



records
management
&
ARCHIVES

Salt Lake County Archives

385-468-0820

www.archives.slco.org

Record Group Information Leaflet

Justice of the Peace Records

5/2012 (1)

Description:

Justice of the Peace records include civil and criminal court documents, register of actions, a blotter, calendar, an inquest register, and case files. Precincts include the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 10th precincts as well as the City Precinct, Union Precinct, Millcreek Precinct, and the North Jordan Precinct.

Dates: 1871 – 1956

The dates available vary by precinct. The years with the best coverage are 1880-1900. The following years are missing completely: 1904-1908, 1916-1920.

Arrangement and Access:

The records are arranged by date and precinct. Many of the docket books begin with an alphabetical index (most civil cases are alphabetized by the plaintiff, criminal cases by the defendant). However, searching by date is the most thorough search strategy.

Civil Case Docket Books

The Civil Case Docket Books include the dates and a brief description of the proceedings. Civil cases include debt for goods or services, property damage or trespass, divorce, etc. The civil docket books cover the following years: 1874-1904, 1909-1913, and 1915.

Criminal Case Docket Books

Criminal Case Dockets list the offense, date of offense, date of arrest, plea, a brief description of the proceedings, the findings, the sentence, and some also include a list of witness and court costs and notice of appeal. Criminal cases include assault and battery, unlawful sale of intoxicating drink, theft, vagrancy, prostitution, abusive language, drunk (public intoxication), etc.

Inquest Register

An Inquest Register is available for March 3, 1898 to November 3, 1902. The Justice of the Peace acted as a coroner and held inquests on the bodies of those supposed to have died of unlawful means. This register contains documentation of inquests held by Alexander McMaster and Dana T. Smith, Justices of the Peace in the 5th precinct of Salt Lake City in Salt Lake County.

Blotter and Calendar

There is a blotter and a calendar available for the first precinct. The blotter begins on July 28, 1881 and ends on February 20, 1882. It covers both civil and criminal cases, and it is similar to the docket books but contains slightly more detail. The calendar includes criminal cases from July 22, 1892 to January 6, 1893. The calendar lists names and offenses in cases seen in court each day but offers no other details.

Case Files

These include a few case files from 1871 – 1910. They contain paperwork from both civil and criminal cases, including a criminal larceny case, a civil breach of contract case, and various arrest warrants.