



The Trailblazers

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From Reader Review The Trailblazers for online ebook

John says

I read this book because it was the only book I could lay my hands on at a time when my library was on the floor of a horse trailer after we cleaned up after a house fire. It is actually a very good book on Western American exploration. It discusses many "trailblazers" that I have read about. I enjoyed reading Bill Gilbert's opinion of this subject. Gilbert was often more critical than the sources I have previously read probably because my sources were often biographies that glamorized and embellished the subjects.

Steven Peterson says

This is one of the more interesting books, from my perspective, in the Time-Life "Old West Series." The focus here is on the trailblazers, including the Mountain Men and early explorers.

The first entry makes sense--the Lewis and Clark expedition, supported by President Thomas Jefferson himself--to explore the lands of the Louisiana Purchase. This is, of course, nowhere as detailed as "Undaunted Courage," the wonderfully detailed examination of their exploits. But there is enough detail to get a sense of what they did.

Then, there is the story of the Mountain Men and fur trappers, such as Jim Bridger, John Colter, William Ashley, and so on. Scouts and trailblazers are considered, such as Kit Carson, Jed Smith, Jim Beckworth, Joe Walker, and Zebulon Pike. Naturalists are included, too. The Pathfinder, John Charles Fremont is profiled. And on it goes.

If you want a little bit of information about a wide ranging set of "trailblazers," this book would be a good choice.
