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Post-Manifesto Polygamy

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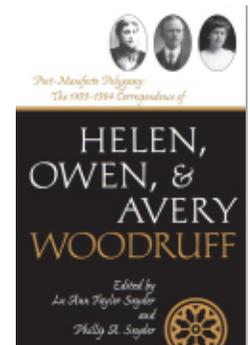
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Acknowledgments

First of all, I must thank Maureen Ursenbach Beecher, my former colleague in the English Department at Brigham Young University, without whose influence this project on the Woodruff correspondence would not have been developed and completed. My wife Lu Ann began work on it during a senior seminar she took from Maureen on the personal writings of nineteenth and early twentieth-century Latter-day Saint women. She continued working on it during her PhD studies in history at the University of Utah. My own understanding of the importance of recovering, documenting, and publishing these women's writings deepened one spring when Maureen asked me to substitute for her in teaching this seminar after she had become ill halfway through the term. Lu Ann and I ended up team-teaching the class and had a wonderful experience together with the students. Further, after Lu Ann's death from colon-to-liver cancer on January 15, 2000, Maureen gently but persistently pushed me to finish Lu Ann's work on this project, which I have finally done.

Next, I must thank John Alley, executive editor of Utah State University Press, for his patience and guidance as I completed this project. He and Maureen provided excellent suggestions to both Lu Ann and me for revisions and additions to earlier drafts. In addition, I must thank Lowell "Ben" Bennion, Jr., one of the manuscript's outside reviewers, for his invaluable suggestions for further research and revision, particularly regarding the introduction, for which he provided especially detailed notes. Thanks also to Benjamin Wood, a senior English major at USU, for his help with the final proofing of the letter transcriptions. Many thanks to Mel Thorne, director of BYU's Humanities Publication Center, and to his students for their invaluable work on the index. Lu Ann's and my son Travis drafted the maps. It is gratifying to have him contribute to this project. I appreciate all the historians and archivists who helped me — an English professor — to get the cultural context and the historical details of this project right. Any errors here are mine alone. Thanks as always to

BYU's College of Humanities and English Department for their support of my scholarship.

By the time of her death, Lu Ann had completed the transcriptions of the letters, done most of the documentation, compiled most of the Woodruff Circle entries, and drafted the introduction. I reorganized the letters and sections of Avery's autobiography in chronological order to provide a more coherent narrative, added additional documentation, reorganized and standardized the Woodruff Circle entries, checked the transcription against the original letters, and did several revisions of the introduction. In addition, I presented a paper based on Lu Ann's introduction at a 2000 symposium sponsored by the Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Latter-day Saint History at BYU, which was published as "The Woodruff Correspondence, 1899–1904, in Polygamy's Last Days," under Lu Ann Snyder's name, in *Times of Transition, 1890–1920*, edited by Thomas G. Alexander.

Lu Ann would want me to thank the Lambert and Woodruff families for their donation of the original letters, journals, autobiographies, and other items to the L. Tom Perry Special Collections at BYU and for their support of this project. Richard Lambert was particularly helpful in securing the photographs for this volume. She would also want me to thank everyone at BYU's Special Collections and the LDS Church Archives who helped her with her research, and particularly her professors and classmates from BYU's American Studies Program and the University of Utah's Department of History. She loved working on her scholarship — especially the Woodruff correspondence — and treasured her professional relationships. Although her cancer prevented Lu Ann from completing her PhD, I trust this publication will stand in its place as public evidence of her scholarly ability. She admired Helen, Owen, and Avery for their commitment to their religion and for their generosity toward one another under very trying circumstances.

Finally, Lu Ann would want me to note, as she often did during her last months and always with a twinkle in her eye, that it is possible for certain extraordinary people to publish *after* they have perished. And so it is with her.

Phillip A. Snyder
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