

美国西部文学研究

A Study of the
American Western Literature

◎王夷平 著



北京理工大学出版社

BEIJING INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PRESS

美国西部文学研究

A Study of the American Western Literature

王夷平 著



北京理工大学出版社

BEIJING INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PRESS

版权专有 侵权必究

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

美国西部文学研究 : 英文 / 王夷平著. —北京: 北京理工大学出版社, 2015. 4

ISBN 978 - 7 - 5682 - 0406 - 4

I. ①美… II. ①王… III. ①文学研究 - 美国 - 文集 - 英文 IV. ①I712.06 - 53

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2015) 第 068318 号

出版发行 / 北京理工大学出版社有限责任公司

社 址 / 北京市海淀区中关村南大街 5 号

邮 编 / 100081

电 话 / (010) 68914775 (总编室)

82562903 (教材售后服务热线)

68948351 (其他图书服务热线)

网 址 / <http://www.bitpress.com.cn>

经 销 / 全国各地新华书店

印 刷 / 北京富达印务有限公司

开 本 / 880 毫米 × 1230 毫米 1/32

印 张 / 5.75

责任编辑 / 施胜娟

字 数 / 173 千字

文案编辑 / 施胜娟

版 次 / 2015 年 4 月第 1 版 2015 年 4 月第 1 次印刷

责任校对 / 孟祥敬

定 价 / 69.00 元

责任印制 / 马振武

图书出现印装质量问题, 请拨打售后服务热线, 本社负责调换

前 言

美国独立战争胜利以后，美国人对广袤的西部进行了拓殖与开发。其规模之大、影响之深远，不仅在美国历史上而且在世界历史上也是罕见的。持续了几代人的西部开发为美国经济的腾飞、美国民主政治的发展、美国人民生活的大幅改善、美国社会的安定以及美国的强盛，奠定了坚实的基础。“西部”成了勇敢、自由和机会的代名词，成为一个象征、一个神话。西部开发不仅对美国民主政治和平等观念的形成起到重要作用，而且很大程度上决定了美国人的民族特性：个人主义、乐观主义、理想主义、讲求实际的生活态度、随机应变的能力、富于创造力和开拓精神。

美国西部文学是伴随着美国西部领土的开发而产生和发展起来的。美国西部文学始终以西部拓荒史为文学题材，以拓荒者共同坚守的信念为文学的灵魂。西部文学体现了美国的民族精神，美国梦是美国文化的重要组成部分，是美国民族精神的重要体现。西部文学作家创造了坚持传统价值的西部英雄，在文学作品中塑造了大量西部硬汉、牛仔和边疆人物。

本书共分八章。第一章叙述了美国西部开发的进程，包括西部开发的主要阶段、事件和政策以及美国民族精神的形成和特点。第二章至第七章介绍了美国西部文学不同体裁的发展过程和写作特点。通过阅读不同体裁的文学作品，读者可以深刻地体会美国文化和美国民族精神。第八章介绍了美国印第安文学。美国印第安文学历史悠久、内容丰富，在美国文学史上占有重要地位，是美国文学特别是美国西部文学的重要组成部分。印第安文学反映了印第安民族的

生存状况，他们在当代社会中的身份危机，同时发掘、传承和弘扬了印第安民族文化。本书旨在为理解美国社会价值观念和美国民族文化提供一个重要途径，使读者从西部开发和西部文学史中获得重要启迪。

鉴于作者水平有限，难免出现疏漏和不妥之处，敬请同行和读者不吝赐教，不胜感激。

王夷平

2014 年 12 月

Contents

Chapter I	American Westward Expansion and the American Spirit	1
Chapter II	The Adventure Narrative	37
Chapter III	The Western Fiction	57
Chapter IV	The Western Poetry	105
Chapter V	The Western Drama	118
Chapter VI	The Western Nature Essay	133
Chapter VII	The Western Movie	147
Chapter VIII	The American Indian Literature	160
Bibliography	176

Chapter I

American Westward Expansion and the American Spirit

I. The Settlement of the Appalachian Plateau

The first Anglo-American frontier is made up of the original 13 colonies — New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. After the coastal lands were cleared, pioneers were ready to spread westward. But towering mountains, hostile Indians, and warlike Frenchmen prevented them from doing so. After one and a half centuries, the French and the Indians were conquered, the mountains were pierced by military roads. Frontiersmen assaulted that wilderness so successfully that by the time of the Revolution their cabins dotted the lowlands about the Forks of the Ohio, the bluegrass region of Kentucky, and the valleys of the upper Tennessee river.

The movement began when Thomas Cresap spied out the country about the Forks of the Ohio in 1750. The Treaty of Ft. Stanwix opened the whole region south and east of the Ohio River in 1768. This treaty sent a stream of settlers westward toward the Forks of the Ohio. In 1771, the population reached 10,000 families.

Other immigrants moved down the Greenbrier and New rivers to the fertile valley of the Great Kanawha. In 1773, Thomas Bullitt built his cabin on the Great Kanawha. A few dozen families followed him and were joined by others, they advanced along the south bank of the Ohio from Pittsburgh, until by 1776 the whole triangle between that river, the Great

Kanawha, and the mountains was being settled.

A second area settled during those years was in eastern Tennessee where the twisting tributaries of the Tennessee River promised home seekers rich valley farms. In 1768, William Bean selected the Watauga River Valley as a site for his cabin. His tales of the fertile soil and natural beauty of his new home attracted others; by the autumn of 1770 their clearings dotted the banks of the Watauga for several miles. James Robertson visited this outpost that fall. He was so pleased with the country that he returned in the spring of 1771, accompanied by his family and sixteen friends. The cluster of cabins that they built near the mouth of the Doe River became the center of the Watauga settlements.

Other pioneers moved in around them. They planted a cluster of settlements in eastern Tennessee by 1771. During the next two years those communities grew rapidly, as settlers were drawn west by glowing reports from the pioneers or driven to the frontier by intolerable conditions in their native land. By the close of 1772 several hundred families lived in eastern Tennessee.

Beyond them a new frontier took shape in 1774 and 1775 as pioneers planted their outposts on the banks of the Kentucky River. There they reared the "Kentucky Stations" that held back the Indian tide during the war for independence and helped win the continent's interior for the newborn country.

First came the explorers who started west in March, 1750. They followed a well-worn Indian trail northward, but the hilly country discouraged them before they found the level fields along the Kentucky River.

Then came the hunters, they invaded Kentucky during the summer of 1766. They crossed the Appalachians by a little known Indian trail and hunted across southern Kentucky and northern Tennessee to the Mississippi. Daniel Boone was a remarkable woodsman, whose name is forever associated with the early history of the Southwest. He made his first try during the winter of

1767 – 1768 and failed when he emerged in the jagged hill country south of the big Sandy River. This was not the Kentucky described, and he returned in the spring of 1768 with a harvest of furs but with his appetite for knowledge of the bluegrass region still unsatisfied. In May, 1769, he and his little party set out again. In December, Boone was captured by a band of Shawnee, but he managed to escape. Daniel and his brother spent the winter of 1769 – 1770 and the next few months roaming the forest. By July 27, 1770, he knew more of Kentucky than any other white man. The brothers hunted along the banks of the Kentucky River and in the Green and Cumberland valleys in 1770 and 1771. Near Cumberland Gap they encountered a band of Indians who took their furs, their horses, and their supplies, they arrived home with nothing to show for two years of hunting.

Boone's disastrous experience made hunters realize that if they wanted to venture into Kentucky the group was needed for protection. Their safety could be assured only in large bands capable of beating off Indian war parties. Uriah Stone and several dozen hunters met in June, 1769, they followed the well-marked trail through Cumberland Gap, and roamed the country, shooting and trapping. Game was plentiful and easily captured. They returned east in the fall with pack horses staggering beneath a wealth of furs.

After the explorers and hunters, came the land speculators. In the spring of 1773, they formed a large expedition and surveyed the region. In the spring of the following year, they were back again, they worked through the early summer staking out extensive claims for themselves and their backers along the Ohio, Kentucky, and Licking rivers.

The conquest of Kentucky did not go on smoothly. The Indians wanted Kentucky for a hunting ground; the Americans wanted Kentucky for homes and farms. The only solution to the problem was war. War broke out in 1774, the result of which was the signing of the Treaty of Camp Charlotte. The red men agreed that they would consent to the occupation of

Kentucky, cease hunting there, and stop molesting boats plying the Ohio River. The last obstacle to the settlement of Kentucky was removed.

For a generation before 1795 the westward march of the American people was halted while independence was won. After the Revolution, frontiersmen were ready to move again. Overcrowding, high prices, exorbitant taxes, and conservatism drew the pioneers toward the frontier, soil exhaustion, the expansion of plantation agriculture, improved roads connecting East and West helped speed the exodus.

Between 1790 and 1795, the pioneers moved toward eastern Tennessee. By 1796, when 77,000 people lived in Tennessee, the territory was ready to enter the Union as a state. It was admitted as a state on June 1, 1796. Others sought homes in Kentucky. More than 220,000 people lived in Kentucky by 1800. On June 1, 1792, Kentucky entered the Union as a state. Both Tennessee and Kentucky accomplished the transition from frontier to civilized community almost overnight.

The settlement of the Ohio region was more rapid. It began in 1795 when Wayne's Treaty of Greenville removed Indians from that area. The influx of settlers fostered a growing demand for a greater degree of self-government. From that time on the movement for Ohio statehood was rapid. Ohio was admitted into the Union on March 1, 1803.

II. The Settlement of the Lake and the Gulf Plains, and the Mississippi Valley

Western pressure forced the federal government to open the Lake Plains to pioneers. The first thing the government did was to pacify the hostile Indians. Three peace commissioners met 2,000 tribesmen at the little village of Portage des Sioux in July, 1815. One by one the grievances of various tribes were settled, by September, they signed the Treaties of Portage des Sioux. Yet the Treaties did not completely end the threat of war, the national government realized that something more than presents, promises, and honeyed words were needed to protect the advancing settlements. The government began to launch a fort-building program

designed to throw a protecting screen between Indians and pioneers. Work went on rapidly between 1816 and 1822, expanding the sphere of American influence.

Indian policy had only one objective; to bring the tribes so completely under American control that they could be pushed from their ancestral lands. The pattern was set in September, 1817, when representatives of the tribes were called together, informed they must cede their claims in return for annuities and presents, and forced to sign a treaty of cession. For the next four years that ruthless process went on, with tribe after tribe surrendering its territories and agreeing to live within the confines of a reservation or move to the unwanted wilderness beyond the Mississippi. By the end of 1821, nearly all of Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan were in American hands, ready to receive westward-moving pioneers.

The first home-seekers came to southern Indiana and Illinois, which offered both adequate soil and familiar vegetation. By 1830, southern Indiana and Illinois were filled. While farmers spread over the timbered lands of the southern Lake Plains, other pioneers moved northward in search of a new source of wealth. In northwestern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin, they discovered that lying beneath thin layers of eroded shale were outcroppings of rock containing rich veins of lead and other minerals. By 1830, 10,000 frontiersmen had staked out claims, built the bustling town of Galena, and were shipping 15,000,000 pounds of lead yearly to New Orleans.

The rapid peopling of the Lake Plains country convinced the federal government that more Indian lands must be opened to the swarming pioneers. The only solution was to transfer the red men to unwanted lands beyond the Mississippi. By 1825, the federal government decided upon removal as a definite policy.

In August, 1825, a thousand representatives of Indian tribes were called together, told to agree on specific tribal boundaries as a means of

maintaining peace. Presents and annuities won most of them over and the Treaties of Prairie du Chien were signed. In the following years, treaty making went on, with tribes surrendering either their ancestral lands or their newly acquired reservations. By 1837, nearly all the Northwest was held by the United States. By 1846, the last saddened tribe had departed for its unwanted new home.

From 1830 to 1850, population moved steadily into northern Indiana, northern and central Illinois, and southern Michigan. Settlers transformed Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois from wilderness wastes to settled regions almost overnight. By 1850, the whole section was passing beyond the frontier stage, except in northern Michigan and Wisconsin.

In the Lake Plains people from a variety of older societies met and mingled, blending the social mannerisms and economic habits of their homelands to create a unique society, distinct from those contributing to it and modified by the impact of the frontier.

Indiana in 1816 and Illinois in 1818 entered the Union with constitutions that reflected the liberalizing influence of the frontier, popularly elected legislatures were made supreme, yet in both slavery was allowed to continue. Michigan's frame of government was equally liberal when it applied for statehood in 1837, and Wisconsin's outdid them all in guaranteeing unrestrained popular control: governor, legislator, and even judges were elected for short terms, all native born males were given the right to vote after one year's residence, and married women were allowed to control their own property. Wisconsin became a state under this document in 1848.

While the Northwest was transformed into a land of fertile farms and bustling villages, another migratory stream flowed to the Gulf Plains of the Southwest. The Southwest was opened to settlement in 1798 when Mississippi Territory was created, but only a handful of pioneers made their homes there in the next dozen years. The presence of the powerful

Indian tribes, the lack of direct communication with the settled areas of the Southeast, almost impassable crude trails, all discouraged any mass movement to the territory.

The transition of this region into a prosperous land of farms and plantations can be explained in one word: cotton. Southern interest in that important crop began to develop in the late eighteenth century when English inventors perfected the machinery needed to produce cotton cloth mechanically. Those epoch-making machines enabled British mills to produce cotton cloth more cheaply. The market was limitless; the whole world waited to be reclothed in cheaper fabrics than the expensive woollens. Machines, workers, and power could be supplied in Britain; only raw cotton was needed.

Plantation owners saw that fortunes awaited those switching to the promising new crop. Wherever soil and climate were suitable, planters turned excitedly to the new crop. The price was high and profits fantastic. By 1812, the cotton frontier was ready to advance across the Gulf Plains. Pressure from cotton planters anxious to invade the Gulf Plains turned the government's attention to land cessions once more. A series of treaties forced on cowed tribes between 1816 and 1821 opened several tracts in central Georgia, western Alabama, and western Tennessee, but the rapidity with which these were overrun convinced the government that nothing would satisfy land-hungry cotton growers but the removal of all Indians to lands beyond the Mississippi. By December, 1838, all Indian lands were ceded to the United States, all Indians in Georgia were driven across the Mississippi. Georgia's ruthless example was imitated by Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. In 1842, all the East was open to settlement; all the natives were in the distant lands of the Far West.

Along the western edge of the Gulf Plains were two regions that played an important role in the history of the Southwest. One was the forty-mile strip of Bluff Hills that ran through central Mississippi, an area so fertile

that cotton planters sought land there. The other was the Mississippi Flood Plain, the broad valley was among the richest areas in the United States. The delta was avoided by early settlers who feared floods. Not until the 1840s was the region transformed into one of the South's prize agricultural areas. By the close of 1819, 200,000 people lived in the Gulf Plains and one-half the nation's cotton was produced there.

The "Great Migration" into the Gulf Plains made statehood possible for both Mississippi and Alabama. Mississippi acted first, and in 1817 entered the Union; Alabama followed in 1819. The migratory stream continued to flow through the 1820s. Most immigrants moved to the already settled areas of northern and southern Alabama and southwestern Mississippi, where population increased from 200,000 to 445,000. In the prosperous 1830s, immigrants came in swarms. Prices and profits were fantastic during those boom years; returns of 35 percent yearly were common. Such fortunes proved an irresistible attraction. By 1840, the boundaries of the cotton kingdom were marked out.

The social order created by this rapid expansion differed markedly from that developing in the Northwest at the same time. The Lake Plains by 1850 was a land of democratic small farmers producing a diversified list of cereal crops and livestock, a variety that marked the beginning of the expansion that would diversify the region's economy. But in the South, there were rigidly drawn class lines that stratified the social order; a few fortunate individuals controlled most of the best land. Worst of all for the future, the deep South remained predominantly rural, lagging far behind in the industrial growth that after 1815 marked the emergence of the United States from its under-developed era. Cotton growing in the Gulf Plains doomed the deep South to an agrarian economy that ran contrary to the national trend.

Within the social order, class lines were tightly drawn. At the top of the social pyramid were the few great planters who owned one or more

plantations, fifty or more slaves, and collectively three-quarters of the wealth of the south. The social group next below them were the "one-horse" planters who operated their own estates with the help of from one to twenty slaves. About 20 percent of the southern whites were in this class. The small and large planters together, constituted about 23 percent of the southern white population. The remaining 77 percent were non-slaveholders. Most were hard-working yeomen farmers. Far below the yeoman farmers were the poor whites. At the very bottom of the social scale were the slaves.

The southern social structure was fully developed by 1850. Differing radically from that of the Northwest in basic crops, agricultural methods, form of labor, and social philosophy, the unique society reared in the South helped create sectional conflicts and eventually found expression in civil wars.

While pioneers stripped away the virgin forests of the Lake Plains and transformed the woods along the Gulf into fields of snowy cotton, more adventurous Americans pressed beyond the Mississippi to begin the conquest of a new frontier. There, they found what they sought: fertile farming country, lush green pastures, precious metals, and a king's fortune in shining beaver peltry. News of this wealth set other frontiersmen marching westward in an ever-growing migration.

Adventurous pioneers drifted into the Territory of Orleans in 1804. Ten thousand immigrants arrived during the next two years, 4,000 more between 1807 and 1809. When population justified statehood, Louisiana was admitted into the Union in April, 1812.

Farmers came to Missouri between 1815 and 1819. Most sought farms along the Missouri River. Others ascended the tributaries of the Big Muddy to stake claims on the lower reaches of those streams. By 1820, an eighty-mile-wide strip along the Mississippi was settled and an arm of advancing population followed the Missouri half way across the territory. The influx

aroused the usual demands for statehood. Congress responded as soon as the census of 1820 showed sufficient population and the Missouri Compromise settled the troublesome slavery issue. Missouri entered the Union in August, 1821. Each year the tide of immigration grew larger, attracted by the rising prosperity of the frontier state.

Arkansas grew more slowly. In 1819, population numbered 14,000, new settlers continued to trickle in. By the middle 1830s, a thin line of farms extended westward as far as Ft. Smith on the territory's border and the people were thinking seriously of statehood. When population reached 70,000 in 1835, the territorial legislature called a constitutional convention to meet at Little Rock the following January. The resulting document reached Washington just as Michigan applied for admission, Congress admitted one free and one slave state. Under those terms Arkansas entered the Union in 1836.

The American invasion of Iowa's lush prairies and Minnesota's deep forest began much later. Before 1830 the whole region was controlled by native inhabitants. By that time pioneers demanded that the United States open Iowa to settlement. The United States took a strip of Iowa land running along the west bank of the Mississippi from Missouri's northern boundary to the vicinity of Prairie du Chien. In return the Indians were granted a \$20,000 annuity for thirty years, \$40,000 more in the form of debt settlements, forty kegs of tobacco, and forty barrels of salt. On June 1, 1833, the land was thrown open to settlement. The rush began at once; all that summer land-hungry pioneers jammed the trails or waited days to cross the Mississippi on hand-rowed ferries. For the next few years the migration went on, as news of Iowa's good land spread. Population was estimated at 10,000 in 1836, by 1840, 43,000 people lived in Iowa.

Little towns along the Mississippi blossomed overnight into proud cities. By 1842 lands already obtained from the Indians were so well filled that the government's treaty-making agencies were called to wrest central,

southern and western Iowa from Indian tribes. The new area filled rapidly, there was a growing demand for statehood. In December, 1846, Congress welcomed Iowa into the Union. As a state its rapid growth continued until by 1850 its inhabitants numbered 192, 212 and its corn production touched 8, 600, 000 bushels.

While Iowa filled, the frontier moved northward into the wilderness of Minnesota's lakes and forests. The first pioneers were traders, they came in 1819. Gradually others drifted into the area. In 1837, the United States opened the triangle between the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers as well as a chunk of northern Wisconsin to settlement. The rush to the new frontier began.

The first arrivals were lumbermen who were attracted by the towering stands of virgin pine and hardwood that covered all the wild country west of Lake Superior. Others advanced along the upper Mississippi River or established lumbering towns higher up the river. The logging camps lured pioneer farmers into Minnesota creating a demand for food-stuffs. Farmers drifted in to till the land cleared by foresters and sell their grain or pork to hungry loggers. Each lumbering town became the nucleus for a small agricultural settlement.

As growth went on, year after year, the thoughts of pioneers turned to self-government. The territorial government's first act was to press upon Congress the need for additional lands. In 1851, the leading Sioux chieftains were persuaded to sign away their claims to most of western Minnesota. News of the treaty attracted settlers to the new cession. By the end of 1852, twenty thousand pioneers lived there. Expansion continued at an ever-increasing pace during the next few years. In 1858, Minnesota became a state with a population that totaled 172, 023.

III. The Conquest of Texas, Oregon, the Great Basin and California

The Rocky Mountains in 1825 marked the extreme western limit of American influence. Yet twenty-five years later not only Texas and Oregon