



# Start Hunting! Six Things to Find in City Directories

#### 1. Your Ancestor. And other family members.

Sure, you're going to look for your ancestor, but look or other family members, too. Some of them may have lived nearby, others across town. Then follow the family year-by-year to note changes in occupation, living arrangements, even deaths of a head of household. Add it all to a timeline so you can keep track of the family's comings and goings.

#### 2. Streets and maps

Street names can change over time – so can house numbers. To get a real look at your ancestor's neighborhood, look for street directories inside city directories. In some cases you may even find maps of the city or town. Street directories will typically give you cross streets, which you can use to orient you on modern day maps. This sample lists the right and left side of the street and the house number that corresponds with each intersection.

417 434 Vandervoort av	risou, bet. Hicks and Co-	65 66 nichards	165 154 Hicks
Newtown canal	lumbia, S. to Degraw	109 112 Van Brunt	205 190 Henry
419 456 Porter av	(oue block)	The Market of the State	251 236 Clinton
453 496 Varick av	Letter This Comments	Trotter (Sec Cambridge	299 284 Court
495 538 Stewart av	Tillary,' from Fulton,	pl.)	- 353 336 Smith
- 576 Gardner av	bet. Jonuson and Clinton,	the transformation that the second	413 386 Hoyt
525 578 Metropolitan av	to 55 feet E. of Canton	Troutman (late Madi-	485 450 Bond
559 598 Scott av	Left. Rt.	son), from Myrtle av.,	Gowanus canal
599 638 Seneca ay	1 2 Fulton	bet, Jefferson and Bush-	543 504 Nevins
Newtown creek	25 26 Washington	wick av., N. E. to City	599 560 3d av
HOW WHI CI COK	49 50 Adams	line	663 624 4th av
Thames, from Bogart,	69 70 Pearl	Left. Rt.	733 694 5th av
bet. Gratian and Varet,	91 90 Jay	1 2 Myrtle av	
E. to Jefferson	113 112 Lawrence	23 20 Bushwick av	
	133 134 Bridge		855 810 7th av
	153 160 Duffield		917 870 8th av
1 2 Bogart		147 148 Central av	9th av
35 36 Morgan av		205 206 Hamburg	Prospect park
- 75 + Vandervoort av	197 192 Prince	267 268 Knickerb'ker av	973 934 Clason av
77 84 Knickerb'ker av	† 208 Fleet pl	331 834 Irving av	1057 1020 Franklin av
109 † Porter av	223 214 Hudson av	397 492 Wyckoff av	1129 1090 Bedford av
† 184 George	245 284 Navy	437 442 St. Nicholas av	1189 1152 Rogers av
149 † Varick av	266 256 Raymond	481 486 Cypress av	1261 1222 Nostrand av
151 162 Irving av	291 282 Canton	525 632 Covert av	1833 1292 New York av
181 184 Stewart av	The second s	541 546 City line	1405 1366 Brooklyn av
189 — Jefforson	Tompkins av., from	Martin and an inter the	1479 1438 Kingston av
B. St. March. March	Flushing av., bet. Marcy	Troy av., from Fulton,	1553 1510 Albany av
Thomas, from Varick	av. and Throop av., S. to	bet. Yates av. and Lewis	1021 1580 Trov av

Brooklyn, New York, 1877

You may also find a reverse directory that lists residents by address, as well as cross streets. Use these to look through the neighborhood when searching for your ancestor's name just isn't working.

#### 3. Churches and Clerics

Religious records are incredibly valuable for discovering dates, places, and family relationships. And for the years before states were required to keep records of births, marriages and deaths, churches may be the only place to find that information. Use city directories to find the churches nearest to your ancestor. And if you find the name of a cleric on records associated with your family, research the cleric in city directories, too. Use his address and compare it to the address of local churches to determine church affiliation. Also look to see if the directory you're viewing has a list of churches and synagogues that includes the names of clerics.

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Methodist Episcopal (Colored)-New Bethel, 29 Leopold

Methodist Free-

- First, N Union cor Richmond founded 1866 pastor W J Parmenter
- New Apostolic Church 136 Fillmore pastor Karl Schenk
- Polish National Catholic Church of StCasimir 40 Ernst org 1907 pastor Steph Stryjewski

Presbyterian-

- Presbytery Office 416 Cutler bldg Rev Frank M Weston, DD executive sec
- Brick, N Fitzhugh cor Allen founded 1825 pastor Harold E Nicely, associate Stanley F Gutelius
- Brighton, East av bet Park av and Winton rd S founded 1817 pastor Geo E Ulp
- Calvary, South av cor Hamilton founded 1856 pastor W Duncan Gordon
- Central, Plymouth av N corner Church founded 1836 pastor Wm S Meyer asst pastor Sherman W Haven

Rochester, New York, 1943

MCCIenan

- Reformed Church in America— Brighton, Blossom rd cor Arbordale av founded 1892 pastor Anthony Luidens
  - First, Main E cor Alexander founded 1852 pastor Garret Hondelink Second, Scio cor Lyndhurst founded 1886

Roman Catholic-

- Diocese of Rochester, Chancery office 50 Chestnut, Most-Rev Edw J Kearney bishop of Roch, Rt Rev Msgr Wm H Hart vicar general Rt Rev Msgr Wm F Bergan chancellor Rev Lawrence B Casey and Rev Jas C McAniff vice chancellors
- Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Brooks av at Genesee Park blvd founded 1928 rector Edw T Meagher
- Church of Our Lady of MtCarmel (Italian) 60 Woodward founded 1909 pastor Chas J Azzi Church of StTheresa 12 Mark near
- Church of StTheresa 12 Mark near Hudson av rector Simeon Kaczmarek

## 4. Cemeteries

Check city directories for cemeteries near the homes of your relatives home at the time they lived there. They may point you to burial locations, possibly even a family plot, where you'll find details about more than one family member. This directory from Mobile, Alabama in 1890, gives the locations and even the name of the sexton.

CEMETERIES.

#### Catholie Cemetery.

On the north side of Davis avenue, beyond Three-mile Creck. John Resette, Sexton.

#### Jewish Cemetery.

South side of Virginia, west of Marine street, Entrance on Virginia. Patrick McGrath, Keeper.

#### Maguolia Cemetery.

Located south of Texas, north of Virginia, and west of Chatham streets. Entrances head of George and of New Jersey and on Ann and Virginia. Hiram E. Davis, Keeper.

#### National Cemetery.

North side of Virginia, between Ann and Chatham streets. Col. Lucian B. Gould, Superintendent.

#### Old Grave Yard.

On Church street, between Government and Monroe and Bayou and Wilkinson streets. Entrances on Bayou and Church and Wilkinson streets. Hichard Farrell, Keeper.

Mobile, Alabama, 1890

### 5. Advertisements

Look at the ads carefully - you may discover more information about a family member's business or place of business, names of photographers, banks, organizations and other details that could appear elsewhere in your family's history. Advertisements were a big source of revenue for directories and this Buffalo directory calls its index of advertisers the "Honor Roll." Page numbers in the final column will take you directly to the ad.

## Honor Roll

Nome	Lt.	Business	For Further Information See-
Abbott Coal & Coke Co **Abstract Title & Martgage Carp. Are Part & Service *Arame Pattern & Machine Co., Inc. **Arame Marke Brick Co., Inc. **Adam, J. N. & Co. **Adam, Meldrum & Anderson Co. **Adam, Meldrum & Anderson Co. Alten Street Hardware Store. *Alten & Street Hardware Store. *Alten Steet Hardware Store. *Alten & Cory Co. Alt. Weather Rooling Co., Inc. *American Rescue, Warken, Inc.	1934 1886 1938 1906 1912 1871 1867 1850 1926 1902 1898 1920 1898	Cool Abstracts Automolie Repairers Partern Makers Brick and Tile Manufa Department Store Insurance Hardware Adding Machines Poper Roofens Social Service	Left bottom lines and Page 4 Page 1 Page 1 P
Amheria Neenoid Carlan, Inc. Anchor Concrete Products, Inc. Androns, S. A., Inc. Florists. Ark Builden' Supply Co., Inc. Arko Herbs, Inc. Arko Herbs, Inc. Andre Sterror Planing Service. Aures Butfela Corp.	1930 1936 1935 1933 1931 1907	Monuments Concrete Products Florists Builders' Supplies Herbs Insurance	
B & G Loundries, Inc *Baker, Nelson P., Inc	1931	Laundries	left side lines and Page 10 Page 17
***Beck, Magnus Brewing Cd., Inc Bell Radio & Television Co Ben Ture Service Benedict's Hygrade Gulf Service *Benedt Homes & Lumber Co., Inc *Berenz I. L. Inc.	1938 1938 1917 1937 1902	Brewers Radios Tire Dealers Service Station Lumber Women's Accord	right side lines and Page 2- right bottom lines and Page 14: right bottom lines and Page 16: Page 11: feft side lines and Page 17: Page 11: Feft side lines and Page 17: Feft side lines and Feft side lines and
*Besizer's, Inc. Berlinger Cool & Coke Corp. *Bieldo Bros. Bio-Lac, Inc. Bison Builden' Supply Co., Inc	1925	Cool	right side lines and Page 4
**Black Rock-Riverside Savings and Laan Associations	1889	Savings and Loan Ass	Page 15
*Blanchard Lumber & Mill Co., Inc *Brack, E L & Son *Butoin Black Top Povements, Inc **Butoin Bolt Co.	1903 1882 1914 1933 1860	Lumber Funeral Durectors Printer Paving Materials Bolt and Nut Miry.	Poge 11 Page 7 Poge 14 Poge 13 Poge 13
Buffelo Brick Corp. Buffelo Business Federation, The Buffelo Catering Co., Inc. **#Buffelo Chember of Commerce. **#Buffelo Chember of Commerce. **Buffelo Co-Operative Store Co.	1927 1924 1915 1844 1864	Crvic Association Covic Association Covic Association Covic Association Centers Centers Centers Centers Centers Centers	right bottom lines and Page 2 left side line Page 3 and bottom lines and Page side lines and Pages 16 and 4
**Buttala Co-Operating Store Co **Buttala Coulor-Sures, Inc *Buttala Coulor-Sures, Inc *Buttala Crustered Store Corp **Buttala Evening News. *Buttala Evening News. *#Buttala Free Office Inc. ***Buttala Foundry & Machine Co	1904	Builders' Supplies	Pope 12 Pope 2
*Each star indicates 25 years in busines			

#### **6.** Historical Information

Buffalo, New York, 1939

City directories often included histories of the area, some with images of the city, too. That same Buffalo directory from 1939 includes an Introduction that spans 21 pages with photographs of the city and its landmarks, and sections on early history and settlers, historic sites, street names, statistics, and more. There are even sections outlining the history of several ethnic groups in Buffalo (Polish, German, Italian, Irish, and Jewish). All of this can give you a little more background on your family and their home life.

Get more tips on using U.S. City Directories Collection on Ancestry.com in our video. Click here to start watching.