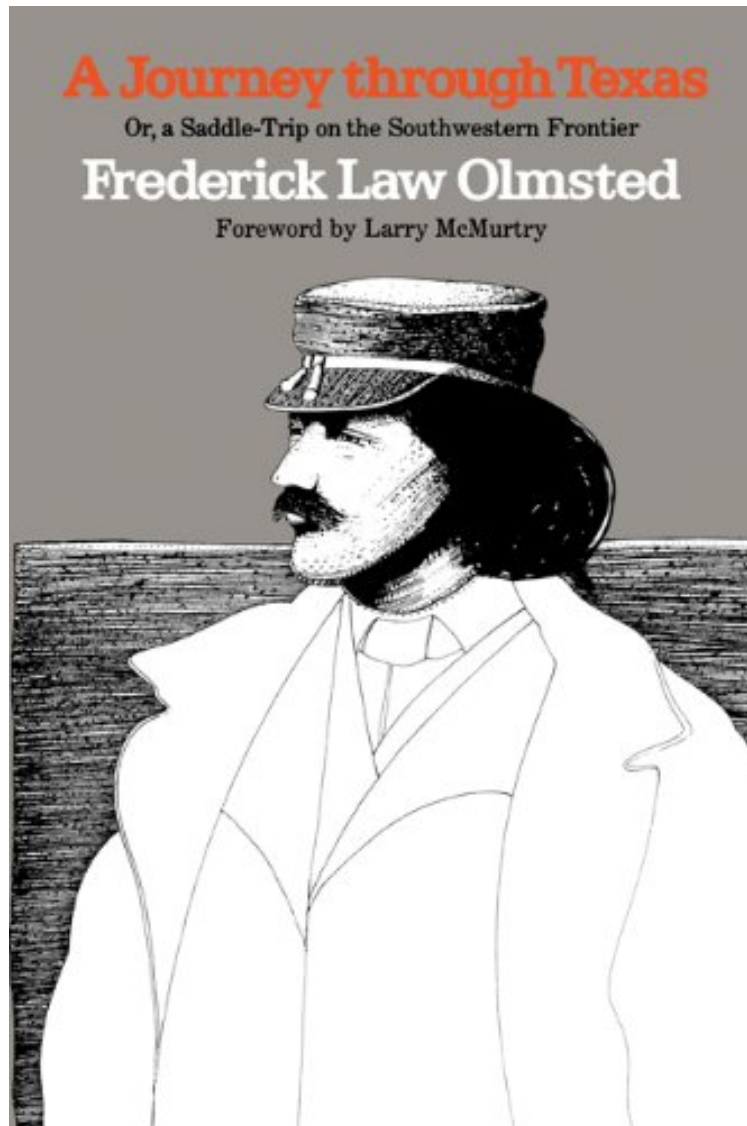


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A Journey Through Texas or, A Saddle Trip on the Southwestern Frontier (The Elma Dill Russell Spencer Foundation Series, No. 7; Barker Texas History Center Series, No. 2)

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on the Southwestern Frontier (The Elma Dill Russell Spencer Foundation Series, No. 7; Barker Texas History Center Series, No. 2):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent descriptions of economic, social, and political influences in 1850's Texas. By Thomas Wynn There are obvious transposing errors from the original manuscript and necessarily rely on the familiarity of the reader to the subject material for full understanding. The attention given to slavery is highly interesting and provides the reader with perspectives upon which to develop judgments. It is clearly a book refreshingly devoid of "political correctness". A sophisticated reader will enjoy this remarkable read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By 43 If the reader is familiar with Texas, the descriptions of different locales are quite enjoyable. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. By far the best book I have read for giving the reader a ... By Jake By far the best book I have read for giving the reader a gut feel for day-to-day life and living conditions in 1850's Texas (and a bit of Mexico as well), including slavery as practiced in the state at the time. Interesting views and comments on the German settlers and settlements around San Antonio and their opposition to slavery. Olmsted has a brilliant mind but his writing is clear, modern and unassuming

Early in the year 1854 Frederick Law Olmsted, a young New England journalist, crossed the Louisiana border and set off on horseback into the teeth of the Texas winter. In *A Journey through Texas* he recounts his travels along the Old San Antonio Road through East Texas' piney woods, the dry prairies further west, the chaparral of South Texas, the coastal prairies, and the rich bottomlands around Houston and Galveston. Olmsted does not romanticize the discomforts of his trip—the monotonous food, crude housing, wet and dry northers, rough companions—yet his book reflects a sense of limitless possibility for this new and open country. The cultured Easterner remembers in relentless detail the squalor and brutality met with in parts of East Texas, but he writes fondly of the civility and cleanliness of the German settlements around New Braunfels. In his introductory "A Letter to a Southern Friend," omitted in earlier reprints, Olmsted sets forth his views opposing the extension of slavery into the West and promoting free-soil agriculture for frontier states. The remarkably versatile Olmsted is best known as the founder of landscape architecture in America and for works including Central Park and Stanford University. In his Foreword, Larry McMurtry calls *A Journey through Texas* an "intelligent, lively, readable book, packed with keen observation and lightened by a delicate strain of humor."