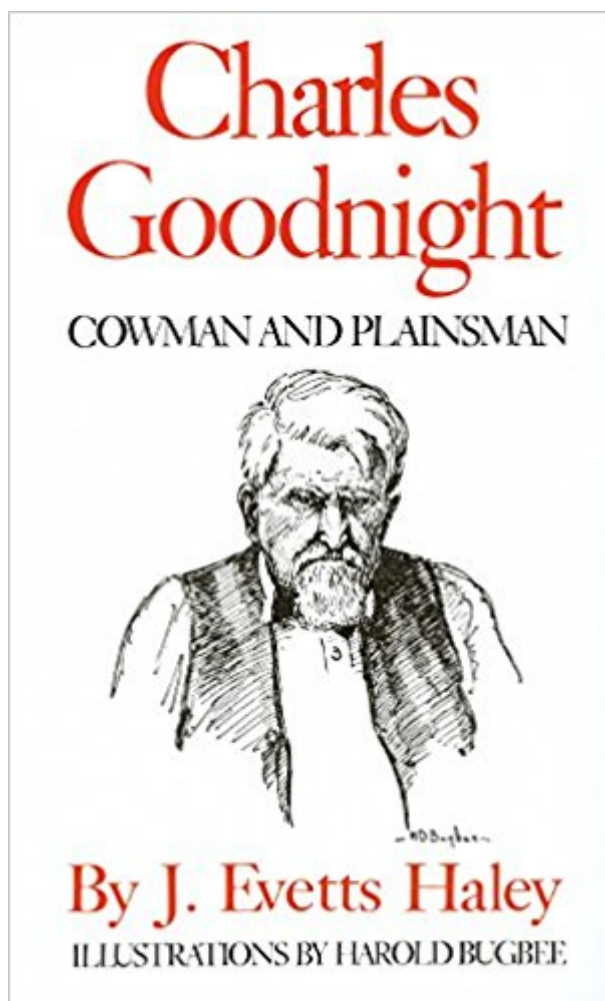


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Charles Goodnight: Cowman And Plainsman



Synopsis

An exciting story of a Texas Ranger, adventurer, and immigration officer who became a symbol of his age while gambling with death in the wild frontier regions of Texas, Arizona, and Old and New Mexico. Charles Goodnight knew the West of Jim Bridger, Kit Carson, Dick Wooton, St. Vrain, and Lucien Maxwell. He ranged a country as vast as Bridger ranged. He rode with the boldness of Fremont, guided by the craft of Carson. His vigorous zest for life enabled him to live intensely and amply, and in this book by J. Evetts Haley, himself no stranger to the West, provides a fully readable and important western biography, vividly told, thrilling, witty, and completely authentic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

J. Evetts Haley is a historian and a cowman and the author of three other books published by the University of Oklahoma Press: Jeff Milton: A Good Man With a Gun; Charles Goodnight: Cowman and Plainsman; and George W. Littlefield, Texan.

If you are looking for an authentic work on the Old West, the West that really existed, not the West fabricated by Hollywood, this work by J. Evetts Haley is sure to please. Charles Goodnight was a most remarkable man. He emigrated to Texas from Illinois at 9, was hunting with the Caddo Indians at 12, entered the cattle business at 20 and guided the Texas Rangers at 24. His 2,000 mile Goodnight-Loving cattle trail delivered Texas Longhorns through Comanche territory from West Texas to New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming long before the railroads or settlement. He established the JA ranch in the Texas Panhandle in the former Comanche stronghold of Palo Duro

Canyon, dominating nearly 20 million acres of range, and would go on to be highly regarded for his breeding techniques. Under his management, the JA ranch would return 72% on invested capital for 10 years. He appears to have been a good, fair man but hell on rustlers. But his most significant contribution to Texas and the Nation was as a conservationist. Alarmed at the slaughter of the buffalo, in 1876 he preserved a herd on his ranch. Descendants of that herd still exist in West Texas as well as numerous zoos throughout the country. Importantly, it was from this herd that bison were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park in 1902. This is a fine biography about a man whose life spanned the settlement of Texas. It took Mr. Haley 10 years to compile the detailed history, stories and yarns contained in this book. It was time very well spent. Haley will make you laugh and tug on your emotions but mostly it will amaze you that a no nonsense, iron willed man like Charles Goodnight could come from such a humble, frontier existence to accomplish so much good for his State and Nation.

An excellent view of what Texas plains were like before law and order and even basic conveniences. It was amazing to me when one day Goodnight said to his ranch hands that perhaps they should stop killing cattle rustlers. Maybe it was time to bring in law.

IMO, this book is very well written and a great read. I would highly recommend it for those of us that are interested in the early days of the cow/ranch industry! Lots of interesting facts and information.

A must read for those interested in Texas history, especially of the Panhandle and the development of the Texas cattle industry. J. Events Haley actually knew Goodnight.

wonderful in depth study of Charles Goodnight and his life. Highly recommend for anyone loving Texas history in general and specifically the history of the Texas panhandle

I wish I had discovered this fine book sooner. Author depicts a true "character" that only few men over many years could measure. Charles Goodnight had sand and unwielding devotion to making his world a better place. Whether his motive was selfish or not is no matter since all would benefit.

THE TRUE STORY OF "LONESOME DOVE". I LIVE IN NEW MEXICO AND CAN IDENTIFY MOST OF THE PLACES MENTIONED, MANY BECAUSE I HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN THERE! MORE THAN A HISTORY BOOK OR BIOGRAPHY, A TRUE STORY OF THE EARLY AMERICAN WEST.

I bought this book to use for research, not to be entertained, which is why I gave it only 4 stars. The book was very helpful and gave me insight into both the character of Charles Goodnight, as well as the areas of the country that he made home. I was particularly interested in his partnership with the owners of the JA Goodnight Ranch in the Palo Duro canyon near Amarillo, Texas, and what motivated him to move to an area where the nearest neighbors at the time were 150 - 200 miles away. It gave me a better perspective of what the hardships, trials, and politics were like in the mid-1800s.

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