Preface

I first want to thank Maureen Ursenbach Beecher, formerly the general editor of the *Life Writings of Frontier Women* series from Utah State University Press, who is responsible for the birth of this book. One day when she and I met for a catch-up lunch, she suggested the possibility of a project in the series that would bring Fanny Stenhouse’s first book about her experiences in Mormonism and polygamy back into print. Although I was interested in the project (especially since my daughter had recently married into the Stenhouse family), it took another several months for me to contact her again about the project and begin to flesh out with her the framework for moving forward. Maureen generously shared with me her own copies of several versions of Stenhouse’s book and provided ongoing encouragement as well as the benefit of her felicitous phrasing. John R. Alley, executive editor at the Utah State University Press, has also been a constant source of support. His quick response to questions, his patience in providing technical information, and his helpful editorial suggestions and guidance all have alleviated anxieties and smoothed the way.

Many special thanks go to Stenhouse descendants Douglas Simms Stenhouse and Carolyn Young Hunsaker. Douglas, a grandson of Fanny Stenhouse’s seventh child, T. B. H. Jr., shared with me at our first meeting the work he had collected on his family’s history, including an account he had written of the lives of his ancestors T. B. H. and Fanny Stenhouse. He also put me in touch with Carolyn Young Hunsaker, a descendant through Fanny Stenhouse’s eldest daughter, Clara. Carolyn has been extraordinarily generous and helpful in sharing her own research and family stories—as well as those of her aunt LeJeune Young Decker—answering innumerable questions, showing me artifacts from the family’s pioneer heritage, and in general providing an accommodating sounding board that helped me work through the many pieces of the Stenhouse family history.

I have also benefited from the assistance of the staff at L. Tom Perry Special Collections in the Harold B. Lee Library at Brigham Young
University—especially David Whittaker and Russell Taylor, who made it possible for me to locate and compare the various versions of Stenhouse’s work more easily. The staffs at the Utah State Historical Society/Library Research Center and the Church History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were similarly accommodating.

In reproducing the text of Fanny Stenhouse’s Exposé of Polygamy: A Lady’s Life among the Mormons, I have retained the spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and wording of the 1872 first edition so as to provide here an exact transcription of her first book.