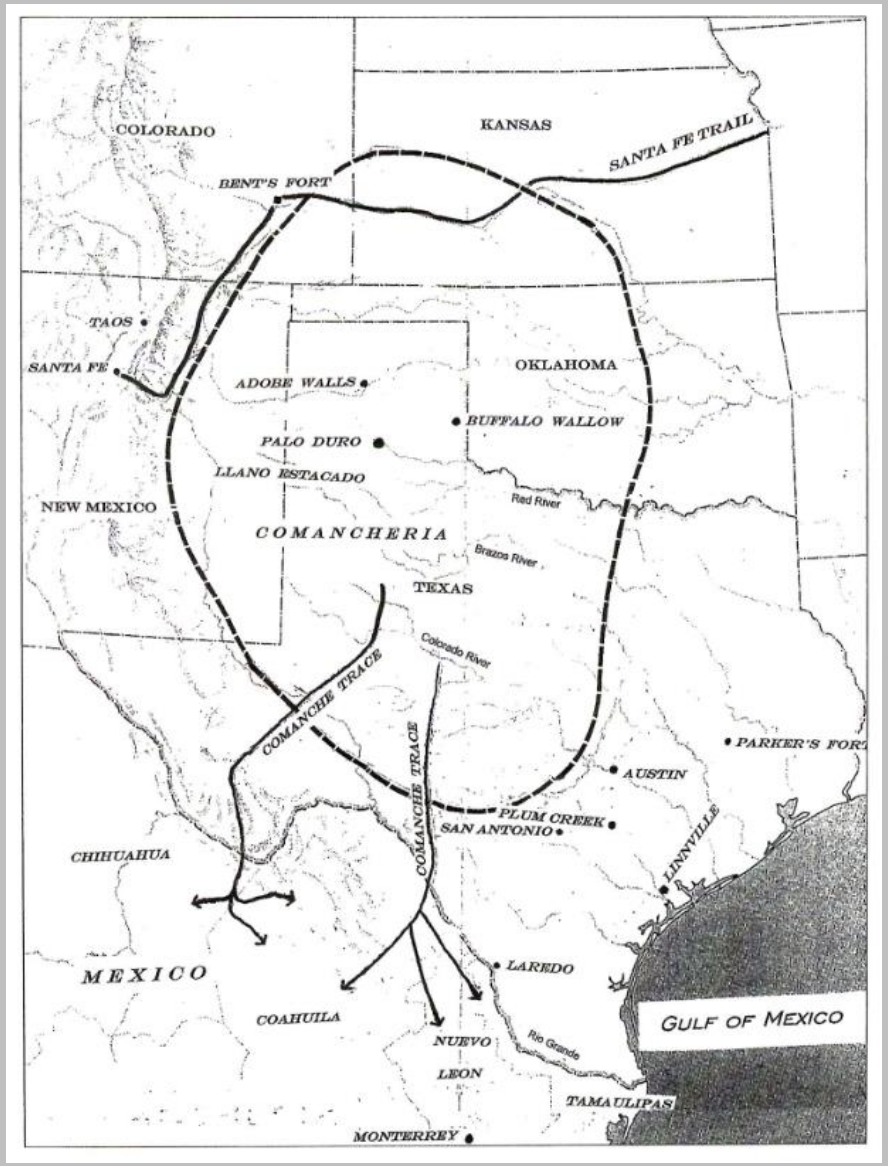
In Apache bands, however, captives might be turned over to families that required revenge for a relative killed by that enemy's people. While death might be exacted, often the aggrieved family would be "paid back" by adopting the captive—a form of retribution consistent with Apache *gegodza*. Once incorporated into the tribe, the newcomer soon enjoyed the rights and privileges of the people, though to some degree the captives would always be considered outsiders, and when disputes arose, the purity of one's blood might be called into question. As in the Hispano tradition and unlike the Atlantic slave trade and Southern chattel slavery, adult male captives or slaves were rarely taken. Considered more tractable than men, women and children were preferred for domestic service, marriage, and adoption.[26] Wealthy Navajo *ricos* became so dependent upon their enslaved Hispano and captive Indian servants and herders that even the best efforts of army officers and Indian agents of the new, post–Civil War, Anglo regime did not completely eliminate the practice until a generation had passed.[27]

Available as a free download from the National Park Service website….

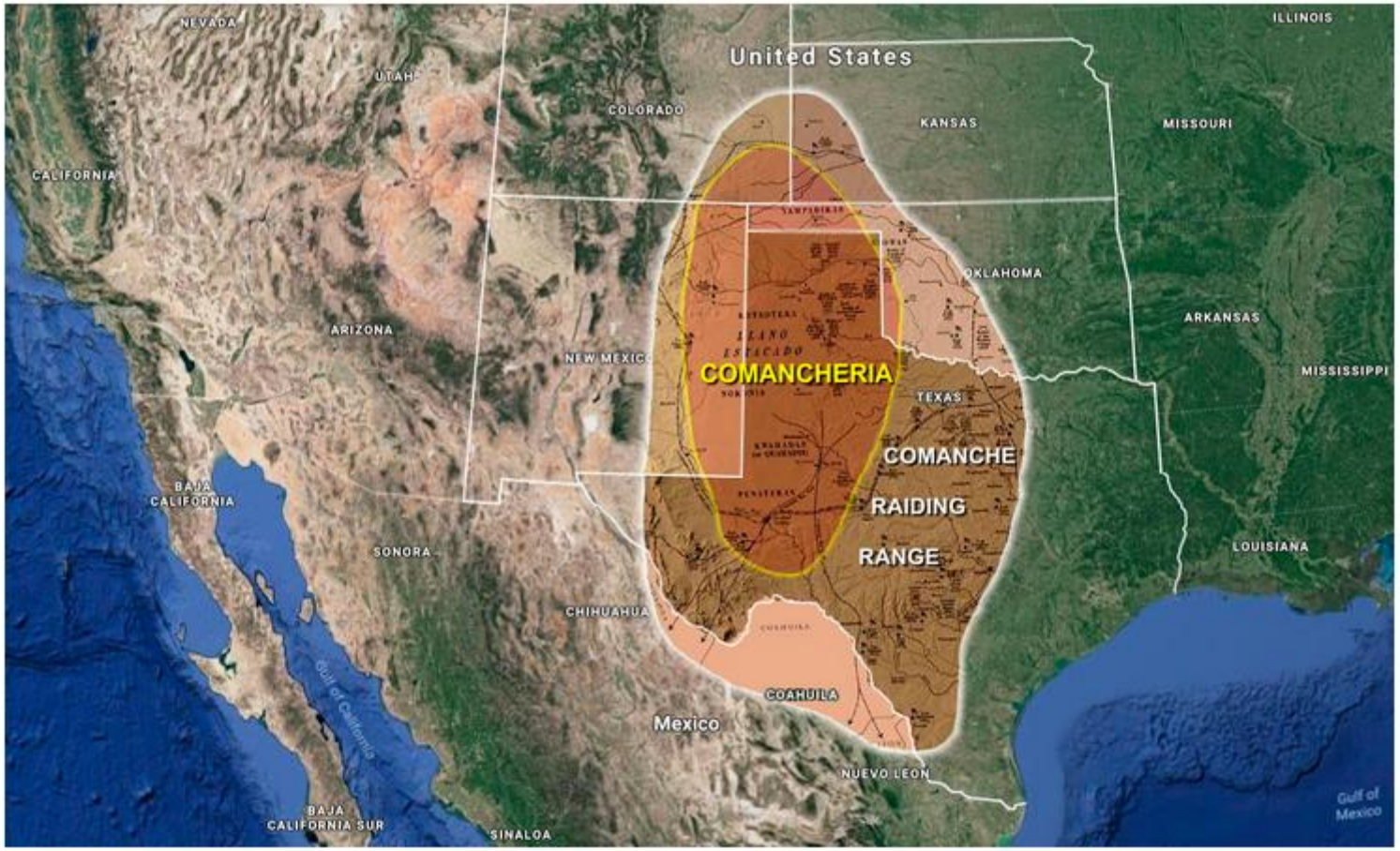


….and as an email attachment for class members on the mailing list.





Many Mexican slaves, like the herds of horses and mules, were acquired in systematic Comanche raids south of the Rio Grande. This "Comanche Empire"—an empire without an emperor, held together by tribal traditions and cooperation in following successful war chiefs—was the most powerful single military force in the Southwest….until disease and the U. S. Army weakened and subdued it.

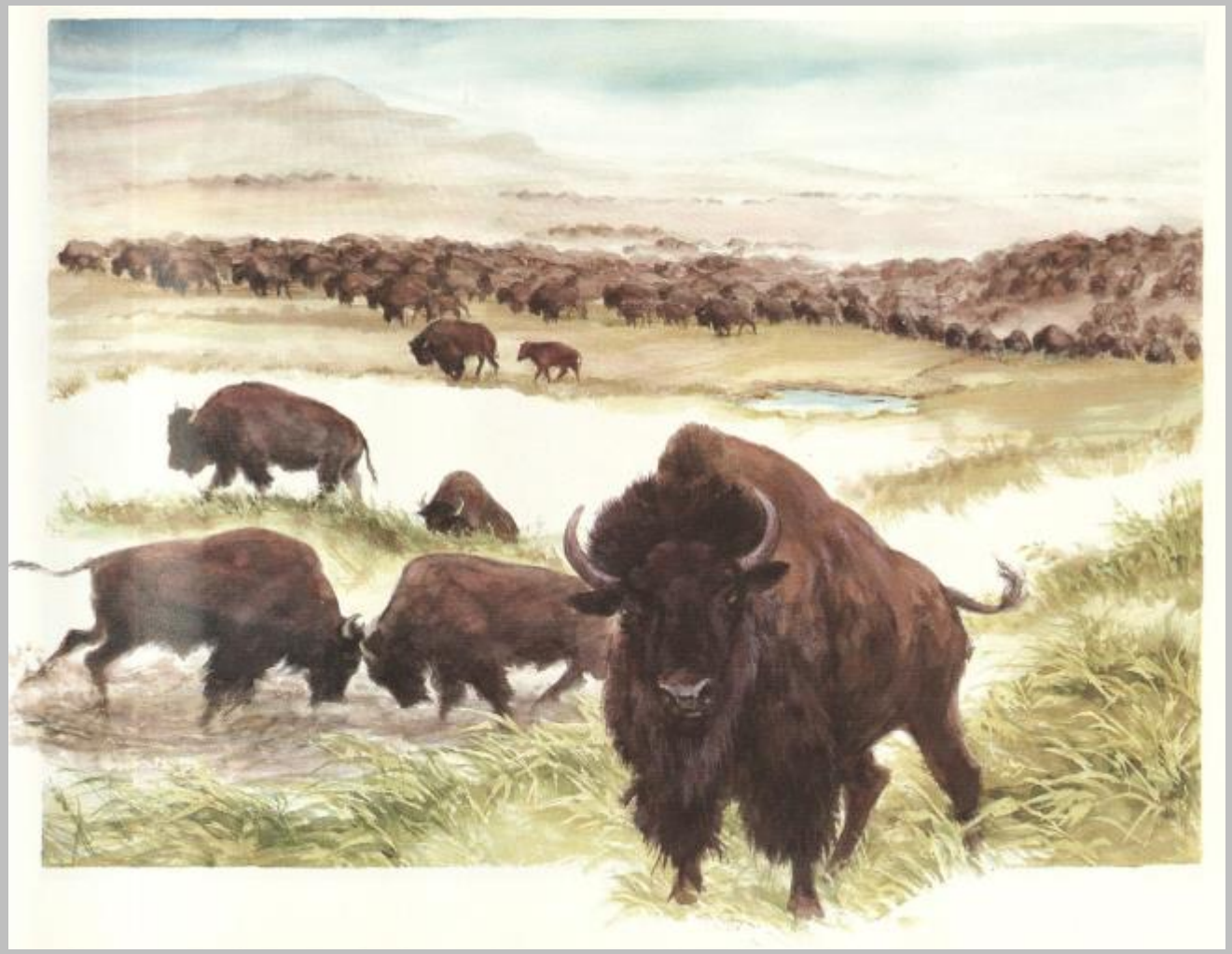


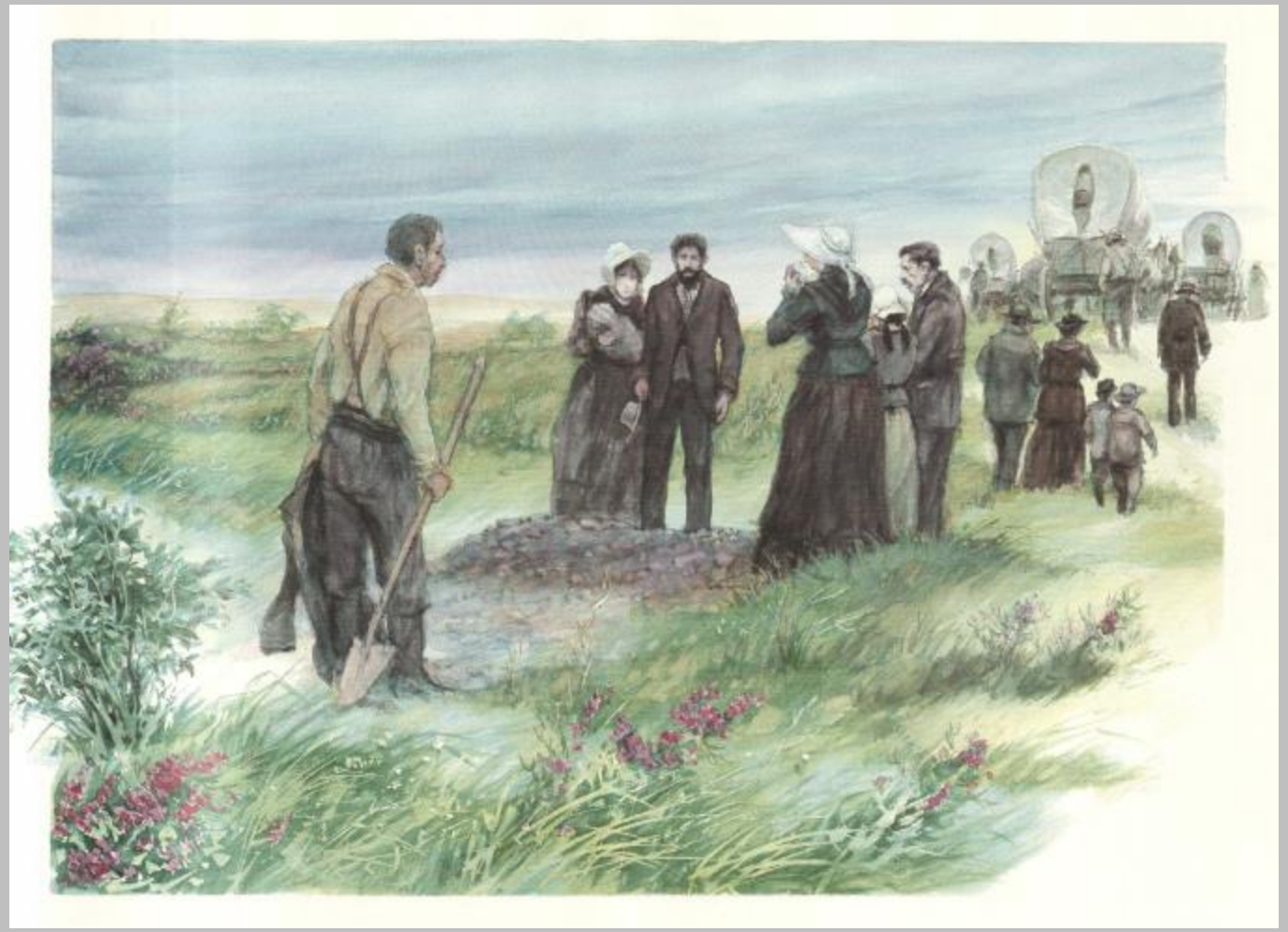
"Comanche," like many tribal names, is not what they called themselves. They called themselves the Numunu. "Comanche" was Ute for, roughly, "Those guys who always want to fight us."

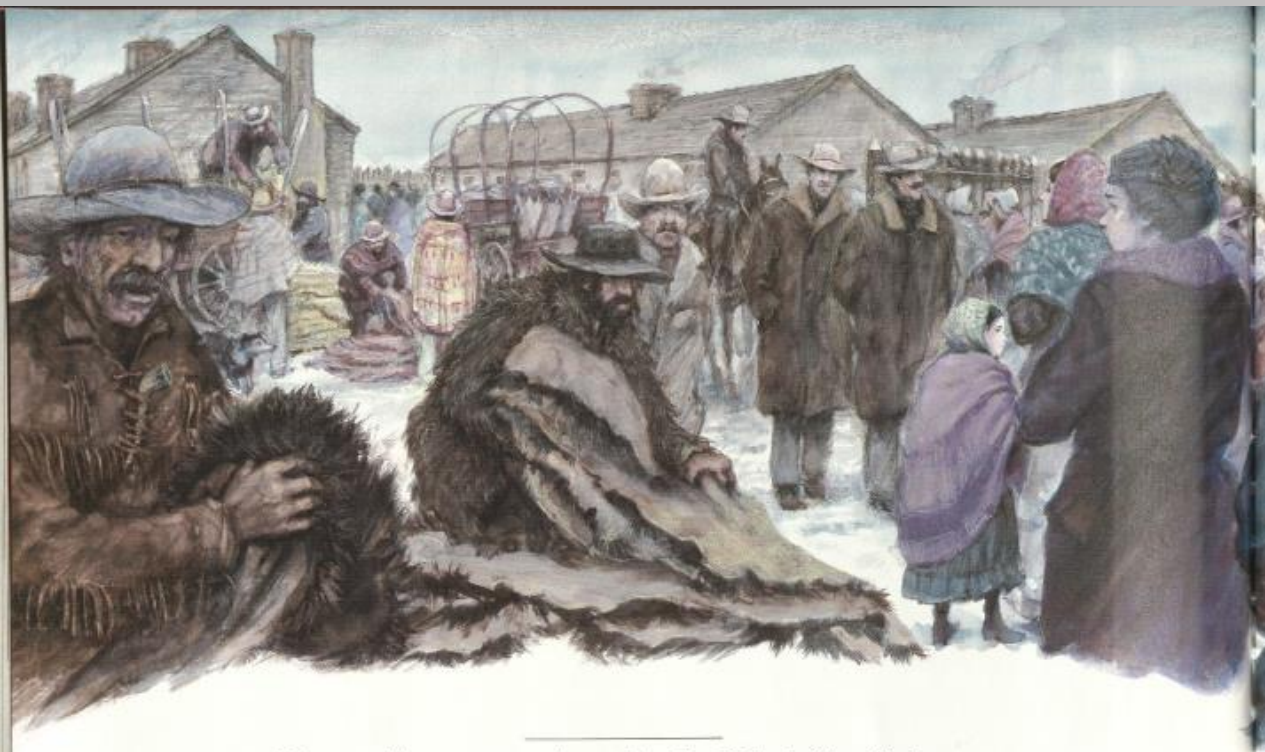
The Cimarron Cutoff


"We passed a fresh made grave today. The head board states his age to be 21 years. . . . Came to his death by accidentally shooting himself through the head. Many such accidents occur on the plains."
—WILLIS READ, 1850
"No one who has not commanded an expedition of this kind, where everything ahead is dim, uncertain, and unknown, except the dangers, can imagine the anxiety with which I start upon my journey."
—EDWARD F. BEALE, 1857
During the gold rush years Cherokee with gold-mining experience from their former homelands in Georgia helped blaze trails west from Arkansas and Oklahoma.
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAIL
NEBRASKA CITY CUTOFF
LODGEPOLE TRAIL
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
SMOKY HILL TRAIL
SANTA FE TRAIL
CHEROKEE TRAIL
AUBRY CUTOFF (opened 1850)
CIMARRON ROUTE
FORT SMITH-SANTA FE TRAIL (ARKANSAS ROUTE)
CHIHUAHUA TRAIL
TEXAS ROAD
SOUTHERN OVERLAND TRAIL (BUTTERFIELD ROUTE)
Forks of the Platte
Ash Hollow
California Hill
Ft. Kearny
Nebraska City
St. Joseph
Atchison
Ft. Leavenworth
Independence
Westport
(now part of Kansas City)
Westport Landing
Topeka
Lawrence
Ft. Riley
Council Grove
Ft. Harker
Ft. Zarah
Pawnee Rock
Ft. Larned
Ft. Hays
Ft. Wallace
Cheyenne Wells
Smoky Hills
Red Hills
Ft. Aubry
The Caches
Ft. Atkinson
Ft. Dodge
Wichita
Bent's New Fort
Bent's Old Fort
Ft. Lyon
Pueblo
Ft. Reynolds
Colorado City
(Colorado Springs)
Pikes Peak
14110 ft
4301 m
Denver
Central City
Ft. St. Vrain
Ft. Morgan
Laporte
Ft. Collins
Ft. Sedgwick
Julesburg
Ft. D.A. Russell
Ft. Sanders
Lower Spring
Middle Spring
Trinidad
Spanish Peaks
13626 ft
4153 m
12683 ft
3866 m
Raton Pass
7834 ft
2388 m
Ft. Garland
San Luis Valley
Elizabethtown
Cimarron
Round Mound
Rabbit Ear Mt.
6058 ft
1846 m
Taos
Abiquiu
Ft. Marcy
Santa Fe
Glorieta Pass
Las Vegas
Wagon Mound
Ft. Union
La Junta (Watrous)
Galisteo
San Miguel
Anton Chico
Ft. Bascom
Albuquerque
Ft. Sumner
Socorro
San Antonio
Ft. Craig
Ft. Stanton
Antelope Butte
Rock Mary
(Oklahoma City)
Fort Gibson
Fort Washita
Preston
Ft. Towson
Sherman
Jacksboro
Ft. Belknap
Dallas
Springfield
Fort Ouachi
INDIAN TERRITORY
KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
NEBRASKA
KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
TEXAS
Llano
TEXAS
Rocky Mts.
Front Range
Sangre de Cristo Mts.
San Juan Mts.
Wasatch Mts.
Sacramento Mts.
San Andres Mts.
Arkansas
Cimarron
Canadian
Republican
Smoky Hill
Solomon
S. Platte
Missouri
IOWA
MISSOURI

The dread cholera was raging in Fort Leavenworth the October day our white-hooded wagons set sail on the western prairies. Captain Aubry broke camp first; his great wagon swayed out onto the trail. We heard his powerful voice calling orders to follow. Wagon after wagon rolled onward; the train numbered five hundred wagons. Tar barrels were burning in the streets to ward off the cholera, and clouds of black smoke drifted over us as we pulled out.

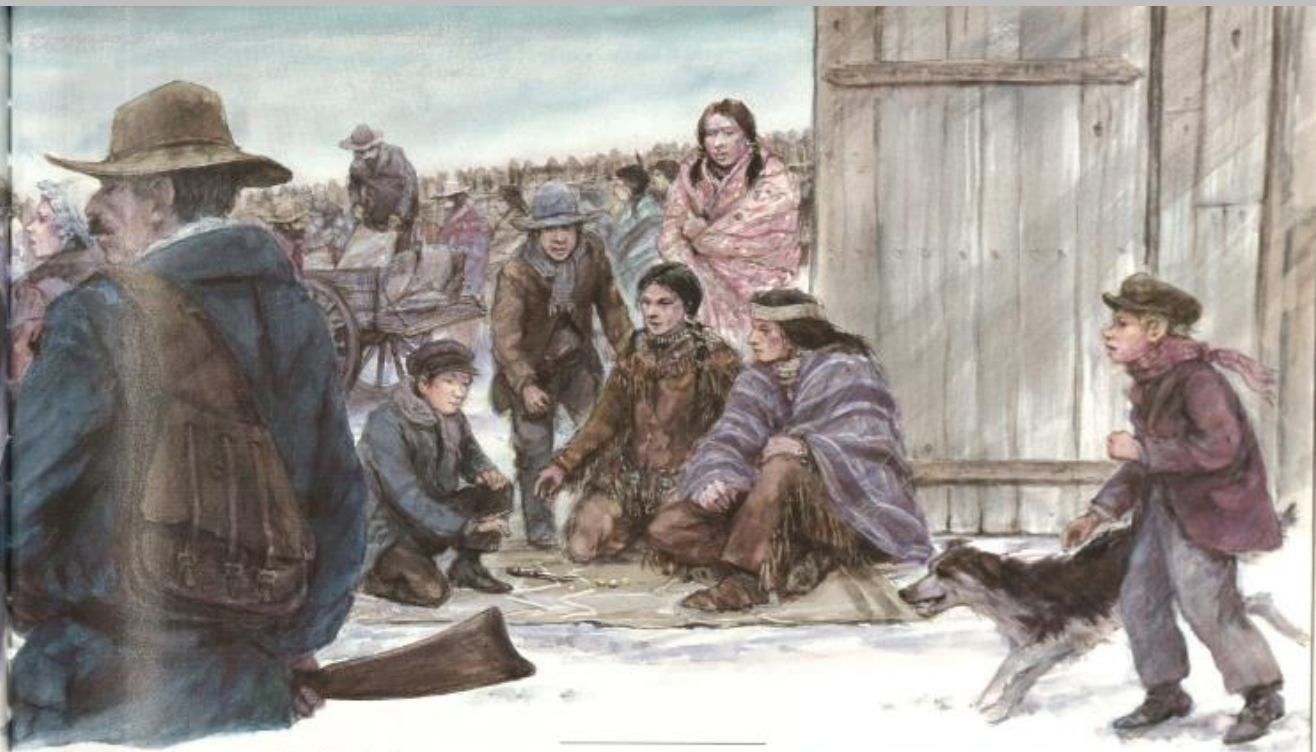






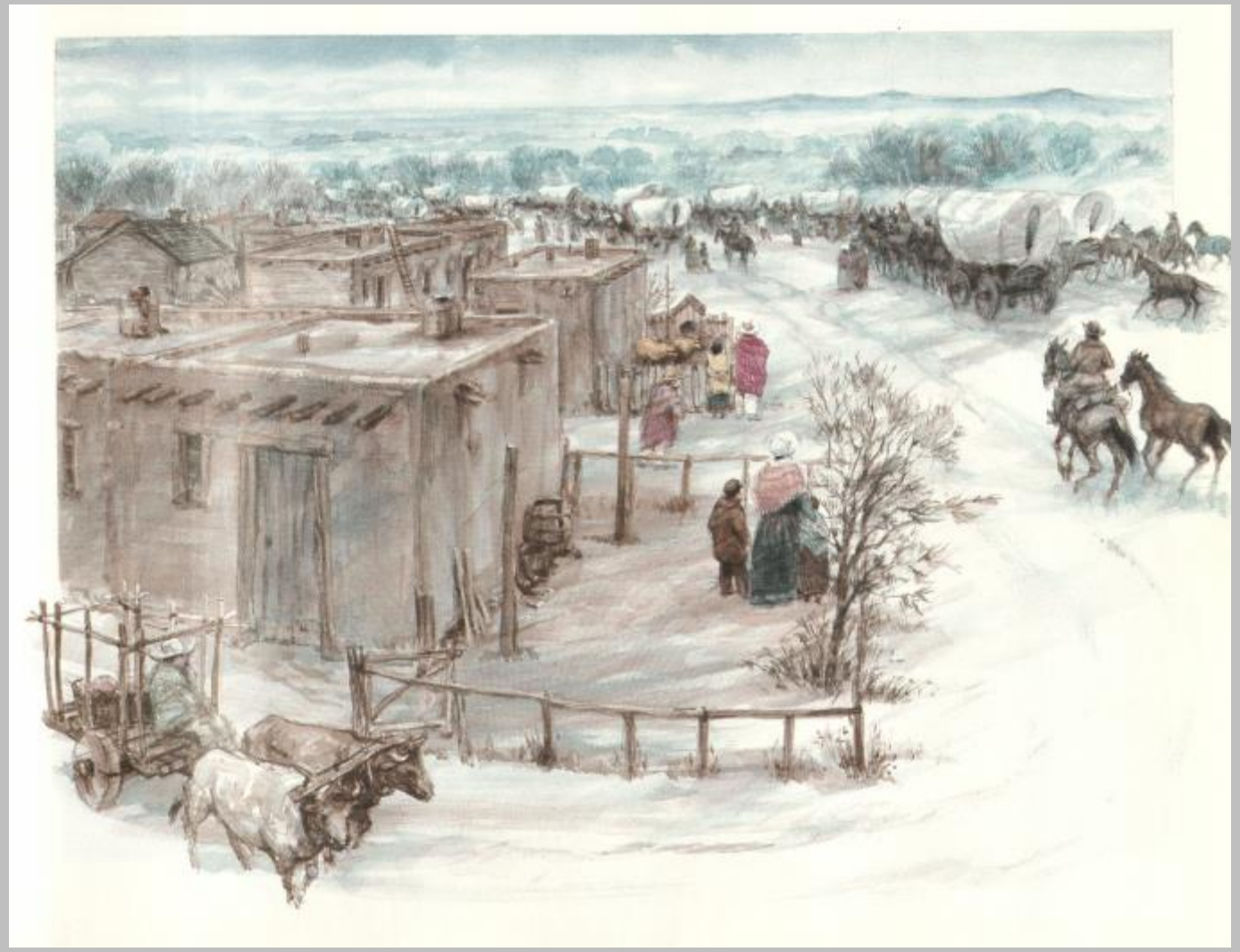
We were a bit over two months reaching Fort Union in New Mexico. There, our great cavalcade rested.

The tired mules were turned out to graze on the prairies. Freight was unloaded, and two hundred horses turned into the corral. Army officers perched on the fence to look over and choose their horses. The ground was a shambles



of buffalo hides, Mexican blankets, and sheep pelts—things to be sent back east.

Our camp was outside the Fort Union gate that stood open, and all day Will and I came and went as we pleased. Two friendly Indians sat and played mumblety-peg on a spread blanket. Will joined them and lost all his marbles.



Marion traveled again and again on the Santa Fe Trail, first with her mother and brother, and then with her husband. She met Lieutenant Richard D. Russell at Fort Union when she was nineteen. They married the following year, in 1865. After the Civil War, they settled in Trinidad, Colorado, to raise their family.

Marion and Richard Russell had nine children, sixteen grandchildren, twenty-two great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. Marion died in 1936 at the age of ninety-one, after being struck by an automobile. She was buried beside her soldier husband.

Marion Russell, about 1910.