

January 28, 2009

**Museum on Main Street**  
**JOURNEY STORIES**  
**Books for Adults**

*The following information has been assembled to assist you in developing local exhibitions and public humanities programs around the themes of the Journey Stories exhibition. The information is organized according to the themes of each section of the exhibition. Work with your local library and/or bookstore in developing reading programs and learning opportunities for adults such as hosting book club meetings focusing on books about roots music and musicians and/or setting up a roots music exploration station at the local library, displaying books on the subject.*

**ONE WAY TRIP**

Cook, Jacob Ernest. *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies, Vol.3*. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1993.

Traditional encyclopedia format with entries related specifically to the North American Colonies.

LaPlante, Eve. *American Jezebel: The Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchinson, the Woman Who Defied the Puritans*. San Francisco, Harper San Francisco, 2004.

Written by an 11<sup>th</sup>-generation granddaughter of Anne Hutchinson, this book explores the life of Anne Hutchinson and vividly describes her conflicts with the Puritan church. The book provides an interesting look into the roles of women in the early colonies.

Moore, Brian. *Black Robe*. New York, Dutton, 1985.

While this novel tells the story of a Jesuit missionary in New France in Canada, it is an excellent expression of the exchange and conflict between Europeans and Native Americans including the Iroquois and the Huron. The feature film is referenced on the film list.

Philbrick, Nathaniel. *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War*, New York, Viking, 2006.

This book has been hailed by critics for attempting to strip the mythology from the fateful voyage of the Mayflower and the dynamic of those who traveled to the New World on its journey.

Rowlandson, Mary. *Narrative of the Captivity and Removes of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*, Fairfield, WA, Ye Galleon Press, 2000.

Perhaps the most famous captivity narrative from the colonial period, Mary Rowlandson provides a riveting primary account of the conflicts between native peoples and European settlers.

Taylor, Alan. *American Colonies: The Settling of North America*, New York, Viking, 2001. This is a very readable and accessible survey of the history of the American Colonies.

White, Richard. *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815*. New York, Cambridge University, 1991.

"Richard White has written a remarkable book that will change the way historians view the Great Lakes region during the colonial and early national periods. Elegantly written,

thoroughly researched, and powerfully argued, the book describes in the clearest possible terms a world in the midst of profound historic change...White succeeds so brilliantly that his approach should shape the way historians conceive of relations between American Indians and Europeans in other times and places as well--*American Historical Review*."

### **PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES**

Blight, David. *Passages to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in History and Memory*. Washington, D.C., Smithsonian Books in association with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2004.

Beautifully illustrated collection of collection of essays on the Underground Railroad written by 15 distinguished historians.

Bordewich, Fergus M. *Bound for Canaan: The Epic Story of the Underground Railroad, America's First Civil Rights Movement*. New York, Amistad, 2005.

An engrossing account of how the Underground Railroad developed into an organized operation involving thousands of stationmasters, conductors, and spies. Featuring some lesser known but remarkable stories.

Clinton, Catherine. *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom*. New York, Little Brown and Company, 2005.

A critically acclaimed biography of Harriet Tubman, from her marriage, militant politics, and role in the Underground Railroad to her activism in the northern free black community of Philadelphia.

Cronon, William. *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*. New York, W.W. Norton, 1992.

Cronon's history of 19th-century Chicago is in fact the history of the widespread effects of a single city on millions of square miles of ecological, cultural, and economic frontier. Cronon combines archival accuracy, ecological evaluation, and a sweeping understanding of the impact of railroads, stockyards, catalog companies, and patterns of property on the design of development of the entire inland United States to this date.

Dary, David. *The Santa Fe Trail: Its History, Legends, and Lore*. New York, A.A. Knopf, 2000

The Santa Fe Trail which ran between Missouri and Kansas and New Mexico--a lifeline to and from the Southwest for more than two centuries. Drawing from letters, journals, expedition reports, business records, and newspaper stories, Dary brings to life the people who laid down the trail and opened commerce with Spanish America: Native Americans and mountain men, traders, trappers, and freighters, surveyors and soldiers, men and women of many different nationalities.

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved, A Novel by Toni Morrison*. New York, Plume, 1987.

Acclaimed author Toni Morrison tells the story--set in post-Civil War Ohio--of Sethe, an escaped slave who has risked death in order to wrench herself from a living death; who has lost a husband and buried a child; who has borne the unthinkable and not gone mad: a woman of "iron eyes and backbone to match." Sethe lives in a small house on the edge of town with her daughter, Denver, her mother-in-law, Baby Suggs, and a disturbing, mesmerizing intruder who calls herself Beloved. Morrison was awarded the 1988 Pulitzer Prize in Literature for *Beloved*.

Rau, Weldon. *Surviving the Oregon Trail, 1852*. Pullman : Washington State University Press, 2001.

The 1852 overland migration was the largest on record, with numbers swelled by Oregon-bound settlers, as well as hordes of gold-seekers destined for California. It also was a year in which deadly cholera took a terrible toll in lives. Included here are firsthand accounts of this fateful year, including the words and thoughts of a young married couple, Mary Ann and Willis Boatman.

Unruth, John D. *The Plains Across: The Overland Emigrants and the Trans-Mississippi West, 1840-60*. Champaign, University of Illinois Press, 1993.

A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in History, Unruth presents a new picture for the overland journey on the Oregon Trail. Reissued with more than fifty illustrations contained in the 1979 cloth edition.

### **ACROSS THE GREAT 'DESERT' TO THE WEST**

Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*.

First published in 1970, this extraordinary book changed the way Americans think about the original inhabitants of their country. Beginning with the Long Walk of the Navajos in 1860 and ending 30 years later with the massacre of Sioux men, women, and children at Wounded Knee in South Dakota, it tells how the American Indians lost their land and lives to a dynamically expanding white society.

Clemens, Samuel. *Roughing It*.

Mark Twain's recounting of his Western crossing through Nevada Territory in the 1860s. His keen eye as journalist, humorist, and novelist emerges, along with biting accurate recounting of Americans' many journeys and re-settlements.

Limerick, Patricia Nelson. *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West*

The "settling" of the American West has been perceived throughout the world as a series of quaint, violent, and romantic adventures. But Limerick interprets the stories and the characters in a new way: the trappers, traders, Indians, farmers, oilmen, cowboys, and sheriffs of the Old West "meant business" in more ways than one, and their descendents mean business today.

Milner, Clyde (ed.); Rankin, Charles (ed.); Limerick, Patricia Nelson (ed.). *Trails: Toward a New Western History*.

This is the new story of the Old West, told by ten historians who dare to reenvision the American West and knock the field of Western history on its ear. A collection of essays from a project devised and directed by a consortium of state humanities councils in the West.

Rarick, Ethan. *Desperate Passage: The Donner Party's Perilous Journey West.*(\*\*)

Drawing on fresh archaeological evidence, recent research on topics ranging from survival rates to snowfall totals, and heartbreaking letters and diaries made public by descendants a century-and-a-half after the tragedy, this is an intimate portrait of the Donner party and their unimaginable ordeal.

Schlissel, Lillian. *Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey*.

An expanded edition of one of the most original and provocative works of American history of the last decade, which documents the pioneering experiences and grit of American frontier women. A stirring collection of the diaries of women on the Overland Trail.

Stegner, Wallace. *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: John Wesley Powell and the Second Opening of the American West.* (\*\*)

John Wesley Powell fought in the Civil War and it cost him an arm. But it didn't stop him from exploring the American West. Stegner gives a thrilling account of Powell's struggle against western geography and Washington politics and appreciate his unparalleled understanding of the West.

### **RAILROADS SPAN THE NATION**

Ambrose, Stephen E. *Nothing Like It In the World : The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869.* New York, Simon & Schuster, 2000.

In this account of an unprecedented feat of engineering, vision, and courage, Stephen E. Ambrose recounts the story of the men who built the transcontinental railroad -- the investors who risked their businesses and money; the enlightened politicians who understood its importance; the engineers and surveyors who risked, and lost, their lives; and the Irish and Chinese immigrants, the defeated Confederate soldiers, and the other laborers who did the backbreaking and dangerous work on the tracks.

Bain, David Haward, *Empire Express: Building the First Transcontinental Railroad.* New York, Penguin, 2000.

The building of the transcontinental railroad was the nineteenth century's most transformative event, second only to the Civil War. Haward's narrative captures three dramatic decades in which the U.S. doubled in size, fought three wars, and began to discover a new national identity.

Mencken, August. *The Railroad Passenger Car: An Illustrated History of the First Hundred Years, with Accounts by Contemporary Passengers.* Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press, 1957, reprinted 2000.

Drawing on a wide assortment of materials--including a wealth of drawings from the U.S. Patent Office, first-hand accounts written by passengers from 1831-1891, and his own experience as a young civil engineer active in railroad construction--Mencken looks at the achievements and contradictions of this key period in railroad history. New to this edition is an introduction by Courtney B. Wilson, executive director of the B& O Railr...

### **ACCELERATED MOBILITY**

Arnold, Harriette. *The Doll Maker.* New York, Avon Books, 1954.

Uprooted from her backwoods Kentucky home, strong-willed Gertie Nevel and her family are thrust into the confusion and chaos of wartime Detroit. Gertie battles unendurable poverty to protect her children and her heritage, yet is still amazingly able to create beauty in the suffocating shadow of ugliness and despair.

Gregory, James. *The Southern Diaspora: How the Great Migrations of Black and White Southerners Transformed America.* Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

Between 1900 and the 1970s, twenty million southerners migrated north and west. Weaving together for the first time the histories of these black and white migrants, James Gregory traces their paths and experiences in a comprehensive new study that demonstrates how this regional diaspora reshaped America by "southernizing" communities and transforming important cultural and political institutions.

Kimes, Beverly R. *Pioneers, Engineers, And Scoundrels: The Dawn Of The Automobile In America*. Warrendale, PA, SAE International, 2005.

From the prologue: "In 1913, The New York Times declared, 'the coming of the automobile has literally changed the face of the earth.' Given that assessment, it is interesting that the invention was so long in arriving. Its roots dated back to the American Revolution, but for more than a century, inventors faced ridicule and contempt ... The transition of America from horse-drawn to horse-less society boasts an epic cast of characters - from stalwart heroes to dastardly scoundrels, from social grandees to street toughs, from wise men to wise guys."

Lehman, Nicholas. *The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How It Changed America*. New York, Vintage Books, 1992.

Lemann (a contributing editor at The Atlantic ) particularizes and personalizes in life stories the forces that shifted five million blacks North after 1940 and then trapped most of them and their progeny in poverty. His essay in social causation and consequences rings as a manifesto of public policy for the 1990s with the clear theme that the nation can and must undo what its racism has done.

Lewis, Tom. *Divided Highways: Building the Interstate Highways, Transforming American Life*. New York, Viking, 1997.

The interstate highway system, begun far back in the 19th century but completed only a few years ago, was the largest work of civil construction ever undertaken by a democratic power. Lewis, describes the building of the first national and post roads, the great parkways that connected such far-flung cities as Winnipeg and Miami, the once rural roads that, over the decades, blossomed into multilane highways.

Schuman, Jane. *This Is My Country Too! Growing up in a Japanese-American Internment Camp*. Publish America, 2006.

Follows the story of a young girl and her family who are sent to Jerome, Arkansas to live in an internment camp during WWII.

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*. New York, Viking Press, 1939.

Although it follows the movement of thousands of men and women and the transformation of an entire nation, *The Grapes of Wrath* is also the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads, who are driven off their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Steinbeck was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize for Literature for this work.

### **OUR EXPANDED WORLD**

Bernard, Jane and Brown, Polly. *American Route 66: Home on the Road*. Albuquerque, Museum of New Mexico Press, 2003

Photo and essay book of the people who live and work along America's historic and mythical highway, Route 66.

Bryson, Bill. *The Lost Continent: Travels in Small-Town America*, New York, NY, Harper Perennial/HarperCollins, 2001 (originally published 1989).

*The Lost Continent* is a book by celebrated travel writer and humorist Bill Bryson, chronicling his 13,978 mile trip around the United States in 1987-88. This is the first of Bryson's travel books; his subsequent books are very popular and include *A Walk in the Woods*, describing his hike along the Appalachian Trail.

Butko, Brian. *Greetings from the Lincoln Highway: America's First Coast-to-Coast Road*. Mechanicsburg, PA, Stackpole Books, 2005.

A comprehensive coffee table book which serves as a complete guide to the road, with maps, directions, photos, postcards, memorabilia, and histories of towns, people, and places. A mix of research and on-the-road fun, the book placed the LHA's early history in the context of road building, politics, and geography, explaining why the Lincoln followed the path it did across the United States.

Hokanson, Drake. *Lincoln Highway, the Main Street Across America*. Iowa City, IA, University of Iowa Press, 1988.

A text-and-photo essay and history explaining the mystery of this once-famous highway. Hokanson explains the fascination, "*If it had been restlessness and desire for a better way across the continent that brought the Lincoln Highway into existence, it was curiosity that kept it alive--the notion that the point of traveling was not just to cover the distance but to savor the texture of life along the way. Maybe we've lost that, but the opportunity to rediscover it is still out there waiting for us anytime we feel like turning off an exit ramp.*"

Kerouac, Jack. *On the Road*, New York, NY, Penguin Books USA, 2007 (originally published 1955)

The autobiographical book describes Kerouac's road-trip adventures across the United States and Mexico with Neal Cassaday in the late-40's. It's one of the classic 'road trip' literary pieces and describes Kerouac's relationships with other Beat writers and friends.

McCarthy, Cormac. *The Road*. New York, NY, Vintage Books/Random House, 2006. *The Road* won a Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2006. It is a post-apocalyptic tale describing a journey taken by a father and his young son over a period of several months across a landscape blasted years before by an unnamed cataclysm that destroyed civilization and, seemingly, most life on earth.

Scott, Quinta. *Along Route 66*. Norman, Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 2000. An architectural study of various styles found along the famous Route 66 trail from Chicago to Los Angeles. Stories of the buildings discovered along the way supplement historical photographs.

Steinbeck, John. *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*. New York, NY, Penguin Group, 2002 (originally published 1960).

*Travels with Charley* is a travelogue that documents the road trip Steinbeck took with his French standard poodle, Charley, around the United States in 1960. He wrote that he was moved by a desire to see his country on a personal level, since he made his living writing about it. He had many questions going into his journey, the main one being, "What are Americans like today?"

Wallis, Michael. *Route 66: The Mother Road*. New York, NY, St. Martin's Griffin Publisher, revised edition 2001.

Historian Michael Wallis revisits people and places that made the Mother Road an American icon, and uncovers new treasures. A tribute, *Route 66: The Mother Road* takes us on an unforgettable journey through the secret corners and hidden towns of America's most famous and beloved highway.

Wallis, Michael. Williamson, Michael S. (photographer) *The Lincoln Highway: Coast to Coast from Time Square to Golden Gate*. New York, NY, W.W. Norton & Co., 2007.

One of America's most popular historians joins with Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer to celebrate America's first transcontinental highway in all its neon glory, the road of Gettysburg, Pretty Boy Floyd, Notre Dame, the Great Salt Lake, and the Gold Rush Trail. Once a symbol of limitless potential, it is now undergoing (as Route 66 did twenty years ago) a miraculous revival.