

CHRONOLOGY

The Leatherstocking Saga (1823-41)

James Fenimore Cooper

(1789-1851)

The Deerslayer (1841):

Natty Bumppo is 23 or 24. The action is set on the shores of Lake Otsego during the war between Britain and France from 1740 to 1745.

The Last of the Mohicans (1826):

Natty is 36 or 37. The central event is Montcalm's capture of Fort William Henry in 1757 and the ensuing massacre of British and colonial Americans. The war began in 1754 and ended with the surrender of New France to the British in 1760.

The Pathfinder (1840):

Natty is about 38. The action centers about Fort Oswego during the same war, in about 1759. Natty falls in love with Mabel Dunham, but she has only a daughterly affection for him.

The Pioneers (1823):

Natty is 72 or 73, an old frontiersman at the frontier settlement of early Cooperstown in 1793. He gets put in the stocks for poaching a deer, as civilization encroaches on the wilderness.

The Prairie (1827):

Natty is past 80 and has retreated from civilization to the prairie and become a trapper during the early westward movement, 1820-1825. Cooper dates his action earlier due to Natty's age, about 83 when he dies among the Indians.

adapted from Allan Nevins, ed.
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(Modern Library 1954) 36-7