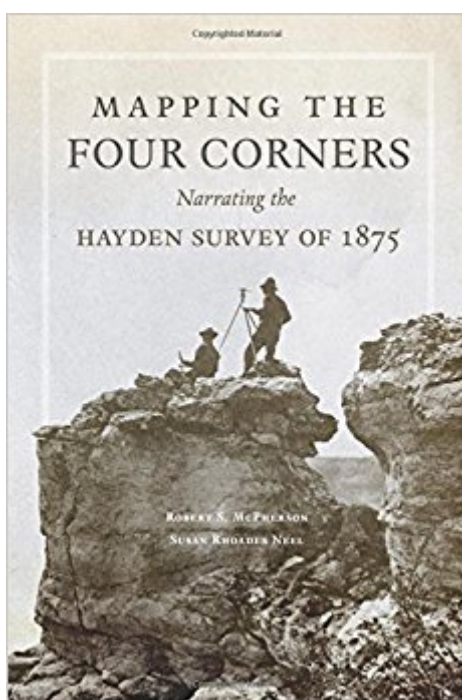


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Mapping The Four Corners: Narrating The Hayden Survey Of 1875 (American Exploration And Travel Series)



Synopsis

In 1875, a team of cartographers, geologists, and scientists under the direction of Ferdinand V. Hayden entered the Four Corners area for what they thought would be a calm summer's work completing a previous survey. Their accomplishments would go down in history as one of the great American surveying expeditions of the nineteenth century. By skillfully weaving the surveyors' diary entries, field notes, and correspondence with newspaper accounts, historians Robert S. McPherson and Susan Rhoades Neel bring the Hayden Survey to life. Mapping the Four Corners provides an entertaining, engaging narrative of the team's experiences, contextualized with a thoughtful introduction and conclusion. Accompanied by the great photographer William Henry Jackson, Hayden's team quickly found their trip to be more challenging than expected. The travelers describe wrangling half-wild pack mules, trying to sleep in rain-soaked blankets, and making tea from muddy, alkaline water. Along the way, they encountered diverse peoples, evidence of prehistoric civilizations, and spectacular scenery—Hispanic villages in Colorado and New Mexico; Mesa Verde, Hovenweep, and other Anasazi sites; and the Hopi mesas. Not everyone they met was glad to see them: in southeastern Utah surveyors fought and escaped a band of Utes and Paiutes who recognized that the survey meant dispossession from their homeland. Hayden saw his expedition as a scientific endeavor focused on geology, geographic description, cartographic accuracy, and even ethnography, but the search for economic potential was a significant underlying motive. As this book shows, these pragmatic scientists were on the lookout for gold beneath every rock, grazing lands in every valley, and economic opportunity around each bend in the trail. The Hayden Survey ultimately shaped the American imagination in contradictory ways, solidifying the idea of “progress” and government funding of its pursuit while also revealing, via Jackson's photographs, a landscape with a beauty hitherto unknown and unimagined.

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Customer Reviews

“A book like this from such seasoned and highly respected scholars as Robert McPherson and Susan Rhoades Neel is cause for rejoicing. It is timely in demonstrating that the headlong rush to development is not just a fact of contemporary life, but a fact of history as well. More than entertainment, this is a work of high literary art and scholarship, exactly the kind of gritty and dramatic western history sought by all types of readers, including backpackers, river runners, and tourists.”
—Gary Topping, Archivist of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City and author of *Utah Historians and the Reconstruction of Western History*

Robert S. McPherson is Professor of History at Utah State University Eastern, Blanding Campus. He is the author or coauthor of numerous books on Navajo history and the history of the Southwest, including *Under the Eagle: Samuel Holiday, Navajo Code Talker* (with Samuel Holiday) and *Viewing the Ancestors: Perceptions of the Anaasazi, Mokwic, and Hisatsinom*. Susan Rhoades Neel is Associate Professor of History at Utah State University Eastern; she specializes in modern U. S. history and the environmental history of the American West.

I love the history of the exploration of the American West. I live in the area where this book is written and have worked as a ranger in areas where the Hayden Survey came through in 1875. So I couldn't wait to get and read this book. It was interesting but left a lot to make it a true reading experience. Often the writer(s) would refer to another book when describing certain locations to events. Case in point, author Robert McPherson referred to "his" book *VIEWING THE ANCESTORS, PERCEPTIONS OF THE ANAASAZI, MOKWIC, and HISATSINOM* rather than really summarizing and explaining. *MAPPING the FOUR CORNERS* does rely on a lot of the actual writing of Hayden's survey crews. Two BIG omissions by the authors are a lack of descriptions of the specific ruins the survey visited (names or locations) and not enough detailed maps. Some maps were included, but more (as well as better detailed) were needed. When I finished the book I

felt sort of empty. Like I'd been tantalized but left still wanting. I was very disappointed. The authors themselves should have written more in the way of descriptions and what actually happened. I like books that after I read it, I want to go out and search myself; to see and experience that which the explorers may have seen and felt. This book does not let me do so. By the way, there is not one example in the book of any of the maps actually created by the Hayden Survey. How could they not include some of the original maps???

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