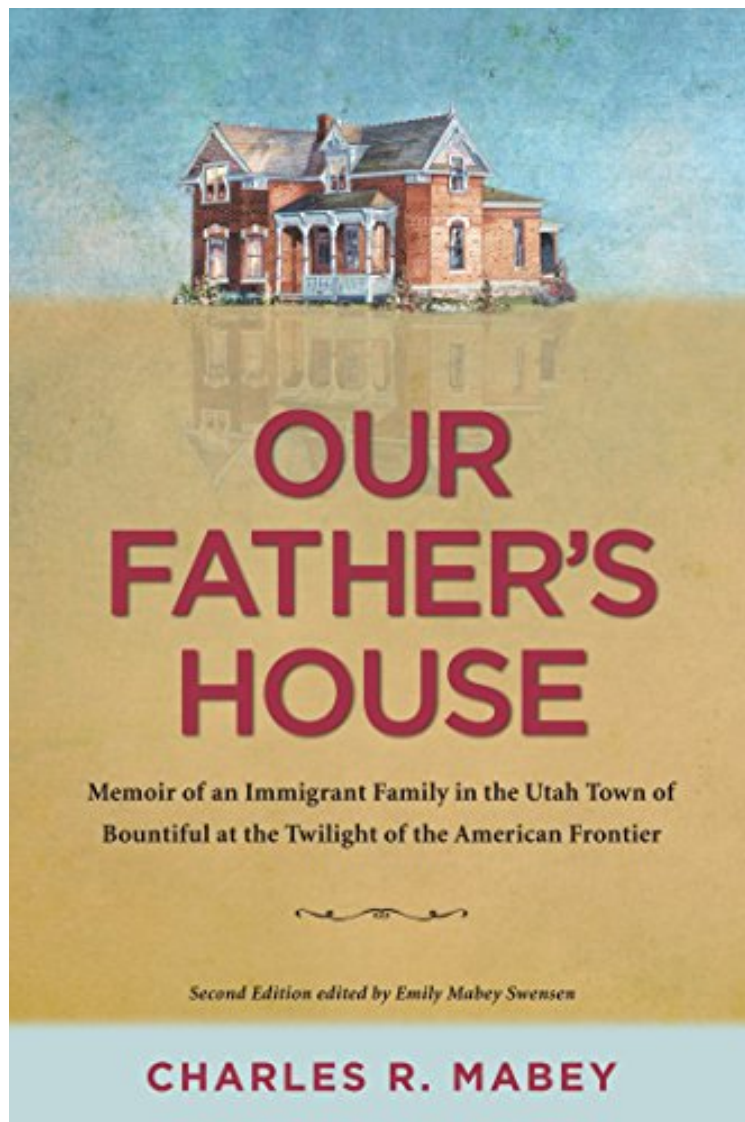


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Our Father's House: Memoir of an Immigrant Family in the Utah Town of Bountiful at the Twilight of the American Frontier

Charles R. Mabey

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Charles R. Mabey : Our Father's House: Memoir of an Immigrant Family in the Utah Town of Bountiful at the Twilight of the American Frontier before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Our Father's House: Memoir of an Immigrant Family in the Utah Town of Bountiful at the Twilight of the American Frontier:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Edward C. RamptonGreat read. Loved it.0 of 0 people

found the following review helpful. Life in a small frontier town captured eloquently. By Rachel Mabey LaBelle This personal history in so adeptly describing its own town lends understanding to the history of many small towns in the West. It was a pleasure to walk down the authors "memory lane" and imagine myself in his footsteps.

Written by former Utah Governor Charles R. Mabey, *Our Father's House* beautifully captures the true story of the Mabey family and the town which became their home, Bountiful, Utah. During the pivotal years of change Charles covers--the 1860s to the 1940s--both the family and the town make the transition from frontier America to modern America. Born in 1877 to a pioneer immigrant and a young frontier woman who can scarcely read or write, Charles spends his boyhood barefoot, herding sheep in the Bountiful hills and helping his mother on the farm, with the ever-present threat of financial failure. But because of his parents' firm commitment to education, he goes on to become a respected state leader, a poet, and sought-after public speaker. At the same time, Bountiful is transitioning from frontier town to modern city. The Bountiful of Charles's youth is a farming settlement with its own elements of frontier justice, frontier politics and amusements, and the constant struggle for water characterizing Western towns. By the time Charles returns from war at the turn of the century, Bountiful is eager to transform itself into a modern city--Charles and his family are at the heart of the establishment of a city bank, a drugstore, a streetcar line, and a power company. Indeed, one railroad executive declares Bountiful to be the nicest pocket of residential living from Utah to California. What comes through most vividly in this coming-of-age tale--coming-of-age for both a boy and his town--is Charles's fierce love and loyalty to his family, his neighbors, and the town he calls home. Published in 1947, the first edition of *Our Father's House* has long been appreciated as an essential primary source of Bountiful City's early history. But it was held back as a research tool by its lack of an index. The goal of this second edition is to make this valuable history accessible to modern readers through the addition of an index, footnotes, and other helpful information.

About the Author In today's climate of self-aggrandizement it is striking that, in the twilight of his life, Charles R. Mabey--mayor and governor, business leader and sought-after public speaker--chose to write a book about his father's life instead of his own. In just one generation, the Mabeys achieved the American dream. Charles's father was a poor teenager from a family of no means when he came to America in 1862. His mother was a frontier girl who could scarcely read or write. Between them, they raised Charles with enough hope and opportunity to become governor of one of the United States of America. Charles R. Mabey (1877-1959) was born in Bountiful, Utah. He served as mayor of Bountiful, as a Utah state representative, and as Utah's fifth governor. He served in the Spanish American War and World War I, returning each time to Bountiful to teach school. He was integral in the founding of a city bank, drugstore and power company, and in bringing the streetcar to Bountiful.