

Phillipsburg Free Public Library

U.S. Historical Fiction Booklist

All books can be found by the author's last name in the Juvenile and/or YA collection.

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Indians of North America

Burks, Brian.

WALKS ALONE. After a surprise attack leaves many of her people dead, fifteen-year-old Walks Alone, an Apache girl wounded in the massacre, struggles to survive and rejoin the refugee band.

Colonial Period – To 1774

Ackerman, Ned.

SPIRIT HORSE. When a Siksika boy living on the Plains during the 1770s becomes separated from a raiding party, he discovers the legendary spirit horse which he attempts to track down and tame.

Curry, Jane Louise.

A STOLEN LIFE. In 1758 in Scotland, teenaged Jamesina Mackensie finds her courage and resolution severely tested when she is abducted by “spiriter” and, after a harrowing voyage, sold as a bond slave to a Virginia planter.

Krensky, Stephen.

THE PRINTER'S APPRENTICE. In 1735 in New York City, a young printer's apprentice learns about the importance of freedom of speech when the printer Peter Zenger is arrested and tried for writing articles criticizing the government.

Lasky, Kathryn.

A JOURNEY TO THE NEW WORLD: THE DIARY OF REMEMBER PATIENCE WHIPPLE. Twelve-year-old Mem presents a diary account of the trip she and her family made on the Mayflower in 1620 and their first year in the New World.

Nixon, Joan Lowery.

ANN'S STORY : 1747. Ann, a young girl in eighteenth-century Williamsburg, want to become a doctor like her father, but she is not allowed even to study Latin or mathematics.

Osborne, Mary Pope.

STANDING IN THE LIGHT: THE CAPTIVE DIARY OF CATHERINE CAREY LOGAN. A Quaker girl's diary reflects her experiences growing up in the Delaware River Valley of Pennsylvania and her capture by Lenape Indians in 1763.

Rinaldi, Ann.

THE JOURNAL OF JASPER JONATHAN PIERCE : A PILGRIM BOY. A fourteen-year-old indentured servant keeps a journal of his experiences on the Mayflower and during the building of Plymouth in 1620 and 1621.

Shaik, Fatima.

MELITTE. In 1772, years of mistreatment force thirteen-year-old Melitte to decide whether or not to run away from the Frenchman who has kept her as a slave on his poor Louisiana farm and leave the young girl who is the only person who ever loved her.

The Revolution – 1775-1783

Bruchac, Joseph.

THE ARROW OVER THE DOOR. In the year 1777, a group of Quakers and a party of Indians have a memorable meeting.

Denenberg, Barry.

THE JOURNAL OF WILLIAM THOMAS EMERSON: A REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT. William, a twelve-year-old orphan, writes of his experiences in pre-Revolutionary War Boston where he joins the cause of the patriots who are opposed to the British rule.

Durrant, Lynda.

BETSY ZANE : THE ROSE OF FORT HENRY. In 1781 twelve-year-old Elizabeth Zane, great-great-aunt of novelist Zane Grey, leaves Philadelphia to return to her brother's homestead near Fort Henry in what is now West Virginia, where she plays an important role in the final battle of the American Revolution.

Goodman, Joan.

HOPE'S CROSSING. When kidnapped by English Loyalists during the Revolutionary War, thirteen-year-old Hope draws on every ounce of courage within her to respond to the ordeal.

Gregory, Kristiana.

THE WINTER OF RED SNOW: THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR DIARY OF ABIGAIL JANE STEWART. Eleven-year-old Abigail presents a diary account of

life in Valley Forge from December 1777 to July 1778 as General Washington prepares his troops to fight the British.

Myers, Anna.

THE KEEPING ROOM. Left in charge of the family by his father who joins the Revolutionary War effort, thirteen-year-old Joey undergoes such great changes that he fears he may be betraying his beloved parent.

Pryor, Bonnie.

THOMAS. In the early years of the Revolutionary War, eleven-year-old Thomas and his family escape a bloody massacre at Wyoming Valley and endure innumerable hardships as they try to make their way to Philadelphia.

Rinaldi, Ann.

CAST TWO SHADOWS. In South Carolina in 1780, fourteen-year-old Caroline sees the Revolutionary War take a terrible toll among her family and friends and comes to understand the true nature of war.

Sterman, Betsy.

SARATOGA SECRET. In 1777, as General Burgoyne and his British troops invade the Upper Hudson River Valley, sixteen-year-old Amity must carry a secret message to the Continental Army to give warning of an impending attack.

Post Revolutionary Period to Start of Civil War – 1784-1859

Applegate, Stan.

THE DEVIL'S HIGHWAY. In 1811, on the Natchez Road, fourteen-year-old Zeb finds ten-year-old Hannah, who has been kidnapped from her Choctaw people, and together they face natural and human threats with their combined skills and courage.

Auch, Mary Jane.

FROZEN SUMMER. In 1816, twelve-year-old Mem's new home in the wilderness of western New York is disrupted when the birth of another baby sends her mother into "spells" that disconnect her from reality.

JOURNEY TO NOWHERE. In 1815, while traveling by covered wagon to settle in the wilderness of western New York, eleven-year-old Mem experiences a flood and separation from her family.

Bruchac, Joseph.

SACAJAWEA : THE STORY OF BIRD WOMAN AND THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION. Sacajawea, a Shoshoni Indian interpreter, peacemaker, and guide,

and William Clark alternate in describing their experiences on the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Northwest.

Carbone, Elisa.

STEALING FREEDOM. A novel based on the events in the life of a young slave girl from Maryland who endures all kinds of mistreatment and cruelty, including being separated from her family, but who eventually escapes to freedom in Canada.

Dadey, Debbie.

CHEROKEE SISTER. Because she is mistaken for an Indian, twelve-year-old Allie, a white girl, is forced to travel the Trail of Tears along with her best friend, a young Cherokee.

Denenberg, Barry.

SO FAR FROM HOME : THE DIARY OF MARY DRISCOL, AN IRISH MILL GIRL.

In the diary account of her journey from Ireland in 1847 and of her work in a mill in Lowell, Massachusetts, fourteen-year-old Mary reveals a great longing for her family.

Erdrich, Louise.

THE BIRCHBARK HOUSE. Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

Fleischman, Sid.

BANDIT'S MOON. Twelve-year-old Annyrose relates her adventures with Joaquin Murieta and his band of outlaws in the California gold-mining region during the mid-1800s.

Garland, Sherry.

A LINE IN THE SAND : THE ALAMO DIARY OF LUCINDA LAWRENCE. In the journal she receives for her thirteenth birthday in 1835, Lucinda Lawrence describes the hardships her family and other residents of the "Texas colonies" endure when they decide to face the Mexicans in a fight for their freedom.

Hermes, Patricia.

CALLING ME HOME. Twelve-year-old Abbie struggles to accept her father's desire to make a new home for his family on the Nebraska prairies of the late 1850s.

Houston, Gloria.

BRIGHT FREEDOM'S SONG : A STORY OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.

In the years before the Civil War, Bright discovers that her parents are providing a safehouse for the Underground Railroad and helps to save a runaway slave named Marcus.

Johnston, Norma.

OVER JORDAN. In 1836, fourteen-year-old Roxana undertakes a dangerous journey up the Ohio River to help her beloved servant, Joss, and Joss' fiancée, a runaway slave, escape to freedom, aided by Roxana's former teacher Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Karwoski, Gail Langer.

SEAMAN : THE DOG WHO EXPLORED THE WEST WITH LEWIS & CLARK.

Seaman, a Newfoundland, proves his value as a hunter, navigator, and protector while serving with the Corps of Discovery when it explores the West under the leadership of Lewis and Clark.

Kurtz, Jane.

I'M SORRY, ALMIRA ANN. Eight-year-old Sarah's high spirits help make her family's long journey from Missouri to Oregon more bearable, though they do cause both her and her best friend, Almira Ann, some problems.

Lasky, Kathryn.

THE JOURNAL OF AUGUSTUS PELLETIER. A fictional journal kept by twelve-year-old Augustus Pelletier, the youngest member of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery.

Love, D. Anne.

I REMEMBER THE ALAMO. Eleven-year-old Jessie resents her father's decision to move his family to San Antonio where they are caught up in the revolution of 1835-1836 including the siege of the Alamo.

McGill, Alice.

MILES' SONG. In 1851 in South Carolina, Miles, a twelve-year-old slave, is sent to a "breaking ground" to have his spirit broken but endures the experience by secretly taking reading lessons from another slave.

Rees, Douglas.

LIGHTNING TIME. Fourteen-year-old Theodore Worth struggles with the decision to leave his home in Boston and join the controversial abolitionist John Brown in the fight against slavery.

Rinaldi, Ann.

THE SECOND BEND IN THE RIVER. In 1798 Rebecca, a young settler in the Ohio territory, meets the Shawnee called Tecumseh and later develops a deep friendship with him.

Roop, Peter.

GIRL OF THE SHINING MOUNTAINS : SACAGAWEA'S STORY. Sacagawea describes how, at the age of sixteen, she becomes part of the Lewis and Clark expedition and serves as their interpreter and guide, surviving many dangerous adventures on their trek through the wilderness.

Smith, Roland.

THE CAPTAIN'S DOG. Captain Meriwether Lewis's dog Seaman describes his experiences as he accompanies his master on the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the uncharted western wilderness.

Woodruff, Elvira.

DEAR AUSTIN : LETTERS FROM THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD. In 1853, in letters to his older brother, eleven-year-old Levi describes his adventures in the Pennsylvania countryside with his black friend Jupiter and his experiences with the Underground Railroad.

Westward Expansion and Pioneer Life

Cushman, Karen.

THE BALLAD OF LUCY WHIPPLE. In 1849, a twelve-year-old girl who calls herself Lucy is distraught when her mother moves the family from Massachusetts to a small California mining town, where Lucy helps run a rough boarding house and looks for comfort in books while trying to find a way to get "home".

DeFelice, Cynthia.

THE APPRENTICESHIP OF LUCAS WHITAKER. This fascinating novel is based on information that surfaced recently, exposing the macabre practice employed in the mid-1800 by people desperate to save their loved ones from what we now call tuberculosis.

Heisel, Sharon E.

PRECIOUS GOLD, PRECIOUS JADE. A young woman befriends a Chinese family despite the racism and fear that overwhelm the residents of her small western mining town at the end of the gold rush.

Holm, Jennifer L.

OUR ONLY MAY AMELIA. As the only girl in a Finnish American family of seven

brothers, May Amelia Jackson resents being expected to act like a lady while growing up in Washington state in 1899.

McKissack, Pat.

A PICTURE OF FREEDOM : THE DIARY OF CLOTEE, A SLAVE GIRL. In 1859 twelve-year-old Clotee, a house slave who must conceal the fact that she can read and write, records in her diary her experiences and her struggle to decide whether to escape to freedom.

Murphy, Jim.

WEST TO A LAND OF PLENTY : THE DIARY OF TERESA ANGELINO VISCARDI. While traveling in 1883 with her Italian American family (including a meddlesome little sister) and other immigrant pioneers to a utopian community in Idaho, fourteen-year-old Teresa keeps a diary of her experiences along the way.

Paulsen, Gary.

TUCKET'S GOLD. Fifteen-year-old Francis and the two children he has adopted travel across the Old West, evade Comanchero outlaws, discover a treasure, and wind up rich beyond their wildest dreams.

Wilkes, Maria D.

LITTLE CLEARING IN THE WOODS. Young Caroline Quiner, who would grow up to be Laura Ingalls Wilder's mother, and her family move to a new farm near Concord, Wisconsin.

LITTLE TOWN AT THE CROSSROADS. Young Caroline Quiner, who would grow up to become Laura Ingalls Wilder's mother, and her family have new adventures as the frontier outpost of Brookfield, Wisconsin, grown into a bustling town.

Civil War – 1860-1865

Karr, Kathleen.

THE GREAT TURKEY WALK. In 1860, a 15-year-old boy attempts to herd 1,000 turkeys from Missouri to Denver, in hope to sell them at a profit.

Murphy, Jim.

THE JOURNAL OF JAMES EDMOND PEASE : A CIVIL WAR UNION SOLDIER. James Edmond, a sixteen-year-old orphan, keeps a journal of his experiences and those of "G" Company which he joined as a volunteer in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Paulsen, Gary.

SOLDIER'S HEART : A NOVEL OF THE CIVIL WAR. Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.

Reeder, Carolyn.

ACROSS THE LINES. Edward, the son of a white plantation owner, and his black house servant and friend, Simon, witness the siege of Petersburg during the Civil War.

CAPTAIN KATE. Determined to take her father's coal-carrying barge on the C & O Canal from Cumberland, Maryland, to Georgetown in D.C., twelve-year-old Kate learns hurtful truths about herself.

Wisler, G. Clifton.

MUSTANG FLATS. When his father returns from the war in 1865, fourteen-year-old Alby finds his beloved Pa a changed man and can only hope that they will be friends again.

RUN THE BLOCKADE. During the Civil War, fourteen-year-old Henry finds adventure working as a ship's boy and lookout aboard the "Banshee," a new British ship attempting to get past the Yankee blockade of the Southern coast.

Post Civil War/Reconstruction – 1866-1899

Burks, Brian.

WRANGO. When young George McJunkin leaves his home in Texas and joins a cattle drive along the Chisholm Trail, he experiences the hardships of being a Black cowboy after the Civil War.

Durbin, William

THE JOURNAL OF SEAN SULLIVAN : A TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD WORKER. In 1867, fifteen-year-old Sean experiences both hardships and rewards when he joins his father in working on the building of the Transcontinental Railroad.

Forester, Sandra.

MY HOME IS OVER JORDAN. No longer a slave now that the Civil War is over, fifteen-year-old Maddie dreams of getting an education and becoming a teacher, but she finds the reality of freedom harsh.

Haas, Jessie.

WESTMINSTER WEST. Two sisters struggle with their roles as women within the

family and within society as an arsonist threatens their post-Civil War Vermont community.

Hansen, Joyce.

I THOUGHT MY SOUL WOULD RISE AND FLY : THE DIARY OF PATSY, A FREED GIRL. Twelve-year-old Patsy keeps a diary of the ripe but confusing time following the end of the Civil War and the granting of freedom to former slaves.

Hill, Donna.

SHIPWRECK SEASON. In 1880, forced to work with his uncle at a lifesaving station on Cape Cod, sixteen-year-old Daniel finds himself maturing as he encounters unexpected comradeship, challenges, and danger.

Hobbs, Will.

JASON'S GOLD. When news of the discovery of gold in Canada's Yukon in 1897 reaches fifteen-year-old Jason, he embarks on a 5,000-mile journey to strike it rich.

McKissack, Patricia C.

RUN AWAY HOME. In 1886 in Alabama, an eleven-year-old African American girl and her family befriend and give refuge to a runaway Apache boy.

Myers, Walter Dean.

THE JOURNAL OF JOSHUA LOPER : A BLACK COWBOY. In 1871 Joshua Loper, a sixteen-year-old black cowboy, records in his journal his experiences while making his first cattle drive under an unsympathetic trail boss.

Paterson, Katherine.

PREACHER'S BOY. In 1899, ten-year-old Robbie, son of a preacher in a small Vermont town, gets himself into all kinds of trouble when he decides to give up being Christian in order to make the most of his life before the end of the world.

Pfitsch, Patricia Curtis.

KEEPER OF THE LIGHT. After her father's death in 1872, Faith takes over his job as lighthouse keeper on Lake Superior, until her mother decides to move into town, where Faith finds herself stifled by the role society expects her to play.

Rinaldi, Ann.

MY HEART IS ON THE GROUND : THE DIARY OF NANNIE LITTLE ROSE, A SIOUX GIRL. In the diary account of her life at a government-run Pennsylvania boarding school in 1880, a twelve-year-old Sioux Indian girl reveals a great need to find a way to help her people.

Ruckman, Ivy.

IN CARE OF CASSIE TUCKER. When her teenage cousin moves in with her family on their Nebraska farm in 1899, eleven-year-old Cassie learns a lot, including the meaning of “heathen” and “bigot.”

Ryan, Pam Munoz.

RIDING FREEDOM. A fictionalized account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance.

1900-1928 Including World War I

Hahn, Mary Downing.

ANNA ALL YEAR ROUND. Eight-year-old Anna experiences a series of episodes, some that are funny, others sad, involving friends and family during a year in Baltimore just before World War I.

Hamm, Diane Johnston.

DAUGHTER OF SUQUA. In the early 1900s, as change comes to the village of Puget Sound where she lives, ten-year-old Ida Bowen worries about what is ahead for herself, her parents, beloved Little Grandma, and other members of the Suquamish tribe.

SECRETS ON 26TH STREET. In New York City in 1914, eleven-year-old Susan encounters a mystery through an independent-minded female boarder and becomes involved in the growing suffrage movement.

Lasky, Kathryn.

DREAMS IN THE GOLDEN COUNTRY : THE DIARY OF ZIPPORAH FELDMAN, A JEWISH IMMIGRANT GIRL. Twelve-year-old Zippy, a Jewish immigrant from Russia, keeps a diary account of the first eighteen months of her family’s life on the Lower East Side of New York City in 1903-1904.

Levine, Gail Carson.

DAVE AT NIGHT. When orphaned Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys where he is treated cruelly, he sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music-and cultured-filled world of the Harlem Renaissance.

MacBride, Roger Lea.

NEW DAWN ON ROCKY RIDGE. While living on the Rocky Ridge Farm in Missouri, thirteen-year-old Rose Wilder celebrates the turn of the twentieth century and begins to wonder about her future.

McKissack, Patricia C.

COLOR ME DARK : THE DIARY OF NELLIE LEE LOVE, THE GREAT MIGRATION NORTH. Eleven-year-old Nellie Lee Love records in her diary the events of 1919, when her family moves from Tennessee to Chicago, hoping to leave the racism and hatred of the South behind.

Nixon, Joan Lowery.

DAVID'S SEARCH (ORPHAN TRAIN CHILDREN). After eleven-year-old orphan-train rider David Howard settles with a strict Texas farm family, his best friend, an ex-slave, is threatened by the growing presence of the Ku Klux Klan.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley.

GIB RIDES HOME. Despite the harsh treatment he has endured at the Lovell House orphanage, ten-year-old Gib Whittaker manages to maintain his hopeful outlook when he is "farmed out" to help with the horses of a wealthy banker in 1908.

GIB AND THE GRAY GHOST. In 1909, after spending several months back at the Lovell House Home for Orphaned and Abandoned Boys, eleven-year-old Gib returns to live on the Thornton ranch, where his natural way with horses helps to make him feel at home.

Tamar, Erika.

THE MIDNIGHT TRAIN HOME. When their mother can no longer care for them, eleven-year-old Deirdre and her brothers board the Orphan's Train for placement with families out West, but Deirdre, a talented singer, finds a different type of family when she joins a traveling vaudeville troupe. Includes a note on the Children's Aid Society which operated the orphan trains from 1854-1930.

Williams, Barbara.

MAKING WAVES. Having survived the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, twelve-year-old Emily moves to Baltimore, where she encounters child labor, sweatshops, and the workers' struggle to form labor union.

Great Depression – 1929-1941

DeFelice, Cynthia.

NOWHERE TO CALL HOME. When her father kills himself after losing his money in the stock market crash, twelve-year-old Frances, now a penniless orphan, decides to hop aboard a freight train and live the life of a hobo.

Willis, Patricia.

THE BARN BURNER. In 1933, while running from a bad situation at home and

suspected of having set fire to a barn, fourteen-year-old Ross finds haven with a loving family, which helps him make an important decision.

World War II – 1939-1945

Denenberg, Barry.

ONE EYE LAUGHING, THE OTHER WEEPING : THE DIARY OF JULIE WEISS.

During the Nazi persecution of the Jews in Austria, twelve-year-old Julie escapes to America to live with her relatives in New York City.

Gaeddert, LouAnn.

FRIENDS AND ENEMIES. In 1941 in Kansas, as America enters World War II, fourteen-year-old William finds himself alienated from his friend Jim, a Mennonite who does not believe in fighting for any reason and refuses to support the war effort in any way.

Manley, Joan B.

SHE FLEW NO FLAGS. In early 1944, as the war rages around them, an American family travels from India to the United States by ship, under blackout conditions, through the enemy waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Mazer, Norma Fox.

GOOD NIGHT, MAMAN. After spending years fleeing from the Nazis in war-torn Europe, twelve-year-old Karin Levi and her older brother Marc, find a new home in a refugee camp in Oswego, New York.

Osborne, Mary Pope.

MY SECRET WAR : THE WORLD WAR II DIARY OF MADELINE BECK.

Thirteen-year-old Madeline's diaries for 1941 and 1942 reveal her experience living on Long Island during World War II while her father is away in the navy.

Reeder, Carolyn.

FOSTER'S WAR. When his older brother joins the army during World War II in order to escape the rages of an authoritarian father, eleven-year-old Foster fights his battles on the homefront.

Schur, Maxine Rose.

SACRED SHADOWS. When her German hometown becomes part of Poland after World War I, Lena, a young German Jew, struggles to come to terms with the anti-Semitism and anti-German hatred that seems to be growing around her.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer.

BAT 6. In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one 6th grade girls recount

the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.

United States – 1950-Present

Martin, Terri.

A FAMILY TRAIT. Living with her mother and grandparents on their Michigan farm, eleven-year-old Iris tries to find out about her father, who died before she was born, and to solve a local murder mystery involving a friend of her grandmother.

Nelson, Vaunda.

BEYOND MAYFIELD. In 1961 the children of Mayfield are concerned with air-raid drills and fallout shelters, but the civil rights movement becomes real when a neighbor joins the Freedom Riders.

Robinet, Harriette.

WALKING TO THE BUS-RIDER BLUES. Twelve-year-old Alfa Merryfield, his older sister, and their grandmother struggle for rent money, food, and their dignity as they participate in the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott in the summer of 1956.