

*Burke Sorenson, PhD, UVU*

Abstract: Folk music constituted some of the earliest white/euramerican music in modern Utah. These songs, simple and easy to remember, were usually sung without accompaniment because of the scarcity of musical instruments in territorial Utah. Although they often employed the same tunes as folk music elsewhere, Mormon folk is distinctively Utahn. The songs often include unique pioneer-era Mormon culture references such as crossing the plains, Mormon ecclesiastical leaders, and LDS religious convictions.

The contribution of women to pioneer-era Mormon music culture is an understudied field. This lecture will look at some of the important women's contributions to Mormon music including: Amelia's Palace (The Gardo House), The Utah War-Buchanan's Blunder, the 1897 Pioneer Jubilee, and Where are the Friends.

We need to honor the names and achievements of the men, women, and children who founded Utah, especially in regards to their musical contribution. The author of this session is the great, great grandson of William Pitt, one of the most important figures in early Utah music.