

## Genealogy Rocks!

### State Archives and Libraries Are a Treasure Trove

Many genealogists are aware of state archives and libraries, but surprisingly few actually use them in their research. This is unfortunate since state libraries and archives offer many resources that are impossible to find elsewhere.



**Carol Stetser**

State archives are repositories which contain original, unpublished documents on the history of a state, while state libraries contain books and periodicals that are available for public use. Many states have both archives and libraries, often housed in the same building. Although their functions are somewhat different, both archives and libraries can hold a treasure trove of information for genealogists.

For example, records of state prisons, mental institutions and schools for the deaf and blind are often found in state archives. Some states archive older county records, which include court re-

ords such as probate files and divorce and commitment files. In addition, older vital records such as birth and death certificates can be found in state archives. Although more and more newspapers are being digitized, the vast majority of them are found only on microfilm. Most state libraries hold these microfilms for the en-

tire state.

State archives and libraries are usually located in the state capitols of their respective states, but all of them have websites that often contain databases of their most used records. Even if records are not digitized, most archives' websites have finding aids to their records and will usually find and mail cop-

ies of records for a modest fee.

❖ *Carol Stetser is our society's head researcher and library volunteer. Visit our website at [www.lgcsco.org](http://www.lgcsco.org) for our many calendar events and please stop by Loveland Library or Old Town Library in Fort Collins on Thursday afternoons from 1 to 5 pm for FREE genealogy help. Contact Carol at [search\\_coordinator@lgcsco.org](mailto:search_coordinator@lgcsco.org)*