

Museum on Main Street

SUGGESTED READING

Between Fences

Allport, Susan and David Howell. *Sermons in Stone: The Stone Walls of New England and New York*. W.W. Norton and Company, 1994.

This well-written and carefully researched investigation of stone walls covers a wide range of subjects, including geology, botany, and architecture as well as the history of Colonial America.

Brook, Steven. *Seaside Picket Fences*. Pelican Publishing Company, 2003.

The different fences of the Florida Resort town of Seaside are documented in this collection of photographs. Seaside is identified in the *Between Fences* exhibit and is also where *The Truman Show* starring Jim Carrey was filmed.

Clifton, Robert T. *Barbs, Prongs, Points, Prickers, and Stickers: A Complete and Illustrated Catalogue of Antique Barbed Wire*. University of Oklahoma Press, 1979.

An excellent resource for researchers and the curious, this book is a catalog of line drawings of barbed wire patents and remains in print as one of the best books for identifying rare and antique barbed wire.

Cronon, William. *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*. Hill and Wang, 2003.

Winner of the Francis Parkman Prize, *Changes in the Land* is hailed as a landmark in environmental history. The author examines changes in land use in Colonial New England and how these changes impacted the environment and reflected the history of European and Native American farming cultures.

Decker, Peter. *Old Fences, New Neighbors*. University of Arizona Press, 1998.

The author examines changes in the contemporary American West using the town of Ridgway, Colorado, as an example. Residents in this Colorado town who once only numbered a few hundred now watch as ski tourists and wealthy hobby ranchers buy more and more land in the area.

Donahue, Brian. *The Great Meadow: Farmers and the Land in Colonial Concord*. Yale University Press, 2004.

Donahue's authoritative and highly history of the early farming practices of New England debunks the long-established belief that Colonial farmers abused the land, causing the migration of farmers to new lands and the collapse of the family-owned farm as a way of life. With the help of new resources and research methods, the author reconstructs the early farming neighborhoods of Concord, Massachusetts, detailing how the land was settled and how a "mixed" husbandry developed there.

Donahue, Brian and Wes Jackson. *Reclaiming the Commons: Community Farms and Forests in a New England Town*. Yale University Press, 2001.

Described as part autobiography, part eco-history, and part manifesto, *Reclaiming the Commons* is Donahue's vision of American suburbs transformed by the establishment of local commons, a neo-colonial approach to making modern suburbs economically healthy, more livable, and more ecologically balanced.

Davidson, Miriam and Jeffrey Scott. *Lives on the Line: Dispatches from the U.S.-Mexico Border*. University of Arizona Press, 2000.

A compelling book about the lives and histories of the people of Nogales, *Lives on the Line* is a portrait of a town on the U.S.-Mexico border divided by a fourteen-foot-high steel wall. For years, the citizens of Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Sonora, crossed an invisible border in both directions to visit relatives and shop. In recent years, industrial development changed Mexican Nogales, and a crackdown against Mexican immigrants brought the Border Patrol and a wall to American Nogales.

Hutchison, Bruce. *The Struggle for the Border*. Longman, Green, and Company, 1955.

The Struggle for the Border is the standard history of conflict between the U.S. and Canada from 1535 to 1955 over the border between the two countries.

Lindgren, H. Elaine. *Land in Her Own Name: Women As Homesteaders in North Dakota*. University of Oklahoma Press, 1996.

This carefully researched and well-written book clearly demonstrates that the masculine mythology of the old West is just that, a myth. Lindgren's work traces the histories of single women who homesteaded in North Dakota, previously undocumented territory in women's history and the history of the West.

Low, Setha. *Behind the Gates: Life, Security and the Pursuit of Happiness in Fortress America*. Routledge, 2003.

Based on research and interviews with families in Long Island, New York, and San Antonio, Texas, *Behind the Gates* offers insight into the fast growth of gated communities in recent decades, including residents' paranoia concerning immigration, racial integration, and crime.

Martinez, Ruben. *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail*. Metropolitan Books, 2001.

Award-winning journalist Ruben Martinez begins this portrait of migrant culture with the death of the Chavez brothers, three illegal immigrants killed when their truck overturned while trying to outrun the American Border Patrol. Martinez traces the journey of other members of the Chavez family from the small town of Cheran, Mexico, to their lives as migrant agricultural workers in Missouri, California, and Wisconsin.

Miller, William Lee. *Lincoln's Virtues: An Ethical Biography*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2002.

Lincoln's appeal as the American president who got his start splitting rails for fences was a link to the common men of his time and implied the virtues associated with life on the frontier, the virtues of simplicity, self-reliance, plain living, and hard work. Although he

follows a rough chronology of Lincoln's life, Miller is less interested in recording events than in tracing the evolution and conscious shaping of his moral and ethical beliefs.

Murray-Wooley, Carolyn and Karl Raitz. *Rock Fences of the Bluegrass: Perspectives on Kentucky's Past*. University of Kentucky Press, 1992.

Hailed as the first book-length study of an American fence type, *Rock Fences of the Bluegrass* examines the types of rock fences, method of construction, and the techniques of individual stonemasons from the earliest settlers to the nineteenth century.

Netz, Reviel. *Barbed Wire: An Ecology of Modernity*. Wesleyan University Press, 2004.

Philosopher Reviel Netz discusses the history of barbed wire from 1874-1954 and examines the invention as a device for controlling movement and space and for causing pain. Told from the perspective its victims, *Barbed Wire* a history of modernity reflected in the colonialism, capitalism, and warfare that have defined the modern world.

Nishimoto, Richard S. and Lane Ryo Hirabayashi. *Inside an American Concentration Camp: Japanese American Resistance at Poston, Arizona*. University of Arizona Press, 1995.

Based on Nishimoto's wartime reports for a government study, *Inside an American Concentration Camp* examines the experiences of the Japanese Americans held in internment camps during World War II. Nishimoto offers details on everything from daily life in the camp at Poston, Arizona, to the resistance efforts organized by internees.

Noble, Allen G., Margaret M. Geib, and Richard K. Cleek. *The Old Barn Book: Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures*. Rutgers University Press, 1996.

Drawings, photos, maps, and descriptions found in this book provide a clear guide to identifying fences, hay barns, corn cribs, chicken coops, silos, outhouses, and other structures related to farm life.

Stedman, Myrtle. *Rural Architecture of Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado: Featuring Fences, Barns and Corrals*. Sunstone Press, 1989.

This sketchbook features fences, barns, corrals, and other aspects of traditional architecture of the area. Myrtle Stedman's pen and ink drawings have been compared to those of Eric Sloane's on rural America.

Torrans, Thomas. *The Magic Curtain: The Mexican-American Border in Fiction, Film, and Song*. Texas A & M University, 2002.

Torrans offers a look at the borderland as a mythic landscape and explores how it is imagined by both Hispanics and Anglos in fiction, films, and songs. The author proposes that the border is perceived as a location of social instability, an invisible line that characters cross and recross, demonstrating that they are at home on either side or that they are at home nowhere.

Trupin, Sophie. *Dakota Diaspora: Memoirs of a Jewish Homesteader*. University of Nebraska Press, 1988.

Trupin shares her childhood memories of growing up Jewish on the North Dakota prairie and tries to understand what motivated her Russian-born parents to chose a life on the land far from the comfort and support of the Jewish communities found in American cities with large immigrant populations.

Von Miklos, Josephine. *Good Fences Make Good Neighbors*. Scribners, 1972.

Borrowing its title from Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall," this book provides a photographic essay on fences and walls of New England and New York.