



Information and Tips for Writing Histories

The purpose of writing pioneer histories in ISDUP is to perpetuate the names and achievements of the men, women, and children who were the pioneers in founding a commonwealth by collecting histories of pioneers and through local histories. Publishing pioneer histories provides the opportunity for descendants and others to review the lives of the pioneers and learn lessons of faith, courage, fortitude, and patriotism (*Article II, ISDUP Constitution and Bylaws*).

Researching, writing, and preserving pioneer histories can be a rewarding experience. This document provides a guide to the resources available in helping you write and submit histories.

Overview of Histories Submitted and ISDUP Resources

ISDUP Accepts and Encourages the Following Pioneer Histories:

- New histories, manuscripts, locality, and settlement information
 - Histories include pioneers who left their home and refugee encampments and started across the plains, including those who died on the way and those who arrived in the State of Deseret/Utah Territory between July 24, 1847, and May 10, 1869.
 - Histories include individuals born in the State of Deseret/Utah Territory between July 24, 1847, and May 10, 1869.
 - Histories include individuals from the Ship Brooklyn who continued overland travel or died on the trail toward the State of Deseret/Utah Territory between July 24, 1847, and May 10, 1869.
 - Histories shall include records of a locality, city, landmark, or man-made structure as built by or used by a pioneer.
- Submissions must be new information, not plagiarized, that is researched, written, and properly documented.
- Submissions are submitted to Camp Historians then forwarded to the Company Historian, and on to the International Historian. (*ISDUP Constitution and Bylaws*)

ISDUP Resources

On-Site Resources found at Pioneer Memorial Museum:

- Pioneer History Index in the Manuscript Room containing pioneer biographies and autobiographies. The index may be accessed using computers in the Manuscript Room.
- ISDUP Library (research only - not a lending library). Includes bound family histories, locality histories, early LDS periodicals, etc.
- Resource files in the Manuscript Room house a collection of locality articles, event clippings, pamphlets, etc.
 - Above document copies may be purchased for 25 cents per page either in person or by mail using the Pioneer History Request Form found at: ISDUP.org → History tab → History Forms.

Website History Resources:

- Pioneer History Index may be accessed at: ISDUP.org → History tab and contains the names of pioneer histories ISDUP has. Copies of pioneer histories can be ordered using the Pioneer History Request Form.
- Resources for researching and writing histories are found at: ISDUP.org → History tab.
 - Pioneer History Index
 - Pioneer History Request Form
 - Indexes to *Pioneer Pathways*, *Chronicles of Courage*, and *Heart Throbs of The West*

History Department Reminders



Pioneer Memorial Museum Library:

- The Museum has a small library.
- The library is a research library, not a lending library.
- The mission of the library is to collect books dealing with personalities and families of the pioneer period encompassing those who came to the Utah Territory or State of Deseret or who were born there before May 10, 1869. We do not have room for family history books that include continuing family histories.
- Books are accepted as donations that tell the history of specific towns, cities, counties, and areas within the Utah Territory or State of Deseret. These are referenced as locality books.
- Books are accepted as donations regarding topics that pertain to pioneer times and culture.

Museum Policies Regarding Computers, Cameras, Scanners:

Personal computers: You are welcome to use your personal computer as you research in our History Department. Please be aware of these stipulations:

- You may use your computer as a reference and for limited note taking. However, a history is copyrighted property of the author and ISDUP and the funds collected through copying histories is a source of revenue for our nonprofit, volunteer organization.
- The use of cameras, video recorders, cell phone cameras, or scanners are not allowed.
- Histories are copied for 25 cents a page.
- ISDUP expects appropriate credit to be given to sources (author of history, ISDUP book, etc.).

Submissions:

- The title page for each history submitted is completed in full.
- Make sure names, addresses, and emails are provided.
- Company Historian information section is completed in full.
- Pioneer History Title Page and Locality History Title Page are found at: ISDUP.org under History Forms.
- Updates and corrections are important when writing histories.
- If the one giving a Camp meeting history received it from ISDUP, do not resubmit it.
- Internet materials are not to be copied directly and sent in as a history (copyright laws).
- Internet materials can be used as a source when including information.
- The history does not have to be read at a DUP Camp meeting to send into ISDUP.
- Paper copies of histories are accepted when submitted in the mail. Submissions can also be received as an attachment through email. Please see Submitting Histories Electronically for electronic submissions.
- Mail-in requests should include only pioneers listed on our website on the Pioneer History Index.
- Camp and Company Historians keep a log of histories submitted.
- Historians send the histories as soon as possible – do not wait until the end of the year.
- Locality histories are important with no date restriction and a valuable source for research.
- Historians, please familiarize yourself with:
 - Submission forms and other forms found at: ISDUP.org → Forms tab
 - Camp and Company Historian responsibility information is found at: ISDUP.org → Leadership tab

Simple Suggestions for Writing a Pioneer History



These suggestions will assist you in writing pioneer histories.

1. Select an ancestor and compile information (including pictures).

Use officially recognized group sheets and pedigree charts. These will simplify your work and organize your information. Check the ISDUP Pioneer History Index to see if a history has been submitted and/or to access the names of existing histories. You can also see if siblings and parents have a history written.

2. Research multiple sources.

Consider the following sources as you do your research: Your local library, a library located in the locality of your ancestors, or online resources. Look for state, county, city, and town vital records (birth and death certificates), cemetery records, government land deeds, repository records, wills, military records, probate records, early school records, census records, newspapers, and historical websites, etc. Research microfilm and books. Your ancestor's information is someplace; you just have to find it. (Research Guide with details on sources is provided on pages 4 -5.)

3. Contact, organize, and cooperate with other family members.

Consult with parents, brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles, and grandparents and share information. It is surprising where you can find information on your family and who has the information. Check family writings, diaries, and accounts already written. Use a recording device when obtaining information from living sources. After you have transcribed the information, let the contributor check the transcripts.

4. Record full names.

Do not use grandma, grandpa, he, she, etc. These special people have a name. Please use their names. If spellings change from one source to another, list all the variations of the spellings you find.

5. Use original sources whenever possible.

Double check all information you obtain for accuracy. Copy information exactly as it is given in the original source. Sources and indexes may not be accurate.

6. Re-read all your recorded information.

Check to see if the information is logical. For example, a person cannot marry before they are born or give birth two years after they die.

7. Provide basic information such as:

- Complete name and when and where they were born.
- Christening date.
- Names of their parents.
- Name(s) of siblings and birth dates. (These dates can also provide information about the places they lived.)
- Name of the ship they traveled on to the United States (if applicable).
- Immigration details (if applicable).
- Name of the company they traveled with and the dates of departure and arrival.
- When and where they died and where they are buried.

8. Provide known information about their lives and context of conditions during the time period.

Many of the pioneers lived in other parts of the United States or in a foreign country before coming to Utah. You can research conditions over their entire life span and add details to your history. Some questions you may want to address are:

- What type of art, music, literature, dancing, theater, etc., was appreciated or affected the family? What books were available to read?
- What were political issues during that time at various levels? World events?
- What were the economic conditions?
- Were they involved in civic or political activities, lawsuits, serving on juries, etc.?
- Were their ancestors involved in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Mexican War, or did they serve in the military?
- By name, who were the world leaders?
- Were there racial problems?
- Any natural disasters that would affect your ancestors: fire, flood, hurricane, earthquake?
- What were their specific religious beliefs? Was there any religious harassment?
- What were the disciplinary methods within the family?
- Where was the location of their home--the city, farm, etc.?
- What were their occupation(s) and places of employment?
- What were the weather conditions: four seasons, precipitation levels, droughts?
- How were the homes heated?
- How was the cooking done? How was food preserved: canning, drying or smoking meat, root cellar?
- Was their food scarce or plentiful?
- How did the family travel?
- Were there any vacations, holiday traditions, fairs, carnivals?
- What were schools like? What education level was achieved? College?
- What games would the family have played--indoor and outdoor?
- What heirlooms have been handed down?
- Were they named after someone? Any nicknames?
- What physical traits or talents were handed down?
- Any brushes with death?

Research Guide



Utah History Resources:

- Mormon History Association - PO Box 980398, Park City, UT 84098, 801-521-6565, <https://mormonhistoryassociation.org> or info@mormonhistoryassociation.org
- Sons of Utah Pioneers - 3301 E 2920 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84109, 801-484-4441, <https://www.sup1847.com> or sup1847@gmail.com
- Utah Museums Association - PO Box 2077, Salt Lake City, UT 84110, 202-251-0549, <https://www.utahmuseums.org/default.aspx> or info@utahmuseums.org
- Utah Historical Society - 300 S Rio Grande St, Salt Lake City, UT 84101, 801-533-3504, <https://history.utah.gov/utah-state-historical-society> or uhq@utah.gov
- Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce - 175 E. University Blvd. (400 S), #600, Salt Lake City, UT 84111, 801-364-3631, <https://slchamber.com> or info@slchamber.com
- Fort Douglas Military Museum - 32 Potter St, Salt Lake City, UT 84113, 801-581-1251, <https://www.fortdouglas.org> or admin@fortdouglas.org

Research Tools for Utah History

- Mormon Migration Database, 1840-1932: Index of pioneer immigrants with image links to journals, autobiographies, letters, and other narratives. The immigrants were from the British, Scandinavian, Swedish, and Netherlands Missions. Images of the materials are found at: <https://saintsbysea.lib.byu.edu>
- Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database: The most complete index of individuals and companies that crossed the plains to Utah between 1847 and 1869. Includes life dates and links to primary sources including transcribed excerpts from trail diaries, letters, and newspaper reports found at: <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/overlandtravel>
- Early Latter-day Saints History of the early Mormon pioneers, their trails, settlements, cemeteries found at: <http://earlylds.com/>
- Mormon Battalion Association: History of the Mormon Battalion, biographies, rosters, photographs, etc., found at: <http://www.mormonbattalion.com>
- *Pioneer Pathways*: Volumes 1-11: Consolidated Index. An index to *Pioneer Pathways* found at: ISDUP.org → Histories tab → Pioneer Pathways Index.
- Tracing Mormon Pioneers: Provides tips for those tracing their Mormon Pioneer ancestry from Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, and South Africa to Salt Lake City, Utah found at: <https://user.xmission.com/~nelsonb/pioneer.htm>
- Utah Division of State History: Online sources include digital collections, photos, Utah Cemetery and Burial Database, and Utah Markers and Monuments Database found at: <https://history.utah.gov>
- Utah Vital Records: Includes archives of vital, court, land, law and legislation, military, mining, and other records found at: <https://archives.utah.gov/research>
- Cemetery sources that often include a photo of the headstone and associated family members within the cemetery found at: <https://www.findagrave.com>; <https://billiongraves.com>, etc.
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church Library found at: <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/?lang=eng>
- *FamilySearch* found at: <https://www.familysearch.org>
- *Ancestry.com* found at: <https://www.ancestry.com>
- *My Heritage* found at: <https://www.myheritage.com>
- *Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah*
- *Women of Faith and Fortitude*
- *LDS Bibliographical Encyclopedia*

Primary Sources

- 19th-century Utah newspapers containing obituaries and articles found at: <https://digitalnewspapers.org>
- *Semi-Centennial Commission Book of the Pioneers, 1897*: A searchable archive of the 1897 Jubilee book filled out by the surviving 1847 pioneers found at: <https://www.archives.utah.gov/digital/14107.htm>
- Diaries and Letters 1846-1869 found at: <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/overlandtravel>
- Western State Historical Marriage Record Index Search for marriages in Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah 1850-1951 found at: <http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/search.cfm>
- Immigration records of the National Archives and Records Administration found at: <https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration>
- American ancestor's passenger ship lists found at: National Archives (NARA) Passenger List Search. <https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/passenger-arrival.html> (There are a number of other websites you can search for passenger ship lists.)
- Immigrant Ancestors Project Database found at: <http://immigrants.byu.edu/search/simple>

Maps

- Mormon Trail Map found at: <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/maps/historic-sites/illinois-iowa/mormon-trail-interactive-map?lang=eng>
- David Rumsey Historical Map Collection found at: <https://www.davidrumsey.com>
- Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection found at: <https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps>
- Historical Pioneer Research Group: Research ancestors who lived in Winter Quarters/Council Bluffs area during 1846-1854, interactive tour map of the Middle Missouri River Valley found at: <http://earlylds.com>

Geographic Area Covered by the State of Deseret and Utah Territory

- Map showing the borders of the Provisional State of Deseret and the Utah Territory.

