

Dixie Saints: Laborers in the Field

Media Kit

BOOK SYNOPSIS

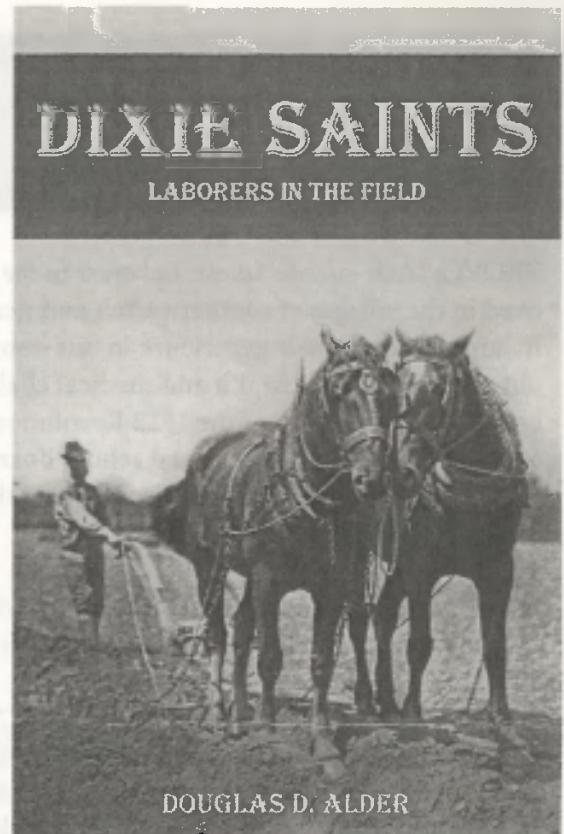
Dixie Saints: Laborers in the Field is the story of the common folk—the farmers and ranchers, the fruit peddlers, the road builders, the timber cutters and lumber makers, the freighters, the midwives, the mothering women and child nurturers, the quilters and gardeners, the teachers, the choir singers and band players—those whose names are on genealogy charts but are seldom in the history books. It is about agriculture before machines and hard muscle labor in gardens, farms, and ranches.

AUTHOR BIO



Douglas D. Alder was born in Salt Lake City. He graduated from the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in history and German and a master's degree in history and political science in 1959. He completed a PhD in modern European history at the University of Oregon, Eugene, 1966, including a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of Vienna, Austria. He taught European history at Utah State University from 1963 to 1986, where he was director of the honors program. He completed an internship in higher education admin-

istration with the US Council of Education in 1973–74 at Indiana University, Bloomington. He became president of Dixie College in St. George in 1986, Utah, and served until 1993, at which time he returned to teaching at the college. Dr. Alder completed a mission in Austria for two and one-half years and has been a bishop twice in Logan, Utah, and on five high councils in various places he has lived. He was in the St. George Temple presidency from 1998 to 2001 and is a sealer there now. He currently teaches in the Road Scholar and Institute for Continued Learning (ICL) programs at Dixie State University. He is married to Elaine Reiser, and they have four married children, twelve grandchildren, and three great-granddaughters.



BOOK INFORMATION

Author: Douglas D. Alder

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Pages: 358

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“These interviews are a unique, unparalleled source for the social history of Mormon life in the Mojave Desert region following the pioneer era—a topic about which we know little. The experiences described in these interviews are typical of everyday life in Mormon towns and farming areas throughout the Mormon culture region. They contain faith-promoting accounts of priesthood blessings, fasting, prayer, and miraculous deliverance. Many interviews invite reflection on the purpose of life, family, community, and religion.”

—Brian Q. Cannon, professor of history, Brigham Young University, and coauthor of *The Awkward State of Utah: Coming of Age in the Nation, 1896-1945*

PRESS RELEASE

Dixie Saints: Laborers in the Field

***Dixie Saints: Laborers in the Field* in Stores July 31, 2017.**

Dixie Saints: Laborers in the Field focuses on the daily lives of the common folk of southern Utah, as well as Nevada and Arizona.

PROVO, Utah—*Dixie Saints: Laborers in the Field* is a social history, describing the daily lives of people who lived in the villages of southern Utah and nearby Nevada and Arizona. These individuals tell of their childhood in large families, their experience in one-room schools, their physical work from ages ten and beyond (all without machines), their health and medical challenges and herbal medicine, their experiences with Indians and with exiles from Mexico from the 1912 Revolution. It tells of their service life in World War I, as LDS missionaries, and on community councils and school boards and water companies and in the LDS Church. This cooperative village life distinguished these people from the dispersed farming and ranching systems implemented in most areas of the U.S. West such as homesteads.

This book includes brief excerpts from individuals of this group living in southern Utah and nearby Nevada and Arizona that gives a look into their lives as fruit peddlers, road builders, lumber makers, and child nurturers.

Author Doug Alder has served on the Utah Arts Council, Utah Humanities Council, Utah Historical Society, Mormon History Association, and local history organizations. He was the chair of the Washington County Library Board and is active in community affairs, including the St. George Book Festival and the Celebrity Concert Series. He has published academic articles on Austrian history, Utah history, Social Studies education, and Mormon history. He coauthored *A History of Washington County* for the Utah Statehood Centennial in 1996 and added an update in 2008. He is a founder of the “Historic St. George Live!” tours, which began in 1996 as a service in the community. He wrote *A Century of Dixie State College of Utah* to commemorate its hundredth year in 2011 and was one of three authors of *All That Was Promised: The History of the St. George Temple*. He compiled the Juanita Brooks Lecture Series entitled *Honoring Juanita Brooks*.

Published in cooperation with Deseret Book and available wherever LDS books are sold.

For more details or information visit us online at <https://rsc.byu.edu/upcoming/dixie-saints>, or contact RSC media specialist Erin Gazdik directly at (310) 740-3322.