

Special Collections Resources on Family History

The Special Collections department at Weber State University Stewart Library holds many unique and valuable resources for those researching family history in the Weber County area specifically, and Utah generally. These resources include directories, manuscript collections, diaries and correspondence, individual and family histories, and various printed sources.

One of the most valuable resources found in Special Collections is the set of *Polk Directories* available in our ready reference. Currently our holdings run from 1903 to 2018, with some years missing. These *Directories* are so valuable because they are more than a simple listing of address and telephone numbers. They also list what the person does for a living and lists their place of employment; they note whether the person resides (owns) or rents rooms at their address; they list some death dates, and after World War I the directories note those who are veterans; and finally, beginning in 1925, the directories include a reverse listing of addresses by street name. With their wealth and variety of information, the *Polk Directories* are an excellent starting point for all researchers.

Special Collections has over four hundred manuscript collections, and many of them will be helpful to family history researchers. Some of the collections are related to specific Ogden families like the *Kerr Family Papers* (MS 36), the *Thomas D. Dee & Annie Taylor Dee Family History Collection* (MS 52), the *Hinckley Family Manuscripts and Photographs* (MS 63), and the *David Eccles Papers* (MS 76). (It is important to note that the *Kerr Family Papers* also include a great deal of information about the Belnap family.)

Other collections provide more general records like the *Dee School of Nursing Student Records* (MS 41), the *5th Ward Grade Book* (MS 205), the *Echo City School Registers: 1896 – 1902* (MS 262), the *West Porterville, UT School Ledger: 1891 – 1892* (MS 273), and the *Ogden School Student Registers: 1917 – 1919* (MS 276). These school records list the names, grades, and often the biographical information of the students.

Other important records include the *3rd Ward Bishop's Storehouse Donation Book* (MS 207) which lists the names of the ward members alphabetically, and the *World War I Service Cards* (MS 135) which include important information about those Weber County residents who served in World Wars I & II, such as name, biographical information, place of residence, next of kin, and where they served. These service records are some of the most frequently accessed records in Special Collections, and are truly invaluable.

Our manuscript holdings include a number of diaries of early Utah pioneers, particularly of the Ogden area. Of especial importance are the *Dr. Edward I. and Emily Almira Cozzen Rich Diaries* (MS 74). Edward was a prominent physician in Ogden, and his wife, Emily, was involved in several civic and religious organizations. Together their diaries span the years from 1892 to 1965, and provide invaluable information about Ogden, their family, and other Ogden families. Other diaries include the *Alfred Douglas Young Diary* (MS 180), which includes Young's experiences as an early Latter-Day Saint Church member, and the *George W. Taggert Manuscript Collection* (MSS 14), which includes Taggert's experiences as a member of the Mormon Battalion.

Important correspondence is found throughout all of our manuscript holdings, but a few are worth mentioning particularly, as they deal with disputes settled in LDS ecclesiastical courts. The *Weber Stake High Council Collection* (MSS 53), the *High*

Council of the Weber Stake of Zion Letters (MSS 245), and *Tanner/Woodruff Correspondences* (MS 261) all detail disputes between Nathan Tanner, Jr., and Job and Annie Pingree. The *Weber Stake Correspondence Collection* (MSS 101) also contains a number of letters concerning land disputes, debts, and membership status in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These letters come from Church members and leaders in Hoopersville, West Weber, Huntsville, Marriott, Uintah, and other Weber County cities.

Special Collections also contains a number of individual and family histories. Some of these include *The Making of a Woman* by Avon Rich Smart, the daughter of Dr. Edward and Emily Cozzens Rich; *The Lawrence Taylor Dee Family History*, detailing the family history of Lawrence Dee, the son of Thomas D. and Annie Taylor Dee; *The Life and Times of Thomas D. Dee, II* details the life of Laurence Dee's son; and *Amy Shupe von Tongel* is a life history of the daughter of Daniel Shupe, the founder of the Shupe-Williams Candy Company. This is just a small sample of the family and personal histories located in Special Collections, all of which can be found in the Stewart Library's on-line catalog.

Finally, Special Collections contains numerous printed resources on Ogden, Weber County, and Utah history. These resources can be helpful to family history researchers as they seek to find information on family members and the times in which they lived. Again, these resources are too numerous to list here in their entirety, but all of them can be accessed through the library catalog. A few resources that are particularly worth noting here are the several *Daughters of Utah Pioneers* publications, including *Beneath Ben Lomond's*, *Chronicles of Courage*, and *Pioneer Women of Faith and*

Fortitude. Also *Ogden Anecdotes: Stories and Photos from our First Fifty Years*;
Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah; the Weber County histories by Richard Sadler and
Richard Roberts; histories of various cities in Davis and Weber counties; and the *Utah
Centennial County History Series*, which includes a history of each county in the state of
Utah.