

# Utah: Connect with the Crossroads of the West

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**4 DIVISIONS of Utah History:** Religious Colony, Supply station, Critical link to the West.

**1 Ecclesiastical 24 Jul 1847 - 12 Mar 1849** LDS Church was the civil government also.

**2 Provisional Government of the State of Deseret 13 Mar 1849 - 8 Sep 1850**

**3 Territory of Utah 9 Sep 1850 - 3 Jan 1896**

**4 State of Utah Jan 1896 - Present** Most civil vital records date to this time period.

## I. Utah Geography & Jurisdictions - Search records for all that apply!

1847 Mexico-US Territorial Acquisitions - <http://www.uintahbasintah.org/maps/usterritories.jpg>

1849 Proposed State of Deseret - <https://tinyurl.com/y96wm9ve>

1850 Utah Territory Created - Included parts of future Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and Wyoming

1850-1868 Utah Territorial Evolution - <https://tinyurl.com/y75k94zs> Animated map -Territorial Losses

1852-1918 Chart of County Formation in Utah & Chart of Extinct Counties of Utah - For both see:

UT State Archives <https://archives.utah.gov/research/guides/county-formation.htm>

1856 Utah Territory Map [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Utah\\_Territory\\_1856\\_map.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Utah_Territory_1856_map.png)

Contested Boundaries: Creating Utah State Lines <https://history.utah.gov/connect/maps/>

## II. Getting Started: Locate Jurisdictions & Assess Record Availability

### A. Basics:

**Step 1** - Locate a map of the time period involved. List the potential jurisdictions.

**Step 2** - Utah State Archives - Guides, Digital Records & Indexes <https://archives.utah.gov/>

**Step 3** - Assess holdings at **FamilySearch** [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) & **Ancestry** [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

### B. Things to Keep in Mind:

**1. Territories were administered by the Federal government. They were led by Governors who were appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.**

**2. County Terminology:** Created vs. Organized vs. Attached

**3. Research the history of your county.**

- Check for any parent or neighbor counties that may be involved.
- Check also for counties that may have split off from the county
- Check for parent states or territories as well.
- If the land came from an extinct county, locate and check those records.
- For resources to help you figure out the boundaries involved. See:

**Atlas of Historical County Boundaries – Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois**

<https://www.newberry.org/atlas-historical-county-boundaries>

**MapofUS .org** - <https://www.mapofus.org/utah/> Animated maps of county development.

FS Wiki – Utah, United States Genealogy – scroll to Counties & Extinct Counties, use links

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Utah,\\_United\\_States\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Utah,_United_States_Genealogy)

COSA Directory of State Archives - <https://www.statearchivists.org/connect/resources-state/>

#### C. Additional Resources:

1. **Atlas of Utah**; Deon Greer, Pro. Dir.; Brigham Young University Press, 1981, Provo, UT;
2. **Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Census, 1790-1920**; William Thorndale & William Dollarhide; Baltimore, Maryland : Genealogical Pub. Co., c1987
3. **Utah Ghost Towns** [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Utah\\_Ghost\\_Towns](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Utah_Ghost_Towns)
4. **Legends of America** <https://www.legendsofamerica.com/ut-ghosttowns/>

### III. Utah State Archives <https://archives.utah.gov/>

- Joint Research Center – <http://historyresearch.utah.gov/>
- Research Guides: Lists of available records by topic & How-to guides for researching them.
- Digital Archives – Search all of the digitized collections available.
- Indexes – Use indexes and order document copies.
- Inventories – Descriptions of records with info on scope, content, gaps, related records, etc.
- Regional Repositories <https://archives.utah.gov/USHRAB/repositories-list.html>

### IV. Utah Division of State History <https://heritage.utah.gov/history/library-collections-history>

- **Utah State Historical Society - Publications** <https://issuu.com/utah10/stacks>
  - Download free books & periodicals including 30 volume Centennial County History Series
  - All publications every word searchable at <https://tinyurl.com/yctdj7bw>
- Library Catalog – Includes WPA & Historical Records Survey Materials for Utah
- Collections <https://history.utah.gov/library-collections/>
- Digital Collections <https://history.utah.gov/library-collections/digital-collections/>
- Research Resources <https://history.utah.gov/inquire-2/resources/> including:
  - Mountain West Digital Library <https://mwdl.org/> Search portal for Mountain West, By Collection <https://mwdl.org/collections/collections.php> UT, NV, ID, OR, WY, HI
  - Cemeteries & Burials <https://heritage.utah.gov/history/cemeteries> A work in progress.
  - Utah State History YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/UTStateHistory>

## 5. Places to Search for Utah Records:

### Archives

- **Utah Archives & Libraries – FS Wiki** <https://tinyurl.com/y7wv8sh>
  - **Archival & Manuscript Repositories in Utah** <https://tinyurl.com/y9p5vm4r>
  - **Salt Lake County Archives** <https://slco.org/archives/>
  - **City & County Websites** <https://onlinelibrary.utah.gov/government/local.html>
- **Church History Library** - <http://churchhistorylibrary.lds.org/> Utah resources in general.

- **Search *Entire Catalog*** – Search by names of counties, including extinct or renamed counties
- **Search by Published Materials, Archival [unpublished] Materials or Magazine Index**
- **MS 2918: Deseret State Papers 1849-1850** <https://eadview.lds.org/findingaid/000162075/>
- **Outside Utah**
  - **The Bancroft Library UC Berkeley** <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/libraries/bancroft-library>  
The Works of Hubert H. Bancroft <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7309>  
History of Utah, H.H. Bancroft [https://archive.org/details/bub\\_gb\\_9QUUAAAAYAAJ/page/n5](https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_9QUUAAAAYAAJ/page/n5)
  - **National Archives - Denver** <https://www.archives.gov/denver> CO, MT, NM, ND, SD, UT, WY  
<https://www.archives.gov/denver/research> , <https://www.facebook.com/nationalarchivesdenver/>
- **Consortia**
  - **Archives West** <http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/> WA, MT, OR, ID, UT, AK
  - **Rocky Mountain Online Archive** <https://rmoa.unm.edu/about.php> CO, NM, WY
  - **Internet Archive** – <https://archive.org/>
  - **WorldCat** -- <https://www.worldcat.org/> Interlibrary Loan
  - **ArchiveGrid** -- <https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/> Manuscripts;

## Libraries, Special Collections & Digital Archives

- **Utah Public Libraries** <https://www.uen.org/institutions/libraries>,
- **Utah Academic Libraries** <https://onlinelibrary.utah.gov/libraries/academic.html>
  - **U of U:** Ethnic Group Collections; Home of Utah Digital Newspapers; See Collections tab
  - **USU:** Regional & Mormon History & much more
  - **BYU HBLL**– Huge FHL, Utah Newspapers, 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mormon and Western Manuscript Collection, Mormon & Western Publications Collection, Map Collection
  - **SUU Sherratt Library Special Collections, Digital Archives**
- **Utah's Online Library** <https://onlinelibrary.utah.gov/>  
Includes the Utah Government Digital Library UGDL <https://digitallibrary.utah.gov/>
- **Utah State Library** <https://library.utah.gov/> \_Backs up Local Libraries with ILL materials.

## Societies – Google to locate

- **Utah Genealogical Association** <https://ugagenealogy.org/> No library or research facilities.
- **Ethnic Groups** – Greek [Hellenic], Icelandic, Jewish, Scottish, Welsh, etc.
- **Pioneers**
  - **Daughters of the Utah Pioneers [DUP]** <http://www.dupinternational.org/> Indexes
  - **SUP Sons of the Utah Pioneers** <https://www.sup1847.com/> & Research Library
- **Location or Topic**—RR, Mining, Counties, Cities

## Museums – Often have reading or research rooms, publications and record collections.

- Utah Museums <https://utah.com/museums>
- Museums in Utah [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_museums\\_in\\_Utah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_museums_in_Utah)
- Utah Museum Directory <https://heritage.utah.gov/arts-and-museums/utah-museum-directory>

## 6. Newspaper Resources

- Utah Digital Newspapers <https://digitalnewspapers.org/>
- The Ancestor Hunt <https://tinyurl.com/yah2c6cw> [incl. links for NP & BMD, Obits, Photos +]

## 7. Must See Websites

→ **Linkpendium Utah**-- <http://www.linkpendium.com/ut-genealogy/> Statewide resources, County Resources – Note the topics: Libraries, Museums, Archives; Societies;

→ **Family Search** – <https://www.familysearch.org/> Works closely with Utah State Archives.

- **FS Wiki : U.S.** → **Utah** → **County & Extinct County Selection Chart**
  - **Utah Online Records** – Huge list of options.
  - **Beginning Research** -- See Strategies & Record Finder
- **FS Catalog** – Search State, County & Local Levels
- **FS Records** – Locate indexed and browsable collections by location, topic. Utah = 41 Collections  
Example: Utah, State Archives Records, 1848-2001 – Browsable by county  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2001084>
- **FS Books** - Search by Utah, by county name, by town or city, extinct county, etc.

→ **Ancestry.com** - At Search Page – Scroll down and click on Utah on the map or in list of states

- **Utah Data Collections** – Search by topic, by county, or by ancestor names.
- **Utah Resources** – Great information & links!
- **Card Catalog**: Back at *Search Page* select *Card Catalog* and use filters; Title Utah= 80 hits

→ **BYU FHL**:

- **Utah Newspapers at BYU** <http://files.lib.byu.edu/resource/newspapers/>
- Annotated Utah Research Outline  
<http://files.lib.byu.edu/family-history-library/research-outlines/US/Utah.pdf>

→ **BYUI Special Collections & Family History** <http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/famhist/index.cfm>

See Western States Marriage Index and Utah Websites.

→ **Cyndi's List Utah** <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/ut/>

→ **Utah GenWeb** <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~utgenweb/> Statewide info, pages for each county, databases and more.

→ **Online Utah Death Records & Indexes** <https://www.deathindexes.com/utah/index.html>

→ **RootsWeb Utah Family History Research** <https://tinyurl.com/y9oqrers>

→ **Utah History Encyclopedia** [https://www.uen.org/utah\\_history\\_encyclopedia/](https://www.uen.org/utah_history_encyclopedia/)

→ **Randpm Acts of Genealogical Kindness – Utah** <https://www.raogk.org/utah/ut-counties/>