

Items have been reprinted from the *History of the Church*, the *Messenger and Advocate*, *Journal of Discourses*, *Young Woman's Journal*, *BYU Studies*, *Women of Mormondom*, Orson F. Whitney's *Life of Heber C. Kimball*, the Faith Promoting Series, and *The Life and Confessions of John D. Lee*. The book would perhaps have been more appropriately titled "REPUBLISHED Revelations." However, the book brings together under one cover much information, albeit of varying reliability, regarding the early history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

—Kenneth C. Godfrey

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*The Heavens Are Open: The 1992 Sperry Symposium on the Doctrine and Covenants and Church History* (Deseret Book, 1993)

Understanding the early Saints helps modern Church members understand themselves as a people and as a church. In *The Heavens Are Open*, Brigham Young University and the Church Educational System have produced the latest in their series of annual Sperry symposia essays. The essays employ Church origins to provide an insightful look at several modern-day revelations and doctrines.

*The Heavens Are Open* contains essays addressing, among other topics, the restored gospel's contribution to an understanding of the Fall and the Atonement; the importance of loving the gospel, being loyal to it, and following living prophets; the value of being curious

about each person mentioned in the Doctrine and Covenants; and the benefits that resulted from several difficult experiences of Zion's Camp.

Other essays describe celestial spouses' opportunity for eternal parenthood, give examples of personal revelations received in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and show the consequences of subtle flaws in the leadership of Thomas B. Marsh when he was president of the Twelve.

The Lord's strict requirements for missionaries in the latter days are examined, and a fresh look at Joseph Smith's poetic version of section 76 is given. An especially helpful essay summarizes all references in the Doctrine and Covenants and Pearl of Great Price about the last days and warns against the use of sources other than modern revelation to obtain information on this topic.

Another essay focuses on how the Doctrine and Covenants expands knowledge about Christ's many roles and allows readers to hear Christ's voice. An account of the revelation of June 1978, which made the priesthood available to all worthy males, is moving. The "elect lady" revelation (section 25) is clearly analyzed. The meaning of the phrase "restoration of all things" is discussed.

Helpful advice is given on how to avoid being spiritually deceived, reasons for suffering are enumerated, and comfort is offered to those who suffer. The explosive growth in family history fueled by technological advances is also reported. A final essay shows how

human weaknesses and failings can be positive traits that may prove useful as mortals progress toward godhood.

—Michael J. Preece

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*Keepers of the Flame: Presidents of the Young Women*, by Janet S. Peterson and LaRene Gaunt (Deseret Book, 1993)

Anyone who has read *Elect Ladies: Presidents of Relief Society* (1990) by Janet Peterson and LaRene Gaunt will experience a strong sense of déjà vu upon reading their new book, *Keepers of the Flame*. Here the authors sketch the lives of the Young Women general presidents, whose purpose has been “to kindle the flame of testimony” in young LDS women.

Peterson and Gaunt write for general readers, and they do it very well. In this second volume, they illuminate in their familiar formulaic style the lives of ten talented Mormon women. Five of these presidents, still very much alive, were interviewed several times by the authors, some providing in addition a written statement. Although Peterson and Gaunt drew from interviews in the James H. Moyle Oral History Program in the LDS Church Archives for the chapters on Bertha Stone Reeder, Ruth Hardy Funk, Elaine Cannon, and Ardeth Greene Kapp, the prevailing sources for these four and three other chapters (Lucy Grant Cannon, Florence Smith Jacobsen, and Janette Callister Hales) are the authors’ personal and telephone interviews. Over one hundred endnote citations identify untaped interviews with presidents, and

their husbands, children, counselors, and friends. Consequently, *Keepers of the Flame* is a simpler book than its predecessor: more anecdotal, more conversational, and somewhat protective. There is spontaneity here, but where is the complexity, the struggle, or the reflective insight?

Peterson and Gaunt are not trained historians. Sources for the book are more journalistic than historical. Paragraphs fly by without adequate citation; there is lack of scrupulous care in endnoting and no attempt to provide context for the women or the organization. In fact, the book is somewhat short on organizational history (only about 65 pages out of a total of 176). However, the authors have provided in the appendix a time line of YWMIA developments and general historical events.

Peterson and Gaunt’s new book offers choice snippets of living history and pithy statements which will appeal to the general audience. We must thank them for adding biographical notes to preceding histories of YLMIA and YWMIA (1911, 1955, 1969) and look to scholars to bring more depth of understanding to the richly textured lives of these important Church leaders and more detail to the sweep of the Young Women programs.

—Shirley Anderson Cazier