

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I first conceived of the idea of writing a book to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of Joseph Smith's First Vision shortly after joining the faculty of Religious Education at Brigham Young University more than twenty years ago. It has been an on-and-off again project ever since, with two other book publications and several published articles consuming my attention along the way. During several of those years, I continued to teach a full load of four-to-five classes per semester, filled my share of various committee assignments, and served as department chair and associate dean, which, as most academic administrators will quickly attest, can be detrimental to serious publication efforts. Consequently, the work limped along at a frustratingly slow pace. Indeed, this book has been so many years in the making that I may have forgotten some of those who helped me along the way.

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