



Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong

By James W. Loewen

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From the author of the national bestseller *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, the second myth-busting history book which focuses on the inaccuracies, myths, and lies that can be found at national landmarks and historical sites all across America.

In *Lies Across America*, James W. Loewen continues his mission, begun in the award-winning *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, of overturning the myths and misinformation that too often pass for American history. This is a one-of-a-kind examination of sites all over the country where history is literally written on the landscape, including historical markers, monuments, historic houses, forts, and ships. With entries drawn from each of the fifty states, Loewen reveals that:

- The USS Intrepid, the “feel-good” war museum, celebrates its glorious service in World War II but nowhere mentions the three tours it served in Vietnam.
- The Jefferson Memorial misquotes from the Declaration of Independence and skews Jefferson’s writings to present this conflicted slave owner as a near abolitionist.
- Abraham Lincoln had been dead for thirty years when his birthplace cabin was built.

Lies Across America is a reality check for anyone who has ever sought to learn about America through the nation’s public sites and markers. Entertaining and enlightening, it is destined to change the way American readers see their country.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Little seems to delight historian James W. Loewen, author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, more than picking apart the cherished myths of American history. Few Americans study history after high school--instead, Loewen writes, they turn to novels and Oliver Stone movies to learn about the past. And they turn to the landscape, to roadside historical markers, guidebooks, museums, and tours of battlefields, childhood homes, and massacre sites. If you were to trust those sources, Loewen suggests, you would learn, erroneously, that the first airplane flight took place not at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, but at Pittsburg, Texas. "It must be true--an impressive-looking Texas state historical marker says so!" Loewen chortles.

In these entertaining pages, Loewen takes a region-by-region tour of the United States, pointing out historical oddments as he travels. For example, a massacre of white pioneers by Indians commemorated in Almo, Idaho, never took place, Loewen continues; neither did many other such events. Indeed, he insists, "throughout the entire West between 1842 and 1859, of more than 400,000 pioneers crossing the plains, fewer than 400, or less than .1 percent, were killed by American Indians." And if you were to visit Helen Keller's Georgia birthplace, over which a Confederate flag flies, you would get the impression that Keller had been an unreconstructed daughter of the Old South, whereas she was in fact an early supporter of the NAACP. And so on.

After finishing Loewen's alternately angry and bemused exposé, readers will likely never trust a roadside historical marker or tour guide again--which may prompt them to turn to history books to check things out for themselves. As well they should. --*Gregory McNamee*

From Library Journal

A Confederate war memorial in Helena, MT? America's most toppled monument? These are only a couple of the things Loewen discovers during his travels around this highly monumental country. This book takes an often amusing look at the strange and sometimes sinister motivation behind the creation of many of America's historic sites. Good questions to ask when seeing something as simple as a roadside plaque or as complex as Mark Twain's home town are "Who made this?," "When?," and especially "Why?" The answers often reveal attempts to misinform or push certain cultural or political agendas. As the title implies, Loewen (*Lies My Teacher Told Me*, *The Truth About Columbus*) views official history with a certain skepticism that can be entertaining. Recommended for public libraries. AJoseph Toschik, Half Moon Bay P.L., CA
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Review

"Jim-dandy pop history...This is one work of history no one will call boring." - Jim O'Brien, *USA Today*

"Loewen is a one-man historical truth squad....He has written a devastating portrait of how American history is commemorated." - *The Nation*

"Brims with fascinating history." - *Los Angeles Times*

"A winner by any criteria: informative, stimulating, and challenging. Loewen's wry wit is a welcome bonus."
- Edwin C. Bearss, former chief historian, National Park Service

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lacey Clements:

Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to get every word into delight arrangement in writing Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong but doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one of it. This great information could drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial thinking.

Leroy Raymond:

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Carlos Tabor:

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