

# Utah's Pre-Mormon Trappers, Mountain Men, and Fur Traders, 1778-1846

Hubert Howe Bancroft



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**Utah's Pre-Mormon Trappers, Mountain Men, and Fur Traders, 1778-1846** Hubert Howe Bancroft George Bancroft (1800 – 1891) was an American historian and statesman who was prominent in promoting secondary education both in his home state and at the national level. During his tenure as U.S. Secretary of the Navy, he established the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1845. He was a senior American diplomat in Europe. Among his best-known writings is the magisterial series, History of the United States, from the Discovery of the American Continent.

Bancroft, having trained in the leading German universities, was an accomplished scholar, who was imbued with the spirit of Romanticism, emphasizing the emergence of nationalism and republican values, and rooting on every page for the Patriots. Bancroft was an indefatigable researcher who had a thorough command of the sources, but his rotund romantic style and enthusiastic patriotism annoyed later generations of scientific historians, who did not assign his books to students.

#### Bancroft writes:

"We find United States fur hunters standing on the border of the Great Salt Lake, tasting its brackish waters, and wondering if it is an arm of the sea. First among these, confining ourselves to authentic records, was James Bridger, to whom belongs the honor of discovery."

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- ORIGIN OF THE NAME UTAH.

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