Walter Prescott Webb

by Walter Rundell

Walter Prescott Webb was a child of the Great Plains, and he spent most of his life studying and writing about the history of the region. He was born on April 3, 1888, in Panola County, Texas, the son of a farmer. He attended the University of Texas for forty years. Walter Prescott Webb was a historian and author, best known for his book The Great Plains, which was published in 1931. The book was a classic description of the interaction between the vast central plains of America and the people who lived there, and it has been influential in the study of American history. Walter Prescott Webb was also known for his work on the history of the Texas Rangers, and he wrote a book titled The Texas Rangers. He died on March 8, 1963, in Austin, Texas. The Walter Prescott Webb Historical Society was organized at the University of Texas at Austin in the 1960s after the death of the much loved Walter P. Webb. The Society has a website and publishes a newsletter, The Telegraph, which is available online. The Society also maintains a memorial and a library of materials related to the history of the Great Plains.