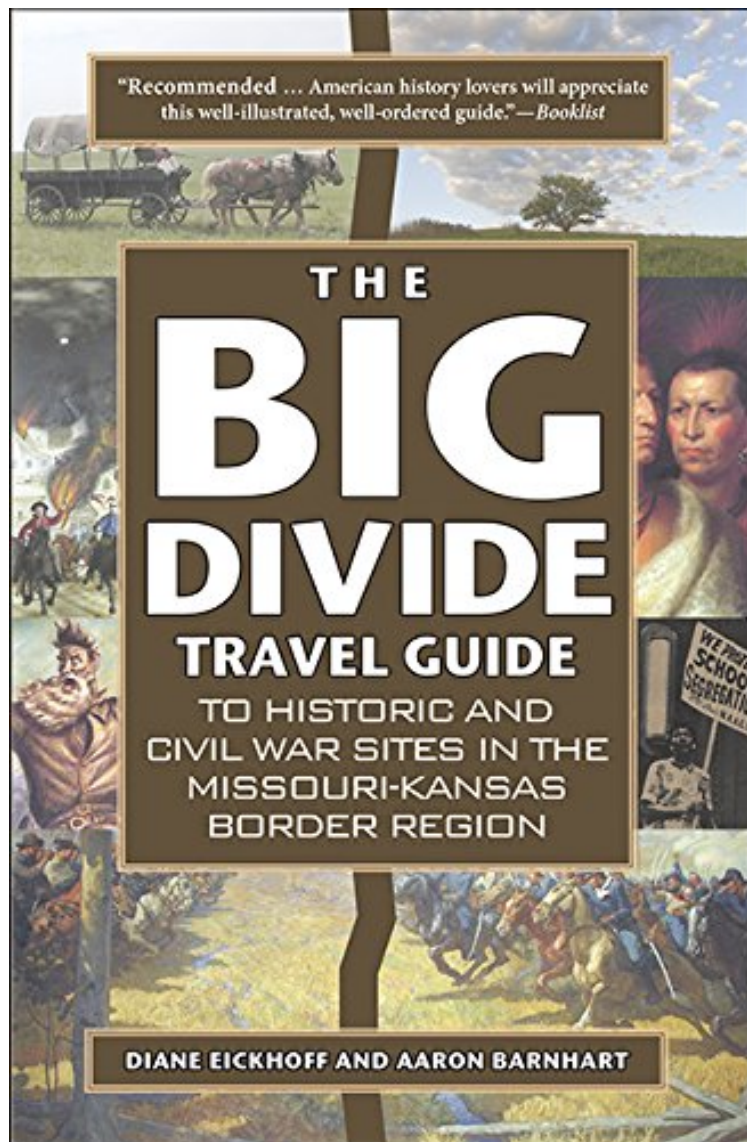


[Mobile book] The Big Divide Travel Guide: Historic and Civil War Sites in the Missouri-Kansas Border Region

The Big Divide Travel Guide: Historic and Civil War Sites in the Missouri-Kansas Border Region

Diane Eickhoff, Aaron Barnhart

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Diane Eickhoff, Aaron Barnhart : The Big Divide Travel Guide: Historic and Civil War Sites in the Missouri-Kansas Border Region before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Big Divide Travel Guide: Historic and Civil War Sites in the Missouri-Kansas Border Region:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic guide to this culturally rich region
By Jon L Albee
If you like to travel, then you like to discover new places and things. Read this book and you'll discover a region rich in history and culture that you might not have otherwise expected. I was pleasantly surprised at how much there really is here, and there's more than enough to keep you busy for two weeks. The title declares this book to be a guide to Civil War sites, but it's really more than that. I'd prefer to think of it as a guide to sites along the KS-MO border region which most uniquely define the characters of their respective states. It includes more than battlefields and monuments, and branches out into top quality museums, historic buildings, parks and shops. It is truly comprehensive in its coverage, certain to direct your attention to places you never knew existed. There are many black white photographs, and maps are simple and easy to read. The chapters are arranged chronologically, and each chapter begins with a brief essay which places the sites in greater historical context. The quality of the writing is excellent, and the authors clearly express deep working knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the area. This book is a guide to the sites themselves, and is not a traditional travel guide offering listings of restaurants and hotels. All practical matters related to the sites are included within. It really works best as a day trip companion or as a guide to direct weekend exploration. I would highly recommend this book to people visiting Kansas City or Topeka from out of town or abroad, to provide some interesting excursions beyond your host city.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Travel Guide with a Difference
By Cliff
Those who forget the lessons of history ... (I forget how the rest of that saying goes.) Nevertheless, I have a feeling that it's probably a good idea to know where we came from and learn a bit about those who helped build the world we live in today. This book provides any easy way for those of us living in the Missouri-Kansas border region to appreciate history that took place in our back yard. And for others interested in history, this book provides historical information about a region of the country that is often overlooked by those living in other parts of the world. This is a travel guide as indicated by the subtitle, but the book is so unique that I'm not sure that label does it justice. This is the first travel guide that I've come across that is arranged in chronological order. It starts with a overview of geologic history, acknowledges early native peoples, moves on to early settlers, expands on action leading up to and through the Civil War, and then reviews more recent history. All along this chronological route the book lists all the locations and sites where these things happened and where artifacts of this history can be visited and appreciated. The authors of this book visited all 130 historic sites, monuments, museums, parks, cemeteries, and shrines that are described in this book. The sole focus of this book is on providing the reader an idea of what to expect as a visitor to these sites. So you'll need to consult other guides for information on restaurants and lodging. The authors even took their grandchildren to some of the sites to test out the kid friendly aspects of the sites. So families can rely on this book to be a helpful guide in choosing educational sites to visit that can be enjoyed by all ages. I wonder how many people have visited all 130 sites mentioned in this book. I'm pretty sure that the authors are the only ones to have taken careful and thorough notes during all their visits. Perhaps I can set it as a goal for my retirement years to visit all the sites mentioned in this book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Planning a trip
By Will Fitzgerald
My wife and I know the authors; so, when it came time to think of a present for her, this book naturally came to mind. I've always admired Barnhart's writing, and I thought this would be an interesting pastime to read. I was unprepared for how richly and deeply Eickhoff and Barnhart write about the border region of Missouri and Kansas. I was somewhere aware of the pre-Civil War history of the region (my dad was fascinated with John Brown), but the writers discuss the area's natural history, Native Americans, the western expansion, border wars and the Civil War and its aftermath, and the region's more recent history. I especially like how they wrote the book with a focus on the history, rather than just the places one might visit (as a usual tour book does), because this creates a context and a story for tours. This book has got us excited enough that we hope to travel to the area to take advantage of this excellent book.

Sorry, but your history teacher was wrong--the Civil War started in the West, not the East, on the prairies of Kansas. And contrary to what you saw at the movies, it was in Missouri where African American soldiers first fought and died for their freedom. Those are just two of the eye-opening findings about the Missouri-Kansas Border Region in this "well-organized" (Booklist) and "surprisingly versatile" (Library Journal) road trip guide for history buffs, budget travelers, and families. First released in 2013, *The Big Divide* has made its way into thousands of glove boxes and travel bags. Readers learn the Border Region's pivotal role throughout American history, from westward expansion to Indian policy to the Border War to Missouri's role in the Civil War, right through to the 20th century with Harry Truman and the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling. *The Big Divide* features 130 hand-selected sites and battlefields, themed driving tours, kid-friendly sites, maps, informative essays, and the insights of two experienced road trippers.

"Recommended . . . American history lovers will appreciate this well-illustrated, well-ordered guide to historical sites." -- Booklist, April 1, 2013 "Thorough and surprisingly versatile . . . Recommended for Civil War buffs, regional collections, and road trippers looking for their next itinerary." -- Library Journal, June 21, 2013 "Truly comprehensive . . . certain to direct your attention to places you never knew existed." -- Jon Albee, Top travel reviewer "Unlike a typical travel guide, *The Big Divide* is organized thematically rather than geographically. Each chapter begins with a

narrative that places its sites in broad historical context and is followed by site descriptions and reviews. Even locals may be surprised at the significant history just around the corner." --Kansas History, Autumn 2013 "The inclusiveness of this travel guide serves as its true strength. . . . Capturing the geographical and cultural landscape of any region is difficult. Eickhoff and Barnhart have managed to accomplish this task well within this travel guide." -- Emerging Civil War -- sAbout the AuthorDiane Eickhoff is a historian, author, and speaker specializing in the hidden history of America and the unsung women and men who worked to make this a better country. Diane's first book was Revolutionary Heart: The Life of Clarina Nichols and the Pioneering Crusade for Women s Rights. It was honored with a Willa Cather Award and ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year in biography, and was named a Kansas Notable Book for 2007. She lives with her husband and co-author, Aaron Barnhart, in Kansas City, two blocks from the Missouri state line. AUTHOR 2: Aaron Barnhart was the television and media critic for the Kansas City Star before joining his wife, Diane Eickhoff, in the history business. He has contributed to the New York Times, Village Voice, CNN's Reliable Sources, MSNBC's Hardball, CBS Radio, and NPR.