

# MAGNA BOOKS & AUTHORS

Magna, Utah has a fascinating history. Located on the western edge of the Salt Lake Valley, it has been known for agriculture, mining and high tech. An eclectic mix of cultural, ethnic and religious groups have helped shaped the town and contributed to the historic and artistic achievements of the area. To celebrate over 100 years of literary output, this list contains more than 50 books by 20 authors with Magna roots. Included are old and new books, both fiction and non-fiction.

This list is decidedly a work-in-progress. No offense is intended toward any writer left off this edition of the list. There are undoubtedly additions to be made including authors of short stories, significant magazine and journal articles, and possibly selected journalism and on-line writers as well. We welcome corrections, additions and clarifications, and seek input from all interested book lovers.

**Who qualifies as a “Magna Author?”** Any published author who has lived in Magna for a significant portion of their life. We count that as anyone who was born in the Magna area, lived here as an adult writer, or was otherwise in a position to identify Magna as “home” during a formative or creative period of their life or writing career.

**What qualifies as a “Magna Book?”** Any published book by a Magna author, fiction or non-fiction, plus other books *about* Magna, regardless of whether or not the author ever lived in Magna. Obviously, many more books contain only contain a brief mention of Magna rather than being focused on the area. For instance, some books mention Magna, but merely as part of a much larger, unrelated fictional story, or as one small part of an encyclopedic listing of standard information about many places without any original research or insight into the Magna area.

**Where can I get these books?** Used books of all types are sold at local specialty book stores as well as on-line merchants such as [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com), [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and others.

Some older books on this list are available for free reading or downloads from web sites such as [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org), [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org), and other legal “public domain” book sharing sites.

Also, use our local and regional resources including Salt Lake County Library Services, the *Department of Utah History* and the *Utah Historical Society* and other reference libraries.



This list was prepared for an event in September 2012 by the Magna Arts Council and the Magna branch of the Salt Lake County Library System.

An on-line version of this list may also be found at [www.bookstash.com](http://www.bookstash.com).

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## **Fiction Authors living in Magna:**

**Royal Emperor** author's web site: [www.royalisinyourhead.com](http://www.royalisinyourhead.com)

Author of two novels, *Collectors*, a children's novel, and his latest *Jitters*, a political/psychological thriller dealing with LGBT themes, Urban Fantasy, crime and political issues.

**Robert Goble** author's blog: <http://robertgoble.blogspot.com/>

Two completed novels, *Across a Harvested Field* and *A Winter Morning's Sun*, plus a new dark fantasy novel *In Older Worlds*, just released as an e-book. Works often set in Magna. Writing contest winner.

**C.W. (Charles) Johnson** <http://www.sonofman1.com/>

*Son of Man* series, 3 long novels, all speculative thrillers based mixing fringe science with religious themes. Available to download as paperbacks or e-books, and several are free as audiobooks at Podiobooks.com.

**Ramona Maassen**

Author of "Magnattude", a booklet of poems about Magna, which was published in 2011 and is currently available at the Magna Museum on Main Street for a donation to that organization.

**Mary Martinez** author's website: <http://www.marymartinez.com/>

Over ten novels in the Thriller/Suspense and Romance genres. Forthcoming mainstream novel. Member of several local and regional writer's groups. Does traditional print books and e-books.

**Clint Stoker** author's blog: <http://clintstoker.blogspot.com/>

Fantasy novel *The Cause* (SF/fantasy) available as a paperback and as a free e-book. Several additional short stories are available from the author's on-line sites.

## **Fiction Authors with Magna connections - but now living elsewhere:**

**Colin Douglas** A published poet who is currently working with a publisher on a book of poetry. Lived in Magna for many years where he worked as an editor for the Magna Times. Currently lives in Saratoga Springs, UT.

**Cindy A. Christiansen** <http://www.dragonflyromance.com>

Several published "sweet romance" novels. Went to school in Magna and worked for a law firm on Magna Main Street for a few years as an adult, but now lives in West Jordan, UT.

**Angela Hallstrom** <http://angelahallstrom.com/> Author of the novel *Bound on Earth*, graduate of Cyprus High, but now living out of state. Editor of a journal on LDS fiction.

**Jeffrey Olsen** <http://www.jeffreyolsen.com/> Author of *Called to Serve*, a novel of LDS general fiction, and other titles in preparation. Graduate of Cyprus High, now living in Northern Utah.

**Jack Lyon** [http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/419692.Jack\\_M\\_Lyon](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/419692.Jack_M_Lyon)

Author of two novels and editor of many collections of fiction. One novel, *The Moroni Code* (2003) is partially set in a fictionalized Magna, with scenes at a main street Pawn Shop and at the cemetery. Jack lived in Magna throughout the 1980s, and still lives nearby.

**J.D. (Dan) Raisor** <https://sites.google.com/site/jdraisor/home/about-the-author> Fantasy novel, *Castles and Caverns - Zeld and the Invaders* is available in hardcover and e-book formats. From Magna, but now lives in Blanding, UT.

## **Fiction Authors of Magna – deceased:**

### **Clair Huffaker (1926-1990)**

Respected author of many novels (mostly Western fiction) and screenplays for more than a dozen Hollywood films, but of special interest is his mainstream novel “*One Time, I Saw Morning Come Home*” (1974) based on stories his parents told of growing up in Magna. Note – while Clair himself was born in Magna he lived elsewhere as an adult.

### **Aubrey L. Vaughan (1910 – 1992)**

*To Life With Love* (1974) He was a long time Kennecott employee who was also deeply involved in the leadership of various community groups. The book is an 80 page poetry collection.

## **Fiction About Magna by authors without known ties to Magna**

### **Melissa Ann Aylstock**

*80 Miles to Nowhere* (2006) Romance/drama novel for LDS market, set mostly in Magna.

### **Richard Paul Evans**

*The Locket* (2000), a sentimental novel by the best-selling author of *The Christmas Box* and many other books has at least one scene set in Magna.

## **Magna Mentions – notable books that mention the Magna area, but it is not the main setting or focus**

### **Terry Tempest Williams**

Her greatly respected book *Refuge* (1991) combines an exploration of the threatened ecology of the Great Salt Lake area, including mentions of the South Shore near Magna, with her very personal struggle to deal with the severe medical conditions affecting her family.

### **Edward Abbey**

His popular regional novel *The Monkey Wrench Gang* (1975) mentions Magna ties for one minor character.

### **Brad Thor**

His debut thriller novel, *The Lions of Lucerne* (2002), has a scene of terrorism set at a company in Magna as a small part of a much larger worldwide political and military conspiracy.

### Non-Fiction Authors living in or near Magna:

#### **Starr Hailey Campbell**

Member of the Magna Town Council and author *Youth and Family History* plus several related books known as *The Adventures of James* series to help explain serious topics to kids. Includes *A Trip to the Cemetery*, *A Trip to the Oncologist* (about Family Health History), *Baby Sarah is Born* ( all about vital Records and Military Records.) Copies of most titles are available from the author.

#### **Philip F. Notarianni, Jr.**

Contributing author to several history books on mining areas in Utah, and author/editor of many other books, articles and publications on regional history and ethnic studies. Also did a history of the local Catholic church, *Our Lady Of Lourdes*. Former Director of the Utah Historical Society and Department of State History.

#### **Phil Hart**

*The Book of Imaginary Indians* (2008), a non-fiction book/commentary on how the author believes Mormonism (and other religions?) have depicted and co-opted Native American history.

**Sharon Linschoten** author's website: <http://www.mymagnaonline.com/>

*Confessions of a Substitute Teacher* (2009), a humorous reflection of her experiences in the field. Anecdotes from her teaching career, with gentle suggestions for all parties with an interest in public education.

#### **Lee T. Romrell**

Author of *From Mining Town to Ghost Town: A History of Garfield, Utah* (2007), over 300 pages of history and rare photographs. Privately published and now hard to obtain.

#### **Rulon Arave Williams**

*Dictionary of Amaerkan* (1990) promotes the author's own system of phonetic spelling.

### Non-Fiction Authors of Magna – deceased:

#### **Brigham Madsen** (1914-2010)

Respected Utah historian, born in Magna but raised elsewhere. Author of many solo and collaborative books and articles. Perhaps some of his work on the Great Salt Lake was influenced by his Magna roots?

#### **Marcia W. Tuttle** (xxxx - 2004)

Published one book titled *Turning Thirty, Forty, Fifty*, includes anecdotes on her life and family. Popular local school teacher.

#### **Irene Hulse**

Author/editor/compiler of a local history book (*From*) *Rags to Riches* (1964), filled with brief chapters on many aspects of the history of the Magna area, including local businesses, churches and other special interest groups. Now long out of print and hard to find. Expect to pay \$50 and up for copies if found.

#### **Howard Jarvis** (1903 – 1986) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard\\_Jarvis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard_Jarvis)

National “Tax Protest Movement” activist & author of a best-selling book titled *I'm Mad As Hell!* Born in Magna and owned the local newspaper in the 1920s, but then moved to California to work in politics and/or public service jobs before his career as an author/activist. (Also appeared in the movie *Airplane!*)

## **History Books about the Magna Area, or including significant sections on Magna**

*Note: This portion of the list can never really be “complete,” since many history books, by their very nature, cover regions and subjects without regard to current city lines. We welcome input and suggestions for additional books, old and new, which contain valuable information on the greater Magna area. But as a basic starting point let us consider . . .*

### **General Histories:**

#### **Tales of a Triumphant People / A History of Salt Lake County, Utah 1847 – 1900**

Published in 1947 by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, includes sections devoted to each community in the valley during the formative 50 year period after the first Mormon settlement. Magna is covered in a seven page chapter titled “Pleasant Green Camp and East Pleasant Green Camp – Magna,” which includes good information about early settlers, agriculture, transportation, businesses, etc. (Expect to pay \$10-20.)

#### **(From) Rags to Riches (1964)**

Filled with brief chapters on many aspects of the history of the Magna area, including local businesses, churches and other special interest groups. Irene Hulse was the main author/editor/compiler. Now long out of print and hard to find. Expect to pay \$50 and up for copies if found.

**The Peoples of Utah (1976)** by Helen Z. Papanikolas and other contributing authors. Significant mentions of the Greek, Italian and Japanese communities in the Magna/Garfield area.

**Utah History Encyclopedia (1994)**, a major reference book which briefly covers Magna as part of the chapter on Copper Mining contributed by Philip F. Notarianni. Partly available on-line at:

<http://www.media.utah.edu/UHE/index.html>

**From Mining Town to Ghost Town: A History of Garfield, Utah (2007)** by Lee T. Romrell contains over 300 pages of history and rare photographs. Privately published – availability very limited.

### **Specific Historical Subjects:**

#### **Utah Ghost Rails, (1989) by Stephen L. Carr and Robert W. Edwards**

Documents various historic railroads around Utah, including chapters on both the Garfield and Western Railway that serviced Magna on the way to Tooele and the Ophir/Mercur mining districts, as well as the Bingham Garfield Railway that linked the mining communities on the east side of the Oquirrh.

#### **Blazing Crosses in Zion, The Ku Klux Klan in Utah, (1982) by Larry R. Gerlach**

Some history books contain information that exposes unpleasant aspects of local history. A thorough examination of the ethnic and economic pressures that led to Klan activity in Magna.

**Our Lady of Lourdes** (several editions including an update in the 1990s?) with historical information about the history of the Catholic community in and around Magna. Current availability unknown. Author is Philip F. Notarianni, whose family has ties to the parish going back a century.

#### **Magna Utah Stake: 75th anniversary commemorative booklet, 1923-1998**

Published in 1998, includes a good chapter on area history and addition information on LDS activities.

## Selected chronology of explorers, noted visitors, and major events

- 1775-1776 Dominguez – Escalante expedition, kept journals
- 1824-26 Jim Bridger and other trappers explored the Wasatch and Great Salt Lake  
1833 Capt. Bonneville explored and mapped the western region, but did not visit SL Valley
- 1843-4 John C. Fremont led several expeditions into the Great Salt Lake area  
1846 Donner Party passed through the Salt Lake Valley near Magna area  
1847 Mormons arrived in the valley of the Great Salt Lake  
1849-52 The “49ers” passed through Utah on their way to Nevada and California
- 1852 Howard Stansbury, “Exploration & Survey of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake”  
a.k.a. “An Expedition to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake” 1856
- 1859 John C. Fremont “Incidents of Travel and Adventure in the Far West; with Col. Fremont's  
last Expedition across the Rocky Mountains: including three months' residence in  
Utah, and a perilous trip across the great American desert to the Pacific”
- 1861 Richard Burton – “City of the Saints” – mentioned Coon Canyon above Magna  
1860s Artemus Ward – wrote and performed humor about a visit to Utah and the Mormons  
1869 Transcontinental Railroad completed, increases quality and quantity of travel and trade
- 1872 Mark Twain – “Roughing It”  
1877 Frank Leslie, noted magazine journalist, reported on his cross-country travels  
1877 John Muir, famous naturalist, visited Utah, climbed the Oquirrh and swam in the Great  
Salt Lake (published first in newspapers, later in the book “Steep Trails” in 1918)  
1878 “My Queen” by Marie Walsh, early anti-Mormon novel with scene at the Great Salt Lake
- 1881-1893 Resorts at Garfield Beach  
1893 First resort at Saltair
- 1896 Utah statehood
- 1902 Alfred Lambourne “Pictures of an Inland Sea” (good art)  
1905-6 Garfield became a town  
1909 Alfred Lambourne “Our Inland Sea” (longer text)  
1910-20 Magna acquired its name, mining jobs
- 1947 Dale L. Morgan “The Great Salt Lake” – the first of his several excellent books on the  
lake and the surrounding country and communities