

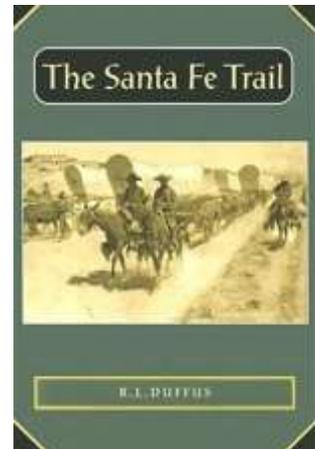
Recommended Reading List

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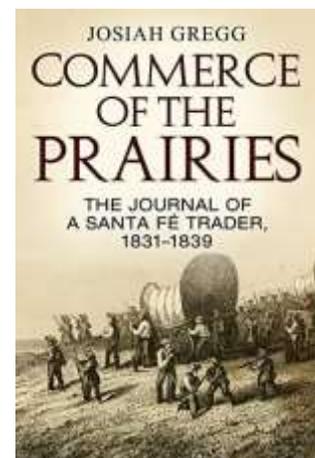
We are often asked, “What is a good book to read to learn about the Santa Fe Trail? Would you recommend a scholarly history of the Trail? A diary or memoir about the Trail? Or, a biography of a person who was connected to the Trail?”

We posed the question to Dr. Leo Oliva, retired history professor, former editor of SFTA’s scholarly journal, *Wagon Tracks* and developer/manager of the Santa Fe Trail [Association’s Last Chance Store](#). Dr. Oliva offered these recommendations:

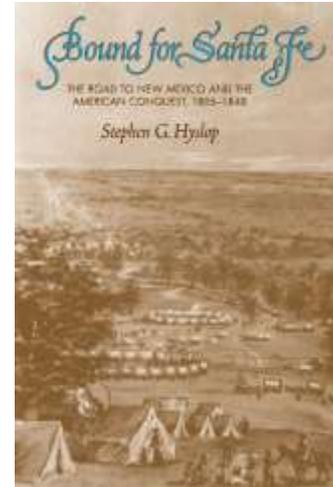
- ***The Santa Fe Trail***, by Robert L. Duffus. Originally published in 1930, this book is still in print. Duffus pens a very readable history of the Trail from the days of the Spaniards, early missionaries, prospectors, Indian traders, and the great covered wagon trade caravans, and the coming of the railroads.



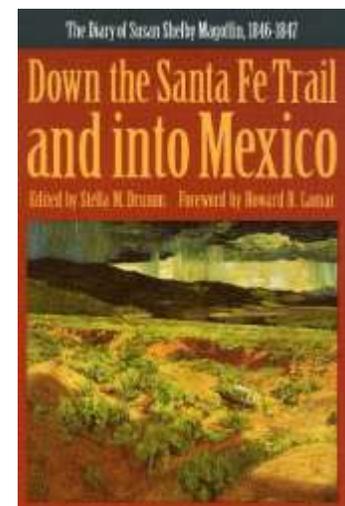
- ***Commerce of the Prairies***, by Josiah Gregg, a man of many talents who was a trader on the Santa Fe Trail during the 1830’s. Written in 1844, this book offers a rare account of someone who actually worked on the Trail and could comment on the wagons, draft animals, people, Native Americans, Santa Fe, local customs, and much more.



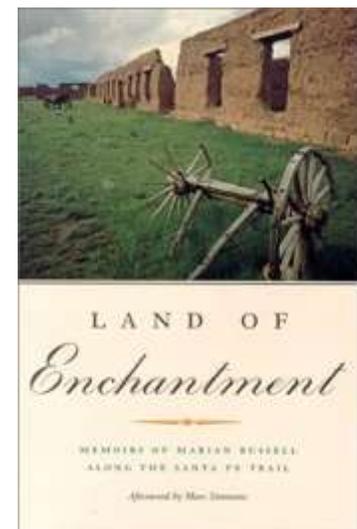
- ***Bound for Santa Fe: The Road to New Mexico and the American Conquest, 1806-1848***, by Steven Hyslop. Hyslop's book is a highly-respected modern work on the history of the Trail, beginning with accounts of western travelers and explorers prior to the start of the Santa Fe Trail. He then explores the traders and their lives on the Trail. He finishes with a discussion of how the Mexican-American War, 1846-1848, impacted the Trail.



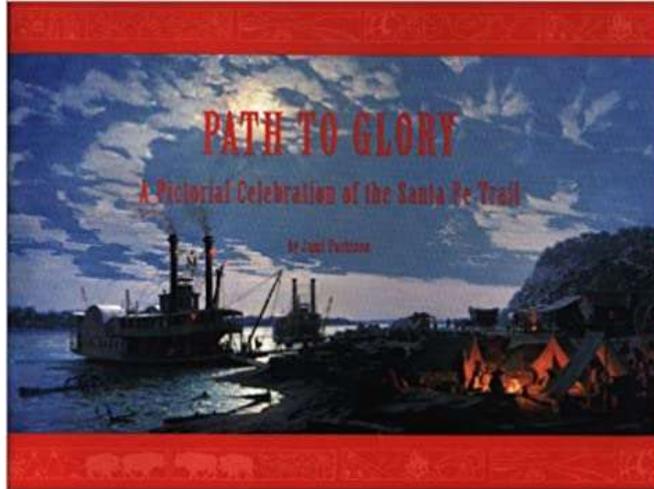
- ***Down the Santa Fe Trail into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, 1846-1847***. Edited by Stella M. Drumm. In 1846, 18-year-old Susan Magoffin accompanied her husband Samuel Magoffin on his annual trading trip to New Mexico. Ms. Magoffin was well educated and possessed an irrepressible curiosity. She kept a diary starting with day 1 of the trip and recorded valuable first-hand observations of the caravan, the country, flora and fauna, Native Americans, New Mexicans, food, drink, and local customs. Her diary remains a valuable research document today.



- ***Land of Enchantment: Memoirs of Marian Sloan Russell Along the Santa Fe Trail***, edited by Garnet M. Brayer, 1954. Marian first traveled the Trail as a young girl with her mother and brother. Her memoir, recorded many years later, covers her life in New Mexico, her education, the famous people she met, and her life with the love of her life, the dashing Richard Russell. Together they traveled the trail, were merchants, and ranchers in Stonewall, Colorado.



- ***Path to Glory: A Pictorial Celebration of the Santa Fe Trail*** by Jami Parkison. This book is a beautiful collection of illustrations celebrating the Santa Fe Trail.



All of the suggested books are currently available from The [Last Chance Store](#). Dozens more books, as well as maps, SFTA membership, and printed items can also be found at the site. All books featured at the Last Chance Store have been vetted and have reliable and accurate information.