

SELECTED LDS FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY SOURCES AT THE CHURCH HISTORY LIBRARY

PUBLISHED SOURCES

- ***Heart Throbs of the West*** (1939-1951; 12 vols.)
- ***Treasures of Pioneer History*** (1952-1957; 6 vols.)
- ***Our Pioneer Heritage*** (1958-1977; 20 vols.)
- ***An Enduring Legacy*** (1978-1989; 12 vols.)
- ***Chronicles of Courage*** (1990-1997; 8 vols.)
- ***Pioneer Pathways*** (1998-present; 10+ vols.)

The Daughters of Utah Pioneers began publishing sets of multi-volume books in 1939; there are now over 68 volumes available. Each volume provides information and stories regarding LDS pioneers and their hardships and experiences while immigrating and later establishing many communities in the intermountain West, southern Alberta, Canada, and northern Mexico. Volumes include life sketches, local histories, accounts of emigration, transcribed diaries and correspondence, newspaper articles, and photographs. Each volume contains an index.

- ***Pioneer Women of Faith and Fortitude*** (4 vols.)

Also published by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers; set contains about 4,600 photographs and 9,000 brief life sketches of LDS pioneer women who settled in Utah and surrounding region.

- ***Conquerors of the West*** (4 vols.)

Published by the Sons of Utah Pioneers; set contains hundreds of life sketches and photographs of pioneer-era men.

- ***Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia*** (4 vols.)

Compiled by Andrew Jenson; set includes a large collection of life sketches and photographs of early members of the Church; volumes include a small number of selected women's sketches and photographs.

- ***Encyclopedic History of the Church***

Compiled by Andrew Jenson; volume contains brief histories of branches, wards, stakes, conferences, districts, missions, selected localities, Church publications, and miscellaneous subjects; information is current to 1941.

- ***Church Chronology***

Compiled by Andrew Jenson; volume lists brief chronological entries of Church-related historical events, 1805-1913.

- ***Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah***

Published by Frank Esshom in 1913; volume contains about 5,900 photographs and 5,700 brief life sketches of early Utah and intermountain West pioneers and settlers.

- ***A Database of the Mormon Battalion***

Compiled and edited by Carl V. Larson; book provides rosters of Mormon Battalion members with accompanying genealogical and biographical information compiled from a variety of sources; detailed bibliographic entries and selected extracts are cited for each Battalion member.

ONLINE SOURCES

- ***Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel*** www.mormontrail.lds.org

Database indexes rosters and other records of pioneers who traveled overland to Utah (1847-1868) and the companies to which they were assigned; also includes a bibliography of sources—journal entries, letters, life sketches, newspaper clippings, etc.. Many overland emigration accounts have been transcribed and can be printed from the site. Database currently contains over 40,000 names—an estimated 20,000 names are missing because of incomplete rosters. An option is available on the site to submit missing ancestral information or make corrections to data already available.

- **LDS Church Periodical Index** <http://chperiodicals.lds.org/>

Index to database containing authors, titles, subjects, and abstracts of articles from periodicals published by the LDS Church as well as from other journals and magazines from 1976 to the present.

- **Mormons and Their Neighbors** <http://w3.lib.byu.edu/Ancestry/>

Index to more than 100,000 life sketches published in 236 local and regional history books relating to Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, southern California, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, northern Mexico, and southwestern Canada. Includes sketches of many non-LDS pioneers and settlers. Index entries indicate if a photograph accompanies life the person's life sketch. Coverage of index spans people who lived primarily between 1820-1981.

UNPUBLISHED SOURCES

For access to the unpublished sources, see a staff member at the reference desk.

(Key: CHL=Church History Library; FHL=Family History Library)

- **Journal History of the Church**

Chronological day-by-day "scrapbook" compilation of Church history from 1830 to present; focus of pre-1990s volumes is events and personalities in intermountain West region. Card index on microfilm available for early years; electronic index available from approximately 1990 to present. **Electronic indexes available only at CHL. Microfilm index and compilation available at FHL.**

- **Church census records, 1914-1962**

The first Church census was taken in 1914; next one in 1920 and thereafter every five years until 1960. No census was conducted during 1945 (World War II). Census for 1962 is available only for branches, districts, and missions. Census information identifies members' ward/branch of residence; especially useful for research in large cities. **Also available at FHL.**

- **Deceased member records, 1941-July 1988**

Beginning in 1941 a deceased member's record was sent to the Historian's Office for filing. Record usually contains list of priesthood ordinations—very useful for tracing priesthood line of authority. **Also available at FHL.**

Local unit records (for branches, wards, stakes, districts, and missions):

- **Manuscript histories (Series 2 and 3)**

Unpublished historical compilations for local units. Initial information was gathered by Historian's Office staff starting ca. 1890s; histories compiled ca. 1906 onward. Quarterly historical reports (1925-1967) and annual reports (1968-1983) were added to previous Historian's Office compilations. Annual reports (1984-1999) were submitted only from stakes, districts, and missions; current annual reports (2000+) from wards are submitted collectively by the stake and added to previous compilations. Information includes descriptions (in varying degrees of completeness) of historical events and activities, lists of callings and releases, newspaper clippings, newsletters, programs, ward/stake conference sustaining sheets, occasional photographs, etc. **Available only at CHL.**

- **Record of Members**

Membership records were kept in varying degrees of completeness and organization; few pre-Utah era records exist for members in U.S. Call numbers differ between CHL and FHL--consult registers at CHL and *Register of Genealogical Society Call Numbers, Volume 2*, by Laureen R. Jaussi and Gloria D. Chaston at FHL. No master index is available; many volumes are indexed internally. **Available at both CHL and FHL; however, CHL may have recent acquisitions not available at FHL.**

- **Annual "Form E" (ward) and "42-FP" (mission) reports**

Reports begin in 1907 and end in 1983; they consist of statistical summaries and lists of members born, blessed, baptized, confirmed, married, divorced, ordained, set apart for missions, returned from missions, etc. during the year in that specific local unit. Call numbers differ between CHL and FHL—see comment above under "Record of Members" to obtain correct call numbers. **Microfilm copy available at FHL, 1907-ca. 1948; reports beyond that date are available only at CHL.**

- **“Officers and Historical and Statistical Reports”**

Annual reports begin in 1907 and end in 1937; they consist of statistical summaries and lists of current ward officers and brief historical notes regarding local events. **Available only at CHL.**

- **Minutes of meetings**

Minutes were recorded by designated clerks. Local unit auxiliary minutes (e.g. Relief Society, Sunday School, Primary) were sent to Historian’s Office until 1973 and general minutes (Sacrament meeting) to 1977; minutes have not been submitted to Church headquarters since 1977. Minutes provide insight into ancestor’s activity level—prayers, talks, callings, remarks offered during Fast and Testimony meetings, etc. Early Intermountain West minute books may contain intermittent miscellaneous information (e.g. membership records, cemetery maps and burial records, funeral proceedings, school attendance records, irrigation information, business records, personal financial notations, diary entries, etc.); many local units’ records at CHL have sporadic gaps. **Available only at CHL. Other university, state, or private historical institutions may house minutes and other local unit records that should have been sent to Church headquarters but were not forwarded and have been acquired subsequently by other entities.**

- **Other local unit records**

A wide variety of records are potentially available for many local units--newsletters, dedicatory prayers, programs, histories, photographs of ward members and buildings, etc. **Many items available only at CHL, but other historical institutions may house similar items.**

OTHER USEFUL COLLECTIONS

- ***Selected Collections from the Archives of the Church***

Collection comprises a DVD set of 74 disks containing about 400,000 pages of important early Church documents, diaries, architectural drawings, etc.; includes *Journal History of the Church* (1830-1923). Set may be purchased through BYU Bookstore. Collection is not indexed. **Copy available for use at CHL and at other institutions.**

- **Brigham Young office files, 1832-1877**

Collection contains approximately 15,000 letters from Church members seeking personal guidance, spiritual advice, financial help, Church literature, autographs, etc. Many letters report missionary matters and colonization progress. A register is available to the collection of 170 boxes, but there is no comprehensive index. Researchers should also consult letterpress copybooks for outgoing replies to letters (volumes indexed internally; no comprehensive index available). A computerized index to the names of those who wrote letters to Brigham Young can be accessed by asking staff members for assistance at reference desk. **Segments of collection available on *Selected Collections from the Archives of the Church*. Most segments of collection and computerized index to writers of letters available only at CHL.**

- **Missionary recommendations and calls, 1877-1918**

Letters from local church leaders recommending members to be called to serve missions. Includes replies from members either accepting or rejecting their calls. **Letters and index available only at CHL.**

- **Patriarchal blessings, 1830s-present**

Photocopies of direct ancestors’ blessings can be applied for either in person at CHL or by mail. Early Church members often received more than one patriarchal blessing. **Microfilmed index (1830-1971) available at both CHL and FHL.**

- **Nauvoo Temple Carpenters Time Book, 1842-1846**

Index to carpenters’ names and time period they worked. Corresponding original record gives little additional information. **In-house, hard copy index available at CHL.**

- **Seventies quorum membership records and autobiographies (Nauvoo era)**

Membership lists provide genealogical information in varying degrees of completeness. Seventies were requested to provide life sketches to clerk but relatively few complied. After identifying ancestor’s specific quorum in index (or Early Church Information File), search corresponding quorum minute books to discover biographical details—topics of discussion, members’ comments and testimonies expressed during meetings, lists of donations, etc. **In-house indexes available at CHL for both quorum records and life sketches.**

- **High Priests of Nauvoo and Salt Lake City, 1840s-1850s**

Index to men ordained to office of high priest; records contain primarily genealogical information in varying degrees of completeness. **In-house index available at CHL.**

- **Iowa Branches, 1839-1859**

Index to members and related information in membership records. After locating ancestor's name in index, go to corresponding branch records to obtain possible additional information. **In-house index available at CHL.**

- **Perpetual Emigrating Fund (P.E.F.), 1849-1887**

Index to members who borrowed money from the PEF for emigration. Related records housed at CHL—ledgers, promissory notes, lists of indebtedness, etc. Notations in records may list all family members' names who emigrated and sporadically other important information such as death date or place of residence. **In-house index available at CHL.**

- **Rebaptisms in Great Salt Lake Valley, 1847-1854**

Index to members who were re-baptized in Salt Lake City area as a sign of recommitment to the Gospel; includes records of some initial baptisms. A handful of baptisms are dated 1858-1863. **In-house index available at CHL.**

- **Public Works, 1850-1893**

Index to men employed as carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, plasterers, machinists, painters, quarrymen, mason tenders, lumbermen, millwrights, and sawyers engaged in building and making furnishings for public buildings and LDS Church structures, including the Salt Lake Temple, which was finished in 1893 and ended the public works program. Index also includes person's initial hiring date. Related records can be consulted to provide information regarding length of employment. **In-house index available at CHL.**

- **Journals, diaries, autobiographical and biographical sketches, and personal papers (in either manuscript or published format), 1830s-present**

The diaries and autobiographical writings of many pioneers, Church leaders, and members have been published (e.g. Wilford Woodruff, Patty Sessions, John Henry Smith, Caroline Barnes Crosby, Hosea Stout, etc.). Such volumes contain indexes of varying completeness. Most journals, diaries, life sketches, and personal papers are not published. Researchers may want to search the diaries, sketches, and papers of their ancestors' neighbors, local Church leaders, ward members, friends, business associates, etc. for possible ancestral references; also look for local government tax records and financial ledgers of area businesses to obtain clues regarding ancestors' economic status and lifestyle—house, property, food, furniture, clothes, farming implements, animals, and conveyances they purchased and used, etc. Very few manuscript collections are indexed. **CHL houses thousands of published and unpublished journals, diaries, life sketches, autograph books, etc.; FHL also holds a significant number of similar microfilmed records that are not represented at CHL. Other university, state, or private historical institutions house similar diaries, sketches, and personal papers.**

- **Photographs, 1840s-present**

The Church History Library houses hundreds of thousands of worldwide photographs of Church leaders, individuals, families, missionaries, Church historic events and places, meetinghouses, temples, LDS congregations and communities, and related social life and events, etc. **Many photographs only available at CHL; other university, state, or private historical institutions house similar photograph collections.**

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