

BEST BOOKS ON COLORADO

By Tom Noel

Compiled for the Auraria Library's Center for Colorado & the West.
We welcome your feedback at tom.noel@ucdenver.edu

Abbott, Carl, Stephen J. Leonard, and David McComb

Colorado: A History of the Centennial State

Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1976, 1982, 1994. x + 454 pages. Index, bibliographic essay, endnotes, photos, drawings, maps, biographies, statistics. 6 x 9-1/4 inches. Hardcover and paperback.

This well-written survey offers stimulating interpretations and emphases on the state's twentieth-century urbanization, multiculturalism, and boosterism.

Afton, Jean, David Fridtjof Halaas, and Andrew E. Masich, with Richard N. Ellis *Cheyenne Dog Soldiers: A Ledgerbook History of Coups and Combat*

Niwot: University Press of Colorado and Colorado Historical Society, 1997. xxxii + 400 pages. Index, endnotes, bibliography, b&w photos, 124 four-color photos, drawings, maps, charts and tables, glossary, appendixes. 11 x 8-1/2 inches. Hardcover. Rev. ed., 2000. Paperback.

Cheyenne warriors painted their military exploits in this captured ledgerbook, providing a rare and compelling look at Colorado history from the Indian perspective.

Andrews, Thomas G.

Killing for Coal: America's Deadliest Labor War

Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008. x + 386 pages. Index, endnotes, illustrations, maps. Hardback.

Andrews, a history professor at the University of Colorado at Denver, describes the environmental history of a Colorado tragedy.

Arps, Louisa Ward

Denver in Slices

Denver: Sage Books, 1959. Reprinted 1998 by Ohio University Press, Athens, Ohio. Introduction by T. J. Noel. xii + 263 pages. Index, endnotes, photos, maps. 6 x 9 inches. Hardcover and paperback.

Delicious slices of Denver's past including the Mint, drinking water, City Ditch, Cherry Creek, the South Platte, Tabor ghosts, the Windsor Hotel, the Baron of Montclair, Overland Park, Buffalo Bill, Elitch Gardens, and Eugene Field. A delightfully written and diligently researched appetizer.

Babb, Sanora

An Owl on Every Post: A Personal Recollection of Life on the Plains New York: The McCall Publishing Co., 1970. Reprinted 1994 by the University of New Mexico Press. 217 pages. 6 x 8-3/4 inches. Hardcover; paperback reprint.

A lively account of the author's girlhood in early 1900s in a sod house, homesteading the "grey desert" of eastern Colorado.

Baca, Vincent Z. C. de, ed.

La Gente: Hispano History and Life in Colorado

Denver: Colorado Historical Society, 1999. xix + 294 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos. 6 x 9 inches. Paperback.

Thirteen authors chronicle Hispanic women, art, labor, rug-making, militants, cultural landscapes, and other topics.

Backus, Harriet Fish

Tomboy Bride

Boulder, Colo.: Pruett Publishing Co., 1969. 273 pages. Photos. 6 x 9 inches. Hardcover.

The wife of a mining engineer chronicles their cold, lonely, isolated life with warm memories and rich descriptions of Colorado's Silvery San Juans.

Baker, James H, ed.; LeRoy R Hafen, assoc. ed.

History of Colorado

Denver: State Historical and Natural History Society of Colorado and Linderman Co., 1927. 5 vols. Index, footnotes, photos, maps. Vols I, II, and III are a topical history; Vols. IV and V are biographical sketches. 6-1/2 x 9-3/4 inches. Hardcover.

Topically arranged, this magnum opus features fine overview essays on major topics by leading authorities. Hafen, the first and most productive official state historian, complains about the dictatorial and dying Baker in Hafen & Hafen, The Joyous Journey, which was not so joyous at this point.

Bauer, William H., James L. Ozment, and John H. Willard

Colorado Post Offices, 1859–1989: A Comprehensive Listing of Post Offices, Stations, and Branches

Golden: Colorado Railroad Museum, 1971; second revised edition, 1990. vi + 280 pages. Bibliography, 40 b&w photos. 9 x 11-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

Valuable reference guide listing each post office (and its name changes) with its county, dates of establishment and abandonment, and very brief remarks. Not a history but a useful place-name aid and indication of a town's birth and death dates.

Beebe, Lucius Morris and Charles Clegg

Narrow Gauge in the Rockies

Berkeley: Howell-North, 1958. 224 pages. B&w and color photos and paintings, maps. 8 x 11 1/2 pages. Hardcover.

This duo steamed around the country tracking down railroadians and writing colorful rail history.

Benson, Maxine

Martha Maxwell: Rocky Mountain Naturalist

Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1986. New edition published by Bison Books, 1999. xix + 335 pages. Index, bibliography, notes, appendixes, photos. 9 x 5 1/2 inches. Hardcover and paperback.

Benson, Maxine

1001 Colorado Place Names

Drawings by Robin Richards. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1994. xvii + 237 pages. Index, drawings. 5 x 8-1/2 inches. Hardcover and paperback.

Colorado's former state historian has compiled the state's best place-name guide.

Bird, Isabella Lucy

A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains

New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1879–80. New edition published by University of Oklahoma Press, 1960, with introduction by Daniel Boorstin. (Western Frontier Library, 14). Latest edition, 1998. xxiv + 256 pages. b&w illustrations, map. 4-7/8 x 7-1/2 inches. Paperback.

This tiny, eccentric English world traveler left a memorable picture of Colorado in 1873 but not a flattering one. "The great braggart city spread out brown and treeless upon a brown and treeless plain," she describes Denver, and the South Platte she found "shriveled into a narrow stream with a shingly bed six times too large for it, and fringed by shriveled cottonwoods.

Bolton, Herbert E.

Pageant in the Wilderness: The Story of the Escalante Expedition to the Interior Basin, 1776, including the Diary and Itinerary of Father Escalante Translated and Annotated

Salt Lake City: Utah Historical Society, 1951. 265 pages. Index, bibliography, footnotes, photos, maps. 8-1/2 x 6 inches. Paperback.

Padre Escalante, a Franciscan missionary, produced this first written report on Colorado.

Borland, Harold Glen ("Hal")

Country Editor's Boy

Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1970. 313 pages. 6 x 8-3/4 inches. Hardcover.

The Seventh Winter

Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1960. 256 pages. 6 x 8 3/4 inches. Hardcover.

High, Wide and Lonesome

Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1956. 251 pages. 6 x 8 3/4 inches. Hardcover.

In this trilogy, a distinguished and prolific writer recalls his boyhood on the plains of Colorado during the early 1900s.

Brettell, Richard B.

Historic Denver: The Architects and the Architecture, 1858–1893

Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973. xii + 240 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos, drawings. 9-1/2 x 12-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

A gorgeously illustrated, smartly written tribute to the brick and brownstone city now bowing to glass, steel, concrete, and asphalt. The fine, brief overview of nineteenth-century

Denver is followed by a critical look at its leading architects, Frank E. Edbrooke, William Lang, and Robert S. Roeschlaub.

Cassells, E. Steve

The Archaeology of Colorado

Boulder, Colo.: Johnson Books, 1983. vi + 325 pages. Index, bibliography, photos.

The best overview and introduction to prehistoric Indians.

Caughey, Bruce, and Dean Winstanley

The Colorado Guide

Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum, Inc., 1989. Rev. ed., 2005. 672 pages. Index, photos. 6 x 9 inches.

Paperback.

The best guide to Colorado since the one published by the WPA in the 1930s, this book provides eating, drinking, sleeping, and playing tips, as well as historical and stylistic perspectives.

Coel, Margaret Speas

Goin' Railroadin': A Century on the Colorado High Iron, as told by Sam Speas to Margaret Coel

Niwot, Colo.: Pruett Publishing Co., 1985. Paperback reprint 1998 by University Press of Colorado. xiii + 180 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos, maps. 10-1/2 x 9-1/2 inches.

Hardcover.

Superb railroadiana based on interviews with her father by one of Colorado's rising literary lights.

Coel, Margaret Speas

Chief Left Hand: Southern Arapaho

Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981. Civilization of the American Indian Series, 159.

Latest edition, 1993. xiv + 338 pages. Index, bibliography, notes, photos, maps. 6 x 9 inches.

Paperback.

A fascinating, sad look at the Arapaho chief who welcomed palefaces and paid the price at Sand Creek.

Coleman, Annie Gilbert

Ski Style: Sport and Culture in the Rockies

Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2004. 299 pages. Photos, maps, endnotes, bibliography, index. 6 x 9-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

Dallas, Sandra

Prayers for Sale: A Novel

New York: St. Martin's Press, 2009. ix + 305 pages. 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 inches. Hardcover and paperback.

By immersing herself in the language and history of Breckenridge during its dredge boat mining bonanza years, Dallas provides a fine history in a highly readable fictionalized format.

Dallas, Sandra

The Diary of Mattie Spenser

New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997. Paperback reprint 1998 by St. Martin's Griffin. 229 pages. 6 x 8 1/2 inches. Hardcover.

This novel from one of Colorado's literary lights focuses on the issues faced by frontier women, including domestic violence, adultery, and other topics that historians usually avoid.

Dallas, Sandra

No More Than Five in a Bed: Colorado Hotels in the Old Days

Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967. xiv + 208 pages. Index, bibliography, photos, drawings. 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 inches. Hardcover.

Well-illustrated descriptions of thirty-seven early Colorado hotels, resorts, spas, and watering spots, many of which are still around.

Danilov, Victor J.

Colorado Museums and Historic Sites: A Colorado Guide Book

Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 2000. x + 445 pages. Index, bibliography, photos, appendixes. 6 x 9 inches. Paperback.

DeLorme Mapping Company, ed.

Colorado Atlas and Gazetteer

Yarmouth, ME: Delorme, Inc., 4th edition, 1998. 104 pages. Color maps. 16 x 11 inches. Paperback.

Dodds, Joanne West

They All Came to Pueblo: A Social History

Virginia Beach, Va.: The Donning Company, 1994. 216 pages. Index, bibliography. 300 b&w photos, drawings. 9 x 11-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

Dunning, John

Denver

New York: Times Books, 1980. 407 pages. 6-1/4 x 9-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

A lusty historical novel that vividly portrays Denver journalism, politics, and the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s.

Dyer, John Lewis

The Snow-Shoe Itinerant: An Autobiography of the Reverend John L. Dyer, Familiarly Known as "Father Dyer" of the Colorado Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church

Drawings by Helen H. Chain. Cincinnati: Cranston & Stowe, 1890. Various reprints, including Father Dyer Methodist Church, Breckenridge. 362 pages. 4 leaves of plates. 1975 edition includes publisher's preface and two new illustrations. 5-1/4 x 7-3/4 inches. Hardcover.

Autobiography of the last and best known of the circuit riders of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Ellis, Anne

The Life of an Ordinary Woman

Introduction by Lucy Fitch Perkins. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1929. Reprinted 1981 by the University of Nebraska Press, with introduction by Elliott West. xiii + 301 pages. Photos. 8-1/2 x 5-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

A lively, candid account of everyday lower-class life in mining towns by an extraordinary woman.

Faulkner, Debra Benson

Touching Tomorrow: The Emily Griffith Story

Palmer Lake, Colo.: Filter Press, 2006. x + 150 pages. Photos, timeline, endnotes, bibliography, index. 9 x 6 inches. Paperback.

The inspirational story of Colorado's great teacher.

Fay, Abbott

A History of Skiing in Colorado

Updated and expanded reprint of *Ski Tracks in the Rockies: A Century of Colorado Skiing* (Louisville, Colo.: Cordillera Press, 1984). 197 pages. Bibliography, index, illustrations, photos. 5-1/2 x 9-1/2 inches. Paperback.

Fell, James E., Jr.

Ores to Metals: The Rocky Mountain Smelting Industry

Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1979. xiii + 341 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos, figures, maps. 6 x 9 inches. Hardcover.

An important, readable book on the neglected, unromantic, but crucial subject of ore processing, which made paydirt pay off.

Ferril, Thomas Hornsby

Thomas Hornsby Ferril and the American West

Ed. Robert C. Baron, Stephen J. Leonard, and Thomas J. Noel. Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum Publishing Co., 1996. x + 166 pages. Bibliography of all Ferril's poetry and prose. 6 x 9 inches. Paperback and hardcover.

Colorado's greatest poet, in nationally acclaimed work, often focused on change in Denver and Colorado. This anthology pulls together his best poetry and prose with commentary from admirers.

Fielder, John, William Henry Jackson and Ed Marston

Colorado, 1870-2000

Englewood, Colo.: Westcliffe Publishers, Inc., 1999. 224 pages. B&w and color photos. 12 1/2 x 16 1/4 inches. Hardcover.

This best-selling photography book compares Jackson's nineteenth century Colorado with Fielder's 2000 shots of the same scenes a century later. See also the sequel and full explanation of the photos, Thomas J. Noel & John Fielder, Colorado, 1870-2000 Revisited. Englewood, Colo.: Westcliffe Publishers, Inc., 2001.

Fowler, Gene

Timber Line: A Story of Bonfils and Tammen

New York: Covici, Friede, 1933 (many reprints). 480 pages. 6 x 9 inches. Hardcover.

A gossipy, not always true, account of the adolescence of The Denver Post, written with as much zest and a shade more accuracy than the former con-man Bonfils and former bartender Tammen ever mustered for their outrageously sensational (and profitable) newspaper. One of the funniest and best-selling books ever written about Denver.

French, Emily

Emily: The Diary of a Hard-Worked Woman

Ed. Janet Lecompte. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987. viii + 199 pages. Index, endnotes, epilogue. 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 inches. Hardcover and paperback.

A painfully detailed and insightful look at a year in the life of a washerwoman who bore the stigma of a divorce.

Gehres, Eleanor Mount; Sandra Dallas; Maxine Benson; and Stanley Cuba

The Colorado Book

Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum Publishing, 1993. xvii + 414 pages. Index, bibliography, illus., maps. 6-3/4 x 8-3/4 inches. Hardcover.

The best anthology of the best that has been written about Colorado, with brief excerpts from the writings of some 150 explorers, historians, journalists, novelists, poets, and scientists.

Goldberg, Robert Alan

Hooded Empire: The Ku Klux Klan in Colorado

Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1981. xv + 255 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, maps, tables, figures, glossary of Klan titles and terms. 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 inches. Hardcover.

The best study of the 1920s KKK nightmare comes to some surprising conclusions.

Gould, Richard

The Life and Times of Richard Castro: Bridging a Cultural Divide

Denver, Colo.: Colorado Historical Society, 2006. 279 pages. Photos, endnotes, bibliography, index. vi + 6 x 9 inches. Paperback.

This is a well-written overview of the statewide emergence of the Hispanic rights movement during the 1960s, '70s, and '80s.

Grinstead, Steve and Ben Fogelberg, eds.

Western Voices: 125 Years of Colorado Writing

Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum Publishing, 2004. 416 pages. Photos, endnotes. 6 x 9 inches. Paperback.

Griswold, Don L., and Jean Harvey Griswold

History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado

Denver: Colorado Historical Society in cooperation with the University Press of Colorado, 1996. Introduction by James E. Fell, Jr. 2 volumes. xx + 2,374 pages. Index, chapter sources, maps, drawings, b&w photos. 8-1/4 x 10-7/8 inches. Hardcover.

Gulliford, Andrew

Boomtown Blues: Colorado Oil Shale, 1885–1985

Foreword by Richard D. Lamm. Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1989. xvi + 302 pages. Notes, bibliography, index, photos, maps, other illustrations. 6-1/3 x 9-1/3 inches. Hardcover.

Hafen, LeRoy R.

Colorado and Its People: A Narrative and Topical History of the Centennial State New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1948. 2 volumes. Index, footnotes, b&w photos, tables, appendix. xvi + 644 (vol. 1); iv + 784 (vol. 2). 7-1/2 x 10-1/2. Hardcover.

With topical essays by noted authorities, this is still the most detailed and documented state history.

Halaas, David Fridtjof

Fairmount and Historic Colorado

Introduction by Robert G. Athearn. Denver: Fairmount Cemetery Association, 1976. 104 pages. Bibliography, photos, appendixes of selected pioneers and public officials buried at Fairmount or Riverside. 9 x 11-1/2 inches. Hardcover and paperback.

Halaas, the Colorado Historical Society's former chief historian, has made this potentially morbid tale an engrossing history not only of Fairmount but of other early Denver boneyards.

Hall, Frank

History of the State of Colorado...from 1858 to 1890

Chicago: The Blakely Printing Co., 1889–1895. 4 volumes. Volume 1: 564 pages. Volume 2: 574 pages. Volume 3: 518 pages. Volume 4: 610 pages. Biographies in Volume 4. Numerous portraits, photographs, and other illustrations. 7-1/2 x 10-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

Near-definitive early history by Judge Hall, an active participant.

Haruf, Kent

Plainsong

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1999. 301 pages. Novel. 6-1/2 x 9-3/4 inches. Hardcover.

Perhaps the best-selling and best novel of life on the Colorado high plains.

Haywood, William Dudley

Bill Haywood's Book: The Autobiography of William D. Haywood New York: International Publishers, 1929, 1969. 368 pages. Appendixes, photos. 9 x 6 inches. Hardcover and paperback.

Uproarious autobiography of the one-eyed, heavy-drinking socialist union organizer who used to terrorize the Oxford Hotel bar and the Mining Exchange Building before he was

deported to the Soviet Union in 1919. Big Bill was the star promoter of the Western Federation of Miners and the Industrial Workers of the World (the IWW or Wobblies).

Hoig, Stan

The Sand Creek Massacre

Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961. Latest edition, 1998. xiv + 217 pages. Index, bibliography, notes, photos, maps, appendixes. 4-7/8 x 7-1/2 inches. Paperback.

The best book so far of two dozen works on this controversial tragedy.

Hosokawa, William

Thunder in the Rockies: The Incredible Denver Post New York: William Morrow & Co., 1976. 447 pages. Index, sources, photos. 7 x 9-3/4 inches. Hardcover.

A candid, insider's story of the paper that has done so much to shape twentieth-century Denver. A sequel and reliable antidote to Gene Fowler's Timber Line.

Hughes, Johnson Donald

American Indians in Colorado

Boulder, Colo.: Pruett Publishing Co., 1977. viii + 143 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos, maps. Colorado Ethnic History Series No. 1. 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 inches. Paperback.

The best Colorado survey on Indians.

Hyde, George E.

Life of George Bent: Written from His letters

Ed. Savoie Lottinville. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1968. Latest edition, 1995. xxvi + 390 pages. Index, works cited, notes, photos, drawings, maps. 6 x 9 inches. Paperback.

Indian history by the son of William Bent and Owl Woman, who chose to live—and fight—with his mother's folk, the Southern Cheyenne.

Iversen, Kristen

Molly Brown: Unraveling the Myth

Boulder: Johnson Books, 1999. xxv + 294 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos. 6 x 9 inches. Paperback.

Jameson, Elizabeth

All that Glitters: Class, Conflict, and Community in Cripple Creek

Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1998. xii + 367 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos, maps, charts. 6 x 9 inches. Paperback.

A good example of the new western history written from the bottom up.

Kelsey, Henry, Jr.

Frontier Capitalist: The Life of John Evans

Boulder, Colo.: Pruett Publishing Co. and Colorado Historical Society, 1969. xiv + 372 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos, drawings. 6-1/2 x 9-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

The definitive portrait of a key man in nineteenth-century Colorado.

Lamm, Richard D. & Duane A. Smith.

Pioneers & Politicians: Colorado's Governor's in Profile

Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum Publishing, 2008. xii + 209 pages. Index, appendixes of territorial and state governors, essay on sources, b&w photos. Paperback.

A revised, updated version of the authors' 1984 work.

Langdon, Emma Florence

The Cripple Creek Strike: A History of Industrial Wars in Colorado, 1903–4–5: Being a Complete and Concise History of the Efforts of Organized Capital to Crush Unionism

Denver: Great Western Publishing Co., 1903–4–5. 596 pages. Photos, cartoons, drawings, appendixes. 6 x 8 inches. Hardcover.

Firsthand account from the daring young journalist who dared defy the state militia and stick up for striking miners.

Lavender, David Sievert

Bent's Fort

Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1954, 1961. Reprinted 1968 by P. Smith, Gloucester, Mass. 450 pages. Index, endnotes, endpaper maps.

8-1/2 x 6 inches. Hardcover.

Lecompte, Janet

Pueblo, Hardscrabble, Greenhorn: The Upper Arkansas, 1832–1856

Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1978. Latest edition, 1999, subtitled *Society on the High Plains, 1832–1856*. Foreword by Ann H. Zwinger. xii + 354 pages. Index, sources, notes, appendixes, photos, maps. 6 x 9 inches. Paperback.

Leonard, Stephen J., and Thomas J. Noel

Denver: From Mining Camp to Metropolis

Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1990; paperback edition, 1994. xiv + 544 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos, drawings, maps, appendixes.

The most comprehensive Denver history with separate chapters on the suburban counties, automobilization, and aviation. Over two thirds of the book is devoted to the twentieth-century metropolis.

Leonard, Stephen John

Trials and Triumphs: A Colorado Portrait of the Great Depression, with FSA Photographs

Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1993. xi + 313 pages. Index, bibliography, photos by Russell Lee, Beaumont Newhall, Marion Post, Harry Rhoades, Arthur Rothstein, John Vachon, and others. 8-3/4 x 11-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

With telling anecdotes and fine wit, Leonard recaptures the defining decade in twentieth-century Colorado.

Lindsey, Benjamin Barr, and Harvey J. O'Higgins

The Beast

New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1910. 1970 edition by University of Washington Press. xxvi + 340 pages. Photos. 8 x 5-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

Chilling exposé by the celebrated juvenile court judge and muckraking reformer who blackens Denver's power elite—Evans, Moffat, Hughes, Cheesman, and (sparing not even the clergy) Buchtel. The trail of the Beast in Denver led, according to the Judge, "step by step, from the dives to the police board, from the police board to the lower courts, from the courts to the political leaders to the corporation magnates who ruled all. The trail leads from the offices of the corporations to the doors of the Capitol, it ascends the steps of the State House; it enters the sacred precinct of the Supreme Court itself." A fast cure for any nostalgic soul hungry for the good old days when politicians were supposedly honest and democracy supposedly pure.

Mangan, Terry William

Colorado on Glass: Colorado's First Half Century as Seen by the Camera

With a directory of early Colorado photographers by Opal Murray Harber. Denver: Sundance Ltd., 1975. x + 406 pages. Index, bibliography, photos, drawings. 9 x 11 inches. Hardcover.

A crackerjack collection of photographs with biographical sketches of the men and women who took them.

McGovern, George S., and Leonard F. Guttridge

The Great Coalfield War

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1972. Paperback reprint 1996 by University Press of Colorado. xii + 383 pages. Index, bibliography, photos, maps, endpaper maps. 6-1/2 x 9-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

The 1914 Ludlow Massacre in southern Colorado was the deadliest confrontation in the history of the American labor movement. Based on Senator McGovern's Ph.D. dissertation at Northwestern University, this is the best overview of a still-controversial, much-written-about conflict.

McManus, Carol Crawford

Ida: Her Labor of Love

Ouray, Colo.: Western Reflections, 1998. 283 pages. Photos. 6 x 8-1/4 inches. Paperback.

One of the best accounts from a pioneer woman of early-day life on the western slope. Ida spent her life consoling the sick, tending the poor, comforting the dying, and trying to get her rambunctious husband to settle down.

Michener, James A.

Centennial

New York: Random House, 1974 (many editions). x + 909 pages. Maps. 6 x 8-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

This historical novel provides a fine overview of Colorado prehistory and history. A broad survey of Colorado from prehistoric times to 1976, it is the all-time best-selling book on Colorado—a fairly comprehensive, well-researched history of the South Platte Valley of

northeastern Colorado in the guise of a novel. Michener includes chapters on the prehistoric period, Indians, trappers, miners, cowboys, hunters, sheepmen, sugarbeets, and Hispanos.

Mills, Enos Abijah

The Rocky Mountain Wonderland

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1915. xiii + 363 pages. Index, map, photos. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches.

Hardback; 2010 reprint, Nabu Press.

This is a sampling of the two dozen books by Enos Mills (1870 - 1922), Colorado's pioneer conservationist who settled near Long's Peak as a boy. He rode avalanches, fathered Rocky Mountain National Park, and led the crusade to preserve the Colorado wilderness. For an objective biography of this difficult and controversial hero, see Alexander Drummond, Enos Mills: Citizen of Nature (Niwot: Univ. Press of Colorado, 1995, reprinted 2002) 431 pages. Index, endnotes, illustrations.

Moody, Ralph

Little Britches: Father and I Were Ranchers

New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1950. 260 pages. Drawings by Edward Shenton. 9 x 6 inches. Hardcover.

A classic account of growing up on a Colorado ranch.

Noel, Thomas J.

Guide to Colorado Historic Places: Sites Supported by the Colorado Historical Society's State Historical Fund

Englewood, Colo.: Westcliffe Publishers, 2007. 391 pages. Photos, maps, index. 6 x 9 inches. Paperback.

Noel, Thomas J.

Riding High: Colorado Ranchers & The First 100 Years of the National Western Stock Show

Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum Publishing, 2005. xxi + 318 pages. Index, bibliography, appendixes, maps, 350 photos and drawings. 9 x 12 inches. Hardcover and paperback.

Noel, Thomas J.

Colorado: A Liquid History & Tavern Guide to the Highest State

Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum Publishing, 1999. xviii + 254 pages. Index, bibliography, photos, drawings, map. 7 x 9 inches. Paperback.

Noel, Thomas Jacob

Buildings of Colorado

New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. xvii + 669 pages. Index, bibliography, photos, drawings, maps. Society of Architectural Historians Buildings of the United States Series. 5 x 9 inches. Hardcover.

The first detailed survey of the notable prehistoric, historic, and contemporary structures in each of Colorado's sixty-three counties.

Noel, Thomas J., Paul F. Mahoney, and Richard E. Stevens

Historical Atlas of Colorado

Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994. Latest edition, 2000. xxviii + 134 pages. Index, bibliography, maps. 9 x 12 inches. Paperback.

Surveys in maps and one-page chapters show major developments in Colorado, from Indian battlegrounds to historic hospitable landmarks, from transportation systems to literary landmarks.

Norgren, Barbara S., and Thomas J. Noel

Denver: The City Beautiful and Its Architects,

Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1987. Paperback reprint, 1993. vii + 248 pages. Index, bibliography, photos, drawings, maps, glossary of architectural terms, biographical sketches of architects. 12-1/2 x 9-3/4 inches. Hardcover and paperback.

Includes discussion of styles common in Colorado, building types, and biographical sketches of leading Colorado architects.

Nossaman, Allen

Many More Mountains: An Illustrated History of the Earliest Exploration in the High San Juans of Southwestern Colorado and the Settlement and Founding of Silverton, Colorado

Denver: Sundance Publications, 1989–1993. 3 volumes. Each volume 352 pages. Bibliographies, indexes, notes, photos (some color), maps, other illustrations. Hardcover.

This is an exhaustive history of Silverton and San Juan County.

Osterwald, Doris B.

Cinders and Smoke: A Mile by Mile Guide for the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Trip

Lakewood, Colo.: Western Guideways, 1965. Many subsequent editions. 102 pages. Photos, maps, drawings. 6 x 9 inches. Paperback.

This bestseller is a model guide, complete with history, archaeology, geology, and botany as well as railroading galore.

Papanikolas, Zeese

Buried Unsung: Louis Tikas and the Ludlow Massacre

Foreword by Wallace Stegner. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1982. xix + 331 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos, maps. 6-1/2 x 9-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

A beautifully written attempt to reconstruct the life of the Greek labor organizer murdered by Colorado authorities at Ludlow.

Perkin, Robert L.

The First Hundred Years: An Informal History of Denver and the Rocky Mountain News, 1859–1959

Foreword by Gene Fowler. New York: Doubleday, 1959. 624 pages. Index, bibliography, footnotes, photos. 6-1/2 x 9-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

This witty, highly readable account of the Rocky Mountain News and Denver is a splendid complement to the less reliable Timber Line by Gene Fowler, who wrote the introduction for this treasure chest of knowledge and trivia.

Propst, Nell Brown

Those Strenuous Dames of the Colorado Prairie

Boulder, Colo.: Pruett Publishing Co., 1982; second edition Tamarack Books, 1994. xiii + 316 pages. Index, bibliography, photos. 6 x 9 inches. Hardcover.

A gifted and energetic rancher-farmer herself, Nell covers ground she knows and tells well.

Pyle, Robert Michael

The Thunder Tree: Lessons from an Urban Wildland

New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1993. xix + 220 pages. Sources, map. 5-3/4 x 8-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

Eloquent reminiscences of an ecologist who found the High Line Canal a great escape from the proliferating suburbs of Aurora, Colorado's largest city in terms of square miles and third largest in terms of population.

Robertson, Janet

The Magnificent Mountain Women: Adventures in the Colorado Rockies Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990. xxi + 220 pages. Index, endnotes, sources, chronology, glossary, maps, photos. 9-1/4 x 6-1/4 inches. Hardcover.

Rockwell, Wilson

The Utes: A Forgotten People

Denver: Sage Books, 1956; reprint Ouray, CO: Western Reflections, 1998. 307 pages. Index, bibliography, appendix, footnotes, fifty-three photos, drawings. 9 x 6 inches. Paperback.

Rockwell, a Western Slope rancher and legislator, writes about a land and a tribe he knows well.

Secrest, Clark

Hell's Belles: Prostitution, Vice, and Crime in Early Denver: With a Biography of Sam Howe, Frontier Lawman

Aurora, Colo.: Hindsight Historical Publications, 1996; revised and reprinted by University Press of Colorado, 2002. 353 pages. Index, bibliography, photos, drawings, maps, appendixes. 8-1/2 x 11 inches.

Secrest, a former Denver Post columnist and editor of the Colorado Historical Society's magazine Colorado Heritage, offers a tenacious and titillating examination of the sisters of perpetual indulgence.

Simmons, Virginia McConnell

The San Luis Valley: Land of the Six-Armed Cross

Boulder, Colo.: Pruett Publishing Co., 1979. Second edition, 1999. 6 x 9 inches. Paperback reprint by University Press of Colorado. 366 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos. 9 x 11-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

Best account of the south-central Colorado valley where Spanish-surnamed people first settled along the Rio Grande.

Simonin, Louis L.

The Rocky Mountain West in 1867

Translated and annotated from the French by Wilson O. Clough from *Le grand-ouest des Etats-Unis*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966. xiv + 170 pages. Index, footnotes. 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 inches. Hardcover.

A look at early Colorado through the letters of a young, witty French mining engineer who was as fascinated by pioneer society as he was by the minerals.

Smiley, Jerome Constant

History of Denver: With Outlines of the Earlier History of the Rocky Mountain Country

Denver: The Times-Sun Publishing Company, 1901. 978 pages. Index, photos, maps, other illustrations. 8-1/2 x 11 inches. Hardcover.

Centuries from now Smiley will probably still be the definitive and the longest - winded biographer of nineteenth - century Denver. A booster history written with amazing grace, wit, and insight.

Smith, Duane Allan

Horace Tabor: His Life and the Legend

Boulder: Colorado Associated University Press, 1973. Reprinted 1990 by the University Press of Colorado. xiv + 396 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, maps, photos. 8-3/4 x 5-3/4 inches. Hardcover.

The best biography makes a heroic effort to unravel the mythical silver tycoon.

Smith, Duane Allan

The Trail of Gold and Silver: Mining In Colorado, 1859-2009

Foreword by T. Noel. Boulder, Colo.: University Press of Colorado, 2009; reprinted 2010 (Timberline Series). xii + 289 pages. Index, endnotes, photos. 6 1/2 x 9 1/2 inches. Hardcover.

Sprague, Marshall

Money Mountain: The Story of Cripple Creek Gold

Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1953 (numerous editions). xx + 342 pages. Index, chapter notes, bibliography, photos, endpaper maps. 6 x 9 inches. Hardcover.

Liveliest account so far of "the World's Greatest Gold Camp."

Sprague, Marshall

Newport in the Rockies: The Life and Good Times of Colorado Springs

Denver: Sage Books, 1961, 1971. 370 pages. Index, endnotes, bibliography, photos, endpaper maps. 6 x 9 inches. Hardcover.

An insider's witty, well-written account of the personalities and institutions that shaped Colorado's second largest city.

Stegner, Wallace

Angle of Repose

Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1971. 569 pages. 6-1/2 x 8-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

This 1971 Pulitzer Prize–winning novel explores America's mining frontiers from one family's perspective, setting one man's obsession with mining against his wife's yearnings for the cultural opportunities she left in the East.

Steinel, Alvin Theodore

History of Agriculture in Colorado: A Chronological Record of Progress in the Development of General Farming, Livestock Production, and Agricultural Education and Investigation...1858 to 1926

D. W. Working, collaborator. Fort Collins, Colo.: The State Agricultural College, 1926. 659 pages. Index, photos, illustrations. 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 inches. Hardcover.

This plodding but definitive work awaits an update.

Sternberg, Barbara Edwards with Jennifer Boone and Evelyn Waldron

Anne Evans—A Pioneer in Colorado's Cultural History: The Things That Last When Gold Is Gone

Foreword by Dr. Thomas J. Noel. Denver: Center for Colorado and the West at Auraria Library and Buffalo Park Press, 2011. Black and white photos, color photos, bibliography, index. 556 pages. 6 x 9 inches. Paperback.

Suggs, George G., Jr.

Colorado's War on Militant Unionism: James H. Peabody and the Western Federation of Miners

Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1972. 242 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos. 6-1/2 x 9-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

The best account of the bitter statewide 1904 strike that led to widespread bashing of unionists.

Townshend, Richard Baxter, 186-1923

A Tenderfoot in Colorado

London: John Lane & Bodley Head, 1923; 2008 reprint by University Press of Colorado
Timberline Series, Intro by T.J. Noel. xv + 282 pages.

Varnell, Jeanne

Women of Consequence: The Colorado Women's Hall of Fame

Foreword by M. L. Hanson. Boulder, Colo.: Johnson Books, 1999. 321 pages. Index, bibliography, photos. Paperback.

Velez de Escalante, Silvestre

The Dominguez-Escalante Journal: Their Expedition Through Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico in 1776

Trans. by Fray Angelico Chavez. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young Univ. Press, 1976. 203 pages. Bibliography, glossary, illustrations, map. Paperback.

West, Elliott

The Contested Plains: Indians, Goldseekers, and the Rush to Colorado Topeka: University Press of Kansas, 1998. Paperback reprint, 2000. xxiv + 442 pages. Index, bibliography, endnotes, photos, drawings, maps. 6-1/2 x 9-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

A major reinterpretation, eloquently written by one of the best and brightest Colorado historians.

Whiteside, James

Colorado: A Sports History

Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1999. xvi + 494 pages. Index, endnotes, bibliographic essay, photos. 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 inches. Hardcover.

The best overview from a legendary CU-Denver history prof.

Wilkins, Tivis E.

Colorado Railroads: Chronological Development

Boulder, Colo.: Pruett Publishing Co., 1974. 309 pages. Photos, maps. 9 x 11-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

A most useful reference guide to the building and abandonment of some 100 Colorado railroads arranged by year. Lists the miles of track involved, and offers brief, basic information.

Wolle, Muriel Sibell

Stampede to Timberline: The Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Colorado Boulder, Colorado, 1949. Revised edition 1962 by Sage Books, Denver, with many more editions following. 337 pages. Index, glossary of mining terms, drawings and maps by the author. 8 x 10-1/2 inches. Hardcover.

The first—and still the best—of Colorado mining ghost-town guides is enriched by the author's paintings of ramshackle ruins. A professor of art at the University of Colorado, Wolle began painting and writing up ghost towns in the 1920s when many of them were still lively.

Works Progress Administration Workers.

Colorado: A Guide to the Highest State

NY: Hastings House & Colorado State Planning Commission, 1941, 1973/1987 paperback reprint by University Press of Kansas, Lawrence with a new introduction by Thomas J. Noel. American Guide Series. xxxiii + 511p. Index, bibliography, photos, maps, chronology. 6 x 9 inches. Hardback.

Wyckoff, William

Creating Colorado: The Making of a Western American Landscape, 1860–1940 New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1999. xiv + 336 pages. Index, endnotes, bibliography, photos, drawings, maps. 6-1/2 x 10 inches. Hardcover.

Wynar, Bohdan S.

Colorado Bibliography

Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1980. 565 pages. Index. 7-1/4 x 10-1/4 inches. Hardcover.

This comprehensive bibliography of Colorado has chapters on history, Indians, geography, natural resources, flora and fauna, economic conditions, mining, agriculture, transportation, communication, social environment, politics, government, education, literature, the arts, health, medicine, recreation, sports, and religion—listing 9,182 books and booklets “of permanent and scholarly value.”