

American Historical Fiction – Between Revolutionary & Civil Wars: 1783-1860



F AND

Anderson, Laurie Halse

Fever, 1793 [2000]

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

F AVI

Avi

Captain Grey [1977].

Following the Revolution, an eleven-year-old boy becomes the captive of a ruthless man who has set up his own "nation," supported by piracy, on a remote part of the New Jersey coast.

F AVI

Avi

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle [1992, 1990].

As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

F BLE

Bledsoe, Lucy Jane

The Journey Home [1989].

Nineteen-year-old Nicole, raised in a St. Louis orphanage, sets off on a cross-country trek with a trapper to discover her roots in 1827.

F BLO

Blos, Joan W.

A Gathering of Days : a New England Girl's Journal, 1830-32 [1990, 1979].

The journal of a 14-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend.

F BLO

Blos, Joan W

Brothers of the Heart : a Story of the Old Northwest, 1837-1838 [1993,1985].

Fourteen-year-old Shem spends six months in the Michigan wilderness alone with a dying Indian woman, who helps him, not only to survive, but to mature to the point where he can return to his family and the difficulties of life as a cripple in a frontier village.

F BOH

Bohner, Charles H.

Bold Journey: West With Lewis and Clark: A Novel [1985].

Private Hugh McNeal relates his experiences accompanying Captains Lewis and Clark on their 1804-1806 expedition in search of a northwest passage to the Pacific Ocean.

F BUR

Burchard, Peter

Bimby [1968].

The story of a day of decision in the life of a young slave in the sea islands of Georgia before the Civil War.

F BUT

Butler, Beverly

Feather in the Wind [1965].

Alex cares for her father during the Black Hawk War and the cholera epidemic of the 1830's.

F COV

Coville, Bruce

Fortune's Journey [1996].

Sixteen-year-old Jenny faces many challenges on an overland journey to California in 1853 with the acting company that she inherited from her father.

F DEN

Denenberg, Berry

So Far From Home: The Diary of Mary Driscoll an Irish Mill Girl [1997].

In the diary account of her journey from Ireland in 1847 and of her work in a mill in Howell, Massachusetts, fourteen-year-old Mary reveals a great longing for her family. (Dear America Series)

F ERD

Erdrich, Louise

The Game of Silence [2005].

Nine-year-old Omakayas, of the Ojibwa tribe, moves west with her family in 1849.

F FIS

Fisher, Leonard Everett.

The Death of Evening Star: The Diary of a Young New England Whaler [1972].

A boy keeps a diary of his experience on his first voyage aboard a sinister whaling ship.

F FOX

Fox, Paula

The Slave Dancer [1991, 1973].

Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa-bound ship, a thirteen-year-old boy discovers to his horror that he is on a slaver and his job is to play music for the exercise periods of the human cargo.

F FRA

Franchere, Ruth

Hannah Herself [1964].

Shy, feminine, pampered, and terribly over-sensitive, teen-aged Hannah Fairfield begins to mature emotionally during a visit with her elder sister on the Illinois frontier. Deals with the topics of education on the frontier and the underground railroad in Illinois during pre-Civil War years.

F GAR

Garland, Sherry

A Line in the Sand: the Alamo Diary of Lucinda Lawrence [1998].

In the diary she receives for her 13th birthday in 1835, Lucinda Lawrence describes the hardships her family & other residents of the Texas colonies endure when they decide to fight for their freedom. (Dear America Series)

F GRE

Gregory, Kristiana

Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie: The Oregon Trail diary of Hattie Campbell [1997].

In her diary, thirteen-year-old Hattie chronicles her family's arduous 1847 journey from Missouri to Oregon on the Oregon Trail. (Dear America Series)

F GRE

Gregory, Kristiana

The Legend of Jimmy Spoon [1990].

The adventures of a young white boy living among the Shoshoni Indians during the early frontier days.

F HUD

Hudson, Jan

Sweetgrass [1999, 1984].

Living on the western Canadian prairie in the nineteenth century, Sweetgrass, a fifteen-year-old Blackfoot Indian girl, saves her family from a smallpox epidemic and proves her maturity to her father.

F LAS

Lasky, Kathryn

True North [1996].

Because of the strong influence which her grandfather, an abolitionist, has in her life, fourteen-year-old Lucy assists a fugitive slave girl in her escape.

F LAT

Latham, Jean Lee

Carry on, Mr. Bowditch [1955].

A fictionalized biography of the mathematician and astronomer who realized his childhood desire to become a ship's captain and authored *The American Practical Navigator*.

F LES

Lester, Julius

Day of Tears : a Novel in Dialogue [2005].

Emma has taken care of the Butler children since Sarah and Frances's mother, Fanny, left. Emma wants to raise the girls to have good hearts, as a rift over slavery has ripped the Butler household apart. Now, to pay off debts, Pierce Butler wants to cash in his slave "assets", possibly including Emma.

F McK

McKissack, Patricia C

A Picture of Freedom: The Diary of Clotee, a Slave Girl, Belmont Plantation, Virginia, 1859 [1997].

In 1859 12-yr.-old Clotee, a slave who must conceal the fact that she can read & write, records in her diary her experiences & her struggle to decide whether to escape to freedom (Dear America Series)

F MOE

Moeri, Louise

Save Queen of Sheba [1981].

After miraculously surviving a Sioux Indian raid on the trail to Oregon, a brother and sister set out with few provisions to find the rest of the settlers.

F NIX

Nixon, Joan Lowery

A Family Apart [1987].

When their mother can no longer support them, six siblings are sent by the Children's Aid Society of New York City to live with farm families in Missouri in 1860.

F NIX

Nixon, Joan Lowery

A Place To Belong [1996,1989].

In 1856, having traveled with his young sister from New York to a foster home on a farm in Missouri, ten-year-old Danny plots to get his foster father to send for and marry his mother.

F NIX

Nixon, Joan Lowery

In the Face of Danger [1989, 1988].

In 1856, deeply unhappy about her family's separation because of poverty, Megan gradually finds contentment and purpose in her new home on the Kansas prairie with a kind and loving adopted family.

F ODE

O'Dell, Scott

Streams to the River, River to the Sea: a Novel of Sacagawea [1988, 1986].

A young Indian woman, accompanied by her infant and cruel husband, experiences joy and heartbreak when she joins the Lewis and Clark Expedition seeking a way to the Pacific.

F PAU

Paulsen, Gary

The Legend of Bass Reeves : Being the True and Fictional Account of the Most Valiant Marshal in the West [2006].

An account of the life of Bass Reeves.

F PAU

Paulsen, Gary

Nightjohn [1993].

Twelve-year-old Sarny's brutal life as a slave becomes even more dangerous when a newly arrived slave offers to teach her how to read.

F PAU

Paulsen, Gary

Mr. Tucket [1994].

In 1848, while on a wagon train headed for Oregon, fourteen-year-old Francis Tucket is kidnapped by Pawnee Indians and then falls in with a one-armed trapper who teaches him how to live in the wild.

F PAU

Paulsen, Gary

Call Me Francis Tucket [1995].

Having separated from the one-armed trapper who taught him how to survive in the wilderness of the Old West, fifteen-year-old Francis gets lost and continues to have adventures involving dangerous men and a friendly mule.

F PAU

Paulsen, Gary

Tucket's Gold [1999].

Fifteen-year-old Francis and the two children he has adopted travel across the Old West, evade Comancheros, discover a treasure, and wind up rich beyond their wildest dreams.

F PEA

Pearsall, Shelley

Crooked River [2005]

When twelve-year old Rebecca Carter's father brings a Native American accused of murder into their 1812 Ohio settlement town, Rebecca, witnessing the town's reaction to the Indian, struggles with the idea that an innocent man may be convicted and sentenced to death.

F PEA

Pearsall, Shelley

Trouble Don't Last [2002].

Samuel, an eleven-year-old Kentucky slave, and Harrison, the elderly slave who helped raise him, attempt to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

F RIN

Rinaldi, Ann.

Broken Days [1995].

In 1811, life with her Aunt Hannah in Salem, Massachusetts, becomes even more difficult for fourteen-year-old Ebie with the arrival of a half-Indian girl who claims to be the daughter of Hannah's sister, Thankful, and with the threat of impending war.

F RIN

Rinaldi, Ann.

The Blue Door [1996].

In 1841, when her grandmother sends her alone on a difficult journey up North, fourteen-year-old Amanda encounters the exploitation of women in textile mills.

F STE

Stevens, Carla and Himler, Ronald.

Trouble for Lucy [1979].

As she and her family travel the Oregon Trail in 1843, Lucy's puppy persists in creating trouble.

F TAY

Taylor, Theodore

Walking Up a Rainbow: Being the True Version of the Long and Hazardous Journey of Susan D. Carlisle, Mrs. Myrtle Dessery, Drover Bert Pettit, and Cowboy Clay Carmer and Others [1986].

In 1852, a fourteen-year-old orphan and her elderly guardian, accompanied by a tough drover and his crew, take several thousand sheep from Iowa to California, returning by ship through the Panama Canal, to raise money to save the girl's home from a villainous debt collector.

F TWA

Twain, Mark.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer [1958].

The adventures of a spirited boy growing up in a Mississippi River town in the early 1840's, as he tries a new method for curing warts, witnesses a murder, runs away to an island and pretends to be a pirate, watches his own funeral, and falls for the new girl in the neighborhood.

F TWA

Twain, Mark

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn [1988].

The story of a young boy, his friends, and their lives and adventures on the Mississippi River.

F URB

Urban, Betsy

Waiting for Deliverance [2000].

In 1783, orphaned fourteen-year-old Livy and her cousin Ephraim are taken in by a woodsman and his family, including a young Seneca man who changes Livy's attitudes toward the Indians she was raised to hate and fear.

F WIS

Wisler, G. Clifton

Caleb's Choice [1996].

While living in Texas in 1858, fourteen-year-old Caleb faces a dilemma in deciding whether or not to assist fugitive slaves in their run for freedom.

F WOL

Wolf, Allan

New Found Land : a Novel [2004].

The letters and thoughts of Thomas Jefferson, members of the Corps of Discovery, their guide Sacagawea, and Captain Lewis's Newfoundland dog, all tell of the historic exploratory expedition to seek a water route to the Pacific Ocean.

NON-FICTION (Selected)

B TUB

Petry, Ann Lane

Harriet Tubman, Conductor on the Underground Railroad [1996, 1983].

Story of a young African American woman who devoted her life to helping others escape to freedom.

614.5 MUR

Murphy, Jim

An American Plague/ The true and terrifying story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 [2003].

The true story of the terrifying yellow fever epidemic of 1793.

639.2 MUR

Murphy, Jim

Gone a-Whaling [1998].

This book surveys the history of the whaling industry from its earliest days to the present, focusing on the young boys who managed to sign on for whaling voyages.

976.4 MUR

Murphy, Jim

Inside the Alamo [2003].

An overview of the struggle between the Texan settlers and Mexico's General Santa Anna for control of Texas, with a detailed description of the 1836 siege of the Alamo. Includes biographical sketches and quotations of some of those involved.