

The Narrative of William H. Bonney

By James O. Easterbrook and Russell G. Nelson

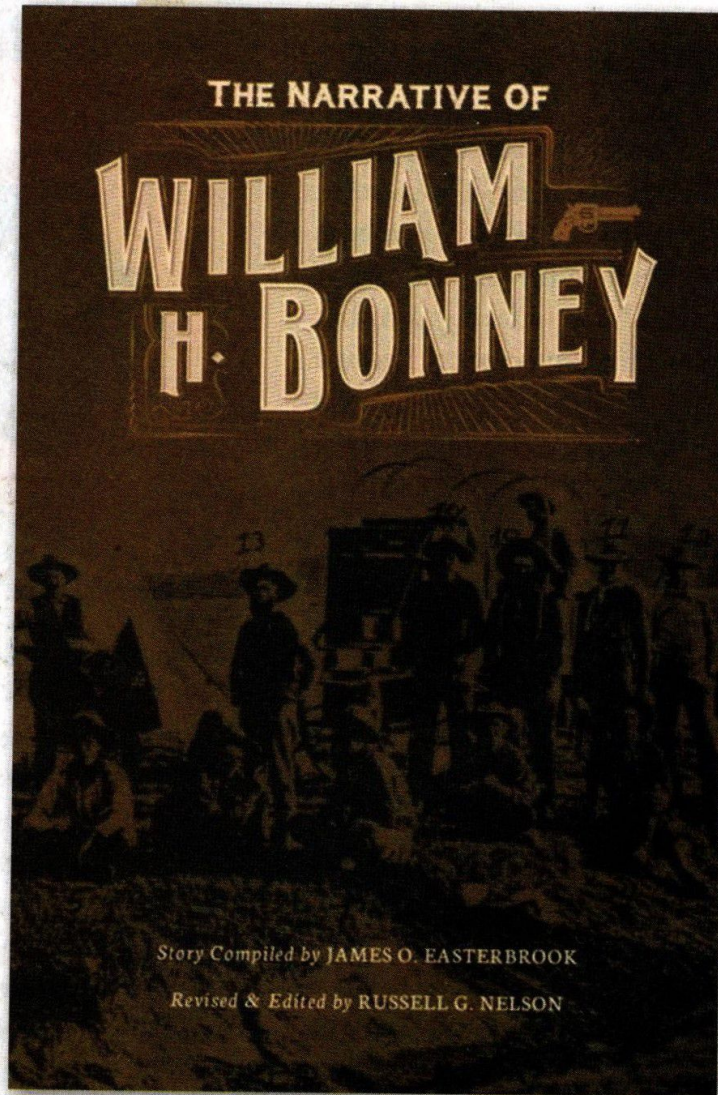
Steve Garbe

This interesting new book, compiled by James O. Easterbrook and revised and edited by Russell G. Nelson, is a recent entry into the American Frontier genre. It is, of course, about William Bonney, aka “Billy the Kid,” and is written from the first-person, narrative style, starting with Billy’s early life and running through many adventures, some known and some, indeed, unknown.

Easterbrook was a lifelong and dedicated student of the Old West, having previously published two works, *Reflections of a Gunfighter* and *The Time Traveler in Old Colorado*. Billy the Kid was a particular interest of his, and he exhaustively researched Billy’s life; especially that time that he was involved in the Lincoln County War.

The Narrative of William H. Bonney was his final work and reflects his passion for the Old West in general and the Kid in particular.

Nelson is another serious student of the Old West as well, being an early member of the American Mountain Men, as he has a particular interest in the early Rocky Mountain fur trade. Russell gained editing experience from working on his college newspaper. While in college in Oklahoma, he



was enrolled in graduate studies in history, which furthered his practical working knowledge of the frontier and the skills needed to survive in those perilous times. Nelson is a retired U.S. Army infantry officer, a life member of Disabled American Veterans and the NRA as well as the author of a Western novel entitled *Pals*.

The Narrative of William H. Bonney is an interesting and insightful read into the life of this colorful outlaw; I would place it in the “historical novel” category. It definitely challenges some long-held assumptions about the Kid, especially the generally accepted one that he was indeed killed by Pat Garrett. I’m not going to give a spoiler-alert and ruin your

enjoyment of the book; let me just say that you will need to put on a pot of coffee when you sit down with this one. The cover alone is enough to pique an Old West buff’s interest, being a previously unpublished photo of the Kid and many of his *companyeros*. Purchase price of *The Narrative of William H. Bonney* is \$28.00 plus \$7.00 shipping and handling. Contact information: WHB Associates LLC, 450 Hwy. 1 West, Suite 149, Iowa City, IA 52246 or www.billythekidlivedon.com.