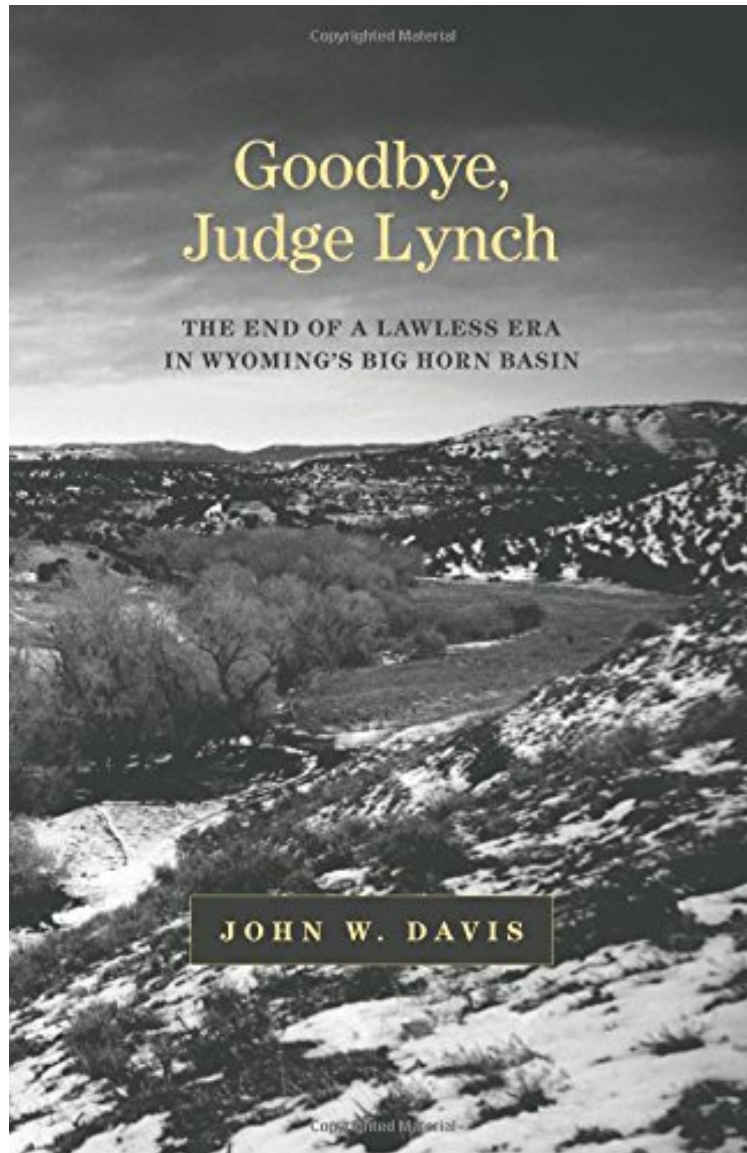


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Goodbye, Judge Lynch: The End of the Lawless Era in Wyoming's Big Horn Basin

John W. Davis

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John W. Davis : Goodbye, Judge Lynch: The End of the Lawless Era in Wyoming's Big Horn Basin before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Goodbye, Judge Lynch: The End of the Lawless Era in Wyoming's Big Horn Basin:

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Horn Basin is the place of my birth and youth. Today, my cousin is Sheriff of the County with his office located at the very spot of this story. The historical and geographical center of this book is part of my "roots." I am grateful for the research and efforts to be objective, Davis placed in this account. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This was a good read, and very informative about in the Big ...By Kimberly DodsonWell done. I got this for the family history it contained. Sheriff Dudley Hale was my great-grandfather Elmo's brother. I have been helping another family member gather stories for a different book that is currently being written. This was a good read, and very informative about in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming, during that era. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well-written, easy to get lost in. By DellaWell-written, easy to get lost in. I bought this book because my grandmother was raised there, during that time. I had a good feel for the people and the places. Quite enjoyable.

The big Horn Basin of northern Wyoming was one of the last frontiers in the continental United States. With settlers did not arrive until 1879, when cattlemen poured into the Basin to capture empty grasslands. In their haste to seize opportunity, the new residents did not establish an effective criminal justice system, and the consequence was rampant violence. In *Goodbye, Judge Lynch*, John W. Davis tells the fascinating story of how lawlessness finally came to an end in this remote corner of the West. The cattlemen who arrived in the Big Horn Basin in the 1880s were almost all young men, hardworking but impulsive. Without a legal system to control them, extralegal practices, such as lynching and sheep raids, grew at an alarming rate. Davis examines murders, assaults, and thefts in the region over the course of three decades, when the problems of prosecution were overwhelming. He highlights the infamous 1902 case of *State v. Jim Gorman*, in which Gorman, infatuated with his sister-in-law, killed his brother. Although Gorman received a first-degree murder conviction, a shocking breakdown of order ensued, when a mob attacked the Big Horn County jail and killed Gorman, another prisoner, and a deputy sheriff. Six years later, in another infamous case, raiders murdered three sheepherders. Impunity was the immediate result, and the defeat of law and order in the region seemed complete. But authorities fought the odds and finally gained guilty verdicts, the first convictions of sheep raiders in Wyoming. This legal victory marked the end of a brief but powerful vigilante tradition. The first in-depth assessment of vigilantism and justice in the region, *Goodbye, Judge Lynch* reveals the unique challenges faced by a western society attempting to build a social system from scratch.

About the Author John W. Davis, who resides in Worland, Wyoming, has practiced law in the Big Horn Basin for more than forty years. He is the author of *A Vast Amount of Trouble: A History of the Spring Creek Raid* and *Goodbye, Judge Lynch: The End of a Lawless Era in Wyoming's Big Horn Basin*.