

LENS & PEN PRESS

Lens & Pen Press
4067 S. Franklin
Springfield, MO 65807



Tel 417 886 7124
Cell 417 894 4030
email lensandpen@yahoo.com

www.hypercommon.com
www.beautifulozarks.com
www.dammingtheosage.com

PRESS RELEASE:

LOVER'S LEAP LEGENDS: FROM SAPPHO OF LESBOS TO WAH-WAH-TEE OF WACO

ISBN: 978-0-9673925-9-2, Leland & Crystal Payton, 352 pages, 574 color illustrations, \$35. Includes an extensive bibliography and detailed index.

It's beyond sad! Beautiful Indian maiden jumps to her death when controlling chieftain father disapproves boyfriend from an enemy tribe. Across America are cliffs where "many moons ago" such tragedies are said to have occurred. Researching their new book, *Lover's Leap Legends*, Leland and Crystal Payton discovered these legends are fakelore. Folklorists have understandably dismissed them, but the Paytons found the history of these spurious stories perversely fascinating.

The new 352-page, all color book is filled with postcards and souvenirs of Lover's Leaps from Maine to California and a few overseas. The authors photographed some of the most famous jumping-off spots, including the first identified in the US starring a Native American girl. Mark Twain ridiculed that one—Winona, the heartbroken Dakota maiden, landed on her oppressive parents killing them, freeing her to marry the brave of her choice.

"We understand why Twain satirized such stories. He was the archenemy of sentimentality," said Crystal. "These fables illustrated how saccharine Romanticism flavored pop culture in nineteenth century America." Leland adds, "Oversweetened literature and entertainment haven't vanished although probably there are more skeptics concerning Lover's Leap Legends."

The book's dedication is to America's first pop culture critic: "For Mark Twain—who diagnosed America's sentimental Romantic infection. Alas, his injection of realism was not a cure."

Release Date: Spring, 2020

CONTACT: Leland Payton at Lens & Pen Press (info above)