night when his party, nearing their destination, pitched their tents among “Bruff’s Camp” of Forty-niners in the Sierra Nevada. As they slept, a huge tree fell into camp, killing four men and injuring Ferguson’s sister. His father left eleven-year-old Henry and his thirteen-year-old brother to guard the family’s wagon while the others rushed the injured girl to the California settlements. Ferguson tells how he and his brother fended for themselves for two weeks in the Sierra winter until their father returned and led them to safety.

Also included in this volume are the diary of James Harvey Bandle, the letters and journal extracts of Benjamin Robert Biddle, and the memoir of John Evans Brown, along with trail maps from the works of Unruh and Mattes and artwork by William Henry Jackson and J. Goldsborough Bruff. Editor Tate, author of two other trail-related histories, provides interesting biographical sketches of each writer and abundant footnotes to help the reader understand the historical and geographical contexts of the writings.

— LEE KREUTZER
National Park Service

FROM THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN:

Essays on Mormon History, Theology, and Culture

EDITED BY REID L. NEILSON AND MATTHEW L. GROW


This volume collects the Tanner Lectures given at the Mormon History Association’s annual conference between 2000 and 2014. In these lectures, scholars approach their topics as outsiders to Mormon studies and the Mormon church itself. Coming from their varied scholarly perspectives, they can ask interesting questions, such as what Nat Turner, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Joseph Smith have in common; why the LDS church isn’t particularly successful in Africa; what roles Mormonism has played in U.S. empire-building; and how Mormons shaped their identity by appropriating and transforming House of Israel tropes. The result makes for some fresh scholarship that demonstrates and creates ways that Mormon history can connect to broader historical inquiry. The essays at times address Utah history topics directly—childhood memories, the cultural landscape, Mormons and the Civil War, and women, for instance—but since Mormonism is so much a part of Utah’s evolution, all of the essays inform and shed new light on the shape of Utah’s past, present, and future.

THE LOST FRONTIER:

Momentous Moments in the Old West You May Have Missed

BY ROD MILLER

Guilford, Conn.: Twodot, 2015. vii + 245 pp. Paper, $18.95

The Lost Frontier is a collection of twenty-nine stories organized by historian and writer Rod Miller that lay outside of the core historical canon of the Old West. That is not to say that these stories are unimportant or uninteresting; as Miller makes clear, these stories not only deserve attention due to their historical importance but also may be appreciated simply due to their intriguing and interesting content. For the Utah reader, the stories told within The Lost Frontier will vary from the familiar to the unknown—from the Circleville Massacre of 1866 and the proposed state of Deseret, to the only American “emperor” and an 1859 conflict sparked by a pig. Topics include the political, the religious, and occasionally, the humorous. With its short, intriguing accounts and easy-going writing style, The Lost Frontier is sure to appeal to both the scholarly and casual history enthusiast.