

SALT LAKE COUNTY (UTAH). JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (FIFTH DISTRICT : 1874-1902) [951]

INQUEST REGISTER, 1898-1902

1 reel microfilm

DESCRIPTION: It was the duty of the justice of the peace to act as coroner and hold inquests on the bodies of those supposed to have died of unlawful means within his precinct. According to legislation passed in 1896, a register of inquests was to be kept recording the date; the name of the deceased if known, if not, a description of the deceased; the description of any property found on the deceased and its disposition; and the cause of death if determined.

This register contains documentation of inquests held by Alexander McMaster and Dana T. Smith, justices of the peace in the 5th precinct of Salt Lake City in Salt Lake County. In addition to the information specified above, register entries usually include the place of the inquest, jurors names, and witnesses names. If an autopsy was held, the names of the doctors are usually stated. Dates that a venire was issued, subpoenas issued, files turned over to the district court, etc. are also mentioned. The costs of the inquest and burial are often itemized, along with the name of the individual assuming the cost if other than the county. Each summary is brief, rarely extending beyond a single page.

The location of any inquest register from McMaster's previous term is unknown. In 1901, new legislation provided that henceforth cities of the first class no longer be divided into multiple precincts, thereby bringing the series to a close with the end of the term in 1902.

ARRANGEMENT: Entries are chronological.

RELATED RECORDS: Papers turned over to the Third District Court in and for Salt Lake County for filing may be found in the CORONERS' INQUEST FILES, Series 3851.

PROCESSING NOTE: Archivaly processed by A.C. Cone, 1990. Original records were destroyed after microfilming.