

Rhonda and I are both voracious readers. Here are a few we've read recently

- ***Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover**

This book was highly acclaimed and showed up on a lot of lists of excellent books. We agree. It is about a girl who grew up in a fundamentalist family that were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They were not "typical" members, but they were extremists and did not represent what we associate with church. In any event, Westover describes how she grew up in this very different family and how she escaped her roots through education. **Highly recommended!**

- ***What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848 (Oxford History of the United States)* by Daniel Walker Howe**

My son Samuel pointed this book out to me. It was the text for a course he took at Brigham Young University. It is Volume 3 of the Oxford History of the United States. This may be the best history text I have read – ever. The reason is in part because Howe captured how the intellectual and philosophical life of the people influenced politics and culture throughout the period. His discussion on Millennialism is something I return to frequently as I ponder my own age and how "Progressives" think they can use America to usher in a utopia – the religious bases is just different now. **Highly recommended!**