

Biographical Directory Editorial Conventions

The names of more than two thousand individuals appear in the documents published in *The First Fifty Years of Relief Society: Key Documents in Latter-day Saint Women's History*. The biographical register on this website will contain documented entries for almost all of these individuals, as well as for some of the individuals who appear only in annotation. These entries identify persons by complete name (correctly spelled), birth and death dates and places, and parentage. Additional biographical information is given for roughly four hundred women and men who play more prominent roles in the documents.

Any references to baptism denote entry into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, unless otherwise specified. Locations that are noted include city or town, county, and state, when identified, for the first mention of a locale in each sketch. The counties and states of a handful of well-known cities have been omitted. Parenthetically listed at the end of each biographical entry are the numbers for every document text in which the person's name appears in *The First Fifty Years of Relief Society*.

Entries for women give all maiden and married names and are generally listed under the surnames by which the women were known at the time they appear in the documents. For example, Ann Atlass Robinson Coulam Doull is listed in this directory as "Coulam Doull, Ann Atlass Robinson" because she was known under the married name Coulam at the time she figures in the documents. For women who were plural wives of Joseph or Hyrum Smith, the surname Smith has not been included; exceptions have been made for women who went by Smith during their lifetimes.

In the documents, many personal names are given incompletely or are spelled unconventionally. The editors have supplied additional name information in the documents in brackets where needed to aid the reader in finding the matching person in the biographical directory. When a name in the text has two or more possible identifications, the name as it appears in the document is listed in this register with a "See" followed by the potential identifications. At times, a name in a document will contain a middle initial that is not present in the person's biographical entry. This omission does not necessarily mean that the middle initial is erroneous; rather, it indicates that researchers were unable to find further documentation that either confirmed or corrected the initial.

Researchers have utilized original sources whenever possible. One of the more frequently cited sources is an index of patriarchal blessings received by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The index is held at the Church History Library in Salt Lake City and is closed to research. The index was used to obtain key genealogical information such as date and place of birth in situations where such information was otherwise not available in reliable sources.

Abbreviations for Frequently Cited Repositories

CHL Church History Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City

FHL Family History Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City

NARA National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC