

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 12: NUMBER 1.....JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 2017

A Not-So-Modern Travel Guide

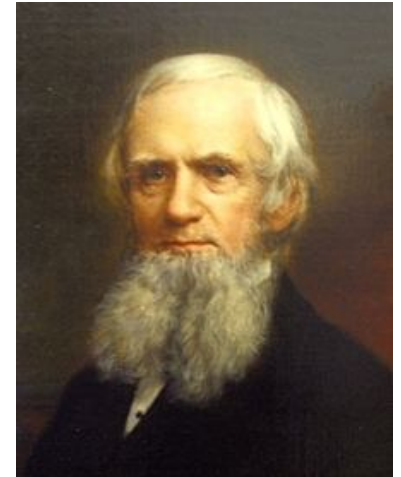
Have you ever wondered what it was like to travel across the southwest desert in the mid-nineteenth century? Our featured book this month is a particularly detailed description of the trials and tribulations, as well as the high points of such an expedition.

Featured this Month

Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora and Chihuahua, 1850 – 1853, Volumes I & II by John Russell Bartlett

John Russell Bartlett was appointed the head of the Border Commission to map the border between the United States and Mexico based on the 1848 treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. According to that treaty the border consisted of the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo) up to its closest approach to the Gila River then followed the Gila across to the Colorado River from which it went due west to the Pacific coast. Bartlett personally lead this expedition and the book is simply an author-edited edition of his journal during the journey. The edition reviewed here is a 1965 reprint of the original published in 1854. It contains numerous illustrations, all of which are drawings either by the official artist of the expedition or by the author. The edition being reviewed includes a detailed table of contents, several appendices, and an index. A map of the United States is also included in this edition. It was obviously not in the original since it was published in 1856 after the Gadsden Purchase, but it is very useful in following the narrative.

The author did not follow the route of the survey crew, but wandered both north and south from the border to investigate the entire region. His journal includes details of the mode of transportation, the



surrounding country particularly in terms of its potential usage for population and production, the people encountered—Indians, settlers, emigrants (mostly heading for California), and the established Mexican residents. He describes the various tribes encountered, both peaceful and hostile, and where possible records several hundred words of their language for each tribe. The latter are not included in the book.

This expedition had the full support of the US government and essentially unlimited funds to pursue their journey and it was still a major struggle. Of course, the fact that the expedition consisted of over one hundred people along with all the equipment needed to carry out the survey was part of the problem since they often could not obtain sufficient supplies to simply support themselves at any price—they simply did not exist in this mostly desert region.

While one may not want to read the entire book (1130 pages), the index and table of contents are sufficiently detailed to find portions that describe any desired subject or location.

Introduction and Review by Joe Diel

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New at the Library

Fiction

The Leopard by Giuseppe di Lampedusa
The Never-Open Desert Diner by James Anderson
Eileen by Ottessa Moshfegh
Suite Francaise by Irene Demirovsky
No Pretty Picture-Maude Hawk Wright and Villa's raid on Columbus by Michael Archie Hays
The Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware
Do Not Say We Have Nothing by Madeleine Thien

Films on DVD

Anne of Green Gables
Afterglow
Junebug
Silver City
Anna Karenina [&] Hell's House (*double feature*)
The Painted Desert [&] Hittin' the Trail (*double feature*)

Non Fiction

Citizen Scientist-searching for heroes and hope in an age of extinction by Mary Ellen Hannibal
Saving Wild-inspiration from 50 leading conservationists by Lori Robinson
Through a Green Lens by Robert Pyle
Dark Pools by Scott Patterson

Science Fiction

Redshirts by John Scalzi
Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

Mystery

Desert Wind by Betty Webb
Follow the River Home by Corran Harrington

Notes from the Library Board

Looking for something in particular? Don't forget that on the Library website (see the box below) you can search our catalogue for a particular title or author or browse for a subject by keyword. In addition, you can check Library activities and notices and access several years' worth of newsletter reviews for books read and recommended by your fellow Library members.

The Annual Meeting of the Hillsboro Community Library will be held on Tuesday, February 7 at 3:30 in Library reading room. All members are encouraged to attend.

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit <http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed
Tues. 3:30 - 5:30pm Wed. 1:00 - 4:00pm
Thurs: 3:30 - 5:30pm Fri: 10:00am - 1:00pm
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, February 22, 2017
Hillsboro 1:00- 2:00 Kingston 2:30- 3:30

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