

# Retention and Classification Report

**Agency:** Utah Commission (1249)

, UT

## Records Officer

01125 \*Account ledgers  
00304 \*Commission register  
00396 \*Election returns register  
01139 \*Letterbooks  
01126 \*Minute books  
85194 \*Reports to the Secretary of the Interior

**AGENCY:** Utah Commission

**SERIES:** 1125

4

**TITLE:** Account ledgers

**DATES:** i 1882-1894.

**ARRANGEMENT:**

**DESCRIPTION:**

These volumes record the financial transactions of the Utah Commission. The expenditures relate primarily to paying voter registration and election officers. One volume pertains to vouchers, two are bill records, and five are entitled officers records. Date, person's name, office title, check number, and amount are recorded for each precinct. Contingent expenses are recorded toward the back of five of the volumes. These include such things as travel, printing, coal, rent, services, telephone/telegraph, cleaning supplies, etc.

**RETENTION:**

Retain Permanent. In Archives custody.

**DISPOSITION:**

Transfer to the State Archives with authority to weed.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in State Archives permanently after microfilming.

Microfilm duplicate: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

Microfilm master: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

Historical

As the governing body of Utah, the expenditures of the Commission provide information on their priorities and preferences.

**AGENCY:** Utah Commission

**SERIES:** 1125

**TITLE:** Account ledgers

(continued)

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Utah Commission

**SERIES:** 304

4

**TITLE:** Commission register

**DATES:** i 1882-1884.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Chronological.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Utah Commission was created in 1882 under the Edmunds Law, a law enacted by the U.S. Congress to define punishment for polygamy and unlawful cohabitation in the territories.

Disqualifying polygamists as voters and office holders was among the penalties of the law. Furthermore, a federally appointed commission took charge of elections, appointing election officers, canvassing votes, and issuing certificates of election.

This volume contains a record of commissions issued by the Utah Commission to registration and elections officers, specifically registrars and judges of elections. There are columns in which are recorded the person's name, title of office, precinct, county, and date of commission for those commissioned from 1882 to 1884.

The rear of the book also contains a list of certificates of election issued to winners of municipal elections held in 1883. This section has the same categories, with the name of the city appearing in the precinct column.

**RETENTION:**

Retain Permanent. In Archives custody.

**DISPOSITION:**

Transfer to the State Archives with authority to weed.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: For records beginning in 1882 through 1884. Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

Historical

**AGENCY:** Utah Commission

**SERIES:** 304

**TITLE:** Commission register

(continued)

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Utah Commission

**SERIES:** 396

4

**TITLE:** Election returns register

**DATES:** i 1891-1895.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Volumes are arranged chronologically by year. Entries are by level of office and/or alphanumerically by county or

**DESCRIPTION:**

These volumes contain certified election return abstracts from around the territory for each year from 1891 through 1895. The returns are certified by members of the Utah Commission or by the Board of Canvassers. The volumes contain returns for elections from the municipal level to territory or state-wide positions, but not all levels are present in each year.

The 1891 volume contains returns from each district for members of the Legislative Council and returns for members of the territorial House of Representatives. It also contains general election returns of county and precinct officers. The 1892 volume contains returns for delegates to Congress, territorial, and county officers plus those for precinct officers. Returns for members of the Legislative Council and the territorial House comprise the 1893 volume. The 1894 volume contains general election returns for county and precinct officers and returns of a special election to choose delegates to a constitutional convention. The 1895 volume contains returns for the election of state and district offices plus a referendum on the adoption of a state constitution; it also contains returns of the general election of county and municipal officers.

**RETENTION:**

Retain Permanent. In Archives custody.

**DISPOSITION:**

Transfer to the State Archives with authority to weed.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**AGENCY:** Utah Commission

**SERIES:** 396

**TITLE:** Election returns register

(continued)

**APPRAISAL:**

Historical

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Utah Commission

**SERIES:** 1139

4

**TITLE:** Letterbooks

**DATES:** i 1883-1895.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Chronological.

**DESCRIPTION:**

These reels contain letterbook copies of the outgoing correspondence of the Utah Commission. They include cover letters to accompany election notices and pay vouchers. Most of the correspondence relates to registration instructions and determinations, appointments of election officers, resignations, the canvas of returns, polygamy convictions, and the Women's Christian Industrial Home. Many of the letters in these letterbooks are illegible. Business-related correspondence which provide unique information about agency functions, policies, procedures, or programs. These records document material discussions and decisions made regarding all agency interests, and may originate on paper, electronic mail, or other media. This correspondence is filed separately from program case files, and project files.

**RETENTION:**

Retain Permanent. In Archives custody.

**DISPOSITION:**

Transfer to the State Archives with authority to weed.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**AUTHORIZED:** //

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

Microfilm master: For records beginning in 1883 through 1895. Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

Microfilm duplicate: For records beginning in 1883 through 1895. Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**AGENCY:** Utah Commission

**SERIES:** 1139

**TITLE:** Letterbooks

(continued)

**APPRAISAL:**

Historical

This disposition is based on the 1990 Utah General Retention Schedule, Schedule 1, Item 9.

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Utah Commission

**SERIES:** 1126

4

**TITLE:** Minute books

**DATES:** i 1882-1896.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Volumes and their entries are chronological with the volumes labeled alphabetically. Index entries are alphabetical by

**DESCRIPTION:**

These seven volumes detail the activities and document the philosophies of members of the Utah Commission. The Commission was established under the federal 1882 Edmunds Act which also vacated all offices in Utah and prevented polygamists from registering to vote, voting, or holding office. The Utah Commission was given oversight of compliance with the act. The duties of the commission were defined as "each and every duty relating to the registration of voters, the conduct of elections, the receiving or rejection of votes, and the canvassing and returning of the same, and the issuing of certificates or other evidence of election" in territorial Utah.

The volumes note presidential appointments of Commission members, pertinent legislation and court rulings, and the dates, times, and attendance for each meeting of the commission along with a description of the business conducted. The major portion is devoted to election procedures including the appointment of registration officers, judges of election, and a board of canvassers along with the creation of rules and regulations for their benefit. The returns from precinct to territory-wide elections are reported. The second most extensive entries are the reports of the commission to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior detailing the commission's activities plus the members' perceptions of the sociopolitical climate in Utah and their suggestions for further federal legislation.

**RETENTION:**

Retain Permanent. In Archives custody.

**DISPOSITION:**

Transfer to the State Archives with authority to weed.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**APPROVED:** 07/1990

**AGENCY:** Utah Commission

**SERIES:** 1126

**TITLE:** Minute books

(continued)

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in State Archives permanently and then microfilm.

Microfilm master: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

Microfilm duplicate: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

Administrative Fiscal Historical Legal

This disposition is based on the 1990 Utah General Retention Schedule, Schedule 1, Item 6.

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Utah Commission

**SERIES:** 85194

4

**TITLE:** Reports to the Secretary of the Interior

**DATES:** i 1882-1896.

**ARRANGEMENT:** There are two sections on the reel. Both are filmed chronologically.

**DESCRIPTION:**

This series contains the reports, regulations, and decisions issued by the Utah Commission. The record is devoted primarily to the published annual reports made by the commission to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The reports detail not only the commission's election-related activities, but the members' perceptions of the sociopolitical climate in Utah and their suggestions for federal legislation. The annual reports frequently summarize for the Interior Secretary the historical context of Mormon and non-Mormon conflicts, both in regard to polygamy and secular matters.

The reports are interspersed with notices of election, appointment forms for registration and election officers, instructions and forms regarding their duties, and correspondence related to rulings on election procedures. Also included are reports of the Industrial Christian Home Association, a home for polygamous wives and children. The Utah Commission served as a Board of Management and Control for the home and was required to make regular reports regarding its operation to Congress.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Microfilm master: Retain in State Archives permanently.

Microfilm duplicate: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

Historical

**AGENCY:** Utah Commission

**SERIES:** 85194

**TITLE:** Reports to the Secretary of the Interior

(continued)

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public