

Deseret Live Stock Company records, 1886-1958

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Deseret Live Stock Company
Title	Deseret Live Stock Company records
Dates	1886-1958 (inclusive) 1886 1958
Quantity	14 linear feet
Collection Number	Ms0105
Summary	The Deseret Live Stock Company records (1886-1958) consist of legal documents, financial papers, correspondence, subject files, minutes, and other materials. The Deseret Live Stock Company was formed in 1891 by several northern Utah sheep ranchers to promote "stock raising, slaughtering, butchering, mercantile business, and other commercial enterprises in the Territory of Utah and other states in the U.S."
Repository	University of Utah Libraries, Special Collections. Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library University of Utah 295 South 1500 East Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0860 Telephone: 801-581-8863 SPCreference@lists.utah.edu
Access Restrictions	Twenty-four hour advanced notice encouraged. Materials must be used on-site. Access to parts of this collection may be restricted under provisions of state or federal law.
Languages	English

Historical Note

In January of 1891 several prominent sheep ranchers in northern Utah joined together to form the Deseret Live Stock Company in order to promote "stock raising, slaughtering, butchering, mercantile business, and other commercial enterprises in the Territory of Utah and other states of the U.S." The newly organized company--consisting of over 28,000 sheep, a few horses, and miscellaneous equipment--was valued at \$90,000. In all there were ninety-five investors in the enterprise, however, control of the company rested principally in the hands of the Moss and Hatch families.

The company prospered, and after only six months of operation declared a ten percent cash dividend to stockholders. As profits climbed, the company enlarged its sheep herd to more than 50,000 and also began raising cattle as well. The increase in livestock was accompanied by an increase in the purchase of land for grazing, lambing, shearing, and raising crops. Numerous purchases of land were made

in Utah's Rich and Morgan counties from the Union Pacific Railroad, the State of Utah, and private individuals.

The greatest period of land acquisition occurred following America's entry in World War I. Due to the demand for wool, beef, and mutton by the government, the Deseret Live Stock Company reaped massive profits, making available large amounts of money which was in turn used to purchase several needed ranches in 1917 and 1918. The first purchase was that of the Iosepa Ranch in Skull Valley. This property cost \$150,000 and provided land for agricultural purposes, as well as giving the company a base for its winter operations. The company next bought out one of its neighbors along the Wyoming border, paying \$275,000 for the holdings of the Neponset Land and Livestock Company. This provided Deseret Live Stock with a number of acres of irrigated farm land as well as a large ranch house. Before the ink was barely dry on the Neponset contract, the company bought the property of Thomas Jones for \$250,000. This acquisition expanded the Deseret Live Stock lands into Wyoming for the first time. These and other purchases made the company the largest land-owning ranch in the state, with a total of 220,000 acres under its control.

The merchandizing efforts of the Deseret Live Stock Company were centered primarily at Woods Cross, Utah, where a company store was established. The store opened for business in 1891 in order to supply the needs of the company, its stockholders, and the public. Operating under the motto "If we haven't got it, we'll get it," the store returned profits regularly for over thirty years. However, in the 1920s problems developed and profits shrank. The store's decline was attributed to poor management and the overextension of credit, especially to stockholders and their families. Company officials belatedly replaced the manager in an effort to make the store a profitable operation, but all efforts proved fruitless. The store continued its downward slide, floundering in a sea of red ink until the Depression caused it to close its doors in 1933.

After years of high profits and regular dividends, the opening years of the 1930s wrought many changes upon the Deseret Live Stock Company. Seemingly overnight the bottom dropped out of the livestock industry, causing sheep and cattle to be valued at less than one-third their 1929 prices. From 1930 to 1938 the company was unable to pay dividends to its stockholders, despite a drastic reduction in operating expenses. At this low point in the company's history several dominant figures among the directors passed away and a new general manager, Walter Dansie, was appointed. With the aid of government loans and the reduction of the sheep and cattle herds, Mr. Dansie was able to start the company along the road to financial recovery. It was not, however, until the coming of World War II and its resultant demand for wool, beef, and mutton, that the Deseret Live Stock Company began showing sizable profits and dividends once again.

Riding the wave of postwar prosperity, the Deseret Live Stock Company attempted to expand its operations and created the Deseret Salt Company. Unfortunately, the salt business proved unprofitable and was eventually abandoned by the parent organization. During the early 1950s the company lost its grazing rights to much of the government land it had been leasing near Dugway, Utah. This necessitated the purchase of property near Pilot Peak in eastern Nevada for a winter grazing area, spreading the company's holdings across three states. During this same period a "syndicate" of Utah businessmen bought up large quantities of the company's stock, and eventually gained control. The new board of directors continued to raise sheep and cattle on a large scale, but they were also interested in developing any mineral deposits on the property.

After two decades of continued prosperity, the syndicate attempted to sell their holdings in the Deseret Live Stock Company to the State of Utah for \$8.5 million. The proposed sale created quite a controversy in the state, and after a stormy debate the bill was narrowly defeated in the state legislature. Following the state's refusal to buy, the company was soon sold to a foreign investor, Mr. Joseph Hotung, with the provision that the previous owners retain the mineral rights to most of the land.

By 1976 it was determined that much of the company's property was located over potentially rich oil and gas reserves, and drilling operations were expected to tap large pools of oil.

Content Description

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Items donated to the collection include various legal papers from James D. Moyle; legal papers from the law firm of McKay, Burton, McMurray, and Thruman; and two short articles written about the company. In arranging this collection an effort was made to follow the original order, where possible. However, some minor reorganization was necessary in a few instances.

The Deseret Live Stock Company's subject files constitute the first major section of the collection. These cover a wide range of subjects, including correspondence, maps, reports, and receipts. Each folder had been given a title and then filled with those items the company wished to keep together. The original folder composition and order have been maintained where feasible. The papers were filed in simple chronological order with no effort made to alphabetize them within the folders.

Correspondence comprises the next portion of the collection and includes papers for the years 1901 to 1946. These papers were found in bundles scattered about in shipping boxes and were not filed according to subject content, therefore, kept separate from the correspondence contained in the subject files. The correspondence is arranged in simple chronological order.

The collection's next section, the financial papers, consists mainly of receipts and statements from firms doing business with the company. Although there are a few items for the years 1893 to 1941, the bulk of the papers are receipts for the year 1951. These have been alphabetized within the year.

Legal documents constitute a fourth division of the collection. These papers are primarily deeds, contracts, and miscellaneous documents created by the company and several of its subsidiaries during the years 1886 to 1943.

The miscellaneous papers are those items not included in any other group of papers and could not clearly be assigned to any of the other categories. Often these items were found loosely scattered about in shipping boxes. An effort was made to arrange them in chronological order where possible.

The minutes in the collection include bound books and loose pages recording the meetings of the Deseret Live Stock Company and some of its subsidiary or predecessor companies. These latter companies were the Echo Land and Stock Company, the Bountiful Livestock Company, and the Chapman Canal Company. The minutes mostly record the activities of either the stockholders of the board of directors.

Also in the collection are assorted record books. These include field notebook, account book, and stock certificate books. Two of the stock certificate books belonged to the Echo Land and Stock Company.

The addendum consists mainly of legal documents concerning federal land leases, water rights, and miscellaneous stockholders papers.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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Preferred Citation

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Following Citations: Ms 105.

Administrative Information

Separated Materials

Photographs were transferred to the Multimedia Division of Special Collections (P0105).

Processing Note

Processed by David L. Washburn in 1976 and 1991.

Detailed Description of the Collection

I. Subject Files

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
1	Accounts--Brown Brothers	
Folder		
1	Accounts	1921-1938
2-3	Articles of Incorporation	
4	Association Dues	1941-1951

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5-9	Associations	1940-1951
10	B. Q. Ranch	1940-1941
11	Beaver	1939
12	Big Game Census	1940-1941
13	Bills of Sale	1934-1936
14	Bingham Gas Company	1945-1951
15	Bonuses	1941-1943
16-17	Boundary Maps	
18	Bountiful Live Stock Company	1941-1958
19	Bounty Control	1943-1944
20	Brand Inspection Violations	1940-1941
21	Brown Brothers	1940
2	Bulls--Conservation	
Folder		
1-7	Bulls, Correspondence	1938-1950
8	"C"	1943-1944
9	Cache National Forest	1917-1919
10-12	Cattle	1941-1950
13-15	Chapman Canal Company	1910-1952
16	Collection Letters	1938-1940
17	Conservation	1937-1939

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3	Conservation--Dips	
Folder		
1-2	Conservation	1940-1956
3	Crossings	1939-1950
4-7	Dairying	1948-1952
8-12	Dansie, Walter, Correspondence	1936-1952
13-15	Deer Hunt (Permits)	1956-1958
16	Delco Plant	1941-1943
17	Deseret Salt Company	1955-1956
18	Dips	1942
4	Dividends--Freight Bills	
Folder		
1	Dividends--Correspondence	1937-1946
2	Dividends, Miscellaneous	1943-1945
3	Docking	1935-1940
4	Dragline	1940
5-9	Dugway	1950-1954
10	E. T. Canal Company	1940-1942
11	Employee Records	
12	Farmers State Bank	1940
13-15	Fencing	1936-1953

Container(s)	Description	Dates
16	Fencing Receipts	1941
17	Foreman (Job Applicants)	1939-1940
18	Forest Service	1939
19-20	Freight Bills	1946-1948
5	Freight Bills--Herders	
Folder		
1	Freight Bills	1948
2	Frischtnecht, Dean, Correspondence	1946-1954
3	Gamber, A. T., Correspondence	1940-1945
4-9	Grazing	1913-1945
10-12	Grub Orders	1937-1942
13	Guest Employees	1940-1941
14	Hansen, P. L.	1923-1926
15-17	Hay	1933-1942
18-19	Herders	1932-1942
6	Herders--Hoopiiiana, Conie	
Folder		
1-22	Herders	1948-1958
23	Home Ranch Land Exchange	1941-1942
24	Hoopiiiana, Conie	1917-1924
7	Hoopiiiana, Conie--Miscellaneous Papers	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Folder		
1	Hooppiania, Conie	1917-1924
2	Horses	1939-1942
3	Hospitals	1937-1939
4-11	Income Tax Papers	1909-1925
12	Index to Subject Files	
13	International Harvester	1942-1944
14	Iosepa Agriculture and Stock Company	1907-1909
15	Island Improvement Company	1950
16	Jackass	1935
17	Journal	1942-1944
18-20	Legal Services	1941-1955
21	Lime Sand	1937-1942
22-24	Lumber	1939-1944
25-26	Miscellaneous Papers	1943-1950
8	Moore Case--Petty Cash	
Folder		
1	Moore Case	1945
2	Moss, Ralph J.	1943-1949
3	Moss, William	1930-1933
4-5	Moyle, Walter, Correspondence	1943-1953

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6	National Wool Marketing Corporation	1938-1939
7-10	Neponset Reservoir	1912-1929
11	Neponset Reservoir, Blueprints	1924
12	New House	1942-1948
13	Office Supplies	
14	Osgood Papers	
15	Payroll--Past	1940-1941
16	Peery Land and Live Stock	1950
17-22	Petty Cash	1942-1949
9	Petty Cash--Ribbons (Prize)	
Folder		
1-2	Petty Cash	1950-1951
3	Phillips Brothers	1939
4	Property Lines	1951-1956
5-7	Quotations	1943-1944
8	"R"	1942
9	Railroad Claims	1943-1944
10-12	Rams	1942-1946
13	Ranches for Sale	1951
14-15	Randolph Land and Live Stock Company	1896-1934
16	Reseeding	1942-1948

Container(s)	Description	Dates
17-21	Receipts	1942-1945
22	Receipts, Miscellaneous	1942-1945
23	Redden, R. E.	1940
24	Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation	1932-1933
25	Ribbons (Prize)	
10	Right-of-Way--Stockholders Correspondence	
Folder		
1	Right-of-Way	1940-1943
2	Roads	1940-1941
3	"S"	1940-1945
4	Salt	1939-1944
5	Salt Contract	1942-1948
6-8	Salt Industry	1949-1954
9	School Section Leases	1906-1909
10	Scribner, V. S. (Deed)	1907
11	Senior and Senior	1953-1958
12-14	Shearing	1936-1951
15	Shearing Reports	1929-1941
16-20	Sheep	1943-1950
21	Sheep Foreman Applications	1945
22	Sheep Reports	1938-1942

Container(s)	Description	Dates
23	Sheep Sales	1924
24	Snow	1949
25-26	Stockholders Correspondence	1909-1943
11	Stockholders Correspondence--Taxes, Internal Revenue Appeal	
Folder		
1-5	Stockholders Correspondence	1944-1952
6	Stockholders, Lists	1933-1946
7	Stockholders, Annual Meeting Notices	1942-1952
8	Stockholders, Annual Reports	1933-1952
9	Stockholders, Miscellaneous	
10	Stockyards	1946-1950
11-13	Supplemental Feed	1944-1956
14-20	Taxes	1922-1954
21-23	Taxes, Internal Revenue Appeal	1950-1953
12	Telephone--Wool	
Folder		
1	Telephone	1918-1919
2	Tires	1938-1940
3	Tools, Receipts	1940-1943
4	Toone Brothers	1945-1946
5	Trapping	1941-1948

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6	Union Pacific Land Deal	1905-1914
7	Unemployment Papers	1936-1947
8	U. S. Land Office	1901-1937
9-14	Utah Livestock Production Credit Association	1935-1939
15	Utah Oil Refining Company	1939-1940
16	Wasatch National Forest	1917-1930
17-18	Watermaster Reports	1930-1943
19	Weed Control	1940
20	Wells	1943-1944
21	Wheat	1943
22	Wildlife Federation	1939
23	Wilkins, Russell, Correspondence	1946-1952
24	Wilkins and Company Ltd.	1945-1951
25-29	Wool	1942-1949
13	Wool--Youngberg	
Folder		
1	Wool	1952-1956
2	Wool Analysis	1938-1939
3-4	Wool Futures	1940-1954
5-17	Wool Invoices	1937-1956
18	Wool Shrinkage Reports	1947

Container(s)	Description	Dates
19	Wool, Miscellaneous	
20	Youngberg	1942-1950

II. Correspondence Files

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
14	Correspondence	1901-1946

III. Financial Papers

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
15	Miscellaneous and Receipts	
Folder		
1-5	Miscellaneous Papers	1893-1941
6-17	Receipts, A-B	1951
16	Receipts, C-K	1951
17	Receipts, L-S	1951
18	Receipts, S-Z Also includes miscellaneous receipts.	1951

IV. Legal Papers and Miscellaneous

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
19	Legal Papers	1886-1924

Container(s)	Description	Dates
20	Legal Papers and Miscellaneous	1886-1943
Folder		
1-12	Legal Papers	1925-1943
13-19	Miscellaneous	1886-1921

V. Minutes

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
21	Minutebook Deseret Live Stock Company, Board of Directors Minutes.	1890-1905
22	Minutebooks	
Volume		
1	Deseret Live Stock Company, Board of Directors Minutes	1905-1914
Folder		
1	Deseret Live Stock Company, Board of Directors Minutes	1915-1918
2	Deseret Live Stock Company, Stockholders Minutes	1919-1924
3	Deseret Live Stock Company, Board of Directors Minutes	1947-1949
4	Deseret Live Stock Company, Stockholders Minutes	1915-1939
Volume		
2	Echo Land and Live Stock Company Board of Directors and Stockholders Minutes	1886-1901
Folder		
5	Bountiful Live Stock Company Board of Directors Minutes	1918

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Volume		
3	Chapman Canal Company Board of Directors and Stockholders Minutes	1887-1935

Folder		
6	Chapman Canal Company Board of Directors Minutes	1929

VI. Record Books

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
23	Surveyor Notebooks and Account Books	

Volume		
1-7	Surveyor Notebooks	
8-9	Account Books	1890-1891
24	Account Books	1886-1920
25	Stock Certificates	1891-1897
26	Stock Certificates	1897; 1899
27	Stock Certificates	1905-1923
28	Echo Land and Live Stock Company Stock Certificates	1886-1934

VII. Addendum

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
29	McKay, Burton, McMurray, and Thurman, Attorneys Papers; James D. Moyle Papers; Ralph J. Moss Papers	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Folder		
1	Miscellaneous Papers	1939-1953
2	Legal Papers	1932-1942
3-6	Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation	1933-1941
7-11	Utah Livestock Production Credit Association	1934-1941
12-13	Publications--Water Rights Listings	
14-15	Maps of Deseret Live Stock Company Properties	
16	James D. Moyle, Correspondence	1945-1952
17	James D. Moyle, Financial Papers	1931-1957
18	James D. Moyle, Newsclippings	1952-1953
19	James D. Moyle, Stockholders Papers	1946-1953
20	Cherie Voss, "The Story of the Deseret Live Stock Company"; Ruth K. Christensen, "Psychedelic Sheep"	
21	Ralph J. Moss Papers	

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Animal industry--West (U.S.)

Salt industry and trade--Utah

Sheep industry--Utah

Corporate Names :

Bountiful Livestock Company

Chapman Canal Company

Deseret Salt Company

Echo Land and Livestock Company

Iosepa Agriculture and Stock Company

Neponset Land and Livestock Company

Geographical Names :

Skull Valley (Utah)

Finding aid prepared by David L. Washburn
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