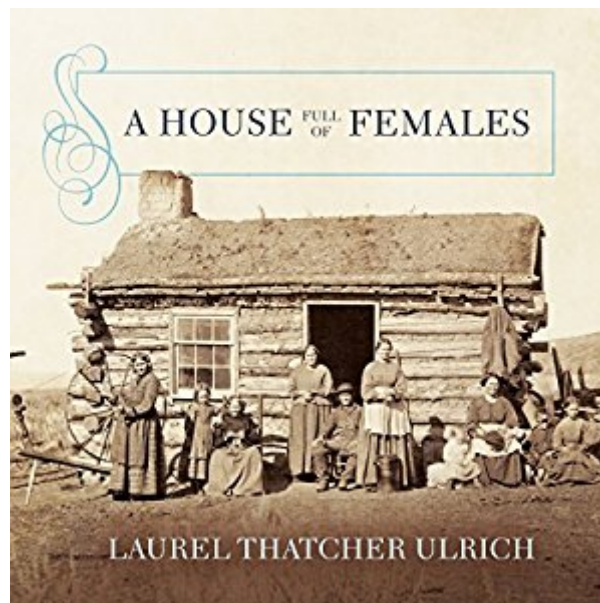




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A House Full Of Females: Plural Marriage And Women's Rights In Early Mormonism, 1835-1870



Synopsis

A stunning and sure to be controversial book that pieces together, through more than two dozen 19th-century diaries, letters, albums, minute books, and quilts left by first-generation Latter-day Saints, or Mormons, the never before told story of the earliest days of the women of Mormon "plural marriage", whose right to vote in the state of Utah was given to them by a Mormon-dominated legislature as an outgrowth of polygamy in 1870, 50 years ahead of the vote nationally ratified by Congress, and who became political actors in spite of, or because of, their marital arrangements. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, writing of this small group of Mormon women who've previously been seen as mere names and dates, has brilliantly reconstructed these textured, complex lives to gives us a fulsome portrait of who these women were and of their "sex radicalism" - the idea that a woman should choose when and with whom to bear children.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ms Ulrich is the best in the world at assembling a picture of the lives of real people from diaries, newspapers, pictures, quilts and whatever. The hype on this book is that women supported polygamy and gained voting rights. I don't see it that way. First, these were respectful women who often buried their feelings in a few words, or none at all. Ms Ulrich does a good job of telling us when women supported the practice and when they were despondent. Second, that shortchanges the book. This isn't a treatise on polygamy, it's a treasure trove of understanding of the western settlers' lives. How they organized westward movements, what they did all day, family relationships,

nothing will teach you social history like this. Overlaid was my first introduction to the Mormon church, not just polygamy but the tenants of their faith, their mission trips, their organization, and their successes and failures. The book deepened my sense of gratitude to the strong women who made this country.

The parts about the women and families was well written and interesting. Learned so much about American history I never knew. Religion was fairly portrayed without bias. Got a little bogged down in statistics at times.

Beautifully written. I often thought, " How did she think of writing that sentence like that! " And then weaving together diaries, using words written in that time to flesh out our history makes the time period and the events real. Great book.

Well written interesting story.

Very interesting. Remember that things were done very differently back then than today. And periodically step back and look at the big picture of the gospel. Don't get mired in the details.

Most excellent research and writing, Very disturbing experiences, however; glad our society has moved beyond.

Thather is an impressive researcher and know how to put the research together for an informative and enjoyable book.

I bought this as a gift for my wife. She loved it, found it very interesting.

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