

Where the West Begins

Debating Texas Identity

Glen Sample Ely

Foreword by Alwyn Barr

One of the most original, clearly expressed, and compelling analyses of the differences between East Texas with its romantic Southern–Civil War history and the claim that Western Texas was a “Cowman’s Paradise” to appear in decades. . . . His fresh account, enhanced by individual biographies and humor, is backed by extensive research in local county archives, newspapers, maps, climate studies, the U.S. Census, and state and federal records. A truly notable addition to the Plains Histories Series.

—HOWARD R. LAMAR, author of *The Far Southwest, 1846-1912: A Territorial History*

UNSURE WHICH OF ITS LEGACIES ARE TRUE AND WHICH TO EMBRACE, Texas grapples with an identity crisis. One camp insists that the state’s roots in slavery, segregation, and cotton make it southern. Another argues that its Native and ranching history make it western. Outside Texas, southern and western historians who don’t know what to make of the state ignore it altogether. In his innovative settling of the question, Glen Sample Ely examines the state’s historical DNA, making sense of Lone Star identity west of the hundredth meridian and defining Texas’s place in the American West.

Focusing on the motives that shape how Texans appropriate their past—from cashing in on tourism to avoiding historical realities—Ely reveals the inner workings of a multiplicity of Texas identities.

Wide-ranging and sparkling with keen insight, *Where the West Begins* should instantly take its place on the short list of indispensable works on Texan identity.

—GREGG CANTRELL, co-editor of *Lone Star Pasts: Memory and History in Texas*

Glen Ely’s *Where the West Begins* is big—Texas big—myth-busting.

—J. F. DE LA TEJA, former state historian of Texas

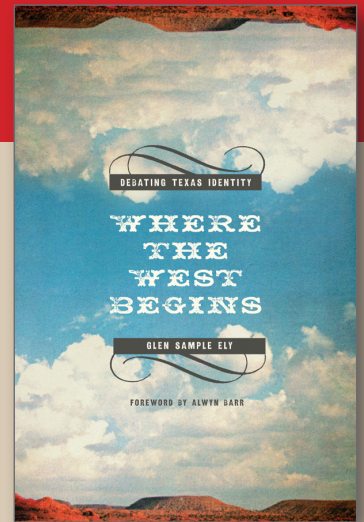
With this book, Glen Ely establishes himself as ranking among the very best of a new generation of Texas historians. He’s asking the right questions, and coming up with some provocative answers.

—ROBERT WOOSTER, author of *Frontier Crossroads: Fort Davis and the West*



GLEN SAMPLE ELY’s documentaries have appeared on PBS, the History Channel, and the Discovery Channel. His scholarly work has appeared in journals such as the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* and the *New Mexico Historical Review*. A Ph.D. graduate of Texas Christian University, he lives in Fort Worth, Texas. www.texashistory.com

ALWYN BARR, one of Texas’s most prolific historians, is retired from the department of history at Texas Tech University.



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