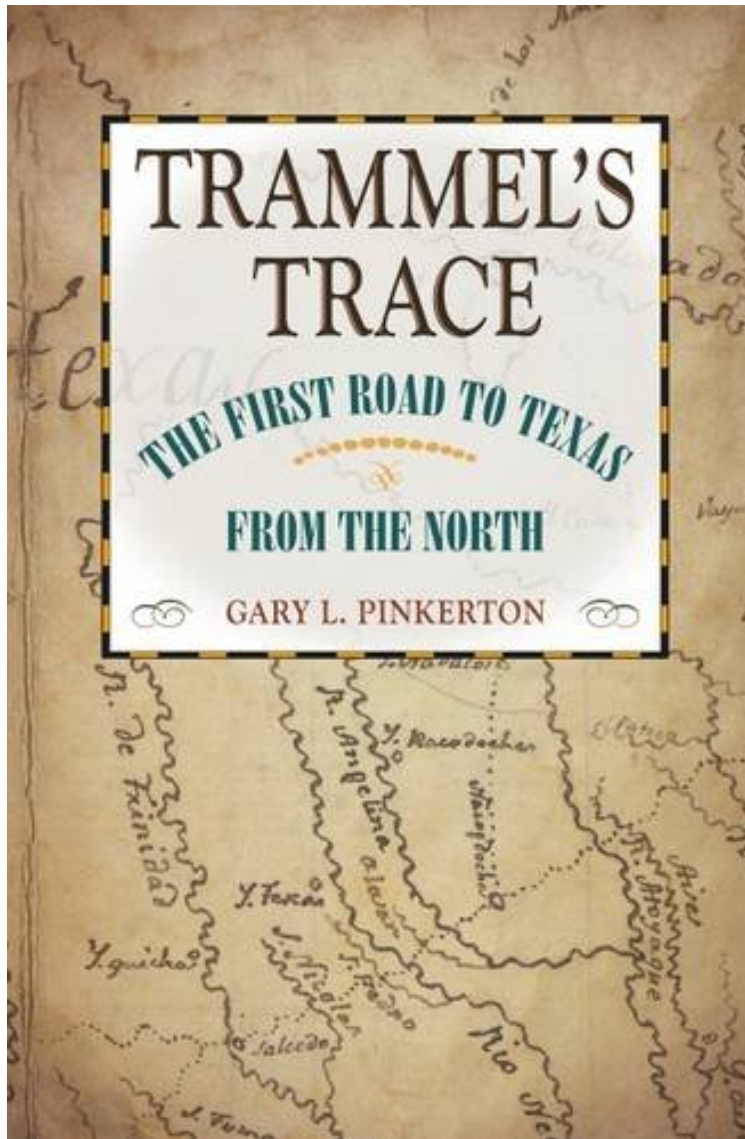


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Trammel's Trace: The First Road to Texas from the North (Red River Valley Books, sponsored by Texas AM University-Texarkana)

Gary L. Pinkerton

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Gary L. Pinkerton : Trammel's Trace: The First Road to Texas from the North (Red River Valley Books, sponsored by Texas AM University-Texarkana) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trammel's Trace: The First Road to Texas from the North (Red River Valley Books, sponsored by Texas AM University-Texarkana):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy Gail FailI read Pinkerton's book as part of my research on my great grandfather Jim Wyrick, who probably followed Trammel's Trace into Nacogdoches around 1850. The historical information was useful, because it gave me a better picture of what it was like for my relatives in that time and place. But the book is entertaining, and I would have liked it even if I were not looking for more east Texas history. Pinkerton obviously shares my fascination of the east Texas forests, waterways and people. He writes with authority and compassion. I highly recommend his book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy start3Mr Pinkerton absolutely loves East Texas and has shared a great story. If you love Texas history, you should read this.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book in my case as it covers north/east Texas, and Routes folks used in this area, and other areas.By Review13Must have book for family researchers, especially, those who had folks migrate to North / East Texas, plenty of history and some maps of the trace, and migration path, my folks settled Bowie Co TX 1845, no doubt they used this trail. Wish they would have shown the path through Bowie Co using Headrights, all I know is my 3xgr lived a mile south of this trace, however, plenty of information, that is useful for us researchers.

Trammels Trace tells the story of a borderlands smuggler and an important passageway into early Texas. Trammels Trace, named for Nicholas Trammell, was the first route from the United States into the northern boundaries of Spanish Texas. From the Great Bend of the Red River it intersected with El Camino Real de los Tejas in Nacogdoches. By the early nineteenth century, Trammels Trace was largely a smugglers trail that delivered horses and contraband into the region. It was a microcosm of the migration, lawlessness, and conflict that defined the period. By the 1820s, as Mexico gained independence from Spain, smuggling declined as Anglo immigration became the primary use of the trail. Familiar names such as Sam Houston, David Crockett, and James Bowie joined throngs of immigrants making passage along Trammels Trace. Indeed, Nicholas Trammell opened trading posts on the Red River and near Nacogdoches, hoping to claim a piece of Austins new colony. Austin denied Trammells entry, however, fearing his poor reputation would usher in a new wave of smuggling and lawlessness. By 1826, Trammell was pushed out of Texas altogether and retreated back to Arkansas Even so, as author Gary L. Pinkerton concludes, Trammell was more opportunist than outlaw and made the most of disorder.

Pinkertons glimpse at Trammels Trace as a smugglers back alley into Northeast Texas offers a refreshing tale about other roads and characters beyond the traditional narrative of colonization in the Lone Star State. The transformation of Nicholas Trammell from clandestine trader to settled farmer and slaveholder by the early 1840s is a reminder that there remains more to learn about early immigrants to Texas than meets the eye. Pinkerton relates Trammells journey in a well-written, narrative style that different audiences may share alike.Dr. Francis X. Galan, Assistant Professor of History at Texas AM University-San Antonio