

Genealogy Rocks!

Visitor's Centers and Genealogy?

Taking a genealogy trip? Don't forget to stop at the local visitor's center. I became aware of how important a visitor's center can be when I visited Albany, NY. The center was open seven days a week and located in the historic Quackenbush Square, named after one of my Dutch ancestors. The knowl-



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edgeable staff pointed out the pub next door was the actual house of my Quackenbush family. The center had a museum with a miniature replica of the Albany Dutch colony in the early 1600's. Several of the tiny homes belonged to my relatives.

Like most visitors' centers, there was a gift shop. I found eight books about the Dutch and Albany Colony. In the indexes were my family names. I bought several of the books. The center's staff was able to direct me to libraries, events, museums, historic boat tours, the

local historian, historic churches, and the historic society. I learned a lot and my curiosity grew.

When I returned to Colorado, I visited local visitor's centers. Most visitors' centers in Larimer and Weld counties had a local history book with historic photos. Loveland had an excellent brochure called 'Walk Historic Loveland.' Each page had a picture and history of a different historic site. The brochure included a map of each location. In addition, there was a large postcard with historic photos and addresses.

Fort Collins visitor's center had brochures on historical cemeteries, the history of Ft. Collins, the museum, the libraries, and the historic Avery House. Next time you take a genealogy trip, pick up a FREE map at the local visitor's center. You might discover a small genealogy gem.

❖ *Karen Wentz is a member and past instructor for Larimer County Genealogical Society. Please visit our website at www.lcgsco.org or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lcgsco to learn about our many events.*