

SMITHSONIAN EXHIBITION



“By all means give Nevada a Slice”: *The 1866 Utah-Nevada Border Shift*

W. Paul Reeve, presenter

Lecture Sat. Sept 23, 2017 at 10am

The Electric Theater

68 E. Tabernacle St.

St George, UT 84770

These FREE lectures are sponsored by City of St. George and Arts to Zion / Southern Utah!

(registration is suggested, space limited -

sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/WashingtonCountyWorks>)



1866-67 Utah/Nevada/Arizona
Boundary Change
(Map showing the boundary
changes between Utah and
Nevada.)



W. Paul Reeve

"By all means give Nevada a Slice":
The 1866 Utah-Nevada Border Shift and the Way Washington County Worked"

In May 1866, the United States Congress moved the Utah-Nevada border one degree of longitude east to ensure that newly discovered silver mines would be in Nevada and not under the control of Mormons in Utah. On the floor of the United States House of Representatives, one congressman argued, "I hope we will by all means give Nevada a slice"; it is, after all, "well governed and is now yielding a very large revenue to the Government." This lecture will explore this long forgotten episode and what it reveals about the relative value of work in the nineteenth-century national imagination. The way that Mormons, miners, and Southern Paiutes worked in Washington County ultimately had an impact on the western border of the state of Utah. Congressman Delos Ashley from Nevada explained, "the people of Nevada are a mining people, while the people of Utah are an agricultural people. . . . Let members judge," Ashley coaxed, "which is the most benefit to the United States." Congress valued mining over agriculture in the border shift while the Southern Paiutes' subsistence economy was not even considered in the debate. In the end, this episode reveals the way in which the nation ascribed meaning to work in the nineteenth century and found the Mormons and Southern Paiutes lacking. A hierarchy of Americanness emerged with the miners at the top and the Mormons and Southern Paiutes deemed un-American to various degrees based, in part, on the way they chose to work. W. Paul Reeve holds the Simmons Mormon Studies Professorship in the History Department at the University of Utah where he teaches courses on Utah history, Mormon history, and the history of the U.S. West. His book, *Religion of a Different Color: Race and the Mormon Struggle for Whiteness*, received three best book awards and his book *Making Space on the Western Frontier: Mormons, Miners, and Southern Paiutes* won the best first book award from the Mormon History Association. In 2016, the Utah Council for the Social Studies named Professor Reeve its University Teacher of the Year.

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For more information about Washington County Works! Historical TOUR! visit www.ArtsToZion.org

This event is part of Washington County Works!, a county-wide historical tour and celebration of work that accompanies the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street traveling exhibition *The Way We Worked*, stopping in Leeds from September 16 to November 4, 2017 at the Silver Reef Museum.

The Way We Worked, a traveling exhibition created by the National Archives, is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian, US National Archives and Utah Humanities, is touring in partnership with the Silver Reef Museum and Arts to Zion.

For more information about the traveling exhibit, see www.utahhumanities.org.