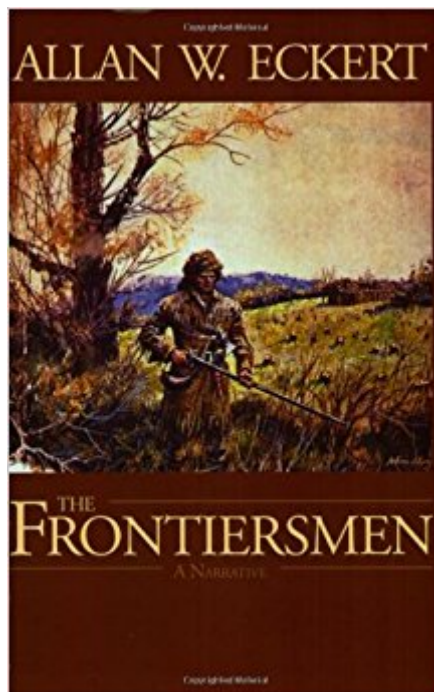


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# The Frontiersmen: A Narrative



## Synopsis

The frontiersmen were a remarkable breed of men. They were often rough and illiterate, sometimes brutal and vicious, often seeking an escape in the wilderness of mid-America from crimes committed back east. In the beautiful but deadly country which would one day come to be known as West Virginia, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, more often than not they left their bones to bleach beside forest paths or on the banks of the Ohio River, victims of Indians who claimed the vast virgin territory and strove to turn back the growing tide of whites. These frontiersmen are the subjects of Allan Eckert's dramatic history. Against the background of such names as George Rogers Clark, Daniel Boone, Arthur St. Clair, Anthony Wayne, Simon Girty and William Henry Harrison, Eckert has recreated the life of one of America's most outstanding heroes, Simon Kenton. Kenton's role in opening the Northwest Territory to settlement more than rivaled that of his friend Daniel Boone. By his eighteenth birthday, Kenton had already won frontier renown as woodsman, fighter and scout. His incredible physical strength and endurance, his great dignity and innate kindness made him the ideal prototype of the frontier hero. Yet there is another story to *The Frontiersmen*. It is equally the story of one of history's greatest leaders, whose misfortune was to be born to a doomed cause and a dying race. Tecumseh, the brilliant Shawnee chief, welded together by the sheer force of his intellect and charisma an incredible Indian confederacy that came desperately close to breaking the thrust of the white man's westward expansion. Like Kenton, Tecumseh was the paragon of his people's virtues, and the story of his life, in Allan Eckert's hands, reveals most profoundly the grandeur and the tragedy of the American Indian. No less importantly, *The Frontiersmen* is the story of wilderness America itself, its penetration and settlement, and it is Eckert's particular grace to be able to evoke life and meaning from the raw facts of this story. In *The Frontiersmen* not only do we care about our long-forgotten fathers, we live again with them. Researched for seven years, *The Frontiersmen* is the first in Mr. Eckert's "The Winning of America" series.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Historian-novelist Eckert has fashioned an epic narrative history of the struggle for dominance of the Ohio River Valley that makes compelling [listening]." ---Publishers Weekly --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Driven from their homeland, the Indians fought bitterly to keep a final stronghold east of the Mississippi. Savage cunning, strength, skill, and knowledge of the wilderness were their weapons, and the Indians used them mercilessly. But they couldn't foresee the white men who would come later, men who loved the land as much as they did, who wanted it for their own. Men who learned the Indian tricks and matched brutality for brutality."Reading Eckert is like listening to a master storyteller: he presents his material in vivid detail, using the novelist's technique to enhance dramatic events."--Publishers Weekly --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is an awesome book for anyone who has an interest in the history of the Trans Allegheny Frontier. I saw some similarities with some stories my grandfather told me when I was little, The real treasure is his references in the back. While in college I began doing research on my own family history using the author references to The Draper Manuscripts (correspondence with actual people who knew Simon Kenton) and located at University of Wisconsin, Madison. There I found in Kenton's own words his involvement with my family going back to 1760's and latter on. Also found correspondence between my family and Dr. Draper about Kenton. So I guess no book has ever affected me on personal level like this one. Why a four rating then? Well he does over use his literary license at times and makes some assumptions about some of the characters in the book and too much glorification of his main characters.

I've read this book four times and have now sent a copy to my nephew. I first got interested seeing Dad reading it in the 70's. This book is the first in a multi-story series bound to hook you in for more.

Particularly on point and delicious, if you live in the mid-west and central states. (However the westward expansion from the East Coast is pretty well fleshed out in beautiful factual fiction) If you like pioneers and indians, forts and frontier wars, you've reached your destination w Eckerts books.

This is just wonderful history told in a manner that captures the reader. I read the book when it first came out years ago and loved it I wrote a review then. I had occasion recently to recommend a hood history book and I picked this one. In doing so I decided to re read it and just finished. It was even better the second time. The real Simon Kenton was a real larger than life person including Tecumseh, William Henry Harrison and George Rogers Clark. I only wish this book, and the others, Wilderness War, wilderness Empire, Dark and Bloody Ground, and Tecumseh would be made into a feature film. Eckert has done the country an invaluable service by recording our early history from the French and Indian War to end of the Shawnee country . Since the film seems unlikely everyone should read each Eckert book. We both laugh and cry at tv reporters that ask our young college students basic history questions they are unable to answer. To those teachers that have the privilege of teaching young people please assign Eckert's books for them to read among other things. The research cited in the Frontiersman is so extensive. I reading it I learned Andrew Jackson, great hero and President might have been ineligible to serve as President. Reliable witnesses of his family said that his mother and father immigrated from Ireland and Andrew was born on the ship enroute to America.

this book was recommended to me as i am a history buff.....written in the narrative form i felt as if i were there listening to them talk and experiencing all the events....some so graphic i had to stop reading and go for a short walk.....i came away with a new respect for these people who endured unbearable hardship to explore and expand this wonderful country of ours....i also came away with sorrow for the native americans who fought so gallantly for what was their land and wondered how i would feel if someone took away my land which was my only source of food for planting and hunting....very heartbreaking for all involved....this breed of individuals will never come again and we owe a large debt to them for all they did and for all they suffered..... you will meet simon kenton who outshines daniel boone and many others who played important roles .....we would be living in a different america if it were not for them..... this was a harsh unforgiving world and only the strong or incredibly lucky survived... they literally changed the course of the world.....we are truly blessed to be the recipients of such a legacy.....excellent excellent book, well written and should be read in all our schools.....

Fascinating read of the settlers vs the native Americans in Ohio. Very detailed and almost too much for reading like a story, but gripping nonetheless. Seems to be a fair portrayal of the different points of view, though clearly from the white man's viewpoint. As usual, the portrayal of women's role in the settling was none existent, but as expected for this sort of portrayal. The human race likes conquest, which is clear in this tome.

I have yet to read a narrative novel written by Allan Eckert that didn't perform well above any expectations I have. There is a series of 6 books that he authored in "The Making Of America" series. These early white men literally hacked their way through what was then referred to as the Northwest Territory. There were more Native American tribes that you could shake a stick at. The Prophet Tecumseh and the American trailblazer Simon Baldwin (a contrived name he used to avoid prosecution for a murder he didn't commit) are the primary characters. But famous chiefs such as Blue Jacket, Corn Stalk, Tecumseh etc. come into play in this narrative. It is a story about the rarely discovered lands of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. All were a settlers paradise back then abound with wild game and fertile soil and few neighbors with a day's journey of each other. Most every step taken upon these lands by the white man was ground breaking. The struggle between the Native Americans against the English and the French come to life in vivid details. Some of the details of the written atrocities that man played upon man are spine tingling and beyond one's imagination. The famous Daniel Boone plays a part in this story and early American history comes to life in your lap. A great author and a fantastic story will unfold before your very eyes. Don't miss any of these 6 novels.

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