

**Chapter 1 : Commonwealth of Deseret - MicroWiki**

*The State of Deseret (/ ˈɛɪ d ɪ z ɛ ˈt ɪ r ɪ t / (listen)) was a provisional state of the United States, proposed in by settlers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City.*

It has been already announced that the people residing in the valley of the Great Salt Lake, had instituted for themselves a form of government, which is to be submitted to Congress at its next session. We have been permitted to look at certified copies of the Constitution thus established, and of the proceedings of the Legislature under it, and of the reasons which led to these movements. It is scarcely necessary to say to our readers, that the population of this new State is composed altogether of persons professing the Mormon faith, of whom the number is rapidly increasing every year; that being the State to which all their emigration is tending. In these proceedings, as everything else, the peculiarities of this people are preserved, though we cannot see that this will offer any good bar to their application for admission into the Union. In one respect at least, the Convention which formed the Constitution for the new State, has set a good example. They were employed only one week in action upon it, and we do not see but what it is as good an one as some of our States have been able to form after months of deliberation. We proceed to give some of its main features Not a word is said in the Constitution about slavery or the Wilmot Proviso, such things not having entered into the imaginations of the law-givers as important for their welfare. The Constitution will be pressed upon Congress, and if ratified, two new Senators and a Representative will soon appear in that body from the State of Deseret -- a State which was without a settled inhabitant four years ago, and which is some twenty-five hundred miles from the seat of the Federal Government. It seems from an account in the Republican, that a Convention to form a Constitution has been held. The Constitution describes the boundary of the new State, and in other respects patterns after our State Constitutions -- the committee to draft the Constitution, were Alfred Carrington, Jas. Phelps, David Fullmer, John S. Rich, John Taylor, Parley P. Bernhisel, and Erastus Snow. All of these names will be recognized, as prominent individuals, among the Mormons, during their career in Hancock County. Until then, the Mormons had claimed much of Southern California for themselves, including a tiny bayside settlement next to the Mexican border. So why was the state of Deseret banished to the inglorious pantheon of would-be states? The answer lies in anti-Mormon fervor and the over-stuffed dreams of a religion on the run. After his church was violently persecuted in the East, Young led Mormons westward in His followers settled in the Salt Lake area and planned to colonize other areas in the West, said Michael J. Trinklein, author of the new book "Lost States: The West was a place where Mormons, at least in theory, could live as they wished and set up their own government free of interference. But not for long. Neither was the state of Deseret, named after a word in the Book of Mormon meaning honeybee. California, including the much-claimed San Diego, entered the union on Sept. The government "was not going to allow Brigham Young to have that much power. I guess the bottom line is that had he not been a polygamist, you might be in Deseret today. In , a "freebooter" -- plunderer -- named William Walker and his cronies traveled down the Baja peninsula and took it over, Trinklein said. But Walker blew it: Walker later became president of Nicaragua for a year, although his later execution in Honduras extinguished his bid for glory. And San Diego got to continue claiming an honor of its own: Or, for that matter, of Deseret.

Chapter 2 : State of Deseret | Revolv

*The State of Deseret General Assembly met in regular session from December to March After special sessions during the summer, the members assembled for their second regular session in December*

Realizing that California and New Mexico were applying for admission as states, Young changed his mind and decided to petition for statehood. The stone was donated by the territory in to represent the provisional state. The provisional state was a bold proposal, encompassing most of the territory that had been acquired from Mexico the previous year as the Mexican Cession. The Territory of Deseret comprised roughly all the lands between the Sierra Nevada and the Rockies , and between the border with Mexico northward to include parts of the Oregon Territory , as well as the coast of California south of the Santa Monica Mountains including the existing settlements of Los Angeles and San Diego. It included the entire watershed of the Colorado River excluding the lands south of the border with Mexico , as well as the entire area of the Great Basin. The proposal was crafted specifically to avoid disputes that might arise from existing settlements. At the time of its proposal, the existing population of the area, including Southern California, was sparse, since most of the California settlement had been in the northern gold rush areas not included in the provisional state. Likewise, the border with New Mexico did not reach the Rio Grande , in order to avoid becoming entangled in the existing disputes of the western border of Texas. Moreover, the proposal encompassed lands largely known to be inhospitable for cultivation, thus avoiding conflict over the issue of the expansion of slavery. The proposal for the state was considered by some to be too ambitious to succeed in Congress , even disregarding the controversy over the Mormon practice of polygamy. Nevertheless, in U. President Zachary Taylor , eager to avoid disputes as much as possible, sent his agent John Wilson westward with a proposal to combine California and Deseret as a single state, which would have had the desirable effect of decreasing the number of free states entered into the Union, and thus preserving the balance of power in the Senate. The California Constitutional Convention debates of mentioned the Mormons or Salt Lake a number of times [2] [3] along with the North-South conflict over extension of slavery. They also argued that Salt Lake was too far away for a single government to be practical and that Congress would not agree to such a huge state. Gwin , argued these were not real obstacles or could be solved later. Establishment of Utah Territory The Utah Territory is shown in blue, while the proposed State of Deseret is outlined by the dotted line. Modern state boundaries underlaid for reference. In September , as part of the Compromise of , the Utah Territory was created by Act of Congress , encompassing a portion of the northern section of Deseret. On April 4, , the General Assembly of Deseret passed a resolution to dissolve the state. On October 4, , the Utah territorial legislature voted to re-enact the laws and ordinances of the state of Deseret. After the establishment of the Utah Territory, the Latter-day Saints did not relinquish the idea of a "State of Deseret". Attempts were made in , , and to write a new state constitution under that name based on the new boundaries of the Utah Territory. The idea of creating a state based on Mormonism began to fade away after the coming of the railroad, which opened the territory to many non-Mormon settlers, particularly in the western areas of the territory. Young and the LDS Church supported the railroad, even taking members that were working on the Salt Lake Temple and reassigning them to work on the railroad. The driving of the golden spike just 66 miles from Salt Lake completed the first transcontinental railroad at Promontory Summit in Three sessions of the General Assembly, a bicameral state legislature , were held. In , the legislature appointed judges and established a criminal code. Taxes were established on property and liquor, and gambling was outlawed. The legislature initially formed six counties, which covered only inhabited valleys. These "valley counties" initially encompassed only a small portion of the area of Deseret and were expanded as settlement grew.

**Chapter 3 : The State of Deseret -**

*The committee requested that the state be named Deseret and that the boundaries be Oregon on the north, the Green River on the east, Mexico on the south, and the Sierra Nevada on the west, including a portion of the Southern California seacoast.*

Almon Babbitt to Wilford Woodruff, January 26, , box 6, fd. In the middle of this lengthy letter he gives an account of meeting with Zachary Taylor. The president is rough enough, though he does not appear to be very ready; he is an exceedingly plain man in the fullest sense of the term, in person and in intellect; but he enjoys what in my estimation is far better the reputation of being a man of strict honesty and sterling integrity. He is a mere military man, and appears to be entirely out of his element; he made a few inquiries relative to the Valley. John Bernhisel to Brigham Young, March 21, , box 60, fd. Nothing could have angered Brigham Young more. The fact that Zachary Taylor died two days after the date of this letter was a sign to Young of divine retribution. House of Rep Washington D. July 7th, Dear Sir: My last letter was sent by the hands of my old friend Snyder which you have no doubt received before this time by him. Bernhisel I understand, sent you a letter of some 50 pages although he said nothing to me about it or any other matter. Yet I deduce from the fact of [the] length, that the communication sent by him privately must have been in detail. Almon Babbitt to Brigham Young, July 7, , box 21, fd. Private My friends, [After discussing some other matters of business, Kane says: Fillmore in favor of the nominations for Utah. Bernhisel promised me to give you the details of this as well as your other affairs of the same kind, and I have only therefore to give weight to his statements by expressing my regret that your interests should have suffered by the improper conduct of Mr. It was incumbent upon me before this occurrence, to advise you against again returning Mr. Babbitt as your Delegate. The Delegate, as sort of an Ambassador, is commonly taken as the specimen man of his constituency; if he cannot do good, if he is either ashamed of his religion or a shame to it, he can do much harm. In politics too, if he cannot pursue a wise neutrality, which at least during the present strange confusion of party lines I strongly counsel he should in all events be a man whose instincts will teach him to be trusty supporter of his single party and nice in his choice of the associates that belong to it. Otherwise, he will have personal influence with neither party, and gain not strength but only dependency from the relations he cultivates. A particular reason for the detention of Mr. Babbitt you will find in the fact that his conduct has lost for him the confidence of both parties. The Democrats joined with the Whigs in the personal disrespect which was shown him in the House. Kane to Brigham Young, September 24, , box 11, fd. He made a clumsy attempt again to discredit Bernhisel and suggest himself as a replacement. Philadelphia December 16, Dear Sir: I would therefore desire to know if there is anything touching the Territory of Utah that I can serve you or the people in. I had an interview with Douglas a few days since he expressed a wish to aide in any measure that would promote the interests of the citizens of the Territory of Utah. The latter depends on circumstances. Even if he was drunk half the time let him do something when he is sober. Almon Babbitt to Brigham Young, December 16, , box 22, fd. He had been involved in recruiting candidates for state and national offices and managed to get Zachary Taylor the nomination for president over the former Kentucky senator Henry Clay. Smith encouraged General Zachary Taylor to avoid most of the difficult questions of the day by insisting that Congress would handle domestic affairs during his presidency. The strategy worked, and Taylor won the election. He offered Smith any cabinet post he wanted, but he decided to become a senator instead. Smith had strong feelings about the Mormons and felt they had been unjustly treated. He thought highly of Bernhisel and praised him on the Senate floor. He also helped Bernhisel discredit William Smith. Douglas was a Democrat and a powerful U. His political career included being a judge in southern Illinois when the Mormons were headquartered in Nauvoo. He did many favors for Joseph Smith to earn the Mormon vote. In the process he came to know Almon Babbitt who represented Nauvoo in the Illinois legislature. He was instrumental in getting Babbitt appointed to the post of Secretary of Utah Territory. In June , building to the lead up of the so-called Utah War, Douglas denounced the Mormons as traitors to the country and recommended the repeal of the territorial government of Utah. He moved to Nauvoo in , lived in the home of Joseph Smith, and became like a member

of the family. Bernhisel was a personal advisor to Smith on political matters. He followed Brigham Young to the Great Basin in 1847. When Almon Babbitt proved to be an unreliable political representative, Young turned to Bernhisel, who served five terms as the congressional delegate for the Utah Territory. After being excommunicated by Young, Smith moved to Covington, Kentucky, where he started his own church. He sent a letter to Congress in December of 1843 accusing Young of treason. This alarmed Zachary Taylor and members of Congress. He earned a patronage position as an associate justice for the territory of Utah because of his party loyalty. He and the other officials were shocked at the hostility that the Mormons displayed toward them. They were not aware of the anger of Brigham Young and his followers felt against the federal government for refusing to intervene in the persecution the Mormons endured in Illinois and Missouri. Brochus resigned his position, but President Pierce appointed him to a similar position in New Mexico Territory where he served as a federal judge for fourteen years. John Donkey was the mascot and chief correspondent of the publication who supposedly covered the Mexican-American War for the paper and later ran for president. John Donkey was particularly incisive about Zachary Taylor and his ability to run for the presidency on a campaign of standing for everything and nothing at the same time. Henry Clay was well known but had run for president before. Zachary Taylor was new to politics and his appeal was that he was a celebrated military hero whose positions on the issues of the day, including slavery, were unknown. This cartoon appeared before Taylor actually won the nomination. He deftly avoided the most controversial issues including slavery with ambiguous statements and his declaration that domestic issues belonged to Congress. Once he became president, that position became more difficult to sustain. The Democrats were frustrated by their inability to pin any potentially unpopular position on Zachary Taylor who insisted that Congress and not the president decided the great domestic issues of the day such as slavery.

Chapter 4 : The Constitution of the State of Deseret | BYU Studies

*The new state is quaintly styled the THE STATE OF DESERET, which implies, according to the Mormon history and interpretation, the "Honey Bee," and is significant of Industry and the kindred virtues. It is scarcely necessary to say to our readers, that the population of this new State is composed altogether of persons professing the Mormon faith.*

Imagine the "State of Deseret. Imagine revisiting the people, places and history of that provisional state. That will be our goal in an ongoing series. Join us in "Rediscovering Deseret. This story is being written in Salt Lake City, of course. The burgeoning 19th-century frontier town gradually lost the grandiose-sounding "Great" in its name about years ago, while the "State of Deseret" proved but a dream. Morgan wrote in , less than a century after Mormon pioneers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. Gone are Deseret Telegraph Co. It first saw the light of day in , during a period when members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, led by church President Brigham Young, sought to establish the provisional "State of Deseret" as a functioning, if remote, part of the United States of America. Under the guidance of editor Willard Richards, that first edition led off with a "prospectus": By comparison, Deseret would have been almost twice the size of Texas, which has effectively promoted itself as being like "a whole other country" which, of course, it briefly was before it became a state. As proposed in , Deseret was to be centered on what explorer John C. Fremont had called "the Great Basin. Ashton wrote in "Voice of the West," his centennial "Biography of a Pioneer Newspaper" "the Deseret News, of which he became the publisher, 30 years later. The Mormon pioneers encouraged "collective entrepreneurship and administration," Leonard J. Arrington noted in his economic history, "Great Basin Kingdom. The settlers were proud of young Deseret and saw great things ahead for their state. The settlers toasted the Great Salt Lake, the Saints in their valley, the Constitution of the United States, "our God, our country, our right" and the newly named state of Deseret: Legislation admitted California to the union as a gigantic new state. California absorbed the village of Los Angeles and the harbor of San Diego, which had seemed so promising to the people of fledgling Deseret as ports and way stations for immigration and goods. The territories of New Mexico and a still-large Utah then including Nevada were created as well. The province, however, lost additional chunks over time: Finally, after years of struggle, in , the state of Utah was born. The very name "had come to symbolize for Mormons independence from outside control and influence, and thus carried within it political, social and economic agendas," observes "The Historical Atlas of Mormonism. It remains the 11th largest of the United States. But Utah is just a little under 17 percent of the size of the wide-ranging kingdom proposed by the pioneering colonizers: The state of Deseret. Classes began in a private residence, but the school closed in due to lack of funds. Many of those historic turn-of-theth-century school buildings are still there, as the U. The newspaper began publication on June 15, , as a key information source in the young western Mormon colony. Its most recent namesake building rises at 30 E. In the late s, the Deseret News moved to a set of buildings on South and Regent Street, where the newer structure also was completed in Besides being the name of the provisional and proposed state, Deseret became a place name. Fort Deseret, southwest of Delta and just south of the small farming community of Deseret, still stands off SR Listed on the National Register of Historic Sites, Fort Deseret, a placard notes, was "built in of adobe mud by two teams of 98 men to protect the settlers during the Black Hawk Indian wars. This 11,foot alpine summit has to be one of the more prominent landmarks still bearing the name Deseret. Topping off the Stansbury Mountains west of Tooele and Grantsville, the peak and its jagged limestone and quartzite ridge are surrounded by a rugged namesake wilderness. The Deseret Building, an early skyscraper dating to , still stands tall on the northeast corner of Main Street and South in downtown Salt Lake City, on a site long occupied by predecessor and successor banks. The Bank of Deseret was founded in , with Brigham Young as its president, and, as a historic marker notes, it became nationally chartered Deseret National Bank in For many Utahns, this is First Security Bank, which operated on the corner for 68 years, before merging with Wells Fargo in Deseret Chemical Cleaning and Dye Works. Interested in seeing how many enterprises once bore the name "Deseret"? Thumb through a Polk Business Directory from the 20th century "a predecessor of, and later a competitor to, the phone book. There are many other firms listed: A book publisher that

operates a chain of more than 30 stores, Deseret Book is a 20th-century offshoot of the predecessor Deseret News Bookstore and the Deseret Sunday School Union bookstore. An even more impressive hive tops this beautiful building, the former Hotel Utah. Beehives continue to be a favorite image in Utah folk art, and other examples can be found, from the state flag to one side of the old Chase Mill in Liberty Park. Like the international Goodwill Industries, Deseret Industries is a revered charitable institution in Utah and beyond. The LDS Church-sponsored effort operates 46 thrift stores in seven Western states, its Web site notes, offering employment, vocational rehabilitation training and a focus for those wishing to donate goods and time. Along with the symbolic beehive, the word "Deseret" is placed as a logo on goods produced for distribution to the needy, from enticing jams and dairy products to cleansers and dishwashing liquid. Additional articles in the Rediscovering Deseret series:

**Chapter 5 : The area of Deseret started huge, got smaller as it became Utah | Deseret News**

*The State of Deseret (i / ɛɛ d ɛ z ɛ t m ɛ r ɛ t /) was a provisional state of the United States, proposed in by settlers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) in Salt Lake City. The provisional state existed for slightly over two years and was never recognized by the United States government.*

From the beginning, the honeybee has been the national animal of Deseret, and it appeared on a coat of arms used during the monarchical period. History The Holy Kingdom of Deseret declared partial independence from the United States on Sunday, December 23, , after several months of deliberation. The nation initially boasted thirty-six citizens, most of whom held office in both the national government and the Restored Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, organized the same day. The kingdom was divided into five provinces, each governed by an elected triumvirate. At the national level, there was both a head of state the sovereign, Sariah Thomson , regnal name Queen Utahna I and a head of government the president, Cowdery Young. The national legislature, the Quorum of the Twelve, was required to meet at least twelve times a year, on the last Friday of every month, but this arrangement soon proved unworkable and only four such meetings were held before the Quorum fell into non-activity. While no formal constitution was ever written, the Twelve drafted thirteen legislative acts during their brief existence. On May 15, , the commonwealth began an ongoing reformation, seeking to bring its form of government into closer conformity with the political theories of Joseph Smith and his successors. In consequence, the system of provinces was abolished, the Quorum of the Twelve was replaced by the Grand Council of Deseret , and the offices of sovereign and president were merged, both being held by Cowdery Young. The Grand Council is described in Deseretan law as "a grand executive council of fifty honorable statesmen," including both Mormons and non-Mormons. As of May , however, the Council has not been fully organized, and until at least twenty-six members are seated, all decision-making power rests with the General President, subject to the approval of the general population. Citizenship Uniquely, Deseret classes its citizens into three degrees of citizenship based on religious affiliation and personal conduct. These degrees are patterned after the three degrees of glory in Mormon theology. Such persons shall be subject to the civil authority of the Kingdom, including the Order of the Rising Sun, but not to the discipline of the Restored Church. They may hold sectarian religious meetings at their own discretion, but shall not be permitted to proselyte members of the Restored Church, nor to speak publicly against said church. Citizens of the Telestial Degree residing within the Kingdom may elect their own representatives to the Grand Council, subject to the approval of the Sovereign. The second and intermediate degree of citizenship within the Holy Kingdom of Deseret hereafter the Terrestrial Degree shall belong to members of the Restored Church who have not sworn covenants to uphold, honor, and obey the Sovereign of Deseret, as well as resident Gentiles and honorary citizens deemed worthy of especial commendation. Citizens raised to the Terrestrial Degree should be distinguished not only for service to the Kingdom, but for exemplary personal conduct. Citizens guilty of public misconduct after having been raised to the Terrestrial Degree may be demoted to the Telestial Degree by a majority vote of the Grand Council or the decree of the Sovereign. The third and highest degree of citizenship within the Holy Kingdom of Deseret hereafter the Celestial Degree shall belong to those members of the Restored Church who have sworn covenants to uphold, honor, and obey the Sovereign of Deseret. Exemplary personal conduct shall be expected from all citizens raised to the Celestial Degree, and failure to abide by the laws of the Kingdom may result in loss of citizenship, loss of fellowship, and deportation from the Kingdom, including in some cases a permanent state of exile and excommunication. The Sovereign and President must belong to the Celestial Degree, as should the authorities of the Restored Church and the majority of members of the Grand Council. These acts were largely inspired and adapted from the U. It is the right of the sovereign to issue Royal Orders considered as binding as legislative acts, but a three-fourths vote of the legislature can override such orders. Foreign relations The Commonwealth of Deseret establishes formal alliances with other nations via a majority vote of the national legislature, while less binding treaties of mutual recognition may be brokered by the head of government. Men and women over sixteen years of age may volunteer to serve in the Legion, which is sworn to defend the commonwealth against

invasion and teaches both practical skills, such as marksmanship and outdoor survival, and abstract subjects such as military ethics. In addition to the Legion, the commonwealth is served by the Order of the Rising Sun , a federal intelligence agency and security service notable for its elaborate but secretive rituals of initiation and promotion. Geography and climate Located in the American West, Deseret has a dry climate with hot summers and cold winters. It receives less annual rainfall than the United States average, but considerably more snowfall, due in part to the nearby Wasatch Range , part of the larger Rocky Mountains. Before the Reformation of , Deseret was divided into five provinces: Since March , most of the former province of Lehi-Nephi has been taken up by Eden National Park, a wildlife preserve. The Deseretan government promotes responsible environmental stewardship and encourages citizens to engage in gardening and animal husbandry. In May , Nauvoo, the most urban and densely populated of the provinces, as well as the capital of Deseret, was rechristened "Preparation," a name with apocalyptic underpinnings. Economy Deseret vigorously promotes the early Mormon doctrine of the United Order , which encourages citizens to "consecrate" their surplus property for redistribution to the needy. At the same time, the commonwealth defends the rights of private property and free enterprise. There is no requirement that citizens take part in the United Order. Culture Prominent symbols of Deseret include the honeybee and beehive, the all-seeing eye, and other emblems adapted from nineteenth century Mormon culture. The flag of Deseret is modeled after the United States flag, but with only thirteen stars, said to represent both the original American colonies and, because one of the stars is significantly larger than the others, Jesus Christ and his twelve apostles. Meanwhile, the blue and white color scheme is said to represent the waters of baptism and the remission of sins, respectively. In patriotic imagery outside of the flag itself, more conventional red, white, and blue regalia is preferred. In March , Act X of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles created the University of Deseret, an organization empowered to grant honorary degrees to individuals distinguished for service to the commonwealth. Cowdery Young served as prophet-president of the church as well as president of the kingdom, and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles helped govern both church and state. During the Reformation of , the Restored Church was partially disorganized, and the commonwealth has since expressed interest in fostering unity among believers in the Book of Mormon regardless of denominational affiliation, as well as with non-Mormon organizations promoting values similar to those affirmed by the commonwealth.

**Chapter 6 : Deseret (Book of Mormon) - Wikipedia**

*The State of Deseret (/ˈdɛzəˈrɛt/ ()) was a provisional state of the United States, proposed in by settlers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) in Salt Lake City.*

Poll Utah History Encyclopedia, Deseret was the name given to the region for which the Mormon pioneers sought territorial status in and to the quasi government that they carried on for the next two years. It also designated the state they repeatedly sought to have admitted to the Union, and it also designated the shadow government they conducted from to Earlier, a slate of officers, all Mormon, had been endorsed in a mass meeting and the executive branch of Deseret had begun to function under "Governor" Brigham Young. It continued until Congress created Utah Territory in September and presidential appointees took office the next spring. For a century historians were perplexed by documentary evidence that two somewhat contradictory political activities were going on in early One, a movement to create a territorial government, produced petitions with several thousand signatures, which Bernhisel carried to Washington. The other, a constitutional convention to create a new state, sent Almon W. Babbitt east to join forces with Bernhisel. The incongruities were ignored or rationalized away until research established that the minutes of the March convention, the constitution ostensibly drafted there, and the associated report were in fact created in July by a council of church leaders. Young and his advisers apparently decided that statehood should have been sought, as California and New Mexico were doing. Babbitt took copies of the now very rare pamphlet back to Washington and joined Thomas L. Kane and Bernhisel in the fruitless bid for statehood. Meanwhile the self-designated "State of Deseret" provided essential government services in the Great Basin. A bicameral General Assembly Senate and House of Representatives met in January and intermittently thereafter to enact ordinances having the force of law. No judges were initially selected, but a judicial system and a criminal code were later provided. Laws regulating elections were also passed; in fact, however, voters simply ratified choices previously made by church leaders. Functioning within the framework of the ecclesiastically created constitution, the General Assembly organized the county governments and incorporated Great Salt Lake City, Ogden, Provo, and Manti. A militia, patterned and named after the earlier Nauvoo Legion, was established. Taxes on property and liquor were authorized, gambling was suppressed, and the use of water, timber, and other natural resources was regulated. Upon recommendation by Brigham Young the retiring "state" and incoming territorial leader , the General Assembly dissolved the State of Deseret on 4 April Its laws and ordinances were re-enacted by the legislature of Utah Territory on October 4 of the same year. Unsuccessful efforts in , , and produced new draft constitutions for the State of Deseret, its boundaries changing to fit the shrinking limits of the Utah Territory. Following each annual session of the General Assembly from January to January , the members of the all-Mormon body formally ratified their work in the name of Deseret and "Governor" Young approved the action. With the coming of the railroad and the intensification of national opposition to Mormonism, hopes for Deseret faded.

Chapter 7 : The State of Deseret, by Dale L. Morgan – Colorado Central Magazine

*For the collector of Utahiana, the Kanabville Constitution of the State of Deseret is a fascinating book. It is the founding document of government in the Intermountain West, and it is a great rarity.*

Deseret Deseret was a western state proposed by Mormon settlers in 1849. Opposition was strong, and anti-polygamy activists portrayed Deseret as a move to create a Mormon theocracy within the United States. Sequoyah The plan to form the state of Sequoyah began in the early 1800s during a meeting of the Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw and Seminole Native American nations. At the time, the eastern part of what would later become Oklahoma encompassed the Indian Territory, a region populated by some 60,000 indigenous people. In 1845 the nations held a convention in Muskogee, where they drafted a proposal to turn the Oklahoma and Indian Territories into two individual states. Their new state, dubbed Sequoyah after the creator of the Cherokee writing system, had a proposed 48 counties and represented an attempt to maintain some degree of Native American self-governance over the Indian Territory. The proposed constitution was expansive and included many progressive ideas, including anti-trust laws and restrictions on child labor. Still, it ultimately failed in the U. S. Congress, which balked at adding two new western states. Instead, the Indian Territory was incorporated into the new state of Oklahoma in 1907. The statehood movement first began in 1890 in Sheridan, Wyoming. Frustrated with the U. S. government's policies, a group of politicians and businessmen led by a former baseball player named A. Swickard hatched a plan to create a new state they called Absaroka. To garner support, he distributed Absaroka license plates and photos of the first and last Miss Absaroka. Jefferson The audacious scheme to form the state of Jefferson began in 1859 when a group of copper mining counties in northern California and southern Oregon grew fed up with insufficient government funding for their highways. In a slightly tongue-in-cheek gesture, the residents of the area convened to form a new state. A newspaper contest led to the name Jefferson, and the group went so far as to elect a judge named John Childs as its first governor. In a show of Jefferson pride, a group of men armed with hunting rifles blockaded the highway between Oregon and California and gave bewildered motorists a flyer that read: We strive for accuracy and fairness. Twice a week we compile our most fascinating features and deliver them straight to you.

**Chapter 8 : The state of Deseret flag still flies over Salt Lake City - The Salt Lake Tribune**

*Deseret was proposed as a name for the U.S. state of Utah. Brigham Youngâ€”governor of Utah Territory from to and president of the LDS Church from to â€”favored the name as a symbol of industry.*

The interior of the monument contains stones representing individuals, cities, states, and nations. Even before the treaty was signed, Church leaders began discussing petitioning the U. In July a committee wrote a Constitution. It used as models the U. Constitution and the Iowa Constitution of , from which the committee took fifty-seven of the sixty-seven sections of the new Constitution. The committee requested that the state be named Deseret and that the boundaries be Oregon on the north, the Green River on the east, Mexico on the south, and the Sierra Nevada on the west, including a portion of the Southern California seacoast. A slate of officers was approved, with Brigham Young as governor. Babbitt, appointed representative to Congress, was instructed to carry the plea for statehood to Washington, D. This effort by Latter-day Saint settlers to organize themselves into a provisional government was much like the attempt made in the s by settlers in Tennessee, who organized the state of Franklin when they felt neglected by North Carolina, and the settlers of Oregon, who established a local government that functioned without recognition from the U. After special sessions during the summer, the members assembled for their second regular session in December Earlier, on September 9, U. President Millard Fillmore had signed an act to create a much smaller Utah Territory and appointed Brigham Young the first territorial governor. After word of the creation of the territory reached Utah, the tentative state of Deseret was dissolved on March 28, The provisional government had lasted only about a year and a half. The territorial status did not provide the self-government Latter-day Saints desired, and even though Brigham Young was appointed first governor, Church leaders and the territorial legislature continued efforts to obtain statehood. In , delegates met to again write a Constitution and propose the state of Deseret, an effort rejected by Congress. As a part of a third effort in , Brigham Young called the State of Deseret General Assembly into session for the first time since Thereafter it met each year until , each session lasting only a few days and focusing on winning statehood on the basis of the proposed Constitution of with only minor changes. In the meantime, Brigham Young had been replaced as territorial governor by a series of outside appointees, who became progressively more hostile to the meetings of the General Assembly and complained about this "ghost government," as they called it. In a constitutional convention drew up a new Constitution and dropped the name Deseret from the petition. This petition also failed, and hope for the state of Deseret came to an end. Reprinted as The State of Deseret. Encyclopedia of Mormonism, Vol.

**Chapter 9 : 5 Would-Be U.S. States - HISTORY**

*The State of Deseret explains these developments, and covers a "shadow government" that operated for several years after Utah became a territory. Little of this concerns our area directly, and Morgan's writing style may be too dry and academic for most readers.*

The provisional state existed for slightly over two years and was never recognized by the United States government. The name derives from the word for "honeybee" in the Book of Mormon. Realizing that California and New Mexico were applying for admission as states, Young changed his mind and decided to petition for statehood. In March , realizing that they did not have time to follow the usual steps towards statehood, Young and a group of church elders quickly drafted a state constitution based on that of Iowa , where the Mormons had temporarily settled, and sent the legislative records and constitution back to that state for printing, since no printing press existed in the Great Basin at the time. The stone was donated by the territory in to represent the provisional state. The provisional state encompassed most of the territory that had been acquired from Mexico the previous year as the Mexican Cession. The Territory of Deseret would have comprised roughly all the lands between the Sierra Nevada and the Rockies , and between the border with Mexico northward to include parts of the Oregon Territory , as well as the coast of California south of the Santa Monica Mountains including the existing settlements of Los Angeles and San Diego. This included the entire watershed of the Colorado River excluding the lands south of the border with Mexico , as well as the entire area of the Great Basin. The proposal was crafted specifically to avoid disputes that might arise from existing settlements of Euro-Americans. Likewise, the border with New Mexico did not reach the Rio Grande , in order to avoid becoming entangled in the existing disputes of the western border of Texas. Deseret also avoided encroaching on the fertile Willamette Valley of Oregon, which had been heavily traveled and settled since the s. Moreover, the proposal encompassed lands largely known to be inhospitable for cultivation, thus avoiding conflict over the issue of the expansion of slavery. The Beehive symbol often associated with Deseret. The proposal for the state was considered by some to be too ambitious to succeed in Congress , even disregarding the controversy over the Mormon practice of polygamy. Nevertheless, in U. President Zachary Taylor , eager to avoid disputes as much as possible, sent his agent John Wilson westward with a proposal to combine California and Deseret as a single state, which would have had the desirable effect of decreasing the number of free states entered into the Union, and thus preserving the balance of power in the Senate. The California Constitutional Convention debates of mentioned the Mormons or Salt Lake a number of times[3][4] along with the Northâ€”South conflict over extension of slavery. They also argued that Salt Lake was too far away for a single government to be practical and that Congress would not agree to such a huge state. Gwin , argued these were not real obstacles or could be solved later. Establishment of Utah Territory The Utah Territory is shown in blue, while the proposed State of Deseret is outlined by the dotted line. Modern state boundaries underlaid for reference. In September , as part of the Compromise of , the Utah Territory was created by Act of Congress , encompassing a portion of the northern section of Deseret. On April 4, , the General Assembly of Deseret passed a resolution to dissolve the state. On October 4, , the Utah territorial legislature voted to re-enact the laws and ordinances of the state of Deseret. After the establishment of the Utah Territory, the Latter-day Saints did not relinquish the idea of a "State of Deseret". Attempts were made in , , and to write a new state constitution under that name based on the new boundaries of the Utah Territory. The idea of creating a state based on Mormonism began to fade away after the coming of the railroad, which opened the territory to many non-Mormon settlers, particularly in the western areas of the territory. Young and the LDS Church supported the railroad, even taking members that were working on the Salt Lake Temple and reassigning them to work on the railroad. The driving of the golden spike just 66 miles from Salt Lake completed the first transcontinental railroad at Promontory Summit in Government Prior to the establishment of Utah Territory, in the absence of other authority, the provisional government of Deseret became the de facto government of the Great Basin. Three sessions of the General Assembly, a bicameral state legislature , were held. In , the legislature appointed judges and established a criminal code. Taxes were established on property

and liquor, and gambling was outlawed. The legislature initially formed six counties, which covered only inhabited valleys. These "valley counties" initially encompassed only a small portion of the area of Deseret and were expanded as settlement grew.