



The Jenny Reeder List of Readings in Mormon Women's History

This is a list of books I have on my own shelf. It is not a comprehensive list of works on Mormon women's history; countless articles, essays, and theses and dissertations trace various aspects of theology, biography, culture, politics, literature, and more. You can find a more comprehensive online searchable bibliography at <http://sc.lib.byu.edu/collections/womens.html>. Journals such as *Journal of Mormon History*, *BYU Studies*, *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, *Utah Historical Quarterly*, and *Segullah* also provide fine scholarly articles on various aspects of Mormon women. The Daughters of Utah Pioneers series also contain reminiscences and cultural detail.

Archer, Patience Loader Rozsa. *Recollections of Past Days: The Autobiography of Patience Loader Rozsa Archer*, ed. Sandra Ailey Petree. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press.

The daughter of an English gardener, Patience Loader became a boarding house servant, domestic maid, and seamstress. Converted to Mormonism, she shipped with her parents to America. They joined the ill-fated Martin company, which because of poor planning and a late start west, was caught poorly prepared by severe high plains snowstorms in October and November 1856. After reaching Utah, Patience married a soldier, John Rozsa, stationed at Camp Floyd, and she accompanied her husband as an army laundress to Washington, DC. After his death, she returned to Utah to work as a cook at a mining camp in American Fork Canyon.

Beecher, Maureen Ursenbach. *Eliza and Her Sisters*. Salt Lake City: Aspen Books, 1991.

This book contains twelve essays about Eliza R. Snow, presenting Eliza in her youth, middle age, and old age. They describe her poetry and prose, her organizing ability, her position in the Latter-day Saint female hierarchy, and her inner life as well as her public life. The essays describe also the women (and men) Eliza worked with. This book is thus a group biography of leading Mormon women and their activities. Here are portraits of women on the trail, speaking at women's rallies, exercising gifts of the spirit, working for common goals, demonstrating their intellectual acumen, and going about their daily duties. Mormon women, as did their sisters generally in American history, reshaped the society in which they lived to gain suffrage, to create opportunities in employment, and to obtain positions of leadership and influence in the public sphere. They demonstrated that women could and did play a triple role as wife and mother, ecclesiastical leader, and public citizen." These essays were previously printed in *Essays on the American West, 1974-45*, *New Era*, *Ensign*, *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, *Sunstone*, *Proceedings of the Association for Mormon Letters*, *Utah Historical Quarterly*, and *Journal of Mormon History*, and including "The Eliza Enigma," "Eliza of Ohio: The Early Years," "Leonora, Eliza, and Lorenzo," "Inadvertent Disclosures," "Women in Winter Quarters," "The Overland Diaries of Eliza R. Snow," "Three Women and the Life of the Mind," and "The 'Leading Sisters.'"

Beecher, Maureen Ursenbach and Lavina Fielding Anderson. *Sisters in Spirit: Mormon Women in Historical and Cultural Perspective*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1987. This book contains a collection of essays dealing with the history, doctrine, and current situation of Mormon women, including: "The Mormon Concept of a Mother in Heaven," by Linda P. Wilcox; "Mormon Women and the Temple: Towards a New Understanding," Carol Cornwall Madsen; "'Strength in Our Union': The Making of Mormon Sisterhood," Jill Mulvay Derr.

Bradley, Martha Sonntag and Mary Brown Firmage Woodward. *Four Zinas: A Story of Mothers and Daughters on the Mormon Frontier*. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 2000.

Mother, daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter—an impressive line of prominent women all named Zina. One converted to Mormonism in New York in 1833. The next married Joseph Smith and Brigham Young successively and served as the church's general Relief Society president. The third assisted her husband, Charles Ora Card, in founding Cardston, Alberta. The fourth married future church apostle Hugh B. Brown.

Burgess-Olson, Vicky, ed. *Sister Saints*. Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 1978.

A collection of twenty-four essays on Eliza R. Snow, Sarah Melissa Granger Kimball, Louisa Barnes Pratt, Susa Young Gates, Amy Brown Lyman, Susanna Goudin Cardon, Lucinda Lee Dalton, Jane Snyder Richards, Bathsheba Bigler Smith, Aurelia Spencer Rogers, Maud May Babcock, Alice Louise Reynolds, Stena Scorup, Patty Bartlett Sessions, Ellen Ferguson, Romania Pratt Penrose, Ellis Reynolds Shipp, Martha Hughes Cannon, Sarah Elizabeth Carmichael, Louisa Lula Green Richards, Emmeline B. Wells, and Augusta Joyce Crocheran.

Bushman, Claudia L., Ed. *Latter-day Saint Women in the Twentieth Century: Summer Fellows' Papers, 2003*. Provo, UT: Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for LDS History, 2004.

Eight essays in this book examine such twentieth-century topics as modesty, music for children, Relief Society correlation, response to the ERA amendment, courtship and marriage, patriarchy and contentment, birth control, and LDS activity with the National Council of Women.

---. *Mormon Sisters: Women in Early Utah*. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 1997.

This book is a pioneering study of Mormon women's history. Since its first release in 1977, this collection of twelve essays on different aspects of nineteenth century women's lives has inspired imitation and encouraged further research and writing. Essays cover topics such as pioneer medicine, education, politics, and charitable work.

Carmack, Effie Marquess. *Out of the Black Patch: The Autobiography of Effie Marquess Carmack, Folk Musician, Artist, and Writer*, ed. Noel Carmack and Karen Lynn Davidson. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press.

Much of Effie's story is a charming memoir of her vibrant childhood on a poor tobacco farm. She describes a variety of folk practices, from healing and crafts to children's games. Her family's life included the backbreaking labor and economic trials of raising tobacco, but it was enriched by a deep familial heritage, communal music, creative play, and traditional activities of many kinds. After the family converted to the Mormon Church, religious study and devotion became another important dimension. Effie's account of Mormon missions contributes to the little-known record of Latter-day Saint attempts to establish a presence in the South.

A Centenary of Relief Society. Salt Lake City: General Board of the Relief Society, 1942.

This book was published at the Relief Society's centennial celebration.

Crocheron, Augusta Joyce. *Representative Women of Deseret*. Salt Lake City: J.C. Graham, 1884.

This book contains biographical sketches of the leading LDS women.

Crosby, Caroline Barnes. *No Place to Call Home: The 1807-1857 Life Writings of Caroline Barnes Crosby, Chronicler of Outlying Mormon Communities*, ed. Edward Leo Lyman, Susan Ward Payne, and S. George Ellsworth. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press.

Caroline Crosby's life took a wandering course between her 1834 marriage to Jonathon Crosby and conversion to the infant Mormon Church and her departure for her final home, Utah, on New Year's Day, 1858. In the intervening years, she lived in many places but never long enough to set firm roots. Her adherence to a frontier religion on the move kept her moving, even after the Church began to settle down in Utah. Despite the impermanence of her situation, perhaps even because of it, Caroline Crosby left a remarkably rich record of her life and travels, thereby telling us not only much about herself and her family but also about times and places of which her documentary record provides a virtually unparalleled view. A notable aspect of her memoirs and journals is what they convey of the character of their author, who, despite the many challenges of transience and poverty she faced, appears to have remained curious, dedicated, observant, and cheerful.

Cross, Mary Bywater. *Quilts and Women of the Mormon Migration: Treasures of Transition*. Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 1996.

This book examines women who crossed the plains and their quilts, and includes beautiful photographs of quilts and biographies of the women who made them.

Derr, Jill Mulvay, Janath Russell Cannon, and Maureen Ursenbach Beecher. *Women of Covenant: The Story of Relief Society*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1992. This book traces the rich history of the Relief Society, but its scope is much broader than that. As the authors write, it is "the story of the women of the Church and the sacred promises that bind them to God and to the community of his saints." In 1842, Emma Hale Smith, the first president of the Relief Society, declared, "We are going to do something *extraordinary*." *Women of Covenant* shows the extraordinary accomplishments of this unique sisterhood.

Godfrey, Kenneth W., Audrey M. Godfrey, and Jill Mulvay Derr. *Women's Voices: An Untold History of the Latter-day Saints, 1830-1900*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1982.

This book contains two dozen stirring first-hand accounts that chronicle the experience of Mormon women from the Church's restoration in 1830 to the turn of the century. These absorbing selections give new perspective on the fascinating history of nineteenth-century Mormonism.

Hinckley, Marjorie Pay. *Letters: Marjorie Pay Hinckley*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004.

Marjorie Hinckley, late wife of President Gordon B. Hinckley, left a legacy of love, faith, and humor in the many letters she wrote over the course of the years. This book is a sampling of those marvelous communications, a look behind the scenes at the life of an extraordinary but somehow delightfully "real" woman, wife, and mother. The letters run the spectrum of experience: her trials as a young mother, her musings sent to adult children, her observations on her travels, her words of love to grandchildren. In them, a portrait of a woman whose life is not so different from our own, a woman who took the everyday experiences of her world and made them something beautiful and lasting.

History of the Relief Society, 1842-1966. Salt Lake City: General Board of the Relief Society, 1966.

Under the direction of Belle Spafford, General Relief Society President, this book was written to update the earlier official history of the Relief Society. This book contains photographs and illustrations.

Holzappel, Richard Neitzel and Jeni Broberg Holzappel. *Women of Nauvoo*. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992.

This book contains the stirring accounts of how the faithful women of Nauvoo contributed to the building up of God's latter-day kingdom, including photographs and covering a wide range of topics about the temporal aspects of life, the Relief Society, and the influence of Joseph Smith.

Howe, Susan Elizabeth and Sheree Maxwell Bench, eds. *Discoveries: Two Centuries of Poems by Mormon Women*. Provo, UT: Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for LDS History, 2004.

This book includes poems that trace Mormon women's life experiences from creation through childbirth, youth, marriage, motherhood, aging, death, and entrance into eternity. The poetry stirs us to remember, to ponder, often to laugh, sometimes to weep, yet always to rejoice.

Madsen, Carol Cornwall. *An Advocate for Women: The Public Life of Emmeline B. Wells, 1870-1920*. Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 2005.

As the foremost Latter-day Saint woman of her time, Emmeline B. Wells dedicated her working life to advancing women's status and establishing a respected Mormon presence in American life. In her fifty years as a public figure, she edited the *Woman's Exponent*, represented LDS women in national women's organizations, courageously defended her religion in the halls of Congress, and helped mitigate anti-Mormon sentiments, all before becoming Relief Society General President in 1910 at the age of eighty-two.

---. *In Their Own Words: Women and the Story of Nauvoo*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1994.

This book contains segments of the personal writings—diaries, letters, and reminiscences—of the wives, mothers, and sisters of Nauvoo. Some wrote as an outlet for emotions that seemed too deep to share with others. Some wrote to explain their lives to family members and friends in distant places. And some wrote for posterity, to link their own lives with those that followed. This volume reflects the spirit of their desire and reaffirms the reality of our spiritual heritage.

Madsen, Carol Cornwall, ed. *Battle for the Ballot: Essays on Women Suffrage in Utah, 1870-1896*. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 1997.

Exercising a right that their peers throughout the United States were denied, Utah women voted in 1870 elections. At the time, the only other American women who could vote were in Wyoming territory, and they had not yet had the chance to go to the polls. The more numerous women of Utah would lose the vote as a result of subsequent conflicts between Mormons and the federal government over polygamy. However, they regained woman suffrage in the 1896 Utah state constitution. After a hard fought struggle that involved national figures such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony and local leaders such as Emmeline B. Wells and Emily S. Richards. The sixteen essays in this book recount the dramatic history of these pacesetter efforts to obtain for Utah women the rights to vote and hold public office.

Madsen, Carol Cornwall and Susan Staker Oman. *Sisters and Little Saints: One Hundred Years of Primary*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1979.

This book chronicles the first one hundred years of the Primary's growth and influence. Starting with the first Primary meeting in a little rock church in Farmington, Utah, this carefully researched work traces the history of what has become one of the most far-reaching children's organizations in the world. Founded and administered by Mormon women, the Primary has provided a unique outlet for the creative energies of both the sisters and the little Saints.

Morrill, Susanna. *White Roses on the Floor of Heaven: Mormon Women's Popular Theology, 1880-1920*. New York: Routledge, 2006.

This book examines women's writings from the *Woman's Exponent* which reveal deeper spiritual thoughts.

Morris, Mary Lois Walker. *Before the Manifesto: The Life Writings of Mary Lois Walker Morris*, ed.

Melissa Lambert Milewski. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 2007.

Mary Lois Walker Morris was a Mormon woman who challenged both American ideas about marriage and the U.S. legal system. This book provides a glimpse into her world as the polygamous wife of a prominent Salt Lake businessman, during a time of great transition in Utah. This account of her life as a convert, milliner, active community member, mother, and wife begins in England, where her family joined the Mormon church, details her journey across the plains, and describes life in Utah in the 1880s.

Nielson, Carol Holindrake. *The Salt Lake City 14th Ward Album Quilt, 1857: Stories of the Relief Society Women and Their Quilt*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2004.

In 1857 the women of the Salt Lake City 14th Ward produced a quilt that was raffled off to raise money for various Mormon charitable enterprises, including the Perpetual Immigrating Fund. One hundred and thirty years later, Carol Nielson and her husband inherited that quilt—*half* the quilt, to be precise. Thus began a journey to find the quilt's other half and to find out more about the women whose legacy Nielson had—both literally and figuratively—inherited.

Parker, Mary Haskin. *Winter Quarters: The 1846-1848 Life Writings of Mary Haskin Parker Richards*, ed. Maurine Carr Ward. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 1996.

Mary Richards' journals and letters record a young woman's rare but richly detailed view of life in the temporary Mormon pioneer communities in Iowa.

Pratt, Louisa Barnes. *The History of Louisa Barnes Pratt: The Autobiography of a Mormon Missionary Widow and Pioneer*, ed. S. George Ellsworth. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press.

In her memoir, and 1870s revision of her journal and diary, Louisa Barnes Pratt tells of childhood in Massachusetts and Canada during the War of 1812, and independent career as a teacher and seamstress in New England, and her marriage to California, and, in Addison's wake, to Tahiti in 1850. Louisa later settled in Beaver, Utah, where she campaigned for women's rights, contributed to the *Woman's Exponent*, and depended on her own means, as she had much of her life, until her death in 1880.

Sessions, Patty Bartlett. *Mormon Midwife: The 1846-1888 Diaries of Patty Bartlett Sessions*, ed. Donna Toland Smart. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 1997.

Patty Session's diaries provide a detailed record of early Mormon community life from Illinois to Utah through the eyes of Mormondom's most famous midwife. They also recount her important role in women's social networks and her contributions to community health and Utah's economy, to pioneer education and horticulture. Patty Sessions assisted at the births of hundreds of early Mormons and first-generation Utahns, meticulously recording the events. She had an active role in the founding of the Relief Society and health organizations. She spoke in tongues and administered spiritually as well as medically to the ill. Her diaries are a rich resource for early Mormon and Utah history.

Something Extraordinary: Celebrating our Relief Society Sisterhood. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1992.

This book contains photographs of LDS women all over the world and quotations from presidents of the Church and the general presidents of the Relief Society.

Smith, Lucy Mack. *Lucy's Book: A Critical Edition of Lucy Mack Smith's Family Memoir*. Ed. Lavina Fielding Anderson. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 2001.

Mormonism begins with Lucy Mack, mother of the prophet Joseph Smith. In her dictate memoirs, readers detect the same seeds of religious fervor and frontier idiom that characterized her son's writings and sermons. Lucy's story is gripping and occasionally heart breaking.

Smith, Barbara B. and Blythe Darlyn Thatcher, eds. *Heroines of the Restoration*. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1997.

This volume contains twenty-two biographical essays about women including Lucy Mack Smith, Emma Hale Smith, Patty Bartlett Sessions, Mary Fielding Smith, Eliza R. Snow, Jane Manning James, Sarah Kimball, Zina Young, Bathsheba Smith, Emmeline B. Wells, and Susa Young Gates.

Snow, Eliza Roxcy. *Personal Writings of Eliza Roxcy Snow*, ed. Maureen Ursenbach Beecher. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 1995.

Compiled in this volume are Eliza R. Snow's autobiographical writings, including "Sketch of My Life," her Nauvoo journal and notebook, which are the earliest, but most recently discovered, of her extant chronicles, and her trail diaries, covering February 1846 to September 1849. Together they provide valuable insights into both mid-nineteenth century Mormon society and Eliza R. Snow's life, revealing much about a public woman who tried to guard her privacy.

Van Wagenen, Lola. *Sister Wives and Suffragists: Polygamy and the Politics of Woman Suffrage, 1870-1896*. Provo, UT: BYU Press, 2003.

Beginning in 1870, Utah women attempted to establish their primacy as the standard bearer of woman's rights in the territory. Some sought support from leaders within the territory while others looked to those in the national arena. Ultimately, the activities of Mormon women helped secure woman suffrage for Utah in 1870.

Whitney, Helen Mar Kimball. *A Widow's Tale: The 1884-1896 Diary of Helen Mar Kimball Whitney*, ed. Charles M. Hatch and Todd M. Compton. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 2003.

Helen Mar Whitney had been a polygamous wife of Joseph Smith. Her father was Mormon apostle Heber C. Kimball. She subsequently married Horace Whitney. Her children included the noted Mormon author, religious authority, and politician Orson F. Whitney. She herself was a leading woman in her church and society and a writer known especially for her defenses of plural marriage.

