



Researching Your Fort Collins Ancestors

Material to aid in your family history research can be found at the Archive at Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, the Poudre River Public Library District, and online at the [Fort Collins History Connection](#).

Archive Resources

[City and County Directories](#) — Available for most years from 1902-present and often include all of Larimer County; they are indexed alphabetically by name, business, and street address. 1904, 1906, 1907, and 1934 directories do not feature the street guide. 1902-2005 directories are scanned and available online.

[Historic Photograph Collections](#) — Date from 1860s-present and include Larimer County and Fort Collins' businesses, residences, events, street scenes, families, and individuals. [Digital reproductions](#) of most photographs are available for purchase.

[Biographical and Subject Files](#)—Contain files of newspaper clippings, pamphlets, brochures, and other documents pertaining to families and the history of Fort Collins, Larimer County, and the state of Colorado.

[Historical Maps](#) — Provide information on land ownership, boundaries, road and railroad routes, population statistics, agriculture, etc. [Maps](#) from 1914, 1915, 1929, and 1940, and atlases from 1956, 1959, 1963, 1968, and 1974 detail property ownership of Fort Collins and Larimer County.

[Reference Books](#) — Include out-of-print and limited editions of books and periodicals pertaining to Colorado and Larimer County history. Five books provide major information on Fort Collins' people: *Fort Collins Yesterdays*, *Ranch Histories of Livermore and Vicinity*, and the three Larimer County history books: *History of Larimer County* 1911, 1985, and 1987.

[Cemetery Records](#) — [Grandview and Roselawn](#) cemetery records list name, age, and date of burial online and in book form at the Archive. When you find the date of burial, you can often find an obituary in the microfilmed newspaper dated 3-4 days before the burial date.

[Obituary Files](#) — Contain a copy of every obituary that ran in the *Coloradoan* newspaper from 1977-2011. Obituaries dated before 1977 must be searched for in the [microfilmed newspapers](#). The *Coloradoan* newspaper database has obituaries without the photographs dating from 1999-present; Poudre River Public Library District cardholders may also search the [Proquest Database](#) for obituaries from 1999 to present.

[Yearbooks](#) — Include Centennial High School, Colorado State University, Fort Collins High School, Fossil Ridge High School, Poudre High School, and Rocky Mountain High School yearbooks. Dates are from 1895-present, depending on the school.

[Tax Assessor Records](#) — The Archive has a partial collection of Larimer County tax records 1948 to circa 1990 and include residential, commercial, and rural properties. They often feature photographs, construction

details, and sketches of building footprints. Over 8,000 building photographs from these cards have been scanned and are available online.

[Oral Histories](#) —Over 400 verbatim transcripts of interviews available for viewing at the Archive; many are online. Transcripts are also available for check-out at the Old Town Library. Excerpts from some interviews on [Local Events](#) and [World War II](#) are online.

[Local Biographies](#) — An online database contains brief information on the occupations, relatives, and birth/death dates of many Fort Collins historical figures gathered from a variety of sources including vertical files at the Archive and reference books available at both the Archive and Poudre River Public Library District.

[Historic Newspapers](#) – Microfilmed Fort Collins newspapers 1874 and 1878-present, and *Triangle Review* for 1973-1995 are available. A card index for Fort Collins newspapers for 1878 through 1912, 1924, and from 1975 to 1987 is also available. See the [Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection](#) for early Fort Collins newspapers online.

Library Resources

Poudre River Public Library District's Old Town Library at 201 Peterson Street in Fort Collins, CO, 80524, contains microfilm reels of newspapers, cemetery record, and many other helpful genealogical publications. The [Genealogy Materials](#) are located on the 2nd floor. Researchers may also use their library card to access Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest, and other [eResources](#) from the Library.

Other Local History Sources

[Larimer County Genealogical Society](#)

Marriage records from 1865, Land records, Military discharge papers, and Mining records are available at the Larimer County Clerk and Recorder's Office, 200 W. Oak, Fort Collins, CO, 80521 (970-498-7000)

Judicial and Probate records from 1878 to present are at the District Court, 201 Laporte, Fort Collins, CO, 80521.

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

The Fort Collins Family History Center located at 600 E. Swallow, Fort Collins (970-226-5999) provides a large collection of genealogical resources on both microfilm and computer databases