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## Vengeance Is Mine

### The Mountain Meadows Massacre and Its Aftermath

By [Richard E. Turley](#), [Barbara Jones Brown](#) · 2023

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ISBN:	9780195397857, 0195397851	Page count:	520
Published:	2023	Format:	Hardcover
Publisher:	<a href="#">Oxford University Press, Incorporated</a>		
Language:	<a href="#">English</a>		
Author:	<a href="#">Richard E. Turley</a> , <a href="#">Barbara Jones Brown</a>		

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#### About the work

Originally published: April 26, 2023

Genre: [True crime](#)

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#### Author

Richard E. Turley



Richard Eyring "Rick" Turley Jr. is an American historian and genealogist. He previously served as both an Assistant Church Historian of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and as managing director of the church's public affairs department. [Wikipedia](#)

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Massacre at Mountain Meadows

By Ronald W. Walker, Richard E. Turley, Glen M. Leonard



On September 11, 1857, a band of Mormon militia, under a flag of truce, lured unarmed members of a party of emigrants from their

the grimmest episodes in Latter-day Saint history, when settlers in southwestern Utah slaughtered more than 100 members of a California-bound wagon train in 1857. In this much-anticipated sequel, Richard E. Turley Jr. and Barbara Jones Brown examine the aftermath of this atrocity.

Vengeance Is Mine documents southern Utah leaders' attempts to cover up their crime by silencing witnesses and spreading lies. Investigations by both governmental and church bodies were stymied by stonewalling and political wrangling. While nine men were eventually indicted, five were captured and only one, John D. Lee, was executed.

The book examines the maneuvering of the defense and prosecution in Lee's two trials, the second ending in Lee's conviction. Turley and Brown explore the fraught relationship between Lee and church president Brigham Young, and assess what role, if any, Young played in the cover-up. And they trace the fates of the other perpetrators, including the harrowing end of Nephi Johnson, who screamed "Blood! Blood! Blood!" in his delirium as he was dying, more than sixty years after the massacre.

Turley and Brown also tell the story of the massacre's few survivors: seventeen children who witnessed the slaughter and eventually returned to Arkansas, where the ill-fated wagon train originated.

Vengeance Is Mine brings the hitherto untold story of this shameful episode in Mormon and Utah history to its dramatic conclusion.

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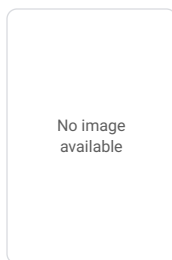
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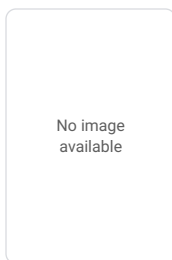
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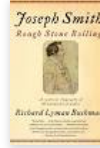
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