

#7 Biographies and Autobiographies People and Their Words

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The items **highlighted in yellow** indicate books that appear on the Accelerated Reader List. To access that list for viewing or ordering, go to <http://www.arbookfind.com/>

The works in this collection demonstrate **All Essential Understandings**, and those reviewed in *Roots and Branches* are indicated within the citations.

Absaalooka: The Crow Nation, Then and Now. As told through an interview between Crow Sun Dance leader/historian and a non-Indian historian: Lloyd G. Mickey Old Coyote (**Crow**) and Helene Smith. Greensburg, PA: MacDonald/Sward Publishing Co., 1993. 251 pp. ISBN: 0-945437-11-0

Agonito, Rosemary and Joseph Agonito. **Buffalo Calf Road Woman: The Story of a Warrior of the Little Bighorn.** Guilford, Connecticut: TwoDot Press, Globe Pequot Press, 2006. 241 pp. ISBN: 0-7627-3817-0

Arthur, H. (**Ojibwe**) with George McPeck. **The Grieving Indian.** Winnipeg, Manitoba: Indian Life Books, 1991. 128 pp. ISBN: 0-920379-07-9

Bataille, Gretchen M. And Kathleen Mullen Sands. **American Indian Women Telling Their Lives.** Lincoln, Nebraska, University of Nebraska Press, 1984. 209 pp. ISBN: 0-8032-6082-2

Bennett, Ben. **Death, Too, For The-Heavy-Runner.** Missoula, MT: Mountain PressPublishing, 1981. 170 pp. ISBN: 0-87842-132-7

Bensen, Robert, ed. **Children of the Dragonfly: Native American Voices on Child Custody and Education.** Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2001. 280 pp. ISBN:0-8165-2013-5

Black Hawk (**Sauk**). **Black Hawk: An Autobiography.** Donald Jackson, ed. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 1990. 164 pp. ISBN: 0-252-72325-2 (*Roots and Branches* 144)

Blaisdell, Bob, ed. **Great Speeches by Native Americans.** Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 2000. 217 pp. ISBN)-486-41122-2

Boyer, Ruth McDonald and Narcissus Duffy Gayton (**Apache**). **Apache Mothers and Daughters: Four Generations of a Family.** Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992. 393 pp. ISBN: 0-8061-2022-0

AR Book: Broker, Ignatia (**Ojibway**). *Night Flying Woman: An Ojibway Narrative*. St. Paul, Minnesota: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1983. 134 pp. ISBN: 0-87351-167-0.

Summary:

An essential companion to the teaching of *Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich, this is the story of one woman's experience at the beginning of a series of movements westward to the White Earth Ojibway Reservation – the impact of the Dawes Act and the Clapp Act on people and their ways. It is a biography told through memory and oral tradition over three generations, and the story begins with Oona's birth and ends with the ways Oona lives with the old and the new at the same time.

Bruchac, Joseph (**Abenaki**). *Roots of Survival: Native American Storytelling and the Sacred*. Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum Publishing, 1996. 206 pp. ISBN: 1-55591-145-5

Cruikshank, Julie with Angela Signey, Kitty Smith, and Annie Ned (**Yukon**). *Life Lived Like a Story: Life Stories of Three Yukon Native Elders*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University Press, 1990. ISBN: 0-8032-6352-X

Dancing Colors: Paths of Native American Women. Compiled by C.J. Brafford (**Oglalla Sioux**) and Laine Thorn. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 1992. 120 pp. ISBN: 0-8188-0165-9

Dempsey, Hugh. *The Amazing Death of Calf Shirt and Other Blackfoot Stories*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994. 246 pp. ISBN: 0-8061-2821-6

Summary:

This is based on oral history of Blackfoot warriors and their descendants from over 300 years. Although they are factual, the story has been processed by Dempsey so his perspective as a non-Indian scholar, honorary chief of the Blood tribe, and Curator Emeritus of the Glenbow Museum in Calgary Alberta. The stories reveal aspects of the Blackfoot Culture, as well as the impact on the people of the encroachment of white traders, settlers, military, and the terrible impact of disease and starvation. Events and situations contradict and sometimes support popular stereotypes of American Indians, and the instances of betrayal are most significant because of their devastating impact. Because all of the stories are told from the male perspective, we wonder how the women might have responded to all the situations. Although the stories feature Indians in Canada, they interact with the tribes in Montana in several ways, both for their benefit and destruction.

Farley, Ronnie. *Women of the Native Struggle: Portraits and Testimony of Native American Women*. New York: Orion Books, 1993. ISBN: 0-517-88113-6

Flood, Renee Swanson. *Lost Bird of Wounded Knee: Spirit of the Lakota*. 309 pp. New York: De Capo Press, 1995. ISBN: 0-306-80822-6

Summary:

Well researched, *Lost Bird* is the story of four-month old child who was found alive under her dead mother, three days after the Wounded Knee Massacre. The soldiers bid or bargained for the child to take home to their wives as a "war trophy," with Brigadier General Leonard W. Colby basically kidnapping the child. He took the child away from a Lakota woman who was breast feeding the baby, and he took the child with the intention of raising her without telling or asking his wife who was very active in the suffragist movement in Washington D.C. The consequences for the child are unbelievably tragic yet common. His action also dramatically changed the life of the General's wife, Clara B. Colby.

Clara accepted the child and wanted to do the best for her. But her husband was a philanderer who rarely provided enough money, and the women Clara worked with--Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton--totally disapproved of her keeping the child. Clara's ignorance of the cultural and emotional bond that had been broken when they brought the child to her exacerbated the tragedies in the twenty-nine years *Lost Bird* lived.. Clara had to find people to leave the child with when she would travel and speak, and they had no understanding of the loss the child had experienced.

Lost Bird began to suffer illness after illness immediately because she was on display for any and all of Washington and Nebraska society to touch and fondle and coo over. And she had no natural immunities to the diseases. But when *Lost Bird* went to school, her Indianness was a source of discrimination, and in reaction she became a discipline problem. She was raped by her adoptive father, lost the baby, and ultimately married a man who was probably alcoholic. At one time she was involved in prostitution, even after marriage, had at least two children, and then developed syphilis--probably from the husband, and she eventually died of the flu in 1918.

The end describes the Lakota people, with the researcher, finding the grave on the west coast and taking it for reburial at Wounded Knee.

The author is non-Indian, married to a Lakota man. They had one boy, and she watched the discrimination he experienced. So when she saw the photograph of the soldier and the Indian baby, she was determined to find out and tell that child's story. There are many primary sources -- letters from the mother, from colleagues in the suffrage movement, from the child to her mother.

It may be tedious for teenagers to read this because of the format and deep research; but for Indian students, whose ancestors have lived through situations like this, it's powerful. One of the authors purposes was to look hard at the consequences of non-Indians adopting Indian children. Despite their good intentions, separation from culture and heritage and initial bonding often has had tragic consequences.

Flood, Renee Swanson. ***Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne: The Life and Work of Father Emmett Hoffmann.*** 277 pp. ISBN: 0-913062-30-8

Giago, Tim (**Oglala Lakota**). ***Children Left Behind: The Dark Legacy of Indian Mission Boarding Schools.*** Illustrated by Denise Giago. Santa Fe, NM: Clear Light Publishing, 2006. 166 pp. ISBN: 1-57416-086-9

Gilbert, Ed. *Native American Code Talker in World War II*. Warrior 127. Illustrated by Raffaele Ruggeri. Great Britain: Osprey Publishing, 2008. ISBN 978-1 84603 269 1 64 pp.

Genre – Photo Essay

Grade Levels – 7 and up

Summary:

This is a photo essay, non-fiction text From the Author's Dedication and Acknowledgments *For the code talkers of all tribes, who served and died in dutiful anonymity. I would like to thank the staff of the Marine Corps Heritage Center, Regan Grau of the Museum of the Pacific War (Fredericksburg, Texas) and Karen Carver and the staff of The Marriott Library at The University of Utah, Salt Lake City.*

The research of William C. Meadows and Judy Allen has identified the Choctaw and Comanche code talkers who served with the US Army in the 36th Division (World War I) and the 4th Infantry Division (World War II), small original band of Comanche recruits. The Marine Corps code talker program was so deeply shrouded in secrecy that the total number of code talkers wh served is unknown, and many died without even their families knowing the nature of their service. The characters Winston Chee, Billy Chee, and Vernon Begay are wholly fictional. The specific experiences of the fictional characters are not intended to represent the actual experiences of any one person, though they are based in fact. All photographs are from the National Archives or the author's collection.

Table of Contents:

Introduction, Chronology, Enlistment, Training, Appearance and Equipment, Belief and Belonging, The Early Pacific Campaigns, The Central Pacific Campaigns, Life on Campaign, Japanese Attempts to Break the Code, European Combat—the Comanche, Final Cataclysms, Aftermath, Museums and Collections, Glossary, References, and Index.

Goodbird, Edward (**Hidatsa**) as told to Gilbert L. Wilson. *Goodbird the Indian: His Story*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1985. ISBN: 0-8745-1188-3 74 pp.

Summary:

Goodbird, a member of the Hidatsa Indian Nation from the Fort Berthold Reservation in western North Dakota, lived from 1869-1938. This is a memoir for young readers, and it provides a glimpse into the early reservation years from the native perspective. It might be compared/contrasted with Zitkala-Sa's *American Indian Stories*, and Luther Standing Bear's memoirs.

Harper-Haines, Jan (**Koyukon Athabascan/French-Dutch**). *Cold River Spirits: The Legacy of an Athabascan-Irish Family from Alaska's Yukon River*. Portland, OR: Epicenter Press, 2000. 191 pp. ISBN: 0-045397-85-2

Hirschfelder, Arlene, ed. *Native Heritage: Personal Accounts by American Indians 1790 to the Present*. New York: A Simon and Schuster Macmillan Company, 1995. 293 pp. ISBN: 0-02-86-412-1

Horse Capture, George.(**Gros Ventre**). *PowWow*. Cody, WY: Buffalo Bill Historical

Center, 1989. ISBN 0-931618-20-0

Horse Capture, George, ed. (**Gros Ventre**) and gathered by Fred P. Gone. ***The Seven Visions of Bull Lodge as told by his daughter, Garter Snake***. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1980. 125 pp. ISBN: 0-8032-7256-1

Hungry Wolf, Beverly(**Blackfoot/Siksika**). ***The Ways of My Grandmothers***. New York: Quill Press, 1982. 249 pp. ISBN: 0-688-00471-7

Summary:

A thorough and honest collection of stories, myths, legends, and teachings as her grandmothers told her over the years. Hungry Wolf also includes recipes and clothing patterns that could be used for class projects. Teachers may use individual selections from this book, and female students, especially, enjoy reading the entire work.

Hungry Wolf, Beverly(**Blackfoot/Siksika**). ***Daughters of the Buffalo Women: Maintaining the Tribal Faith***. Canada: Canadian Caboose Press, 1996. 142 pp ISBN: 0-920698-56-5

Summary:

A sequel to *Ways of My Grandmothers*, this book features survival stories and photographs of women who grew up in the very hard times of the early 1900's, including stories of boarding school, missionaries, native views of marriage and schooling, and finally "Maintaining the Faith on a Changing Path."

Jones, David E. ***Sanapia: Comanche Medicine Woman***. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press, Inc., 1972. 107 pp. ISBN: 0-99233-041-8

Josephy, Alvin M. Jr. and Trudy Thomas and Jeanne Eder (**Assiniboine/Sioux Tribe**). ***Wounded Knee: Lest We Forget***. Cody, WY: Buffalo Bill Historical Center, 1990. 60 pp. ISBN: 0-931618-32-0

"Just Talking About Ourselves" Voices of Our Youth. Penticton, B.C.: Theytus Books, Ltd., 1994. 113 pp. ISBN: 0-910441-62-9 ("This book was written by and for the First Nations' Youth of British Columbia and is a tribute to the strength of all those who participated in Canada's Drug Strategy Program")

Kipp, Woody (**Blackfeet**). ***Vietcong at Wounded Knee: The Trail of a Blackfeet Activist***. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004. 159 pp. ISBN: 1-8032-2760-4

Lame Deer, John (Fire)(**Lakota**) and Richard Erdoes. ***Lame Deer Seeker of Visions***. New York: Washington Square Press, 1972. 277 pp. ISBN:0-671-55392-5

Linderman, Frank B. ***Plenty Coups: Chief of the Crows***. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1962. 324 pp. ISBN: 0-9-32-5121-1 (*Roots and Branches* 165)

Linderman, Frank B. ***Pretty Shield: Medicine Woman of the Crows***. University of Nebraska Press, 2003. 146 pp. ISBN: 0-8032-8025-4

Lurie, Nancy Oestreich, ed. ***Mountain Wolf Woman, Sister of Crashing Thunder: The Autobiography of a Winnebago Indian***. Ann Arbor, MI: The University of Michigan Press, 1966. 142 pp. ISBN: 0-472-06109-7

Marquis, Thomas, Interpreter. ***Wooden Leg: A Warrior Who Fought Custer (Cheyenne)***. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1931. 384 pp. ISBN: 0-9-32-5124-6 (*Roots and Branches* 167-168)

Marshall, Joseph M. III (**Lakota**). ***The Journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History***. New York: Penguin Books, 2005. 310 pp. ISBN: 0-14-303621-1

McGregor, James H. ***The Story of The Wounded Knee Massacre [1890] from the Indian Point Of View*** (Including Statements of Survivors). Rapid City, SD: Fenske Printing, Inc., 1940. 131 pp.

Medicine Crow, Joseph (**Crow**). ***From the Heart of the Crow Country: The Crow Indians' Own Stories***. New York: Orion Books, 1992. 138 pp. ISBN: 0-517-59930-0

McLuhan. T.C., ***Touch the Earth: A Self-Portrait of Indian Existence***. New York: Promontory Press, 1971. 185 pp. ISBN: 0-99304-000-0

Mourning Dove (**Okanagan/Colville**). ***Mourning Dove: A Salishan Autobiography***. Ed. Jay Miller. Lincoln: University of Nebraska press, 1990. 187 pp. ISBN: 0-9-32-3199-9 (*Roots and Branches* 205)

Nabokov, Peter, ed. ***Native American Testimony: A Chronology of Indian-White Relations from Prophecy to Present***. New York: Harper and Roy, 1978. 232 pp. ISBN: 0-14-012986-3 (*Roots and Branches* 130-131)

Nabokov, Peter, ed. ***Native American Testimony: An Anthology of Indian-White Relations First Encounter to Dispossession***. New York: Harper and Row, 1978. 242 pp. ISBN: 0-06-131993-7

Northwest Indigenous Gold Rush History: The Indian Survivors of California's Holocaust. Humboldt State University, CA: 1999 Indian Teacher and Educational Personnel Program. 20 pp. [Http://www.humboldt.edu/~blm1/](http://www.humboldt.edu/~blm1/)

Archival photographs from the Gold Rush era, particularly as they illustrate the stories included in transcriptions of interviews from seven respected local Native people were collected and compiled by 44 students. And in his Introduction, Chag Lowry discusses the need for such a record.

“The Gold Rush has long been romanticized in American history. The 49ers have been called heroes, legends, argonauts, and pioneers. Their exploits are remembered and rejoiced in parades, movies, books and school plays. The truth is, many were thieves, murderers, and slave-traders, spurred by a government bent on destroying indigenous cultures in the name of Manifest Destiny. Their greed and the destruction they caused is unparalleled in history.”

Old Coyote, Henry and Barney Old Coyote Jr. (**Crow**), Compilers and translators. Edited by Phenocia Bauerle. *The Way of the Warrior: Stories of the Crow People*. Lincoln, NB: University of Nebraska Press, 2003. 128 pp. ISBN: 0-8032-6230-2

Summary:

Storytellers who told Henry and Barney Old Coyote of warrior adventures and memorable leaders include the following: Carl Crooked Arm, Plain Feather, and Cold Wind. The editor of this volume is Phenocia Bauerle, Barney’s granddaughter.

Parker, Dorothy. *Singing an Indian Song: A Biography of D’Arcy McNickle (Metis/Salish)*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1992. 307 pp. ISBN:0-8032-8730-5

Paul, R. Eli, ed. *Autobiography of Red Cloud: War Leader of the Oglalas*. Helena, MT: Montana Historical Society Press, 1997. 220 pp. ISBN: 0-917298-50-0

Peavy, Linda and Ursula Smith. *Full-Court Quest: The Girls from Fort Shaw Indian School Basketball Champions of the World*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008. 480 pp. ISBN 978-0-8061-3973

Razor, Peter(**Fond du Lac Ojibwa**). *While the Locust Slept*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society, 2001. 200 pp. ISBN: 0-87352-439-4

Essential Understandings: #2, #5, #6. Memoir Grades 7 and up

Summary:

An example of fine writing, thorough research, and clear honesty, this memoir answers many questions about the all-too-common experience of native children who became wards of the state in the first half of the twentieth century.

To reconstruct his childhood, the author relies on records of his own case files at the Owatonna State School in the 1930s, and his memory of abandonment, abuse and indenture at a farm near Houston, in south-central Minnesota which began in the fall of 1944. Peter Razor begins this memoir with an image that symbolizes the time-span and experience of his youth: a locust, a kind of cicada that would sleep for “seventeen years in darkness before soaring into the summer light.”(4)

The chapters sometimes begin or end with direct quotes from the state school records, written comments from social workers and teachers. In those records the reader sees how often they contradict the truth according to Peter’s experience, and they reveal clearly the failure of the system, over and over again.

Despite the forces that certainly conspired to “kill” this boy, through neglect, verbal and physical abuse, Peter Razor is a survivor, and this profound memoir is a testimony to that

survival. In the Epilogue, he writes about his service in Korea and how he became a self-taught electrician and how he investigated his heritage. Ultimately, his daughter Kathy, a university graduate, encouraged him to look up his relatives on the reservation and to keep writing and pursuing whatever records he could find. His memoir closes with this: "I am still haunted by those seventeen years." (200)

Shooting Back from the Reservation: A Photographic View of Life by Native American Youth. Selected by Jim Hubbard. New York: The New Press, 1994. 95 pp. ISBN: 1-56584-206-5.

In his Foreword, Dennis Banks recalls his own experience growing up on the reservation and attending military boarding schools during the 30's and 40's, and he wishes he could have "shot those memories." His final message to the young photographers from fifteen different reservations in Arizona, Minnesota, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Wisconsin is this: "Keep up the shooting! Never let up! Never leave it to others to represent you, photographically or otherwise. Hang onto those dreams and visions. They may come true! Shoot the truth. It's a good story." (ix) In black and white photography and comments from the young people, *Shooting Back* is a marvelous example of professional photojournalism.

Silko, Leslie Marmon (**Laguna Pueblo**) and James Wright. ***The Delicacy and Strength of Lace: Letters.*** St. Paul, MN: Graywolf Press, 1986. 106 pp. ISBN:0-9153088-74-6

Snell, Alma Hogan. (**Crow**). ***Grandmother's Grandchild: My Crow Indian Life.*** Lincoln, NB: University of Nebraska Press, Bison Books, 2000. 213 pp. ISBN: 0-80320-9291-0

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk (**Lakota**). ***Completing the Circle.*** Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1995. 120 pp. ISBN: 0-9-32-0254-6

Stands in Timber, John (**Cheyenne**), and Margot Liberty. ***Cheyenne Memories.*** Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1972. 330 pp. ISBN: 0-9-32-5751-1 (*Roots and Branches* 181)

Swan, Madonna (**Lakota**) as told through Mark St. Pierre. ***Madonna Swan: A Lakota Woman's Story.*** Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992. 209 pp. ISBN:0-8061-2369-9

Treuer, David. (**Ojibwe**). ***Rez Life: An Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life.*** New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2012. 329 pp.

Rez Life is memoir, history, law, and each chapter begins with story about people Treuer has known or researched. Then each story leads into a dense discussion based on intensive research of public policy, local politics, conflicts between people on the Leech Lake Reservation in Northern Minnesota and their non-Indian neighbors.

"This is history told from the inside out, a rare and captivating story of hardship—forced adoptions and corrupt agents stealing wild rice—and resilience, of native language schools and family bonds that survive tragedy." (cover)

But this work is not limited to northern Minnesota Indians. This is one of the best resources available for those who want to better understand the history of reservations and the ways

Native Americans have been affected.

Vanderwerth, W.C., comp. ***Indian Oratory: Famous Speeches by Noted Indian Chieftains***. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1989. 291 pp. ISBN:0-9-61-1575-0 (*Roots and Branches* 134-135)

Waheenee: An Indian Girl's Story told by herself to Gilbert L. Wilson. Lincoln, NB: University of Nebraska Press, Bison Books, 1981. 189 pp. ISBN: 0-8032-9703-3