



Legends, Lore & True Tales  
in Mormon Country

By Christian Probasco, Steven J. Clark,  
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*Edited by Monte Bona*

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***Stories as Rugged as the Landscape that Inspired Them***

*Legends, Lore & True Tales in Mormon Country* is the newest addition to The History Press' *American Legends* series. The book is set to release on May 18, 2015.

Utah's Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area, directed by Monte Bona, offers breathtaking natural resources, powerful historical drama, and intriguing cultural traditions. This rich legacy is built on old-world values of cooperation, industry, ingenuity, and true grit—as well as a miracle or two. From frontier justice and lost treasure to the lasting contributions of Presbyterian minister and a Jewish settlement, talented regional historians, educators and storytellers bring to life these legends, lore and true tales from the heart of Mormon country.

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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOOK**

- A famous actress with Mormon roots
- A would-be Sundance Kid
- The story of a blind pioneer
- A legendary teller of Western lore
- The Hole-in-the-Rock settlers
- Jewish Colonists of Clarion



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Christian Probasco** is a former publicity writer for the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area and former managing editor of the Sanpete Messenger newspaper in the northern “Little Denmark” district of the MPNHA. Probasco is also the author of *Highway 12*, about scenic State Route 12, Utah’s only All-American Road.

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Award-winning author, **Steven J. Clark**, began his career with a short story published in his junior high school annual, *The Panther*, when he was in seventh grade. Clark later went on to a thirty year plus career in marketing and sales. He is the former editor and publisher of a national trade journal, *Manufactured Housing News*. Clark has written extensively for local and regional newspapers and has just released his second novel, a legal thriller entitled, *Wages of Greed*, set in and around the Navajo reservation in the Four corners area .

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**Eileen Hallet Stone’s** award-winning projects include nineteenth-century life, populations in crisis, community stories and ethnic histories. She writes a “Living History” column for the Salt Lake Tribune Her latest book, *Hidden History of Utah*, is a compilation of her Salt Lake Tribune columns. Her collected stories in *A Homeland in the West: Utah Jews Remember* were developed into photo-documentary exhibit for the 2002 Winter Olympic Cultural Olympiad Arts Festival in Salt Lake City.

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**Jason Friedman** received his PhD in history from Michigan State University in 2009 and works currently as a history and political science instructor at Wasatch Academy. A modern American historian; Friedman’s primary research focuses on the cultural issues surrounding the American presidency and the balance of power during the 1970s. Friedman has expanded his historical research interests to include the institutional history of Wasatch Academy and the school's founder, Duncan McMillan.

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**Jack C. Billings** is a third generation descendant of immigrant Mormon converts. Although not a member of his ancestor's church, he remains close to his roots residing still at the Bountiful, Utah house he was brought to as a baby. While interested in writing in high school in Boise, Idaho and also in college at the University of Utah, he is a late arrival with this as a first piece of writing outside the occasional op-ed newspaper submissions.

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**Ed Meyer** was the original director of the Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance, later to become the National Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area. For three decades, he directed Utah’s rural development programs as an appointee of five Utah governors. He served on the City Council in Kanab, Utah, as well as the community's heritage and arts councils. Meyer is currently a board member of Zane Grey’s West Society.

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**James Nelson** is an award winning journalist and producer of radio & television documentaries. Nelson created an ongoing TV series called Discovery Road which chronicles the history, culture and heritage along the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA). His clients have included ABC World News, Good Morning America, ABC News 20/20, PBS, NPR, Monocle radio in London, Sundance Film Festival, National Basketball Association, Reuters, and CBS news.

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**Jack Monnett** hold a PhD in History from the University of Utah where he studied Utah history and the foundations of Utah education. He has both taught and been an administrator in Latter-day Saint as well as public higher education systems and is past president of a book publishing company. He is the author of six previously published books and currently serves as the mayor of a small Utah town.

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Among the more than twenty books **Shirley Anderson Bahlmann** has written is a series of true pioneer story collections, and she has another one in the works. She's taught creative writing to adults and children for more than 10 years, worked as a children's librarian, and chaired the LDStorymakers Writing Conference and is currently chair of the Write Here in Ephraim Conference. She's presented at various seminars and conferences and serves on the Scandinavian Festival Board for storytelling in Ephraim, Utah.

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**Monte Bona**, director of the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area, is a retired businessman completing his twentieth year as a city council member in Mt. Pleasant, Utah. A graduate of Brigham Young University and the University of Michigan, he taught political science at BYU and UVU. Mr. Bona has received a Utah Heritage Foundation award, Utah Division of State History Outstanding Contribution Award and the Regional Recognition Award from Utah's Six County Association of Governments.

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