

A Gift Of Faith Elias H Blackburn

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elias hicks blackburn was born 17 september 1827 in bedford co pennsylvania he was the son of thomas blackburn and elizabeth bowen and a 5th generation descendant of john blackburn sr a devout quaker who came from ireland to pennsylvania in 1736 elias joined the lds church april 1845 in nauvoo illinois and was a pioneer in the western mormon migration to utah elias married several times and was a prominent medical doctor descendants lived primarily in utah and elsewhere

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examining brigham young s legacy requires an understanding of his raw ambition and religious zeal a formidable leader in both his church and country young s abilities coincided with the colonizing zeitgeist of nineteenth century america thus by 1877 some 400 mormon settlements spanned the western frontier from salt lake city to outposts in idaho nevada arizona wyoming and california as prophet of the lds church and governor of the proposed state of deseret young led several campaigns for utah statehood while defending polygamy and local sovereignty his skillful and authoritarian leadership led historian bernard de voto to classify him as an american genius responsible for turning joseph smith s visions into the seed of life young s diaries and journals reveal a man dedicated to his church defensive of his spiritual and temporal claims to authority and determined to create a modern zion within the utah desert editor george d smith s careful organization and annotation of young s personal writings provide insights into the mind of mormonism s dynamic church leader and frontier statesman

the mormon church today is led by an elite group of older men nearly three quarters of whom are related to current or past general church authorities this dynastic hierarchy meets in private neither its minutes nor the church s finances are available for public review members are reassured by public relations spokesmen that all is well and that harmony prevails among these brethren but by interviewing former church aides examining hundreds of diaries and drawing from his own past experience as an insider within the latter day saint historical department d michael quinn presents a fuller view his extensive research documents how the governing apostles seventies and presiding bishops are likely to be at loggerheads as much as united these strong willed independent men like directors of a large corporation or supreme court justices lobby among their colleagues forge alliances out maneuver opponents and broker compromises there is more clandestine political activities investigative and punitive actions by church security forces personal loans from church coffers later written off as bad debts and other privileged power vested activities quinn considers the changing role and attitude of the leadership toward visionary experiences the momentous events which have shaped quorum protocol and doctrine and day to day bureaucratic intrigue from the time of brigham young to the dawn of the twenty first century the hierarchy seems at root well intentioned and even at times aggressive in fulfilling its stated responsibility which is to expedite the second coming where they have become convinced that god has spoken they have set aside personal differences offered unqualified support and spoken with a unified voice this potential for change when coupled with the tempering effect of competing viewpoints is something quinn finds encouraging about mormonism but one should not assume that these men are infallible or work in anything approaching uninterrupted unanimity

the utah war of 1857 58 the unprecedented armed confrontation between mormon utah territory and the u s government was the most extensive american military action between the mexican and civil wars at sword s point presents in two volumes the first in depth narrative and documentary history of that extraordinary conflict william p mackinnon offers a lively narrative linking firsthand accounts

most previously unknown from soldiers and civilians on both sides this first volume traces the war's causes and preliminary events including president Buchanan's decision to replace Brigham Young as governor of Utah and restore federal authority through a large army expedition also examined are Young's defensive aggressive reactions the onset of armed hostilities and Thomas L. Kane's departure at the end of 1857 for his now famous mediating mission to Utah Mackinnon provides a balanced comprehensive account based on a half century of research and a wealth of carefully selected new material women's voices from both sides enrich this colorful story at sword's point presents the Utah war as a sprawling confrontation with regional and international as well as territorial impact as a nonpartisan definitive work it eclipses previous studies of this remarkably bloody turning point in western military and Mormon history

vols for 1905 include also the proceedings of the general conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union

contains many biographical sketches and historical and descriptive articles regarding Utah communities and Mormon faith and history

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