

Idaho State Archives

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Authorized by legislative act of March 12, 1947, transfer of important territorial records to Idaho State Historical Society administration commenced in 1952. These files, stored for a generation in a large historic cabinet in a statehouse carpenter's shop, had been identified in an Historical Records Survey project in 1939 and had been available for occasional research. With a somewhat random arrangement, they needed to be unrolled and put into a consistent order. That was accomplished that August.

A major expansion followed in 1954, when extensive governors' files prior to 1919 were transferred from a basement vault in a location that had been totally forgotten for more than a decade. These records had been inventoried in a 1917 American Historical Association report by Thomas Maitland Marshall, but were completely unusable for several years after their rediscovery because they were packed in with no space--not even an inch or two--left unoccupied. No one could examine and return them to that space without taking them somewhere else providing a new arrangement. When they were sorted, appraised, and arranged for preservation, they became a substantial state archival records series that has been expanded greatly by subsequent additions. Non-current files are transferred regularly to state archives custody.

With a modern, professional historical agency program instituted by Governor Robert E. Smylie in 1956, state archival expansion came rapidly. Important files from a number of elective (attorney general, secretary of state, state treasurer, and state auditor as a start) and appointive officers (state engineer, warden, adjutant general) were added. City, county, and special district (largely mining district) records enriched state archival resources. Until 1969, when legislative appropriation for an archival staff position provided at least a limited amount of funding, practically all of this development had been accomplished by unpaid volunteers under professional supervision. (Up until that time, direct archival expenditures for staff and materials had been limited to several hundred dollars--primarily for file folders and boxes.) Substantial federal staff and project assistance--primarily through library cooperation and National Historical Publications and Records programs has exceeded state expenditure for archival conservation and development, aside from space costs. After forty years of expansion, Idaho's governmental archive program includes records series from 75 state offices and agencies, 30 counties, 7 cities, and 10 special districts. More than 20,000 feet of records constitute these files, with retention

schedules controlling state archival expansion.

Merle W. Wells

- AR 1 Territorial Archives
- AR 2 Governor
- AR 3 Secretary of State
- AR 4 Attorney General
- AR 5 State Auditor
- AR 6 State Treasurer
- AR 7 Superintendent of Public Instruction
- AR 8 State Legislature
- AR 9 Supreme Court
- AR 10 State Board of Pardons
- AR 11 Adjutant General
- AR 12 State Historical Society
- AR 13 Children's Commission
- AR 14 Centennial Commission
- AR 15 Bureau of Public Accounts
- AR 16 State Board of Examiners
- AR 17 State Board of Equalization
- AR 18 Construction of the Capitol
- AR 19 Soldiers Home
- AR 20 Reclamation
- AR 21 State Forestry
- AR 22 Panama Pacific Commission
- AR 23 Supreme Court and Library Commission
- AR 24 Highways
- AR 25 Horticultural Inspection
- AR 26 Borah Commission
- AR 27 St. Louis Exposition Commission
- AR 28 Budget
- AR 29 Commerce and Development
- AR 30 State Tax Commission
- AR 31 State Mine Inspector
- AR 32 State Law Library
- AR 33 State Board of Deposits

- AR 34 Commissioner of Finance
- AR 35 Fruit and Vegetable Advertising Commission
- AR 36 Industrial Accident Board
- AR 37 State Insurance Fund
- AR 38 Public Utilities Commission
- AR 39 State Land Department
- AR 40 State Board of Engineering Examiners
- AR 41 State Arts and Humanities Commission
- AR 42 State Penitentiary
- AR 43 State Electrical Board
- AR 44 State Board of Nursing
- AR 45 State Sanitarium
- AR 46 Special Services/OEO/Aging
- AR 47 Personnel Commission
- AR 48 Retirement System
- AR 49 Department of Employment
- AR 50 Department of Higher Education
- AR 51 Department of Education
- AR 52 Soil Conservation
- AR 53 Water Administration
- AR 54 State Board of Sheep Commissioners
- AR 55 Department of Agriculture
- AR 56 Vocational Rehabilitation
- AR 57 Legislative Auditor
- AR 58 Department of Lands
- AR 59 Nuclear Energy Commission
- AR 60 Human Rights Commission
- AR 61 Bicentennial Commission
- AR 62 State Library
- AR 63 Department of Parks and Recreation
- AR 64 Land Law Review Commission
- AR 65 Brand Board
- AR 66 Radioactive Waste Task Force
- AR 67 Legislative Executive Reorganization Commission
- AR 68 State Board of Accountancy
- AR 69 Women's Commission

AR 70 Idaho Code Commission

AR 200 Alturas County

AR 201 Kootenai County

AR 202 Ada County

AR 203 Owyhee County

AR 204 Madison County

AR 205 Boise County

AR 206 Latah County

AR 207 Twin Falls County

AR 208 Payette County

AR 209 Bear Lake County

AR 210 Elmore County

AR 211 Jerome County

AR 212 Benewah County

AR 213 Bonneville County

AR 214 Clearwater County

AR 215 Minidoka County

AR 216 Nez Perce County

AR 217 Bannock County

AR 218 Shoshone County

AR 219 Canyon County

AR 220 Valley County

AR 221 Gooding County

AR 222 Blaine County

AR 223 Fremont County

AR 224 Washington County

AR 225 Bonner County

AR 226 Bingham County

AR 227 Cassia County

AR 300 Boise City

AR 301 Mountain Home

AR 302 Lapwai

AR 303

AR 304 Sandpoint

- AR 305 Franklin
- AR 400 Yellow Pine Mining District
- AR 401 Thunder Mountain Mining District
- AR 402 Deadwood Basin Mining District
- AR 403 Jumps Mining District
- AR 404 Middle Boise Mining District
- AR 500 Ada County School District #1
- AR 501 Reynolds Irrigation District
- AR 601 Ada County Drainage District #2

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The ISHS reference series was produced over many years by a number of individuals, some of whom devoted more time to their topics than others. Reference series entries are not updated. The series is designed to be a starting point for research.