



Mountain West States: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

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BEGINNING DATES

Arizona – was part of Nueva/Alta California under Spain until 1821 when it became part of Mexico. In 1848 it became part of New Mexico Territory until 1863 when it became its own territory. During the Civil War, the southern half went with the Confederacy. In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state.

Colorado – was part of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. In 1850, it became part of the Utah and New Mexico territories. In 1854, it was divided between the Kansas, Nebraska, Utah and New Mexico territories. In 1861, it became own territory, and in 1876 Colorado became the 38th state.

Idaho – was made part of Oregon Territory in 1846, then part of Washington Territory in 1853. It became its own territory in 1863. In 1890, Idaho became 43rd state.

Montana – was part of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. It became part of Oregon Territory, 1848-1859, part of Washington Territory, 1853-1863, part of Nebraska Territory, 1854-1861, part of Dakota Territory, 1861-1864, and part of Idaho Territory, 1863-1864. It became its own territory in 1864. In 1889, Montana became the 41st state.

Nevada – was part of Nueva/Alta California under Spain until 1821 when it became part of Mexico. In 1848 it became part of Utah Territory. In 1852 it was part of Utah and New Mexico territories then became its own territory in 1861. In 1864, Nevada became the 36th state.

New Mexico - first Spanish settlement was established in 1598. It was part of Nueva/Alta California under Spain until 1821 when it became part of Mexico. It became part of the U.S. in 1848 after the Mexican War. It became its own territory in 1850, and in 1912, New Mexico became the 47th state.

Utah – was part of Nueva/Alta California under Spain until 1821 when it became part of Mexico. In 1847, Mormons declared it the State of Deseret. It became part of the U.S. in 1848 after the Mexican War, and its own territory in 1850. In 1896, Utah became the 45th state.

Wyoming – was part of Nueva/Alta California under Spain until 1821 when it became part of Mexico. It became part of Nebraska Territory, 1854-1861, Dakota Territory, 1861-1864, Idaho Territory, 1863 and its own territory in 1868. In 1890, Wyoming became the 44th state.

GOLD, SILVER, ETC. RUSHES

Arizona – starting in 1770s but mostly from 1850s, Globe, Pinal, McMillenville

Colorado – starting in 1850s, Pike's Peak

Idaho – starting about 1860s, Coeur d'Alene

Montana – starting about 1860s in the western part, especially near Butte

Nevada – starting about 1850s, Comstock, El Dorado, Austin, Eureka, Pioche

New Mexico – starting about 1860s, Magdalena, Silver City, Lake Valley

Utah – starting about 1860s, Part City, Bingham Canyon

Wyoming – starting in 1840s, Black Hills

TRAILS, BOUNDARIES AND PLACES

- 1) Migration routes, see Wiki for each state
 - a) Rivers, including the Platte, Colorado, Snake, Green, and Rio Grande
 - b) Trails, including the Santa Fe, Oregon, California, and Mormon
 - c) Railroads, including the Central Pacific; Union Pacific; Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe
 - d) Dollarhide, William. *Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735-1815*. Bountiful, Utah: AGLL Genealogical Services, 1977 (FHL book 973E3d).
https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE1311007
- 2) Boundary changes
 - a) Wikipedia, Territorial evolution of the United States
 - b) Map of US, www.mapofus.org
- 3) Finding places, past and present
 - a) USGS, <http://geonames.usgs.gov>
 - b) Google Maps, www.google.com/maps
 - c) Omni Gazetteer
 - d) Town/county/state gazetteers

GOVERNMENT BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

- 1) Marriages were usually kept by counties as soon as the county was created.
- 2) Births and deaths were usually not kept until the states began recording them.
- 3) For each state, check the FamilySearch Wiki for information about state records.
 - a) Arizona - birth and death records began 1909
 - b) Colorado - birth and death records began 1907
 - c) Idaho - birth and death records began 1911
 - d) Montana - birth and death records began 1907; many began 1895
 - e) Nevada - birth and death records began 1911
 - f) New Mexico - birth and death records began 1920
 - g) Utah - birth and death records began 1905
 - h) Wyoming - birth and death records began 1909
- 4) Check the following Wiki pages, putting the name of a state in the blank space. Has links to records on Ancestry, FamilySearch, other sites, and addresses of where to write to obtain certificates.
 - a) How to Find _____ Birth Records
 - b) How to Find _____ Marriage Records
 - c) How to Find _____ Death Records

CHURCH RECORDS

- 1) Church records are the major records for births (baptisms) and deaths (burials) before states started keeping these types of records. They are also another source for marriage records.
- 2) Information in these records varies a lot depending on the record keeper and the denomination. Some have a great deal of information.
- 3) In FamilySearch Catalog, Place Search, check **Church Records** under 1st the town, 2nd the county.

- 4) The church Wiki page for each state shows predominant churches before 1900, including how to contact them.
 - a) Arizona – Catholic, Mormon, and Presbyterian
 - b) Colorado – Baptist, Catholic, Mormon, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian
 - c) Idaho – Catholic, Methodist, Mormon, Presbyterian, and Quaker
 - d) Montana – Catholic, Methodist, Episcopal, and Presbyterian
 - e) Nevada – Catholic, Methodist, Mormon, and Protestant Episcopal
 - f) New Mexico – Catholic, with Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, Mormon, and Presbyterian
 - g) Utah – Mormon with Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Methodist, and Presbyterian
 - h) Wyoming – Catholic, Methodist Episcopal, Mormon, and Protestant Episcopal

CENSUS

- 1) Indian Censuses
- 2) State and Territorial Censuses
- 3) For each state, check the FamilySearch Wiki
 - a) Arizona Census – federal 1860 on, several state, territorial, and colonial censuses
 - b) Colorado Census - federal 1860 on, an 1885 state census
 - c) Idaho Census – federal 1860 (partial), 1870 on, a partial 1856 state census
 - d) Montana Census – federal 1860 on, a partial 1862-3 state census
 - e) Nevada Census – federal 1860 on, state censuses for 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, and 1875, some only partial
 - f) New Mexico Census – federal 1850 on, several state censuses; the 1885 is on FamilySearch and Ancestry
 - g) Utah Census – federal 1850 on, several state censuses, some only partial
 - h) Wyoming Census – federal 1850 (partial), 1860 on, several state censuses, some only partial or statistical

LAND RECORDS

- 1) Spanish and Mexican land grants; private land claims.
- 2) All states in this region are public land states.
- 3) Person to person, deeds, were recorded by each county.
 - a) Need to know the existing county where a person bought or sold land.
 - b) Some on film, some online, some paper.
- 4) Government to person, homesteads, bounty land, etc. recorded by the federal land office.
 - a) General Land Office Records, www.gloreCORDS.blm.gov
- 5) In the FamilySearch Catalog, use **Place Search** to find the county, then check **Land and Property Records**.

NATIVE RACES

- 1) Bureau of Indian Affairs kept censuses, births, marriages, deaths, enrollments, allotments, and family registers.
- 2) In FamilySearch Catalog, search for the state then **Minorities** or **Native Races**.
- 3) Ancestry has Indian censuses, 1885-1940.

VOTING RECORDS

- 1) County recorders kept voting registers
- 2) Sometimes called Great Registers
- 3) These registers include residence, naturalization, and place of origin

MILITARY

- 1) Indian Wars, 1798-1914
- 2) Mexican War, 1846-1848
- 3) Civil War, 1861-1865

MAJOR INTERNET SITES WITH RECORDS

- 1) Ancestry.com
- 2) FamilySearch.org
- 3) Find My Past
- 4) Fold3
- 5) My Heritage

REGIONAL AND STATE INTERNET SITES

- 1) Region
 - a) Mountain West Digital Library, <http://mwdl.org>
 - b) Western States Marriage Index, <http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernstates/search.cfm>
 - c) Rocky Mountain Online Archive, CO, NM, WY, <http://rmoa.unm.edu/browse.php>
- 2) Arizona
 - a) AZ Department of Health Services, births and deaths, <http://genealogy.az.gov>
 - b) Arizona Gravestones, <http://arizonagravestones.org>
 - c) Arizona, Douglas, Arrival Manifests, 1906-1955, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2299376>
 - d) Arizona Memory Project, <http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/cdm>
- 3) Colorado
 - a) Colorado State Archives, Archives Search, Historical Records Index, <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/archives/archives-search>
 - b) Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org
 - c) Denver Public Library, Digital Collections, <http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm>
- 4) Idaho
 - a) Idaho State Historical Society, <https://history.idaho.gov/searchable-indexes>
 - i) Reconstructed 1890 Idaho Census
 - ii) Inmate catalog, 1864-1947
- 5) Montana
 - a) Montana State Genealogical Society, <http://montanamsgs.org/onlinedata.html>
 - b) Montana Historical Society Research Center, <https://mhs.mt.gov/research/online>
 - c) Montana State Government Information, <https://archive.org/details/MontanaStateLibrary>
- 6) Nevada
 - a) Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records, Digital Collections, www.nsladigitalcollections.org
 - b) Carson City Recorder-Genealogy, www.carson.org/government/departments-a-f/clerk-recorder/genealogy
 - c) Nevada, Orphan's Home Records, 1870-1920, www.ancestry.com (\$)

- 7) New Mexico
 - a) New Mexico Digital Collections, <http://econtent.unm.edu>
 - b) New Mexico Genealogical Society, <http://www.nmgs.org/artGRNM-VR.php>
 - c) Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico, http://www.hgrc-nm.org/gnmpd_portal.html
 - d) New Mexico State Archives Catalog, www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/archives/nm-archives-heritage-search, some digitized
- 8) Utah
 - a) Utah Death Certificate Index, www.archives.utah.gov/research/indexes/20842.htm
 - b) Utah Cemeteries and Burial Database, <https://heritage.utah.gov/history/cemeteries>
 - c) Utah Digital Newspapers, <http://digitalnewspapers.org>
 - d) Utah State Archives Name Indexes, <http://archives.utah.gov/research/indexes>
 - e) Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, <https://history.lds.org/overlandtravels>
 - f) Mormon Migration, <https://mormonmigration.lib.byu.edu>
 - g) Early Church Information File, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2078505>
- 9) Wyoming
 - a) Wyoming State Archives, Death Certificates, <http://wyoarchives.state.wy.us/DCD/Index.aspx>
 - b) Wyoming Newspaper Project, <http://newspapers.wyo.gov>

OTHER USEFUL INTERNET SITES

- German Roots, www.germanroots.com points to online genealogical sites
- Cyndi's List, www.cyndislist.com points to online genealogical sites
- Find a Grave, www.findagrave.com for search form, click 1st option under Find Graves
- Digital State Archives, www.digitalstatearchives.com
- USGenWeb, <http://usgenweb.org>, check Projects
- Chronicling America, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>, newspapers 1836-1922
- Old Maps Online, www.oldmapsonline.org

NOT ON THE INTERNET, NOW WHAT?

- 1) FamilySearch Catalog
- 2) FamilySearch Wiki
- 3) County courthouses
- 4) State libraries and archives
- 5) Societies

#USGenealogy
 #FamilyHistoryLibrary
 #FHLUSSeminar