

Tracing Ancestors Who Lived in Cities: A Checklist of Records and Sources

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Census Records

- Population Schedules
- Police Census Schedules
- Enumeration Maps
- Sheriffs' Enumerations
- School Censuses
- City Schedules

Match with:

- City-wide Indexes
- Inhabitant Lists
- Voters' Registration
- Great Registers (CA, AZ, NM)
- City Directories
- Tax Rolls
- Manufacturers' Schedules
(1820 Federal Census)
- Petitions
- Committees of Safety Lists
- Quadrennial and Septennial
Lists (with tax rolls) PA, TN, OH
- Church Census Records
(with Church-wardens' Records)

Marriage Records

- Inside City Register
- Outside City Register

- Mayor's Ledger
- Justices of Peace Books

Match with:

- Church Registers
- Military Pensions
- Family Bible Collections

Vital Records

- Births
- Deaths
- Marriages
- Divorces
- Adoptions
- Obituaries (G.K. Hall)
1804-1872--700,000 cards

Match with:

- Newspaper Deaths, Marriages
- Obituaries
- Mortality Lists
- City Directories
- Cemetery Records
- Warning-out Records
- Church Registers
- Family Books/Registers
- Hospital Records
- Midwives' Books

Probate Records

- Wills/Administrations
- Petitions for Probate
- Guardianship Petitions
- Court Minutes

Match with:

- Newspaper Obits
- Death Notices
- Legal Notices
- City Directories
- Court Dockets

Cemetery Records

- Sextons' Books
- Tombstones
- Memorials

- Burial Permits
- Dead Body Registers
- Bodies in Transit
- Grave Plats
- Commissioners' Register of Burial Lots

Land and Tax Records

- Abstracts of Title
- Deeds to City Lots
- Personal Property Assessments--silver plate, carriages, furniture, musical instruments, studs, financial securities, cash on hand

Match with:

- Abstracts of Title
- Building Permits
- Improvements Files
- Utility Payment Cards
- Tract Books
- Confiscations (usually during or after Wars)
- Insurance Claims
- Ward Maps
- Vendue Lists

Court Records

- Minutes
- Powers of Attorney
- Jail Records
- Prison Registers
- Insolvents and Debtors
- Poor Registers
- Claims--back wages, public works, pirate raids
- Bankruptcy Files
- Adoptions
- Petitions--Freemen
- Pie Poudre Courts
- Mayors' Registers
- Business Licenses--doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, ships, river pilots, liquor, inns taverns, transients, performers
- Business Registers

- Ferry Permits
- Estrays
- Agreements
- Freedom of the City Files
- Apprenticeship Records
- Bonds
- Inquests
- Police Reports
- Riots and Public Disturbances
- Accidents' Investigations

Match with:

- Credit Reports--Dun & Co.
- City Directories
- Trade Association Journals and Directories
- Union Records
- Fire and Police Dept. Files
- Freeman Meetings Records

Voters' Records

- Registers
- Precinct Lists
- Alien Lists
- Great Registers (CA, AZ, NM)

Match with:

- Tax Rolls
- Assessment Rolls
- Street Indexes

Immigration/Emigration

- Passenger Lists
- Naturalizations
- Petitions
- Certificates
- Indexes--Germans, British, Italians, Russians

Match with:

- Fire Department Records
- Pullman Company Records (IL, IN, OH)

Maps

City Maps
 Plat Maps of City Blocks
 Rights of Way
 Utility Maps
 Transportation Maps
 Ward Maps
 Land Ownership Maps
 Little Italy
 Little Russia

Little Poland
 Irish Enclaves
 Chinatown

Match with:

Census Enumeration Maps
 Fire Insurance Maps
 Legislative Districts

Statistics:

86% of all Americans entered the US through a Port City.
 50% of all Americans lived in urban centers, 1920
 72% of all foreign-born Americans lived in urban centers, 1912
“Everybody breathing dirt, eating dirt—they call it “pay dirt,” for Youngstown clean would be Youngstown out of work...” Frank Bohn, 1915

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