

Restless Pilgrim: Andrew Jenson's Quest for Latter-day Saint History by Reid L. Neilson and Scott D. Marianno (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2022)

Restless Pilgrim: Andrew Jenson's Quest for Latter-day Saint History, written by Reid L. Neilson and Scott D. Marianno, is a captivating biography that delves into the remarkable life and passionate quest of Andrew Jenson, an assistant church historian of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, from 1886 until his death in 1941.

The book depicts Jenson's journey from his humble beginnings in Denmark to becoming a devoted historian and advocate for documenting the history of the Church. With detailed research and engaging storytelling, Neilson and Marianno explore the trials, triumphs, and adventures that shaped Jenson's life and inform his lasting legacy.

Restless Pilgrim highlights Jenson's tireless efforts to gather and preserve the historical records and narratives of the Church. As a young immigrant to Utah, he witnessed the rapid growth and transformation of the Latter-day Saint community in the late nineteenth century. Inspired by his encounters with early pioneers and Church leaders, Jenson developed a seemingly insatiable curiosity and determination to chronicle the history of his faith.

The book uncovers Jenson's pivotal role as a prolific documentarian and researcher for the Church. His monumental work includes compiling and editing the *Historical Record*, a significant publication that documented the history, sermons, and biographies of the Church leaders of his time. Jenson's dedication to preserving the past and ensuring accurate historical narratives continues to influence our present-day understanding and appreciation of Church history.

Moreover, *Restless Pilgrim* offers an exploration of Jenson's personal life, including his marriage, family relationships, and enduring faith. It reveals the challenges he faced as an immigrant, his commitment to his Danish heritage, and his role as a bridge between his native country and his adopted homeland.

Through their storytelling, Neilson and Marianno bring to life the trials and triumphs of Andrew Jenson, shedding light on an often-overlooked figure in Church history. *Restless Pilgrim* is a biography that not only illuminates the life of an extraordinary individual but also provides valuable insights into the larger context of religious history and the importance of preserving historical records for future generations.

—Matthew B. Christensen

The King Follett Sermon: A Biography by William V. Smith (Newburgh, Ind.: By Common Consent Press, 2023)

The King Follett Sermon: A Biography by William V. Smith is a carefully crafted book that delves into the life and significance of one of the most influential sermons in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Smith brings to light the story behind the creation and reception of the King Follett Sermon, delivered by Joseph Smith on April 7, 1844.

In this biography of a sermon—which in and of itself is a fascinating concept—Smith weaves together the historical accounts, other primary sources, and research to provide a comprehensive narrative of the sermon's origins. The book explores Joseph Smith's life, his theological thought, and the events leading up to the day in April 1844 when the King Follett Sermon was given. Smith transports readers back in time, allowing us to witness the delivery and immediate impact of the sermon.

The King Follett Sermon: A Biography goes beyond a mere historical account; it also explores the sermon's profound theological implications and its lasting legacy for Latter-day Saints. The author elucidates the key themes and teachings embedded within the sermon, including the nature of God, the eternal progression of humankind, and the concept of exaltation. Drawing from a wide range of sources, he explores the sermon's reception among Latter-day Saints (across two centuries) and subsequent studies by religious scholars and historians.

William Smith's writing is engaging and accessible, making complex theological concepts approachable to readers of all backgrounds. He balances academic analysis with storytelling, ensuring that the biography remains both informative and engaging.

The King Follett Sermon: A Biography stands as a definitive and groundbreaking work on a pivotal moment in Latter-day Saint history. Smith's research, assessment, and ability to weave a compelling account unite in a way that will captivate readers interested in Joseph Smith, his teachings, and Latter-day Saint history.

—Matthew B. Christensen

Both Things Are True by Kate Holbrook (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book; Provo, Utah: Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, 2023)

Kate Holbrook was a professional historian (PhD, Boston University), a gospel scholar (MTS, Harvard Divinity School), a mother of three daughters, and a champion of Latter-day Saint women's voices. She worked for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the managing historian of women's history and edited several books in her

efforts to amplify women in the Church. Before Holbrook's life ended, Rosalynde Welch from the Maxwell Institute asked Holbrook if she would provide her own voice as well. *Both Things Are True* is Holbrook's collection of personal essays edited and compiled by Rosalynde Welch, Jana Reiss, Jenny Pulsipher, and others who knew and loved her.

Readers may remember a statement by Joseph Smith, "By p[r]oving contraries, truth is made manifest."¹ In *Both Things Are True*, each essay provides contraries Holbrook encountered during her life. Within each set of contrary truths, Holbrook shows a Christlike way.

In the first essay, "I Belong to the True and Living Church," Holbrook explains why the Church is true and why it is living. She compares truth to wheat that the Relief Society organization has gathered, stored, and shared for over one hundred years. As we add wheat to our current store, we are each responsible for personal truth seeking, and Holbrook describes the fidelity to reputable sources and to each other that is required as we search for truth. She ends with the statement "Our Church is true and living, as we are true to one another" (50).

In the second essay, "Revelation Is a Process," Holbrook shows that when we learn how revelations were given, received, and recorded in various past examples, we learn to be patient with our personal revelatory process and possible interpretive errors. Choosing hope in eventual revealed solutions is crucial despite "our imperfect human efforts" (71).

1. "Letter to Israel Daniel Rupp, 5 June 1844," 1, Joseph Smith Papers, accessed September 25, 2023, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-to-israel-daniel-rupp-5-june-1844/1>.