

## Genealogy Rocks!

### City Directories Get No Respect

From a quote on Ancestry.com “Like the late comedian, Rodney Dangerfield, city directories don’t always get the respect they deserve.” While the information included in city directories is often limited to name, occupation, and work and home addresses, directories can be used to direct us to other records in our research and help us learn more about our ancestor’s community.

You may find street directories, lists of advertisements (for an ancestor’s business), churches, schools, cemeteries, hotels and much more. City directories are useful in tracking residences between census years. If you cannot find a directory for the small town where your ancestor lived, try checking directories of a larger town nearby as some included small surrounding towns.

Directories are organized by surname which may lead you to



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other ancestors living in the same area. Widows are sometimes noted as such with the designation of “widow of” - another clue. You can search in previous directories for the husband to be listed to narrow down his year of death.

When using city directories, always make a note of the name, date and publisher of the directories you reviewed. Many abbreviations are used and a guide to these is usually in the front of the directory. Ancestry.com has an extensive collection of city directories, available free at local public libraries and at all Family History Centers. Libraries also have city directories in print or on microfilm. Another website is [www.uscitydirectories.com](http://www.uscitydirectories.com), which gives the year and repository of many city directories.

❖ *Kathy Patrick, vice president. Next meeting: August 18 at Harmony Library, 6:30 pm. Visit [www.lcgsc.org](http://www.lcgsc.org) or Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/lcgsc](http://www.facebook.com/lcgsc)) for details and other events. Estes Park Genealogical Society is continuing their summer seminar series on Aug. 13, 9-4 pm at Estes Park Library. Please register at 970-586-8116. Seating is limited.*