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During the early 1980s D. Michael Quinn emerged as one of the most prominent and popular historians in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Most of his works were controversial in nature yet addressed timely issues. Raised by a Mormon mother and Catholic father in Southern California, at first glance Quinn hardly seemed destined to fill the role he did, but the passion he developed for Mormonism from an early age found an outlet and reached its culmination in the books and articles he published over a forty-year period, with a major, unfinished work in progress at the time of his untimely death in 2021.

After Quinn earned his PhD from Yale, he began teaching history at Brigham Young University, his career there spanning twelve years—the final two as full professor—before his 1988 resignation. Already on the radar of church leaders for his writings, his excommunication five years later marked his official parting from the church as an institution but not from his belief in its divine origins. He penned five additional volumes and numerous articles following his ousting and in 2016 the Mormon History Association recognized him with its Leonard J. Arrington Lifetime Achievement Award. In D. Michael Quinn, Gary Topping provides insight into the life of a very private man who most people knew only as a historian.

D. Michael Quinn
Mormon Historian
Gary Topping

Gary Topping is a historian and archivist, now retired, from Salt Lake Community College and the archives of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City. He grew up on the southern Oregon coast and moved to Utah in 1972 to pursue a PhD in history at the University of Utah. His first professional position was Curator of Manuscripts at the Utah State Historical Society. His other books include Glen Canyon and the San Juan Country, Utah Historians and the Reconstruction of Western History, and Leonard J. Arrington: A Historian’s Life. He lives in Cottonwood Heights, Utah, with his wife, Marianna Hopkins.
In this collection of seventeen short stories, award-winning author Michael Fillerup takes us through the wide range of Mormon culture and creates discomfort in the process. These stories—some lengthy, others only a few pages, all stand on their own throughout varied themes and diverse voices, each packing a punch that will long stay with the reader.

“The prophet released his stranglehold on the podium and leaned back, raising his voice,” Fillerup writes in the title essay. “The Lord in his infinite wisdom has determined that the time is right for all worthy females in the church, ages twelve and above, to be ordained to the holy priesthood.”

There were gasps, followed by a long hush—shocked silence was more like it.

“Brethren, the Lord giveth and he taketh away. From this day forward, all males will be released from their priesthood responsibilities, including all rights, privileges, and authority. We would like to thank those of you who have faithfully served in your callings and who have honored your priesthood over the years. Those who would like to give a vote of thanks to these individuals may do so by raising the right hand. … To be perfectly clear,” the prophet said, “brethren, you have all just been un-ordained.”

This, and much more awaits, and Fillerup never disappoints.

Michael Fillerup is the author of numerous short stories, a short story collection (Visions and Other Stories), two novels (Beyond the River and Go in Beauty), and co-author of a third novel (Just a Teacher). He has also written children’s books and published several articles on indigenous language preservation. The founder and former director of Puente de Hozho Tri-lingual Magnet School, Fillerup lives with his wife, Rebecca, in northern Arizona.
Brigham Young had dozens of wives and numerous children, but none have better name recognition than Susa Young Gates. Yet she, like so many women of Mormonism’s past, has remained a mystery to most church members. In *Susa Young Gates*, Romney Burke paints a portrait of a strong woman who rose to prominence within the church, fought for the rights of women throughout the country, yet dealt with personal trials and her share of heartbreak.

After divorcing her first husband, Alma Dunford, the trauma associated with that union was such that she steadfastly refused to mention it ever again. She also lost some of her children over the course of her life and was unable to reconcile her older sister’s departure from the LDS Church and conversion to Catholicism. Yet despite her trials, Susa found fulfillment in her faith through service, as a prolific writer—co-authoring with her daughter Leah Dunford Widtsoe the 1930 biography of her father, *Life Story of Brigham Young*, founding the *Young Women’s Journal* in 1889, the *Relief Society Magazine* in 1915, and in her associations with such prominent women’s advocates such as Susan B. Anthony.

Romney Burke is a retired surgeon. He later taught English at Ocean University of China in Qingdao under the auspices of Brigham Young University for two years and spent eighteen months in Brazil as a medical advisor for LDS missionaries there. He and his wife, Mary Sue, recently completed a mission to Hong Kong.
Envisioning Scripture
Joseph Smith's Revelations in Their Early American Contexts
edited by Colby Townsend

The first fifty years of United States history was a period of seemingly endless possibility. With the birth of a new country during the age of revolutions came new religions, new literary genres, new political parties, temperance and abolitionist societies, and the expansion of print and marketing networks that would dramatically change the course of the century. *Envisioning Scripture: Joseph Smith's Revelations in Their Early American Contexts* brings together ten essays from leading scholars on the history of early American religion and print culture. Covering issues of gender, race, prophecy, education, scripture, real and narrative time, authority and power, and apocalypticism, the essays invite the reader—scholar, student, etc.—to expand their knowledge of early Mormon history by grasping more fully the American contexts that Mormonism grew out of.

*Contributors include:*

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Colby Townsend is a PhD student in the English department at Indiana University Bloomington. He has published essays in *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, *Journal of Mormon History*, and *Intermountain West Journal of Religious Studies*. 
In Sacred Loneliness
The Documents
edited by Todd Compton

Plural marriage in the Nauvoo era of LDS Church history has long been a fascinating subject. To understand it fully requires one to look at it from the perspective of the man who introduced it, but just as crucial is a dive into the lives of the women he married, all who have their stories to tell. In his 1997 award-winning study, *In Sacred Loneliness: The Plural Wives of Joseph Smith*, Todd Compton focused on the thirty-three women who he could demonstrate that Smith married, providing life stories of many who were well-known and others who have been largely forgotten. In his new work, *In Sacred Loneliness: The Documents*, Compton returns to his subject and provides the raw materials that helped him create his original study, writings composed by the women themselves.

This volume includes many autobiographical writings, diaries, and letters, with Compton providing annotations and introductory material that illuminates these crucial primary sources. This allows readers to take their understanding of this unique group of women to a new level and to drive home that fact that their lives go far beyond the Nauvoo experiment that forever links them to Mormonism’s founding prophet.

Todd Compton is an independent historian who has written award-winning books in Mormon studies such as *In Sacred Loneliness: The Plural Wives of Joseph Smith* (Signature Books, 1997); *A Frontier Life: Jacob Hamblin, Explorer and Indian Missionary* (University of Utah Press, 2013); and, in collaboration with Charles Hatch, *A Widow’s Tale: The 1884–1896 Diary of Helen Mar Whitney* (Utah State University Press, 2003). He is currently writing a biography of Navajo leader Totsohni Hastin (Ganado Mucho), a friend of Jacob Hamblin in Arizona. Compton lives in the Bay area, California, with his wife and two children.
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