

Western Americana: Non Fiction Selections

If legends of the Old West and Clint Eastwood movies strike your fancy, take a look at these non-fiction selections to keep your interest piqued.

Outlaws, Gangs, and Cattle Rustlers

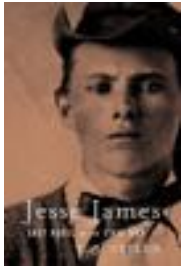
--The James Gang



[Desperate Men: The James Gang and the Wild Bunch](#) by James D. Horan
No doubt those most familiar with the Western genre have heard of Jesse James and his gang. But did you know of the Oklahoma connection? The Tulsa connection? It is rumored he buried loot in the Lost City (now Chandler Park) but couldn't find it when he came back to collect it.



[Frank and Jesse James: The Story Behind the Legend](#) by Ted Yeatman
A part of the Old West, and America's mythology, the James Gang marauded the low plains, gaining a Robin Hood type status. You can still visit caves in Missouri advertised as James Gang hideouts. Yeatman's book is an exhaustive history of the legendary outlaw gang.



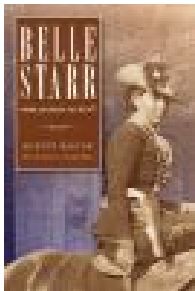
[Jesse James: The Last Rebel of the Civil War](#) by T.J. Stiles
More of an academic, biographical text rather than a chronology of events involving Jesse James. From boyhood in Minnesota to leading the most notorious old west gang, a simply fascinating figure. A great read!

--More Outlaws

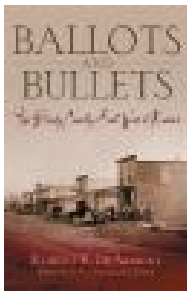
[Last of the Old Time Outlaws: The George West Musgrave Story](#) by Karen Holiday Tanner
Said to be "guilty of more crimes than Billy the Kid was ever accused of." Musgrave was a charter member of the High Five/Black Jack gang, which was responsible for Arizona's first bank hold-up, numerous post office and stagecoach robberies, and the largest Santa Fe Railroad heist in history. He was finally captured after a decade long manhunt.*



[Deadly Dozen: Twelve Forgotten Gunfighters of the Old West](#) by Robert K. DeArment. Although mostly forgotten today, the twelve men DeArment introduces readers to were utterly feared in their time. "More than a collective biography of dangerous gunfighters, Deadly Dozen also functions as a social history of the gunfighter culture of the post-Civil War frontier West."--BOOK JACKET



[Belle Starr: "The Bandit Queen"](#) by Burton Rascoe
Legendary comrade and consort to train robbers, bootleggers, stagecoach robbers, bushwhackers, bank robbers, horse thieves, cattle thieves, and outlaws of all stripes, Belle Star (1848–89) was born in Missouri and emigrated with her family to Texas in 1863. Myth made her a dancehall entertainer, faro dealer, expert horsewoman, crack shot, and adopted member of the Cherokee Nation.*



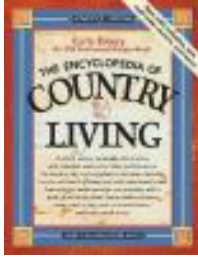
[Ballots and Bullets: The Bloody County Seat Wars of Kansas](#) by Robert K. DeArment
A state already scarred from the violence wrought by the likes of John Brown and William Quantrill, Kansas witnessed further episodes of wanton bloodshed in the late nineteenth century when settlers poured into a supposedly peaceful frontier. Ballots and Bullets relives the violence that only avarice can breed.*

Frontier and Country Wisdom



[Traditional Country Skills: A Practical Compendium of American Wisdom and Know-How](#) edited by Sheila Buff
Time-honored advice from the great American heartland.*

[The Modern Homestead Manual](#) by Skip Thomsen and Cat Freshwater
"What it really takes to succeed beyond the sidewalks and power lines"--Cover.



[The Encyclopedia of Country Living: An Old Fashioned Recipe Book](#) by Carla Emery. Emery's guide to self-sufficiency has been in and out of print since 1970 and provides advice on food growing, raising, and storage; getting one's finances in order; keeping warm without electricity; and going vegetarian. The book is packed with information and should be an invaluable reference for do-it-yourselfers in just about every home-related realm except repair and construction.*



[Foxfire 3: Animal Care, Banjos and Dulcimers, Hide Tanning, Summer and Fall Wild Plant Foods, Butter Churns, Ginseng, and Still More Affairs of Plain Living](#) edited with an introduction by Eliot Washington
THE primer on country wisdom. The Foxfire series espoused and taught the joys of doing it yourself before DIY was chic. You can learn anything from building a fire without matches to blacksmithing to bear hunting. Check out Foxfire's 1-11 available in our collection.

*Annotations courtesy of Syndetic Solutions