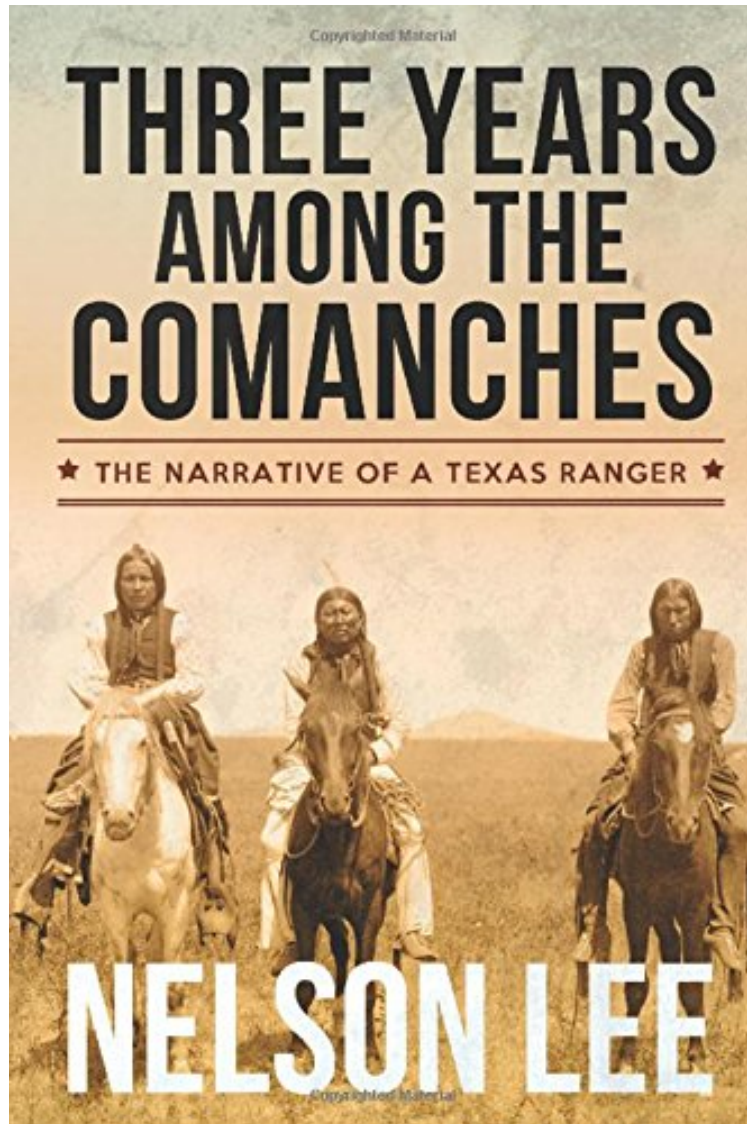


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Three Years Among the Comanches: The Narrative of Nelson Lee, Texas Ranger

Nelson Lee

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Nelson Lee : Three Years Among the Comanches: The Narrative of Nelson Lee, Texas Ranger before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Three Years Among the Comanches: The Narrative of Nelson Lee, Texas Ranger:

32 of 33 people found the following review helpful. A case where fiction is stranger than truth. By John H. About ten pages into the story I became suspicious and felt compelled to research our illustrious author. See the Texas State

Historical Association on Nelson Lee. won't allow a link, so just do a search. A very clever dime novel. Unfortunately, it has been referenced too many times by scholars, both of Comanche and Texas Ranger history. It is regrettable that after all these years folks are still being duped, as evidenced by all the positive reviews. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read! Well told! By Lynn Brown If you know anything about western history, you know some about the Texas Rangers and the Comanche but this story is something all western history buffs NEED to read! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Life on the edge By Joanne E. Hesser The life of Nelson Lee is nothing short of extraordinary. The story will keep you transfixed. A true wonder he lived to give his account.

"Half a dozen Indians sprung upon me, some holding down my arms, others my legs, another astride my body with his hand upon my throat." Only Nelson Lee and three of his cowboy companions survived the brutal assault that had come upon them during the night. Their fate was not to be killed instantly but instead to go through the process of being tortured to death in tribal rituals at a later date. But Nelson Lee did not die. Instead he survived his ordeal and went on to spend three years with the Comanches, being sold as a slave between various Comanche warriors, from Big Wolf to Spotted Leopard and finally to Rolling Thunder who he was eventually able to escape from. His record of that time provides a fascinating insight into life with the Comanche tribe in the mid-19th century. Prior to being captured Nelson Lee had been a Texas Ranger who had served under John Hays and had fought against Native Americans during the Indian Wars, but never before had he come in such close contact with how they lived and their customs. Walter Prescott Webb stated that there is no better description of the life of the Texas Rangers than that of Nelson Lee. Another scholar stated His experiences in captivity are of vivid interest, and afford a most minute and detailed account of the manners and customs of the tribe. Other historians have been less convinced about the validity of some of Lee's claims, but even if some of the tales told within the memoir are rather tall it remains a captivating book of life on the Texan frontier amongst the Comanches. Nelson Lee's book *Three Years Among the Comanches* was published in New York in 1859 after Lee had escaped captivity.

From the Back Cover For the Texas Rangers, 80 miles on horseback between sunset and sundown was all in a day's work in the 1850s. These volunteer militiamen, paid only one dollar a day, battled to secure the Lone Star's borders with Mexico, and settlers and frontiersmen came to rely on them for safety and protection in the land of the Comanches and Apaches. Not surprisingly, the Rangers' feats became the stuff of myths and legends. From the ranks of the Rangers arose a folk hero of the old West, Nelson Lee. He encountered one heart-pounding situation after another, handling every daring escapade with fortitude and good humor. That is, until one night when he was awakened from a sound sleep, lassoed by a half-dozen Comanches, and taken prisoner. As he watched his companions being scalped, Lee feared he might meet the same end. *Three Years Among the Comanches* is a reprint of the classic narrative of Lee's adventures and captivity. Told in his own words, Lee's tale (almost too tall to be true) was wildly popular when it first appeared in print in 1859. Today it offers a first-hand look at the early Texas Rangers and details the Comanche way of life before white men changed it forever.