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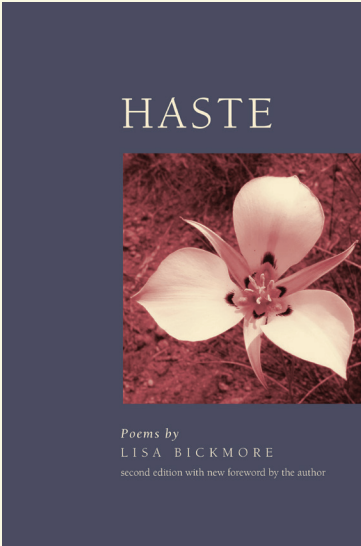
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Lisa Bickmore



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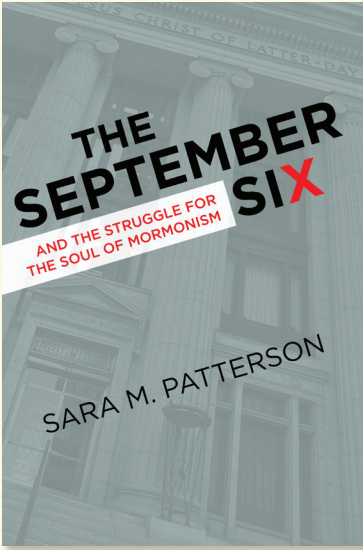
The poems in *Haste* range widely, with figures drawn from scripture and fairytale and a suburban neighborhood, through gardens and bus stops, the Wasatch Mountains and Las Vegas, at every hour of the day and night, at the limits of patience and into depths of love. What connects despair and family happiness? The worlds of dream and memory? The tenderness of new life and the visitations of the dead? The sharp accident and lingering desire? These poems do, with their explorations and questions, their figural alignments and realignments, their playful and purposeful experiments in language, which open some of the beauty and complexity of every human life. These poems find the fire and the ash, the lightning strike and the aftermath.

The second edition of the collection by Utah's current Poet Laureate contains a new foreword by the author, with insights into the origins and motives of the poems of *Haste*, Bickmore's first book. They are poems drawn from a culture, a cultural moment, but also from what one woman saw and felt, discovered and wrote, in the moment of the poems' making. These are poems that ask to be read and experienced, both testament and witness.

Lisa Bickmore is Professor Emeritus at Salt Lake Community College, where she was one of the founders of its Publication Center. She is the author of three books of poems. The second, *flicker* (2016) won the Antivenom Prize from Elixir Press. She won the 2015 Ballymaloe International Poetry Prize for "Eidolon," which appears in her third collection, *Ephemerist* (2017, Red Mountain Press). She is the founder and publisher of the new independent nonprofit, Lightscatter Press. Her appointment in July 2022 by Gov. Spencer Cox as Utah Poet Laureate will last for three years. She lives with her husband, John McCormick, in West Jordan.

The September Six and the Struggle for the Soul of Mormonism

Sara M. Patterson



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In the single month of September 1993, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints excommunicated or disciplined six of its members. These six individuals—some of them intellectuals, some activists, and some both—were soon dubbed the “September Six.” In *The September Six and the Struggle for the Soul of Mormonism*, Sara M. Patterson challenges readers to think more deeply about the events of that month and the era in which they unfolded. Patterson argues that the clever alliterative phrase “September Six” masks our ability to see that what happened that month was part of a much broader, decades-long cultural and theological debate over the nature of the church and its restoration narrative. During those decades the institutional church invested in and policed a purity system, expecting believers to practice doctrinal, familial, and bodily purity. Dissenters within the institution pushed back, imagining instead a vision of the Restoration that embraced personal conscience, truth-seeking and telling, and social egalitarianism at its core. Both sides were profoundly shaped by the cultural milieu that surrounded them. What happened in September 1993 continues to echo in the church today, having lasting effects on the institution, its believers, and the broader culture.

Sara M. Patterson (she/her) is a professor of theological studies and gender studies at Hanover College, where she holds the inaugural Barron Professorship in Social Justice Education. She is the author of multiple articles addressing the intersections of gender, sexuality, and religion. Her research also explores the intersections of religion, space, and material culture, a topic she most recently explored in *Pioneers in the Attic: Place and Memory along the Mormon Trail* (Oxford University Press, 2020). She is a former board member of the Mormon History Association.

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After D. Michael Quinn's death in April 2021, his children found his remarkable, unpublished memoir in his computer files and entrusted Signature Books with its publication. Relying on his journals, primary research, and reminiscences, Quinn shares his life story as few have heard it—from his father's hiding of his true name and Mexican identity to his upbringing by his abusive grandmother, from his choice to closet his homosexuality to his undying commitment to his faith and its history.

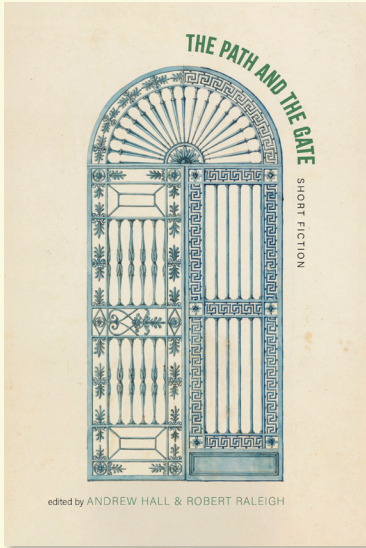
From the age of nine, Quinn felt convicted he would one day serve as an apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He chose the path he believed would take him there, eventually living as a straight LDS family man in a mixed-orientation marriage. In the 1980s he became a BYU professor and one of Mormonism's most promising, prolific, and respected historians. But his uncompromising commitment to total honesty about his religion's history, along with his homosexuality, set him on a collision course with church leaders and the end of his seemingly idyllic Mormon life. Throughout his telling, Quinn unflinchingly opens up about his feelings and experiences that shaped his enigmatic life.

D. Michael Quinn taught history at Brigham Young University for twelve years after he earned his PhD at Yale University in 1976. He is the author of several books on Mormon history, including his three-volume *Mormon Hierarchy* series and *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View* published by Signature Books. He received the Herbert Feis Award from the American Historical Association for his 1996 study, *Same-Sex Dynamics among Nineteenth Century Americans: A Mormon Example*. In 2016 the Mormon History Association awarded him the Leonard J. Arrington Award for distinguished and outstanding service in Mormon history.

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The Book of Mormon prophet Nephi describes the journey to eternal life as going through a gate of ordinances and traveling a “straight and narrow path.” Twenty-three authors took that gospel roadmap passage as a prompt to write “a Mormon story.” They responded with a surprisingly wide range of realistic and fantastic tales. Many are human reactions to unexpected steps on the path: a lifetime of faith in a patriarchal blessing’s unfulfilled promise, a survivor of violence calling a divided community to repentance, a baptism gone very wrong, and spiritual gifts that extend far beyond the apostle Paul’s list. The characters stretch from wayward bishops and helpful home teachers to cyber-Seventies searching for lost sheep in the metaverse, with settings from the slums of Mumbai to a heaven that turns out to be more difficult than expected. Some characters reject the path’s restrictions and expectations, while others can second the reported words of J. Golden Kimball, “I may not always walk the straight and narrow, but I sure in hell try to cross it as often as I can.”

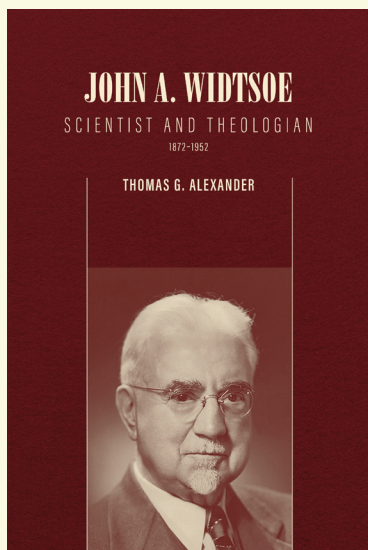
Andrew Hall is an Associate Professor of East Asian History at Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan. He co-edited *A Craving for Beauty: The Collected Writings of Maurine Whipple* (BCC Press, 2020) and is the Literature Book Review Editor for *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*. In his academic life, he writes on Japanese colonial education in China and Korea, including editing and contributing to *Education, Language, and the Intellectual Underpinnings of Modern Korea* (Brill, 2022).

Robert Raleigh edited *In Our Lovely Deseret: Mormon Fictions*, another short fiction collection published by Signature Books, and recently had an essay published in *Revising Eternity: 27 Latter-day Saint Men Reflect on Modern Relationships*. He is currently working on a documentary about the Indian Student Placement Program. He lives with his wife and kids and many animals in Happy Valley, Utah.

John A. Widtsoe

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Thomas G. Alexander



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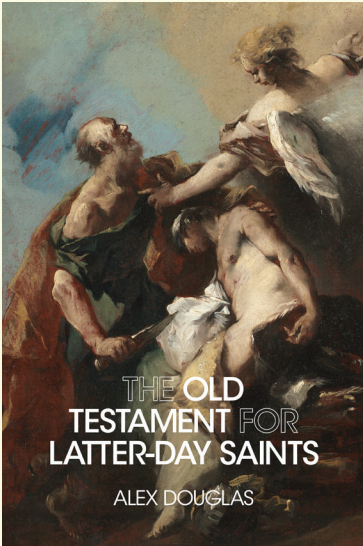
Born in Norway, John A. Widtsoe (1872–1952), was renowned for his expertise in irrigation and dry farming. His pioneering work pushed the boundaries of and contributed significantly to advancements in agricultural practices. Moreover, his forays into the field of biochemistry exemplified his relentless pursuit of scientific understanding.

Widtsoe's journey came with challenges especially after he was called as an apostle in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As president of both Utah State Agricultural College (1907–16) and the University of Utah (1916–21), he faced controversies and obstacles head-on. Additionally, he played a significant role in overseeing the expansion of the LDS gospel in both Europe and the United States. He was highly esteemed within his church due to his ability to provide thorough and insightful explanations of various aspects of church doctrine and reconcile them with scientific truths. Throughout the early-to-mid-twentieth century, he symbolized to many members the successful integration of religious faith with secular knowledge, inspiring countless individuals to embrace both realms in harmony.

Thomas G. Alexander is Lemuel Hardison Redd Jr. Professor Emeritus of Western American History at Brigham Young University and author or editor of numerous books and articles. He has served as president of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, Phi Alpha Theta (the National History Honor Society), the Mormon History Association, and the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers and chaired the Board of Utah State History and the Utah Humanities Council. His honors include the Evans Biography Award, Fellow of the Utah State Historical Society, the Western History Association Honorary Life Membership, and BYU's Karl G. Maeser Distinguished Faculty Lectureship.

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In *The Old Testament for Latter-day Saints*, Alex Douglas explores the Old Testament from various perspectives: as a believer, a skeptic, a secular scholar, and a member of the Latter-day Saint community. He delves deep into biblical scholarship, incorporating insights from disciplines such as ancient Near Eastern archaeology and the rich mythic traditions of Israel's neighboring cultures. By doing so, Douglas helps the reader appreciate the profound significance the Old Testament held for its earliest readers.

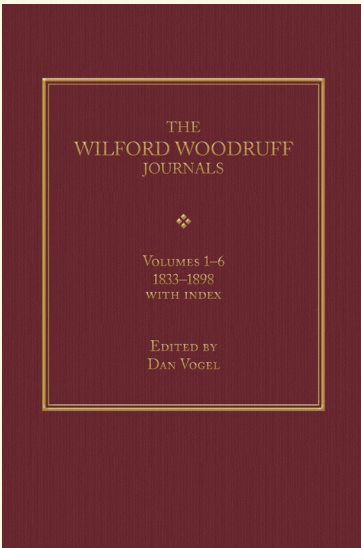
This book also explores the intriguing ways in which Latter-day Saints have interpreted and engaged with this ancient text and the author navigates their diverse interpretations of it. He examines how individuals have alternately embraced the Old Testament as myth or history, law or legend, wise counsel or sacred scripture. He shows where many traditional interpretations have come from, and offers many ways to encourage a more nuanced understanding of the text.

Drawing from a wealth of scholarly research and his own unique perspective, Douglas presents a compelling and multidimensional analysis of the Old Testament. However readers approach the text, this book sheds light on the complex nature of the Old Testament and its enduring relevance to the Latter-day Saint tradition.

Alex Douglas earned his PhD in the Hebrew Bible / Old Testament from Harvard University, with a specialization in the book of Isaiah and the Septuagint. His work has focused on bridging the worlds of scholarship and belief, and he has published articles through religious venues such as the Sperry Symposium, as well as the leading journals of biblical studies, such as the *Journal of Biblical Literature* and the *Journal of Septuagint and Cognate Studies*. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with his wife and three children.

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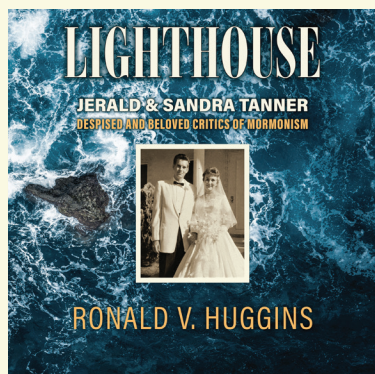
Discover the new and expanded edition of the journals of one of the most influential figures in early Mormon history with the publication of *The Wilford Woodruff Journals*, meticulously edited by historian Dan Vogel.

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Dan Vogel is the author of *Charisma under Pressure: Joseph Smith, American Prophet, 1831-1839*, *Book of Abraham Apologetics: A Review and Critique*, and *Joseph Smith: The Making of a Prophet*, which won the Best Book Award from the Mormon History Association. He also wrote *Indian Origins and the Book of Mormon* and *Religious Seekers and the Advent of Mormonism*. He is the editor of the eight-volume *History of Joseph Smith and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: A Source- and Text-Critical Edition* and the award-winning five-volume, *Early Mormon Documents*, among others. He lives in Ohio.

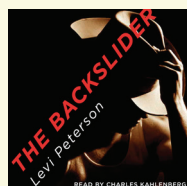
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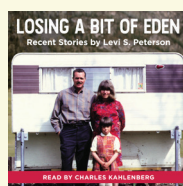
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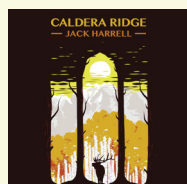
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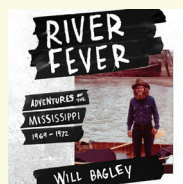
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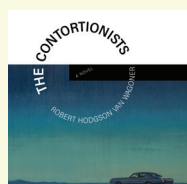
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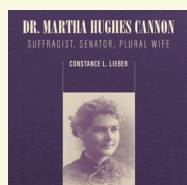
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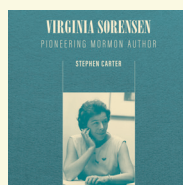
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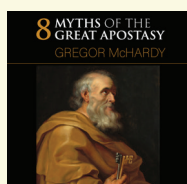
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