

Creation of Salt Lake County

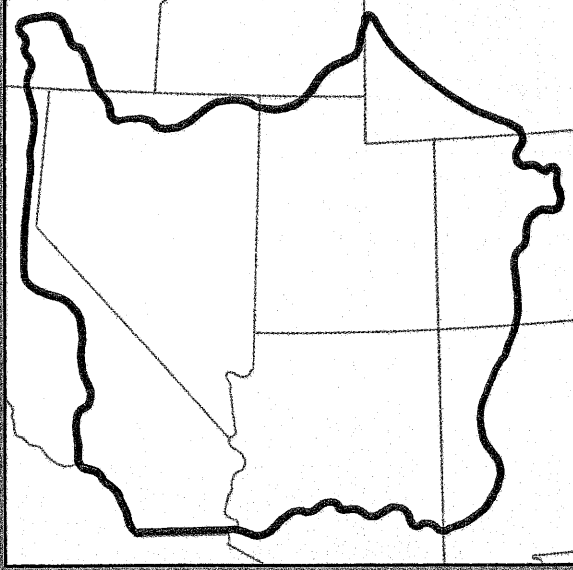
On 31 January 1850, the Legislature of the State of Deseret passed "an Ordinance Providing for the Location of Counties and Precincts Therein Named, etc." The ordinance gives rough boundaries for Great Salt Lake County and names Great Salt Lake City as the County seat.

After Congress created the Territory of Utah, the Territorial Legislature passed a law on 4 Oct. 1851 adopting all the laws of the State of Deseret, which would have included the ordinance locating the various counties.

The relevant entry from the Laws of the Territory of Utah, 1851 and an entry from the book The State of Deseret by Dale L. Morgan are attached.

**THERE IS NO SINGLE ORIGINAL CHARTER
DOCUMENT CREATING SALT LAKE COUNTY.**

THE STATE OF DESERET



Dale L. Morgan

himself according to the Ordinance in such case made and provided, relating to his duties, in locating the same.

Approved February 1, 1850.

AN ORDINANCE, Providing for the Location of Counties
and Precincts Therein Named, &c.

Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the General Assembly of the State of Deseret, that all that portion of country known as Weber Valley, and extending as far south as Stony Creek, and west to the Great Salt Lake, shall be called Weber County.

Sec. 2. The County seat of said County shall be located at Ogden City.

Sec. 3. The County of Weber shall be divided into three Precincts, as follows:—The City Precinct shall include all of the country lying in said County, between Ogden River and Sandy Creek, all north of Ogden shall be called Ogden Precinct, and all south of the second Creek in said County, Sandy Precinct.

Sec. 4. All that portion of country known as the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, and lying south of Stony Creek, shall be called Great Salt Lake County.

Sec. 5. The County seat of said County shall be at Great Salt Lake City.

Sec. 6. Great Salt Lake County shall be divided into five Precincts as follows, to-wit:—All north of the Hot Spring, and west to the Jordan; thence down that river, eight miles; thence west to the Great Salt Lake; to be called North Kanyon Precinct.

Sec. 7. City Precinct shall include all that part of said County lying east of Jordan, and between North Kanyon Precinct and the farming lands on the south line of the City, and to the western limits of said County.

Sec. 8. All that portion of country known as the farming land east of Jordan, south of City Precincts, and north of the south line of the Big Field, thence to the eastern line of said County, to be known as Farmer's Precinct.

Sec. 9. Cotton-wood Precinct shall include all of that portion of said County lying south of Farmer's Precinct, and east of Jordan.

Sec. 10. All of that portion of said County lying west of the Jordan River, and south of North Kanyon Precinct, shall be known as Western Jordan Precinct.

Sec. 11. All that portion of country called Utah Valley, shall be called Utah County; the County seat of which shall be located at Provo City.

Sec. 12. The aforesaid County shall be one Precinct, when the County Court shall deem it necessary to organize; in which case, the said Court is hereby authorized to divide off as many Precincts as shall be necessary for the convenience of the people.

Sec. 13. San Pete Valley shall be a County, including the boundaries of said valley, and called San Pete County; having one Precinct, until the County Court shall deem it necessary for the convenience of the people to have more; when the said Court may create more as they shall see proper.

Salt Lake County Archives Note of Origin of Publication

1. This document was pulled from the Internet Archive, which has a digital copy available for free public access, “Constitution of the State of Deseret”, published 1850. Made available online in 2010. This is the original primary source for Dale Morgan's book *The State of Deseret*.
 - a. Source: <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/03dabc1b-c81b-4ad1-9d92-5c997b5ecedd/0?view=summary&lang=eng>
2. Original bibliographic record by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, “Constitution of the State of Deseret”, published 1850.
 - a. Source: <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/03dabc1b-c81b-4ad1-9d92-5c997b5ecedd/0?view=summary&lang=eng>

Daniel Cureton,

Digital and Reference Archivist

March 14, 2023

W. Woodruff
HISTORIAN'S OFFICE
Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints.
CONSTITUTION

Vault
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1850

OF THE
STATE OF DESERET.

PREAMBLE—

WHEREAS a large number of Citizens of the United States, before, and since the Treaty of Peace with the Republic of Mexico, emigrated to, and settled in that portion of the Territory of the United States, lying west of the Rocky Mountains, and in the Great Interior Basin of Upper California; and

WHEREAS, by reason of said treaty, all civil organization, originating from the Republic of Mexico became abrogated; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has failed to provide a form of Civil Government for the Territory so acquired, or any portion thereof; and

WHEREAS, Civil Government and Laws are necessary, for the security, peace and prosperity of Society; and

WHEREAS, it is a fundamental principle in all Republican Governments, that all political power is inherent in the People; and Governments instituted for their protection, security and benefit, should emanate from the same:

THEREFORE, your Committee beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following CONSTITUTION, until the Congress of the United States shall otherwise provide for the Government of the Territory hereinafter named and described, by admitting us into the Union. WE, THE PEOPLE, Grateful to the SUPREME BEING for the blessings hitherto enjoyed, and feeling our dependence on Him for a continuation of those blessings, DO ORDAIN, AND ESTABLISH A FREE AND INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT, by the name of the STATE OF DESERET; including all the Territory of the United States, within the following boundaries, to wit: Commencing at the 33rd North Latitude where it crosses the 103rd Longitude, west of Greenwich; thence running South and West to the Northern boundary of

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Sec. 7. The Commissioners herein provided for, shall locate all roads herein contemplated, upon such ground as shall be most conducive to the public benefit, and have power to open the same through enclosures, farming lands, &c., where necessary.

Sec. 8. Any person feeling him or herself damaged by the opening of any such road, through or across their premises, may have the same appraised by three judicious men, who shall, in calculating such damages, also consider the benefit accruing to said premises in consideration of said road, and if it shall appear that the premises through which said road shall pass, are damaged more than benefited by the same, the owners thereof may recover the same by appeal to the County Courts, all such amounts to be paid out of the Public Treasury.

Sec. 9. The people in each Precinct may, at the time of holding elections, elect a Supervisor of roads in each Precinct annually, whose duty it shall be to call out and expend the poll tax in each Precinct, upon all roads within said Precincts. It shall be his duty to open and keep in repair all such roads, and to collect from all delinquents the equivalent of their labor, and expend the amount so collected upon the same.

Approved, Jan. 15, 1850.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE LOCATION OF STATE ROADS, &c.

Passed by the General Assembly, Jan. 28, 1850.

Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the General Assembly of the State of Deseret, that a State road, eight rods in width, be located from Ogden, the County seat of Weber County, south, passing the Temple Block, in Great Salt Lake City; and terminating at the Town of Provo, the County seat of Utah County.

Sec. 2. Also a State road, of the same width, from the Temple Block in Great Salt Lake City, to the County seat of Tuilla County; and the State Commissioner on public roads, is hereby required to take due notice, and govern himself according to the Ordinance in such case made and provided, relating to his duties, in locating the same.

Approved Feb. 1, 1850.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LOCATION OF COUNTIES AND PRECINCTS THEREIN NAMED, &c.

Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the General Assembly of the State

of Deseret, that all that portion of country known as Weber Valley, and extending as far south as Stony Creek, and west to the Great Salt Lake, shall be called Weber County.

Sec. 2. The County seat of said County shall be located at Ogden City.

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Sec. 4. All that portion of country known as the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, and lying south of Stony Creek, shall be called Great Salt Lake County.

Sec. 5. The County seat of said County shall be at Great Salt Lake City.

Sec. 6. Great Salt Lake County shall be divided into five Precincts as follows, to wit:—All north of the Hot Spring, and west to the Jordan; thence down that river, eight miles; thence west to the Great Salt Lake; to be called North Kanyon Precinct.

Sec. 7. City Precinct shall include all that part of said County lying east of Jordan, and between North Kanyon Precinct and the farming lands on the south line of the City, and to the western limits of said County.

Sec. 8. All that portion of country known as the farming land east of the Jordan, south of City Precincts, and north of the south line of the Big Field, thence to the eastern line of said County, to be known as Farmer's Precinct.

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Sec. 13. San Pete Valley shall be a County, including the boundaries of said valley, and called San Pete County; having one Precinct, until the County Court shall deem it necessary for the convenience of the people to have more; when the said Court may create more as they shall see proper.

Notice of Origin of Publication

Provided by the Utah State Archives

The Following Document “Acts, Resolutions, and Memorials. Passy by the First Annual, and Special Sessions of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah,” provides the joint resolution by the Utah Territorial Legislative body reenacting and reaffirming the previously created laws by the State of Deseret, found in the State of Deseret Constitution, which laws included the creation of Salt Lake County (and other counties), their boundaries, and county seats by the ordinance titled “An Ordinance Providing for the Location of Counties and Precincts Therein Named.”

Daniel Cureton,

Digital and Reference Archivist

March 15, 2023

**ACTS,
RESOLUTIONS, AND MEMORIALS.**

PASSED BY THE

**FIRST ANNUAL, AND SPECIAL SESSIONS. OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

OF THE

TERRITORY OF UTAH,

**BEGUN AND HELD AT GREAT SALT LAKE CITY. ON
THE 22ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER, A. D., 1851.**

ALSO THE.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

AND THE

ACT ORGANIZING THE TERRITORY OF UTAH.

Published by Authority of the Legislative Assembly.

G. S. L. CITY, U. T.

1852.

BRIGHAM H. YOUNG, PRINTER.

erwise fail to deliver the said papers, records, seal, press, documents, or money or any other property or articles pertaining to said office, or any part thereof, then, and in that case, it shall be the duty of the said United States Marshal for Utah Territory, to arrest the said B. D. Harris, Secretary aforesaid, and him safely keep in custody, until he shall comply with the foregoing resolutions.

If secretary refuse to comply, the marshal shall arrest and keep him.

Approved Sept. 24, 1851.

JOINT RESOLUTION LEGALIZING THE LAWS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF DESERET.

Resolved, by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, That the laws heretofore passed by the provisional government of the state of Deseret, and which do not conflict with the "Organic Act," of said Territory, be, and the same are hereby declared to be legal, and in full force and virtue, and shall so remain until superseded by the action of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah.

Deseret laws legalized.

Approved Oct. 4, 1851.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF HOME MANUFACTURES.

Resolved, by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, in joint session assembled, That a select committee of three be appointed to act under the direction of His Excellency the Governor, in awarding premiums to such persons as shall produce the greatest quantity of manufactured articles of good quality; having reference to those articles most needed, and of common use.

Committee to award premiums.

Resolved, That the sum of one thousand dollars be, and