

Colorado Genealogical Society

Tour

Stephen H. Hart Library

The Stephen H. Hart Library at the Colorado History Center in Denver, Colorado, recently provided tours to the members of the Colorado Genealogy Society on August 26th and September 9th, 2017. A total of 34 members attended. Several of the members met for lunch before the tour at the Rendezvous Café.

For those who were not able to join us, here are some of the highlights.

What it is: The collection of materials for all people, places, events and things pertaining to Colorado State History. Think of it as representing the public side (as opposed to government) of the state archives. The library does not focus on genealogy research, but has many useful items to genealogists.

What it is not: It is not a repository for state and county records, but the staff can provide directions on where to look.

Example: If you are researching Governor Hickenlooper

- For state papers (government) go to the Colorado State Archives
- For personal papers – Stephen H. Hart Library

Other Resources

- Colorado Department of Vital Statistics.
- Denver Public Library.
- Colorado State Archives.
- National Archive and Records Administration (NARA) Denver.
- Bureau of Land Management.
- County clerk and records offices.
- Local genealogical/historical societies.

Cost: FREE!!!!

Logistics: See the Website for information on location, contact information, parking, and procedures for access to this non-circulating collection.

<http://www.historycolorado.org/researchers/planning-your-visit>

Research Tip: Come with specific questions and you will get specific answers, and get the faster!

Example: “I am looking for my great-grandmother’s obituary.”

How the library is funded:

Financing for the library is a hybrid of:

- State Funds (State organization)
- Private (non-profit) donations
- Does not receive funds from SCFD

Staffing Information:

- There are only three people on the library staff.
- The curatorial staff consists of 5 people

- One third of the desk hours are provided by volunteers.

Classes offered:

Stephen H. Hart Library offers classes like:

- Newspaper Research
- Preserving your treasures: documents and photos
- Researching the history of buildings
- And more....

See the website for more information.

<http://www.historycolorado.org/researchers/collections-and-library-programs>

Collection Contents: Board approval determines what donations will be accepted.

Formats:

The collection contains both online and textual materials including

- indexes and special materials
- books
- photos
- newspapers
- serials (journals & magazines)
- manuscripts
- maps
- directories

Research online:

From the Colorado History Website home page, click on the Research tab.

<http://www.historycolorado.org/researchers/stephen-h-hart-library-and-research-center>

The online catalogue research engine is **not** intuitive.

Here are some suggestions on how to search:

- 1) Start with a broad search – i.e. subject: Durango
- 2) Newspaper Collection
 - a. majority are on microfilm
 - b. most are not indexed, bring dates and locations if possible.
 - c. obituaries, notices, articles, stories

What you can access:

From the Stephen H. Hart Library, you will have access to

- a. The catalogue for the library
- b. Colorado History Newspaper Collection (digitized newspapers)
- c. NewsBank (infoweb.newsbank.com) –
 - must access onsite
 - cannot use offsite
 - the full run of the newspaper may not be available online.
 - the search is limited by OCR capabilities

How you can access it:

- Computers at the library are available for use.

- You may use your own laptop.
- Access is available from the Rendezvous Cafe

What you have access to:

(Note: Not all of the textual information is available online.)

Directories

- city and county
- household directories are alphabetized by street address.
- state business directories
- telephone books
- other small directories such as
 - school annuals
 - club memberships
 - who's who
 - etc.

Census Records

- Federal
- State
- Territorial
- some census indexes available

Periodicals and Books

- Colorado magazines (online)
- Sons of Colorado
- Colorado Genealogist
- college year books
- Denver social registers
- published indexes

Biographical Indexes

- Civil Works Administration (CWA)
- Works Projects Administration (WPA)
- CWA Pioneer Interviews (not all are digitized yet)
- May provide citations for news stories, published biographies, or mentors elsewhere

Manuscript Collections

- letters, diaries, personal papers, business records, etc.
- family businesses
- personal
- organizational
 - National Daughters of the American Revolution (NDAR),
 - Polish Club of Denver,
 - National Sons of American Revolution (NSAR),
 - Sons of Colorado,
 - Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)

Colorado Subject Collection

- Biographical (CSC, BIO)
- clippings, biographical data files, printed material
- not comprehensive
- inventory available via library catalogue or ask the librarian for individual names.
 - If you search for “Samuel Adams” the search engine will search for “Samuel” and “Adams”.

Photographs

- over 1 million photos
- digitized collection
- ask for help from librarians