Female Relief Society.
(BY ELIZA R. SNOW)

This is the name of a Society which was organized in Nauvoo, on the 17th of March, 1842, by President Joseph Smith, assisted by Elders Willard Richards and John Taylor.

DESCRET EVENING NEWS, APRIL 18, 1868
THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF RELIEF SOCIETY

KEY DOCUMENTS IN LATTER-DAY SAINT WOMEN'S HISTORY
“Organize Female Relief Societies in the various wards. You will find that the sisters will be the mainspring of the movement.”

BRIGHAM YOUNG, 8 DECEMBER 1867
“Pres. Young commissioned me to assist the Bishops in organizing Branches of the Society in their respective Wards.”

ELIZA R. SNOW, 1885
Of the Book of Records

Containing the proceedings of the Female Relief Society of Kansas

The following appropriate centenary was found lying on an open Bible in the room appropriated for the society, at its first meeting.

"O Lord! help me widow and fatherless children! A mute at be. At then, and the word of truth defend then them. Do mute at be. At then?"

This Book was publicly presented to the Society by Asa E. H. Richards, on the 17th of March A.D. 1872.
A Record of the Organization, and Proceedings of The Female Relief Society of Nauvoo.

Nauvoo Lodge Room
March 17th, 1842.

Present: President Joseph Smith, John Taylor, Willard Richards, Emma Smith and others.

Elder John Taylor was called to the chair by Pres. Smith, and elder W. Richards appointed secretary.

Meeting commenced by singing The Spirit of God
Minutes of the Organization
of the
Female Relief Society of the Fifth & Sixth Wards, I. L. City.

Fifth Ward School House,
Dec. 15, 1867.

Meeting opened by singing—Prayer by Elder Solomon.
Bishop William Heckenlooper acted as Chairman, and
Elder Charles West was appointed Secretary.

The Bishop made introductory remarks—said we have called
our sisters together to form an association for the benefit of the poor: we
want the aid of the sisters as well as of the brethren in forwarding this
great and important work. This Society will be a great benefit to
the faithful among us, saying that the first pecuniary aid of this
Minutes of the Organization
of the
Female Relief Society of the Fifth & Sixth Wards, P. S. City.

Sixth Ward School House
Dec. 13, 1867.
Female Relief Society.
(BY ELIZA R. SNOW)

“This is the name of a Society which was organized in Nauvoo, on the 17th of March, 1842, by President Joseph Smith, assisted by Elders Willard Richards and John Taylor. Although the name may be of modern date, the institution is of ancient origin. We were told by our martyred prophet, that the same organization existed in the church anciently.”

Deseret Evening News, April 18, 1868
Female Relief Society.
(BY ELIZA R. SNOW)

“This is an organization that cannot exist without the Priesthood, from the fact that it derives all its authority and influence from that source. When the Priesthood was taken from the earth, this institution as well as every other appendage to the true order of the church of Jesus Christ on the earth, became extinct, and had never been restored until the time referred to above.”

DESERET EVENING NEWS, APRIL 18, 1868
A Book of Records
containing Minutes
of the
Meetings and the Proceedings
of the
Quorum of Teachers
of the
Female Relief Society in the 14th Ward
Salt Lake City.

Mrs. Phoebe W. Woodruff, President
Jane Richards, 1st Counsellor
Hannah I. Mayhugh, 2nd Counsellor
Sarah Elizabeth Cowley, Secretary.
Pres. Young told me he was going to give me a <another> mission. Without the least intimation of what the mission consisted, I replied, “I shall endeavor to fulfil it.” He said, “I want you to instruct the sisters.”

ELIZA R. SNOW, 1885
Salt Lake City Fifteenth Ward Relief Society Hall