

1870 Map
Depiction,
New York
City



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Inside the Guide: City Directories

A few weeks ago the heat, traffic, and noise of Salt Lake City (although it's minor compared to the L.A. area, where I used to live) started getting to be a bit much. So my wife and I headed out for a week away from the city, to beautiful Orcas Island in the San Juans of Washington state.



Just one vacation experience to share ... at twilight one evening, we saw two eagles keeping watch in the skies about 100 feet above us, and it was so quiet we could actually hear their wings flapping as they flew.







OK, back to the city, with its bustle and crowds ...

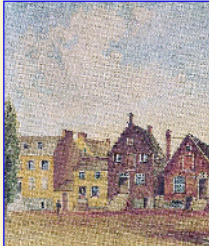
Remember that many of our ancestors likely lived in larger cities at some point in their lives. City directories can be a helpful tool in locating them, and The Family History Guide connects you with some great tools for getting started.

Project 4: United States - City Directories

Let's get started by going to Project 4: United States, Part A, Goal 2 (Learn about location and geography). Scroll down to Choice D, and you'll see links to several articles and videos.

► D. Use city, county, and town directories effectively.

1.  Learn about U.S. county and city directories in this FamilySearch article.
2.  |  Use city directories to find clues about where your ancestors lived.
3.  |  Learn about hometown histories.
4.  Learn about county and town resources in this article.



Notice that in addition to city directories, there are a few related categories here: county directories, town directories, and hometown histories. Also, Choices A, B, C, and E have some helpful information about



location, geography, and timelines, in addition to city directories.

From the FamilySearch Wiki page:

"Directories were created for salesmen, merchants, and others interested in contacting residents of an area. They are arranged alphabetically, giving lists of names and addresses. These often list the adult residents ...

City and county directories of local residents and businesses ... are generally published annually and may include an individual's address, occupation, spouse's name, and other helpful facts."

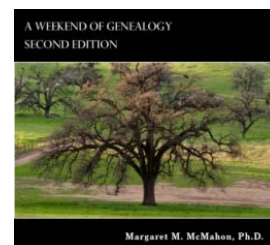
Tips and Techniques

- Read the article in Step 1 for an introduction.
- In The Family History Guide, you can find city directory resources for each U.S. state in the State pages (left side of the United States page). Go to Goal 2, Choice B for the state you want (e.g., www.thefhguide.com/project-4-us-iowa).
- Newer directories tend to have more information than the older ones.
- You may need to search multiple directories across a time period to find your ancestor.
- Besides names and addresses, city directories can help you learn about the neighborhoods where your ancestors lived, with clues about records.
- The directory's index may point you to helpful information about churches and other organizations around the address where your ancestor lived.

Resources

- The Ancestry video (32:00) in Step 2 has some good tips, focused on Ancestry city directories.
- Use the Vault: www.thefhguide.com/vault.html#4a-a
- The Research Guide in Step 5 shows you six things to find in a typical city directory.
- Also learn about hometown histories in Step 3, which can help you work with city directories.

Spotlight: A Week of Genealogy



Editor's Note: We're excited to announce a series of spotlights on popular family history blog and web sites. First up: A Week of Genealogy, by Margaret McMahon.

How many hockey-playing genealogists with a PhD in Computer Science do you know? Meet Margaret McMahon, who fills that description well. She is a noted blogger and lecturer based in the Washington D.C. area, and *A Week in Genealogy* is both a popular



book and a blog site.

Let's take a brief tour of what you'll find on *A Week of Genealogy* (<http://aweekofgenealogy.com/>) ...

Options

Some of the options available on the blog site are shown below; we'll focus on the ones circled.

[Books](#) [Presentations](#) [Reviews](#) [Blog](#) [Upcoming](#) [Tutorials](#)

- *Books* - *A Week of Genealogy* takes you through seven practical genealogy exercises, one day at a time: 1-Timelines, 2-BMD records, 3-Social Security Death Index, 4-Newspapers, 5-Cemetery Records, 6-Military Records, and 7-Research Help. There is also an "After Day 7" section to help you know what to do with your findings. Both books are available for purchase on the site.



Her latest book, *A Weekend of Genealogy*, highlights activities for a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, including the Federal Census, Google, Internet Searching, etc.

- *Blog* - Margaret's blog is now an official [GeneaBlogger](#) site. Here are a few of the posts you might enjoy on her site:

[Three Reasons to Use WorldCat](#)

[Three Things to Do on Find a Grave Today](#)

[Marital Status State Diagrams](#)

[World War I Battle and Cemeteries](#)

- *Tutorials* - I like these step-by-step discussions of how to solve real-life family history challenges. The tutorials in this section cover important topics such as USAHEC (U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center), Court and Probate Records, Land Records and Patents, the War of 1812, and the 1940 U.S. Census in New York City.



Visit *A Week of Genealogy* and see what your week could be like!

Just for fun: Margaret on a breakaway, about to send her new book into the goal ...

The Training Corner

A couple of new developments are coming to the Training section of The Family History Guide (www.thefhguide.com/train.html):

- *Mini-classes*: We will be adding quite a few shorter classes from The Family History Guide, anywhere from 15 to 30 minutes each. These mini-classes can provide helpful training for those looking to learn about specific topics in shorter amounts of time. Each mini-class will typically focus on one or two Goals.

- *Course Catalog*: To make classes easier to find and use, a new Course Catalog will be added to the Training section of The Family History Guide. The Catalog will include full courses and the new mini-classes, as well as some selected custom courses.

On the Horizon

We will be at all Family History Fairs listed below. For details, see the Events link on the website for details (www.thefhguide.com/events.html).

Grandview South Stake Family History Fair - is on August 27 in Orem, UT.

Holladay Stake Training - is on Sept. 6 in Holladay, UT.

Ogden FamilySearch Library 2016 Conference - is on Sept. 10 in Ogden, UT.

Pavahnt Valley Family History Conference - is on Oct. 15 in Delta UT.

Pikes Peak Family History Conference - is on Nov. 5 in Colorado Springs, CO.



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Sunset at Doe Bay, Orcas Island