

## Genealogy Rocks!

### Using GPS to Search for Locations

Ever wonder how to find your ancestor's locations? I'm referring to ancestor burials, their former home address, or place of business or other landmarks. Obviously, there are many publications giving these locations such as cemetery records, census records, and city directories on ancestor's home or business addresses. There are several methods that give planetary coordinates of these locations as a future refer-

ence if the landmarks disappear.

The first method uses quadrangle maps provided by the U.S. Geological Survey. USGS provides detailed landmarks with their highest resolution 7½ minute maps. Coordinates and elevation are shown for locating cemeteries, farms, homes, etc. These maps are being digitized and will be available online.

The second method uses GPS receivers. GPS is the Global Positioning System that gives latitude

and longitude, and elevation measurements to a GPS receiver. The resolution is better than printed maps with up to 10 ft. resolution and has improved over several decades from 1,500 feet for earlier non-military applications.

3 types of GPS receivers are available: mobile GPS receivers with road map display, cellphones (with optional GPS feature), and portable receivers with or without quadrangle map displays. All devices give coordi-



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nates and elevation for the user. Thus finding or recording your ancestor's locations is now very easy. GPS receivers vary in cost from \$60 for a simple portable or mobile GPS receiver.

❖ *Bob Larson is President and editor of the Larimer County Genealogical Society. 2 workshops & a general meeting in Nov.: Preserving Your Precious Memories, 1 pm, Nov. 5, Council Tree Library. Writing & Publishing Your Family History, 7 pm, Nov. 7, Harmony Library. Our next program is The Power of Family Legends, 6:30 pm, Nov. 17, Harmony Library. Visit [www.lcgsc.org](http://www.lcgsc.org) or [www.facebook.com/lcgsc](http://www.facebook.com/lcgsc) for details.*