



BOOK REVIEWS

A Biography of Ezra Thompson Clark. By ANNIE CLARK TANNER. Utah, the Mormons, and the West Series, no. 5 (Salt Lake City: Tanner Trust Fund, University of Utah Library, 1975. Xi + 82 pp. \$8.50.)

This short biography of her father by Annie Clark Tanner is essentially a loving eulogy by a devoted daughter. It consists of a brief background chapter followed by an account of his life in Nauvoo and Winter Quarters and his journey to Utah as a member of Heber C. Kimball's 1848 company. Chapter 3 summarizes the main events of the rest of his life, including colonizing missions in Iron County and Bear Lake, and proselytizing missions in England, Canada, eastern United States, and Oregon. It also describes his marriages to three wives and his subsequent imprisonment and \$300 fine for those polygamous relationships. The remaining chapters give more intimate details of his home life, business affairs, and philosophy of life, including religion. The final few pages include a "resolution of respect" by fellow high council members and Ezra Clark's written testimony and instructions to his family.

Mrs. Tanner's account portrays her father as being a devout Mormon, but "largely free from spiritual superstition"; an energetic and highly successful farmer and businessman; and an affectionate husband and loving father. This is evidently a valid assessment of his general character, ability, and personality; but her descriptive statements are so overwhelmingly favorable that one wonders what he was really like. The nearest approach to a weakness in Ezra Clark's character is described in his

being exact in business "for which he was sometimes criticized." But then the author immediately counters with the statement "however it was often said of him that his word was as good as his bond." Mrs. Tanner asserts that his "sense of values" was so keen that "he seldom, if ever, made a mistake in his plans or suffered disadvantages in a business deal" but was "generous to a fault" in a social way.

Speaking of his family relationships, she reports that "every child found a delight in pleasing him. Everyone tried to anticipate his every wish." Apparently he was able to achieve unusual success as a polygamous husband and father, but his daughter's portrait of him is lacking in objectivity.

Mrs. Tanner's own superb autobiography, published recently under the title of *A Mormon Mother*, is written with such candor and insight that it is disappointing to find so little of these qualities in her biography of her father. Perhaps the fact that it was written in 1931 — thirty years after her father's death and almost ten years before she wrote her autobiography — may help to explain this difference in quality. And, of course, she knew her own life and feelings far better than those of her father.

Despite this lack of objectivity, readers will find much that is interesting in this little volume. The chapter on home life with its descriptions of bob-

sled rides, "peach cutting" socials, molasses candy pulls, and twenty-fourth of July parades conjures images of a bygone era in which life seemed much simpler and more wholesome. But the deaths of two of his sons while on mis-

sions and his own imprisonment for unlawful cohabitation serve as a reminder that each age has its problems as well as its pleasures.

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Utah: A Hispanic History. Edited by VICENTE V. MAYER, JR. (Salt Lake City: American West Center, University of Utah, 1975. Viii + 90 pp. \$6.00.)

The dynamic social and cultural upheavals of the civil rights movements have created subsequent voids when viewed from the perspective of providing minority groups equal time in the course of Utah and American history. At a time when social studies teachers in Utah schools are in search of a viable package for said purpose, the following work has become available on the Hispano (including Mexican-American and Chicano) history of Utah.

What gives this work a uniqueness all its own is its perspective on the Hispano in Utah. For numerous are the works available concerning the history, sociology, and economics of the Spanish, Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, and Chicanos in the United States, but such works usually make small mention of Utah or fail to mention Utah altogether. This work, on the other hand, introduces the general theme of Spanish and Mexican history in the Southwest, then proceeds to focus on Utah.

This survey covers the Spanish period and following periods up to and including the present day. Again, emphasis should be placed on the pioneering accomplishments of this work.

Rather than limit the nomenclature of this item to "book," I have used the name "package" or "work." For this item is composed of a text, workbook, teacher's supplement, and a film strip, all intended for use on the junior high school level. It should be mentioned that Richard Gomez of Granite School Dis-

trict and Robert Archuleta of Salt Lake City School District, along with this reviewer, feel that the text part of this package is scaled on a higher reading level than that of most junior high students.

There is the possibility of individual school adaptations of the text and/or material thereof where necessary. The value of the work should not be diminished as a result of these methods. The point remains that it can be used as a guide rather than a rigid text in the classroom.

The pioneering scope of this work is characterized by the mention of such little-known facts as the early Spanish mining efforts near Kamas and Cedar City in the 1840s. Moreover, trading contacts between Spanish and Utes in Utah are also mentioned. Of noteworthy praise also is the statement that the Spanish-speaking community is more of a twentieth-century phenomenon, due to the demand for labor in the United States; the first immigrants into southern Utah were people from New Mexico, and those living along the Wasatch Front traced their roots to Mexico.

Religion, as it pertains to the Spanish-speaking people of Utah, is a subject interestingly presented in the work. Mention is made both of Mormon and Catholic establishments in Salt Lake City. A brief historical sketch is provided for both as well.

In investigating the background of the work, it was found that this partic-