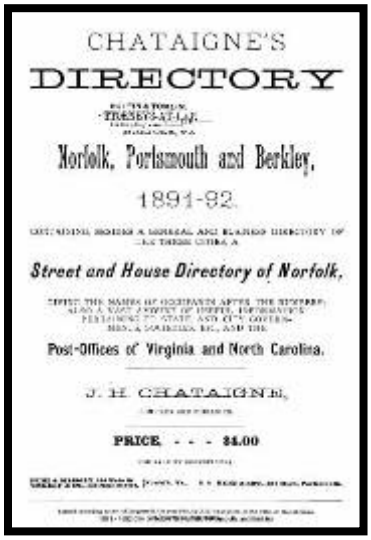
Sargeant Memorial Room – Norfolk Public Library

Norfolk Main Library, 235 East Plume Street; Norfolk, Virginia 23510
Phone: (757) 664 – 7485; Fax: (757) 664 – 7319
Email: smr@norfolk.gov
Website: http://www.npl.lib.va.us/smrt/smr_home.html

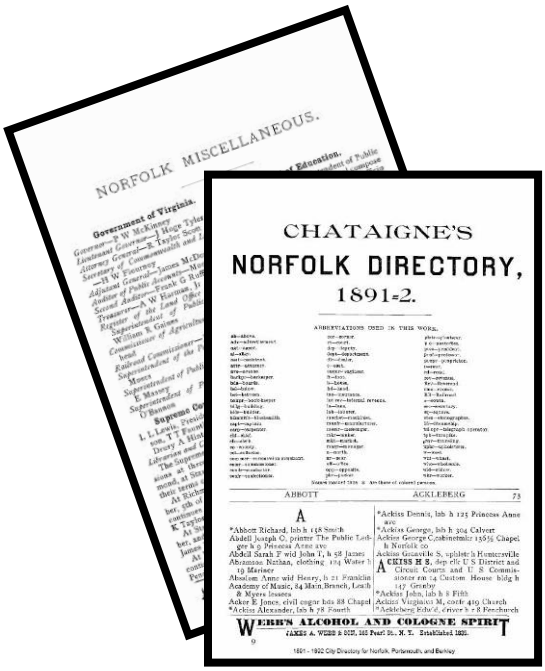
Finding Aids: Unlocking a Norfolk City Directory



CHATAIGNE'S
DIRECTORY
Norfolk, Portsmouth and Berkley,
1891-92.
Street and House Directory of Norfolk,
Post-Offices of Virginia and North Carolina.
J. H. CHATAIGNE,
PRICE - - - $4.00

This brief finding aid is meant to help you get the best use from city directories of past and present. City Directories have been published since the late 1700s in America. The directories were the phone books of their day! 1801 is the earliest known city directory for the City of Norfolk, Virginia, and an annual directory has been published continuously since that time. Unfortunately, there are few surviving directories from the period between 1801 and 1866. In a typical directory, you will find:

- Alphabetized list of the residents and businesses in a city.
- Street and Avenue directory for the city.
- Classified business directory similar to the yellow pages of current phone books.
- Miscellaneous section containing information about organizations, government, and other entities.
- Advertisements of local businesses and products.



NORFOLK MISCELLANEOUS.

CHATAIGNE'S
NORFOLK DIRECTORY,
1891-2.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS WORK.

ABBOTT ACKLEBERG

A

*Abbott Richard, lab h 148 Smith
Abdell Joseph O, printer The Public Ledger h 3 Princess Anne ave
Abdel Sarah F wid John T, h 48 James
Abramson Nathan, clothing 124 Water h 19 Marvier
Absolom Anne wid Henry, h 21 Franklin
Academy of Music, 84 Main Branch, Loch & Myers lessees
Acker E James, civil engr h 88 Chapel
*Ackiss Alexander, lab h 78 Fourth
*Ackiss Dennis, lab h 125 Princess Anne ave
*Ackiss George, lab h 304 Calvert
Ackiss George C, cabinetmkr 135½ Chapel h Norfolk co
Ackiss Granville S, upholst h Hunterville
ACKISS H S, dep clk U S District and Circuit Courts and U S Commissioner on 14 Custom House bldg h 147 Granby
*Ackiss John, lab h 8 Fifth
Ackiss Virginius M, contr 410 Church
*Ackleberg Edw'd, driver h 8 Beechurch

WERR'S ALCOHOL AND COLOGNE SPIRIT
JAMES A. WERR & CO., 165 Pearl St., N. Y. Established 1825.

1891 - 1892 City Directory for Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Berkley

Not all city directories are the same in their content but most contain the sections mentioned above.

These directories are a great tool for researchers and genealogists since their content offers a glimpse into city life and shows a yearly census of its population. They give the location of individual residences and the occupations of citizens. The later directories include spouse information when applicable; this is a great help when researching relatives. Keep in mind that the directories do not include everyone—the canvasser may have missed the individual or business, or the residents may have been absent at the time of the survey.

Individual Listings

Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial

Individual's Occupation – See the front page of the Individual & Business Directory if there is a code listed for the occupation.

Location of work—Typically comes before the home residence.

ALLYN JOSEPH T, atty at law rm 1 Academy of Music bldg 84 Main h 44 Bute

Parenthesis (Not shown) – Either the name of the company where the individual works or the name of the individual's spouse.

Location of residence. Typically has "h" before the address to signify the owner of the property. "R" represents the roomer or resides at that address.

Note: A "C" or a "*" on the left or right side of a name means the person is of African American descent.

Business Listings

Name of the business or entity

O'NEILL'S 'CYCLE AND SPORTING HOUSE, Arthur A O'Neill mngr bicycle, tricycle and sporting goods dlrs 42 Bank

List of owner(s) or individuals in management of the entity.

Type of business or entity.

Location of the business.

Street and Avenue Listings

Street Name with an intersection to serve as a starting point.

Bute—west from 326 Church
— Thomas T R & Co
4 Burrow J W
10 La
11 Ra
12 W
16 Ch

Street number of the building with the head of the household listed and sometimes other individuals residing at the location.

*Allman James
44 Allyn J T
Allyn J T Jr
Bell M E Mrs
45 Graham John Jr
46 White W H
47 Reid J T S
Reid J G
48 Cannon D C Dr
Cannon M K
Cannon D C Jr
Dunmore intersects
49 Pickett Charles

Example: Reverse Street listing for Mr. Joseph T. Allyn from above. It shows him sharing the residence with his son, J. T. Allyn, Jr., and a Mrs. M. E. Bell.

List of Norfolk City Directories held in the SMR collection

1801	Norfolk only	1918	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1970	Norfolk only
1806	Norfolk only	1919	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1971	Norfolk only
1851-1852	Norfolk only	1920 - 1921	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1972 - 1973	Norfolk only
1859	Norfolk only	1922	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1974	Norfolk only
1860	Norfolk only	1923	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1975	Norfolk only
1866	Norfolk only	1924	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1976	Norfolk only
1867	Norfolk only	1925	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1977	Norfolk only
1869	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1926	*Not published*	1978	Norfolk only
1870	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1927	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1979	Norfolk only
1872	Norfolk only	1928	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1980	Norfolk only
1872 - 1873	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1929	*Not published*	1981	Norfolk only
1874 - 1875	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1930	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1982	*Not published*
1875 - 1876	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1931	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1983	Norfolk only
1877 - 1878	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1932	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1984	Norfolk only
1879	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1933	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1985	Norfolk only
1880 - 1881	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1934	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1986	Norfolk only
1882 -1883	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1935	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1987 - 1988	Norfolk only
1883 -1884	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1936	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1989	Norfolk only
1885	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1937	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1990	*Not published*
1886	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1938	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1991	Norfolk only
1888	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1939	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1992	Norfolk only
1889	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1940	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1993	Norfolk only
1890 - 1891	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1941	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1994	Norfolk only
1891 - 1892	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1942	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1995	Norfolk only
1892 - 1893	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1943	*Not published*	1996	Norfolk only
1894	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1944	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1997	Norfolk only
1895 - 1896	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1945	*Not published*	1998	Norfolk only
1896 - 1897	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1946	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1999	Norfolk only
1897	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1947 - 1948	Norfolk and Portsmouth	2000	Norfolk only
1898	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1949	Norfolk and Portsmouth	2001	Norfolk only
1899	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1950	*Not published*	2002	Norfolk only
1900	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1951	Norfolk and Portsmouth	2003	Norfolk only
1901	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1952	Norfolk and Portsmouth	2004	Norfolk only
1902	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1953	Norfolk and Portsmouth	2005	Norfolk only
1903	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1954 - 1955	Norfolk and Portsmouth	2006	Norfolk only
1904	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1956	Last combined edition with Norfolk and Portsmouth	2007	Norfolk only
1905	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1957	Norfolk and VA Beach		
1906	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1958	Norfolk and VA Beach		
1907	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1959	Norfolk and VA Beach		
1908	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1960	Norfolk and VA Beach		
1909	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1961	Norfolk and VA Beach		
1910	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1962	*Not published*		
1911	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1963	Norfolk only		
1912	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1964	Norfolk only		
1913	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1965	Norfolk only		
1914	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1966	Norfolk only		
1915	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1967	Norfolk only		
1916	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1968	Norfolk only		
1917	Norfolk and Portsmouth	1969	Norfolk only		

Tips:

- Note: The 1885 Norfolk City Directory and subsequent directories have a separate Street and Avenue section within the directory.
- Keep in mind the information in city directories is subject to error. Always try to confirm your information from more than one source.
- If the street is not listed in the directory, the street was most likely outside the city limits at that time or not yet developed.
- Individuals with employment listed or name in bold, were generally considered to be in the upper part of Norfolk society, or held a significant position within a business and/or group.
- Check both the alphabetized listing of people and businesses and the street directory for sometimes information can be contradictory. Also check the phone book for that time period when applicable.
- Remember – The year listed on the spine and title page for the city directory may contain information compiled the *previous year.* Check the years before and after the date you have.
- If you have any questions, please contact our staff. We will be more than happy to help in your research endeavor.

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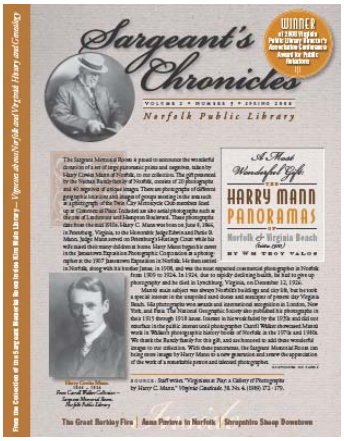
What is the Sargeant Memorial Room?

Mary Denson Pretlow, Head Librarian of the Norfolk Public Library, established the Sargeant Memorial Room (SMR) in 1927 with only a small assortment of books and historical papers collected by William Henry Sargeant. Sargeant was the first Librarian to be hired by the City of Norfolk in 1897, and he felt very strongly that Norfolk needed a history room devoted to local history and people. The current non-circulating collection includes a variety of books and periodicals about Norfolk and Virginia, as well as Norfolk maps, photographs, high school yearbooks, and city directories for the Hampton Roads region. Nearly 200 years of Norfolk newspapers on microfilm are available in our collection. SMR's genealogy collection encompasses Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and other nearby states; the collection includes books, microfilm, and CDs to assist in family research. Today, the Sargeant Memorial Room offers, without doubt, one of Virginia's finest local history and genealogy collections.



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