Sisters in Spirit

Mormon Wonten in Historical and Cultural Perspective

EDITED BY

Maureen Ursenbach Beecher

Lavina Fielding Anderson

With a Foreword by Jan Shipps

Peggy Pascoe

Sisters in Spirit Maureen Ursenbach Beecher, Lavina Fielding Anderson, 1987 This book of essays about Mormon women all written and edited by scholars who are themselves Mormon women is a brave and important work Readers will fully appreciate just how brave and important it really is however if they can see how this work of historical theology fits into the history of historical writing about Mormon women as well as how it fits into Mormon history itself The women who contributed to this book are among the best of the Mormon literati they hold that there is hope within the church for change for reform for expansion of the place of women Women's Review of Books Historians of women in America have a great deal to learn from the history of Mormon women This fine set of essays provides an excellent introduction to a subject about which we should all know more Anne Firor Scott author of Making the Invisible Woman Visible **History** Rachel Cope, Amy Easton-Flake, Keith A. Erekson, Lisa Olsen Tait, 2017-11-29 Mormon Women's History Beyond Biography demonstrates that the history and experience of Mormon women is central to the history of Mormonism and to histories of American religion politics and culture Yet the study of Mormon women has mostly been confined to biographies family histories and women s periodicals The contributors to Mormon Women s History engage the vast breadth of sources left by Mormon women journals diaries letters family histories and periodicals as well as art poetry material culture theological treatises and genealogical records to read between the lines reconstruct connections recover voices reveal meanings and recast stories Mormon Women's History presents women as incredibly inter connected Familial ties of kinship are multiplied and stretched through the practice and memory of polygamy social ties of community are overlaid with ancestral ethnic connections and local congregational assignments fictive ties are woven through shared interests and collective memories of violence and trauma Conversion to a new faith community unites and exposes the differences among Native Americans Yankees and Scandinavians Lived experiences of marriage motherhood death mourning and widowhood are played out within contexts of expulsion and exile rape and violence transnational immigration establishing civilization in a wilderness and missionizing both to new neighbors and far away peoples Gender defines limits and opens opportunities for private expression public discourse and popular culture Cultural prejudices collide with doctrinal imperatives against backdrops of changing social norms emerging professional identities and developing ritualization and sacralization of lived religion The stories experiences and examples explored in Mormon Women's History are neither comprehensive nor conclusive but rather suggestive of the ways that Mormon women s history can move beyond individual lives to enhance and inform larger historical narratives Mormon Women at the Crossroads Caroline Kline, 2022-06-28 Winner of the Mormon History Association Best International Book Award The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints continues to contend with longstanding tensions surrounding gender and race Yet women of color in the United States and across the Global South adopt and adapt the faith to their contexts many sharing the high level of satisfaction expressed by Latter day Saints in

general Caroline Kline explores the ways Latter day Saint women of color in Mexico Botswana and the United States navigate gender norms but also how their moral priorities and actions challenge Western feminist assumptions Kline analyzes these traditional religious women through non oppressive connectedness a worldview that blends elements of female empowerment and liberation with a broader focus on fostering positive and productive relationships in different realms Even as members of a patriarchal institution the women feel a sense of liberation that empowers them to work against oppression and against alienation from both God and other human beings Vivid and groundbreaking Mormon Women at the Crossroads merges interviews with theory to offer a rare discussion of Latter day Saint women from a global perspective Antipolygamy Controversy in U.S. Women's Movements, 1880-1925 Joan Smyth Iversen, 2014-01-21 This first study of the antipolygamy movement in the United States traces its growth from a Utah based women s group into a national crusade where it sparked a debate in suffrage politics. The author analyzes this debate highlighting the differing views of marriage family and the role of women held by suffrage leaders Mormon women and antipolygamy reformers Antipolygamy rhetoric masked a more significant debate within women s groups about the structure and meaning of the American family Coming in the post Civil War period the antipolygamy agenda reflects an attempt to re construct the Republican family diminish patriarchal authority and improve the status of women The reaction of the antipolygamy women was also more than a struggle for power Their adherence to the Republican family was a discourse involving not just rhetoric but a whole range of cultural forms and institutions which provided women with status moral authority and an identity Often the fear of polygamy was mingled with anxiety over the increase in divorce and the emergence of the new woman Ironically by the end of the long congressional battle over Utah and the Mormons both the rhetoric of polygamy and antipolygamy were used against the The Religious History of American Women Catherine A. Brekus, 2009-11-13 More than a generation women s movement after the rise of women s history alongside the feminist movement it is still difficult observes Catherine Brekus to locate women in histories of American religion Mary Dyer a Quaker who was hanged for heresy Lizzie Robinson a former slave and laundress who sold Bibles door to door Sally Priesand a Reform rabbi Estela Ruiz who saw a vision of the Virgin Mary how do these women's stories change our understanding of American religious history and American women's history In this provocative collection of twelve essays contributors explore how considering the religious history of American women can transform our dominant historical narratives Covering a variety of topics including Mormonism the women s rights movement Judaism witchcraft trials the civil rights movement Catholicism everyday religious life Puritanism African American women's activism and the Enlightenment the volume enhances our understanding of both religious history and women's history Taken together these essays sound the call for a new more inclusive history Contributors Ann Braude Harvard Divinity School Catherine A Brekus University of Chicago Divinity School Anthea D Butler University of Rochester Emily Clark Tulane University Kathleen Sprows Cummings University of Notre Dame Amy Koehlinger Florida State

University Janet Moore Lindman Rowan University Susanna Morrill Lewis and Clark College Kristy Nabhan Warren Augustana College Pamela S Nadell American University Elizabeth Reis University of Oregon Marilyn J Westerkamp University of California Santa Cruz The Search for a Woman-centered Spirituality Annette J. Van Dyke, 1992-07 Examining the work and writings of such figures as Leslie Marmon Silko Paula Gunn Allen Audre Lorde Alice Walker Starhawk Marion Zimmer Bradley Sonial Johnson and Mary Daly the author illustrates how these writers and activists outline **Relations of Rescue** Peggy Pascoe, 1990-08-02 First issued as an Oxford University Press a journey toward wholeness paperback 1993 Title page verso Binding Earth and Heaven Gary Shepherd, Gordon Shepherd, 2015-06-13 In Binding Earth and Heaven Gary Shepherd and Gordon Shepherd use early nineteenth century Mormonism as a case study to examine questions about how new religious movements may as rare exceptions survive and even eventually become successful in spite of intense opposition Initial scorn and contempt for Mormonism the fledgling creation of the young Joseph Smith guickly elevated to mob violence as both Smith's innovative teachings and converted followers proliferated resulting in the widely held perception that the Mormons constituted a social menace This book examines how Mormonism attracted and maintained the loyalty of increasing numbers of people despite mounting hostilities and severe hardships The book focuses on the unique Mormon ritual and accompanying doctrinal underpinnings of patriarchal blessings Patriarchal blessings were an innovative adaptation of the Old Testament practice of fathers making quasi legal pronouncements over the heads of their sons a way of verbally conferring rights promises admonition and guidance to heirs Binding Earth and Heaven shows how the organizational complexities of this practice contributed to strengthening and sustaining member faith and fealty thereby bolstering the continuity and development of Mormonism **Women and Christianity** Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, Karen Jo Torjesen,2009-12-22 This work explores the impact of Christian women as scholars and leaders representing the ethnic national racial and denominational diversity of Christianity today on all aspects of life Women and Christianity explores the experiences of women and how their daily lives interface with their spirituality and faith Beginning with a historical overview the book presents essays grouped under five broad headings women family and environment socioeconomics politics and authority body mind and spirit sex power and vulnerability and women world view and religious practice These essays focus on multiple aspects of women s experiences and contemporary Christian realities involving the interrelatedness of faith thought and activism across many strata of global society They wrestle with the daily experiences and challenges women face integrating their lives as women of faith as they are advocates experience agency and work for mutuality It shows how in all these roles women must negotiate power injustice and the impact of sexism as they work within systemic oppression amid a patriarchal system nevertheless championing change and refusing to be severely compromised White Roses on the Floor of Heaven Susanna Morrill, 2006-05-11 First published in 2006 This volume marks the tenth volume in its series Religion in History Society and Culture This series is designed to bring exciting new work by young scholars on religion to a wider

audience Susanna Morrill offers here a fine and sensitive reading of the little known and often simply caricatured history of the religious lives of Mormon women at the turn of the twentieth century She reads the extensive use of flower imagery in poetry and other writing by these women as a species of lay theologizing a way that LDS women elaborated and celebrated the latent female symbolism within a still young and incomplete religious system

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Table of Contents Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective

- 1. Understanding the eBook Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
- 2. Identifying Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
- 3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
 - User-Friendly Interface
- 4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective

- Personalized Recommendations
- Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective User Reviews and Ratings
- Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective Free and Paid eBooks
 - Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective Public Domain eBooks
 - Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective eBook Subscription Services
 - Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective eBook Formats
 - o ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective Compatibility with Devices
 - Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
 - Interactive Elements Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
- 8. Staying Engaged with Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - o Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
 - Setting Reading Goals Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective

- Fact-Checking eBook Content of Sisters In Spirit Mormon Women In Historical And Cultural Perspective
- Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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