desolation (1 Ne. 21:20–21). Those who accept “marriage” with the Lord are to experience joy as abundant as that of a barren woman who becomes a mother of many children, and the Lord consoles his people by saying, “For thy maker, thy husband, the Lord of Hosts is his name; . . . For a small moment have I forsaken thee, but with great mercies will I gather thee” (3 Ne. 22:1, 5–8; Isa. 54:1, 5–8).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

DONNA LEE BOWEN
CAMILLE S. WILLIAMS

WOMEN’S TOPICS

[Women; their roles in the family, in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and in the community; and other issues of concern to them are the subjects of several articles in this encyclopedia. Also included are the biographies of women who have figured prominently in the history of the Church.

For a discussion of both doctrinal perspectives and historical influences on women’s roles, see Feminism; Mother in Heaven; Mother in Israel; Motherhood (cf. Fatherhood); Single Adults; Sisterhood (cf. Brotherhood); and Women, Roles of (cf. Men, Roles of). Related articles include Family; Marriage; and Plural Marriage.

For issues related to sexuality and reproduction, see Abortion; Birth Control; Maternity and Child Health Care; Sex Education; and Sexuality.

Articles discussing women in the scriptures include Eve; Mary, Mother of Jesus; Ruth; Sarah; and Women in the Book of Mormon.

Among Church Auxiliary Organizations, three are headed by women: Primary; Relief Society; and Young Women. See also Retrenchment Association. For biographies of individual women, including many who served as auxiliary presidents, see Fox, Ruth May; Gates, Susa Young; Horne, Mary Isabella; Kimball, Sarah Granger; Lyman, Amy Brown; Parmley, LaVern Watts; Robison, Louise Yates; Rogers, Aurelia Spencer; Smith, Bathsheba Bigler; Smith, Emma Hale; Smith, Lucy Mack; Smith, Mary Fielding; Snow, Eliza R.; Spafford, Belle Smith; Taylor, Elmina Shephard; Wells, Emmeline B.; Williams, Clarissa Smith; and Young, Zina Huntington.

Publications by and for LDS women have included Relief Society Magazine; Woman’s Exponent; and Young Woman’s Journal.

[See also Abuse, Spouse and Child; Divorce; Silk Culture; and Woman Suffrage.]

WOODRUFF, WILFORD

Wilford Woodruff (1807–1898), the fourth President of the Church, is especially remembered for his 1890 MANIFESTO, which led to the discontinuance of PLURAL MARRIAGE among the Latter-day Saints and to the assimilation of Utah into the political and economic mainstream of America. Prior to that event he led a strenuous life, notable for his remarkable success as a missionary and his diligence as one of the Church’s premier diarists.

Wilford was born in Farmington, Hartford County, Connecticut, on March 1, 1807. His father, a miller, worked hard to support a family of eight sons and one daughter. Wilford was fifteen months old when his mother died of spotted fever at age twenty-six. During his early years Wilford worked as a miller, attended school, fished with his brother Thompson, and engaged in the social life of the community. At an early age he became con-