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Western Slang & Phrases - H

Death of American Dollar?

42 banks investigate new form of money. FED: Could compete w/ dollar



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H

Hack - A hackney coach.

Haint - Have not.

Hair Case - Hat.

Hair in the Butter - A delicate situation.

Hair Pants - Chaps made from a hair-covered hide.

Half Seas Over - A sailor's expression for intoxicated, drunk.

Haloo or Hallow - Shout, hoot, to cry out loudly.

Hammer And Tongs - In a noisy, furious manner. "They went at it hammer and tongs."

Hand And Glove - Intimate, familiar, closely united as a hand and its glove.

Hand Runnin' - Consecutively.

Hanger-On - A dependant, one who eats and drinks without payment.

Hang Fire - Delay.

Hang Up One's Fiddle - To give up. The opposite would be to "hang on to one's fiddle."

Hanker or Hankering - To have an incessant wish, strong desire, longing.

Happifying - Making happy.

Hard Case - Worthless, bad, unpleasant, - often referring to a person.

Hardfisted - Covetous, close-handed, miserly.

Hard Money - A common term for silver and gold, rather than paper money.

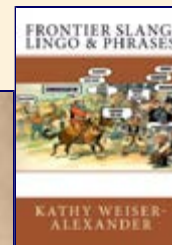
Hard Pushed or Hard Run - Hard pressed, to be in a difficulty, short of cash.

Hard Row To Hoe - A metaphor derived from hoeing corn, meaning a difficult matter or job to accomplish.

Harum-Scarum - A negative term applied to flighty persons or persons always in a hurry.

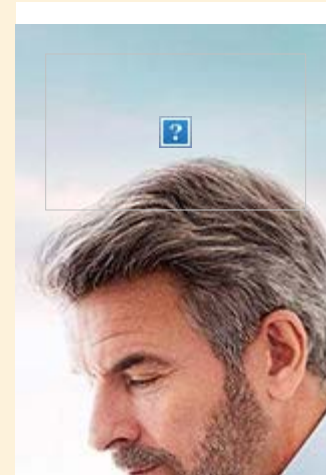


Tom Mix, an old Hollywood film star poses with a gun in hand and is "hair case" on the floor. This image available for photographic prints and downloads [HERE!](#)



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Frontier Slang, Lingo & Phrases - By [Kathy Weiser-Alexander](#), Owner/Editor of [Legends of America](#) - *Autographed*



Hash - To settle one's business.

Have a Mind To - To have a notion, to be willing.

Hay Baler - A horse, also called hay burner.

Hay Seed - Derogatory term for a farmer, also called hay shaker.

Haze - To haze round, is to go rioting about.

Head-Cheese - The ears and feet of swine cut up fine, boiled, and pressed into the form of a cheese.

Heap - A lot, many, a great deal. "He went through a heap of trouble to get her that piano." Also refers to a crowd, a throng, a rabble.

Hearn - Heard.

Hear Tell - To hear a report of, to hear of.

Hearty As A Buck - Very well, healthy, hearty. A hunter's phrase.

Heave In Sight - To come in sight, to appear. A nautical phrase that originated with approaching vessels which appeared to raise or heave itself above the horizon.

Heeled - To be armed with a gun. "He wanted to fight me, but I told him I was not heeled."

Heft - Weight, ponderousness.

Hellabaloo - Riotous noise, confusion.

Hell-fired - Very, great, immensely; used for emphasis. He is just too hell-fired lazy to get any work done around here. Also "all-fired" and "jo-fired."

Hell Rousers - Spurs.

Helter-Skelter - In a hurry, without order, tumultuously.

Hemp - [Cowboy](#) talk for rope; in verb form to hang someone. Hemp fever was a morbidly jocular term for a hanging. Hemp party (also string party) meant the same. A hemp committee was a group of vigilantes or a lynch mob (depending on your point of view) and a hemp necktie was the rope they did the deed with. Coined because [cowboys](#) used ropes made of Manila hem.



[Black Jack Ketchum](#) was "hemped" for robbing trains in [New Mexico](#). This image available for photographic prints [HERE!](#)

Hitch - A difficulty, an impediment.



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BOOK NOW 

Hen Skins - A cowboy's bedroll

Here's how! - A toast, such as Here's to your health.

Hern - Hers.

Hide - To beat, spank. "When I was a boy, I got plenty of hidings.

Hifer - Loiter.

Higgle - To chaffer, bargain, haggle.

Higgledy-Piggledy - In confusion.

High Binder - A dangerous and vicious man or horse.

High-Falutin - Highbrow, fancy, self-important, pompous. The origin is the Dutch word verlootten, meaning stilted.

High-Grader - In the mining camps of the Old West, a high-grader was a man who stole any big nuggets which he saw in the sluice boxes.

High Tail - To leave or ride off quickly.

Hill of Beans - Slang for something of trifling value, as in "it ain't worth a hill of beans."

Hindsite First - Backwards.

Hisn - His or his own.

To Hitch - To agree, to get along amicably.

Hitched - Got married.

Hitch in the Giddy-up - Not feeling well, as in: "I've had a hitch in my giddy-up the last couple days."

Hither And Yon - Here and there.

Hit pay dirt - Mining term. To find something of value.

Hits the Flat - Go out on the prairie.

Hobble your lip - Shut up.

Hog at the Trough - Superior, outstanding, a leader

Hohokams - Means "vanished ones" in the Pima [Indian](#) language. The [Hohokam Indians](#) most likely became the Pima and Papago tribes.

Ho - A word used by teamsters to stop their teams.

Hobble - A scrape, a state of perplexity

Ho Down - A party or celebration

Hog-Killin Time - This a "what I mean" very good time!

Hog-Wallow - On some of the Western prairies, the ground has every appearance of having been rooted or torn up by hogs, when it is very rough, hence the name

Hog Ranch - A brothel and [saloon](#) that was often located near a military fort.

Hoity-Toity - An exclamation denoting surprise or disapprobation, with some degree of contempt.

Hold a Candle to - Measure up, compare to.

Hold Your Horses - Stay calm. "Hold your horses, we're on our way."

Hold Up - In referring to weather, it means to clear up, stop raining, etc.

Hollow - All hollow. Completely, wholly. "He beat him all hollow.

Holt - Hold. "Death has got holt of him."

Honey-Fogle - To swindle, cheat, lay plans to deceive.

Hook - To steal.

By Hook Or By Crook - One way or other, by any expedient. "It can't be done by hook or crook."

Hooks - Spurs.

Hookshop - A brothel.

Honey-fuggled - To cheat, to pull the wool over one's eyes.

Hoosgow - Jail, from the Spanish *juzgado*, meaning courthouse.

Hooter - A bit or a tiny amount.

Hop - A dance.

Hopped for Mama - A horse bucking.

Horn - A glass of liquor, ale or beer.

Hornswoggle - To cheat or trick, to pull the wool over one's eyes.

Horse Thief Special - A raisin and boiled rice dish.

Horse Feathers - Ridiculous.

Horse Wrangler - Horse herder.

Hoss - A horse.

Hot as a Whorehouse on Nickel Night - Damned hot.

Hot Rock - Biscuit.

Hot Roll - Bedroll.

Huckleberry - As in "I'm your huckleberry" means "I'm just the man you're looking for" or "I'm just the man for the job."

Huckleberry Above a Persimmon - A cut above.

Hum - Home.

Humbug - A deception, hoax, imposter.

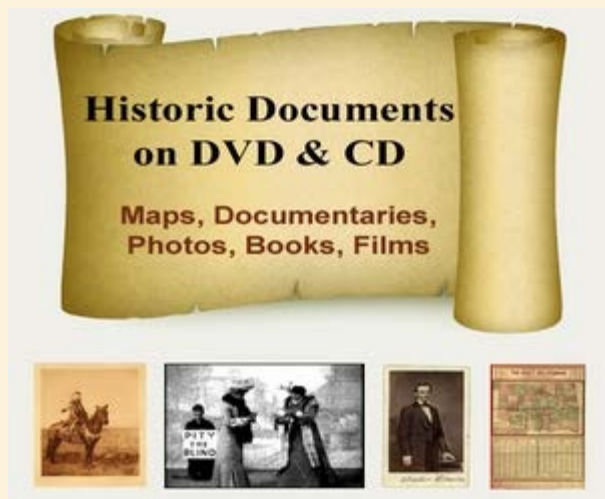
Hounds - Rowdies of the gold-rush days of San Francisco.

Hull - Saddle.

Hurricane Deck - The saddle of a bucking horse.

Husking Bee - A social event in which the community came together to husk corn and to drink. Also called a "husking frolic."

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