

Book Review
By Rosemarie Coyle, Library Chairperson

Colorado's Historical Assets: A Research Guide for Genealogists, Local Historians and History Buffs Containing a Treasure Trove of Museums, Ghost Towns, Courthouses, Historical Homes and Hotels, along with the Libraries and Archives Holding Colorado's History

Compiled by Dina C. Carson, Published by Iron Gate Publishing P.O. Box 999 Niwot, Co 80544 Copyright 2020, GEN 978. 8 CAR

In her introduction author Dina C. Carson asks the reader the following question, "Who needs this book." And provides the answer "Anyone who enjoys historical or genealogical research needs this book. Whether you like to go places and see for yourself, or whether you research from afar."

Sixty-four counties have "an introduction that includes when it was established, whether it was an original county or from what other county (ies) it was formed. Adjacent counties, the county seat, the county government's website, population, area codes, zip codes, and a map showing where the county lies in relationship to other counties within Colorado."

A brief description under the heading of "Courthouses and County Government" is given for entities: Court Commissioners, County Assessor, Clerk and Recorder, Coroner, Elections, Public Health, Transportation, and Treasurer. The author reminds the reader that under (CORA) the Colorado Open Records Act, "citizens...have...the right to look at many documents produced by government and suggests that any request "be specific."

Defunct Counties are not reviewed. County Records "with" a synopsis of the types and earliest year that records were kept by the county government are each reported.

County Records held at the state level are at "three major repositories: the Colorado State Archives, History Colorado and the Denver Public Library." The author describes in detail the numbers and types of records that may be found.

Fraternal Organizations have been a part of Colorado's history since as early as the 1850's. The author suggests that membership lists and minutes of meetings might be an avenue for research.

Each county reviewed within this book lists current city and town halls, the location of archive and manuscript collections, local libraries, historical and genealogical societies, museum and historical sites, ghost towns and other sparsely populated places, places on the National Register, US Geological Historical Places and Military locations.

A listing of county newspapers with their first publication date to the current date of publication for each, if known, is listed for every county.

Grand Army of the Republic locations with "their dates of establishment (if known), discontinued (if known), and the current zip code. Additional information for researching the post offices in Colorado is given.

Under the heading of State Wide Resources the following are indicated with the physical and web address:

- State Archives <https://www.colorado.gov/archives>
- Historical Records Index Search <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/archives/archives-search>
- Colorado Vital Records Office <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/searching-vital-records>
- National Archives at Denver <https://www.archives.gov/denver>
- Bureau of Land Management, www.blm.gov/office/southwest-district-office
- Colorado State Library <https://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org>

- The Colorado Supreme Court <https://www.coloradosupremecourt.com>
- U.S. District Court <https://www.cod.uscourts.gov>
- National Indian Law Library <https://www.narf.org/nill/>
- History Colorado <https://www.historycolorado.org>
- Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies <https://cocouncil.org>

The author provides common genealogical websites to use but also includes suggestions for finding “historical works such as county or local histories that are no longer under copyright protection.” And recommends the following:

- Google Books, <https://books.google.com/>
- Hathi Trust, <https://www.hathitrust.org>
- Internet Archive, <https://archive.org/>
- Open Library, <https://openlibrary.org>

This author has given the reader valuable information about all sixty-four counties in Colorado. Any researcher of Colorado ancestors will find this book invaluable.