



# Albany City Directories

**City Directories:** The Pruyn Collection of Albany History at the [Washington Avenue Branch](#) of Albany Public Library provides access to a nearly complete run of Albany, NY City Directories from 1813 to the present. We also have some directories covering Troy, Schenectady, Guilderland, Colonie, Bethlehem, and other suburbs.

- **Print Volumes** of Albany City Directories are located in two locations at the [Washington Ave. Branch](#). The following years can be browsed in the microfilm room on the first floor [anytime the Branch is open](#). 1950-1979, 1981, 1983, 1985-1986, 1988-1994, 1996-2014. The remaining volumes from 1813-Present are stored in our local history room. While that space is temporarily closed during the pandemic, staff can retrieve up to ten items from there per day. Visit our first floor Reference & Information Desk [anytime the Branch is open](#). The [New York State Library](#) has microfilmed editions and the [Albany County Hall of Records](#) has some print copies available.

- **Digitized Volumes:** Eighty-six years of Albany City Directories are freely available through [Hathitrust.com](#), [Archive.org](#), [Google Books](#), [Digital Libraries & Archives](#), and items digitized at APL. The next page contains links to the volumes we've located. Each site has advantages and drawbacks.

**Hathitrust.com** – You can download individual pages, but not entire volumes. You can search within a volume by using the “Search in this Text” box. To search for a name or business in ALL the Albany volumes, visit the [“Advanced full text search”](#) page. Perform a search for your words, including a second line search for all the words Albany AND Directory in the title. In your results page, click on a “full view” page, and then search for your words within that volume by using the “Search in this Text” box.

**Archive.org** – Right click on pages to save them as JPGs. You can also download entire volumes as PDFs. Click on the magnifying glass to “search inside” a volume. It is accurate and highlights the words, but it is slow.

**Google Books** – Within a book you can save individual pages, or portions of pages, by clicking on the scissors tool at the top, selecting your area, then opening the “Image” web address in a new window. You can then right click on the image and save it as a PNG file. You can download entire volumes as PDFs by clicking on “EBOOK-FREE. You can “search in this book.” There is not an easy way to search for a name across multiple volumes.

**Digital Libraries & Archives** – You can download individual pages, but not entire volumes. You can search for terms in individual volumes through “*Search this record.*” You can also search across all the Albany volumes by doing an advanced search for the “City Directory (NEHGS)” Collection. Then *Search this Collection*. Then filter Subject (Places) to Albany (N.Y.). It must be done in that order.

- **AncestryLibrary.com Volumes:** Albany City Directories from 1861-1960 (except for 1922) are accessible through the [“U.S. City Directories 1822-1995”](#) collection in [AncestryLibrary.com](#). You can access these volumes for free on public computers at Albany Public Library, on your device using Albany Public Library’s Wi-Fi, and at the New York State Library. Many libraries around the country also subscribe to this site. Check with your local library to see if you have access. You can view these volumes from home only if you have a pay subscription to Ancestry.com. **During the pandemic, Albany Public Library patrons must access this site at our library branches and at home using [this link](#) and their Albany Public Library card.**

**AncestryLibrary.com** - You can download individual pages, by clicking on the green “save” icon in the upper right hand corner of pages. You cannot download entire volumes. You can search for a name in all the volumes by visiting [“U.S. City Directories 1822-1995”](#) and typing in “Albany, New York, City Directory” in publication title (check exact box). Addresses can be searched in the “Keyword” box.

<sup>1</sup> Albany Public Library cardholders must first visit [this link](#) and enter their library card. AncestryLibrary.com links may not work on your first attempt. Try clicking a second time. For information on how and where you can access these volumes, see **AncestryLibrary.com Volumes** on page one.



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Print & Microfilmed Volumes	Digitized Volumes Viewable at Home	Digitized Volumes AncestryLibrary.com <sup>1</sup>
<p><b>In <u>Washington Avenue Branch's First Floor Microfilm Room</u>:</b> 1950-1979, 1981, 1983, 1985-1986, 1988-1994, 1996-2014. Microfilm copies of the 1861-1901 volumes are also on the first floor.</p> <p><b>In the Local History Room at <u>Washington Ave.</u>:</b> 1813-Present.* This includes the 1831 &amp; 1834, but not the 1838 "opposition directories."</p> <p><b>Dickman and infoUSA Directories in the Local History Room:</b> The <a href="#">Dickman Albany Schenectady-Troy Criss-Cross Directories directories 2012-2018</a> and <a href="#">infoUSA City Directories 2019-Present</a> cover perhaps all of the cities and towns in Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady Counties, and parts of Saratoga County.</p> <p>*According to the preface of the <a href="#">1879 directory</a>, no directory was published in 1836. According to past library staff, the 1980 directory is missing. 1982, 1984, and 1987 were never published. 1948-49 is one volume.</p> <p><b>Additional Directories Online</b></p> <p><a href="#">Gazetteer and Business Directory of Albany &amp; Schenectady County N.Y. for 1870-1871.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Directory to the Trades in Albany. 1852.</a></p>	<p>Eighty-six years can be viewed online for free. The only volumes not available are 1820-21, 24, 26, 35-36*, 39, 43, 51, 54, 70-73, 80, 87-88, 92-95, 97, 99, 1902, 04, 19, 1925+.</p> <p>A = Albany Public Library Digitized Items  D = Digital Libraries &amp; Archives (American Ancestors)  G = Google Books  H = Hathitrust.com  I = Internet Archive (Archive.org)</p> <p><a href="#">1813<sup>A</sup></a>, <a href="#">1813<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1814<sup>A</sup></a>, <a href="#">1815<sup>A</sup></a>, <a href="#">1815<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1816<sup>A</sup></a>, <a href="#">1816<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1817<sup>A</sup></a>, <a href="#">1818<sup>A</sup></a>, <a href="#">1819<sup>A</sup></a>, <a href="#">1822<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1823<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1825<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1827<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1828<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1829<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1830<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1831<sup>D</sup></a>(Scott), <a href="#">1831<sup>D</sup></a>(Child), <a href="#">1832<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1833<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1834<sup>D</sup></a>(Child), <a href="#">1837<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1838<sup>D</sup></a>(Hoffman), <a href="#">1838<sup>D</sup></a>(Child), <a href="#">1840<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1841<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1842<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1844<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1844<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1844<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1845<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1845<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1846<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1847<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1848<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1848<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1849<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1849<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1850<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1850<sup>D</sup></a>, <a href="#">1852<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1852<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1853<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1853<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1855<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1855<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1856<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1856<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1857<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1857<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1858<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1858<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1859<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1859<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1859<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1860<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1860<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1860<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1861<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1861<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1861<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1862<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1862<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1863<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1863<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1863<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1864<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1864<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1865<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1866<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1866<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1867<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1867<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1868<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1869<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1869<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1869<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1874<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1875<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1876<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1877<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1877<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1878<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1878<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1879<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1881<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1882<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1882<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1883<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1884<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1884<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1885<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1886<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1889<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1889<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1890<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1890<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1891<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1891<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1896<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1896<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1898<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1900<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1900<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1901<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1901<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1903<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1903<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1905<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1905<sup>I</sup></a>, <a href="#">1905<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1906<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1906<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1907<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1907<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1908<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1908<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1909<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1910<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1911<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1911<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1912<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1912<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1913<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1914<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1914<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1915<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1915<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1916<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1916<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1917<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1918<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1918<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1920<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1920<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1921<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1922<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1922<sup>G</sup></a>, <a href="#">1923<sup>H</sup></a>, <a href="#">1924<sup>H</sup></a></p> <p>Hathitrust has the following "search only" volumes. Searches will display page numbers, but no text of the results. <a href="#">1925</a>, <a href="#">1926</a>, <a href="#">1927</a>, <a href="#">1929</a>, <a href="#">1932</a>, <a href="#">1933</a>, <a href="#">1935</a>, <a href="#">1936</a>, <a href="#">1937</a>, <a href="#">1939</a>, <a href="#">1940</a>, <a href="#">1941</a>, <a href="#">1948</a></p>	<p>1861-1960 (except for 1922) can be viewed. See the footnote <a href="#">and</a> the first page for details on accessing these volumes.</p> <p><a href="#">1861</a>, <a href="#">62</a>, <a href="#">63</a>, <a href="#">64</a>, <a href="#">65</a>, <a href="#">66</a>, <a href="#">67</a>, <a href="#">68</a>, <a href="#">69</a>, <a href="#">1870</a>, <a href="#">71</a>, <a href="#">72</a>, <a href="#">73</a>, <a href="#">74</a>, <a href="#">75</a>, <a href="#">76</a>, <a href="#">77</a>, <a href="#">78</a>, <a href="#">79</a>, <a href="#">1880</a>, <a href="#">81</a>, <a href="#">82</a>, <a href="#">83</a>, <a href="#">84</a>, <a href="#">85</a>, <a href="#">86</a>, <a href="#">87</a>, <a href="#">88</a>, <a href="#">89</a>, <a href="#">1890</a>, <a href="#">91</a>, <a href="#">92</a>, <a href="#">93</a>, <a href="#">94</a>, <a href="#">95</a>, <a href="#">96</a>, <a href="#">97</a>, <a href="#">98</a>, <a href="#">99</a>, <a href="#">1900</a>, <a href="#">01</a>, <a href="#">02</a>, <a href="#">03</a>, <a href="#">04</a>, <a href="#">05</a>, <a href="#">06</a>, <a href="#">07</a>, <a href="#">08</a>, <a href="#">09</a>, <a href="#">1910</a>, <a href="#">11</a>, <a href="#">12</a>, <a href="#">13</a>, <a href="#">14</a>, <a href="#">15</a>, <a href="#">16</a>, <a href="#">17</a>, <a href="#">18</a>, <a href="#">19</a> <a href="#">1920</a>, <a href="#">21</a>, <a href="#">23</a>, <a href="#">24</a>, <a href="#">25</a>, <a href="#">26</a>, <a href="#">27</a>, <a href="#">28</a>, <a href="#">29</a>, <a href="#">1930</a>, <a href="#">31</a>, <a href="#">32</a>, <a href="#">33</a>, <a href="#">34</a>, <a href="#">35</a>, <a href="#">36</a>, <a href="#">37</a>, <a href="#">38</a>, <a href="#">39</a> <a href="#">1940</a>, <a href="#">41</a>, <a href="#">42</a>, <a href="#">43</a>, <a href="#">44</a>, <a href="#">45</a>, <a href="#">46</a>, <a href="#">47</a>, <a href="#">48-49</a>, <a href="#">1950</a>, <a href="#">51</a>, <a href="#">52</a>, <a href="#">53</a>, <a href="#">54</a>, <a href="#">55</a>, <a href="#">56</a>, <a href="#">57</a>, <a href="#">58</a>, <a href="#">59</a>, <a href="#">1960</a></p> <p><b>Additional Directories on AncestryLibrary.com</b></p> <p><a href="#">Gazetteer and Business Directory of Albany &amp; Schenectady County N.Y. for 1870-1871.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Business Directory and Mercantile Register of Albany – Troy, 1902</a></p>

<sup>1</sup> Albany Public Library cardholders must first visit [this link](#) and enter their library card. AncestryLibrary.com links may not work on your first attempt. Try clicking a second time. For information on how and where you can access these volumes, see **AncestryLibrary.com Volumes** on page one.



# Albany City Directories

**Publishers:** The [1857<sup>h</sup>](#) volume gives a history of Albany City Directory publishers. [1845<sup>h</sup>](#) also gives a history of how the directory content is gathered and the number of names in each volume. “Opposition Directories,” were published in 1831 by Child & Shiffer, in 1834 by Loomis & Wait, and in 1838 by Edwin B. Child. [APL’s print 1831 & 1834 directories contain both the standard and opposition directories.](#) Our print 1938 directory does not contain the opposition directory.

Years	Publisher		Years	Publishers
1813-1817	Joseph Fry		1851-1856	Joel Munsell
1818-1821	B. Pearce		1857	George Adams
1822-1823	Graham Klinck		1858-1862	Adams, Sampson & Co.
1824-1825	Tobias V. Cuyler		1863	Adams, Sampson & Co. & Joel Munsell
1826	Ira W. Scott		1864-1865	Adams, Sampson & Co.
1827	Tobias ( <a href="#">Solias?</a> ) V. Cuyler		1866-1885	Sampson, Davenport & Co.
1828	Ira W. Scott		1886-1902	Sampson, Murdock & Co.
1829	William Cammeyer		1903-1937	Sampson & Murdock Co.
1830	Cammeyer & Gaw		1938-1996	R. L. Polk & Co.
1831	Ira W. Scott (opposition by Child & Shiffer)		1997-1999	Polk
1832-1835	Edwin B. Child (1834 opposition by Loomis & Wait)		2000-2001	Equifax Polk City Directory
1836	No Directory Printed		2002	Polk Directories
1837-1850	L. G. Hoffman (1838 opposition by Child)		2003-Present	Polk City Directories

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**African Americans:** From 1815-1853, Albany City Directories italicized the names of African American residents. Local historians have established that italicized names were either free blacks (slaves were not listed), mixed race, or “colored” individuals. The [1834-1835 Directory](#) used asterisks as well as italics, stating, on page 8 of the preface, “The colored population are in italics designated by an asterisk (\*).” The practice of identifying African Americans ceased after the 1852-1853 directory.

**House Directory:** *Allows you to look up a street name and find the names of the residents and businesses on that street in a certain year.* The first House Directories are in the [1895](#)<sup>1</sup> & [1896](#)<sup>H</sup> volumes. House Directories start appearing again in [1914](#)<sup>H</sup> and continue to this day. Cross streets start appearing in [1914](#)<sup>H</sup>. In [1932](#)<sup>1</sup> the House Directory merged with the Street Directory. Since [1943](#)<sup>1</sup> it has been referred to as the “Street and Avenue Guide” or the “Street Directory.”

**Street Directory:** *Allows you to look up an address and determine which two cross streets the address is between. You can sometimes determine which side of the street had the address. Often the street’s ward number is listed.* The first street directory was in [1872](#)<sup>1</sup>. Prior to 1872 there was often a page or two listing all the street names and the intersections they begin and end at, but no cross streets or lists of house numbers. [1897](#)<sup>1</sup> – 1965 volumes list the wards the streets span. Starting in 1967 zip codes are listed for each street. In [1932](#)<sup>1</sup> the House Directory merged with the Street Directory and the practice of showing which side of the street an address was on ceased. Since [1943](#)<sup>1</sup> it has been referred to as the “Street and Avenue Guide” or the “Street Directory.”

**Deaths:** Starting with the [1881](#)<sup>H</sup> directory, dates of death are frequently listed after the names of people who were in prior directories and passed away in the last 12 months. Death dates more than twelve months old have been noticed. The 1960 directory is the last to frequently post death dates. It is undetermined if later directories stop listing death dates or if they are just far less frequent. The directories do not state how these dates were acquired.

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## History of City Directories

Direct Me NYC 1786: A History of City Directories in the United States and New York City

<https://www.nypl.org/blog/2012/06/08/direct-me-1786-history-city-directories-US-NYC>

New York Public Library Digitizes 137 Years of New York City Directories

<https://www.nypl.org/blog/2016/09/21/new-york-city-directories-free-online>

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