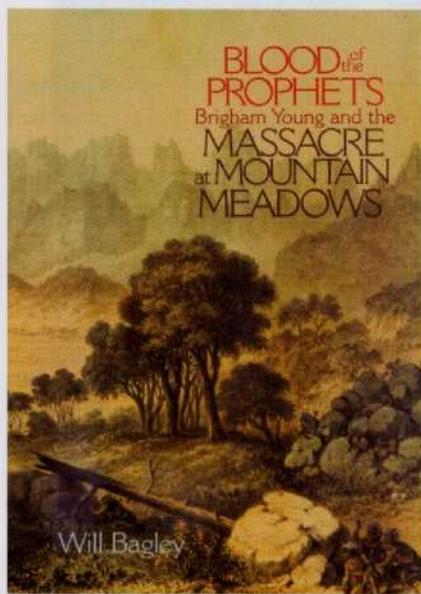


**Blood of the Prophets**  
**Brigham Young and the Massacre**  
**at Mountain Meadows**

by Will Bagley  
 University of Oklahoma Press  
 \$39.95 hardcover



As a date to live in infamy, 9/11 stands virtually alone with contemporary American minds. But another 9/11 nearly 150 years ago, reeking of similar horror, is all but forgotten.

The massacre at Utah's Mountain Meadows was the most violent act of the western migration. In 1857 Mormon militiamen and their Southern Paiute allies waylaid a California-bound wagon train from Arkansas. Surrendering after five days with a promise of free passage,

40 men, 30 women and 70 children then were led away and slaughtered. Only 17 children under seven were allowed to live.

A decades-long cover-up by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints left in dispute details of the incident, particularly the direct involvement of Mormon leader Brigham Young. Using previously unavailable documents and personal accounts and in prose as compelling as his story, historian Bagley tackles this graphic example of inhuman acts by men of religious conviction. It all sounds hauntingly familiar. —CJB

**The Days We Danced**

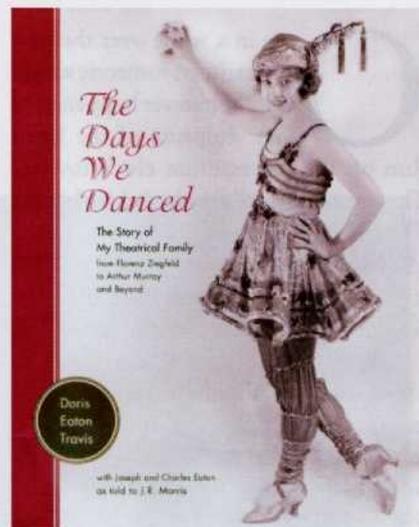
by Doris Eaton Travis  
 as told to J.R. Morris  
 \$27.95 hardcover 8 x 10  
 Marquand Books, Seattle  
 Distributed by the University of  
 Oklahoma Press, Norman

Those who only know Doris Eaton Travis as a transplanted Norman resident since 1968 may not realize that they walked in on Act III of an extraordinary life—hard-working partner with her late husband, Paul, in a thriving quarter horse ranch; OU's oldest bachelor's degree graduate at 88; last of the Ziegfeld Follies girls still active through her 90s; generous philanthropist; gracious hostess. Now the dazzling Doris lays open Acts I and II in a biography told to long-time friend and OU provost and Regents professor emeritus J. R. Morris. She is assisted in the telling by her brothers, Joseph and Charles Eaton, as this is a family biography, hence the subtitle: *The Story of My Theatrical Family from Florenz Ziegfeld to Arthur Murray and Beyond*.

The Eatons were a remarkable family, destined for short-lived show business success and long years of tragic failures, alcoholism and early deaths. Starting as child actors in Washington, D.C., five of the seven children—with their indomitable Mama in the wings—made their biggest splash on Broadway, from 1918 through the Roaring '20s, with forays west into Hollywood movies. Name a glamour name of that period, and the Eatons either appeared on the same bill,

counted them as personal friends or both.

But the glory days lasted a scant 15 years, the curtain crashing down as the Depression closed theaters, and jobs dried up for hoofers like Doris Eaton and her talented siblings. For Doris, there was an



Act II, as she alone of the Eatons survived intact, forging a career as a prosperous Arthur Murray Dance Studio executive.

The book is an unsparingly frank, often-dark look at the price show business extracts from those who tread the boards. Yet through it all, Doris Travis, who turns 100 in March 2004, is still dancing. —CJB

**Notable from the OU Press**

**Sam Houston**

by James L. Haley  
 \$39.95 hardcover

A well-received biography of one of the most fascinating and colorful figures of American history, *Sam Houston* is being hailed for its reader-friendly and spirited writing, thorough research and definitive contribution to Houston scholarship.

Sam Houston was larger than life—Tennessee congressman and governor, commander of the Texas revolutionary army, president of the Republic of Texas, senator and governor of the state. The Houston legend is equaled only by the facts of his life.