



Local History

Recommended reading list for elementary, middle school, and high school teachers. These books are great resources in the classroom for teachers and would be an interesting read for students as well.

1. TITLE: Billy the Kid: The Endless Ride
AUTHOR: Michael Wallis

Since his death, where he succumbed to gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin, hundreds of works have been written about Billy the Kid. Some are well researched and reliable but far more are historically exaggerated or embroidered with sensational lies. This book is an attempt to present a clear, concise, and truthful story of the young man who became a legend in his time. It is the story of Billy the Kid, one of the series of colorful bandits and outlaws, including Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Jesse James, and even Poncho Villa, who each in his own peculiar way captured the American imagination.

2. TITLE: Tularosa: Last of the Frontier West
AUTHOR: C. L. Sonnichsen

Tularosa, the last of the frontier in the continental United States, is the subject of this fascinating book. C. L. Sonnichsen, who is considered to be an authority on the southwest, writes from primary records and conversations with survivors of Tularosa's pioneer days, tells the stories of the great cattle ranchers, white men against Apaches, and desperados against law men. Here readers can find the tales of Oliver Lee, Pat Garrett, and Bill McNew, as well as the feud between Colonel A. J. Fountain and Albert Fall.

3. TITLE: The Autobiography of George Curry
AUTHOR: H. B. Hening

During his remarkable career, George Curry participated in and observed many spectacular episodes of New Mexico's turbulent history: the Lincoln County War, Colfax County War, the Lee Fountain case, and the first New Mexico State Constitution Convention. He served as a sheriff, territorial governor, U.S. Congressman, international boundary commissioner, and New Mexico's first state historian. Curry's stints as a Rough Rider during the Spanish-American War introduced him to Theodore Roosevelt, who admired his service as a soldier, chief of police, and governor during the Phillipine Insurrection. The enormous detail of George Curry's autobiography makes it an essential source for any student, scholar, or general reader of New Mexico's territorial and state history.

4. TITLE: History of the Lincoln County War: A Classic Account of Billy the Kid
AUTHOR: Maurice G. Fulton

In the annals of western history, the Lincoln County War stands out as a complex and tragic event in which lives were lost, fortunes destroyed, and peaceful citizens transformed into lonely, exiled outlaws. A classic work on the era of Billy the Kid, this fast-moving account brings new meaning to the war and to those individuals who became its victims.

5. TITLE: The Two Alberts: Fountain and Fall
AUTHOR: Gordon R. Owen

Two of the most colorful, influential, and controversial figures in southern Territorial New Mexico were Albert Jennings Fountain and Albert Bacon Fall. Fountain arrived in southern Territorial New Mexico with the California Column during the Civil War and made his mark 25 years before Fall's arrival. Fall, born during the Civil War, ventured westward to seek his fortune as a miner. Both brought with them dominant personalities and ability with words, a flair for leadership, and an endless enthusiasm for their adopted land. They were instrumental in shaping the growth, economics, law, government, and politics of Territorial New Mexico. Devoted to their families and their political parties, both rose to the top of New Mexico politics. Owen has meticulously researched what has been written by and about these two prominent individuals to provide an unbiased analysis of their lives and contributions, as well as their interactions with each other.

6. TITLE: Pat Garrett: The Story of a Western Lawman
AUTHOR: Leon G. Metz

Through the story of Patrick Floyd Jarvis Garrett, the panorama of the southwest unfolds - its dreams, its courage, its explorations, its mistakes, its violence, its conquests, and ultimately its emergence as a settled society. No other character in southwest history is more closely identifiable with the land and the people of America's vast frontier.

7. TITLE: The Making of the Atomic Bomb
AUTHOR: Richard Rhodes

Here for the first time, in rich, human political and scientific detail, is the complete story of how the bomb was developed - from the turn-of-the-century discovery of the vast energy locked inside the atom, to the dropping of the first bombs on Japan. Rhodes takes on that journey step by step, minute by minute, and gives readers the definitive story of man's most awesome discovery and invention. *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* has been compared in its sweep and importance to William L. Shier's *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*.

8. TITLE: The Place Names of New Mexico
AUTHOR: Robert Julyan

As excellent reference and history book, anyone interested in 'treasure hunting', geneology, or checking on marriage or death records will find this book a necessity. Town names come and go; some may have only existed for a few years while others have been changed over and over again. The mini-history lessons provided by Julyan are interesting and valuable, captivating the reader, while the directions, to the locations are clear and concise.

9. TITLE: Dunes and Dreams: A History of White Sands National Monument
AUTHOR: Michael Welsh

In this book, Dr. Welsh has captured the essence of the White Sands story. It's a tale of a park born out of seemingly incompatible interests - preservation of a special place while also securing an important economic boost for the community. It's interesting yet frustrating to speculate on what the park might have become had local enthusiasm not been diverted by the overwhelming military development which began in the early 1940's. The tension between those points of view has shaped, and will continue to influence, the park's management process. Perhaps the future will bring a wider recognition of the resource values represented by White Sands National Monument.

10. TITLE: Centennial Las Cruces: Historical Atlas of New Mexico
AUTHOR: Richard Melzer

Melzer presents a photographic view of Las Cruces and its surrounding area as the region prepares for its centennial celebration. This vibrant and moving photography will entertain as well as inform.

11. TITLE: The Mescalero Apaches
AUTHOR: C. L. Sonnichsen

Sonnichsen presents a well-written history of a group of Indians who helped to keep the southwest in an uproar for several centuries. The description of the earlier Apaches' way of life, contrasted with their wretched life after the white man arrived, explains the uproar. Retold as it affected and still affects the Mescaleros, is also the story of the errant and confused Indian policy. The book concludes with an evaluation of the situation the Mescaleros face today on their beautiful reservation in New Mexico. One hopes this warm, sympathetic, and lucid history will find a wide audience to help banish the prevalent misconceptions and stereotypes of Indians held by many Americans.