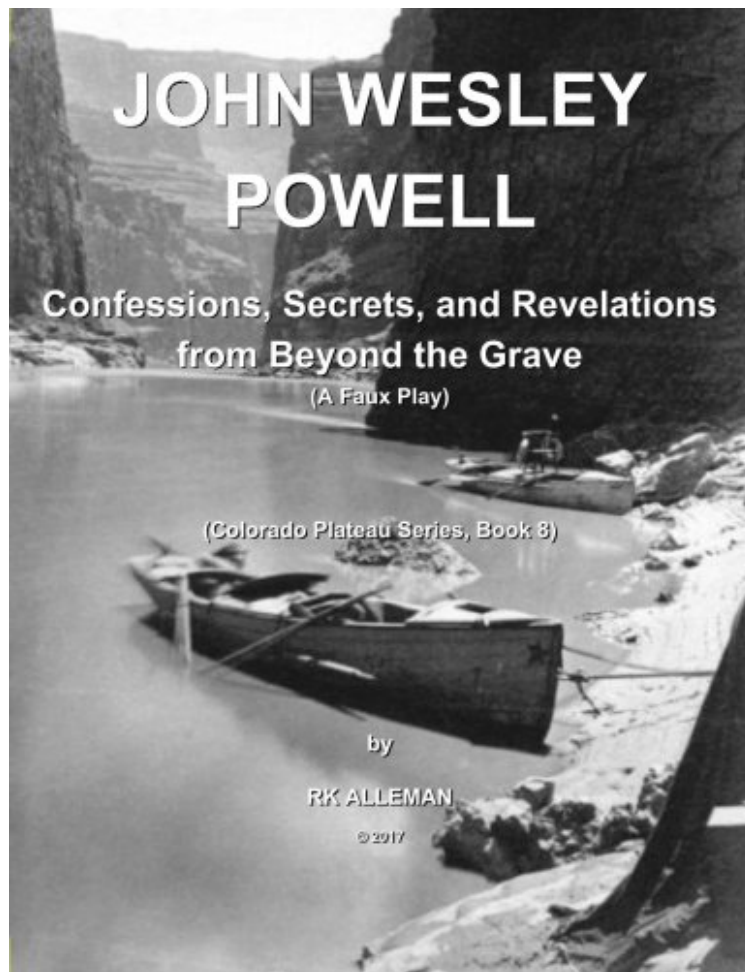


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John Wesley Powell: Confessions, Secrets, and Revelations from Beyond the Grave (Colorado Plateau Province) (Volume 8)

RK Alleman

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RK Alleman : John Wesley Powell: Confessions, Secrets, and Revelations from Beyond the Grave (Colorado Plateau Province) (Volume 8) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Wesley Powell: Confessions, Secrets, and Revelations from Beyond the Grave (Colorado Plateau Province) (Volume 8):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Complete Saga of Major John Wesley Powell's Expeditions presented in the guise of a faux play. By Rich Holtzin Never had there been a more innovative way to explain the entire John Wesley Powell saga; that is, taking out the confusion of two expeditions he merged into one (given his final publication in the 1890s), as well as the intrigue of the personal disputes some of the men had toward the end of the

1869's nearly 1,000-mile long excursion through the Green and Colorado River canyon country in just one hundred days. This engaging book is written in the guise of a faux play where the three so-called diarists read from their notes (one after the other) what transpired on any given day. However, the performers are not aware there are others on the same stage. To present the essential background to the audience (reader), the author makes use of a Chorus, similar to ancient Greek plays. His name is William (Billy) Bass, a late 19th-century early 20th-century prospector turned tourist guide. He was friends of one of the 1869 expedition's crew, Billy Hawkins, who, like a few other boatmen in that daring escapade, felt they were owed money that either the Major forgot to pay or maybe he didn't. Bass interviewed Hawkins many years after the expedition and learned of such details. As such, he was no fan of Major Powell. The narrative of this story is factual and takes place in four consecutive acts. Details and theories of what happened to three of Major Powell's men on the expedition are also related (i.e., they hiked out of the canyon not knowing there were only 38 miles to go until the Grand Wash Cliffs (i.e., the official terminus of the Grand Canyon). However, they were never seen again. The longer 1871-72 expedition is also given mention, only for the sake of clarity there were, in fact, two different expeditions that, until the truth was revealed, no one in the early 20th-century realized. This faux play reveals everything, including the theories and what's behind the disputes levied against Major Powell by those who think or feel his victory as a renowned Western explorer is tarnished. The question is: were the charges levied against the Major by some of his men true or even realistic? Perhaps the real faux pas has only to do with the fact his epic work, "Down the Colorado" was telescoped (i.e., the 1869 and 1871 expeditions merged), yet only the crew of the 1869 expedition was noted in the book. Thanks to Frederick Dellenbaugh, who was arguably the most popular boatman on the second expedition, he set the record straight when he later published his equally epic work, "Romance of the Colorado River."

This factual story relates the story of one of the most extraordinary expeditions in the American West during the latter part of the 19th-century. The basis of the story relates the legacy of the Civil War hero, Major John Wesley Powell, whose 1869 Green and Colorado River expedition was the first scientific expedition that surveyed the Green and Colorado rivers canyon country, starting in Green River, Wyoming and ending at the Grand Wash Cliffs (the western terminus of the Grand Canyon). Although this narrative has been told by many authors over the years, the novelty of this text is in the guise of a faux play where four principal performers recite their lines to an imaginary audience. Namely, three diarists who were part of the 1869 expedition, and a chorus, who, in this case, relates incidental details not divulged by the three other performers (which, includes Major Powell). As this 100-day odyssey unfolds, we hear from each diarist what happened on any given day. Remarkably, one of the diarists' (George Bradley) wrote exacting details in secret. That is, none of the other men even knew Bradley wrote those reports. As it turned out, Major Powell's journals were later published as a much larger account. That said, there were two expeditions: the inaugural 1869 exploration and the 1871-72 exploration, which he 'telescoped' into a seeming and single longer expedition. Moreover, he failed to mention the names of the crew on the second expedition. As a consequence of Powell's oversight, readers, in his time, took it for granted there was only one expedition manned by those mentioned names in the major's publications. It isn't until after the major's death at the turn of the century that readers of the heroic Powell expedition were apprised of the fact there were two different expeditions and two different crews. This book on John Wesley Powell reveals all the details, if not the machination, of the Powell saga. Moreover, the post-expedition years were the most intriguing, considering how some of the men on the first expedition griped about not getting paid for their services. Moreover, three of those men abandoned the expedition close to the end of that odyssey, whose bodies were never found. Thus, the trio marks the greatest human mystery and drama relative to the Grand Canyon, which Major Powell had bequeathed this moniker after the first expedition. (258 pages)

About the Author The author writes and publishes under the nom de plume, RK Alleman because the name more accurately describes his heritage. (Richard Kerry on his fathers side and Alleman on his mothers side). He earned three academic degrees in Eastern and Western Philosophy, and, for the most part, made a living as an outdoors educator teaching a variety of geosciences, human, and natural history (since the late 1980s). RK spent more than forty years in the West and Southwest and had hiked and explored most sectors and facets of the Colorado Plateau Province. He has served in the role of an interpretive guide and educator for a National Park Service endorsed outreach program (<http://bit.ly/1D6YS1u>) for some eighteen years. Additionally, he was an instructor at Northern Arizona University and Yavapai College (respectively, Flagstaff and Prescott). Most of his writings center on geosciences, including environmental and ecology, human and natural history. Benefitting his travel and educators experience, RK owned and operated an eco and cultural tourism enterprise based on educational tourism throughout the American Southwest. Since retiring, RK's endeavors are geared to publishing his numerous writings, whose titles and varied subject matter are posted on this website: (www.richholtzin.com). The John Wesley Powell story is his 7th publication (and the 8th book of eleven books devoted to the Colorado Plateau series). For more information, RK can be contacted via his website (see email address at the bottom of the main page).