

Genealogy Rocks!

Ancestors Are People Too

Directories are one of the most interesting genealogical research tools you can use. Many are digitized and many are still books, maps, etc. I remember the first time I tried to use a Gazetteer Directory. I was new to genealogy and all I had researched were names & dates for my ancestors. I didn't think too much about where they lived or worked yet.

Not knowing what a Gazetteer really was, I tried using an ancestor's name in the search menu and continuously found "no results." Then I discovered that a Gazetteer is "A geographical dictionary or directory used in conjunction with a map or atlas. They typically contain information concerning the geographical makeup, social statistics and physical features of a country, region, or continent."

However, I was still focused on getting more names and dates. Newsflash! When I started to



Stacey Rehbein

write about my ancestors, I realized that I desperately needed the history of the places they lived, worked and raised their families. I had already discovered that my 5th GGrandfather was a Landscape Gardener in Scotland. I promptly searched Gazetteers and old books that told about the area he lived and worked in. This included information about large, estate gardens and their popularity in that time period.

Realizing that his place in time helped shape him, my whole perspective changed and so did my research. John Wallace, the Landscape Gardener, became a real person to me. So, search through those directories like Gazetteers, City Directories, Yearbooks, Genealogical Dictionaries and County History books. They are worth your time and with a little bit of digging you can bring your ancestors back to life!

❖ *Stacey Rehbein is the president and instructor for Larimer County Genealogical Society. Please visit our website (www.lcgsc.org) or our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lcgsc) to learn about our many events and genealogy research.*