



# Research Your Fort Collins Ancestors

## FORT COLLINS LOCAL HISTORY ARCHIVE AT THE FORT COLLINS MUSEUM & DISCOVERY SCIENCE CENTER

Material to aid your genealogical research can be found at the Fort Collins Local History Archive, the Poudre River Public Library District, and online at the archive website: <http://history.fcgov.com>. The Archive is open Tuesday through Friday 10 to 5, Saturday 10-12 and 12:30 to 5, and Sunday 12- 5. Local History Collections are non-circulating, and can only be used in the Local History Archive.

**City and County Directories** — 1902 to 2006. Not all years are represented.

**Historic Photograph Collections** — Date from 1860s-present and include Larimer County and Fort Collins' businesses, residences, events, street scenes, families, and individuals. **Order Forms** and many photographs are online.

**Biographical and Subject Files**—Contain files of newspaper clippings, pamphlets, brochures, and other documents pertaining to the history of Fort Collins, Larimer County, and the state of Colorado. Index is online.

**Historical Maps** — Provide information on land ownership, boundaries, road and railroad routes, population statistics, agriculture, storm drainage, subdivision plats, etc. There are maps from 1914, 1915, 1940, 1956, and 1963 that detail property ownership of all the Larimer County farm land. A **Map Finding Aid** and the **1915 map and index** to legal locations and property owners is **online**.

**Colorado Books and Magazines** — Include out of print and limited editions of books and periodicals pertaining to Colorado and Larimer County history.

**Obituary/Anniversary Files** — Obituary file contains copy of every obituary in *The Coloradoan* newspaper from 1977-present. Obituaries before 1977 must be searched for in the microfilmed newspapers in the Main Library Reference Area. Some obituary information is included in the biographical summaries of the **People Database**. Also the library's online newspaper database for *The Coloradoan* includes articles and obituaries from 1999-present. The Anniversary file contains a copy of every anniversary in *The Coloradoan* from 1977-1987.

**Yearbooks** — Include CSU, and Fort Collins, Poudre, Centennial, Heritage, and Rocky Mountain High School yearbooks. Dates are from 1895-present, depending on the school.

**Tax Assessor Records** — Include partial collection of Larimer County tax records dating from the 1940s to the 1980s with information and photographs of the property. Patrons need address of property and legal location (township, range, section, and parcel number) to access these records. To access the Tax Assessor photographs that we now have online, click on the **Photo Search Option** in the Database. Enter your street address in **Keyword** and then select **Tax Assessor Records** from **All Collections**.

**Historic Building Surveys and Contexts** — Provide historical and architectural data on various residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural buildings in Fort Collins. Often include title chains of the buildings, as well as biographical information on the owners. Some surveys are in the Main Library for checkout and some are also online.

**City Directories** for most years from 1902-2006 and are indexed alphabetically by business, name, and street address. Generally include occupations of both spouses and names of mature children. The 1902, 1904, and 1906 City Directories are also online.

**Fort Collins Newspapers** for years 1874 and 1878-present, *Wellington Sun*, and *Triangle Review* on microfilm. *The Coloradoan* newspaper Card Index from 1980-1987 and Microfiche Index for 1977-1979 are in Microfilm Area. The

**Triangle Review** — Card Index for papers dating from 1973-1979 and other local newspaper Card Index for years 1874-1909 and 1975-1979. **Wellington Sun** index is in book form by A. Gonzales. Fort Collins newspapers from 1878-1923 have been digitized and are online at: <http://www.coloradohistoricnewspaper.org> . These images are every word searchable.

**Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps** that primarily depict the Old Town and early residential areas of Fort Collins during the years of 1886, 1891, 1901, 1906, 1909, 1925, and 1940 and online through the Library District website.

**Fort Collins' Grandview and Roselawn Cemeteries' Records** that list name, age, date of burial, location of burial plot, and name of funeral director online <http://gisms2.fcgov.com/website/cemetery/viewer.htm> and in book form (978.868 Cemeteries).

### **Local History Books — Seven books provide major information on Fort Collins' families:**

*Fort Collins Yesterdays*

*Ranch Histories of Livermore and Vicinity* [original 1956 version titled *Larimer County Stockgrowers Association*] and their separate indexes

*History of Larimer County*, Watrous 1911 with separate index, 1985, and 1987

*The History of Larimer County*, Volumes I and II

**History and Architecture Database** — This online database contains genealogical information on Fort Collins and Larimer County residents.

## **MAIN LIBRARY DISTRICT**

The Main Library of the Poudre River Public Library District microfilm area contains reels of newspapers, cemetery records and other miscellaneous genealogical information. The Library is open Monday-Thursday 9:30-9:00 p.m., Friday 10:00-6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00-5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.

**Oral History Transcripts** — Approximately 300 verbatim transcripts of interviews available for check-out and listed in the library's catalog. Ask the Reference Librarian to retrieve the transcripts for you. Topics include historical events, experiences of early pioneers and current residents, and Larimer County community histories.

**Microfilm Collection** includes:

*City Directories* for most years from 1902-1976

*Colorado Census* for 1870, 1880, 1885, 1900, 1910, and only the Larimer County Census for 1920.

*Daughters of the American Revolution* and other family and institutional records; index to this information in microfilm drawer

*Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* 1886, 1891, 1901, 1906, 1909, 1925, and 1940

*Fort Collins Newspapers* from 1878-current.

*The Wellington Sun* newspaper from 1906-1988; the book Excerpts from the Wellington Sun on Reference Shelf can be used for index.

## **OTHER LOCAL HISTORY SOURCES**

The Larimer County Administration Building 200 W. Oak, Fort Collins, 80521 (970-498-7000),

<http://www.co.larimer.co.us/databases/>) retains the following records: **Marriage records from 1865; Land records; Military discharge papers; and Mining records. Judicial and Probate records from 1878** are at the District Court, 201 Laporte.

**Birth/Death Records** are available from **Vital Statistics**, 1525 Blue Spruce, Fort Collins, 80524 (970-498-6774). Only people directly related can obtain birth and death records in Colorado. Proof of relationship is required.

**LDS Family History Center**, 600 E. Swallow, Fort Collins (970-226-5999) provides a large collection of genealogical resources on microfilm, microfiche, and computer. Hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 10-4, 6:30-9:30; Saturday 9-12.