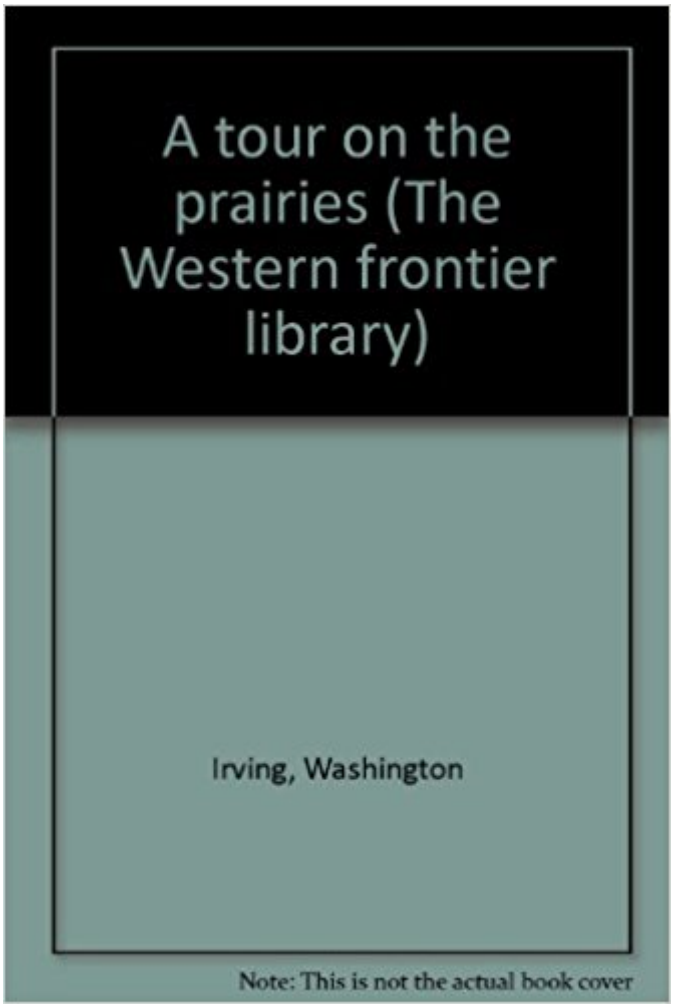
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A Tour On The Prairies (The Western Frontier Library)



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Synopsis

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Book Information

Series: The Western frontier library

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #12,009,369 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 inÃ Â Books > Travel > United States > Oklahoma #5401 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Classics #345362 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

Customer Reviews

The first American author to gain international fame, Irving is known as the writer of classic short stories and essays. His travel experiences are reflected in most of his works. In addition to this, his historical works are also very famous. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I like reading about the Old West. Time Life has rewritten a great classic by the legendary writer Washington Irving. The 335 page book read great with no boring parts.We see Irving and a group on a 10 week excursion into the far mid west then (Oklahoma). We see the vivid description of rivers, plains and forests. Also great descriptions of life of US Army rangers who traveled with the group. We see an inexperienced young count who gets temporarily lost, a half breed, and a boastful little Frenchman. The reader learns about the Indians, hunting especially Buffalo hunting in the

region.This book became an ultimate classic of the Old West and further propelled Irving as one of America’s great writers. Anyone interest in life on the prairie in the Old West, Indians, wildlife and great scenery description will like this book. 5 stars

Washington Irving touring the area where I live before statehood. This is a journal but the flow of language is unmistakably that of an accomplished author. The pictures painted of Native Americans and settlers in the area, as well as the description of the country where the buffalo roamed is especially well done and the misstreatment of Osage, Creek, and other tribes in the area did not go unnoticed by the author. Good reading!

My review is of the Kindle version of this book, and the low rating applies solely to that. While the book itself provides a fascinating look at what life was like in the 1830s in the undeveloped area that is now Oklahoma -- where I live -- this conversion to an e-book is completely unacceptable. The reader has to take everything in context and consider the basic shapes of words rather than individual letters in words to make sense of each sentence. My best guess is that someone scanned the pages of the actual book into a program that read them as digital images and then tried to convert them back into words. It failed horribly.But because I was so interested in the topic and was about to attend the "A Day with Washington Irving" re-enactment at the Keystone Ancient Forest near Sand Springs, Okla. -- an area through which the group documented in this book traveled -- I plowed through the text anyway. Having the background was a great help to me as I walked through the Cross Timbers forest and witnessed re-enactors discussing the events and personalities of the trip.I found it especially enlightening to read how Irving described and referred to Indians -- those traveling with his group and those who lived in the territory his group was crossing. He routinely talked about them as "savages" and "half-breeds," even as he talked admiringly of their skills and knowledge. I imagine that the widespread reading of his book by Americans of his day contributed greatly to the stereotypes of and prejudices against American Indians that were perpetuated in this country.Irving spends a great deal of time in the book relating the hunts -- of deer, buffalo, turkeys and even wild horses -- that his group pursued. I’m a wildlife rehabber and a soft-hearted vegetarian, so these depictions were not easy to read. At one point Irving even expressed remorse himself at having shot a buffalo. It was severely wounded but not dead, and before he put it out of its misery, he felt guilty for having harmed the animal, which he considered magnificent in its size, strength and majesty.If you’re going to read the book, go ahead and get the print version -- not this e-edition. The mangled text makes it too hard to read.

This short travelogue is amazing -- not just for what was seen and written down, but because this is one of the early American publications that fashioned our ideas about the American West. The writing is easy to read and doesn't use too many archaic words. Read it, revisit the source for early West experiences, and see how its ideas have continued to influence literature, Hollywood, and our own deeply embedded understanding.

Irving was a good writer, good look into the 1830's.

Irving is a good author but a little shy on the details. He writes as a tourist on a trip which is a refreshing point of view

I have read this book before and it is excellent. It should be required reading for all Oklahomans in high school.

Don't be misled by the cover....Irving never reached mountain peaks like those. Of course, in 1835, he didn't know exactly where he was, butjudging from the rivers mentioned and the location of his starting point at Fort Gibson which is northeast of Muskogee, Oklahoma, he only traveled ineastern Oklahoma. This area is part of the Ozarks which explains the brush and trees he describes. The open prairie where the buffalo roamed is farther north in Kansas. The Red River forms the current border between Oklahoma and Texas, so I'm not sure whether he really reached that point either. Nevertheless, he provides an interesting description of early exploration west of the Mississippi, most appealing to hunters and naturalists. The text is a worthy contribution to understanding early American history. Too bad that the publishers didn't choose a more appropriate cover design.

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