THE WILD ★ WEST ★ PRESS

A Study of

19th Century Job Printing

including various

ROUGH FONTS

and sundry

USEFUL ILLUSTRATIONS

☞ Furnished by the Walden Font Co.

e all have seen "Wanted" posters and "Saloon" signs and have a pretty good idea what something printed in the Wild West ought to look like. In fact, we often seem to think that "Wild West" typefaces form a special branch of typography. In reality, printing on the Frontier was pretty much what it was elsewhere in the nation - 19th century American printing, probably on a more provincial scale than in the East. But even as the real life dramas of the Wild West unfolded, countless dime novels, and later Hollywood movies and TV shows fixed an image in our minds of the characters that populated the West, and their trappings. This included a narrow definition of "Western" printed matter as voluptuous creations of Steamboat Gothic, featuring the most outrageously decorated typefaces. Whether these fancy fonts were actually ever used in the print shops of Topeka or Abilene is highly questionable. Lead fonts are heavy, and freight rates to the outlying territories of the young republic were exorbitant. Rather than offering a wide selection of dazzling type creations, most local job printers would have had a limited variety of staple workhorse fonts on hand, well-worn and possibly antiquated. This, at least, is our conjecture based

on our study of the scarce extant material. Job printing being ephemeral, precious few examples have come down to us.

To create this set of fonts, we have sifted through original material from the Library of Congress and a great number of other historical sources. Whereever possible, we identified the fonts used in each specimen and thus arrived at a short list of typefaces that printers appear to have favored most. We are pleased to make these fonts available for the first time in the context of printing in the Old West. As they are taken from original specimens they carry the chinks and dings of hard use, which should only add to their charm.

Winchester, in the Winter of 2004

Oliver Weiss

Proprietor,
The Walden Font Co.

Display Types

Most of these fonts were wood types, that is, the bodies of the types were mounted on wooden blocks. These were more economical and easier to handle at large sizes. Sometimes the character itself was made of wood, too, but most often it was cast in a thin layer of lead which was then fixed to the block. These fonts vary in their completeness: some only contain uppercase characters, some have no numerals or punctuation. This has been indicated below each sample.

ASHWOOD CONDENSED

❑ Punctuation ❑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

ASHWOOD EXTRA BOLD

❑ Punctuation ❑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

ASPHALTUM

❑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

AUBREY LANDING

☑ Punctuation ❑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

Bullion Extra Condensed

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ☑ Lowercase

Bullion Roman

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ☑ Lowercase

Bullion Italic

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ☑ Lowercase

Chalk Bluff

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ☑ Lowercase

Bear Gulch

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ☑ Lowercase

CLIFFORD EIGHT

☑ Punctuation ❑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

CUT AND SHOOT

❑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

GATLIN

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

Muleshoe

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ☑ Lowercase

Rawhide

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ☑ Lowercase

ROUND MOUNTAIN

☑ Punctuation ❑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

ROYAL NONESUCH

☑ Punctuation ❑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

SAGELAND

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

Sawtooth

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ☑ Lowercase

SHELLDRAKE

❑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

STOCKTON

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

Thousandsticks

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ☑ Lowercase

THUNDER MOUNTAIN

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ☑ Lowercase

WHITECROSS

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

WILDWASH

☑ Punctuation ☑ Numerals ☑ Uppercase ❑ Lowercase

Text Types

Cast in lead in relatively small sizes, these fonts were used for paragraph text. Our fonts include upper and lower case characters, as well as punctuation and numerals.

Faywood Roman
Maecenas tincidunt luctus orci. Aenean sollicitudin malesuada quam. Donec porttitor urna vitae eros. Nulla nisl lorem.

Faywood Italic
tum sapien quis arcu. Curabitur ut nulla. Nam est purus, iaculis sed, pretium eu, dapibus vita.

Faywood Extra Condensed
Aliquam in urna. Aenean eu elit. Vivamus augue risus, interdum id, commodo elementum, commodo a, metus. Nam quam. Phasellus porta, posuere quam. Donec nec libero.

Jawbones Condensed WF
Quisque id nulla id sem adipiscing varius. Integer aliquet interdum lectus. Quisque risus leo, pulvinar id.

Langtry
Fusce nonummy, orci ac tempus sagittis, wisi mauris pellentesque odio, sed rutrum orci.

Matchwood
Mauris velit leo, pretium sed, vestibulum at, suscipit et, massa. In auctor, eros quis.

Matchwood Italic
Morbi sagittis consectetuer odio. Sed nulla lectus, malesuada vel, convallis quis.

Matchwood Bold
Ut in velit sed ante pellentesque fringilla. Nullam dolor eros, tempor elementum.

Matchwood Bold Italic
Phasellus varius dolor eu tellus. Morbi fermentum odio a nibh eleifend sodales.

Ophir
Maecenas wisi lacus, ultrices eget, aliquet quis, aliquam quis.

Dead Man's Hand

Noted penman and expert on Spencerian handwriting Michael Sull created this handwriting font for us. As he puts it: "I wanted to re-create the handwriting of someone who is used to slinging a six-shooter rather than a pen."

☛After a letter written to Richard Coke, the Governor or Texas, by a grieving father. John Wesley Hardin was one of the deadliest outlaws in Texas at the time.

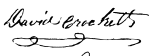
Dear Sir
On June 13th A.D. 1873, Edmund J. Davis Governor of Texas offered a reward of $600 for the arrest and conviction of one Brown Bowen who murdered my Son Thomas Holderman on the 17th day of December 1872 and was indicted for the same and incarcerated in the County Jail at Gonzales for the same and was broken out of jail by the John Wesley Hardin Party, and is now at large and beyond the limits of the State of Texas.
I also state that Brown Bowen is a Brother-in-Law to John Wesley Hardin and his gang of desperados. Such is in the proof of the same and I Ernestly request for Humanity Sake and the vindication of the law would ask that you offer a Suitable Reward for the apprehension of the said Brown Bowen to be delivered inside of the county jail door of Gonzales County Texas. With hope that you will comply with my Request and that Justice may be done I am

Respectfully
David Holderman

Heroes and Villains Signatures

This font contains authentic autographs of some of the best-known personalities in the West - both famous and infamous.

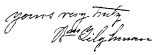
a William F. Cody - "Buffalo Bill"
noted scout and entertainer



b Davy Crockett
Tennessee frontiersman, hero of the Alamo

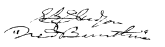
c George W. Lillie "Pawnee Bill"
frontiersman and circus owner

d Emmet Dalton
notorious bank robber



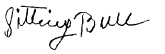
e Sheriff William Tilghman
sheriff of Dodge City

f William C. Quantrill
ruthless Civil War guerilla



g Ned Buntline - E.Z.C. Judson
noted western writer

h Francisco "Pancho" Villa
famed Mexican rebel



i Sitting Bull
famous Indian Chief

j John A. Sutter
on whose property in California gold was discovered in 1848

k James Marshall
the discoverer of the gold

l Grat Dalton
notorious bank robber

☛We recommend that you set signatures at large point sizes to achieve the proper dimension. 120 points is usually not too much.

m Wyatt Earp
famous lawman

n Jim Younger
famous outlaw

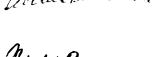
o Martha J. Burke - "Calamity Jane"
noted female outlaw

p Cole Younger
famous outlaw

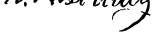
q Bob Younger
famous outlaw

r Jesse James
famed train robber

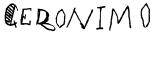
s Allan Pinkerton
famous detective



t W.M. Bonney
the notorious "Billy the Kid"

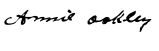


u Geronimo
great Apache warrior

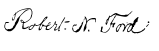


v Sheriff Pat Garrett
killed Billy the Kid

w Annie Oakley
famous markswoman



x Robert N. Ford
shot Jesse James

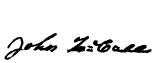


y Samuel Colt
made the Six-Shooter *famous*

z Squire Boone
frontiersman, brother of Daniel

A Brigham Young
Mormon leader

B James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok
famous sheriff, killed holding the "Dead Man's Hand"



C Jack McCall
shot Wild Bill Hickok

D James "Bat" Masterson
famous lawman

"The penciled signatures of Geronimo, written during the World's Fair at St. Louis, are quaint relics of a great warrior whose small band of Apache braves held a whole American army at bay for several years. Geronimo drew his signature sideways , starting at the top G and coming down to the terminal O, so that the completed effort, requiring several minutes to print, looked like a fancy totem pole until turned to reveal his name."

– Charles Hamilton, *The Signature of America*

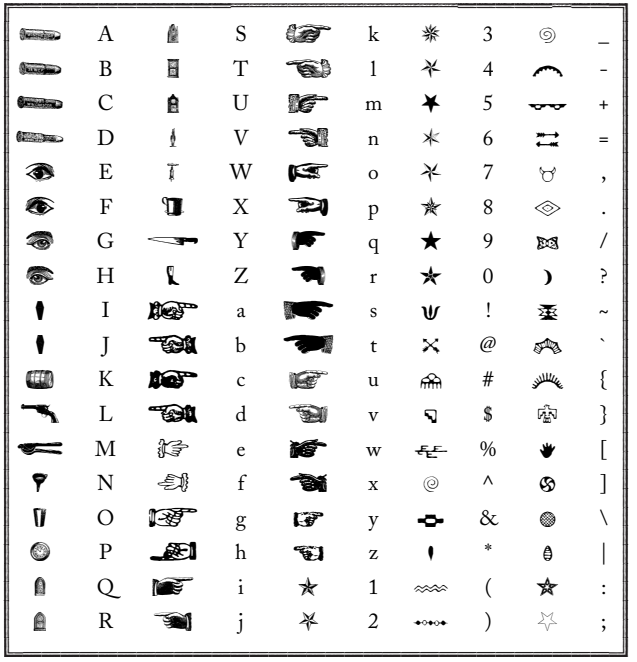
Symbol Fonts

Symbol fonts contain small spot illustrations that can be used to enhance text. Refer to the charts to determine the correct keystroke for a given character.

Western Bullets WF

This font contains a variety of pointers, decorations and Native American symbols.

☛Note that the familiar "hand" or chap book pointers were often used to mark the beginning of a paragraph, or to delineate items in a list.



Cattle Brands WF

Since all steers look much the same, and because there were no fences on the miles of grazing lands, brands soon became essential western symbols. The marks and designs are the heraldry of the plains. Despite all we hear about cattle rustling, returning lost cattle to its rightful owner was a matter of personal honor. Our font is useful in many ways - as a themed border, a source of spot illustrations or text bullets.

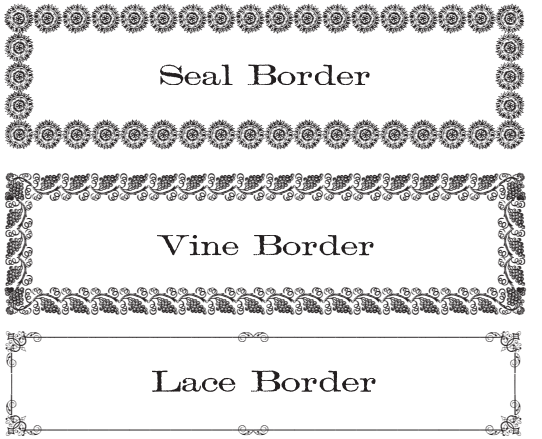
	A	Walking-Y		Q	Walking-Tadpole		k	Rising Sun
	B	Old Woman		R	Hatchet		l	Running Sack
	C	Owl Ranch		S	Longhorn-Plus		m	Rocking-R
	D	Wind Flower Ranch		T	Laurel-Leaf		n	Bar-Button-Hook
	E	Numa Ranch		U	Lazy-H		o	Bob-On-The-Square
	F	A Coffin Ranch		V	Lizzard		p	Boot-B
	G	Andiron Ranch		a	Curry-Comb		q	Bridle-Bit
	H	O-Cross-O Ranch		b	Double-R		r	Buzzard-On-The-Rail
	I	Drunken-T		c	Spectacle-G		s	Six-Shooter
	J	Flying-B		d	Spur		t	Slash-Pine
	K	Hash-Knife		e	Swan		u	Sleeping Six
	L	Hat-A		f	Swinging-Diamonds		v	Lightning
	M	Triangle-Tail		g	Triangle-X		w	Snake-in-Moon
	N	Tumbling Horseshoes		h	Drag-F	777	x	Chain-Seven
	O	Turkey-Track		i	Pigs Eye		y	Crossed-W
	P	U-Fly		j	Pine Tree		z	Crow-Foot

☛ In addition to the key-strokes this table also indicates the names of the respective ranches. Some of them are still in existence!

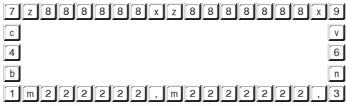
Border Fonts

19th century printers made heavy use of ornamental borders. To create a border, select a border font from the font menu in your application, then press the numbers on your keypad in the following pattern:

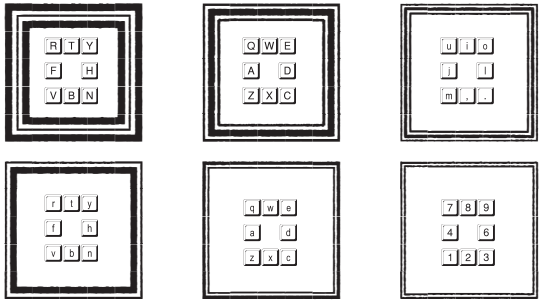
☞ Place borders in separate text boxes or frames so that they don't interfere with the text inside.



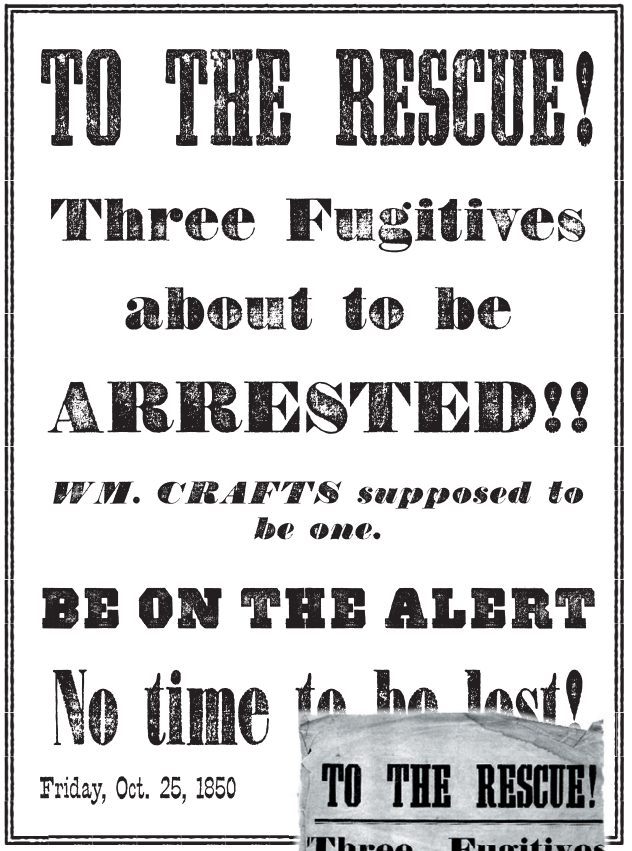
The Lace Border font includes additional characters to produce a more intricate border, as shown above and in the schema below.



Brass Rules



☞ The Brass Rules fonts contains several borders. Refer to the indicated letter groupings to get the desired border.

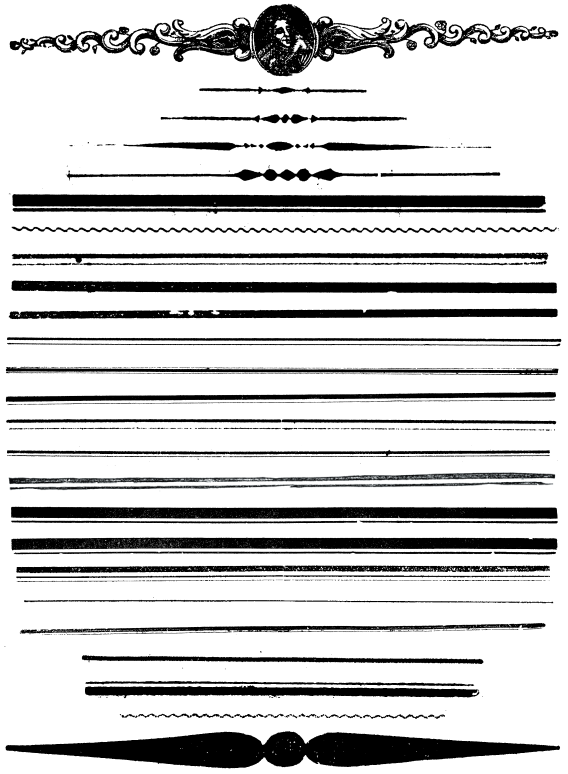


A rather strange poster from 1850. One wonders what the citizenry was called upon to do here. Original courtesy of Lion Heart Autographs, New York.

Clip Art

Rules

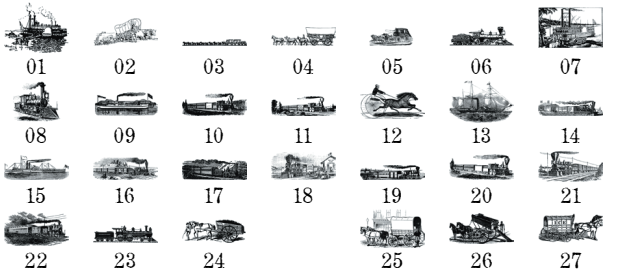
Newspaper rules and borders are used as convenient dividers to separate text items in the same column, or to draw attention to a paragraph.



☞ All Clip Art images are found in the **clipart** folder, which in turn is found in the **wwp** folder on your computer's hard drive. You will find one folder for each image category featured here. The number below each image corresponds with the name of the file.

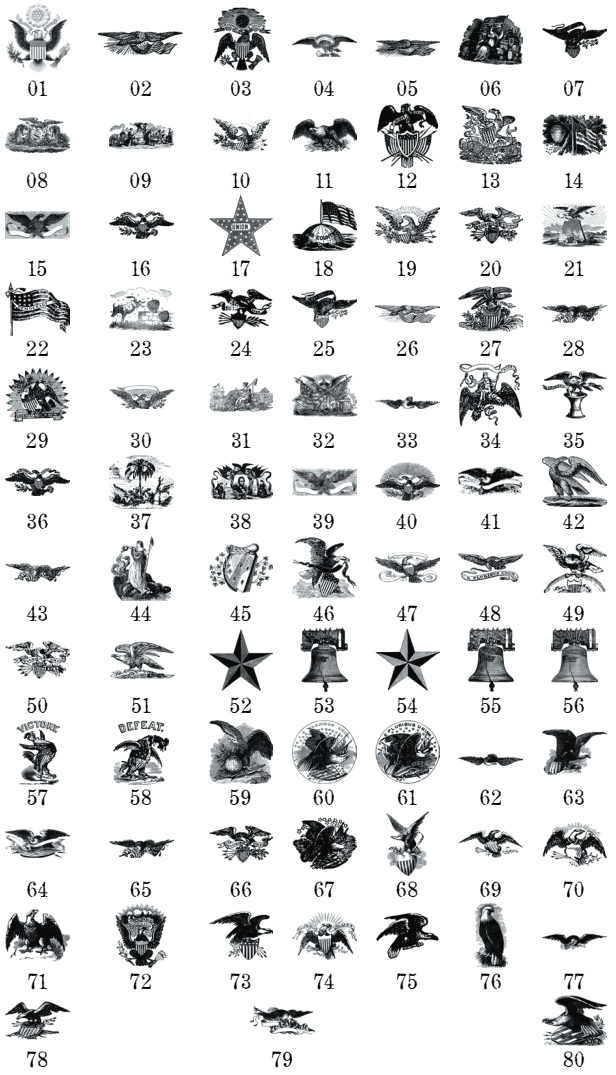
People and Faces

Transportation

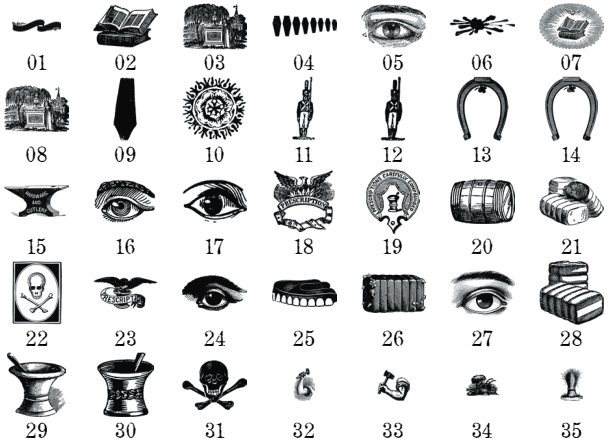


Animals

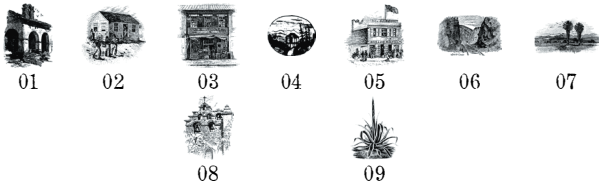
Patriotic Symbols



Page Decorations



Scenery



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Fine Historical
TYPEFACES
and such
★ SINCE 1994 ★

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