

Fiction of Old Florida

Customs & Folklore

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F Arg

Canaveral Light by Don Argo.

A novel about the struggle of early Florida pioneers to live in harmony with the land and its native people [1837-1873].

F Bla

Red Grass River: A Legend by James Blake.

A powerful historical saga of family loyalties and frontier spirit set against the infamous development and despoilation of the Everglades and the Chicago mob's invasion of the rich bootleg liquor market. Family loyalties, feral mysticism and the inexorable erosion of a way of life are grandly imagined in this vivid saga of a freewheeling past.

F Dou

Nine Florida Stories by Marjorie Stoneman Douglas [Additional Copies].

The nine stories in this first collection are satisfyingly diverse in plot and theme and take place in a scattering of South Florida settings -- Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, the Tamiami Trail, the Keys, Hillsboro Inlet, the Everglades. In among the drama of hurricanes and plane crashes, of kidnapers, escaped convicts, and smugglers, Douglas plants flags that mark the stories as her own: plume hunters who threaten Florida's ibises, irrational schemes to drain the Everglades, what happens when human beings collide with nature in the form of water, weather, or wildlife. A River in Flood provides more stories of Florida and its colorful characters.

F Gea

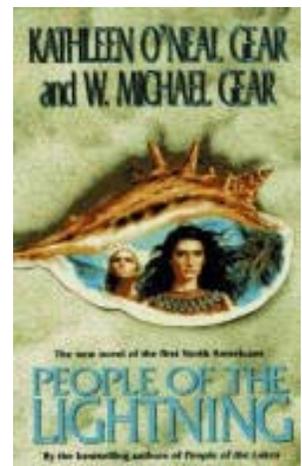
People of the Lightning by Kathleen Gear.

An epic romance about the Windover people who lived in Florida 8000 years ago.

F Gol

In Florida's Dawn by P. D. Gold.

The first Huguenots to leave France seeking freedom from persecution had done so under the leadership of Jean Ribault in 1562. The group ended up establishing the small colony of Fort Caroline in 1564, on the banks of the St. Johns River, in what is today Jacksonville, Florida. The colony was the first attempt at any permanent European settlement in the present-day continental United States, but the group survived only a short time. In September 1565, an attack against the new Spanish colony at St. Augustine backfired, and the Spanish wiped out the Fort Caroline garrison.



F Gra

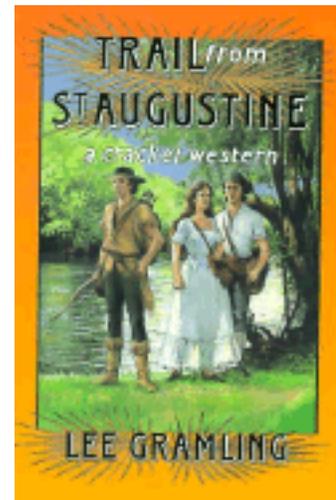
Lee Gramling

introduced Cracker Westerns...with cracklin action; authentic historical details; real bad guys and tough, upright good guys. Trail from St. Augustine In the spring of 1771, John MacKenzie arrives in British-ruled St. Augustine after a year of fur trapping. He is quickly drawn into an adventure that involves defending a young woman indentured to the powerful and treacherous James Tyrone.

Riders of the Suwannee by Tate Barkley returns to 1870s' Florida after ten years on the Western frontier with the idea of settling down near the Suwannee River.

Ninety-Mile Prairie by Peek Tillman has grown up in the Florida backcountry and knows that as he does his job of herding cattle to

market across the big prairie to the east of the Gulf's Charlotte Harbor, he has to be on the lookout for wild beast and poisonous reptiles -- as well as predators of the human variety.



John Paul Jones, Jr.



F Hal

The Great Tide by Rubylea Hall.

The story of a boom-town Gulf port, and plantation life in the 1830s.

F Hud

The Apalachee by Joyce Hudson.

The early 18th century, in which the story is set, shows the Apalachee have been greatly reduced by disease and other dislocations brought by the Spanish invaders. Besides sicknesses against which the Indians had no natural defenses, the Europeans also brought another influence, Christianity. The new religion has had devastating effects upon the tribe, undermining traditional culture and dividing family members against each other.



F Jon

Cold Before Morning: a Heart-Warming Novel About a Florida Pioneer Family by John Paul Jones.

This story of the struggles of pioneers through wars and epidemics is based on the author's ancestors.

F Key

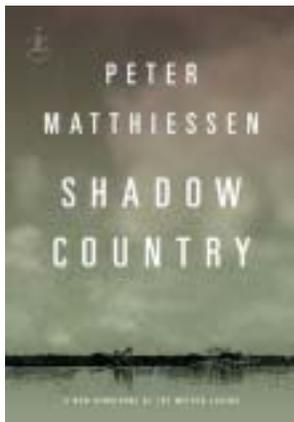
Island Light by Alexander Key

A fugitive from federal justice, Lieutenant Max Ewing returns home to the Gulf port city of Apalachicola determined to seek revenge. The War Between the States has ended, but Apalachicola remains occupied by federal troops and local opportunists emboldened and empowered by the war. Max's brother Randy has died, a victim of shipboard hostilities in the Bay of Cardenas.

Soon, Ewing learns of other losses incurred in his absence: his mother's death from yellow fever, the confiscation of his family's property, and the fates and deaths of many friends. Revenge, loyalty, honor, passion and greed clash in this dramatic tale, set among the raw and rugged elements of Florida's Gulf coast at a turbulent time in its history. *We also have this book in a Traveling Book Club Kit.*

F Mar

***Freedom Land* by Marcus Martin.** The story of the only Indian war the federal government ever lost: the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), in which the Seminoles and runaway slaves (called Maroons) united to preserve their freedom in the Florida Everglades. Marcus's fictional hero is Billy Powell, the son of a British officer and a Creek Indian who's been wrongly accused of murder. He flees to Freedom Land, a Florida sanctuary for runaway slaves on Seminole territory. Powell gets involved in the battles, which are led by Osceola, the chief of the Seminoles, and Abraham, leader of the Maroons, a freed slave who inspires the troops with his vision of slavery's end.



F Mat

***Shadow Country* by Peter Matthiessen**

What becomes a legend most? This nine-hundred-page recension of Peter Matthiessen's linked novels ... *Killing Mr. Watson* (1990), *Lost Man's River* (1997), and *Bone by Bone* (1999) – is quietly subtitled “A New Rendering of the Watson Legend.” That last word is carefully chosen, for Edgar J. Watson (1855–1910) is, like Davy Crockett or Jesse James, one of those larger-than-life figures in American history, as much myth as man. While one Web site lists the sugar-cane planter among the twenty-five most important people in the history of Florida, his contemporaries dubbed him “Bloody” Watson, “Emperor” Watson, the desperado Watson. Though born in South Carolina, he left his indelible mark on the Gulf side of South

Florida, in the region called the Ten Thousand Islands, a frontier world long attractive to outlaws and outcasts.

F May

***Miami: a Saga* by Evelyn Mayerson.**

A lively drama about the founding and evolution of Miami. Spanning the years between 1886 and the arrival of Hurricane Andrew in 1992, the novel chronicles the fortunes of five generations of five families peopled with an assortment of spirited characters.

F Nor

***Moonshine Express* by Rod Norville.**

A moonshine ring increases the dangers of the Florida swamp.

F Pra

Theodore Pratt

Mr. Pratt starts with the first mailman who walked along the beach, this trilogy goes on to tell the story of Henry M. Flagler and the famous hotel, Royal Poinciana. The Barefoot Mailman [Fiftieth Anniversary Edition], [War Edition], [LT]; The Flame Tree, and The Big Bubble. Also includes, a collection of short stories, Florida Roundabout.

F Pri

***Maria* [LT] by Eugenia Price.**

Set in 1700s St. Augustine this Florida trilogy is the spirited story of Mary Evans, an extraordinary woman from colonial Charles Town who finds a place for herself in St. Augustine after Spain relinquishes Florida. ***Don Juan McQueen* [LT]** is the second book in the Florida Trilogy and finds a bold woman waiting for her only love by the light of the Georgia moon... and ***Margaret's Story* [LT]**, features young and headstrong Margaret Seton, who vows to win the heart of grieving widower Lewis Fleming. Their resulting love story plays out against dangerous and tumultuous times and spans almost half a century.

F Raw

***The Yearling*, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings**

American classic and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this is the story of young Jody Baxter's coming of age in the big scrub country which is now the Ocala National Forest.

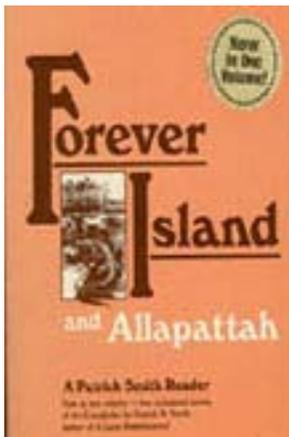
F Rud

***Potluck* by Jack Rudloe.**

It's a good yarn of adventure on the high seas, dodging pirates, the Colombian Navy, the U. S. Coast Guard, and the Florida Marine Patrol. The guy who runs Posey's in St. Marks told Rudloe, "I know all the characters in this book-- including the ones you invented."

F Smi

Patrick Smith has become Florida's writer and historian. ***A Land Remembered*** is a rich, rugged story of the American pioneer spirit involving three generations of the MacIveys, a Florida family battling the hardships of the frontier. Available on [CD-BOOK], [AudioCassette], and a two part Student edition. ***Forever Island*** tells the story of Charlie Jumper, an old Seminole Indian who clings to the ancient ways and teaches them to his grandson. When their simple swamp existence is threatened by a development corporation, Charlie decides to fight back. ***Allapatah*** is the story of a young Seminole in despair in the white man's world. "Allapattah" means crocodile, a creature that becomes Toby Tiger's obsession and that he must wrestle to set himself free.



F Tho

***Homestead* by Betsy Bishop Thomas.**

An intimate look at the struggles and triumphs of people living in rural Northwest Florida in the late 1800s.

F Ton

***Guns of the Palmetto Plains* by Rick Tonyan.**

Cattle from Florida are needed to save the South from starvation. Men like Tree Hooker, tough as alligator hide and quick with gun, knife, or whip, reckon with Union forces and renegades when they take on the job of driving the herds.

