



## Here Is Where: Discovering America's Great Forgotten History

*Andrew Carroll*

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The centerpiece of a major national campaign to identify and preserve forgotten history, *Here Is Where* is acclaimed historian Andrew Carroll's fascinating journey of discovery in which he travels to each of America's fifty states and explores locations where remarkable individuals once lived or where the incredible or momentous occurred.

Sparking the idea for this audiobook was Carroll's visit to the spot where Abraham Lincoln's son was once saved by the brother of Lincoln's assassin. Carroll wondered, *How many other unmarked places are there where intriguing events unfolded -- or where extraordinary men and women made their mark?* And then it came to him: the idea of spotlighting great hidden history by traveling the length and breadth of the United States, searching for buried historical treasure.

In *Here Is Where*, Carroll drives, flies, boats, hikes, kayaks and trains into the past, and in so doing, uncovers stories that inspire thoughtful contemplation, occasional hilarity and often, *awe*. Among the things we learn:

\*Where the oldest sample of DNA in North America was discovered

\*Which obscure American scientist saved 400 million lives

\*Which famous FBI agent was the brother of a notorious gangster

\*Which cemetery contains one million graves – but only one marked

\*How a 14 year old boy invented television

Featured prominently in *Here Is Where* are an abundance of *firsts* (including the first elevator, the first modern anesthesia, the first cremation, and the first murder conviction based on forensic evidence), *outrages* (from massacres, to forced sterilizations, to kidnappings) and *breakthroughs* (from the invention of the M-1 carbine to the recovery of the last existing sample of Spanish Flu to the building of the rocket that made possible space travel).

A profound reminder that the ground we walk is often the top sedimentary layer of amazing past events, *Here Is Where* represents just the first step in an ongoing project that will recruit citizen historians to preserve what should be remembered.

## Here Is Where: Discovering America's Great Forgotten History Details

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**Andrew Carroll**

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### **Bronwyn says**

Won through Goodreads.

More like 4.5 stars, but I'll give it 5.

I really enjoyed this book. Carroll went around the U.S. traveling to places that were important to our history but have been forgotten and don't have markers. The book is broken down into sections based on what the event was; there is a section for medical history, technological history, graves/death history, preservation of history, and more. Some of these sections I enjoyed more than others. I didn't enjoy the medical section as much, but that is because I'm not very interested in it, not because it wasn't interesting. My favorite section was the historical preservation chapter where Carroll discusses the Dunlap broadsides, the Alamo, and more. The graves/death section was also very interesting, and had one of the saddest chapters in the book, in my opinion. (Also, the chapter on Philo Farnsworth was really interesting; I knew a little about him because of Warehouse 13, but that was it. It was great to learn more about him, and I really felt sorry for him overall.)

My only criticism of the book would be that the chapter headings don't always really reflect what the chapter is about. The place that the title is for may just be the jumping off point to discuss something else overall (e.g. The Leary Bookshop is just a way to talk about the Dunlap broadsides and the preservation of them, or lack thereof). This isn't necessarily a bad thing, all of the tangents Carroll goes on are fascinating, but I sometimes wished to know a bit more about the place that the chapter was supposed to be about. Another slight criticism would be that the quotes used at the beginning of each chapter didn't always make sense to me, but if I read them again it might become clear.

Overall, a very interesting book about things people should know more about. I would recommend this to everyone, especially those interested in American history or lesser known history.

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### **Nancy Kennedy says**

Andrew Carroll toured the country looking for history that isn't there. Not that something didn't happen, but that whatever happened is little remembered today, or utterly forgotten. No markers, no citations, certainly no monuments. Andrew Carroll goes there for us, because without an equal amount of research we can't find and appreciate these forgotten spots and stories.

Mr. Carroll's quest started with one forgotten place -- a subway stop in Jersey City, NJ. It was here in the early 1860s that one passenger waiting to board a steam-powered locomotive was saved by another passenger from being run over. The hero? The brother of Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth. The man saved from death? The eldest son of Abraham Lincoln.

This is the kind of story that propels Mr. Carroll to travel the country in search of fascinating bits of forgotten history. He visits the town of a teenage farm kid named Philo Farnsworth, who invented the television (really!) and the jail where a woman named Irene Morgan was sent after she refused to give up her seat on a bus -- 11 years before Rosa Parks's similar act of civil disobedience. Many of the stories have a

surprising twist, like the story of a gold prospector who set out from Kansas in 1857, A.J. Archibald, who turns out to be someone else entirely than the author leads us to believe for several pages.

Along the way, Mr. Carroll introduces us to a terrific cross-section of Americans, people who help him locate these obscure and unmarked places. Historians, librarians, descendants -- they are interesting traveling companions and the author makes good use of his conversations with them. The book is dense with facts and events, and many of them are intertwined, so that it takes some sorting-out as you go along. But that's okay with me. I was more than happy to go along on his ride.

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### **Rawles says**

I was very intrigued by the premise of this book from the start. I would call this historical nonfiction, and it is a MUST read for any American, and any fan of history. I don't normally read a lot of nonfiction, but this was really fun to read. This book is especially about the overlooked, the underdog, the impetus for major historical events that no one knows about. Carroll makes it very entertaining with his spurts of humor and the way he tells each story in just the right amount of detail. Easy to pick up and just read a chapter here and there, this is a great read. Each chapter focuses on a little known event or an unknown yet important American that managed to alter history, usually for the better. 40 states are covered, and I can only hope that he has gathered enough additional stories to publish a second volume. Everything from forestation to medical discoveries to forgotten graves are included here. My favorites include the story of Robert Todd Lincoln being pulled off a train track in front of a moving train by actor Edwin Booth. Yep, the brother of John Wilkes, who later killed Robert Todd's famous father. And the moving story of the oldest organism on earth, callously murdered for no good reason. Or the deeper story of the Alamo - after the raid. I am suddenly very interested at what might have happened in obscure or heavily populated sites in my own hometown that we are not aware of. Hmmmm, summer project anyone??

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### **Paul Waibel says**

I lived in Lynchburg, Virginia during the 1960s while in high school and college. I left after graduating from Lynchburg College in 1968. I returned eleven years later for a brief four years. During those four years I discovered things about Lynchburg's history that I was unaware of while living there in the sixties.

I did not know, for example, that Thomas Jefferson's summer home, Poplar Forest, was located in one of the city's western suburbs. Neither did I know that a large house up on one of the hills overlooking the city was once the home of the doctor who gave Patrick Henry a fatal dose of mercury medicine. Dr. George Cabell warned Henry that it might be fatal, but Henry insisted on taking it. He died.

Both Popular Forest and Point of Honor are now tourist attractions; neither was when I lived in the area. My point is simply this. We often live near locations of historical significance without knowing it, often because no one ever bothered to erect a marker.

Andrew Carroll's very interesting book, *HERE IS WHERE: DISCOVERING AMERICA'S GREAT FORGOTTEN HISTORY* (New York: Crown Archetype, 2013), brings to light many interesting, and often overlooked, individuals and events in America's history. Carroll does so by visiting the sites associated with the people and events. Often those living nearby were unaware of what took place there until Carroll showed

up asking questions.

The stories uncovered by Carroll are more interesting than they are of historical importance. A visit to some "lush green bean fields" in western Indiana is the setting for an account of Horace Greeley's involvement in an attempt to establish the utopian community known as the Grand Prairie Harmonical Association. Like other such attempts in America, and there were quite a number, GPHA failed. Nothing is left of the community, or should we say commune, except bean fields.

Not everyone would be happy with Carroll's reviving memories of individuals or events many Americans, especially those living in their shadow, would rather remain hidden in the back of history's closet. One example is Carroll's visit to California's redwoods in search of any tribute to Madison Grant, one of America's early conservationists.

Given the popularity of environmental issues today, it is remarkable that almost no one is aware of the fact that one of the three men responsible for saving the giant redwoods of California was a man named Madison Grant. In fact, there is only a small bronze plaque in California's Redwoods State Park that pays tribute to this great conservationist and defender of America's natural beauty. There are three names listed on the plaque. They are Madison Grant, John C. Merriam, and Henry Fairfield Osborn, founders of the Save-the-Redwoods League.

Most of those who by some accident happen to see the plaque and read it have no idea who any of the three men were. A few do, and some of them are aghast at any mention of Madison Grant, especially in a favorable light. Why? Not only was Grant a conservationist, he was also the author of a very popular book advocating the now discredited pseudoscience known as eugenics. Eugenics was an attempt to give scientific credibility to the idea of breeding a "master race."

Madison Grant's book, *THE PASSING OF THE GREAT RACE* (1916) was not only widely read in America, but also in Germany. Many Nazi leaders and intellectuals used Grant's book, as well as Henry Ford's *THE INTERNATIONAL JEW* (1920), to give respectability to their racist theories.

HERE IS WHERE includes a great many little known historical points of interest. Not everyone will find every article equally interesting, but there is more than a little here for anyone who enjoys reading about one of the most interesting of topics, history.

HERE IS WHERE: DISCOVERING AMERICA'S GREAT FORGOTTEN HISTORY is an easy and most enjoyable read. Thank you Mr. Carroll.

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### **Patricia says**

The best compliment I can give to this book is that I hope the author will soon write another one! A fascinating exploration of little known historical episodes in American history told through the author's trips to the places where they occurred. He manages to weave a little suspense into the stories and makes some wonderful points about the value of knowing our history. My favorite stories were the medical ones but all of it was really interesting. His willingness to share his personal quirks adds to the enjoyment. He outlined over 16 stories in the acknowledgements that didn't make it into this book but I hope they will make it into the next one!

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## **Martha says**

This is a charming review of people, places, and events in U.S. history that have been forgotten or misplaced or swept under the carpet because of embarrassing associations. The author's passion for his subject is contagious, the chapters are relatively short, and the information he presents is well organized. He's got a real talent for finding common threads in events and people that seem at first disparate. This is, no doubt, the result of the extensive research he did which led him from place to place and opened up more stories as he went. Now my head is filled with odd facts that (I hope) will make me the life of the next party I attend. My favorites were the section on the Spanish Flu, the history of the elevator and the Otis name, and the story of the 1885 mine riot in Rock Springs, Wyoming that left two dozen Chinese immigrants dead (and the interesting connection between this town and Dick Cheney). The stories are well told and the author has a glint of humor in his eye as he looks around on his journey.

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## **Jason says**

If you are looking for an informative read on American history regarding important people and events that get undeservedly overlooked, Andrew Carroll's "Here Is Where: Discovering America's Forgotten History" provides the material you seek. Carroll enlightens the reader with multitudinous information, engages his audience to reflect and consider pivotal moments in time, and illustrates for us all how fragile one's legacy, no matter how impactful, can become.

Carroll provides plenty of amusing and startling moments in discussing America's explorations, immigrations, medicinal and technological advances, judicial advancements, and much more. He takes the reader on a journey to America's four out-stretched corners—western Hawaii to northern Alaska, eastern Maine to southern Florida—and plenty of points in-between, cacophonously urban and serenely rural. He introduces us to everyday Americans past and present: those who have made profound accomplishments and those who work tirelessly to record and remember those achievers. "Here is Where" can be considered one part recorded travelogue, one part anecdotal sociological treatise, one part historical narrative; and in sum, Carroll weaves a powerful quilt of American storytelling.

A small Hawaiian island hosted an interesting event during World War II, just as pertinent as the event at Pearl Harbor. A tiny Alaskan village's cemetery played a crucial role in fighting the Spanish flu. A small farmhouse in Idaho sheltered a boy who conceived how to create the home television. A national park in Nevada is home to Prometheus, who was born before the Great Pyramids were built and died only recently. A Philadelphia bookstore unknowingly possessed one of the few and rare original copies of the Declaration of Independence, and now the only existing copy on permanent, year-round public display. An empty field in Utah played landing site for one of America's most daring airplane hijackers. A town in Ohio, though found on maps, doesn't exist. Carroll discusses many other spots of like consequence, all engrossing and all worthy of note.

Houses, graves, laboratories, islands, theaters, town squares, alleys, mountainsides, patches of woods, military bases, riverbanks, shops, etc., are all stops along the way for Carroll to uncover which marker-less locations should hold reverential respect and honor for all Americans. Overshadowed by other, more famous events, or by politics, or even because of shame, these sites hold importance in winning our wars, curing our

pandemic diseases, shaping our national policies, and advancing our sciences, to name a few points of profundity. What is heartbreaking about it all, as Carroll deftly relates, is how little our society cherishes and honors some of our most important people, institutions, and locales. Ironically perhaps, Carroll leaves us pondering a question: how will we as individuals, our actions, and our advancements, be remembered?

Well done, Mr. Carroll! I am glad to have received this book from the Blogging for Books program in exchange for this review. I look forward to reading Mr. Carroll's other books already available in bookstores and his future works.

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### **Your Excellency says**

This book is much more than the History Lite that seems to be popular today. Although the author skips around (figuratively and actually) from location to location, he provides a great deal of depth on each of his topics. Each is entertaining and (yes, I must say) educational, and Mr. Carroll sheds new light on many 'old' things. Not just chewing gum for the mind, this one.

I especially liked the small connections he makes between one event and others in his book - it's like finding a little thread that, when you pull it, opens a hidden door to another secret compartment. I'm reminded of a great British TV series, hosted by James Burke, which aired episodes in 1978, 1994, and 1997. He would spin these amazing webs of connections between disparate events, and follow them wherever they led. Nicely done, Mr. Carroll!

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### **Caroline says**

I picked this up because I, like Carroll, am a self-proclaimed history nut and it looked like a fun little romp through some forgotten episodes in America's history. 'Forgotten' is not perhaps the best word to use - if all the people and places mentioned in this book were truly forgotten, there would be no way for anyone, let alone the author, to know about them at all. 'Neglected' is perhaps a better term, or 'bypassed'.

There's no great depth to this book, but it was a lively, engaging read, and it brought to light some interesting places and people from America's history. For example, whilst I knew that the 1918 Spanish flu didn't originate in Spain, I didn't realise it actually originated in America and was transferred to Europe by American troops in WW1. I didn't realise that Al Capone's older brother was a federal agent, or that electronic television was invented by a 14-year-old ploughing his family's farm, or that an African-American woman named Irene Morgan refused to give up her bus seat some 11 years before Rosa Parks famously did.

It's the kind of book I found myself reading aloud to people, reciting facts preceded by an surprised 'did you know?... A light holiday kind of read. I only wish I'd saved it for my actual holiday.

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### **Ryan says**

If you didn't know that Edwin Booth saved the life of Robert Todd Lincoln, months before his brother assassinated President Lincoln, you aren't alone. I had no clue, and that's the point of this book. The author, Andrew Carroll, who had files upon files of little known historical oddities, decided to travel the United States, visiting the sites of pivotal points in American history, that most of us have forgotten about. And

forgotten is probably not the right word, let's just say this book is full of events and people that most of us never heard about, though we should have.

He had a few self imposed criteria. They had to be sites that were nationally important, not just some fun local event that didn't have that much of an impact, outside of the neighborhood it took place in. But most importantly, they had to be unmarked, which most of the time, meant they were forgotten.

But this isn't just a book full of unconnected events and the personalities involved, instead its a travelogue that celebrates this country's past, and honors those that are trying to preserve it. The author isn't just slapping down some dates and names, he's letting us in on the journey, allowing us to share in the discovery, to revel in our collective history. Each trip is a separate journey, and we are right there with him, as he visits the sites and talks to the locals, gleaning information from everyone he meets. You can feel the reverence and even the awe that he feels at times, being on location, where those we should honor, gave up their lives or fulfilled a life time of accomplishments.

He starts us off in Hawaii, not the most logical choice, nor his first choice. Rather he is forced to accommodate his journey, to meet the demands of where he is going. And it's with Hawaii that my studying began. I was unaware of how a kamikaze pilot crash landed on the small island of Niihau. Nor did I know of his capture by the locals, and how some trusted members of the community, who happened to be of Japanese heritage, tried to help him in escaping. It's that incident that helped cement the distrust of Japanese Americans, and helped to land them in internment camps for the remainder of World War II.

What follows is a state by state tour, exploring other such events. But he doesn't go off willy nilly, or even follow in a way that makes the most geographical sense. Instead he breaks the stops down into categories, using these events and places to explore broader themes running throughout our history. He visits those who are trying to figure out who was here before us. He delves into the darker side of expansion, discovery and growth. He visits the homes of men and women who pushed our country forward through innovation and science. He even touches upon the future, how our past teaches us about what is to come, and how there are those who are trying to preserve it for those generations to come.

And just to put out there one random fact that I never knew, the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918, started in Haskell County, KS. I live in Kansas, but haven't been into the Western part of the state, I always knew that I never wanted to take a trip to Sublette.

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## Dave says

"At its best, history nurtures within us humility and gratitude. It encourages respect and empathy. It fosters creativity and stimulates the imagination. It inspires resilience. And it does so by illuminating the simple truth that...it's an absolute miracle that any one of us is alive today...and that we are, above everything else, all in this together."

When your passion is history, and you struggle for years to communicate why history carries significance to teenagers, it is altogether settling to hear it put so eloquently. I was entirely entranced by the stories revealed in the chapters and pages of this delight. Here is Where, albeit oddly titled until you realize it is the opening phrase of the sentence, "Here is where such and such happened," is a road trip collection of forgotten national history, SIGNIFICANT history, that in the author's opinion, deserves some semblance of a marker. A bronzed plaque, an erected statue, a landmark of some sort. Who knew the inventor of television was a 14

year old farm boy? That the Spanish Flu that claimed 50 million European lives started in Kansas? That you could walk up to the remains of the oldest living thing in the country and not even know it's there? Author Andrew Carroll zigzags from state to state searching for uncovered stories that should be remembered, but are for one reason or another, are not. The Jehovah's Witnesses and the Pledge. The Sinking of the Sultana. The accidental cure for pellagra.

Yet when I reached the chapter on cooperative communities, then it got personal. Reading about others in the middle of one makes for an interesting juxtaposition. In reading this book, I was reminded of the volumes of hidden history that have passed through the very neighborhood I myself live in. It is a book unto itself, one which someone ought to write someday (Mr. Carroll?). So, for now, as another history book comes to a close, Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, Alexander Fleming, Nikola Tesla, Robert Lincoln and hosts of other historical figures will have to once more go quietly into the night of closed pages. Perhaps as time goes by, more obscure stories will be exposed from the erosion of time and there will be more volumes. Until then, another day is in the books as history. Good night.

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### **Christopher says**

Wonderful account of Carroll's visits to many lesser-known (or practically unknown) historical sites around the United States and the research that went into them. His style is a little bit like Sarah Vowell's, especially in his regard for the obscure, humble underdogs who never made it into the history books and who deserve at least a historical marker. My favorite chapters include the ones on Elisha Otis (yes, the founder of Otis elevators and inventor of the safety brake for elevators), Robert Goddard, and Dr. Loring Miner (he was the first physician to warn of the Spanish influenza epidemic in 1918--a good tie-in for Dan Brown's "Inferno", which I'm reading now). While he's a lot less snarky than Vowell, his understated and often self-deprecating humor comes through enough for you to see that he would be a great tour guide for the ultimate history geek road trip.

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### **Marti says**

The first tidbit of information involved Edwin Booth, one of the most famous actors in America at the time, saving Abraham Lincoln's son from being run over by a train at Exchange Place in Jersey City. Since I know the location very well, that got my interest. Of course neither one could have foreseen that Booth's brother would assassinate the President a year later.

It seems that many potentially memorable events get overshadowed in the course of time by something much bigger happening immediately afterward. One such instance involved the sinking of the steamship Sultana which killed more people on the Mississippi River than the Titanic. However it happened only days before the Lincoln assassination and is mostly forgotten.

If you enjoy weird historical footnotes like the fact that General Santa Anna, villain of the Alamo, was living in Staten Island where he imported the raw ingredients that became Chiclets, the first chewing gum in America; then this is right up your alley.

The book does meander a lot but that is the point as many of the stories of early America do tend to intersect and the same names keep popping up over and over for different reasons.

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## Ronald Roseborough says

If any book cries out for an app, this book certainly does. The places visited in this book are ripe with history. They present a fascinating insight into the people and places in our country that are perhaps little known, yet full of meaning and importance. Who wouldn't want to see the place where John Wilkes Booth's brother, Edwin Booth, saved the life of Abraham Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln? Do you think the Spanish Flu of 1918 that killed millions worldwide started in Spain? No, it first surfaced in rural Kansas. Like to know where the first American funeral cremation occurred? Henry Laurens of South Carolina, one of this country's founding fathers, placed in his will the uncommon request to have his body burned until utterly consumed, after his death in 1792. Could D. B. Cooper have hijacked a second plane? A hijacking occurred over Utah about five months after D. B. Cooper's first hijacking. It had all the earmarks of Cooper's and the man fit Cooper's description. When he jumped from the plane the hijacker floated to earth with a parachute and a duffel bag with \$500,000 dollars. This is a great book full of intriguing, little known facts centered in unheralded places across the United States. Book provided for review by Amazon Vine.

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## Susan says

I enjoyed *Here Is Where: Discovering America's Great Forgotten History*, and I think author Andrew Carroll and I are soulmates of a sort. He talks about enjoying learning about history, and then visiting the spot where various events happened -- me too. Sometimes, I'll read a non-fiction book and then want to visit the site where it happened SO badly, I can hardly stand it. Thus, my trips to Neuschwanstein, etc. I would love to see the sites of the Little House books, and I kind of did things backwards with Los Alamos -- visited the site first, became interested, and then read a bunch about it. Carroll is also amazed in his research about just how many sites there are that played important roles in our history, yet are totally unmarked. Some of this may be because the buildings are privately owned now and the new owners don't want the attention. But it also made me think of how much the news we hear about is shaped by the media. Who's to say that the main story on the radio news each day is really the most important thing going on in the world? It's kind of scary to think that there is so much that we don't know.

Anyway, this book explores several bits of American history, and Carroll travels to the sites where they occurred to give us more interesting background tidbits. You'll learn about Prometheus, the US's oldest tree - - well, it was, until a guy unknowingly cut it down in '60s. Its components are still scattered around the site. You'll also learn about the oddities of news reporting and why some things are reported as huge, while bigger events miss the spotlight altogether (the Sultana steamboat exploded on the Mississippi, killing about 1,800 -- more than died on the Titanic. However, the Sultana incident happened just days after Lincoln's assassination, eclipsing the event).

The chapters in this book reminded me a lot of vignettes heard on NPR. Although it dragged in spots, I enjoyed it overall.

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