

And Groundless Legends American Frontier America

Tiya Miles

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Groundless Gregory Evans Dowd, 2016-01-15 The fascinating and troubling story of powerful rumors that circulated and influential legends that arose in early America Why did Elizabethan adventurers believe that the interior of America hid vast caches of gold Who started the rumor that British officers purchased revolutionary white women s scalps packed them by the bale and shipped them to their superiors And why are people today still convinced that white settlers hardly immune as a group to the disease routinely distributed smallpox tainted blankets to the natives Rumor spread by colonists and Native Americans alike ran rampant in early America In Groundless historian Gregory Evans Dowd explores why half truths deliberate lies and outrageous legends emerged in the first place how they grew and why they were given such credence throughout the New World Arguing that rumors are part of the objective reality left to us by the past a kind of fragmentary archival record he examines how uncertain news became powerful enough to cascade through the centuries Drawing on specific case studies and tracing recurring rumors over many generations Dowd explains the seductive power of unreliable stories in the eastern North American frontiers from the sixteenth to the mid nineteenth centuries The rumors studied here some alluring some frightening commanded attention and demanded action They were all by definition groundless but they were not all false and they influenced the classic issues of historical inquiry the formation of alliances the making of Britain's Wilderness Frontier John revolutions the expropriation of labor and resources and the origins of war Oliphant, 2025-10-15 Looking at the period between 1748 and 1774 John Oliphant draws on a variety of sources to explore how British attempts to restrict settlement and protect Native American lands was a significant cause of the American Revolution especially in the southern colonies The Burr Conspiracy James E. Lewis, 2019-06-18 A multifaceted portrait of the early American republic as examined through the lens of the Burr Conspiracy explores the political and cultural forces that influenced public perception and how in spite of vague and conflicting evidence the former Vice President was arrested Heirs of an Ambivalent Empire Scott Berthelette, 2022-07-19 The fur trade was the heart and tried for treason Publisher of the French empire in early North America The French Canadian Canadien men who traversed the vast hinterlands of the Hudson Bay watershed trading for furs from Indigenous trappers and hunters were its cornerstone Though the Canadiens worked for French colonial authorities they were not unwavering agents of imperial power Increasingly they found themselves between two worlds as they built relationships with Indigenous communities sometimes joining them through adoption or marriage raising families of their own The result was an ambivalent empire that grew in fits and starts It was quided by imperfect information built upon a contested Indigenous borderland fragmented by local interests and periodically neglected by government administrators Heirs of an Ambivalent Empire explores the lives of the Canadiens who used family and kinship ties to navigate between sovereign Indigenous nations and the French colonial government from the early 1660s to the 1780s Acting as cultural intermediaries the Canadiens made it possible for France to extend its presence into

northwest North America Over time however their uncertain relationships with the French colonial state splintered imperial authority leading to an outcome that few could have foreseen the emergence of a new Indigenous culture language people 'Indian Wars' and the Struggle for Eastern North America, 1763-1842 Robert M. and nation the M tis Owens, 2020-11-17 Indian Wars and the Struggle for Eastern North America 1763 1842 examines the contest between Native Americans and Anglo Americans for control of the lands east of the Mississippi River through the lens of native attempts to form pan Indian unions and Anglo Americans attempts to thwart them The story begins in the wake of the Seven Years War and ends with the period of Indian Removal and the conclusion of the Second Seminole War in 1842 Anglo Americans had feared multi tribal coalitions since the 1670s and would continue to do so into the early nineteenth century long after there was a credible threat due to the fear of slave rebels joining the Indians By focusing on the military and diplomatic history of the topic the work allows for a broad understanding of American Indians and frontier history serving as a gateway to the study of Native American history This concise and accessible text will appeal to a broad intersection of students in ethnic studies history and anthropology **Under the Skin** Mairin Odle, 2022-11-01 Under the Skin investigates the role of cross cultural body modification in seventeenth century and eighteenth century North America revealing that the practices of tattooing and scalping were crucial to interactions between Natives and newcomers These permanent and painful marks could act as signs of alliance or signs of conflict producing a complex bodily archive of cross cultural entanglement Indigenous body modification practices were adopted and transformed by colonial powers making tattooing and scalping key forms of cultural and political contestation in early America Although these bodily practices were quite distinct one a painful but generally voluntary sign of accomplishment and affiliation the other a violent assault on life and identity they were linked by growing colonial perceptions that both were crucial elements of Nativeness Tracing the transformation of concepts of bodily integrity personal and collective identities and the sources of human difference Under the Skin investigates both the lived physical experience and the contested metaphorical power of early American bodies Struggling for power on battlefields in diplomatic gatherings and in intellectual exchanges Native Americans and Anglo Americans found their physical appearances dramatically altered by their interactions with one another Contested ideas about the nature of human and societal difference translated into altered appearances for many early Americans In turn scars and symbols on skin prompted an outpouring of stories as people debated the meaning of such marks Perhaps paradoxically individuals with culturally ambiguous or hybrid appearances prompted increasing efforts to insist on permanent bodily identity By the late eighteenth century ideas about the body phenotype and culture were increasingly articulated in concepts of race Yet even as the interpretations assigned to inscribed flesh shifted fascination with marked bodies remained The Warrior, the Voyager, and the Artist Kate Fullagar, 2020-01-07 A portrait of empire through the biographies of a Native American a Pacific Islander and the British artist who painted them both Three interconnected eighteenth century lives offer a fresh account of

the British empire and its intrusion into Indigenous societies This engaging history brings together the stories of Joshua Reynolds and two Indigenous men the Cherokee Ostenaco and the Ra iatean Mai Fullagar uncovers the life of Ostenaco tracing his emergence as a warrior his engagement with colonists through war and peace and his eventual rejection of imperial politics during the American Revolution She delves into the story of Mai examining his confrontation with conquest and displacement his voyage to London on Cook's imperial expedition and his return home with a burning ambition to right past wrongs Woven throughout is a new history of Reynolds growing up in Devon near a key port in England becoming a portraitist of empire rising to the top of Britain's art world and yet remaining ambivalent about his nation's expansionist A Place in Common Karen L. Marrero, Andrew K Sturtevant, 2025-03-01 At the turn of the eighteenth century trajectory Indigenous nations designated Detroit as a common bowl and a crucial nexus where they shared resources made compromises and coexisted As the century unfolded Detroit continued as a polyglot community in the face of expanding Euro American settlement The region became a highly charged space where the rituals of political negotiation grew in importance alongside a constant threat of violence British political and economic systems continued to operate long after the end of the American Revolution creating a shared cultural border at the end of the eighteenth century that would endure even as the American Empire reestablished rule on the north side of the river Both Anishinaabe and Wyandot people set aside land for future occupation of their people re creating another transnational space in the region A hundred years later issues of race economic development political partisanship and overlapping national claims continued to resonate as the city commemorated and mythologized its origins This book considers how larger watershed occasions impacted the Detroit region and how in turn the unique particularities of local custom impacted regional and national trade and politics and the very nature of how the city continues to view its past **The Dawn of Detroit** Tiya Miles, 2017-10-03 Winner of the Frederick Douglass Book Prize Winner of the American Book Award Winner of the Merle Curti Social History Award Winner of the James A Rawley Prize Winner of the Zora Neale Hurston Richard Wright Legacy Award Nonfiction Finalist for the John Hope Franklin Prize Finalist for the Harriet Tubman Prize Finalist for the Cundill History Prize A New York Times Editor s Choice selection If many Americans imagine slavery essentially as a system in which black men toiled on cotton plantations Miles upends that stereotype several times over New York Times Book Review Miles has compiled documentation that does for Detroit what the Works Progress Administration and the Federal Writers Project slave narratives did for other regions primarily the South Washington Post Tiya Miles is among the best when it comes to blending artful storytelling with an unwavering sense of social justice Martha S Jones in The Chronicle of Higher Education A necessary work of powerful probing scholarship Publisher Weekly starred A book likely to stand at the head of further research into the problem of Native and African American slavery in the north country Kirkus Reviews From the MacArthur genius grant winner a beautifully written and revelatory look at the slave origins of a major northern American city Most Americans believe that

slavery was a creature of the South and that Northern states and territories provided stops on the Underground Railroad for fugitive slaves on their way to Canada In this paradigm shifting book celebrated historian Tiya Miles reveals that slavery was at the heart of the Midwest's iconic city Detroit In this richly researched and eye opening book Miles has pieced together the experience of the unfree both native and African American in the frontier outpost of Detroit a place wildly remote yet at the center of national and international conflict Skillfully assembling fragments of a distant historical record Miles introduces new historical figures and unearths struggles that remained hidden from view until now The result is fascinating history little explored and eloquently told of the limits of freedom in early America one that adds new layers of complexity to the story of a place that exerts a strong fascination in the media and among public intellectuals artists and activists A book that opens the door on a completely hidden past The Dawn of Detroit is a powerful and elegantly written history one that completely changes our understanding of slavery s American legacy Plain Paths and Dividing Lines Jessica Lauren Taylor, 2023-08-11 It is one thing to draw a line in the sand but another to enforce it In this innovative new work Jessica Lauren Taylor follows the Native peoples and the newcomers who built and crossed emerging boundaries surrounding Indigenous towns and developing English plantations in the seventeenth century Chesapeake Bay In a riverine landscape defined by connection Algonquians had cultivated ties to one another and into the continent for centuries As Taylor finds their networks continued to define the watery Chesapeake landscape even as Virginia and Maryland's planters erected fences and forts policed unfree laborers and dispatched land surveyors By chronicling English and Algonquian attempts to move along paths and rivers and to enforce boundaries Taylor casts a new light on pivotal moments in Anglo Indigenous relations from the growth of the fur trade to Bacon's Rebellion Most important Taylor traces the ways in which the peoples resisting colonial encroachment and subjugation used Native networks and Indigenous knowledge of the Bay to cross newly created English boundaries She thereby illuminates alternate visions of power freedom and connection in the colonial Chesapeake

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