

City Directories May Have The Family History Details You've Been Looking For

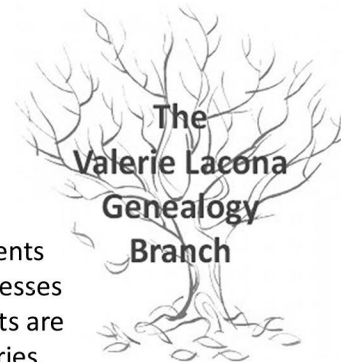
By Kathy Foggia

City directories are a great way to not only see when your ancestor first moved into a town, but to follow the family year by year to note changes in occupation, living arrangements, even deaths of a head of household.

Directories were created for salesmen, merchants, and others interested in contacting residents of an area. They are arranged alphabetically giving separate lists of residents with their addresses and occupation, businesses, and a separate section of businesses by category. Then residents are listed by street address. There are also listings of churches, schools, funeral homes, cemeteries, post offices, courts, hospitals, benevolent associations and newspapers.

When tracking ancestors in Federal and State census records you can locate them every 5 to 10 years, but if you are trying to find out what year they moved from city to city and their address in each place you could do this by looking in city directories.

Below are examples of my husband's grandparents in the Des Moines City Directory from 1912 when they were first married, to 1934 when Rose was a widow with a fruit stand at City Market.



Grandinette Jos janitor Alfred Hammer & Co bds 331 so w 5th

Des Moines City Directory 1912

Grandanette Jos clk Alfred Hammer & Co res 340 so w 3d pl

Des Moines City Directory 1915

**Grandanette Jos (Grandanette & Chiarelli Gro Co) res 321 so w 4th
Grandanette & Chiarelli Grocery Co
(Jos Grandanette, Jas Chiarelli) 300
so w 5th**

Des Moines City Directory 1919

Grandanette Joseph billiards 301 so w 4th res 321 same

Des Moines City Directory 1922

Grandanetti Jos h816 2d

Des Moines City Directory 1923

Grandanette Joseph billiards 300 so w 4th res 1208 Bluff

Des Moines City Directory 1926

Grandanetti Rose (wid Jos) h816 2d

Des Moines City Directory 1928

**Grandanette J Rose (wid Jos) fruits City Mkt h816 2d
" Rose M r816 2d
" Ross F clk r816 2d**

Des Moines City Directory 1934

This listing on the right shows Billiard Halls in the 1924 Des Moines City Directory has many Italian Americans listed. It's interesting to check each year in the directories as you might find short term occupations, or home addresses that you weren't aware of.

Des Moines City Directories from 1866-1922 can be accessed for free at this link: <https://archive.org/details/desmoinesandpolkcountycitydirectories>. You need to sign up for a free account. There are other free records available at archive.org.

<https://dp.la> has city directories for cities across the US, not Iowa though. It is the free sight for the Digital Public Library of America.

Iowa Genealogical Society, 628 E Grand, Des Moines, IA has a large collection of city directories for Des Moines and other Iowa cities.

State Historical Society of Iowa Library has a large collection of city directories for Des Moines and other Iowa cities on film.

Ancestry.com has city directories in their collection including some for Des Moines. It is a monthly fee sight.

Billiard Halls
Albright R C 720-722 Grand av
Alexandria The 513-515 Locust (2d fl)
Blackburn & Boyd 708 Locust (2d fl)
Bowers & Routson 402 e Locust
Bunce Charles 321 e 5th
Caligiuri Leo 212 Walnut
Campbell D B (c) 306 Grand av
Celsi & Macri 718 s Union
Chiesa Louis 212 4th
Eagle Billiard Hall 612-14 Mulberry
Felix Chas 305 e Walnut
Formaro Frank 317 9th
Galott Samuel 229 3d
Grand Recreation Parlor 914 Grand av
Grandanette Joseph 300 so w 4th
Hart's Billiard Parlor 514 Walnut (2d fl)
Hotel Savery Billiard Room bsmt Hotel Savery
Imperial Billiard Parlor 409-11 e 5th
Joiner W H 416 4th
Kanne A J 432 e Locust
King Amusement Co 707 Locust (2d and 3d fls)
Lavine Max 406 Court av
Lewis Edwd ns Army Post rd 3 w of s Union
Londahl & Larsen 411 e Locust
London E A (c) 221 Court av
McNabb W M 411 3d
Mission Billiard Parlors 607-11 Locust (2d fl)
Olsen Wm 403 e Locust
Orpheum Billiard Hall 721-723 Mulberry
Phillips John 210 Locust
Poppas Louis 423 e Walnut
Rand Frank 1220 Jackson av
Rex Cigar Co 205 7th
Salem Joseph 425 e Walnut
Scott G W (c) 714 Grand
Sergis John 518 Elm
Striggler Wm 608-10 Mulberry
Talarico Peter 502 s Union
Ulrichs L A 523 Scott av
Wagle E C 420-22 Grand av