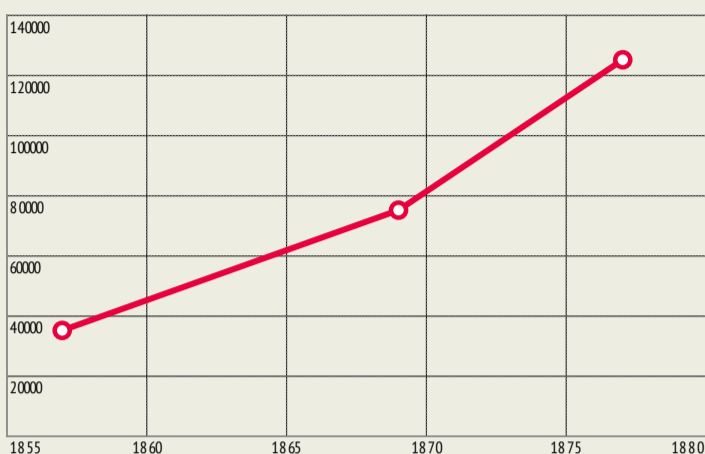


# MORMON PIONEER POLYGAMOUS WIVES



*"On average, 25 to 30 percent of [Mormon] men, women, and children [in the late 1800's] lived in polygamous families, and the wives correctly believed that their contribution would help build a solid foundation for generations of Mormons to come."*

*Paula Harline, The Polygamous Wives Writing Club*



Population of Mormons

Partially due to the encouragement of polygamous marriage by Brigham Young, the population of Mormons in the Great Basin (most of current Utah and Nevada and parts of Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, and California) grew over 250% by the time of Young's death in 1877.



**23%**

The percentage of polygamous husbands who married their wives' sisters

During the Mormon "frontier period" between 1847 and 1869, Mormon women married about a year younger than Western rural women and four years younger than women in Massachusetts.



Women married by age 16



Women married by age 20

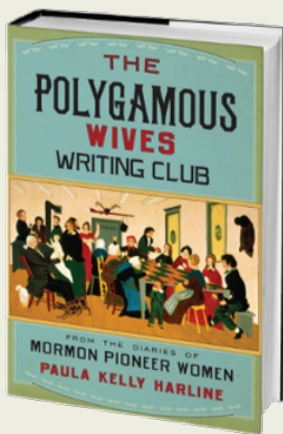


Women married by age 24



**1890**

The year The Manifesto officially advised against any future plural marriage in the Mormon Church



Read more in *The Polygamous Wives Writing Club: From the Diaries of Mormon Pioneer Women* by Paula Kelly Harline (9780199346509). Now available wherever books are sold. Also available as e-book. [oup.com/us](http://oup.com/us)

