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Public Lands, Studies in the History of Public Domain

Vernon Carstensen

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Vernon Carstensen : Public Lands, Studies in the History of Public Domain before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Public Lands, Studies in the History of Public Domain:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Instructive articles describing public domain. By John Emmitte III "The Public Lands" is an instructive and scholarly group of articles reflecting the history of the public domain (the majority of which were written anywhere from 45 to 90 years ago). Obviously, most of the action takes place in the 19th Century. The collection can be highly detailed; one essay contains technical descriptions of the conduct of cadastral surveys (including "governing lines", "principal meridians", "base lines", "correction lines", etc.) but in whole remains an interesting historical read. Being a military veteran, I especially enjoyed the selections pertaining to the military land bounties. Beginning in 1780, the public domain was generously offered (especially by today's standards) as a bounty to war vets and pro-rated according to rank. Ultimately, these land grants helped set the pattern for the early stages of the American westward movement process. In reality, the haggling over western land cessions by the former colonies (now the United States) required two decades of peace to pass before the first titles of bounty land were conveyed. Only a proportion of veterans (and their descendants) would actually acquire their rightfully begotten land. Many were forced by motivations of economics to sell their land warrants on the open market to speculators. In 1886, the federal government issued the last bounty warrant of the American Revolutionary War: 110 years after the enactment. In total, over 9.5 million acres of public domain were endowed. The War of 1812 would result in another 4.5 million acres transferring title to servicemen. But you will see that this is only a small tidbit from "The Public Lands". Other points of interest include the Homestead, Mining, and Pre-emption Acts, and the federal railroad land grants (which were actually loans). Recommended reading for all public domain scholars. 1 of 1 people

found the following review helpful. Outstanding collection of studies on public land history. By Phil Hocker Carstensen has here compiled a group of excellent, probing studies of the history of America's public lands -- the lands the Federal government acquired directly, and then largely gave away to farmers, miners, loggers, and railroad companies. These are academic papers, but the chapters are all well written and full of solid facts. If you want to know how "the great barbecue" of the Louisiana Purchase, the Mexican Cessions, California and the Oregon Territory was fired up, this is a must-read book. Persevere. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, and unique. By A Customer This book contains factual information about the settlement of the West that I have never seen anywhere else.

Management and distribution of federally owned public lands.