

Q. How can I get some important documents that I own repaired?

A. The American Institute for Conservation (AIC) will furnish you with a referral list. Call them at (202) 452-9545 or e-mail info@conservation-us.org.

Q. Can you look at my document/book and tell me how much it is worth?

A. No! We are not able to provide appraisals of the value. We deal in records from state government and do not purchase any documents. You have to find a rare book dealer to help you.

Q. My grandfather died and left me with a 1906 stock certificate for a Goldfield mine. Is it worth anything?

A. In 1906, 331 mining companies incorporated in Nevada beginning with the word "Goldfield." If a corporation is still active, the record is at the Secretary of State's office. If the State Archives has the incorporation record, the company ceased to exist a long time ago.

The Nevada Secretary of State's office is the office of record for all corporations formed in Nevada. A business entity search can be done online here: <http://nvsos.gov/sosentitysearch/CorpSearch.aspx>. If you are unable to find the company, you can contact the Secretary of State's office at their general e-mail: sosmail@sos.nv.gov. There is a fee for each name search.

Q. How did the first settlers in Nevada get title to their land?

A. Nevada pioneers squatted on ranch land and town lots until being granted title by the United States' General Land Office or the Surveyor General of the State of Nevada. Beginning in 1862, they could lay a claim with the "half-breed" scrip issued to individuals from Minnesota who traded their interest in certain Indian lands to the federal government in return for any surveyed land on the public domain. The Preemption Act of 1841 and the Homestead Act of 1862 were not applied to Nevada until after it became a state in 1864. In 1865, the Nevada cities of Carson and Virginia entered their town sites with the General Land Office under an 1844 town site act and all the owners of the town lots had to purchase their land again, this time from the federal government. All these land acts applied to surveyed land.

The Nevada State Archives has digitized the original land patents from the Nevada Division of State Lands. However, any questions about land patents, rights, and restrictions should be directed to the State Lands staff: <http://lands.nv.gov/program/chart.htm>. For questions regarding federal land patents, contact the Bureau of Land Management: <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en.html>.

Q. I have a 19th century Nevada Treasurer's bond. Am I rich?

Every year the State Treasurer's office is contacted about whether or not nineteenth century treasurers bonds have been paid. These questions are routinely referred to the State Archives staff for an answer. We then look up the bond numbers in various bond registers and always demonstrate they have been paid.

In 1934, State Controller Edward C. Peterson compiled a complete record of the bonds issued and redeemed since Nevada's admission to the Union. Peterson included this information in his annual report as a permanent record for future reference that shows all nineteenth century bond issues were paid. It was published as Schedule 24 in the *Annual Report of the State Controller for the Year Ended June 30, 1934*. Carson City: State Printing Office, 1934.

Q. Do you have old student records?

A. All records from the State Department of Education transferred to the State Archives have been reviewed and NO student lists were found among them. The records transferred include: Minutes of

Frequently Asked Questions – There Are No Easy Answers in the Archives

Meetings of the State Board of Education; Deputies' Annual [Statistical] Reports; High and Elementary [Statistical] Reports; County Superintendents' Fiscal Reports; County Auditors' Reports and Teacher Retirement records; and a series of correspondence from school districts relating to funding, problems, and an occasional evaluation of school physical plants.

According to the Nevada Compiled Laws (1929-49), teachers or a designated census marshal for the school district took an annual census of all school age children. Deputy superintendents, located in regions around the state, received the results and compiled statistical information to be included in reports to the state superintendent for the apportionment of funds.

The State NEVER collected information on individual students. This was done a regional level and kept in several offices around the state. When the more than two hundred school districts were consolidated into seventeen in 1956, the statutes made no provision as to the transfer, care or maintenance of student or local school district records and no one seems to know what happened to the records.

A 1911 "Act Concerning Public Schools..." required teachers to turn their registers of students over to the locally-elected trustees of the school district at the end of each year. One of trustees, who'd been elected clerk, would maintain the records of the district. At least until 1949, county commissioners were given the real and personal property of a dissolved school district. The real and personal property of consolidated school districts became the obligation of the new board of trustees. Records are not specifically mentioned in this act.

From 1911 to 1949, census marshals took an annual census of school age children in each district that contained the full names, birth dates, gender and race of all children less than twenty-one years of age. These reports, separate from teacher registers, were approved by the clerks of the boards of trustees and sent to the Deputy Superintendent who turned the information into statistics for the Deputy Superintendents' reports listed above. There was no obligation to keep these census reports after the compilation.

The records of defunct vocational and trade schools are at the office of the Nevada Commission on Postsecondary Education. To obtain school records and transcripts contact the Commission at 1820 E. Sahara Ave., Suite 111; Las Vegas, NV; 89104-3746 or call the Commission at 702-486-7330.