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Nota di contenuto	1634-1814, a Puritan family's progress : the Wells' migration from England to America -- 1814-1838, Daniel H. Wells : from a brief childhood in New York to frontier life in Illinois -- 1839-1841, a bachelor farmer in commerce becomes a married entrepreneur and civic leader in Nauvoo -- 1841-1844, the Mormon hegemony : civic controversy, court cases and family conflict -- 1843-1846, the Mormon hegemony : disaffection and libel leads to mayhem and murder -- 1844-1846, the decline of Nauvoo : Daniel becomes a Mormon and leads in the battle of Nauvoo -- 1846-1848, the cost of conversion : travels to winter quarters and the trail to great Salt Lake City -- 1848-1851, desert home and new callings : the superintendent, the general and the attorney general -- 1851-1855, six additional wives : a dozen children and many enterprises to support the family -- 1855-1857, fighting Indians or feeding them : family matters and Brigham's new counselor -- 1857-1858, the Utah Expedition : causes and consequences, a war of lies and egos, but no casualties -- 1858-1859, the Peace Commission and war by other means : church, territorial and federal politics in Utah -- 1860-1864, family, business, church, and politics in Utah while the Civil War ravages the nation --

1860-1864, the Wells family grows and prospers during the Civil War -- 1864-1865, Daniel's first (incomplete) term as European Mission president -- 1865-1868, Utah's Black Hawk War -- 1868-1870, mayor of Salt Lake City : defending the faith, fighting crime, and obtaining the deed to the city -- 1870-1878, Mormon versus gentile in railroads, business, government and religion -- 1875-1878, Daniel opposes the Glu, defends Brigham, escapes drowning and dedicates a temple -- 1877-1879, from counselor to assistant, trapped in court, imprisoned and paraded home -- 1880-1885, Wells family marriages, the anti-polygamy crusade, and a second mission in Europe -- 1886-1888, defending against opposition in England while tragedy unfolds at home -- 1887-1891, preparing for his passing, president of the temple, death while still in harness -- Appendix A : the Wells family in England and America, 1844-1814 -- Appendix B : the Chapin family in England and America, 1844-1814.

Sommario/riassunto

Defender is the first and only scholarly biography of Daniel H. Wells, one of the important yet historically neglected leaders among the nineteenth-century Mormons-leaders like Heber C. Kimball, George Q. Cannon, and Jedediah M. Grant. An adult convert to the Mormon faith during the Mormons' Nauvoo period, Wells developed relationships with men at the highest levels of the church hierarchy, emigrated to Utah with the Mormon pioneers, and served in a series of influential posts in both church and state. Wells was known especially as a military leader in both Nauvoo and Utah-he led the territorial militia in four Indian conflicts and a confrontation with the US Army (the Utah War). But he was also the territorial attorney general and obtained title to all the land in Salt Lake City from the federal government during his tenure as the mayor of Salt Lake City. He was Second Counselor to Brigham Young in the LDS Church's First Presidency and twice served as president of the Mormon European mission. Among these and other accomplishments, he ran businesses in lumbering, coal mining, manufacturing, and gas production; developed roads, ferries, railroads, and public buildings; and presided over a family of seven wives and thirty-seven children. Wells witnessed and influenced a wide range of consequential events that shaped the culture, politics, and society of Utah in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Using research from relevant collections, sources in public records, references to Wells in the Joseph Smith papers, other contemporaneous journals and letters, and the writings of Brigham Young, Quentin Thomas Wells has created a serious and significant contribution to Mormon history scholarship.