



HISTORY *Colorado*

Bent's Fort Reading List

Burger, James P. *The Rocky Mountain Fur Trade*. PowerKids Press, 2002.

“After years of prosperous fur trading in the eastern parts of the United States, many of the indigenous fur-bearing animals had been hunted to extinction. However, exploration in the West revived the fur trade and it became an essential economic staple in the nation. The fur trade would encapsulate many of the social dynamics of the early nineteenth century-relations with Native Americans, foreign policy, exploration of the nation's natural resources, and the establishment of business and industry as a motivating force in political life.”

Finley, Mary Peace and Spurlock, Martha Jane. *Little Fox's Secret: The Mystery of Bent's Fort*. Palmer Lake, CO: Filter Press, 1999.

“After Cheyenne leader Gray Owl has a vision of eleven-year-old Little Fox involved in the destruction of Bent's Fort trading post in 1849, the boy is taken there to play his role and to learn why it is necessary.”

Garrard, Lewis H. *Wah-To-Yah and the Taos Trail: The Classic History of the American Indians and the Taos Revolt*. Cincinnati: H. W. Derby and Co., 1850.

“A 17 year-old traverses the Santa Fe trail to Fort Bent in 1846, and forays towards Taos in a party sent to put down a rebellion. Spends some time with the Cheyenne, and battles the Comanche in SE Colorado. I couldn't help but be reminded of Blood Meridian, set a few years later. A younger, less educated Francis Parkman. The course period language is preserved and in some cases is now shocking.”

Hafen, Leroy Reuben. *Mountain Men and Fur Traders in the Far West: Eighteen Biographical Sketches*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1982.

“Brief biographies of eighteen representative mountain men.”

Halaas, David F., Masich, Andrew E. *Halfbreed: The Remarkable True Story of George Bent—Caught Between the Worlds of the Indian and the White Man*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2005.

“This is the story of the amazing and uncommon life of George Bent—a “halfbreed” born to a prominent white trader and his Indian wife—whose lifetime spanned one of the most exciting epochs in our nation’s history. Raised as a Cheyenne but educated in white schools, George Bent fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War, became a Cheyenne warrior and survived the horrific 1864 Sand Creek Massacre, rode and killed for revenge with the ferocious Cheyenne Dog Soldiers, and later became a prominent interpreter and negotiator for whites and adviser to tribal leaders. He hobnobbed with frontier legends Kit Carson, Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill Hickok, and George Custer, and fought side-by-side with great Indian leaders. After a lifetime of adventures and misfortunes, accomplishments and failures, George Bent made a lasting contribution to the memory of his people by sharing with historians the story of the fighting Cheyennes.”

Magoffin, Susan Shelby. *Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin 1846-1847*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1926.

“In June 1846 eighteen-year-old Magoffin, a bride of less than eight months, set out with her husband on a trek from Independence, Missouri, through New Mexico and south to Chihuahua. Her journal describes the excitement, routines, and dangers of the life of a successful Indian trader’s wife.”