minimizes the evolving representations of mission heritage and the collaboration with native Californian descendants and stakeholders who helped facilitate this change. Furthermore, Kryder-Reid omits any discussion of the tribal politics that additionally complicate how mission landscapes are interpreted. Kryder-Reid's strengths lie with her detailed interrogation of mission gardens, and California mission heritage more broadly, as well as her ability to foster dialogue about colonialism and the formation of cultural memory.

JENNIFER LUCIDO
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Defender: The Life and Times of Daniel H. Wells. By Quentin Thomas Wells. (Logan: Utah State University Press, 2016. x + 508 pp. Illustrations, maps, appendices, maps, notes, bibliography, index. $39.95, cloth; $31.95, ebook.)

Although born in Oneida County in upstate New York ninety miles from Palmyra, Daniel Hanmer Wells was not born into Mormonism. However, his years as an obedient leader spanned from the most difficult time of violence experienced in Nauvoo by the Latter-day Saints, to their resurgence in the West. Four decades of service accrued as a Nauvoo Legion general, territorial attorney general, Salt Lake City mayor, and superintendent of public works. The Council House, Tithing House, Old Tabernacle and Bowery, Endowment House, and Social Hall were erected under his direction, as were territorial government structures. Wells was Brigham Young's dependable ally and served in his first presidency.

Wells's first wife, Eliza R. Robison, refused LDS Church membership; she and eight-year-old son, Albert, remained in Nauvoo. She later initiated divorce. Wells's six marriages performed by Brigham Young from 1849 to 1852 created inter-family ties with John D. Lee and with Young himself.

This unstintingly detailed, five-hundred page opus opens with emphasis on Wells's skill and bravery as a military leader in Nauvoo. His most widely known accomplishments in Utah were, in fact, as the territory's military commander. He personally led the expedition that put down the Lake Utah Utes; guerilla warfare he directed interrupted Buchanan's Utah Expedition; he fortified all paths into Salt Lake City. He maintained an ever-ready army against the presence of Col. P. Edward Connor's Volunteers; and he commanded the Utah forces that defeated the Utes in the Blackhawk War.

A few specifics regarding imbalance: Devoting only two pages to the Mountain Meadows massacre, the author admits that Mormon militiamen, with some Indians, attacked an emigrant train and killed women and children but declares without evidence that Wells did not order the attack. Wells's failure to conduct an after-massacre investigation of the very militia he commanded is not mentioned. This work lacks discussion of Wells's alleged bouts of depression or any reference to the Utah War's pre-2016 definitive studies, viz, MacKinnon's At Sword's Point I and Bigler and Bagley's The Mormon Rebellion, with nearly one hundred index citations of Wells in their eight hundred pages. Absent is discussion of his treatment of Indians, whether he held Southern allegiance, his stance on slavery, or reaction to the progress of the war. Sections on land ownership omit the fact that territorial surveys alone were insufficient for purchase of land from the federal government.

This is a very detailed, well-crafted biography of a remarkable journeyman whose considerable energy and organizational skills
were devoted, unquestioned, to anything required as an LDS defender. This book may be, as claimed, the first academic biography of Wells, but it is not an impartial, investigative account. It is a broad, faith-instilling paean to a highly accomplished but little-studied Mormon leader.

JOHN GARY MAXWELL
University of North Carolina, Emeritus


Author George M. Dennison, former president of the University of Montana, began writing about the history of UM’s administration and ended up focusing on a fascinating character, whose story exemplifies perennial challenges in higher education. As the title suggests, the biologist Morton J. Elrod played an early and visionary role in the establishment of the National Bison Range, Glacier National Park, and one of North America’s great biological field stations.

Aspects of the modern university formed during the time Elrod served on UM’s faculty (1896–1934). Issues that university presidents and faculty worried over will sound familiar. Should the university system remain centralized? How should the university engage with public education? How would professors maintain high standards while the student body blossomed (to over one hundred)? Elrod was afraid of “cheapening a noble endeavor” (p. 93).

This account provides a rich portrait of Elrod and educational systems. Elrod’s “casual disregard for protocol” (p. 35) and unyielding opinions on entrance exams brought him into conflict with the university’s first president. He learned about accountability and negotiation, enabling him to achieve much. A man of his times, Elrod manifested a prejudice against predators. He was ambitious, taking advantage of opportunities to supplement his university income, including publishing the Inter-Mountain Educator, a newsletter for high school educators. He also wrote the popular Elrod’s Guide to Glacier National Park, which made a fair return.

Although Elrod claimed that he took his position “to avoid becoming an itinerant professor,” more likely the “irrepressible allure of the wilderness” drew this methodological naturalist from Illinois Wesleyan University towards his dissertation “The Butterflies of Montana” (pp. 171, 10) and the University in Missoula. As he made contacts in the area, Elrod became engaged with the creation of the National Bison Range, helping to rescue a species in deep trouble. Elrod believed that learning science was best accomplished by field and laboratory study. Students would “learn by doing,” in the field, from the Book of Nature (p. 95). Elrod single-handedly established and nourished the Flathead Lake Biological Station through tough times, clearly a “labor of love” (p. 131). He organized important studies of the lake’s fish, yet experienced frustration in publishing his results. During the early years of Glacier National Park, Elrod initiated natural history lectures for the public, but the depression of 1929 interrupted Elrod’s grand scheme for expanding nature education in the park. Elrod also helped establish the Montana Academy of Sciences and contributed to the development of high school science curricula.

Dennison presents a contextually rich, insightful, engaging, and thoroughly