

❖ THE ❖  
JOSEPH SMITH  
PAPERS  
CONFERENCE



**SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2023**

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DAY 1—SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

9:00–9:35 A.M.

### REMARKS

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 CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER

**Elder Kyle S. McKay**, Church History Department

**President Dallin H. Oaks**, First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

9:40–10:40 A.M.

### SESSION ONE: ROUNDTABLE

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COMMENCING THE PROJECT: REFLECTIONS ON THE ORIGIN AND EARLY DAYS OF THE JOSEPH SMITH PAPERS

 CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER

**Chair: Brent M. Rogers**, Joseph Smith Papers

**Gail Miller, Owner**, The Larry H. Miller Company

**Elder Marlin K. Jensen**, Church History Department

**Ronald K. Esplin**, Joseph Smith Papers

**Ronald O. Barney**, Joseph Smith Papers

11:00–12:15 P.M.

### SESSION TWO: PANEL

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TELLING THE STORY OF JOSEPH SMITH: DOCUMENTARY EDITING, HISTORY, AND BIOGRAPHY

 CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER

**Chair: Steven C. Harper**, Brigham Young University

**Sara Martin**, Massachusetts Historical Society  
“Beyond Joseph Smith: Lessons from the Joseph Smith Papers Project”

**Robin Scott Jensen**, Joseph Smith Papers  
“The Joseph Smith Papers in the Context of Latter-day Saint Documentary Editing”

**Richard E. Turley Jr.**, Former Assistant Church Historian  
“The Joseph Smith Papers as a Biographical Resource”

12:15–1:45 P.M.

### LUNCH BREAK

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1:45–3:00 P.M.

**SESSION THREE: PANEL**

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**WOMEN, GENDER, AND FAMILY IN  
JOSEPH SMITH'S AMERICA**

📍 **CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER**

**Chair: Reid L. Neilson**, Brigham Young University

**Kathleen Flake**, University of Virginia  
"Temple, Priesthood, and the Joseph Smith Papers"

**Sarah M. S. Pearsall**, Johns Hopkins University  
"Plural Marriage and the Joseph Smith Papers"

**Laurel Thatcher Ulrich**, Harvard University  
"The Nauvoo Relief Society and the Myth of Seneca Falls:  
New Insights from the Joseph Smith Papers Project"

3:20–4:35 P.M.

**SESSION FOUR: PANEL**

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**RACE, ETHNICITY, AND POLITICS IN  
JOSEPH SMITH'S AMERICA**

📍 **CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER**

**Chair: Gerrit J. Dirkmaat**, Brigham Young University

**Jessica M. Nelson**, Joseph Smith Papers  
"Would You Not Be Indignant?" Joseph Smith's Evolving Views on Race  
and Redemption in Antebellum America"

**Brenden W. Rensink**, Brigham Young University  
"Indigenous Peoples and the Early Church: What the Joseph Smith  
Papers Do and Do Not Reveal"

**Spencer W. McBride**, Joseph Smith Papers  
"Searching for Joseph Smith's Political Philosophy"

4:55–5:55 P.M.

**SESSION FIVE: KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

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📍 **CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER**

**Introduction:** Matthew S. McBride, Church History Department

**Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp**, Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor,  
Washington University in St. Louis  
"Remember Their Labors: The Everyday Work of Zion-Building  
in the Joseph Smith Papers"

## DAY 2—SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

9:00–10:00 A.M.

### SESSION SIX: ROUNDTABLE

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#### PUBLISHING THE PAPERS: THE EXPERIENCE OF WORKING ON THE PROJECT

📍 CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER

**Chair: Matthew C. Godfrey**, Joseph Smith Papers

**Petra Javadi-Evans**, Joseph Smith Papers

**Sharon E. Nielsen**, Joseph Smith Papers

**Alex D. Smith**, Joseph Smith Papers

**R. Eric Smith**, Joseph Smith Papers

10:20–11:35 A.M.

### SESSION SEVEN: PANEL

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#### CHALLENGING THE NARRATIVE OF ZION: NEW VIEWS ON CONFLICT, DISSENSION, AND FINANCE IN THE KINGDOM

📍 CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER

**Chair: Alexander L. Baugh**, Brigham Young University

**Adam Jortner**, Auburn University

"Towards a Full History of the Expulsion from Independence"

**Matthew C. Godfrey**, Joseph Smith Papers

"'Perpetual Troublemaker' or 'A Truly Good Man'? Looking Beyond  
Sylvester Smith's Camp of Israel Experiences"

**Elizabeth A. Kuehn**, Joseph Smith Papers

"Financing the Nauvoo Temple: Daily Labor, the Widow's Mite,  
Deathbed Donations, and the Commitment of the Saints"

11:35–1:05 P.M.

### LUNCH BREAK

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1:05–2:20 P.M.

### SESSION EIGHT: PANEL

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#### JOSEPH SMITH'S REVELATION, SCRIPTURE, AND THEOLOGY

📍 CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER

**Chair: Michael Hubbard MacKay**, Brigham Young University

**Richard Bushman**, Columbia University

"The Joseph Smith Papers and Scholarly Diplomacy"

**Kimberly Matheson**, Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship  
"Because of Transgression: The Lost 116 Pages and the Garden of Eden"

**Seth Perry**, Princeton University  
"Surrounding Objects' and 'Small Things': Scenes of Scriptural Production in the Joseph Smith Papers"

**2:40–3:55 P.M.**

**SESSION NINE: CONCURRENT PANEL A**

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**THE MARTYRDOM AND ITS AFTERMATH**

📍 **CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER**

**Chair: Adam H. Petty**, Joseph Smith Papers

**Brett D. Dowdle**, Joseph Smith Papers  
"Statement of Facts!": Crafting the Early Narrative of the Martyrdom in June and July 1844"

**Jeffrey D. Mahas**, Joseph Smith Papers  
"Look Well to Your Legal Rights": Emma Smith and the Conflict over Joseph Smith's Estate"

**Sharalyn D. Howcroft**, Joseph Smith Papers  
"Administrators and Lawsuits: The Disposal of the Joseph Smith Estate"

**2:40–3:55 P.M.**

**SESSION NINE: CONCURRENT PANEL B**

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**JOSEPH SMITH AND THE LAW: SOURCES FOR HISTORIANS AND LEGAL SCHOLARS**

📍 **ARNOLD FRIBERG GALLERY**

**Chair: Christian Heimburger**, Joseph Smith Papers

**David W. Grua**, Joseph Smith Papers  
"This Is the Most Painful Thing I Ever Have to Do": Joseph Smith, the Mayor's Court, and the Social History of Nauvoo"

**Nathan B. Oman**, William & Mary Law School  
"The Challenges of Telling Joseph Smith's Legal Stories"

**Jeffrey N. Walker**, J. Reuben Clark Law School  
"Legal Highlights from the Restoration"

# PARTICIPANT BIOS

## ALEXANDER L. BAUGH

Alexander L. Baugh is a professor and former chair of the Department of Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University and a coeditor of *Documents, Volume 4*; *Documents, Volume 5*; and *Documents, Volume 6 of The Joseph Smith Papers*.

## RONALD O. BARNEY

Ronald O. Barney is the former executive director of the Mormon History Association. He worked for thirty-three years as an archivist and historian before retiring from the Church History Department in 2011. He was associate editor of the Joseph Smith Papers and executive producer of the Joseph Smith Papers television series. His books on Latter-day Saint history have won several awards.

## RICHARD BUSHMAN

Richard Bushman is Gouverneur Morris Professor of History, *emeritus*, at Columbia University and author of *Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling*. He was an editor of the Joseph Smith Papers until 2011. His most recent book, *Joseph Smith's Gold Plates*, was published this month. He is chairman of the board of the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts.

## GERRIT J. DIRKMAAT

Gerrit J. Dirkmaat is an associate professor of Church history and doctrine at Brigham Young University. He received his PhD from the University of Colorado in 2010, where he studied nineteenth-century American expansionism and foreign relations. He worked as a historian and writer for the Church History Department from 2010 to 2014 with the Joseph Smith Papers Project and served as a volume coeditor and historian for *Documents, Volume 1*, and as the lead volume editor on *Documents, Volume 3*. He has continued to work as a volunteer editor for the Joseph Smith Papers Project on *Administrative Records, Council of Fifty, Minutes, March 1844–January 1846* and *Documents, Volume 8*.

## BRETT D. DOWDLE

Brett D. Dowdle is a historian for the Church History Department. He holds BA and MA degrees in history from Brigham Young University and received a PhD in American history from Texas Christian University

in 2018. He was a document editor for *Documents, Volume 8*; *Documents, Volume 11*; and *Documents, Volume 15 of The Joseph Smith Papers*.

## RONALD K. ESPLIN

Ronald K. Esplin is a general editor of the Joseph Smith Papers. He served as the project's managing editor until 2012. From 1972 until 1980, he was part of the History Division of the Historical Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He moved to Brigham Young University in 1980 when the History Division was transferred there and became the Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Latter-day Saint History. From 1986 through 2002, he served as managing director of the Smith Institute and as a professor of Church history and doctrine. Most of his publications have focused on Brigham Young and early Utah or pre-Utah Latter-day Saint history, including *Men with a Mission: The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in the British Isles, 1837–1841*.

## KATHLEEN FLAKE

Kathleen Flake is the Richard Lyman Bushman Professor of Mormon Studies at the University of Virginia and founding director of its Mormon Studies Program. Appointed to the Religious Studies faculty, she teaches courses in American religious history, with an emphasis on religious adaptation and the interaction of religion and law. She is the author of *The Politics of American Religious Identity: The Seating of Senator Reed Smoot, Mormon Apostle* and several scholarly articles. Her current project is "Mormon Matriarchy, a Study of Gendered Power in Antebellum America."

## MATTHEW C. GODFREY

Matthew C. Godfrey is a general editor of the Joseph Smith Papers. He holds a PhD in American and public history from Washington State University. Matt previously served as managing historian of the Joseph Smith Papers from 2013 to 2021 and was the lead historian on three volumes of the Documents series. He has authored or coedited several books, including *Know Brother Joseph: New Perspectives on Joseph Smith's Life and Character* (Deseret Book, 2019), and has published articles in a variety of academic journals and scholarly anthologies. His research

interests and expertise include the beet sugar industry, environmental history, and the history of Zion's Camp.

### **MATTHEW J. GROW**

Matthew J. Grow is managing director of the Church History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served for many years as a general editor of the Joseph Smith Papers.

### **DAVID W. GRUA**

David W. Grua is a historian with the Joseph Smith Papers. He has served as a volume editor for several volumes in the Documents series and as the lead historian of the online Legal Records series. David holds a PhD in American history from Texas Christian University, and he is the author of the award-winning *Surviving Wounded Knee: The Lakotas and the Politics of Memory* (Oxford University Press, 2016).

### **STEVEN C. HARPER**

Steven C. Harper is a professor of Church history at Brigham Young University and editor-in-chief of BYU Studies. He was formerly a volume editor of the Joseph Smith Papers and managing historian of *Saints: The Story of the Church of Jesus Christ in the Latter Days*.

### **CHRISTIAN HEIMBURGER**

Christian Heimburger is a historian and volume editor with the Joseph Smith Papers. He coedited *Documents, Volume 5* and *Documents, Volume 9* and was lead editor of *Documents, Volume 13*. Christian earned a bachelor's degree in American studies from Brigham Young University and a PhD in American history from the University of Colorado Boulder. He specializes in the cultural, ethnic, and religious history of the United States, with a particular focus on the American West, the Pacific, and modern Japan.

### **SHARALYN D. HOWCROFT**

Sharalyn Howcroft is project archivist for the Joseph Smith Papers and is an editor for the online Legal Records series. She received an MA in library and information science with an archival studies concentration from the

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She has been a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists since 2015 and a digital archives specialist since 2021.

### **PETRA JAVADI-EVANS**

Petra Javadi-Evans is an editorial manager for the Church Historian's Press. She is also a reference editor for the Joseph Smith Papers and *Saints: The Story of the Church of Jesus Christ in the Latter Days*. She earned a BA in editing and publishing and minors in anthropology and design from Brigham Young University. She also received a professional development certification in project management from the University of Utah. She is now pursuing an MA in history from the University of Utah. She wrote a short essay, "Knowledge Saves a Man: Joseph Smith's Devotion to Learning," for the book *Know Brother Joseph* (Deseret Book, 2019) and has source checked scholarly articles and books for independent historians.

### **ELDER MARLIN K. JENSEN**

Elder Marlin K. Jensen was named a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1989. He served as executive director of the Church History Department from 1996 to 1998 and was sustained as Church Historian and Recorder in the April 2005 general conference and served until 2012, when he was granted emeritus status. Elder Jensen was an influential leader during the early days of the Joseph Smith Papers Project. Previously he served in the presidency of the Seventy and as the executive director of the Curriculum, Historical, Priesthood, and Family and Church History Departments.

### **ROBIN SCOTT JENSEN**

Robin Scott Jensen is a historian and archivist for the Joseph Smith Papers and coedited the five volumes in the Revelations and Translations series (published 2009, 2011, 2015, 2018, and 2021). He specializes in document and transcription analysis and previously served as an associate managing historian for the project. In 2005 he earned an MA degree in American history from Brigham Young University, and in 2009 he

earned a second MA in library and information science with an archival concentration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 2019 he earned a PhD in history at the University of Utah. He completed training at the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents in 2007. He has published several articles and presented papers at various scholarly conferences.

### ADAM JORTNER

Adam Jortner is the Goodwin-Philpott Professor of Religion in the Department of History at Auburn University. He is the author of three books, including *No Place for Saints: Mobs and Mormons in Jacksonian America*, which won the Best Book Award from the Mormon History Association in 2022. His next book, *Promised Land*, is a history of American Jews and the American Revolution.

### J. CHASE KIRKHAM

J. Chase Kirkham is a historian with the Joseph Smith Papers. He holds a PhD in religious studies from Claremont Graduate University. Chase contributed to volumes 13 and 15 of the Documents series and is currently working on an edited collection of John Taylor's "lost" sermons.

### ELIZABETH A. KUEHN

Elizabeth A. Kuehn is a historian and documentary editor with the Church History Department. She is a coeditor of four volumes of the Documents series of *The Joseph Smith Papers* and the lead editor of the project's Financial Records series.

### RILEY M. LORIMER

Riley M. Lorimer worked for fourteen years as an editor and editorial manager for the Joseph Smith Papers Project. She was coeditor of *Revelations and Translations, Volume 2: Published Revelations*. Riley has a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in editing from Brigham Young University and a master's degree in English from the University of Utah. She currently serves as director of the Church History Museum.

### MICHAEL HUBBARD MACKAY

Michael Hubbard MacKay is an associate professor of religion in the Department of Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University. He is a former historian and writer for the Joseph Smith Papers Project. He is the author of several books

focusing on antebellum American religion, Joseph Smith, and the production of Latter-day Saint scripture, including *Prophetic Authority*, published by University of Illinois Press. He also works in ritual studies, with a forthcoming book called *A True Philosophy: Endowments and the Economy of God*.

### LAURIE F. MAFFLY-KIPP

Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp is the Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. Her research and teaching focus on African American religions, the Latter-day Saint tradition, religion on the Pacific borderlands of the Americas, and issues of intercultural contact. She is the author of many books and articles and has a book forthcoming from Basic Books on the history of global Latter-day Saint religion and culture. She earned her BA from Amherst College in English and Religion, *summa cum laude*, and completed the PhD in American history at Yale University with distinction (1990). Maffly-Kipp is a past president of both the American Society of Church History and the Mormon History Association.

### JEFFREY D. MAHAS

Jeffrey D. Mahas received a BA from Brigham Young University and an MA in history from the University of Utah. He has worked for the Joseph Smith Papers since 2013, and his work has been published in four print volumes in the Administrative Records series and the Documents series of the project. He has also been a regular contributor to the online Financial Records series and the Legal Records series.

### SARA MARTIN

Sara Martin is the editor in chief of the Adams Papers editorial project at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston, where she oversees the letterpress and digital publication of the collected writings of John and Abigail Adams and three generations of their family. Martin holds a PhD in history from the University of Melbourne and is a graduate of the public history program at Arizona State University, where she earned a master's degree in history and a graduate certificate in scholarly publishing and documentary editing. She joined the staff of the Adams Papers in 2008 and has served as project director since 2015.

### **KIMBERLY MATHESON**

Kimberly Matheson is a research fellow at the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship. She holds a PhD in theology from Loyola University Chicago and an MTS in philosophy of religion from Harvard Divinity School. She is the author of *Helaman: A Brief Theological Introduction* (Maxwell Institute, 2020).

### **MATTHEW S. MCBRIDE**

Matthew McBride is the director of publications for the Church History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He is a thirty-year publishing professional and earned an MA in American history from the University of Utah. He is the author of *A House for the Most High: The Story of the Original Nauvoo Temple* and coeditor of *The Joseph Smith Papers, Documents, Volume 13: August–December 1843*.

### **SPENCER W. MCBRIDE**

Spencer W. McBride, PhD, is associate managing historian of the Joseph Smith Papers. In addition to working as coeditor of three volumes of *The Joseph Smith Papers*, he is the creator, writer, and host of the project's critically acclaimed podcast series. McBride has published multiple books on the history of religion and American political culture, including *Pulpit and Nation* (University of Virginia Press, 2016), *Contingent Citizens* (Cornell University Press, 2020), *Joseph Smith for President* (Oxford University Press, 2021), and *New York's Burned-Over District* (Cornell University Press, 2023). His writing has also been published in the *Deseret News* and the *Washington Post*.

### **ELDER KYLE S. MCKAY**

Elder Kyle S. McKay is the Church Historian and Recorder and executive director of the Church History Department. He was sustained as a General Authority Seventy in 2018. Elder McKay received a bachelor of arts degree in English from Brigham Young University in 1984. In 1987 he received a juris doctor degree from Brigham Young University. From 1987 to 2018, Elder McKay practiced law in Oregon and Utah.

### **GAIL MILLER**

Gail Miller is the owner of the Larry H. Miller Company and Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors. The Larry H. Miller Company began with the purchase of a single Toyota dealership in 1979 and has grown to become one of the largest privately-owned businesses. Gail gives freely of her time and actively participates in many business, civic and educational endeavors. She serves on the Zions Bank Advisory Board, Shelter the Homeless Board, and is co-chair of the Kem C. Gardner Institute. She is the author of the book, *Courage to Be You, Inspiring Lessons from an Unexpected Journey*. Gail presides over the Larry H. Miller Education Foundation and the Larry H. and Gail Miller Family Foundation. Gail and her husband, Kim Wilson, have a combined family of nine children and a large posterity. They enjoy traveling, spending time with family, and serving others.

### **JESSICA M. NELSON**

Jessica M. Nelson completed a BA in American studies at Brigham Young University and an MS in history at Utah State University, where she held the Milner/Butler editorial fellowship at the *Western Historical Quarterly*. She joined the Joseph Smith Papers in 2018 as a historian and documentary editor. Her current work includes editing a collection of Eliza R. Snow's discourses.

### **REID L. NELSON**

Reid L. Neilson joined the Brigham Young University faculty in August 2022, when he began leading as the assistant academic vice president for religious scholarly publications, a newly created position at the university. He oversees three organizations on campus: the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, the Religious Studies Center, and BYU Studies. Prior to rejoining the faculty at BYU, he and his wife, Shelly, served as the leaders of the Washington DC North Mission. Before his mission presidency, Neilson was appointed Assistant Church Historian and Recorder of the Church in 2015. He also worked as the managing director of the Church History Department from 2010 to 2019.

### SHARON E. NIELSEN

Sharon E. Nielsen is the editorial lead for the Joseph Smith Papers Project website and also leads the Administrative Records series. In 1993, she earned a BA in Near Eastern studies from Brigham Young University, and in 1999 she earned an MA in ancient civilizations and biblical studies from the University of Michigan. She completed training at the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents in 2017. She coauthored "The Record of the Twelve, 1835: The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles' Call and 1835 Mission" in *BYU Studies*.

### PRESIDENT DALLIN H. OAKS

President Dallin H. Oaks was sustained and set apart as first counselor in the First Presidency and president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 2018. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University (1954) and of the University of Chicago Law School (1957). He practiced law and taught law in Chicago. He was president of Brigham Young University from 1971 to 1980, and a justice of the Utah Supreme Court from 1980 until his resignation in 1984 to accept his calling to the apostleship. President Oaks is the author or co-author of many books and articles on religious and legal subjects, including *Carthage Conspiracy: The Trial of the Accused Assassins of Joseph Smith* (University of Illinois Press, 1975).

### NATHAN B. OMAN

Nathan B. Oman is the Rita Ann Rollins Professor of Law at William & Mary Law School. He was educated at Brigham Young University and Harvard Law School. He has published extensively on law and the Latter-day Saint tradition. In addition to his interest in Latter-day Saint legal thought and experience, he writes and teaches on contracts, private law, and jurisprudence. He lives in Williamsburg, Virginia.

### SARAH M. S. PEARSALL

Sarah M. S. Pearsall is a professor of history at Johns Hopkins University. She was educated at Yale University, Cambridge University, and Harvard University (where she received her PhD with advisor Laurel Thatcher Ulrich). Pearsall is the author

of *Atlantic Families: Lives and Letters in the Later Eighteenth Century* (Oxford University Press, 2008); *Polygamy: An Early American History* (Yale University Press, 2019); and *Polygamy: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2022). Her next book, *Freedom Round the Globe: A New History of the American Revolution*, is forthcoming with Knopf Doubleday in 2026.

### SETH PERRY

Seth Perry is an associate professor of religion in America at Princeton University. His first book, *Bible Culture and Authority in the Early United States* (Princeton University Press, 2018), explores the performative, rhetorical, and material aspects of bible-based authority in early-national America. His work has appeared in *Church History*, *Early American Studies*, the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, the *William and Mary Quarterly*, and many other outlets. He teaches courses on religion in early America, theory and method in the study of religion, "scripture" as a genre, and Satan. His second book project is a biography of Lorenzo Dow, the early-national period's most famous and most eccentric itinerant preacher.

### ADAM H. PETTY

Adam H. Petty is a historian with the Joseph Smith Papers. He was a volume editor for volumes 14 and 15 of the Documents series.

### BRENDEN W. RENSINK

Brenden W. Rensink is associate director of the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies and associate professor of history at Brigham Young University. A historian of the American West, borderlands, Indigenous peoples, environment, genocide studies, and religion, his recent books include the award-winning *Native but Foreign: Indigenous Immigrants and Refugees in the North American Borderlands* (2018) and *Essays on American Indian and Mormon History* (2019), and *The North American West in the Twenty-First Century* (2022). As a public historian, Rensink manages and edits the *Intermountain Histories* digital public history project and is host and producer of the *Writing Westward* podcast.

## BRENT M. ROGERS

Brent M. Rogers is the managing historian for the Joseph Smith Papers. He received a PhD in nineteenth-century United States history from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Brent is a coeditor of several volumes of *The Joseph Smith Papers* and the author of the award-winning *Unpopular Sovereignty: Mormons and the Federal Management of Early Utah Territory* (University of Nebraska Press, 2017). He is also a coeditor of *Contingent Citizens: Shifting Perceptions of Latter-day Saints in American Political Culture* (Cornell University Press, 2020) and the author of several book chapters and articles.

## ALEX D. SMITH

Alex has served as coeditor on six volumes of *The Joseph Smith Papers* over the past twenty years and is currently leading the project to publish William Clayton's Nauvoo journals. He is also working on a personal monograph exploring the motivations behind Joseph Smith's assassination.

## R. ERIC SMITH

R. Eric Smith has been with the Joseph Smith Papers Project since 2006 and was named a general editor of the project in 2018. His expertise is mostly in traditional publisher functions such as substantive and copy editing, electronic publishing, and project conceptualization and management. Drawing upon what he has learned with the Joseph Smith Papers Project, he has also helped edit and publish several other documentary editing projects on various aspects of Latter-day Saint history, including the recently completed online edition of the forty-seven diaries of Emmeline B. Wells. His degrees are in English literature (BA, Brigham Young University) and law (JD, University of Utah).

## RICHARD E. TURLEY JR.

Richard E. Turley Jr. has served as the managing director of the Church History, Family History, Public Affairs, and Communication Departments of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and as Assistant Church Historian and Recorder. He helped launch the Joseph Smith Papers Project in 2001, chaired its editorial board, and served as a volume editor. He has authored or edited more than twenty books and received numerous awards for his work, including the Herbert Feis

Award from the American Historical Association for distinguished contributions to public history. A frequent media guest and global traveler, he has spoken on Joseph Smith around the world.

## LAUREL THATCHER ULRICH

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich is the 300th Anniversary University Professor *emerita*, Harvard University. She is best known nationally for her 1990 book, *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary*, and for later works using seemingly opaque sources, including material objects, to explore the lives of early American women. *A House Full of Females: Plural Marriage and Women's Rights in Early Mormonism*, published in 2017, was her first book to focus exclusively on Latter-day Saint women. Professor Ulrich taught American history at the University of New Hampshire before moving to Harvard University in 1995. She retired from Harvard in 2018. She and her husband now live in Pennsylvania.

## JEFFREY N. WALKER

Jeff is an adjunct professor at the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University, where he teaches on legal history. He also taught for several years in BYU's Department of Church History and Doctrine. Jeff served as the manager and coeditor of the Business and Legal series (later the Administrative Records and Legal Records series) of *The Joseph Smith Papers* for fourteen years, during which time he served five years as the associate managing editor for the Joseph Smith Papers. Jeff is working on a multivolume work on the legal papers of Joseph Smith. He serves on the executive committee of the Ensign Peak Foundation (formerly the Mormon Historic Sites Foundation), as well as managing editor for *Latter-day Saint Historical Studies*.

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## 2023 Joseph Smith Papers Conference Program Committee

J. Chase Kirkham, Co-Chair  
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Riley M. Lorimer  
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