

## COMMUNITY GIS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SEATTLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Topic/Title: 1891 Seattle City Directory Linkage to 1890 Digital Map of City of Seattle

Organization: Seattle Genealogical Society

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Personnel from organization to be involved:

Chuck Richards, chair, Seattle 1890 Census Project

Ginny Sommarstrom, Past President, Seattle Genealogical Society

Carissa Jackson, Member, Seattle Genealogical Society

### Data available:

- High resolution 1890 Seattle plat map (JPG and TIF formats) provided by the Seattle Municipal Archives
- Sanborn Fire maps available through Seattle Public Library website
- transcription of the 1891 Seattle City Directory (+ scanned images)
- partial digitization of downtown Seattle from 1890 Seattle plat map

**Project Description:** The 1890 Federal Census for the State of Washington was destroyed as a result of a fire in 1921 in the Commerce Building in Washington, D.C. The Seattle Genealogical Society is attempting to reconstruct that census for the City of Seattle (current boundaries) by extracting data from various sources: Seattle City Directories 1889, 1890 and 1891; 1889 Washington Territorial Census; other resources available through the Washington State Archives, Seattle Municipal Archives, Seattle Public School Archives, local historical organizations.

Data from each source is currently being entered into separate Excel spreadsheets. Our goal is to merge these separate data sources into a single Master 1890 Database that will include both demographic and locational information, including but not limited to Name, Age, Sex, Occupation, street address, birthplace, family relationships, other locational information (i.e., Ward Number, District Name, GIS coordinates).

Optimally, we would like to be able to display a clickable digital 1890 Seattle base map on our website that links to the information in our master database. We would like users to be able to go from the map to the data as well as from the data to the map.

**Benefits to organization:** Members and friends of the Seattle Genealogical Society (SGS) currently utilize its facility for family genealogical research and other local historic ventures. The linked map/Master 1890 Database will be made available to paid SGS members through the "members only" section of our website and to non-members on computers at the SGS Library. We believe that having this incredible resource available to our members will result in increased membership and generate additional interest in the Society's other assets, including our research library, family genealogies, knowledgeable researchers, and educational programs. Like many non-profit organizations, SGS has been experiencing declining membership numbers the past 15-20 years, with a relatively sharper drop in 2011 due to the economic downturn. We believe that offering such a unique resource as a linked 1890 Seattle map and census substitute will generate significant publicity for our organization and result in an increase in paid memberships.