THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA **Directory FACT SHEET**

Newspapers & Microfilm Center

Telephone: (215) 686-5432 Email: erefNEWS@freelibrary.org

Directories housed at the Newspaper Dept, Free Library of Philadelphia:

Cole's cross reference directory: Philadelphia	1973 – 2007 (one year from present edition)
Keystone Telephone Directory	1902 – 1943
Philadelphia Address Telephone Directory	1927 – 1969
Philadelphia City Directories	1785 – 1936
Philadelphia White and Yellow Pages	1879 – 2016

- **Telephone Directories**
  - Telephone Directories are organized:
    - White pages are ordered alphabetically by name of resident or business.
    - Yellow pages list businesses in order by subject.
    - Address directories are in order alphabetically by street, then numerically by street address.
  - These directories can be used to determine either the name or address of the resident of a property.
  - The Free Library of Philadelphia Newspaper & Microfilm Center holdings:
    - Philadelphia telephone white and yellow pages, 1879-2016.
    - Philadelphia address telephone directories cover 1927-1969.
- **City Directories**
  - The Philadelphia City Directories are an alphabetical listing by name of residents of the city, including occupation and address.
  - Published between 1785 and 1936. We do not hold directories for the years 1928 or 1931-1934. The information in a published directory is current for the previous year.
  - Complete runs of city directories are available on microfilm in the Newspaper & Microfilm Center of the Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia City Archives, and Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
- **Cole's Cross Reference Directory**
  - Cole's Cross Reference, or "Reverse Directory," lists streets alphabetically with addresses in numerical order. Listings usually include the resident's name, phone number and length of time at that address.
  - Copies are available on microfilm from 1973-2007 in the Newspaper & Microfilm Center of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

General Information:

By checking a directory, a researcher can determine the years a resident occupied a property. If an approximate time span is known for a person's residence at a property, it is helpful to start with a broad search of the beginning, middle and end years. Then narrow the search from there. Names of the owners of a property can be ascertained from the chain-of-title/property deeds.

Contact Information:

1. The Genealogical Society of PA, 2100 Byberry Rd., Suite 111, Philadelphia, PA 19116
Phone: (267) 686-2296; Email: info@genpa.org; Webpage: http://www.genpa.org

2. The Historical Society of PA, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: 215-732-6200; Fax: 215-732-2680; Webpage: http://www.hsp.org/node/2034

3. Newspaper and Microfilm Center, Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: 215-686-5432; Email: erefnews@freelibrary.org; Webpage: www.freelibrary.org

4. Philadelphia City Archives, 548 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123 Phone: 215-685-9401; Email: archives.info@phila.gov; Website: phila.gov/departments/department-of-records/city-archives/