

# BUCKSKIN BULLETIN

Volume LV - issue 3 - September 2022

## You are invited to colorful Colorado

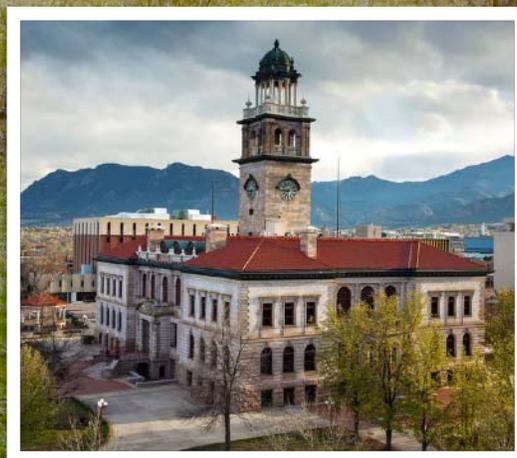
### Pikes Peak Posse Hosted Westerners International Conference

### Colorado Springs, Colorado

### September 15-18, 2022

details on pages 4-7

*The historic Pioneers Museum will host several Gather activities. The building, built in 1903, is a landmark of the region and previously housed the El Paso County Courthouse. It is the location of our Thursday activities starting with the WI Board Meeting, Meet & Greet Reception, Historical Overview and Museum Tour. On Saturday we will have our daytime sessions there with seven presentations in the spectacular Grand Courtroom.*



### CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

Greetings from the Home Ranch! It's been hot as blazes here on the Western Plains, but cooler weather coming and we know fall is in the air. I hope you are all keeping cool, safe, and healthy.

At the top of the list is the upcoming annual Westerners Gather, Sept. 15-18, in Colorado Springs, hosted by the Pikes Peak Posse and assisted by the Denver Posse. Thank you to all the members in those posses for the hard work in putting together what will be a wonderful event! So, fellow Westerners, saddle up y'er pony, get a train ticket, or gas up your vehicle and join us for a wonderful time in Colorado. The organizers have planned a fabulous program for us and it will be a grand event!

Thank you to all members who sent in entries for this year's awards cycle. We had a very large number of entries, so the decisions were tough in every category. And we thank each of you who took the time to enter and always love seeing what our fellow Westerners are up to during the year. Winners are announced here in the Bulletin.

Finally, in case you missed it in March and June Bulletin, the Home Ranch has a new phone number: 806-654-6920

Happy Fall and Happy Trails to all -

*Bonney*

Bonney MacDonald  
Chairman, Westerners International



WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald  
Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU



### REMINDER

As announced in the  
March and June Bulletin:  
**THE HOME RANCH HAS A NEW PHONE NUMBER**

Please note that our office has a new phone number that will get you through to Delinda King, WI Secretary/Treasurer. When you want to reach us by phone, please all  
806-654-6920



#### Inside this Issue:

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# Western History Association News

WHA Westerners Panel, 2022 - Western History Association Conference  
Oct 12-15, 2022, San Antonio, TX

## **“Saloons, Dime Museums, and the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition: Entertainment in the Midwest”**

Chair: **Dr. Sara Lampert**, University of South Dakota

**Carole Irene Butcher**, Independent Historian

*Seven Saloons and a Hurdy Gurdy House*

**Kaitlyn Weldon**, Independent Scholar and Adjunct Professor

*“Palace of Wonders”: Dime Museums in the American Midwest, 1880-1920*

**Alida Boorn**, Independent Historian, Greater Kent Historical Society Board Member

*How Visiting the 1898 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition Influenced the Life of Young George E. Hyde*

Comment: **Amanda Katz**, Carnegie Mellon University

**With thanks to Dr. Tim Bowman, President, Westerners International, and to  
Dr. Elaine Newman, Director, Western History Association, for your help with the panel!**

### **REMINDER TO ALL SHERIFFS AND MEMBERS!**

**Sheriffs:** Please remember to forward the Buckskin Bulletin to all of your corral or posse members. And please keep us up to date on your contact information – we want to stay in touch and we always appreciate all of your updates, newsletters, and publications!

**All Members:** Please be sure that your corral and posse sheriffs have your current email address so they can forward the Buckskin Bulletin to you! We want to be sure you're in the loop!

The Buckskin Bulletin comes out four times a year. It's emailed to all sheriffs so that they can email it to their posse or corral members. The current Bulletin is also always available on the front page of the Westerners website; back issues are accessible on the website through the Buckskin Bulletin link.



### **2022 DUES AND THANKS FROM THE HOME RANCH**

COVID continued to hit corrals and posses hard this year. At the Home Ranch we've tried to do all we can to support and encourage you to stay with it and keep the enthusiasm for our great organization. We know that a lot of you weren't able to meet and we applaud you for keeping safe and healthy.

If you were one of the corrals or posses who were not able to send in dues this year, we understand and we have your back! Yes, we depend on dues to keep the lights on, pay for awards, and many other things; but the MAIN thing is you all and the traditions you carry forward and the programs you offer. What we at the Home Ranch hope for most is that you stay healthy and that you are part of this fun and wonderful group of folks.

Please, even if your corral or posse cannot send in dues for the year because you haven't been able to meet, be sure and send in your current contact info for your officers. Those forms are in the Dues and Awards packets sent out by US Mail in February. If you need a new copy, just email Bonney MacDonald, Chairman, WI, at [bmacdonald@wtamu.edu](mailto:bmacdonald@wtamu.edu).

**Thank you!**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



# September 15-18, 2022



Gather in Colorado Springs for the . . .  
**2022 Westerners International Conference**

Hosted by the:  
Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners  
 with support of the Denver Posse



Mix and mingle with fellow Westerners, authors and like-minded history buffs from far and near

- ◆ Meet & Greet reception
- ◆ Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum
- ◆ Silent auction view / bid
- ◆ Bus tour: ProRodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy, Garden of the Gods Trading Post, Visitor Center and Park
- ◆ Bonus Tours on Thurs/Sun included
- ◆ Flying W Ranch Chuckwagon Dinner & Western Performance
- ◆ Local historical presentations in Pioneers Museum's Grand Court Room
- ◆ Westerners Int'l award presentations
- ◆ Catered dinner at Al Kaly Mule Train Event Center with Historical Presentation

- **À la Carte conference options offered**
  - \* Purchase the "package" OR select piecemeal events
  - \* Guests are always welcome



**Extend your stay and enjoy local attractions**



Check website for updates

**Contact info: Bob DeWitt, Conference Chair**  
**PikesPeakWesterners@gmail.com** or call (719) 473-0330

# 2022 Westerners International Conference

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Hosted by [The Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners](#)

September 17, 2022 Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum  
Historic Grand Courtroom 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



*The Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum is without a doubt, one of the best preserved "Treasures" of the Pikes Peak Region.*

## Saturday Presentations (see website for complete details)

- **Cartographic Roots of Colorado: 1540 to 1861 by Wesley A. Brown**
  - History of the discovery and exploration of the place that became Colorado and how this information is revealed on maps from 1540 to 1861. This story tells of the mythical mapping of New Spain, the Rio Grande valley in the 1600s, discovery of the Mississippi valley and the western plains, new Spanish expeditions from Santa Fe into Colorado in the late 18th century, official government expeditions of the early 19th century, and the 1859 gold rush that puts Colorado on the map.
- **Colorado Springs: A Changing Landscape - Photography of Glenn W Murray and the Creative Eight by Donald Kallaus and Angela Crews**
  - Colorado Springs began its race toward city-hood as a small western hamlet and resort town, one might have described it as a planned community with European influence. This program explores the city of

Colorado Springs through Glenn Wesley Murray's photographs made during the 1930s through the 1960s, contrasting with contemporary images made by local Colorado Springs photography students.

- **History of Charles Goodnight and His Barn in Pueblo Colorado by Laurel Campbell**
  - Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving began trailing Longhorns north to Colorado and Wyoming in the 1860s. In 1868, Goodnight put down roots just west of the newly created town of Pueblo, Colorado. He built his Rock Canyon Ranch below the bluffs of the area just west of what is named Goodnight Street. He ran his cattle all over the Gervacio Nolan Grant and had line camps over the area, including Babcock's Hole Ranch in Wetmore, Colorado. The ranch remains today as a testament to Goodnight's western heritage.
  
- **History of the Pikes Peak Range Riders by Neal Schuerer**
  - The Pikes Peak Range Riders organization was founded in 1949 by Kenneth D. Brookhart and Everett R. Conover. They gathered a group of interested townsmen together to make a five-day horseback trail ride as a way to promote the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo.
  
- **Sanitoriums / Health - History of Tuberculosis Cures in Colorado Spring by Leah Davis-Witherow**
  - From its founding in 1871, local boosters advertised Colorado Springs as a premier health destination for the treatment of consumption and "lung troubles," among other maladies. Our region's greatest asset-turned-industry was its stunning scenery, abundant sunshine and mild climate. For decades the local Chamber of Commerce published pamphlets extolling the health benefits of the region. Distributed across the country and around the world, the advertisements encouraged invalids to breathe our "100% aseptic air" and enjoy the healing powers of our over 300 days of sunshine a year.
  
- **Amache - An American Concentration Camp by Henry Wyeno**
  - Following the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. This action resulted in the imprisonment of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry in ten American style concentration camps. Of those incarcerated, two-thirds were American citizens. Most of the camps were located in the western part of the U.S. including one in Colorado called Amache. This multimedia program will provide comments from some who were imprisoned at Amache and their experiences of being treated like the enemy. It also includes stories of those who served in the U.S. armed forces during WW II while their families were confined under armed guards in the camps
  
- **The Blurred Lines Between Colorado's Early Law Enforcement and Outlaws by Randi Samuelson-Brown**
  - In early Colorado, both in Territorial and Statehood days, the distinctions and lines between law enforcement and the outlaw element could easily become blurred. In fact, roles could change depending upon circumstance and location. While some of the more famous law enforcers upheld the letter of the law to the best of their abilities...some were not so scrupulous and pursued a course of tolerance, accommodation and blind-eyes towards misdeeds and shady dealings. Join us for a look into some of the lesser-known histories of the lawmen and the outlaws and the trade-offs between law enforcement and law-breaking in the Wildest of the West that was Colorado. One hint: we weren't as upstanding as we would like to think that we were.



Notice: please visit <http://westerners-international.org> to access active links

## 2022 Westerners International Conference Colorado Springs, Colorado

Hosted by [The Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners](#)

**September 15-18, 2022**

Register online: [pikespeakwesterners.square.site](http://pikespeakwesterners.square.site)



### Schedule

<p><b><u>Thursday, September 15, 2022</u></b>  <b>Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum</b>            215 S. Tejon Street  <a href="https://www.cspm.org/">https://www.cspm.org/</a>  <b>2 PM Registration Opens</b>  <b>3 - 5 PM WI Board Meeting</b>  <b>Meet and Greet Reception FREE</b>  <b>5:30 - 8 PM</b>  <b>6 PM Historical Overview / Museum Tour</b>  <b>Silent Auction View &amp; Bid</b></p>	<p><b>All Day Saturday Package \$72</b></p>
<p><b>All Day Friday Package \$133</b></p>	<p><b><u>Saturday, September 17, 2022</u></b>  <b>\$28 includes seven programs and lunch</b>  <b>Historical Presentations at</b>  <b>Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum</b>  <b>9 AM - 3 PM</b>  <b><u>Lunch provided</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cartographic Roots of Colorado: 1540 to 1861 * Wesley Brown</li> <li>• Colorado Springs; A Changing Landscape Photography of Glenn W Murray and the Creative Eight * Don Kallaus and Angela Crews</li> <li>• History of Charles Goodnight and His Barn in Pueblo Colorado * Laurel Campbell</li> <li>• History of the Pikes Peak Range Riders * Neal Schuerer</li> <li>• Colorado Springs—City of Sunshine * Leah Davis-Witherow</li> <li>• Amache - An American Concentration Camp * Henry "Hank" Wyeno</li> <li>• The Blurred Lines Between Colorado's Early Law Enforcement and Outlaws * Randi Samuelson-Browns</li> </ul> <p>Presentation details subject to change. See website for updates.</p>
<p><b><u>Friday, September 16, 2022</u></b>  <b>9 AM - 3 PM</b>  <b>Scenic Bus Tour with Lunch \$69</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet and Park . . .</li> <li>• ProRodeo Hall of Fame &amp; Museum of the American Cowboy  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 103 Pro Rodeo Dr, Colorado Springs  <a href="https://www.prorodeohalloffame.com">https://www.prorodeohalloffame.com</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Garden of the Gods Trading Post  <a href="https://www.gardenofthegodstradingpost.com">https://www.gardenofthegodstradingpost.com</a>            Lunch, Gift Shop and Art Viewing</li> <li>• Garden of the Gods Visitors Center &amp; Park Tour  <a href="https://www.gardenofgods.com">https://www.gardenofgods.com</a></li> <li>• Return to Pro Rodeo parking lot            * Freshen up and Drive or Carpool to dinner</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Saturday Evening 5 - 9 PM</u></b>  <b>Dinner and Historical Presentation \$45</b>  <b>Al Kaly Mule Train Event Center</b>            3415 Janitell Rd, Colorado Springs  <a href="https://muletrainevents.com">https://muletrainevents.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>Friday Evening 5 - 9 PM</u></b>  <b>Flying W Ranch Chuckwagon Dinner &amp; Western Performance</b>  <b>\$67</b>            (Child Dinner \$32)  <a href="https://www.flyingw.com">https://www.flyingw.com</a>  <b>3330 Chuckwagon Rd, Colorado Springs</b>            (Gates open at 5)</p>	<p><b>Full Conference Package \$200</b></p>



## 2021 WESTERNER AWARDS

Congratulations to all on the 2021 awards!  
There were far more excellent entries than there were awards to be given; so the choices were difficult. Thank you to all who submitted your work from 2021!!

### Co-Founders Best Book Award

#### First Place

James Bailey Blackshear and Glen Sample Ely

*Confederates and Comancheros:*

*Skulduggery and Double-Dealing in the*

*Texas-New Mexico Borderlands*

University of Oklahoma Press

James Bailey Blackshear, Member, Ft. Worth Westerners

Glen Sample Ely, Member, Denver Posse

#### Second Place

Roger L. Nichols

*Massacring Indians: From Horseshoe Bend to Wounded Knee*

University of Oklahoma Press

Member, Adobe Corral

#### Third Place Tie

Chuck Lanehart

*Tragedy and Triumph on the Texas Plains*

The History Press

Member, Llano Estacado Corral

#### Third Place Tie

Brian Dervin Dillon

*Early Chapters in Southern California History*

The Los Angeles Corral, Westerners International

Member, Los Angeles Corral

### "Coke" Wood Award for Best Historical Monograph or Published Article

#### First Place

David C. Beyreis

*"Meat as a Matter of Form": Food, Exchange, and Power on the Santa Fe Trail"*

*Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*

Member, Ft. Worth Westerners

#### Second Place

Elaine Marie Nelson

*"No where to be found": Myth-Mapping, Empire, and Resistance in the Black*

*Hills Country, 1800-1860"*

South Dakota Historical Society Press

Member, Kansas City Westerners



#### Third Place Tie

Charles R "Butch" Farabee, Jr.

*"Camp Lawton, 1921-2021: A Century of Scouting"*

*The Smoke Signal*

Member, Tucson Corral

#### Third Place Tie

Abraham Hoffman

*An Actor's Life: William S. Hart, 1864-1946*

Member, Los Angeles Corral

### Phillip A. Danielson Award for Best Presentation or Program

#### First Place

The Huntington Corral of Westerners International

Bill Ellinger, Sheriff

For a presentation by Brian Dervin Dillon, *"Early Chapters in Southern California History"*

#### Second Place

Cheyenne Corral

Peg Kolsrud, Sheriff

For a presentation by Gordon Chavis, *"A Cheyenne Corral Evening with Gordon Chavis as the Legendary Jack Slade"*

### Heads Up Award, Large Corral

Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners

Pete Fries, Sheriff

### Heads Up Award, Smaller Corral

Tucson Corral of the Westerners

James B Klein, M. D., Sheriff

### Fred Olds Award for Cowboy Poetry

#### First Place

Paul McClure

*Tragic Heroes of Los Angeles History: A Poem By Pablo*

Member, Los Angeles Corral

#### Second Place

Bill Cavaliere

*"Words of Wisdom" in The Fremont Street Mail*

Member, Cochise County Corral

# CORRAL NEWS

## CORRAL HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to all corrals and posses that send us information on your exciting and fun activities and publications. We always love to hear what y'all are doing and encourage members to send updates to us at the Home Ranch. It's always interesting for members in other corrals and posses to see your events!



**Brian Dillon** of the **Los Angeles Corral** continues his busy and fruitful "writing ways" with his forthcoming book on Alice Chong. In the last Buckskin Bulletin issue (June, 2022) we learned of Brian Dervin Dillon's literary effort, the biography of his wife's aunt, Alice Chong, the Hawaiian-Born English teacher in China that ended up at the Flying Tigers Air Base as General Claire Chennault's intelligence expert. . .

Brian tells us that his book has just reached the 300-page mark, and he now shares some additional "West of the West" photos with us, of Alice Chong on a Donkey (far right) riding off to see the Great Wall of China in 1934, and then, six years later, in 1940, mounted on one of Chiang Kai-Shek's own horses (near right) riding off to visit guerrilla tribesmen in the mountains of far western China, near the Tibetan border. . . ETA for completion, the last day of 2022. . . publication (hopefully) if the planets are in alignment 2023. . .

Thanks for sharing Brian.



**Walt Duda, Sheriff of the Omaha Corral**, circled local members for two outstanding events this summer. In June, the Corral gathered for a private viewing of the Bill & Judy Wimmer Railroad Collection in greater Omaha. Wimmer was Vice President of Engineering at Union Pacific Railroad and, through a long career, assembled a world-class railroad collection filling not one but two linked Butler buildings. And in August, the Corral gathered at near-by Platte River State Park to enjoy a specially prepared buffalo steak dinner with all the appropriate Old West trimmings. **Walt Duda** offered special compliments to members **Michael Wagner** and **Paul Berg** for coordinating the unique gatherings. Thank you, **Paul Hedren, Rep, Omaha Corral**, for keeping us updated at the Home Ranch!

The **Ft. Worth Corral** hosted an August program presented by **Richard Selcer, Ph. D.** entitled, "The Untold Story of the O.K. Corral's Connection to Fort Worth."

**Westerners** across the country interested in learning more about the Corral, or in joining one of the Zoom presentations, can find out more at their website: [www.fortworthwesterners.com](http://www.fortworthwesterners.com) Thanks to **Phil Williams, Corral Rep**, for letting us know about the innovative programs in the Corral!

The **Pikes Peak Posse** had a July program from **Paul Matthew Marquez** who has some amazing family links to the famous outlaw, Billy the Kid. The Posse also included information about the Wild West History Association and their annual roundup in their publication, **The Inkspot**.



more  
**CORRAL NEWS**

The Posse's August program featured Sarah Woods, who is Curator of Historic Properties and Archives at El Pomar Foundation. She previously worked for the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and NASA. At the El Pomar Foundation, Sarah manages daily operations at Penrose Heritage Museum and Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun. She also manages the Foundation's cultural and historical collections and creates exhibits. In addition to her presentation, she organized a separate field-trip tour of the Penrose Heritage Museum.

Of course, members of the **Pikes Peak Posse** have been especially busy planning for the **Westerners Gather, Sept 15-18, Colorado Springs, Colorado**. Thanks to **Bob DeWitt**, the members of the **Pikes Peak Posse**, and members of the assisting **Denver Posse** for all the work you are doing for this fine event! We can't wait!



**Ron Beard** sent us the Newsletter of the **Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners**, which included news that the June presentation was from **Hal Stearns** on the topic, "The Lewis & Clark Expedition: Eastward Ho, Pacific to Travelers Rest and Beyond, 1806." Members met at the Northwest Montana History Museum, in Kalispell.

The Posse's July program featured Part 3 of a multiple-part series on Montana Aviation, entitled "A Return to the Big Skies," and was presented by the Staff and Associates of the Museum of Mountain Flying, in Missoula.

Their August program was presented by Posse member, **Bill Dakin** of Bigfork, Montana, who spoke on: "Go West Young Man": The Story of Montana's Paris Gibson."



The **Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners** has settled into their new location at the NW Montana History Museum. Their partnership with the museum and staff, specifically the Director, Jacob Thomas, is growing stronger every month.

Please visit the Posse's website to learn more about their activities and programs:

[www.northwestmontanaposseofwesterners.wordpress.com](http://www.northwestmontanaposseofwesterners.wordpress.com)

Thank you **Ron Beard** for keeping us in the loop!

The **Cochise County Corral of Westerners** sent us their newsletter, **Fremont Street Mail**, which listed interesting programming this season.

In June, Ranch Hand, **Bill Cavaliere**, gave a presentation on "The Early Settlers, a Colorful Past." (Look elsewhere in the **Buckskin Bulletin** for notice of Bill's award in this year's Fred Olds Cowboy Poetry Award!)

In August, Ranch Hand, **Matt G**, along with Faith and Marti, gave a presentation on The Empire Ranch. The Empire Ranch was founded in the 1870s and was once the largest ranch in Arizona. It has been the scene of more than forty movies.

The Corral's **Fremont Street Mail** also included encouragement to members to write articles, an entry on how to read brands, and a thorough listing of western events in the area.

Their September program features **Jon Donahue** speaking on "Frederick Remington, Artist of the True West."

In addition to their newsletter, the Corral has been active this last year in creating a new quarterly publication, called **The Border Vidette**. You can learn more about the Corral's newsletter, quarterly publication – and their YouTube Channel! – at their website: [www.CochiseCountyCorral.org](http://www.CochiseCountyCorral.org) Thank you, **Doug Hocking**, for keeping us up to date!

#### Denver Posse

As noted above, the Home Ranch thanks members of the **Denver Posse** for assisting in the organizing of the **2022 Westerners Gather in Colorado Springs, Sept 15-18**. Thank you for all you do! The Posse's website can be found at: [www.DenverPosse.org](http://www.DenverPosse.org)

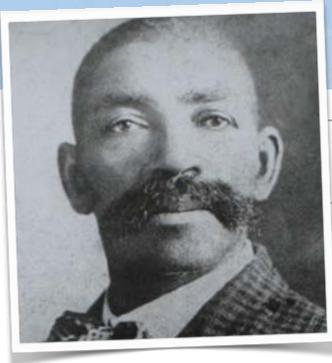
Jim Jennings grew up in Sweetwater, Texas and graduated from Texas A&M University. Jim and his wife Mavis reside in Amarillo, Texas. He is a member of the Palo Duro Corral and serves the Corral as Keeper of the Chips. Jim is a renowned western writer and a long-time western historian. Jim is retired as Executive Director of Publications for the American Quarter Horse Association and continues to write for Red Steagall's television show "Somewhere West of Wall Street."

*Jim Jennings*



# Bass Reeves

## Lawman



In Fort Smith, Arkansas, lawman Bass Reeves rides *Into the Territory*, a larger-than-life bronze sculpture created by Oklahoman Harold T. "H" Holden and dedicated in 2012. [www.historynet.com](http://www.historynet.com)

**B**ass Reeves was the first black deputy U.S. Marshall west of the Mississippi River, and maybe anywhere. He became a legend, and he's honored as such.

Bass Reeves was born a slave in 1838 in Crawford County, Arkansas. He was owned by William Reeves, who was a farmer, and like most other slaves at the time, Bass took the surname of his owner. As a child, Bass worked alongside his parents, starting out as a water boy, and as he got older, he became a field hand. In about 1846, William Reeves moved to Grayson County, Texas, which is where the town of Sherman is today.

Bass became a tall young man, stood about six feet, two inches, and he was known for his good

manners and sense of humor. When the Civil War broke out, William Reeves' son, George, joined the Confederate Army and took Bass to war with him as his valet and bodyguard.

No one knows for sure what happened between Bass and George – some say that it was a fight over a card game, and that Bass whipped George pretty good – regardless, Bass took off and fled to Indian Territory, where he took refuge with the Seminole, Cherokee and Creek Indians. During his time with the Indians, he learned their languages, their customs and their tracking skills, and he became very quick and accurate with a pistol.

When Bass heard that the Emancipation Proclamation had been passed in 1863, and slavery was abolished, he went back to Arkansas and bought a farm near Van Buren. About a year later, he married Nellie Jennie, who was from Texas, and the two of them raised

10 children on their homestead, five girls and five boys. At that time, the Van Buren federal court had jurisdiction over Indian Territory, and Bass supplemented his income by serving as a scout and guide for U.S. Deputy Marshalls going into the Territory.

In the 1870s, Indian Territory became a part of the Western District of Arkansas, which was headquartered at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and totaled more than 74,000 square miles. Federal law applied to non-Indian U.S. citizens in the Territory. Because of the relatively wide-open area, criminals from surrounding states moved in, and the Fort Smith federal court was forced to try crimes all the way from whisky peddling to murder. In 1875, Isaac C. Parker was appointed federal judge by President Ulysses S. Grant, and one of Parker's first official acts was to appoint U.S. Marshal James F. Fagan as head of some 200 deputies he was then told to hire. Fagan heard of Bass Reeves' significant knowledge of the area, as well as his ability to speak several tribal languages, and soon recruited him as a U.S. Deputy.

The deputies were tasked with "cleaning up" Indian Territory, but it wasn't easy. Some of the worst outlaws in the country were holed up in the Territory, and at least 70 deputy marshals died in the line of duty.



Bass Reeves

Each time Bass left Fort Smith, it was usually with a pocket full of warrants. He could neither read nor write, but before he headed out, he would have someone read

him the warrants. He would then memorize the contents and which warrant was which. When asked to produce the warrant, he never failed to pick out the correct one.

Bass began to earn a reputation for his courage and success at bringing in or killing many desperadoes of the territory. He always wore a big hat, and he was usually a spiffy dresser, with his boots polished to a gleaming shine. He was known for his politeness and courteous manner. However, when the purpose served him, he was a master of disguises and often utilized aliases. He would sometimes appear as a cowboy, a farmer, a gunslinger, or even an outlaw, and he always wore two Colt pistols, butt forward for a fast draw. He was ambidextrous, and he rarely missed his mark.

Months after leaving Fort Smith, he would return, herding a number of outlaws charged with crimes ranging from bootlegging to murder. Paid in fees and rewards, he would make a large profit. Then, after spending a little time with his family, he would return to the range once again.

The tales of his captures are legendary. On one occasion, Bass was pursuing two outlaws in the Red River Valley near the Texas border. Gathering a posse, Bass and the other men set up camp some 28 miles from where the two were thought to be hiding at their mother's home. After studying the terrain and making a plan, he disguised himself as a tramp, hiding his handcuffs, pistol, and badge, under his clothes. Setting out on foot, he arrived at the house wearing an old pair of shoes, dirty clothes, carrying a cane, and wearing a floppy hat complete with three bullet holes.

Upon arriving at the home, he told the woman who answered the door that his feet were aching after having been pursued by a posse who had put the three bullet holes in his hat. After asking for a bite to eat, she invited him in and suggested that he join her two outlaw sons.

As the sun was setting, Bass heard a sharp whistle coming from beyond the house. The woman went outside and responded with an answering whistle. Before long, two riders rode up to the house and talked at length with the woman outside. The three of them then came inside and she introduced her sons to Bass. After discussing their various crimes, the trio agreed that it would be a good idea to join up.

Bunking down in the same room, Bass watched the pair carefully as they drifted off to sleep. When they were snoring deeply, he handcuffed them together without waking them. When early morning approached, he kicked the boys awake and marched them out the door. He marched the pair the full 28 miles to the camp where the posse waited. Within days, the outlaws were delivered to the authorities and Bass collected a \$5,000 reward. It's said that the outlaws' mother followed him the first three miles, cursing him every step of the way.

One of Bass' high-profile outlaws was Bob Dozier, who was known as a jack-of-all-trades when it came to committing crimes. Dozier did everything from cattle and horse rustling, to holding up banks, stores, and stagecoaches; to murder and land swindles. Because Dozier was unpredictable, he was also hard to catch and though many lawmen had tried to apprehend him, none were successful until it came to Bass. Dozier eluded Bass for several months until the lawman tracked him down in the Cherokee Nation. After refusing to surrender, Bass killed Dozier in a gunfight.

In 1887, Bass himself was arrested, charged with murdering a posse cook. He was tried before Judge Isaac Parker, but was acquitted.

In 1889, Bass went after the Tom Story gang of horse thieves. He waited along the route that the gang was known to have used and surprised Story with an arrest warrant. The outlaw panicked and drew his gun, but Bass drew faster and shot him dead. The rest of the gang disbanded and were never heard from again.

In 1896, Bass' wife, Nellie, died in Fort Smith, and the next year he was transferred to the Muskogee federal court in Indian Territory. In 1900, he married for a second time, to a woman named Winnie Sumter.

Without a doubt, the toughest manhunt for the lawman was that of hunting down his own son in 1902. After having delivered two prisoners to U.S. Marshal Leo Bennett in Muskogee, Oklahoma, he arrived to bad news. His own son, Bennie, had been charged with murder, after having killed his wife in a fit of jealousy. Though the warrant had been lying on Bennett's desk for two days, the other deputies were reluctant to take it. Bass was shook up about it, but he demanded to accept the responsibility for finding his son. Two weeks later, Bass returned to Muskogee with his son in tow and turned him over to Marshal Bennett. His son was tried, convicted to life in prison, and sent to Kansas' Leavenworth Penitentiary. Later, with a citizen's petition and an exemplary prison record, Bennie Reeves was pardoned and lived the rest of his life as a model citizen.

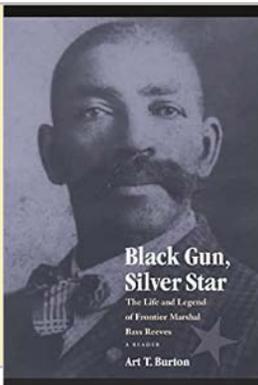
In 1907, law enforcement was assumed by state agencies, and Bass' duties as a deputy marshal came to

an end. Next, Bass took a job as a patrolman with the Muskogee Police Department. During the two years that he served in this capacity, there were reportedly no crimes on his beat. Bass' diagnosis with Bright's disease finally ended his career when he took to his sickbed in 1909. He died on January 12, 1910, and he was buried in the Union Agency Cemetery at Muskogee.

Over the 35 years that Bass Reeves served as a Deputy United States Marshal, he earned his place in history by being one of the most effective lawmen in Indian Territory, bringing in more than 3,000 outlaws. He killed 14 men during his service, but he always said that he "never shot a man when it was not necessary for him to do so in the discharge of his duty to save his own life."

There is some evidence that Bass Reeves was the basis of the radio and later television series "The Lone Ranger." There are definitely several key similarities between the character and the real legend. Some say that it was definitely him, but others say it wasn't. We'll probably never know for sure.

There is no doubt that Bass was a true legend. In 1992, he was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. In 2011, the bridge that spans the Arkansas River between Muskogee and Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, was renamed the Bass Reeves Memorial Bridge, and in 2012, a bronze statue of Bass by Oklahoma sculptor Harold Holden was erected in Pendergraft Park in Fort Smith, Arkansas. And, in 2013, Bass was inducted into the Texas Trail of Fame in Fort Worth.



To learn a little more about Bass Reeves check out the book:

***Black Gun, Silver Star: The Life and Legend of Frontier Marshal Bass Reeves (Race and Ethnicity in the American West)*** Paperback – April 1, 2008 by Art T. Burton

paperback \$19.95 at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

*Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves appears as one of "eight notable Oklahomans," the "most feared U.S. marshal in the Indian country." That Reeves was also an African American who had spent his early life as a slave in Arkansas and Texas makes his accomplishments all the more remarkable.*

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3" Decals



Westerner cap



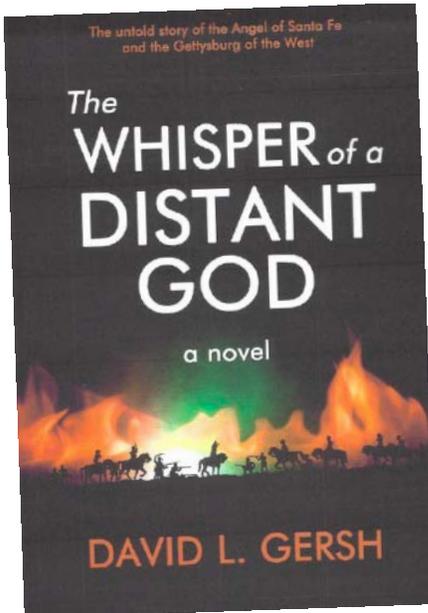
Polo shirt



white bandana

# BOOK NEWS

OF INTEREST  
TO WESTERNERS



## ***The Whisper of a Distant God* by David L. Gersh**

### ***The untold story of the Angel of Santa Fe and the Gettysburg of the West.***

*This is the story, based on historical events, of the little known War of New Mexico, of Henry Sibley, who commanded the Texas Mounted Volunteers, Edward R. S. Canby, the Union commander, and his wife Louisa, the Angel of Santa Fe. It explores the desperate struggle at the Battle of Glorieta Pass, called the Gettysburg of the West, and the men who fought on both sides. It examines the tragedies of war and the passion and compassion of those men and women who played a part.*

*Through letters, diaries, newspaper articles and both first and third person exposition and dialogue, this deeply-researched historical fiction tells of those who heard The Whisper of a Distant God.*

*paper back \$17.95 [https://www.amazon.com/Whisper-Distant-God-David-Gersh/dp/1948598493/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?](https://www.amazon.com/Whisper-Distant-God-David-Gersh/dp/1948598493/ref=sr_1_1?)*

## ***Sierra Hotel* by Kent McInnis**

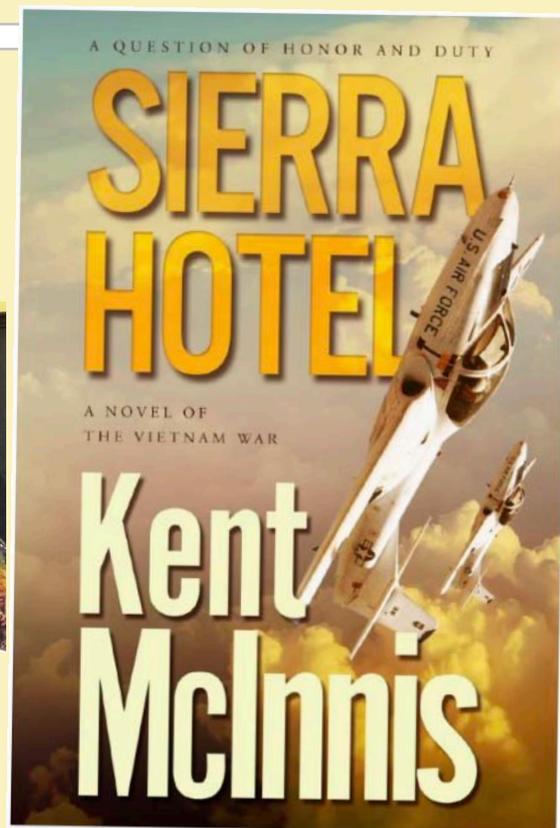
First Lieutenant Rob Amity is an Air Force instructor pilot based Stateside during Vietnam. Most of his fellow instructors have flown combat missions, but he hasn't... nor does he particularly want to. This makes him the odd man out in the ready room, torn between his loyalty to his comrades and his objections to the war. Throw in a vindictive senior officer known as Captain "Military" and his feelings for Suzy, his former girlfriend who is now the wife of his best friend and commander, and you have a bad situation that can only get worse. never been solved, until now.

<https://ogmacreative.com/book/sierra-hotel/>

*Congratulation to our friend, former Home Ranch Chairman **Kent McInnis** on his newly published book **Sierra Hotel**.*

*Kent has remained busy in his retirement by publishing a novel. Kent McInnis enlisted in the Air Force in 1969, while awaiting acceptance to pilot training. He earned his wings in 1971 at Laredo AFB, Texas, with a class proudly named the Rio River Rats, an homage to the "real" River Rats who risked their lives flying missions over North Vietnam. His first assignment was to return to Laredo AFB as an instructor pilot in T-37 jet trainers. His job was to introduce student pilots to their first jet aircraft and to solo them. After learning the difficult task of instrument flying, students could experience the more enjoyable parts of flying—aerobatics and formation.*

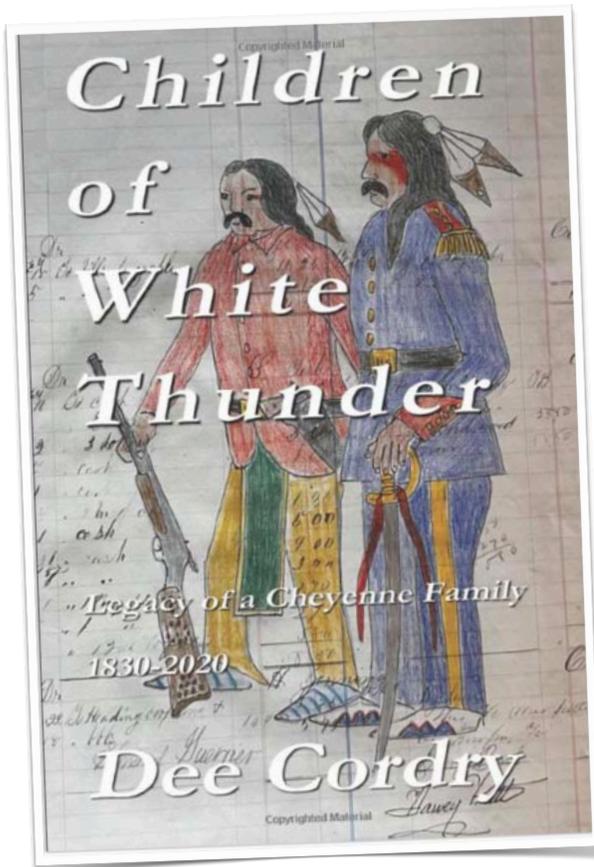
*Because over half of the instructor pilots were returning Vietnam combat veterans, Kent collected their stories as well as his own in film, photos, and journals. This is the source for accurate and entertaining works of historical fiction Kent McInnis brings to his readers.*



If you've read a particularly fascinating book that you think might be of interest to other Westerners, please share it with your Buckskin Bulletin inkslinger at: [kenneth.pirtle@me.com](mailto:kenneth.pirtle@me.com) so I can add it to the Book News section of the next BB.

# BOOK NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



**Children of White Thunder:  
Legacy of a Cheyenne Family  
1830-2020** by Dee Cordry (member  
and past sheriff of the Indian Territory  
Posse of Oklahoma Westerners)

paperback \$29.99

*Children of White Thunder, Legacy of a Cheyenne Family 1830-2020, is the biography of one extended Cheyenne family, the descendants of White Thunder, a Cheyenne holy man who was Keeper of the Sacred Medicine Arrows. In the 1830s he was the spiritual leader of the Cheyenne and possessed the special knowledge of the rituals involving the Arrows. Two of his daughters married William Bent, the owner of Bent's Fort trading post. The marriages cemented the influence and regard Bent enjoyed with the Cheyenne. The marriage of these two cultures was significant.*



**Wyoming Range War: The Infamous Invasion of  
Johnson County** John W. Davis

softcover \$15.99

*Wyoming attorney John W. Davis retells the story of the West's most notorious range war. Having delved more deeply than previous writers into land and census records, newspapers, and trial transcripts, Davis has produced an all-new interpretation. He looks at the conflict from the perspective of Johnson County residents—those whose home territory was invaded and many of whom the invaders targeted for murder.*

ISBN 10: 0806142618 ISBN 13: 9780806142616

Publisher: University of Oklahoma Press, 2012

