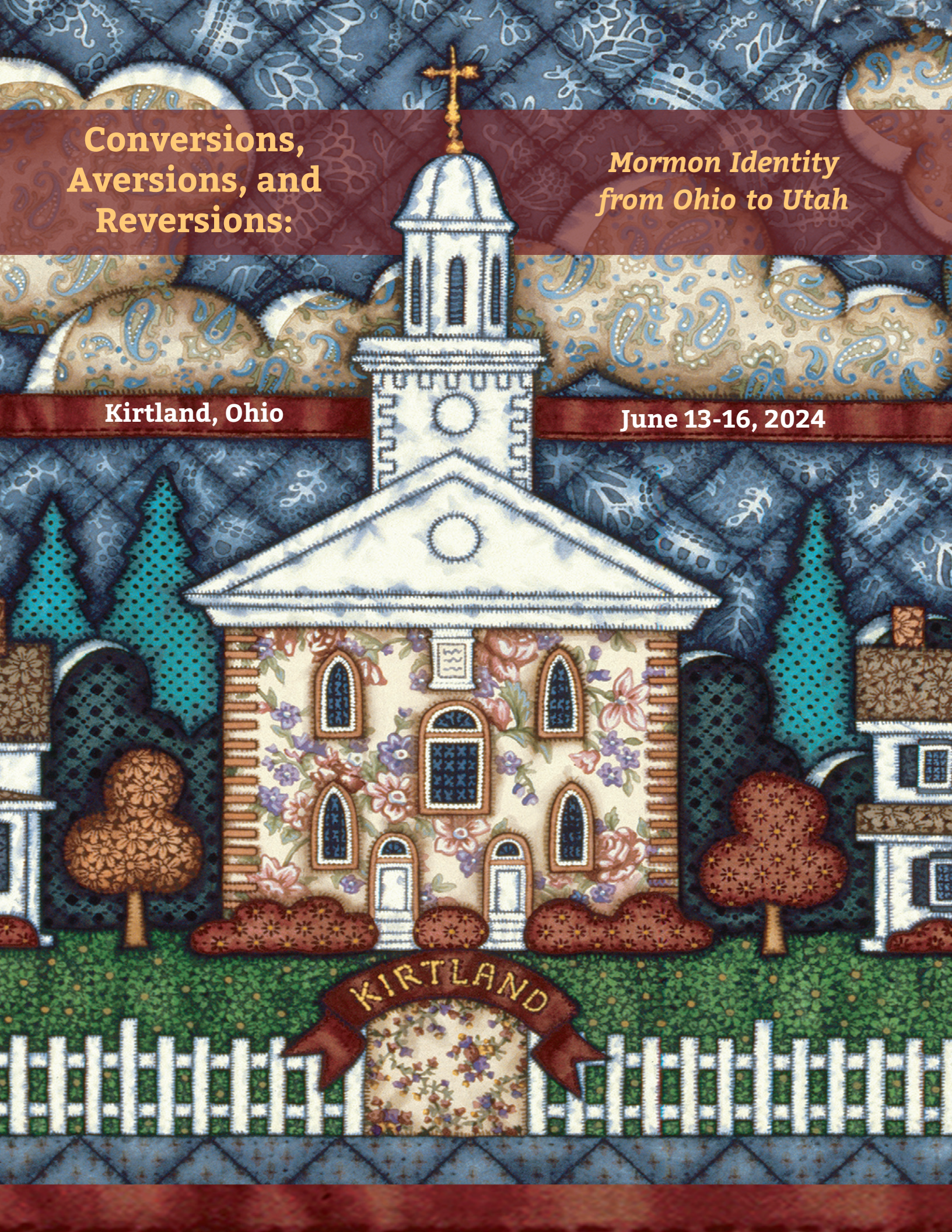


**Conversions,  
Aversions, and  
Reversions:**

*Mormon Identity  
from Ohio to Utah*

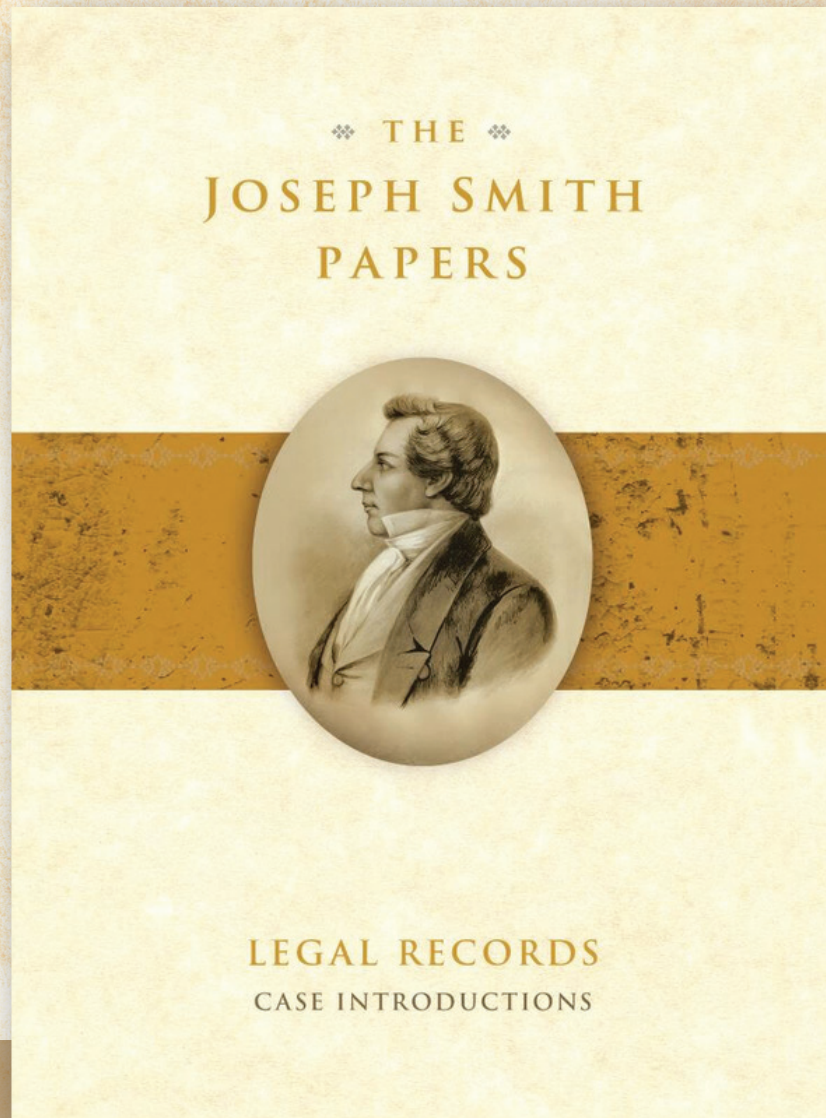
**Kirtland, Ohio**

**June 13-16, 2024**



# 2024 RELEASE

## FROM THE CHURCH HISTORIAN'S PRESS



*Case Introductions* contextualizes Joseph Smith's interactions with the law as a plaintiff/complainant, defendant, witness, or judge in approximately two hundred cases between 1819 and 1844. It also offers helpful analyses of the trial of his accused assassins and of the disposition of his estate.

---

FULL CONTENTS ALSO AVAILABLE WITH DOCUMENT TRANSCRIPTIONS AT  
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THE CHURCH  
HISTORIAN'S  
PRESS



# President's Welcome



Welcome to the 59th annual conference of the Mormon History Association! After more than twenty years of absence, our association has returned to Kirtland, Ohio, a cradle of early Mormon history. Northeastern Ohio witnessed some of the most formative events in early Latter Day Saints culture, from bold communal experiments to the creation of a sacerdotal church structure. In Kirtland, early Mormons succeeded in building their first “House of the Lord,” the Kirtland Temple, a structure that stands today as the oldest extant worship building for any Latter Day Saint tradition. Beyond these far-reaching institution-building events, the “Kirtland period” of early Mormon history was rife with conflict over things both extraordinary and mundane, including debates on the afterlife, church leadership disputes, religious conversion clashes, contention over business interests, and failed banking experiments.

Our conference theme for this year, “conversions, aversions, and reversions” nods to these historical confluences and conflicts from the 1830s, but broadens the temporal and topical scope to include all of Mormon history. Presenters during our concurrent sessions will give papers that highlight topics that range from nineteenth-century Mormon electoral politics to UFOs and twentieth-century Latter-day Saint respectability politics. Other presenters will relate Tongan Mormon transpacific histories, while still others will think about meaning and meaning-making of sacred textiles in everyday Mormon life. The program committee chairs, Cristina Rosetti and Esiteli Hafoka, have assembled a truly capacious conference program, welcoming diverse topics and scholars from all backgrounds.

Featured keynote speakers will stretch the bounds of materials and methods in Mormon history. Elder Kyle S. McKay will talk about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ recent acquisition of the Kirtland Temple and restoration of the Joseph and Emma Smith home. Taking a material culture approach, Janiece Johnson will speak about Kirtland Mormons and their use of the Book of Mormon. Charlotte Hansen Terry will talk about Mormon women and identity in the nineteenth-century Pacific. Jana Riess will analyze a more contemporary topic and report on her findings about so-called “Jack Mormons” or liminal Latter-day Saints in the last fifty years. In the Smith-Pettit lecture, Northwestern University’s Robert Orsi will offer a wide-ranging theoretically grounded talk about religion’s sanctification of sexuality. Following this, a panel of scholars, including Ignacio Garcia, Vinna Chowriamah, Sujey Vega, Elise Boxer, and Chiung Hwang Chen, will address the intersection of race and religion in the writing of Mormon history. Finally, our MHA Sunday devotional will feature former Kirtland Temple site director, Barbara Walden, at the Kirtland Temple. She will speak about the temple’s many caretakers and interpreters across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

No MHA conference happens without a team of members working to make it possible. MHA Executive Director, Christine Blythe, has been the hub around which everything about this conference has revolved – planning, emails, Zoom meetings, and contract negotiations. She is an organizer who would give Saul Alinsky a run for his money! Local arrangement chairs Seth Bryant and William Wynder connected us to the local people and organizations invested in the religious history of Northeastern Ohio. Seth and Bill, assisted by Erik Freeman, Mark Staker, and incoming MHA President Andrea Radke-Moss, have also created two outstanding pre- and post-conference tours, featuring Mormon women’s history and Mormons and communal societies. Finally, the MHA board has been a constant ally in helping to facilitate everything from awards committees to our budget.

On a personal note, MHA’s conference in Kirtland represents something of a homecoming for me. For parts of twelve summers from 2004 to 2016, I lived in Kirtland, researched about the temple’s history as a pilgrimage site, and taught an evening college-credit history course to the Community of Christ’s summer guides who staffed the Kirtland Temple. At night, I would walk from the Joseph and Emma Smith home where I stayed, past the old cemetery and temple, to the Community of Christ Visitor Center where I taught. Today, of course, none of this is the same. (What home is the same after you leave it?) Nonetheless, I feel welcome here. I hope in the coming days that you will, too. Welcome to Kirtland. Welcome home.

**David Howlett**

*Visiting Professor of Religion, Smith College*

## Cover Art by Eric Dowdle. Pioneer Pattern

In tribute to the sacrifice and achievements of the first Latter-day Saints, this quilt print was designed to depict the early days and events of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Enjoy a look back at early Utah pioneer history in this quilt-style.

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# Welcome to “Historic Kirtland” and Beautiful Northeastern Ohio

We extend a warm welcome to the attendees of the 2024 Mormon History Association Conference titled “Conversions, Aversion, and Reversion: Mormon Identity from Ohio to Utah.” Given the recent transfers between the Community of Christ and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, your visit to Northeastern Ohio and to what was the first Headquarters of the newly emerging “Church of Christ” will be of particular interest to one and all.

Prior to the arrival of Europeans, Northeastern Ohio was home to Erie, Seneca, Mississauga, and other Indigenous peoples, and later designated as the Connecticut Western Reserve. Between 1831 and 1838, Kirtland was home to a growing Latter-day Saint community. As Joseph Smith and his restorationist movement moved west from upstate New York, early adherents came to a region already known for the communitarianism of Shakers, Owenites, and the Harmony Society. A revelation to Joseph Smith Jr. designated Ohio as a place of endowment like Pentecost in the Book of Acts, realized through the sacred space known as the Kirtland Temple.

The high point of the dedication was followed by economic difficulty and the first major schism in the Latter-day Saint movement. The Kirtland Safety Society collapsed in 1837 concomitant to the national financial crisis known as the Panic of 1837, but for the Latter-day Saints it had repercussions well beyond the financial losses experienced by depositors.

Within Mormon history, Kirtland affords scholars a unique opportunity to explore the rapid development of restorationist liturgy, its evolving theology, to learn of the people who joined the movement, its early detractors, and to study the everyday experiences in the lives of ordinary members of the faith.

As a part of your conference experience, we encourage you to explore early 19<sup>th</sup> Century life in Ohio through the pre-conference and post-conference tours being offered. We will visit Amish and Mennonite country, explore a Shaker museum, visit the Morley Farm, home of “the family,” to consider this early effort at communalism, and travel to Zoar Village and explore its early connections with Mormonism. There will be two opportunities to tour LDS Historic Kirtland sites, worship in the Kirtland Temple, all while being interpreted by scholars of Community of Christ and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint history.

We congratulate the Mormon History Association, and its leadership, for what has turned out to be a most fortuitous selection of a conference venue and topics. This summer’s conference will combine an impressive list of presenters with the opportunity to explore the early efforts at communitarianism in frontier America.

## LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS CO-CHAIRS



William Wynder



Seth Bryant

## LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE:

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# Message from the Program Committee

As Kirtland garnered media attention from across the Restoration over the last several months, the Mormon History Association is honored to welcome the 2024 conference to this historic location. The diversity of the Latter-day Saint tradition is found in Kirtland, including the first completed temple, the Newel K. Whitney Store, and the stone quarry. There has never been a better time to gather the historical community to reflect on the Kirtland period and its lasting impact.

This year’s panels highlight the way the Ohio context shaped the Latter-day Saint tradition, exploring the construction of Mormon identity, the way revelation formed the early faith, and the historic diversity of thought in the formative years of the young communitarian society. In a much-anticipated presentation, we are excited to welcome Elder Kyle S. McKay who will provide our opening lecture, “The Kirtland Temple Past and Future” on the recent sale of the Kirtland temple and the restoration of the Joseph and Emma Smith home. His comments will be brought to life during the tours of Kirtland both before and after the conference. The Mormon History Association is also grateful to host a closing devotional in the Kirtland temple.

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS



Cristina Rosetti



Esiteli Hafoka

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Christopher James Blythe**,  
*Brigham Young University*

**Makoto Hunter**,  
*University of California, Santa Barbara*

# MHA Code of Conduct



The Mormon History Association is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and inclusive scholarly community where everyone is treated with civility and respect. We welcome all who are interested in the Mormon past, irrespective of religious affiliation, academic training, nationality, or other identities such as race, gender, or sexual orientation. We do not tolerate discrimination, harassment, bullying, or racism in any form. All members, participants, exhibitors, and volunteers at MHA-sponsored events are expected to treat others with respect, dignity, civility, and kindness.

**Unacceptable behaviors** include, but are not limited to:

- Comments or actions that reinforce social power structures related to gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, race, age, or religion.
- Deliberate intimidation through speech, stalking, or following.
- Harassing photography or recording.
- Disruption of talks or other events.
- Inappropriate, non-consensual physical contact.
- Unwelcome sexual attention.
- Threats or acts of violence.
- Advocating for, or encouraging, any of the above behaviors.

## **Supporting Fellow Scholars**

- If you witness unacceptable behavior, please act to mitigate the situation politely and diplomatically and/or report it to a board member or the executive director.
- If there are threats or acts of imminent violence or if you believe the behavior violates the law, report the offender to security personnel or law enforcement immediately.

## **Reporting**

If someone makes you or anyone else feel unsafe or unwelcome, please report it as soon as possible to MHA Executive Director Christine Blythe or any board member. Reports may be made in person or privately by emailing [christine@mormonhistoryassociation.org](mailto:christine@mormonhistoryassociation.org), which only the executive director can view. If you choose to remain anonymous, we won't be able to follow up with you directly, but we will fully investigate your report and take preventative action.

## **Consequences**

MHA retains the right to take any actions required to maintain a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all. This includes warning the offender or expulsion from the conference with no refund, restrictions on participating in future events, or revoking membership privileges.

*Sources: This code of conduct is shaped and informed by policies of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, and the American Alliance of Museums. It includes text adapted from the Geek Feminism wiki: [https://geekfeminism.wikia.org/wiki/Community\\_anti-harassment/Policy](https://geekfeminism.wikia.org/wiki/Community_anti-harassment/Policy)*



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## OPENING PLENARY

Friday, June 14 – 9 a.m.

**Immersed in New Scripture:  
Early Kirtland Converts and  
the Book of Mormon**

**Janiece Johnson**

*Acquisitions Director at Deseret Book*



## MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON & PLENARY

Friday, June 14 – 12:15 p.m.

**Jack Mormons and Liminal  
Latter-day Saints:  
The People in the Middle,  
1971 to 2023**



**Jana Riess**

*Religion News Service*

For the last half-century, data about Latter-day Saints has tended to focus on stalwart believers with their large families, rock-solid faith, and conservative political views. More recently, social scientists have given attention to studying those who leave the fold, exploring what LDS defection might tell us about the shifting US religious landscape more generally. But what about the people in the middle? What can the 2022–23 Next Mormons Survey data tell us about church members who still identify as Latter-day Saints, but are either not fully active, not fully believing, or both?

## MWHIT BREAKFAST

Saturday,  
June 15 – 7:15 a.m.

**Mormon Women  
Identities in  
the Pacific**

**Charlotte  
Hansen Terry**

## LUNCHEON PLENARY

Saturday, June 15 – 12:15 p.m.

**Why We Write: The Intersection of Race  
and Religion in the Writing of Mormon  
History Roundtable**



**Ignacio Garcia**  
*Brigham Young  
University*



**Vinna Chowriamah**  
*University of North  
Carolina, Chapel Hill*



**Chuing Hwang Chen**  
*Brigham Young  
University–Hawaii*



**Sujevy Vega**  
*Arizona State  
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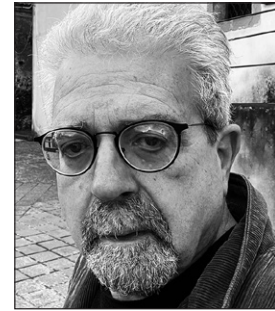


**Elise Boxer**  
*University of  
South Dakota*

## SMITH-PETTIT LECTURE

Saturday, June 15 – 10 a.m.

**Sexualized Religion/Sanctified  
Sexuality: Religion and Sexuality  
Out of the Sacred Closet**



**Robert Orsi**

*Professor of Religious Studies  
at Northwestern University*

Catholicism and Mormonism, separately and, often enough, together, in pernicious comparison, have been repeatedly framed as paradigmatically bad religions vis-à-vis the normative category, “modern,” specifically, “modern American,” religion. As such, precisely as outliers and necessary others, Mormonism and Catholicism contributed fundamentally to the making of “modern American religion,” and of “good” religion generally. And of all the many reasons why Catholicism and Mormonism have been so construed, the most damning has had to do with sexuality. This lecture proposes to use the histories of Mormonism and Catholicism—as lived religions and as anxious creations of the modern religious imaginary—to examine some alternative possibilities for thinking about religion and sexuality.

## PRESIDENTIAL BANQUET

Saturday, June 15 – 7:00 p.m.

**Restoration in Transit:  
The RLDS Church, the New Left  
and the Global 1970s**



**David Howlett**  
*MHA President &  
Visiting Professor  
of Religion, Smith  
College*



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# THURSDAY, JUNE 13

## DAY AT A GLANCE

### Pre Conference Tours

6:45 a.m.

#### **Mormon Women of Ohio Tour**

Meet at the Marriott Cleveland East Lobby

### Registration

4:00-5:30 p.m.

### Reception & Exhibit

6:00 p.m.

#### **Art Exhibit: Worldly Wars & Celestial Architecture**

Brent Wilson

Atrium

7-8:30 p.m.

#### **Lecture & Reception: Elder Kyle S. McKay**

Grand Ballroom

8:30-9:15 p.m.

#### **Post Reception Registration**

Cleveland Room

# FRIDAY, JUNE 14

## DAY AT A GLANCE

### Early Events

7:15-8:15 a.m.  
**Newcomers Breakfast**  
 Ballroom V

8-5:30 a.m.  
**Registration Desk Open**  
 Cleveland Room

7:15-8:15 a.m.  
**Global Mormon Studies Breakfast**  
 Grand Ballroom

9-10:00 AM  
**Open Plenary**  
 Grand Ballroom

7:15-8:15 a.m.  
**Journal of Mormon History Breakfast**  
 Lake

### Session One

10:30 a.m. – Noon

**Religious Responses to the  
 UFO in Mormonism  
 and Beyond**  
 Ballroom I

**Oral History and Global  
 Mormonism**  
 Lake

**From Cursed and “Scourged  
 with a Sore Scourge” to  
 “Polished and Refined  
 According to [God’s] Word:”  
 The Rise of Historic Kirtland  
 in Our Time**  
 Ballroom II

**Mormonism and Politics**  
 Geauga

**Theologies in Joseph Smith’s  
 Mormonism**  
 Portgage

**Politics, Emotion, and  
 Theology in Histories of Early  
 Ecclesiastical Leaders**  
 Cuyahoga

**2023 MHA/BHR Grant Research  
 Summit**

**Podcasting Mormon Studies**  
 Medina

### Lunch Break

12:15 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

**Membership Luncheon & Plenary**  
 Grand Ballroom

# FRIDAY, JUNE 14

## DAY AT A GLANCE

### Session Two

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**New Families of the Old Faith:  
Women Negotiating Medicine,  
Marriage, and Kinship,  
1870–1930**  
Ballroom I

**American Missionaries in  
a Global World**  
Ballroom II

**The Human Cost of History:  
Our Experiences**  
Cuyahoga

**Digital Approaches to  
Mormon History**  
Lake

**“New Measures” in New  
Lebanon: The Revivalist  
Schism of 1827 and the Religious  
Awakening of Parley and Orson  
Pratt**  
Geauga

**“The Earth Was Once a Garden  
Place”: Hymn Texts and Mormon  
Identity in the Ohio Period**  
Portgage

**The 20th Century in  
America and Abroad**  
Summit

**Centering Women in their  
Histories: Approaches  
and Discoveries**  
Medina

### Session Three

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Critical Mormon Histories  
and Futurities**  
Ballroom I

**Contemporary Thought  
and Practice**  
Ballroom II

**New Century, New Beginnings  
for Mormon Women in the Early  
20th Century Public Sphere**  
Cuyahoga

**Mormon Identity and the  
Commemorative Landscape**  
Lake

**Aversions and Prejudices**  
Geauga

**Divergent Scholarly Paths:  
A Roundtable About Studying  
Community of Christ,  
Fundamentalist Mormons,  
James Strang’s Church, and  
Broader Restoration Movements**  
Portgage

**The Development of the  
Latter-day Saint Archives**  
Summit

**Exploring William Marks  
through the Investigations  
of Original Documents**  
Medina

### Evening Events

5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
**Face-to-Face Mentoring**  
Greatroom

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
**Awards Banquet**  
Grand Ballroom

8:45 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
**Student Reception**  
Ballroom II

# SATURDAY, JUNE 15

## DAY AT A GLANCE

### Early Events

7:15-8:15 a.m.

**MWHIT Breakfast**

Grand Ballroom

9:00-10:00 a.m.

**Smith-Pettit Lecture**

Grand Ballroom

8:00 a.m. -5:30 p.m.

**Registration Desk Open**

Cleveland

### Session Four 10:30 a.m. – Noon

**Author Meets Critic:  
Ben Park's American Zion**  
Ballroom I

**Fabrics of Mormonism**  
Geauga

**Indigenous Mormonisms:  
Spirituality, Society,  
Scripture**  
Ballroom II

**The Mormon Image**  
Portgage

**The 1840–1841 British Mission**  
Cuyahoga

**Constructing Memories and  
Contesting Identities**  
Summit

**The History and Future  
of Social Justice Readings  
of the Book of Mormon**  
Lake

### Lunch Break 12:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Luncheon & Plenary**  
Grand Ballroom

# SATURDAY, JUNE 15

## DAY AT A GLANCE

### Session Five

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Fifty Years of Exponent II:  
Transitions, Turning Points,  
and Writing the Perilously  
Recent Past**

Ballroom I

**19th-century  
Mormon Women**

Ballroom I

**Writing LDS Biography:  
Challenges and Opportunities**

Cuyahoga

**Kirtland in the Era of the 1884  
Braden–Kelley Debates**

Lake

**Global Mormonism**

Geauga

**Community and Economy  
in Ohio**

Portgage

**Radical Strands in  
Latter Day Saint History**

Summit

### Session Six

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Joseph Smith’s Uncanonized  
Revelations: Text, Context,  
and Significance**

Ballroom I

**Well-Behaved Mormons:  
An Interdisciplinary Analysis  
of “Right-Living” in  
Mormon Identity**

Ballroom II

**Mormon Biography:  
Joseph F. Smith, George Q.  
Cannon, Susa Young Gates,  
and John A. Widtsoe**

Cuyahoga

**Reverting to a 1840s  
Understanding of  
Nauvoo Polygamy**

Lake

**Archives, Family History,  
and Storytelling**

Geauga

**Departures and  
Disagreements**

Portgage

**Latter-day Saint  
Controversies:  
From Missouri, to Utah,  
back to Kirtland**

Summit

### Evening Events

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Presidential Banquet**

Grand Ballroom

8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

**Closing Dessert Reception**

Atrium

# SUNDAY, JUNE 16

## DAY AT A GLANCE

### Post Conference Tour

7:00 a.m.

#### **Communalism in Ohio Tour**

Meet at the Marriott Cleveland East Lobby

### Devotional

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

#### **Devotional and Hymn Fest**

Kirtland Temple

9020 Chillicothe Rd, Kirtland, OH 44094

# FRIDAY, JUNE 14



10:30 A.M. – NOON

## Religious Responses to the UFO in Mormonism and Beyond

SESSION  
**1A**

Chair:  
**Kristine Wright**  
*Princeton University*

**Matthew Bowman**  
*Claremont Graduate University*

UFOs and Latter-day Saints, Science, Respectability, and the Last Days

**Michael Hamilton**  
*The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, MA*

Diverse Understandings of the Possibility of Extra-Terrestrial Life in Three American-Born Religions

**Steven Peck**  
*Brigham Young University*

Latter-day Saint Responses to Science, Pseudoscience, and Faith: Fuzzy Boundaries

**Ballroom I**



10:30 A.M. – NOON

## From Cursed and “Scourged with a Sore Scourge” to “Polished and Refined According to [God’s] Word:” The Rise of Historic Kirtland in Our Time

SESSION  
**1B**

Chair:  
**Benjamin Pykles**  
*Church History Department*

**Kim R. Wilson**  
*Ensign Peak Foundation*

**Karl Ricks Anderson**  
*Independent Historian*

**Steven Olsen**  
*Church History Department*

**Ballroom II**



10:30 A.M. – NOON

## Politics, Emotion, and Theology in Histories of Early Ecclesiastical Leaders

SESSION  
**1C**

Chair:  
**Austin Clements**  
*Stanford University*

**Garrett R. Elkins**  
*Utah State University*

Brigham Young: The Making of a Western Politician

**Louisa Packham**  
*Boston University School of Theology*

George Albert Smith: A Legacy of Leadership, Illness, and Turmoil

**Bryan E. Ready**  
*Alton, IL*

“Pious Fraud”: Dr. William Whitsitt’s View of the Restoration and Its Founders

**Cuyahoga**



10:30 A.M. – NOON

## Oral History and Global Mormonism

SESSION  
**1D**

Chair:  
**Christopher Cannon Jones**  
*Brigham Young University*

Respondent:  
**Caroline Kline**  
*Claremont Graduate University*

**Justin Bray**  
*Church History Department*

Doing Oral History in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**Diana Duan**  
*Brigham Young University*

Many Possibilities Under One Faith: Taiwanese LDS Women and Their Narratives of Varied Identities

**Vinna Chowriamah**  
*UNC-Chapel Hill*

On Being a Native “Mauritian” Oral Historian: Negotiating Multiple Roles and Identities Among Latter-day Saints in Mauritius

**Lake**



# FRIDAY, JUNE 14



10:30 A.M. – NOON

## Mormonism and Politics

SESSION

# 1E

Chair:  
**Sharalyn Howcroft**  
*Joseph Smith Papers*

**Derek R. Sainsbury**  
*Brigham Young University*  
“A Bold Stroke [or] a Species of Insanity”: Joseph Smith’s Campaign for President in Ohio

**Spencer McBride**  
*Church History Department*  
Joseph Smith’s 1839 Public Relations Campaign in Washington, D.C.

**Andrea G. Radke-Moss**  
*Brigham Young University, Idaho*  
Remembering General Garfield in Salt Lake City: Mormon Women, American Presidents, and the Search for Executive Sympathy in the 19th-Century

Geauga



10:30 A.M. – NOON

## Theologies in Joseph Smith’s Mormonism

SESSION

# 1F

Chair:  
**Stephen Fleming**  
*Anaheim, CA*

**Lynne Hilton Wilson**  
*Scripture Central*  
Building a Kingdom of Priests and Priestesses

**Jared G. Bennett**  
*Utah State University*  
“Among the Happy Number”: Religious Experience and the Nauvoo Temple, 1845–1846

**Maclane E. Heward**  
*Brigham Young University*  
Joseph Smith’s True Prophetic Task and the Quest for Communal Theophany

Portage



10:30 A.M. – NOON

## 2023 MHA/BHR Grant Research

SESSION

# 1G

Chair:  
**Josh Coates**  
*B.H. Roberts Foundation*

**Venice Jardine**  
*Brigham Young University*  
“I’ll Stay Where You Want Me To Stay”: How Latter-day Saints Navigate Doubt and Divergent Beliefs While Remaining Committed to Their Faith

**Randy Astle**  
*Independent Historian*  
Mormon Film’s Sixth Wave: Digital Cinema and the Shaping of Mormon Identity

**Jennifer Roach**  
*Independent Historian*  
Such Things Should Not Be: The History of Religious Response to Sexual Abuse

Summit



10:30 A.M. – NOON

## Podcasting Mormon Studies

SESSION

# 1H

Chair:  
**Christine Blythe**  
*Angels & Seer Stones*

**Christopher Blythe**  
*Angels & Seer Stones*

**Blair Hodges**  
*Fireside*

**Rosalynde Welch**  
*Maxwell Institute Podcast*

**Steve Pynakker**  
*Mormon Book Reviews*

**Rick Bennett**  
*Gospel Tangents*

Medina

# FRIDAY, JUNE 14



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

## New Families of the Old Faith: Women Negotiating Medicine, Marriage, and Kinship, 1870–1930

SESSION

# 2A

Chair:  
**Andrea Radke-Moss**  
*Brigham Young University, Idaho*

**Brooke R. LeFevre**  
*Baylor University*  
Gynecology and Mormon Women in Late-Nineteenth-Century Utah

**Cathy Gilmore**  
*University of Utah*  
Latter-day Saint Family Architectures and the Reconstruction of Kinship (1890–1930)

**Makoto Hunter**  
*University of California, Santa Barbara*  
“Our Relationship to Each Other”: Co-wives and Other Unnamed Connections in the Udall Plural Marriage, 1880s–1930s

Ballroom I



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

## American Missionaries in a Global World

SESSION

# 2B

Chair:  
**Caroline Kline**  
*Claremont Graduate University*

**Jennifer Black**  
*Boise State University*  
Constructing Identity in a New Land: Whitney and Alice Smith’s Leadership in the Austrian Mission

**Rebekah Strain**  
*Brigham Young University-Hawaii*  
Preaching Culture: Women Missionaries of the Pacific

**Conan P. Grames**  
*Independent Historian*  
The Early Mission in Japan: Success or Failure?

Ballroom II



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

## The Human Cost of History: Our Experiences

SESSION

# 2C

Chair:  
**W. Paul Reeve**  
*University of Utah*

**Darren Perry**  
*University of Utah*  
Unearthing Resilience: The Shoshone Nations Journey to Restore the Land, Language and Sovereignty

**Amy Tanner Thiriot**  
*Independent Historian*  
Exploring Challenging Aspects of Latter-day Saint History as a Community: Insights from Historians

**Lajeane Purcell Carruth**  
*Church History Library*  
Developing PTSD from Researching the Mountain Meadows Massacre: My Personal Experience

Cuyahoga



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

## Digital Approaches to Mormon History

SESSION

# 2D

Chair:  
**Heather Stone**  
*Independent Historian*

**Eliza McKinney**  
*University of Michigan*  
Locating “Bad Mormons”: Digital Tools for Diversifying the Latter-day Saint Archive

**Spencer Stewart**  
*Purdue University*  
Podcasting the Mormon Past: A Computational Analysis

**Jeff Turner**  
*University of Utah*  
Topic Modeling the Joseph Smith Papers Project

**Janika Isakson Dillon**  
*Northeastern University*  
Mormon Women at Work: A Digital History of the Latter-Day Saint Mill Girls in the 1830s–40s Lowell, MA Branch

Lake

# FRIDAY, JUNE 14



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

**“New Measures” in New Lebanon: The Revivalist Schism of 1827 and the Religious Awakening of Parley and Orson Pratt**

SESSION

## 2E

Chair:  
**Jon England**  
*Independent Historian*

**Brigitte Brown**  
*Utah State University*

The Religious Awakening of Parley and Orson Pratt

**Breck England**  
*Independent Historian*

“New Measures” in New Lebanon: The Revivalist Schism of 1827

Geauga



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

**“The Earth Was Once a Garden Place”:  
Hymn Texts and Mormon Identity in the Ohio Period**

SESSION

## 2F

Chair:  
**Steve Peck**  
*Brigham Young University*

**Michael Austin**  
*Snow College*

The Hymns of Kirtland: Public Poetry and Latter-day Saint Identity, 1833-35

**Rachel Meibos Helps**  
*Brigham Young University Library*

Early Speculative Theology in Hymn Texts

**Janice Gill Bunker**  
*Brigham Young University*

“Blessed With a Copious Variety”: Source Material for Emma’s 1835 Hymn Collection

Portgage



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

**The 20th Century in America and Abroad**

SESSION

## 2G

Chair:  
**Jenny Hale Pulsipher**  
*Brigham Young University*

**Bob Freeman**  
*Brigham Young University*

Latter-day Saints in the Great and Terrible War

**Sean Fitzgerald**  
*Brigham Young University*

Helen Foster Snow: Lessons in Mythmaking

**Emily Peterson**  
*Brigham Young University*

“A Woman of Courage”: Pro-ERA Advocate and Utah Politician Algie Baliff

Summit



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

**Centering Women in Their Histories: Approaches and Discoveries**

SESSION

## 2H

Chair:  
**Nancy Ross**  
*Utah Tech University*

**Hannah Jung**  
*Utah Valley University*

“I Was as Glad to See His Back as I Was His Face”: Plural Wives and Agency in Their Own Words

**Jennifer Reeder**  
*Church History Department*

The Discourses of Eliza R. Snow: Contradictions and Confirmations

**David Golding**  
*Church History Department*

Firm Believer in the Great Salvation: New Insights into Fanny Alger Custer

Medina

# FRIDAY, JUNE 14



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

## Critical Mormon Histories and Futurities

SESSION

# 3A

Chair:  
**Kristine Haglund**  
*St. Louis University*

**Austin J. Clements**  
*Stanford University*

“Satan’s Counterfeit”:  
Communism, the United  
Order, and the Tragedy of  
Mormon Utopianism

**Emma Tueller Stone**  
*University of Cambridge*

“Did he think she wouldn’t  
mind being shared?”:  
Legacies of Mormon  
Polygamy in YA Fantasy  
Romance

**Benny Cardullo**  
*Utah Valley University*

Coming Home: Developing  
a Hauntology of Queerness  
within Contemporary  
Mormonism

Ballroom I



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

## Contemporary Thought and Practice

SESSION

# 3B

Chair:  
**Lisa Olsen Tait**  
*Church History Department*

**Nicholas B. Shrum**  
*University of Virginia*

Pure Revelations and  
Mormon-American  
Conspirituality

**Holly Miller Jones**  
*University of Colorado,  
Boulder*

Miracle Accounts in LDS  
Sacrament Meetings:  
2018–2024

**El Call**  
*Lancaster University*

De-Americanizing the  
“Most American Religion”

Ballroom II



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

## New Century, New Beginnings for Mormon Women in the Early 20th Century Public Sphere

SESSION

# 3C

Chair:  
**Brittany Chapman Nash**  
*Church History Department*

**Lori Lyn Price**  
*Independent Historian*

“A Blessing to all who  
Participate: Press on and  
Acquire [Medical]  
Knowledge”

**Kelly Lelegren**  
*Independent Historian*

“Do You Believe in Lady  
Missionaries?”: How LDS  
Women Found their Place in  
the Mission Field, 1910–1915”

**Deborah Soderholm**  
*Independent Historian*

Woman, Arise: Utah  
Suffragists and the Utah  
Woman Suffrage Song Book

Cuyahoga



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

## Mormon Identity and the Commemorative Landscape

SESSION

# 3D

Chair:  
**Heather Belnap**  
*Brigham Young University*

**Laura Paulsen Howe**  
*Church History Museum*

Indigenous Australian Art and  
the Global Church

**Hillary Kirkham**  
*Church History Department*

Photos, Paper, and Place:  
Joseph F. Smith’s Centennial  
Photo Album and the  
Memorialization of  
Latter-day Saint Sites

**Josh Probert**  
*Independent Historian*

The Transformation of the  
Lion House into a Nostal-  
gic Relic Hall During the  
Late-Nineteenth Century

**Meagan Anderson Evans**  
*University of Oklahoma*

“An Old Nephite Altar.”:  
Indigenous Homelands, Settler  
Memory, and Monuments at  
Adam-ondi-Ahman

Lake

# FRIDAY, JUNE 14



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

## Aversions and Prejudices

### SESSION 3E

Chair:  
**Greer Bates Cordner**  
*Boston University*

**Mark Goodmansen**  
*Independent Historian*

Joseph Smith's Kirtland Railroad Prophecy, Governor Ford's account of "A General Phrenzy" of state internal improvements, and how they related to various church persecutions

**Ariana Taylor Cieslak**  
*Indiana University, Indianapolis*

"Lynch Law will not do in Nauvoo": The Keystone Store Robbery and the Lynching of Chism, March 1844

**Rachel B. Birch**  
*George Mason University*

The Vine and the Oak: Womanhood on the Western Frontier

Geauga



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

## Divergent Scholarly Paths: A Roundtable About Studying Community of Christ, Fundamentalist Mormons, James Strang's Church, and Broader Restoration Movements

### SESSION 3F

Chair:  
**Christopher Blythe**  
*Brigham Young University*

**Katherine R. Pollock**  
*Missouri State University*

**Kyle Beshears**  
*Independent Historian*

**Casey Paul Griffiths**  
*Brigham Young University*

**Stephanie Griswold**  
*Claremont Graduate University*

Portage



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

## The Development of the Latter-day Saint Archives

### SESSION 3G

Chair:  
**Cory Nimer**  
*BYU Library*

**Scott D. Marianno**  
*Church History Department*

Andrew Jensen, the Historian's Office, and the Politics of Archival Memory

**Sharalyn D. Howcroft**  
*Church History Library*

Records Acquisition in the Latter-day Saint Archives

**Robin Scott Jensen**  
*Church History Library*

"A Perversion of Our History": An Introduction and Discussion of the Mid-Twentieth Century Name and Subject File Arrangement of the LDS Historian's Office

Summit



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

## Exploring William Marks through the Investigation of Original Documents

### SESSION 3H

Chair:  
**Naomi Kruger**  
*University of Central Lancashire*

**Cheryl L. Bruno**  
*Independent Historian*

Ink and Insight: A Glimpse into William Marks Through Personal Letters

**John S. Dinger**  
*Independent Historian*

Beyond the Docket: William Marks's Legal Footprints in Early Mormon History

**Joseph W. Geisner**  
*Independent Historian*

Lost Chronicles: William Marks and Vanished Mormon Documents

Medina

# SATURDAY, JUNE 15



10:30 A.M. – NOON

## Author Meets Critic: Ben Park's American Zion

SESSION

# 4A

**Christopher Cannon Jones**  
*Brigham Young University*

**Benjamin Park**  
*Sam Houston State University*

**John G. Turner**  
*George Mason University*

**Lisa Olsen Tait**  
*Church History Department*

**Sara Patterson**  
*Hanover College*

Ballroom I



10:30 A.M. – NOON

## Indigenous Mormonisms: Spirituality, Society, Scripture

SESSION

# 4B

Chair:  
**Jeff Turner**  
*University of Utah*

**Kayla Becknuss**  
*Yale Divinity School*

Mormonism and Indigenous  
Spirituality of the Feminine  
Sacred Land

**Warner Woodworth**  
*University of Utah*

Indigenous Attempts to  
Build the United Order in  
Global Settings: Strategies  
Among Latter-day Saints and  
Their Neighbors (1982-2004)

**Stephen Fleming**  
*Anaheim, CA*

Jane Lead and Theories about  
Native Origins: The Premise  
of the Book of Mormon

**Esiteli Hafoka**  
*Stanford University*

From Tonga to Zion

Ballroom II



10:30 A.M. – NOON

## The 1840–1841 British Mission

SESSION

# 4C

Chair:  
**Matt Rasmussen**  
*Church History Department*

**Elizabeth Mawlam**  
*Claremont Graduate  
University*

Rethinking the 1840  
Apostolic mission as an  
Atlantic History

**Naomi Krüger**  
*University of Central  
Lancashire*

“Truth Will Prevail”:  
Reimagining the Impact of  
the Early British Missions as  
Historical Fiction

**Robyn Spears**  
*University of Arkansas*

The Ann Dawson Letter:  
The Only Extant Document  
By the First Female Baptized  
in Europe

Cuyahoga



10:30 A.M. – NOON

## The History and Future of Social Justice Readings of the Book of Mormon

SESSION

# 4D

Chair:  
**Jared Hickman**  
*Johns Hopkins University*

**Margaret Olsen Hemming**  
*Duke University*

The Pitfalls and Potential for  
Racial Justice Readings of  
the Book of Mormon

**Joseph M. Spencer**  
*Brigham Young University*

Gender in the Book of  
Mormon: Where We've Been,  
Where We're Going

**Kimberly Matheson**  
*Neal A. Maxwell Institute*

Money, Money, Money:  
Inequality and Proto-  
Liberation Theology in the  
Book of Mormon

Lake

# SATURDAY, JUNE 15

10:30 A.M. – NOON	10:30 A.M. – NOON	10:30 A.M. – NOON
<p data-bbox="363 625 526 688"><b>Fabrics of Mormonism</b></p> <p data-bbox="363 886 526 1024">SESSION <b>4E</b></p> <p data-bbox="298 1062 597 1138">Chair: <b>Charlotte Hansen Terry</b> <i>University of California, Davis</i></p> <p data-bbox="298 1167 597 1281"><b>Anna T. Rolapp</b> <i>Ensign College</i> A Decade of Historic Textile, with Kirtland Updates</p> <p data-bbox="298 1310 597 1503"><b>Katie Yeo</b> <i>Harold B. Lee Library</i> Tracing the Past with the Point of the Needle: Embroidery and Understanding Domestic Mormon Culture</p> <p data-bbox="298 1533 597 1646"><b>Nancy Ross</b> <i>Utah Tech University</i> The Meaning and Making Meaning of Garments</p>	<p data-bbox="678 625 938 655"><b>The Mormon Image</b></p> <p data-bbox="727 886 889 1024">SESSION <b>4F</b></p> <p data-bbox="662 1062 928 1138">Chair: <b>Liz Busby</b> <i>Brigham Young University</i></p> <p data-bbox="662 1167 928 1386"><b>Liz Busby</b> <i>Brigham Young University</i> Embracing and Revising Latter-day Stereotypes in Speculative Fiction: The Mormon Image in The Expanse and Stranger Things</p> <p data-bbox="662 1415 928 1583"><b>Jared M. Halverson</b> <i>Brigham Young University</i> Anti-Mormonism Unveiled: Eber D. Howe and the Rhetoric of Religious Polemic</p> <p data-bbox="662 1612 928 1806"><b>John McLawhorn</b> <i>Utah State University</i> Ink, Influence, and Unrest: Media's Role in Shaping Perceptions of Mormonism in Chester, England, 1841–1851</p>	<p data-bbox="1078 625 1263 756"><b>Constructing Memories and Contesting Identities</b></p> <p data-bbox="1094 886 1256 1024">SESSION <b>4G</b></p> <p data-bbox="1029 1062 1312 1138">Chair: <b>Michael Van Wagenen</b> <i>Georgia Southern University</i></p> <p data-bbox="1029 1167 1312 1276"><b>Jon England</b> <i>Independent Historian</i> The Red Cloud: Geneva Steel and Mormon Cultural Identity</p> <p data-bbox="1029 1306 1312 1415"><b>Michael Scott Van Wagenen</b> <i>Georgia Southern University</i> Memory and Identity in Joseph Smith's Restoration Movement</p> <p data-bbox="1029 1444 1312 1625"><b>Joseph DuWors</b> <i>Claremont Graduate University</i> Nauvoo Endowment Innovations: Ritualizing Identity in the Missouri Experience</p> <p data-bbox="1029 1654 1312 1814"><b>Sherilyn Farnes</b> <i>Brigham Young University</i> “An Incongruous Assortment at all Times”: The Ethnic Diversity of Jackson County, Missouri, in the 1830s</p>
<b>Geauga</b>	<b>Portage</b>	<b>Summit</b>

# SATURDAY, JUNE 15



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

## Fifty Years of Exponent II: Transitions, Turning Points, and Writing the Perilously Recent Past

SESSION

# 5A

Chair:  
**Michael Austin**  
*Snow College*

**Caroline Kline**  
*Claremont Graduate University*

**Aimee Evans Hickman**  
*Independent Historian*

**Margaret Olsen Hemming**  
*Duke University*

**Katie Ludlow Rich**  
*Independent Historian*

**Lorie Winder Stromberg**  
*Independent Historian*

Ballroom I



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

## 19th-century Mormon Women

SESSION

# 5B

Chair:  
**Janiece Johnson**  
*Deseret Book*

**Nanette Rasband Hilton**  
*College of Southern Nevada*

Eliza R Snow: The Rhetoric of Women's Liberation as Oxymoron

**Constance Lieber**  
*Salt Lake City, Utah*  
Plural Wives in Exile, 1886: Forming Individual Identity

**Sherrie Gavin**  
*University of New England, Armidale*  
Early Mormon Women and the Word of Wisdom

Ballroom II



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

## Writing LDS Biography: Challenges and Opportunities

SESSION

# 5C

Chair:  
**Matthew L. Harris**  
*Colorado State University, Pueblo*

Respondent:  
**Ignacio Garcia**  
*Brigham Young University*

**Matt Bowman**  
*Claremont Graduate University*

Joseph Fielding Smith, Stephen R. Covey, and Alien Abductees: Writing Complex Lives

**Chris Talbot**  
*University of Northern Colorado*

Sonia Johnson and LDS Biography

**Barbara Jones Brown**  
*Signatue Books*

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich and other Well-behaved Women Who Made History

Cuyahoga



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

## Kirtland in the Era of the 1884 Braden-Kelley Debates

SESSION

# 5D

Chair:  
**Barbara Walden**  
*Indianapolis, Indiana*

**Bryon Andreassen**  
*Church History Museum*

Arthur B. Deming: Naked Truths about the Education of an Anti-Mormon in the 1880s


**Seth L. Bryant**  
*Independent Historian*

Braden-Kelley Debates: 1880s Kirtland, Ohio, in Context

Lake



# SATURDAY, JUNE 15



**2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**Global Mormonism**

SESSION  
**5E**

Chair:  
**Esiteli Hafoka**  
*Stanford University*

**Joseph B. Everett**  
*Brigham Young University*  
A Latter-day Saint Constable in Victorian England

**Diane Livingston**  
*Independent Historian*  
The Alexander Wright Scottish Missionary Journal, 1839–1842: Reception Patterns to the Latter-day Saint Church Amidst a Period of Social Turbulence

**Jason Palmer**  
*Independent Historian*  
Peruvian Mormon Claims to (Un)marked aka Anglo Mormon Stories, Sites, and Lineages

**Hovan Lawton**  
*Baylor University*  
“They Were Your Family”: Building Latter-day Saint Community in El Salvador and Guatemala, 1960–1980

**Geauga**



**2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**Community and Economy in Ohio**

SESSION  
**5F**

Chair:  
**Abraham Benavides**  
*The University of Texas, Dallas*

**Abraham David Benavides**  
*The University of Texas, Dallas*  
New Portage: From Zion’s Camp to a Long-Lost Cemetery

**William G. Perez**  
*Florida State University*  
New Portage: A City of Refuge and Kirtland’s Lesser-Known Cousin

**Gerald Shelley**  
*Independent Historian*  
Economic Famine in the Land: The Panic of 1837 in Context

**Portgage**



**2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**Radical Strands in Latter Day Saint History**

SESSION  
**5G**

Chair:  
**Benjamin Park**  
*Sam Houston State University*

**Patrick Q. Mason**  
*Utah State University*  
“God Never Institutes War”: Apocalyptic and Zionism Nonviolence in the Latter-day Saint Tradition

**Taunalyn Ford**  
*Church History Department*  
The Radical Roots of Mormon Evangelization

**Rebekah R. Clark**  
*Better Days and MWHIT*  
Latter-day Suffragists and “The Gospel of Equal Rights”

**David J. Howlett**  
*Smith College*  
Labor Unions, Cooperatives, and Socialism: The RLDS Radical Tradition in the Long Progressive Era

**Summit**

# SATURDAY, JUNE 15



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

## Joseph Smith's Uncanonized Revelations: Text, Context, and Significance

SESSION

# 6A

Chair:  
**Stephen O. Smoot**  
*Brigham Young University*

Respondent:  
**Lisa Olsen Tait**  
*Church History Library*

**Stephen O. Smoot**  
*Brigham Young University*  
Joseph Smith's Uncanonized  
Revelations: A Review

**Christopher James Blythe**  
*Brigham Young University*  
Pseudo-Joseph: Revelations  
Credited to Joseph Smith

**Brian C. Passantino**  
*Church History Library*  
The History of Canonization:  
Joseph Smith's Revelations  
and Beyond

Ballroom I



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

## Well-Behaved Mormons: An Interdisciplinary Analysis of "Right- Living" in Mormon Identity

SESSION

# 6B

Chair:  
**Nathan Cordner**  
*Utah Valley University*

**Nathan Cordner**  
*Utah Valley University*  
More than just quietly  
sitting? An AI approach to  
analyzing LDS messaging  
about reverence and worship  
in General Conference

**Sharisa Aidukaiti**  
*Rochester, New York*  
Poetically punctilious  
behavior: Mormons'  
Perceptions of Their  
Exactng Standards of  
Conduct as Portrayed in  
New Era Poetry

**Greer Bates Cordner**  
*Boston University*  
Kicking Jesus Out of Hell:  
Joseph F. Smith and the  
Reframing of LDS Views of  
Right-Living and Coram Deo

Ballroom II



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

## Mormon Biography: Joseph F. Smith, George Q. Cannon, Susa Young Gates, and John A. Widtsoe

SESSION

# 6C

Chair:  
**Constance L. Lieber**  
*Independent Historian*

**Kenneth L. Cannon II**  
*Independent Historian*  
George Q. Cannon's Odyssey  
with Bail Bonds, 1886-1892

**Stephen C. Taysom**  
*Cleveland State University*  
"I fear No Man but Joseph F.  
Smith": The Dark Emotional  
World of Joseph F. Smith

**Romney Burke**  
*Independent Historian*  
Susa Young Gates:  
Missionary to the Sandwich  
Islands

**Thomas Alexander**  
*Brigham Young University*  
John A. Widtsoe's Appoint-  
ment as University of Utah  
President

Cuyahoga



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

## Reverting to a 1840s Understanding of Nauvoo Polygamy

SESSION

# 6D

Chair:  
**LaJean Caruth**  
*Church History Library*

**Meg Stout**  
*Independent Historian*  
No More Than Six Days After:  
Timing Joseph's Instructions  
regarding Plural Marriage to  
His Apostles in 1841

**Don Bradley**  
*Scripture Central*  
Polyandry, the 1842 Nauvoo  
Marriage Law, and the  
Origin of Patriarchal  
Polygyny

**Brian C. Hales**  
*Independent Historian*  
Joseph Smith's "Polyandry":  
Expanding the Narrative

Lake

# SATURDAY, JUNE 15



**4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.**

**Archives, Family History, and Storytelling**

SESSION  
**6E**

Chair:  
**Cindy Brightenburg**  
*Brigham Young University*

**Matt Christensen**  
*BYU Studies*  
Joseph Smith's Holographic Writings in the Revelations

**David G. Low**  
*Independent Historian*  
"Long Story Short": Connecting the Past with Present through Short, Memorized, Polished Stories of Conversion, Aversion and Reversion from Relatives from Church History

**Kent Larsen**  
*Hunter College, CUNY, New York NY*  
The History in Parley P. Pratt's Literature

**Geauga**



**4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.**

**Departures and Disagreements**

SESSION  
**6F**

Chair:  
**Maclane Heward**  
*Brigham Young University*

**Bradley Armstrong**  
*Independent Historian*  
Warren Parrish and His Aversion to the Mormon Church

**Wesley Constandse**  
*Independent Historian*  
The Lost Latter-day Saints: Examining Pioneers Who Left the Willie and Martin Handcart Companies

**Bruce Van Orden**  
*Professor Emeritus, Brigham Young University*  
How Many Presidents of the Church were there in Kirtland in 1835-1836?

**Portgage**



**4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.**

**Latter-day Saint Controversies: From Missouri, to Utah, back to Kirtland**

SESSION  
**6G**

Chair:  
**Matt Harris**  
*Colorado State University, Pueblo*

**Newell G. Bringham**  
*Independent Historian*  
Heber Bennion: Heber J. Grant's Rogue Brother-in-Law

**Alex Baugh**  
*Brigham Young University*  
Liberty Jail: Myths and Misconceptions

**Maxine Hanks**  
*Independent Historian*  
The Return of the LDS Church to Kirtland, 1977

**Summit**

Aidukaiti, Sharisa . . . . .	6B
Alexander, Thomas . . . . .	6C
Anderson, Karl Ricks . . . . .	1B
Andreasen, Bryon . . . . .	5D
Armstrong, Bradley . . . . .	6F
Astle, Randy . . . . .	1G
Austin Michael . . . . .	5A, 2F
Baugh, Alex . . . . .	6G
Becknuss, Kayla . . . . .	4B
Belnap, Heather . . . . .	3D
Benavides, Abraham David . . . . .	5F
Bennett, Jared G. . . . .	1F
Bennett, Rick . . . . .	1H
Beshears, Kyle . . . . .	3F
Birch, Rachel B. . . . .	3E
Black, Jennifer . . . . .	2B
Blythe, Christine . . . . .	1H
Blythe, Christopher . . . . .	1H, 6A, 3F
Bowman, Matt . . . . .	5C, 1A
Bradley, Don . . . . .	6D
Bray, Justin . . . . .	1D
Bringhurst, Newell G. . . . .	6G
Brown, Barbara Jones. . . . .	5C
Brown, Brigitte. . . . .	2E
Bruno, Cheryl L. . . . .	3H
Bryant, Seth L. . . . .	5D
Bunker, Janice Gill . . . . .	2F
Burke, Romney. . . . .	6C
Busby, Liz . . . . .	4F
Call, El . . . . .	3B
Cannon II, Kenneth L. . . . .	6C
Cardullo, Benny . . . . .	3A
Caruth, LaJean Purcell . . . . .	2C, 6D
Chowriamah, Vinna . . . . .	1D
Christensen, Matt . . . . .	6E
Cieslak, Ariana Taylor . . . . .	3E
Clark, Rebekah R. . . . .	5G
Clements, Austin J. . . . .	3A, 1C
Coates, Josh . . . . .	1G
Constandse, Wesley. . . . .	6F
Cordner, Greer Bates . . . . .	6B, 3E
Cordner, Nathan. . . . .	6B
Dillon, Janika Isakson . . . . .	2D
Dinger, John S. . . . .	3H
Duan, Diana. . . . .	1D
DuWors, Joseph . . . . .	4G
Elkins, Garrett R. . . . .	1C
England, Breck . . . . .	2E
England, Jon . . . . .	2E, 4G
Evans, Meagan Anderson . . . . .	3D
Joseph B. Everet . . . . .	5E
Farnes, Sherilyn . . . . .	4G
Fitzgerald, Sean . . . . .	2G
Fleming, Stephen . . . . .	1F, 4B
Ford, Taunalyn . . . . .	5G
Freeman, Bob. . . . .	2G
Garcia, Ignacio . . . . .	5C

# Presenters



Gavin, Sherrie . . . . .	5B
Geisner, Joseph W. . . . .	3H
Gilmore, Cathy . . . . .	2A
Golding, David . . . . .	2H
Goodmansen, Mark . . . . .	3E
Grames, Conan P. . . . .	2B
Griffiths, Casey Paul . . . . .	3F
Griswold, Stephanie . . . . .	3F
Hafoka, Esiteli . . . . .	4B, 5E
Haglund, Kristine . . . . .	3A
Hales, Brian C. . . . .	6D
Halverson, Jared M. . . . .	4F
Hamilton, Michael . . . . .	1A
Hanks, Maxine . . . . .	6G
Harris, Matthew L. . . . .	5C
Helps, Rachel Meibos . . . . .	2F
Hemming, Margaret Olsen . . . . .	4D, 5A
Heward, Maclane E. . . . .	1F, 6F
Hickman, Aimee Evans . . . . .	5A
Hickman, Jared . . . . .	4D
Hilton, Nanette Rasband . . . . .	5B
Hodges, Blair . . . . .	1H
Howcroft, Sharalyn D. . . . .	1E, 3G
Howe, Laura Paulsen . . . . .	3D
Howlett, David J. . . . .	5G
Hunter, Makoto . . . . .	2A
Jardine, Venice. . . . .	1G
Jensen, Robin Scott . . . . .	3G, 6E
Johnson, Janiece . . . . .	5B
Jones, Christopher Cannon . . . . .	1D, 4A
Jones, Holly Miller. . . . .	3B
Jung, Hannah. . . . .	2H
Kirkham, Hillary. . . . .	3D
Kline, Caroline . . . . .	1D, 5A, 2B
Krüger, Naomi . . . . .	4C, 3H
Larsen, Kent . . . . .	6E
Lawton, Hovan . . . . .	5E
Layton, Myrna . . . . .	2F
LeFevre, Brooke R. . . . .	2A
Lelegren, Kelly . . . . .	3C
Lieber, Constance L. . . . .	5B, 6C
Livingston, Diane . . . . .	5E
Low, David G. . . . .	6E
Marianno, Scott D. . . . .	3G
Mason, Patrick Q. . . . .	5G
Matheson, Kimberly . . . . .	4D
Mawlam, Elizabeth . . . . .	4C
McBride, Spencer W. . . . .	1E
McKinney, Eliza . . . . .	2D

McLawhorn, John . . . . .	4F
Radke-Moss, Andrea . . . . .	1E, 2A
Olsen, Steven . . . . .	1B
Nash, Brittany Chapman . . . . .	3C
Nimer, Cory. . . . .	3G
Packham, Louisa. . . . .	1C
Palmer, Jason. . . . .	5E
Park, Benjamin. . . . .	4A, 5G
Passantino, Brian C. . . . .	6A
Patterson, Sara. . . . .	4A
Peck, Steven. . . . .	1A, 2F
Perez, William G. . . . .	5F
Perry, Darren. . . . .	2C
Peterson, Emily . . . . .	2G
Pollock, Katherine R. . . . .	3F
Price, Lori Lyn . . . . .	3C
Probert, Josh . . . . .	3D
Pulsipher, Jenny Hale . . . . .	2G
Pykles, Benjamin . . . . .	1B
Pynaker, Steve . . . . .	1H
Rasmussen, Matt . . . . .	4C
Ready, Bryan E. . . . .	1C
Reeder, Jennifer . . . . .	2H
Reeve, W. Paul . . . . .	2C
Rich, Katie Ludlow . . . . .	5A
Roach, Jennifer. . . . .	1G
Rolapp, Anna T. . . . .	4E
Ross, Nancy . . . . .	4E
Sainsbury, Derek R. . . . .	1E
Shelley, Gerald. . . . .	5F
Shrum, Nicholas B. . . . .	3B
Smoot, Stephen O. . . . .	6A
Soderholm, Deborah . . . . .	3C
Spears, Robyn . . . . .	4C
Spencer, Joseph M. . . . .	4D
Stewart, Spencer . . . . .	2D
Stone, Heather . . . . .	2D
Stout, Meg. . . . .	6D
Strain, Rebekah . . . . .	2B
Stromberg, Lorie Winder . . . . .	5A
Tait, Lisa Olsen . . . . .	6A, 4A, 3B
Talbot, Chris . . . . .	5C
Taysom, Stephen C. . . . .	6C
Terry, Charolotte Hansen . . . . .	4E
Thiriot, Amy Tanner . . . . .	2C
Tueller Stone, Emma . . . . .	3A
Turner, Jeff . . . . .	2D, 4B
Turner, John G. . . . .	4A
Van Orden, Bruce . . . . .	6F
Van Wagenen, Michael . . . . .	5G, 4C
Walden, Barbara. . . . .	5D
Wilson, Kim R. . . . .	1B
Wilson, Lynne Hilton. . . . .	1F
Woodworth, Warner . . . . .	4B
Wright, Kristine . . . . .	6A
Yeo, Katie . . . . .	4E

# Awards

## **LEONARD J. ARRINGTON AWARD**

Awarded annually to a scholar whose contributions are truly outstanding for distinguished service to Mormon history. The selection committee will consider the influence of certain individual works by nominees for this award, as well as their cumulative records of meritorious scholarship in general. Awarded since 1999, this award is named and given in memory and recognition of a founding father of the Mormon History Association and premier mentor and promoter of Mormon history.

## **SPECIAL CITATIONS**

Presented to persons or institutions who have made a significant contribution to Mormon history.

## **BEST BOOK AWARD (\$2,000)**

### ***Endowed by Ken Demas***

Awarded for the best book published on Mormon history. Given to honor and encourage the sense of purpose, dedication, excellence of study, research and scholarship in the field of Mormon history. Endowed by Ken Demas, a longtime supporter of the University of Utah History Department and friend of Mormon Studies, who left a generous bequest to fund a \$2,000 annual award for the best book published in Mormon history.

## **THE ELLA L. TURNER AWARD FOR BEST BIOGRAPHY (\$1,500)**

### ***Sponsored by the Turner and Bergera Families***

Awarded for the best published biography in the field of Mormon history. Funded in honor of Ella Larsen Turner, a published historian and genealogist, and her daughter, Ella Ruth Turner Bergera, a published family historian, novelist, and poet.

## **BEST FIRST BOOK (\$1,500)**

### ***Sponsored by the Hartley Family Foundation***

Awarded biennially for an author's first book published on Mormon history.

## **BEST DOCUMENTARY HISTORY/BIBLIOGRAPHY (\$1,200)**

### ***Sponsored by Melanie and Richard Park***

Awarded biennially for the best published book of documentary editing or bibliography on Mormon History. Funded in honor of Curtis Bolten, who helped with both the writing of Joseph Smith's history in Nauvoo and the translation of the Book of Mormon into French.

## **BEST BOOK ON INTERNATIONAL MORMON HISTORY (\$1,500)**

### ***Sponsored by Wilfried Decoo in memory of Carine Decoo-Vanwelkenhuysent***

Awarded biennially for the best book on international Mormon history.

## **BEST PERSONAL HISTORY/MEMOIR AWARD (\$1,200)**

### ***Sponsored by Dawn Parrett Thurston and Morris Ashcroft Thurston***

Awarded biennially for the best published Mormon memoir or personal history. Funded in honor of Barbara Ashcroft Thurston and Morris Alma Thurston, whose dedication to preserving family history and genealogy was an inspiration to their childrens' mission to promote well-written and compelling personal life stories.

## **ARDIS E. PARSHALL PUBLIC HISTORY AWARD (\$500)**

### ***Honoring Ardis E. Parshall***

### ***Endowed by Kelly and Heather Stone and many other MHA Members***

Awarded annually to a public history project related to Mormonism that contributes new insight, demonstrates rigorous scholarship, engages primarily with a public outside of the academy, portrays complexity and diversity in respectful ways, and broadens the field of public history. The award honors Ardis E. Parshall, a pioneer in Mormon Studies public history.

## **BEST ARTICLE AWARD (\$500)**

### ***Endowed by Armand Mauss and many other MHA Members***

The Jan Shippo Best Article Award is given to the published article or essay that best exemplifies the legacy of one of MHA's most important founders, scholars, and leaders. Overall quality is a crucial consideration, as well as an author's use of interdisciplinary tools, interpretive innovation, and/or incorporation of distinct Mormon traditions.

## **THE LAVINA FIELDING ANDERSON AWARD FOR BEST ARTICLE PUBLISHING IN THE JOURNAL OF MORMON HISTORY (\$500)**

### ***Sponsored by Anonymous***

Awarded for best article published in MHA's Journal of Mormon History, as determined by the JMH Board of Editors.

## **BEST ARTICLE ON MORMON WOMEN'S HISTORY (\$450)**

### ***Sponsored by Mormon Women's History Initiative Team***

Awarded for an outstanding article on the experiences of Mormon women in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Sponsored by the Mormon Women's History Initiative Team (MWHIT), an independent group of scholars who encourage research, writing, and publications on Mormon women's history.

## **BEST INTERNATIONAL ARTICLE AWARD (\$500)**

### ***Sponsored by Joseph and Julia Todd***

Awarded for the best article on international Mormon history (in print or online journals), in honor of Andrew Jenson, Assistant LDS Church Historian, for his outstanding contribution in documenting nearly every Latter-day Saint congregation around the world.

## **BEST DISSERTATION AWARD (\$800)**

### ***Sponsored by Gerald L. Jones***

Awarded for the best doctoral dissertation on a Mormon historical theme. Funded in honor and memory of the many students of Gerald Edward Jones, who served for many years as an administrator and instructor for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Educational System.

## **BEST THESIS AWARD (\$500)**

### ***Sponsored by Department of Church History and Doctrine, College of Religion, Brigham Young University***

Awarded for the best master's thesis on a Mormon historical theme.

## **BEST GRADUATE PAPER (\$400)**

### ***Sponsored by Anonymous***

The Best Graduate Paper is funded to honor Juanita Brooks for her life of dedication, scholarship and for the courage with which she led the way in an honest and professional approach to the study of the Mormon past.

## **BEST INDIGENOUS STUDIES AWARD (Award Varies)**

### ***Sponsored by BYU Charles Redd Center for Western Studies***

Awarded in honor of Northwestern Shoshone historian Mae Timbimboo Parry, to recognize scholarly excellence in Indigenous studies presented or published in the preceding year. Submissions may include various formats of traditional scholarship such as a published book, essay, book chapter, or article. Other forms of public scholarship and engagement are also welcomed and could include public history or public programming projects, digital media, events, exhibits, advocacy, and so forth.

## **B.H. ROBERTS GRANT**

### ***Sponsored by B.H. Roberts Foundation***

\$5,000 awarded to each recipient to further the research of topics in Mormon Studies utilizing primary source documents—up to three grants awarded annually. The grant is sponsored by the B.H. Roberts Foundation in honor of B.H. Roberts who represents a heritage and approach to research in Mormon studies and celebrated the acquisition of knowledge as a compliment to his faith.

# Call for Papers



## Junctions and Communities

*Ogden, Utah: June 5-8, 2025*

The Mormon History Association invites you to Ogden, Utah for its sixtieth annual conference to be held June 5-8, 2025. Situated on the Ogden and Weber Rivers near where they join the Great Salt Lake, and nicknamed “Junction City” when it became the connecting point between numerous railroad lines, Ogden has long been a site of junctions. Long before Latter-day Saints dreamed of an American Zion in the Great Basin, ancestors of Shoshone and other indigenous peoples criss-crossed the region, establishing trade networks and sharing languages, settlements, and cultures.

Ogden highlights a confluence of events and dynamics that shaped Mormon settlement, identity, and culture, and ensured that the tradition would always be intertwined with the wider world. The railroad especially brought diverse groups to Ogden. Wealthy investors and industrialists as well as Black Americans and Chinese, Japanese, German, and Irish immigrants were drawn to the burgeoning railroad town and its economic opportunities, bringing greater influence from the margins. They built communities that both constituted and contradicted centers of Latter-day Saint power, resulting in diversity, and alternative directions. Conversely, families like Apostle Franklin D. and Jane S. Richards represented Ogden’s influence on the highest levels of the church.

In the 20th century, international and national events continued to encourage convergence at Ogden. World War II brought a military base, prisoner of war camps, and defense industries. Later immigration trends further heightened the diverse influences and people that would shape Utah and today’s global church. Influenced by outside elements, Ogden’s Mormon community continued to develop a unique religious and cultural brand that included diverse politics and a cultural presence perhaps best represented by the Osmonds, as well as iconic Mormon composer Janice Kapp Perry. Ogden also produced several prominent western historians including Fawn Brodie, Bernard Devoto, and more recently Thomas Alexander, a founding member of MHA.

While distance and distinction from others are popular tropes in the telling of Mormon histories, gathering in “Junction City” invites us to widen the lens and remember the many histories of interaction and influence that have shaped and been shaped by Restoration traditions. Ogden’s Union Station embodies the variety of these historical junctures, sitting as it does at the intersection of Wall Avenue’s business world and 25th Street’s demimonde history. Our 2025 theme, “Conjunctions and Communities,” invites presentations that explore the Restoration movement as a hub of internally intersecting variation with a history long enmeshed in broader worlds, contexts, and contingencies. We encourage scholars to reconsider points of convergence in the Latter-day Saint past, to explore coalitions and crossroads, and to be open to approaches that creatively join methodologies and fields.

The deadline for proposals is November 1, 2024. Submit your proposal to the program co-chairs through the Google form accessible via the MHA homepage. Questions may be sent to the program committee co-chairs at [mhaogden2025@mormonhistoryassociation.org](mailto:mhaogden2025@mormonhistoryassociation.org). Notifications for acceptance and rejections will be sent by January 17, 2025. For additional information about the conference, please visit [mormonhistoryassociation.org](http://mormonhistoryassociation.org).

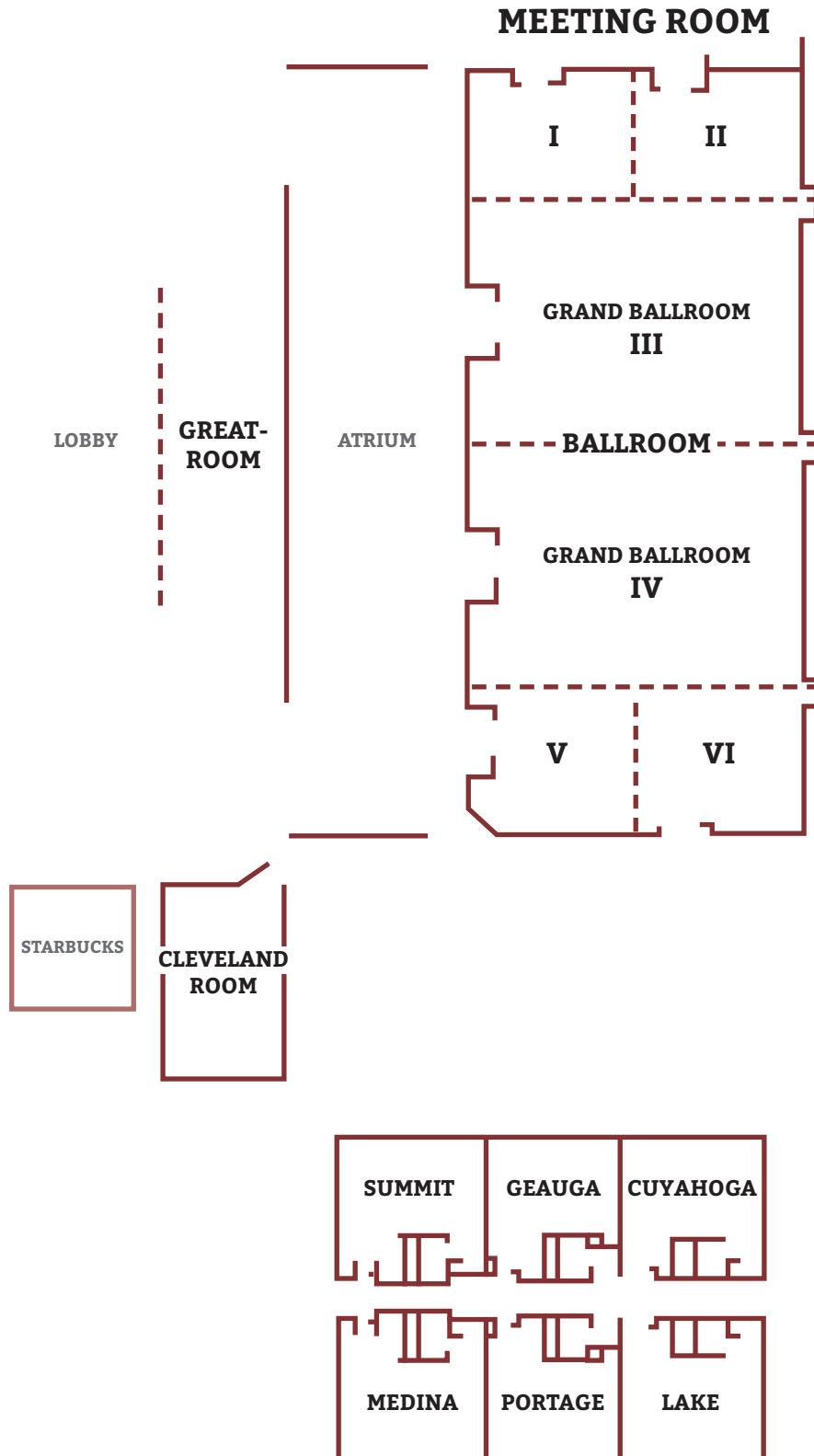
60TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



# JUNCTIONS & COMMUNITIES

Ogden, Utah  
June 5-8, 2025

# Conference Map





# Past Presidents and Conferences

## MHA PRESIDENTS

2023-2024	David Howlett
2022-2023	Matthew Bowman
2021-2022	Claudia Bushman
2020-2021	Jennifer L. Lund
2019-2020	Ignacio Garcia
2018-2019	W. Paul Reeve
2017-2018	Patrick Q. Mason
2016-2017	Brian Q. Cannon
2015-2016	Laurie Maffly-Kipp
2014-2015	Laurel Thatcher Ulrich
2013-2014	Richard E. Bennett
2012-2013	Glen M. Leonard
2011-2012	Richard L. Jensen
2010-2011	William P. MacKinnon
2009-2010	Ronald E. Romig
2008-2009	Kathryn M. Daynes
2007-2008	Paul L. Anderson (dec.)
2006-2007	Ronald K. Esplin
2005-2006	Philip L. Barlow
2004-2005	Donald Q. Cannon
2003-2004	Martha Bradley Evans
2002-2003	Lawrence Foster
2001-2002	Dean L. May (dec.)
2000-2001	William G. Hartley (dec.)
1999-2000	Newell G. Bringhurst
1998-1999	Jill Mulvay Derr
1997-1998	Armand L. Mauss (dec.)
1996-1997	Linda King Newell
1995-1996	David J. Whittaker
1994-1995	Mario S. De Pillis
1993-1994	Roger D. Launius
1992-1993	Marvin S. Hill (dec.)
1991-1992	Ronald W. Walker (dec.)
1990-1991	Richard P. Howard
1989-1990	Carol Cornwall Madsen
1988-1989	Stanley B. Kimball (dec.)
1987-1988	Valeen Tippetts Avery (dec.)
1986-1987	Richard W. Sadler
1985-1986	Richard L. Bushman
1984-1985	Maureen Ursenbach Beecher
1983-1984	Kenneth W. Godfrey
1982-1983	William D. Russell
1981-1982	Melvin T. Smith
1980-1981	Dean C. Jessee
1979-1980	Jan Shipps
1978-1979	Milton Backman Jr.
1977-1978	Douglas D. Alder
1976-1977	Paul M. Edwards
1975-1976	Charles S. Peterson (dec.)
1974-1975	Thomas G. Alexander
1973-1974	Reed C. Durham Jr.
1972-1973	James B. Allen
1971-1972	Davis Bitton (dec.)
1970-1971	Richard D. Poll (dec.)
1969-1970	S. George Ellsworth (dec.)
1968-1969	T. Edgar Lyon (dec.)
1967-1968	Eugene E. Campbell (dec.)
1966-1967	Leonard J. Arrington (dec.)

## MHA CONFERENCES

2024	59th	Kirtland, Ohio
2023	58th	Rochester, New York
2022	57th	Logan, Utah
2021	56th	Park City, Utah
2020	55th	Digital-only Conference
2019	54th	Salt Lake City, Utah
2018	53rd	Boise, Idaho
2017	52nd	St. Louis, Missouri
2016	51st	Snowbird, Utah
2015	50th	Provo, Utah
2014	49th	San Antonio, Texas
2013	48th	Layton, Utah
2012	47th	Calgary, Alberta, Canada
2011	46th	St. George, Utah
2010	45th	Independence, Missouri
2009	44th	Springfield, Illinois
2008	43rd	Sacramento, California
2007	42nd	Salt Lake City, Utah
2006	41st	Casper, Wyoming
2005	40th	Killington, Vermont
2004	39th	Provo, Utah
2003	38th	Kirtland/Cleveland, Ohio
2002	37th	Tucson, Arizona
2001	36th	Cedar City, Utah
2000	35th	Aalborg, Denmark
1999	34th	Ogden, Utah
1998	33rd	Washington, D.C.
1997	32nd	Omaha, Nebraska
1996	31st	Snowbird, Utah
1995	30th	Kingston, Ontario, Canada
1994	29th	Park City, Utah
1993	28th	Lamoni, Iowa
1992	27th	St. George, Utah
1991	26th	Claremont, California
1990	25th	Laie, Hawaii
1989	24th	Quincy, Illinois
1988	23rd	Logan, Utah
1987	22nd	Oxford, England
1986	21st	Salt Lake City, Utah
1985	20th	Independence, Missouri
1984	19th	Provo, Utah
1983	18th	Omaha, Nebraska
1982	17th	Ogden, Utah
1981	16th	Rexburg, Idaho
1980	15th	Canandaigua, New York
1979	14th	Lamoni, Iowa
1978	13th	Logan, Utah
1977	12th	Kirtland, Ohio
1976	11th	St. George, Utah
1975	10th	Provo, Utah
1974	9th	Nauvoo, Illinois
1973	8th	Salt Lake City, Utah
1972	7th	Independence, Missouri
1971	6th	Provo, Utah
1970	5th	Los Angeles, California
1969	4th	San Diego, California
1968	3rd	Santa Clara, California
1967	2nd	Palo Alto, California
1966	1st	Portland, Oregon
1965	(organized)	San Francisco, California

# WORK & WONDER

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 - FEBRUARY 2025



The largest and most comprehensive attempt to show the variety of works by Latter-day Saint artists around the world from the Church's founding to the present, *Work and Wonder: 200 Years of Latter-Day Saint Art* includes imagery from a broad array of backgrounds, materials, and styles. Rather than telling a story chronologically or geographically, this exhibition is organized into four thematic sections: Memory and Archive; Individual and Church; Sacred Spaces; and Identity.

The exhibition is organized by the Church History Museum and the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts, whose donors helped make the exhibition possible.

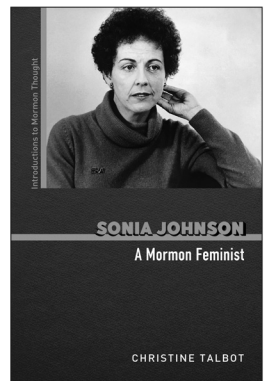
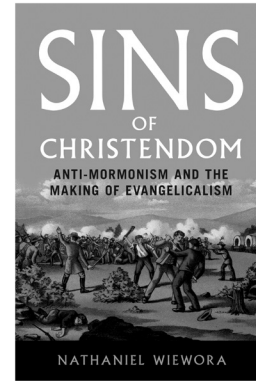
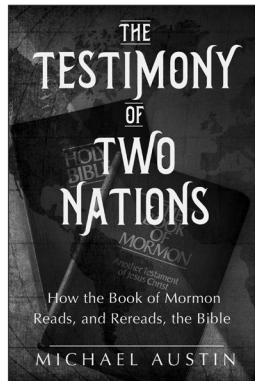
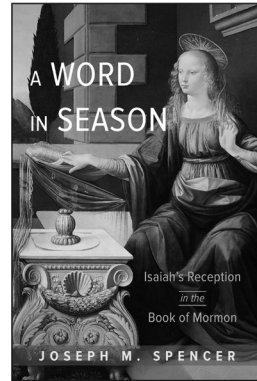
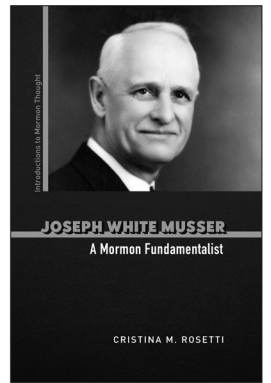
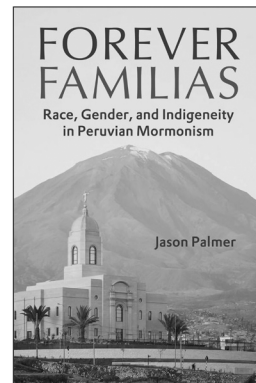
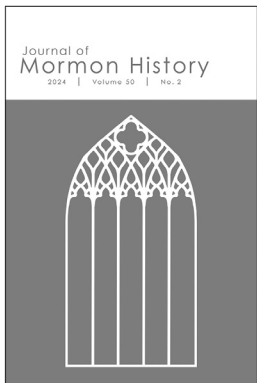
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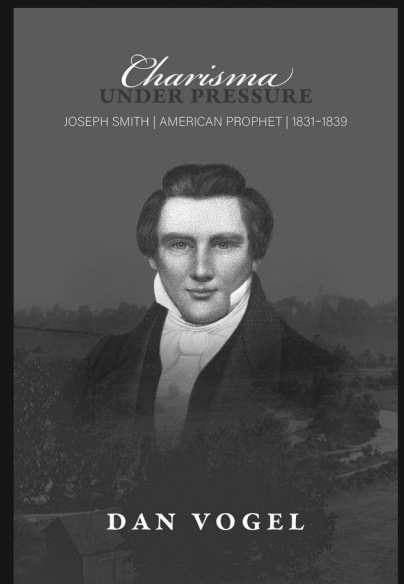
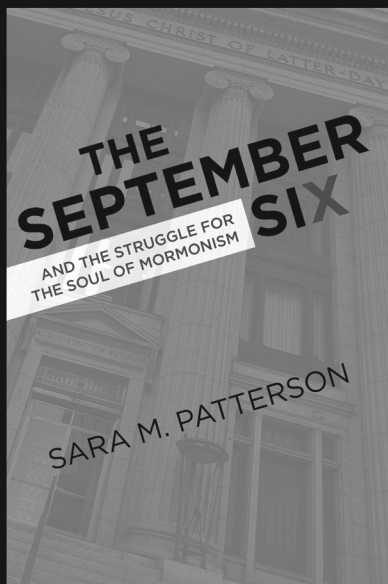
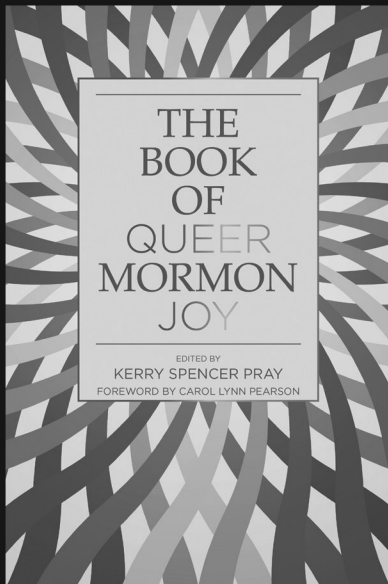
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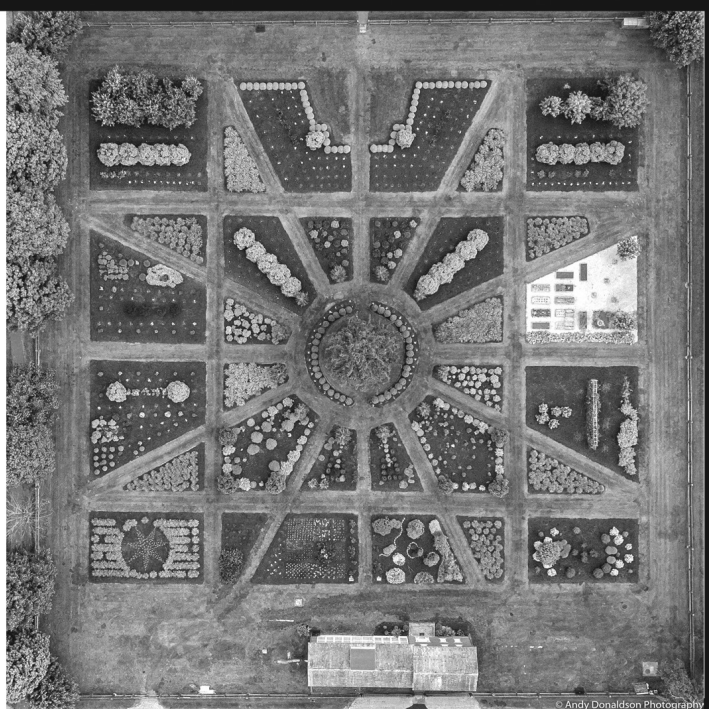
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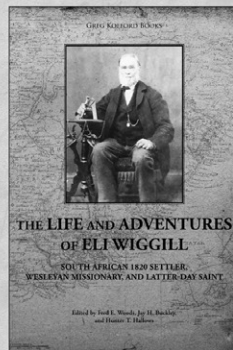


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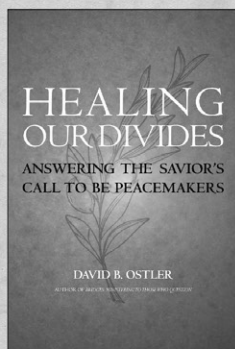


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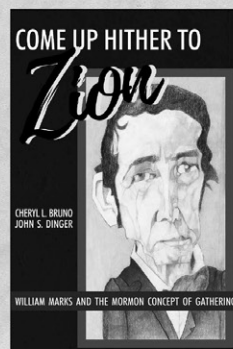


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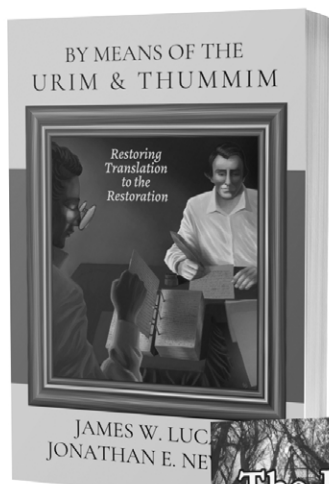
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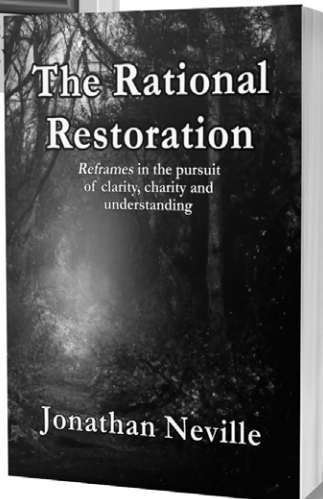
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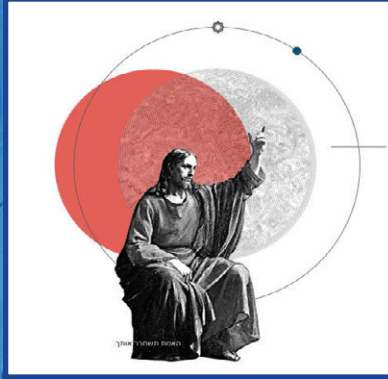




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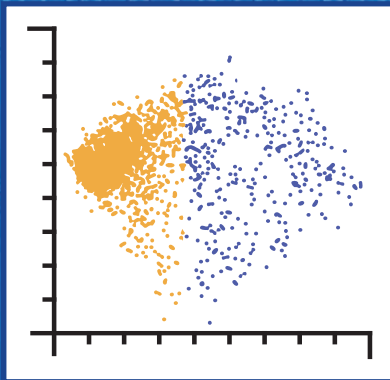
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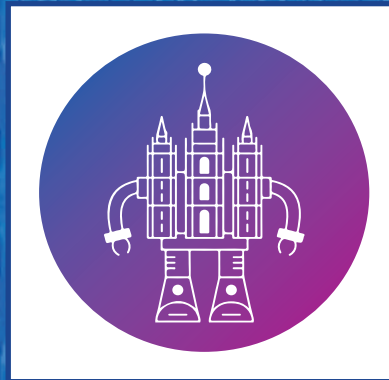
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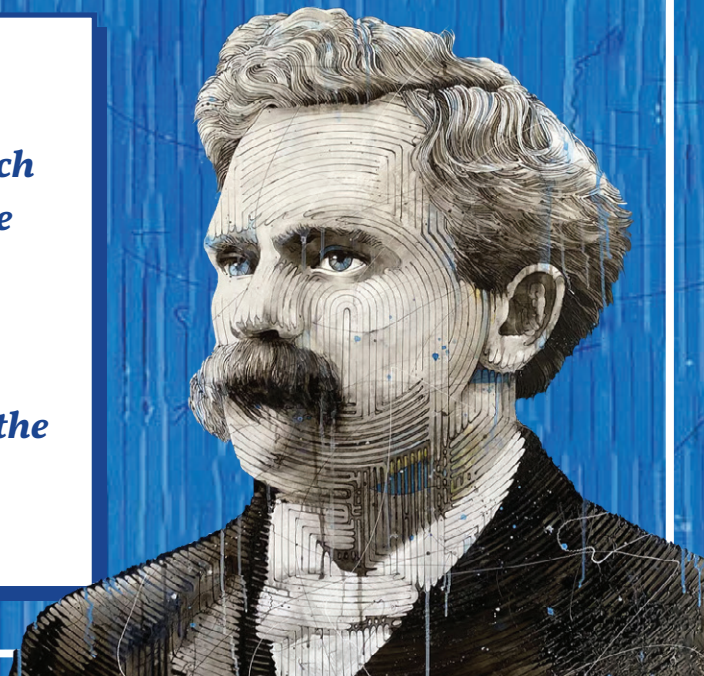


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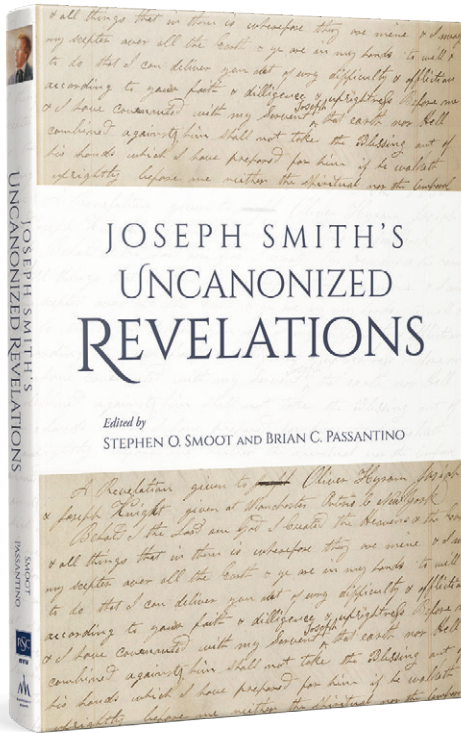
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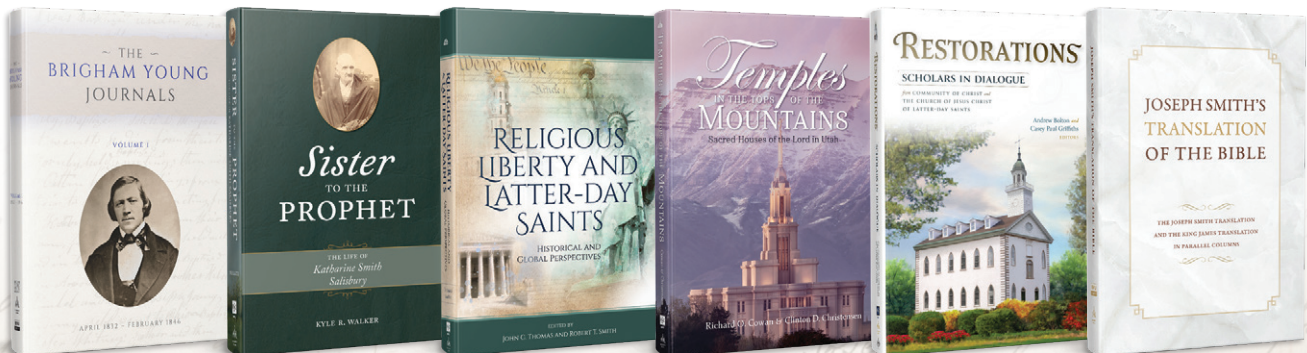
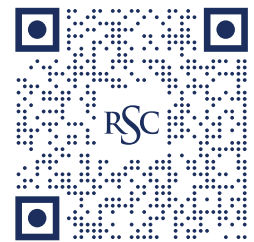


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