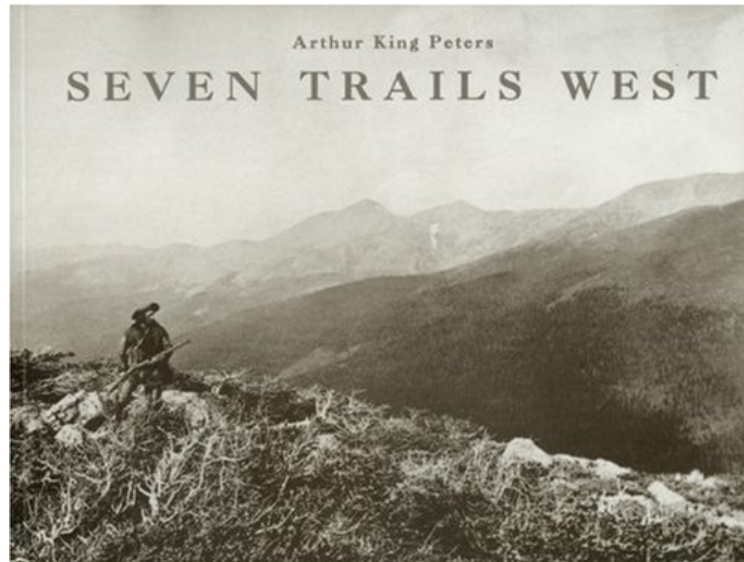


(Free pdf) Seven Trails West

Seven Trails West

Arthur King Peters

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#2256846 in Books Abbeville Press 1996-06-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.83 x 1.19 x 10.221, 2.63 #File Name: 1558597824252 pages | File size: 25.Mb

Arthur King Peters : Seven Trails West before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Seven Trails West:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful book! By William Beautifully told and illustrated account of the most amazing migration of humans in history! Maps and photos are awesome. Gives great insight to the character of the American West and the people who pioneered here. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What a tremendous amount of history in one book! By Lou The writer does an excellent job of condensing a tremendous amount of western history into one book. Never got bored. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good primer for **some aspects of** Western travel/discovery history By S. J. Snyder There's a couple of related I don't rank this as five stars, or quite at four stars. That's because it doesn't cover enough trails, which would of course change the title, and some of the coverage doesn't warrant separate Above all, there's nothing in here on the Old Spanish Trail, which in turn leaves the book open to charges of Anglo-centrism. (Coverage of Indian relations on all trails that are in the book is light.) Very little is said about the Santa Fe Trail's extension to Chihuahua City -- in essence, of the Anglos beginning to use the Camino Real. In fact, nothing is said about the Camino Real. (Of course, you would then have to retitle the book "Seven Western Trails," since that's a north-south trail.) And, does the first transcontinental telegraph deserve a whole chapter in and unto itself, either apart from the Pony Express or apart from further Western telegraphy? This book is a good to very good introduction for the areas of Western pioneer travel history, but Mr. Peters could have done more to expand Anglo America's viewpoint on the development of the west.

This volume tells many stories in one: the epic tale of men and women (some of them famous trailbreakers, some little known); the lures that attracted these pragmatic dreamers to the West; and the ordeals and disappointments they overcame along the way. Illustrated with archival photographs, paintings, maps and documents, the book offers the general reader an overview of the western trail network that bound an immature nation together and provided an armature for later development.

From Publishers Weekly
The Lewis and Clark expedition blazed the way; nearly 65 years later, the first transcontinental railroad joined the "old" United States with the West. The intervening years had seen a half-million people heading west. Peters surveys the major migration routes: the Santa Fe Trail (commercial), the Oregon-California Trail (probably the best known), the Mormon Trail and the communication trails (Pony Express, Telegraph, Railroad). Peters (Cocteau and His Circle) draws on personal experiences of the emigrants, newspaper articles of the period and local history for a colorful account of the westward movement. His stories of the Mormon Trail and Pony Express are especially notable. This handsome book is illustrated with photographs, paintings, maps and documents—a treat for history and Western buffs. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal
YA—A superbly researched, written, and organized account of the seven major trails that opened up the American continent between 1804 and 1869. Peters spent over eight years conceptualizing, researching, and finalizing this excellent account of Lewis and Clark's expedition, the Santa Fe Trail, the Oregon-California Trail, the Mormon Trail, the Pony Express, the Transcontinental Telegraph, and, finally, the Transcontinental Railroad. Numerous maps and abundant engravings and reproductions supplement the vast amount of information presented in a very readable format. These illustrations are strategically placed throughout the book, creating a visually delightful volume. The trails come alive with short descriptive biographies of the people involved in their origin and development as well as incidents that occurred along the way. Many tragic stories are included such as the Donner Party, the Taos Uprising, the Massacre at Mountain Meadows, and the Handcart Companies' ordeal. Primary sources are used throughout the text. A chronology, bibliography, list of notes, and detailed index add extensively to this valuable resource. Indispensable for a reference collection, and a model of what an excellent nonfiction book can be.

Dottie Kraft, formerly at Fairfax County Public Schools, VA
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From Library Journal
In their day, the trails west were similar to the interstate highway system. Though each trail was shaped by different factors, they shared the common purpose of providing paths to people who wanted new ways of life for themselves. Beginning with the Lewis and Clark expedition and appropriately concluding with the completion of the continental railroad, Peters, a scholar, critic, and, most important here, mountaineer (he literally knows this turf) conveys the excitement, peril, and triumph experienced by these trailblazers. Most of what Peters covers is fairly well known to historians, but the beautiful prose, cogent detail, incredible photographs, and appealing book design make this a necessary addition to all libraries interested in American history.

David S. Azzolina, Univ. of Pennsylvania Libs., Philadelphia
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