**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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WordsWorth Publishing of Cody, Wyoming, announces the June 2025 release of   
*No Forgiveness*, a riveting tale of the 1911 murder of pioneer farmer and school principal David S. Neal in Idaho’s Teton Basin.



No Forgiveness

*Family, Polygamy, Murder, and Justice*

*Among Idaho’s Pioneering Mormons*

by Daniel H. Neal

On the morning of July 5, 1911, D.S. Neal left his house south of Sorensen Creek in Idaho’s Teton Valley to irrigate his field. His neighbor, Ellington Smith, strapped his Winchester Model 86 to his saddle, mounted his bay horse, rode the short distance to where Neal was working, dismounted, and stepped into the field. He carried his rifle. Thus begins the story of Neal’s murder and the subsequent trial of Smith. Both men were members of the same Mormon ward and came from polygamous families.

Drawing from family letters, historical newspapers, state archives, and interviews, the author presents a detailed narrative of the two families involved, Smith’s insanity defense at trial, the conditions at the Idaho State Penitentiary, and the many prominent businessmen and politicians who took sides in the case.

Meticulously researched and written by Neal’s grandson, journalist Daniel H. Neal, the book intertwines a hidden family history with themes of politics, the culture of Mormon theocracy, plural marriages, and frontier justice.

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**About the Author**:

Author Dan Neal showcases his strong journalistic background in his detailed research and clear exposition, weaving together politics, the legal system, and sensitive family situations. Dan is a former editor-in-chief of the *Casper Star-Tribune* and worked as a reporter and editor in Wyoming and Washington for more than 25 years. He later directed Wyoming’s Equality State Policy Center as an advocate for open government, voting rights, and workplace safety. He and his wife Judy live in Casper, Wyoming.

**About the book:**

Written by D.S. Neal’s grandson, journalist Daniel H Neal, the book draws the reader into the culture of the Mormon theocracy in Utah, plural marriages, and frontier justice at a time when the federal government was pressing the Mormon Church hard on polygamy. D.S. Neal was irrigating a rented field when he was shot by his neighbor, Ellington Smith, in broad daylight in front of several witnesses. Smith claimed Neal was stealing his water. An insanity plea saved Smith from Idaho's gallows.

Historic Idaho personalities appear throughout the narrative, including Uncle Nick Wilson, author of the classic western history *Among the Shoshones* and founder of Wilson, Wyoming. Young Fremont County Attorney B.H. (Bert) Miller prosecuted Smith. Miller eventually served three terms as Idaho’s attorney general and was elected to the state Supreme Court and the U.S. Senate.

Edwin Holden, one of Smith’s attorneys, also later served on the Idaho Supreme Court. Idaho Governors Hawley, Haines, Brady, and Alexander, two penitentiary wardens, and the directors of the state’s two “insane asylums” were also drawn into the Neal and Smith story.

**Book Information:**

* $24.00 paperback
* 312 pages, 6" x 9"
* 22 black & white images
* Published June 2025
* ISBN: 978-1-7334897-7-5
* Library of Congress Control Number: 2025909041
* Subject: Early 20th century Idaho and Utah history  
   Religion/Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon)   
   Biography

**Praise for**

**No Forgiveness**

Part family history and part community reckoning, *No Forgiveness* is wholly enjoyable. This riveting tale with fleshed-out characters and engrossing scenes does a lot more than just unpack a fascinating murder — it makes pioneer life come alive, highlighting the humanity of all involved.

— Benjamin E. Park, *American Zion: A New History of Mormonism*

*No Forgiveness* is the story of an early 20th-century murder in a Mormon corner of Idaho, and of the two families most affected: “Here on Earth, a stream of sorrows cascaded over both.” Dan Neal is a member of one of the families; his account, therefore, is deeply personal while honoring the faith and choices of its subjects. Neal’s research gives us a bright, clear window on the time.

—Tom Rea, founder and editor emeritus of WyoHistory.org.

After furnishing the rich historical context of his ancestors’ conversion to Mormonism and their settling in southeastern Idaho, Dan Neal tells the compelling story of his grandfather’s 1911 murder by a fellow Mormon and how the tragedy impacted the victim’s widow and her five young children. I highly recommend *No Forgiveness*.

—Larry E. Morris, author of *The Fate of the Corps: What Became of the Lewis and Clark Explorers After the Expedition*

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**WordsWorth Publishing**

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we find our inspiration in the American West. We are devoted to publishing books that focus on Northern Rocky Mountain history, people, culture, and environment. [www.wordsworthpublishing.com](http://www.wordsworthpublishing.com)