

seph Smith also worked on his translation of the Bible in an upstairs room.

The store started in a log cabin in 1823. The present frame structure was built in the flats of Kirtland, Ohio, by 1827. Operating the N. K. Whitney & Co. store as a mercantile establishment and as a post office, Whitney and his partner Sidney Gilbert maintained as large an inventory as any store in northeastern Ohio.

One of the first adult education programs in the United States, the SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS, was held in the store during the winter of 1833 in accord with revelation (D&C 88:127–41). The school's purpose was to prepare missionaries to take the gospel to the world. Many people told of receiving visions in the store's upper room. The UNITED ORDER, the predecessor of the current welfare system of the Church, had its beginning in the store, which was also used as the BISHOP'S STOREHOUSE (D&C 72:8–10; 78:3).

Today the building is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and has been restored to its 1830s form as a historical site for visitors. President Ronald Reagan awarded the restored store the President's Historic Preservation Award on November 18, 1988.

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KEITH W. PERKINS

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## WILLIAMS, CLARISSA

Clarissa Smith Williams (1859–1930) served as the sixth general president of RELIEF SOCIETY from 1921 to 1928, a period in which the Relief Society focused on health care and other social issues. She began her Relief Society activity as a visiting teacher at age sixteen and later served as secretary and president of both the Salt Lake Seventeenth Ward and Salt Lake Stake Relief Societies. In 1901 she was appointed treasurer and a member of the general board. Ten years later she became first counselor to President Emmeline WELLS. In April 1921, President Heber J. GRANT appointed her general president of the Relief Society and editor of its magazine.



Clarissa Smith Williams (1859–1930), sixth general president of the Relief Society, served from 1921 to 1928.

Clarissa was born April 21, 1859, in the residential wing of the Church Historian's Office in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was the first of five daughters born to George A. Smith, an APOSTLE and Church historian, and his seventh and last wife, Susan Elizabeth West Smith. This family shared the residential apartment in the Historian's Office with the apostle's first wife, Bathsheba W. SMITH, and her children. The polygamist wives and their families lived amicably in their comfortable pioneer residence.

Clarissa and her sisters received the best education available in the territory at that time. In 1875 she received a teaching certificate from the Normal Department of the UNIVERSITY OF DESERET (later the University of Utah).

Clarissa married William Newjont Williams on July 17, 1877, the day before he left on a mission to Wales. They had eleven children and lived to celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary. William was a successful businessman, regent of

the University of Utah, and state senator. In spite of their busy schedules, their family was always their first concern.

William supported Clarissa in her Relief Society activities. She later wrote: "After I was married and had seven children, I was asked to be secretary of the Seventeenth Ward Relief Society. I felt that I could not do this with all my little babies. But my husband said, 'My dear, you must do it; it is the very thing you need; you need to get away from the babies, and I will help you all I can, either by taking care of the children or making out your reports or copying your minutes, or any other thing I can do'" (*Relief Society Magazine* 15 [Dec. 1928]:668–69).

As general Relief Society president, Clarissa Williams concentrated on social problems. During her presidency, the Relief Society funded loans for training public health nurses, distributed free milk to infants, provided health examinations for preschool children, and operated summer camps for underprivileged children. She encouraged ward Relief Societies to prepare layettes for new mothers and distribute them according to need. In 1924 under her supervision the Relief Society established the Cottonwood Maternity Hospital, which continued in operation until 1963 (see HOSPITALS).

A member of the National Council of Women, Clarissa was one of nine U.S. delegates to the International Council of Women in Rome, Italy, in May 1914. She was appointed chairwoman of the Utah Women's Committee of the National Council of Defense during World War I. She died March 8, 1930, at her home in Salt Lake City.

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EVALYN DARGER BENNETT

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## WINTER QUARTERS

Brigham YOUNG's original plan for the LDS exodus from NAUVOO, Illinois, envisioned a quick journey across Iowa in the spring of 1846 and, at least for some, a journey "over the mountains" by fall. That plan called for small winter camps in Iowa, at the Missouri River, and at Grand Island, whence later

encampments could depart in the spring of 1847 for their mountain home. As the first wagons took over three months just to cross windblown and storm-drenched Iowa, this plan could not be carried out. By the time advance companies had reached the Missouri River, it was mid-June and too late for them or the 12,000 following to attempt a mountain crossing that season. A layover place had to be found.

The term "winter quarters," often used by trappers and explorers to describe a place of refuge from the hazards of winter, took on special significance in Mormon pioneer history. Built on Indian lands on the west bank of the Missouri River—now



*A Tragedy of Winter Quarters*, by Avard T. Fairbanks (1936, bronze sculpture), erected at Winter Quarters, in present Omaha, Nebraska. Commemorating the deaths of 340 Latter-day Saints at Winter Quarters between the fall of 1846 and the spring of 1848, and sculpted by a descendant of pioneers buried here, this statue depicts a couple huddled together in sorrow over the death of their child. It bears the inscription: "That the struggles, the sacrifices and the sufferings of the faithful pioneers and the cause they represented shall never be forgotten." Courtesy Brigham Young University.