

INSIDE 12 WAYS TO FIND MAIDEN NAMES IN YOUR FAMILY

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MARCH/APRIL 2023

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SPECIAL EDITION

Historical Newspapers

FIND YOUR ANCESTORS in the News

Top Newspaper
Websites
Compared

How to
Locate State
& Local Papers

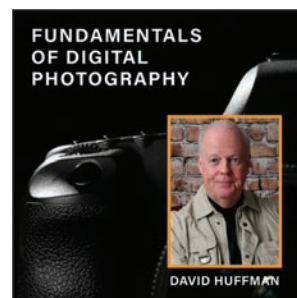
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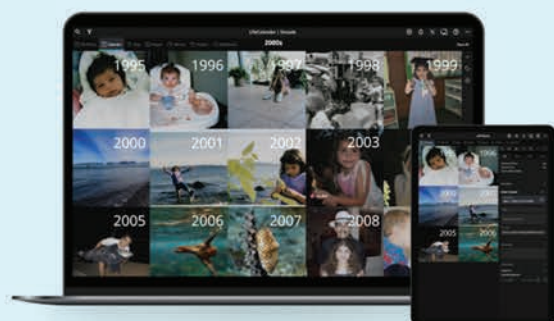
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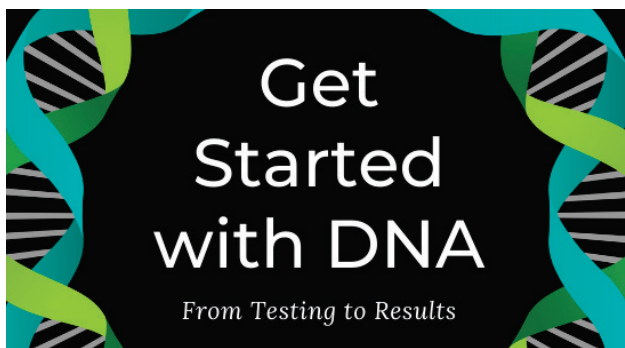
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**"Finding Your Female Ancestors" begins on Tuesday, March 14th, to accommodate the Easter holiday.



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➤ Look for the green arrow throughout this issue for hints to expanded versions, free downloads and related products at familytreemagazine.com!

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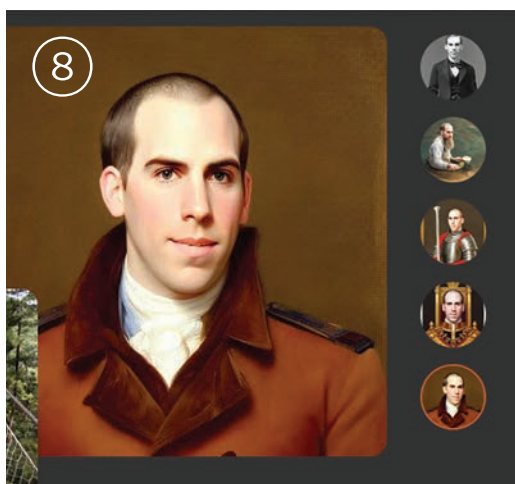
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out on a limb



“Furniture Salesman Finds Fame With Family of Ten,” reads a headline in a 1948 edition of the Cincinnati *Catholic Telegraph-Register*.

My great-grandfather Edmund is the salesman in question, and the article that profiles him and his family is straight from a genealogist’s dream.

It lists all 10 of his children by name (with ages and schooling information), and adds valuable social context by commenting that he and his wife, Hilda, married just two weeks before the October 1929 stock market crash.

But for me, the real gem is under a section titled “Let’s See, Now...” The author notes that Edmund confidently ticks off his children’s ages—until he gets to his sixth child, Suzanne.

“I used to have them all memorized, but I get mixed up in the middle,” he says. “Hilda has all the dates written down in a book.”

“It is mighty helpful when they take the census,” he adds. That can’t help but feel like a wink to future genealogists.

The article is just one colorful find I’ve made in the vast black-and-white sea of digitized historical newspapers. And this issue is all about these valuable resources: how the top websites compare (page 14), some of the best places to find local papers (page 24), and another look at how they can help your research (page 42).

Even if your ancestors didn’t make the headlines, delve into newspapers to learn more about the times they lived in. ●

Andrew P. Koch

TREE TALK

We asked about your favorite find in a historical newspaper. Here's how you responded.

A grand-aunt, Anna Silgjord Heinecke, was murdered in her home in 1915. I have never been able to find any article resolving her case.

Dona Luna via Facebook

My great-great-grandfather died in Chicago in 1924. Run over by a trolley.

Baker Ring via Facebook

MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER shot a musket from his apartment window into the home of another man, with whom he'd had a dispute. When the police came to arrest him, my great-great-grandmother threw an ax at one of them. She served no time, but he was sentenced to two months in the penitentiary.

Ronnie Bromm O'Rourke via Facebook

I found several articles where my dad and his older brother were listed as participants in youth rodeos in 1930s El Paso.

Debbie Moskal Grimes via Facebook

My great-great-grandfather spent his wedding night in jail. His new brother-in-law did not approve of the marriage and got into a nasty brawl with him. They both spent the night in jail.

Bill Manzke via Facebook

NOT FAVORITE BUT most interesting: The spouse of my husband's great-aunt was accused of murdering his wife. The body was exhumed and an autopsy done to prove he didn't kill her. She died of a severe case of the flu. The family thought he had poisoned her. He was remarried within two weeks of her death.

Laurel Ross Gafke via Facebook

My dad shared the sports page with Cassius Clay!

@DeckOfAncestors via Twitter



5 QUESTIONS with:

Robin Pike - National Digital Newspaper Program Coordinator

Through the National Digital Newspaper Program, organizations with historical US newspapers (such as libraries and archives) can apply for funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize 100,000 pages from the publications in their care. The resulting digital newspaper images are then hosted on the Library of Congress' Chronicling America site <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>. We asked Robin Pike, who coordinates the NDNP, about the project and the papers it's helped digitized:

1 What do partners consider when deciding which newspaper pages will be digitized?

The awardees convene a local advisory board and decide together what titles and date ranges they will be contributing to Chronicling America. An awardee may choose to select titles that represent their regional history more generally or focus on specific themes such as a geographic region, time period, immigrant communities, special interests, languages, etc.

2 What challenges do partners typically face?

Our partners may encounter numerous challenges, from finding copies of newspapers, to condition, to [lack of] up-to-date descriptions, and more. Awardees may find their title selection is limited by what microfilm or print newspapers were collected. An institution may also not have a complete run of a newspaper or the copy may be in poor condition. Or they know other important newspapers existed, but can't find them anywhere. For many first-time partners, the scale and technical requirements of the project may be daunting at first.

3 What are some of Chronicling America's strengths, in terms of coverage?

Chronicling America has excellent coverage from the late 1800s to the early 1900s, which also represents the heyday of American newspaper publishing. We also have good coverage of German- and Spanish-language newspapers from immigrant communities and a range of newspapers aimed at representing historically underrepresented communities, such as African American newspapers.

4 Why are historical newspapers valuable resources for genealogists today?

While you may have your family tree or family photographs, newspaper articles can bring those people to life in a snapshot of time, when they may have served in a religious group, won a local award, owned a business, or even traveled to see friends. Newspapers can help genealogists understand the communities that produced those family members and establish a sense of place and lifestyle.

5 What is your favorite find from a historical newspaper?

While researching my neighborhood, I discovered that, in the mid-1940s, someone was selling boxer puppies from our house. This may explain the painted-over scratch damage at the bottom of some of the original doors!

See page 14 for more on Chronicling America and the other "megadatabases" of historical newspapers.

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WHAT'S NEW

NARA Launches New Catalog



THE U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES has launched a “fully redesigned and modernized online public access Catalog” to maximize users’ ability to access National Archives records <catalog.archives.gov>. The new Catalog offers a faster search experience, mobile-first design, accessibility features, enhanced image-viewing and PDF viewer, and a more user-friendly display of archival descriptions. And

NARA estimates the number of searchable digitized pages available on the site will reach 500 million within the next few years.

It’s free to register for the site, though you don’t need an account for most research purposes. Existing users will have their accounts migrated to a Login.gov account, which is used across multiple federal government websites.

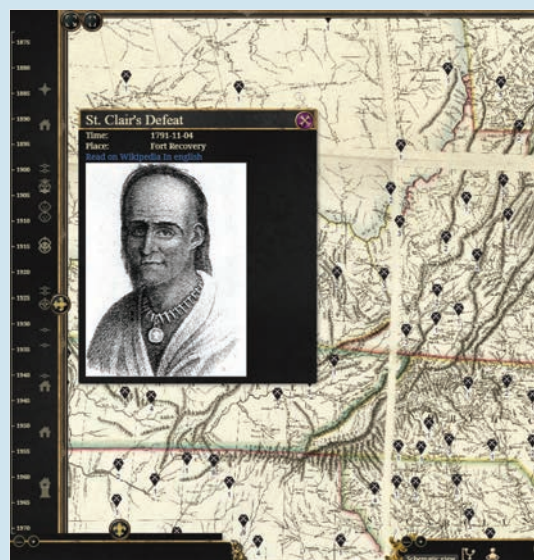


Sunny Jane Morton is a contributing editor for Family Tree Magazine, content manager at Your DNA Guide and industry expert on the giant genealogy websites.

RUMSEY MAPS ON TRACKUBACK

The enormous David Rumsey Map Collection <www.davidrumsey.com> is a popular resource for genealogists who want to put their ancestors on historical maps. Rumsey’s collection has now been integrated on Trackuback <www.trackuback.com>, a subscription service that helps you visualize the historical context of your family history and stories.

“We now host a number of historical maps where users can overlay heatmaps and place events,” says Per Filipsson of Trackuback. “With those sources they can let time, place and relations interact, and get a vivid view of their ancestors’ [lives].”



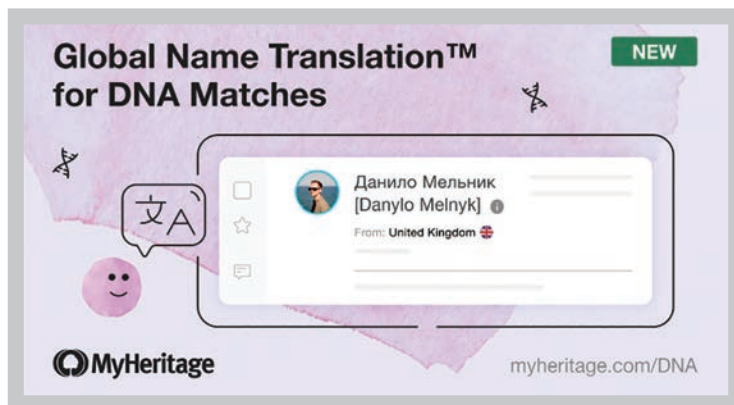
23ANDME AND FSAs/HSAs

Certain 23andMe DNA offerings <www.23andme.com> “may be fully eligible for Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and Health Savings Account (HSA) reimbursement” for US customers, according to a 23andMe announcement <www.23andme.com/fsa-hsa>.

Through FSAs and HSAs, participants can spend tax-free earnings on certain health-related expenses, lowering their taxable income. According to the site, 23andMe’s Health Service product and/or the health component of the Health + Ancestry Service should be eligible.

The Health Service includes 65-plus health reports, including those on genetic predispositions (i.e., increased likelihood of developing certain medical conditions); carrier status for certain inherited conditions; and DNA insights into lifestyle factors such as diet, exercise and sleep.

MYHERITAGE DNA: NAME TRANSLATION



MyHeritage’s Global Name Translation tool automatically translates names in family trees and historical records into the user’s language, increasing the potential to recognize family names in other languages and alphabets. The tool is now also transliterating the names of DNA matches that are written in Greek, Hebrew, Ukrainian and Russian into Latin (e.g., English) letters, and the reverse, for those using the site in those languages.

DNA matches whose names are set to private will not have their names transliterated. At launch, this tool doesn’t work on Shared DNA Matches, but a MyHeritage blog post said it will in the near future. Learn more at <blog.myheritage.com/2022/12/new-global-name-translation-for-dna-matches>.

New Name for Family History Library

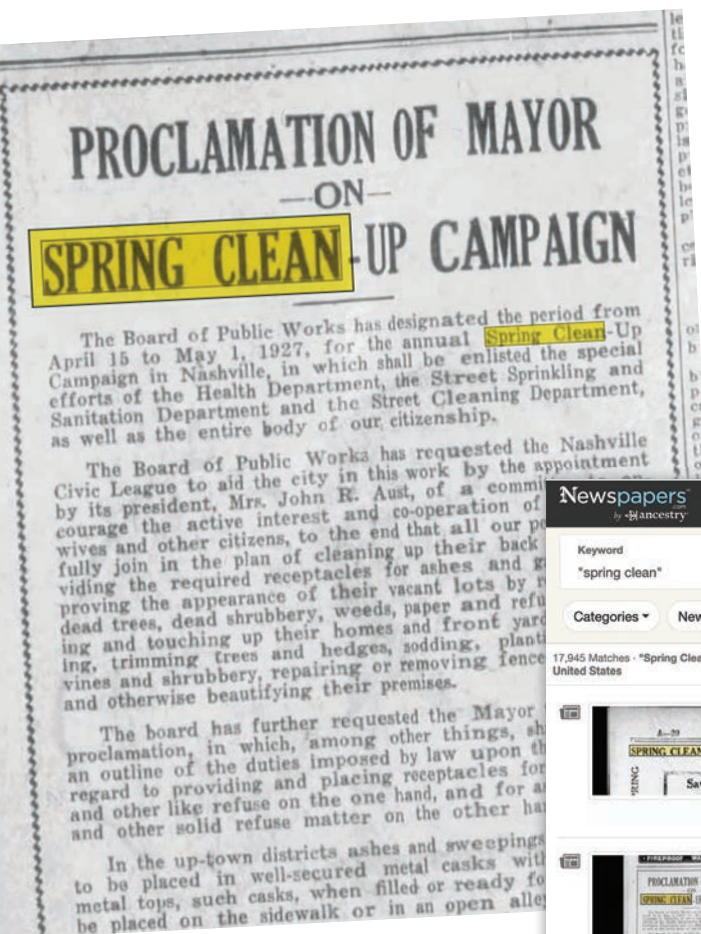
THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY <www.familysearch.org/en/family-history-library> in Salt Lake City has formally changed its name to the FamilySearch Library. FamilySearch cites increased international recognition of the FamilySearch name as a reason for the change, which also applies to the nearly 5,000 satellite “Family History Centers” that will officially be known as “FamilySearch Centers.” The library plans to host an open house during RootsTech 2023 to celebrate the rebranding.

The name change doesn’t affect the nearly 1,800 additional public libraries, museums, universities and archives that have limited access to FamilySearch databases. They are already known as FamilySearch affiliates.

Find a FamilySearch Center or affiliate near you at <www.familysearch.org/centers/locations>. ●



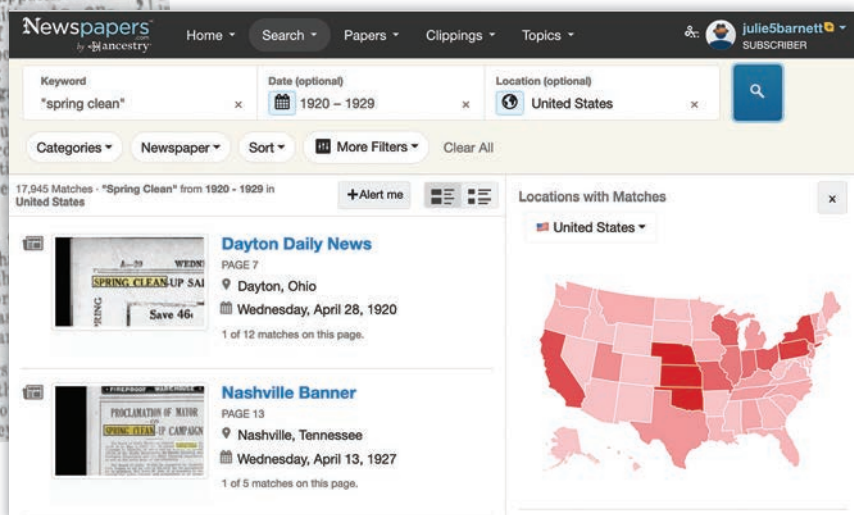
Clean Sweeps



▼ RESEARCH TIP:

Word History in Newspapers

Our great-grandmothers assigned cleaning tasks to days of the week as well as seasons. The notion of “spring cleaning” has been around a long time, and it’s fun to use old newspapers to learn more about how the term was used historically. At Newspapers.com <www.newspapers.com>, I search for my topic of interest (in this case, “spring clean”). Results aren’t limited to newspaper articles on the topic; a map shows you the states that use the term the most (and least), and a timeline shows you a dramatic growth in the phrase’s popularity and use in newspapers after 1900.



◀ TOP TOOLS: Keyboard Cleaner

We probably touch our keyboards more than just about anything else, and that means they are one of the dirtiest items in our home. The Germ Geek Keyboard Cleaner (available at Amazon <www.amazon.com>) is my pick to freshen up my keys. Press down on the Germ Geek bottle to distribute the cleaning solution onto the soft brush bristles, then unscrew the brush, turn off or unplug your keyboard, and go over it with the brush using circular motions. The bristles are soft to prevent damage, and long enough to get in between the keys.



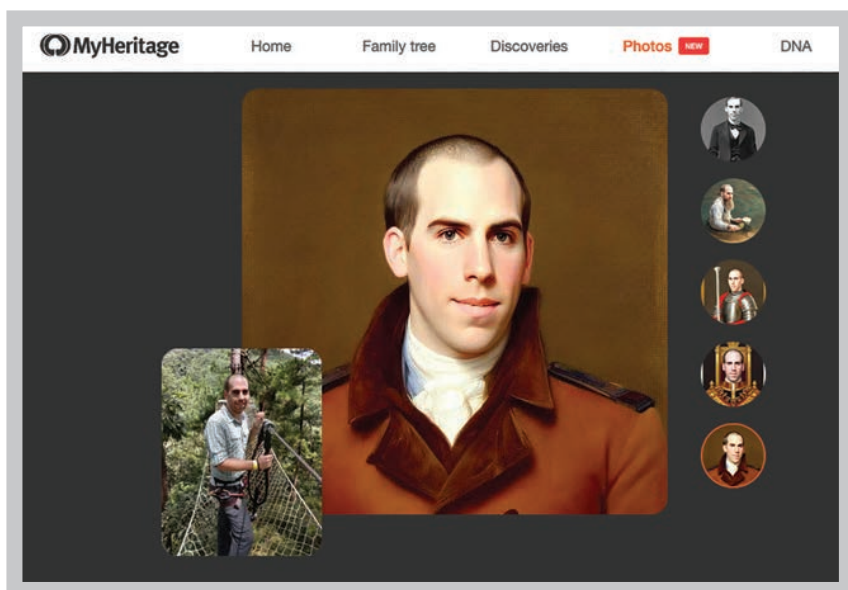
Lisa Louise Cooke is the founder of the Genealogy Gems website and podcast <www.lisalouisecooke.com>, and host of the Family Tree Podcast <www.familytreemagazine.com/genealogy-podcast>.



◀ PRESERVING AND SHARING:

Clothing Tags

While cleaning out your closets this spring, review any heirloom clothing you have. I remove mine from their protective garment bags and inspect their overall condition, keeping an eye out for moth damage, loose buttons and other issues. This year, I'm ordering customizable satin clothing tags available from a variety of vendors on Etsy <www.etsy.com>. The tag (which I'll carefully sew on inside seams) will include important information about the original owner, purpose of the garment, and date.



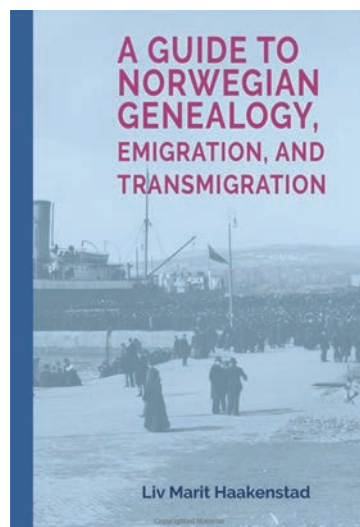
▲ TECH TOOLS: MyHeritage AI Time Machine

Genealogy just got more fun and interactive! MyHeritage's new AI Time Machine <www.myheritage.com/ai-time-machine> helps you envision how you might've looked as an historical figure throughout the ages. Start by uploading 10 to 25 photos of yourself at a variety of angles and poses. The tool then constructs a model of you in different poses and settings, including AI-assisted themed images of you as an historical figure. As of this writing, the Time Machine offers dozens of historical era themes including ancient Greece, the Viking Age, and even the Space Age.



◀ Podcast

Hear more great genealogy finds from Lisa and other experts in our free podcast <www.familytreemagazine.com/genealogy-podcast>. ●



▲ ON MY BOOKSHELF:

Norwegian Genealogy Guide

A few years ago at a conference in Oslo, Liv Marit Haakenstad generously guided several of us lecturers around the Viking Ship Museum. (See page 6 of the May/June 2019 issue.) Now she's everyone's gracious guide to Norwegian genealogy with her new book *A Guide to Norwegian Genealogy, Emigration, and Transmigration* (self-published). Part 1 provides an historical overview of emigrants' arrival in North America, and Part 2 covers specific resources in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Norway. The book is a must-have for Norwegian research.

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Cousins, Cousins Everywhere



Robert K. Mortensen (above) has connected with hundreds of his DNA matches.

One researcher identifies DNA matches, then turns them into Facebook friends.

Robert K. Mortensen of Meridian, Idaho, has made hundreds of new friends since the pandemic began. “When we were all physically distancing, I felt a longing to connect with my extended family,” he says.

Mortensen started by researching his AncestryDNA matches. He has about 13,000 of them: 9,000 on his father’s side and 4,000 on his mother’s. Using AncestryDNA’s Shared Matches tool and family trees connected to DNA profiles, Mortensen studies connections—even distant ones—and runs searches on Google and social media accounts to identify them. To date, he’s tied more than 650 of those matches to his family tree.

He then reaches out to matches who are third cousins or closer, and tries to make a personal connection. “I introduce myself briefly, ask questions to tie them into the family tree, or share what our cousin-connection is,” Mortensen says. “I ask them to share what they want about themselves and their family.”

He might also find them on Facebook <www.facebook.com>. Mortensen estimates his work has resulted in more than 300 DNA cousins becoming his Facebook friends.

One of those matches required no research: They were a friend at church! But most matches are new to him. “I love learning about the lives of my DNA cousins,” he



Mortensen contacted DNA cousin Lori Hill Wood (above, center), who then attended a summer 2022 family reunion with her parents (left, right).

says. “I’ve learned over and over again that no family is perfect. But it’s so fun to discover things we have in common, and how many times our lives have probably crossed paths. It’s amazing the closeness one can feel when connecting with a previously unknown fourth cousin once removed.” ●

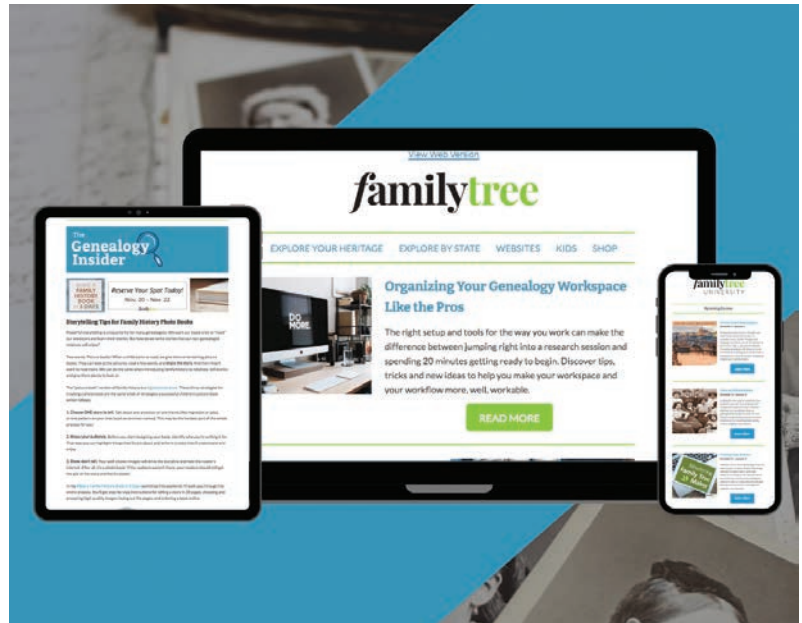
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The **NEWSPAPERS** *Issue*

Historical newspapers can be invaluable resources for your family history, full of colorful details about your ancestors' day-to-day lives and communities. Read on for information about the best places to find them online, plus how to use newspapers in your research. And don't forget the Newspapers Cheat Sheet included with this issue!

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TITANS of INDUSTRY

by SUNNY JANE MORTON

Looking for digitized newspapers? We've got the scoop on five newspaper giants: **Newspapers.com**, **GenealogyBank**, **Newspaper-Archive**, **Chronicling America** and **Fulton History**. Here's how they compare.

The first digital newspaper archive came online more than 20 years ago. Within a few years, the Library of Congress partnered with other federal agencies to launch Chronicling America <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>, a free resource for US newspapers.

Today, newspaper pages can be digitally scanned in a fraction of a second, and websites (both free and premium) host over a billion historical news pages. Even if your relatives appeared in obscure or unexpected publications, digitization has made their names much more discoverable.



Where should you turn to find digitized newspapers for your ancestors' communities? Perhaps you've searched in the past, only to be discouraged by what you couldn't find. Or maybe you've considered subscribing to a premium newspaper website, but aren't sure which is best for you.

Stop the presses.

We've hit the stacks to compare the newspaper giants: Chronicling America, Fulton History, GenealogyBank, Newspapers.com and NewspaperArchive. Like intrepid reporters, we've investigated how much digital content each site offers, as well as their relative strengths. From our scoop, you'll learn about their curation processes, relevant copyright restrictions, and (of course) what you should expect to pay.

Read on for that and much more. This guide will help you explore the five giants' holdings *before* you subscribe, and give you a new respect for the tremendous wealth of old newspapers. Clear your calendars and grab some coffee—a billion pages is a lot of newspaper to cover.

tip

Before subscribing to a newspaper database, see if a relevant local library or archive has institutional access—or if they have their own free database of the publication(s) you're looking for!

MEET THE PRESSES

Chronicling America

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

Chronicling America is the Library of Congress' free newspaper portal. At its heart is the U.S. Newspaper Directory chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles, a comprehensive inventory of 150,000-plus titles dating back to 1690. It's an excellent resource for identifying papers that may have served your ancestral communities, including those for specific audiences (e.g., labor groups, religions, or political parties). You can search by title or browse by place or year.

The directory also includes papers published for certain ethnicity groups, as well as those published in languages other than English. You'll find more than 2,500 results each for African American and German-language titles, plus 200 titles published in Chinese, 42 in Dutch, and 41 in Hebrew.

More than just a finding aid, Chronicling America boasts its own growing library of 20 million pages from 3,810 newspapers across the United States: all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Chronicling America's digital collections are all in the public domain. (Or, if they were published less than 95 years ago, they carry no known copyright restriction.)

Chronicling America home page



How do papers get chosen for digitization on Chronicling America? Organizations in each state are funded to select (mostly from microfilm) papers that represent the state's "regional history, geographic coverage, and events of note." They prioritize "bibliographic completeness, diversity and 'orphaned' newspapers (newspapers that have ceased publication and lack active ownership)." That last bit means they want to capture digital content missed by other organizations—a good thing for genealogists. See our interview with Robin Pike of the Library of Congress on page 5 for more.

A nifty search tool on Chronicling America is the Newspaper Navigator <news-navigator.labs.loc.gov/search>. Use it to search for words that appear near photos, illustrations, maps, cartoons, headlines or

ads, with the aim of finding images or other major coverage of your topic.

I put together a walkthrough of Chronicling America in the March/April 2022 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*. You can watch a version at <www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/chronicling-america>.

Fulton History

<fultonsearch.org>

Whereas Chronicling America is federally funded, the other free website in this comparison is a one-man show. In 1999, New York resident Thomas Tryniski began digitizing back-issues of his local newspaper from microfilm on borrowed equipment.

BASICIMOMENTS; MAR558; SLEEP24PHOTO/ADOBE STOCK

Newspaper Websites: COMPARED

	Chronicling America < chroniclingamerica.loc.gov >	Fulton History < fultonsearch.org >
No. of titles*	3,811	1,000-plus
No. of pages*	20,117,543	51,685,714
Years	1777–1963	1722–2017
Copyright scope	Public domain or out of copyright	Public domain or out of copyright
7-day free trial	Not needed	Not needed
Cost	Free	Free
Library edition	None	None
Regional strengths	n/a	NY, GA, KY, MI, MN, PA, NJ, IL, CT

*All figures current as of December 2022



FultonSearch
Alternative search interface for over 47,059,000 historical newspaper pages from www.fultonhistory.com (Old Fulton NY Post Cards). [Why?](#)

Search:

Type: all words

Results: 50

Region: Earth

Date range: 1722 - 2022

Fuzziness: -

TESLA SAYS EDISON WAS AN EMPIRICIST

Electrical Technician Declares Persistent Trials Attested Inventor's Vigor.

'HIS METHOD INEFFICIENT'

A Little Theory Would Have Saved Him 90% of Labor, Ex-Alide Asserts —Praises His Great Genius.

stone unturned, to exhaust every possibility.

"If he had a needle to find in a haystack he would not stop to reason where it was most likely to be, but would proceed at once, with the feverish diligence of a bee, to examine straw after straw until he found the object of his search.

"I came from Paris in the Spring of 1884, and was brought in intimate contact with him. We experimented day and night, holidays not excepted. His existence was made up of alternate periods of work and sleep in the laboratory. He had no hobby, cared for no sport or amusement of any kind and lived in utter disregard of the most elementary rules of hygiene. There can be no doubt that, if he had not married later a woman of exceptional intelligence, who made

Fulton History search page

GenealogyBank < www.genealogybank.com >	Newspapers.com < www.newspapers.com >	NewspaperArchive < www.newspaperarchive.com >
15,000-plus	25,500	15,989
Not published	816,216,128	280,000,000
1690–present	1690–present	1607–present
Both in- and out-of-copyright	Both in- and out-of-copyright	Both in- and out-of-copyright
With annual or monthly options	Yes	With 6-month or annual options
\$99.90/yr \$19.95/mo	Basic: \$44.95/6mo \$7.95/mo Publisher Extra**: \$74.90/6mo \$19.90/mo	\$139.99/1 yr \$79.99/6 mo \$19.99/mo
America's GenealogyBank	Newspapers.com Library Edition	Access NewspaperArchive
New England, NY, CA, MA, TX, PA, IL, MO, OH	NY, CA, FL, PA, TX, OH, OK, NE, KS	Mid-Atlantic, Great Lakes and Upper Midwest

**Newspapers.com's parent company, Ancestry.com, offers a discounted rate for the "All Access" bundle that includes Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com Publisher Extra, and military records website Fold3 <www.fold3.com>. The bundle costs \$49.99/mo (\$299.94/6mo) as part of a six-month membership or \$59.99/mo as a month-to-month membership <www.ancestry.com/cs/offers/subscribe>.



Clear your calendars and grab some coffee—a billion pages is a lot of newspaper to cover.

He shared the issues on a personal website: Old Fulton New York Postcards, also known as Fulton History <fultonhistory.com>.

Tryniski found the project so fulfilling that he invested in scanners and servers and began digitizing newspapers from around New York. Now the site hosts more than 51 million digitized pages from more than 1,000 papers.

More than half the newspapers on Fulton History were published in New York. You'll also find relatively large collections for Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Minnesota, Illinois and Connecticut. The site hosts at least one paper for 31 US states and the District of Columbia; a handful for Canada; and one each for the Bahamas, Sierra Leone and Australia.

Tryniski has made extensive notes regarding the copyright guidelines he follows. There's no indication he has licensed the use of items that might still be in-copyright.

The site appears to have stopped adding new content in 2020, and occasionally it goes down; watch for updates at the site's Facebook page <www.facebook.com/Fultonhistorycom>.

GenealogyBank

<www.genealogybank.com>

GenealogyBank is part of NewsBank, a database company founded in the 1970s that primarily serves institutions like schools and libraries. NewsBank's collections include historical topics of interest to their research-minded audiences, such as Black history and the US Civil War.

But historical newspapers are the focus at GenealogyBank, where you'll find millions of pages from 15,000-plus publications from all 50 states and several US territories. GenealogyBank's biggest collections (by number of titles) are for New York, California and Massachusetts; Texas, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Missouri and Ohio also rank highly. The site claims strong coverage for Colonial New England, too.

Dozens of titles and millions of pages are added every month. Most come from partnerships with major news providers, but GenealogyBank also digitizes local papers as needed. They prefer to source full or large runs (i.e., consecutive issues). The majority of their archive is unique to their site, some of which is in the public domain and other that is still in-copyright.

The Cultural Collections at GenealogyBank (which you can find in the site's footer) are curated, searchable collections of ethnic newspapers and other content relating to Americans of African, Hispanic, Irish, Native American, German, Italian and Jew-

GENEALOGYBANK

Login Start a 7-Day Free Trial

Discover Your Family Story in Newspapers 1690-Today.

Find facts and untold stories with a simple search.

Enter Ancestor's First Name Enter Ancestor's Last Name State Ancestor Lived

Search ->

GenealogyBank home page



NewspaperArchive home page

ish origins. (According to the company, the Native American collection is especially popular.)

In 2014, GenealogyBank partnered with the free genealogy website FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org> to index obituaries from GenealogyBank newspapers. Using artificial intelligence to “read” digitized newspapers, the indexes extract names and vital events to help genealogists find content they might miss otherwise. The indexes on FamilySearch are free, but you’ll need a GenealogyBank subscription to see images from the original publication.

GenealogyBank also hosts an even-larger index of obituaries that is updated daily, with nearly 300 million names from newspapers published since 1824. The site plans to add births and marriages.

Beyond newspapers, GenealogyBank throws in some extras for family historians. The site offers searchable US census records, various military records, federal land grants, historical maps, government documents, and a historical book archive.

Newspapers.com

<www.newspapers.com>

In 2012, genealogy subscription website Ancestry.com launched Newspapers.com with 25 million pages from 800 US newspapers. (To put that in perspective: Newspapers.com’s page count at launch—a decade ago—was higher than *Chronicling America*’s *current* count.) Since then, Newspapers.com’s content team has acquired titles from across the

United States and (increasingly) the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. In just over 10 years, the library has grown 30-fold to 810 million pages from 25,000 newspapers.

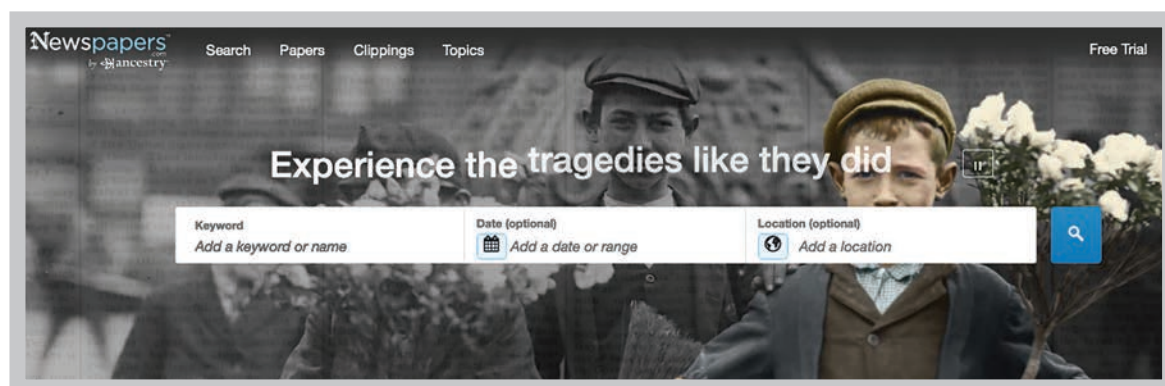
Newspapers.com aims to have coverage for every city, working with large publishers (who may own rights to multiple titles) as well as smaller, more-local papers. The site’s acquisitions team prefers full runs of a title, so they work with state archives, universities and other repositories to harvest older issues. They prioritize user requests and encourage researchers to alert them to not-yet-digitized newspapers; click Contact <www.newspapers.com/contact>, then select Content Suggestion from the Subject drop-down.

The site also includes newer, in-copyright issues. This is especially true of titles available through the Publisher Extra subscription tier, which includes access to 585 million additional pages licensed directly from publishers (some of which are as recent as one month old).

The US states with the highest page counts are California, New York, Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas and Ohio. But the site also has excellent coverage in states with smaller populations, which have cor-



Find detailed guides to GenealogyBank and Newspapers.com, respectively, at <www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/genealogybank-guide> and <www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/newspapers-com-guide>.



Newspapers.com home page

respondingly fewer overall pages. Counting titles (not page counts) might be a more-relevant metric: Looked at this way, Newspapers.com has the scoop on Oklahoma and Nebraska (more than 2,500 titles each) and Kansas (a stunning 5,000 titles).

A growing series of indexes, hosted on sister site Ancestry.com, makes people mentioned in Newspapers.com's digitized pages even more discoverable. Artificial intelligence has harvested over a billion names from US obituaries and nearly 300 million names from marriage announcements (plus other key data like dates and places). Ancestry.com is also publishing state-by-state name indexes of "Stories and Events," extracted from throughout old issues, not just vital events announcements.

Ancestry.com users (regardless of whether they also subscribe to Newspapers.com) can search the indexes and attach results from them to their trees. (Only Newspapers.com *subscribers* can view full articles and clip them.)

NewspaperArchive

www.newspaperarchive.com

Launched in December 1999, NewspaperArchive describes itself as the "first commercial newspaper archive online." The site's parent company, World Archives, has an executive team that includes former Ancestry.com employees. Like GenealogyBank and Newspapers.com, NewspaperArchive also serves schools, libraries and other institutions.

The site is currently home to about 280 million newspaper pages from nearly 16,000 titles, and claims to add one newspaper page per second. NewspaperArchive brings new content through contracts with publishers and by working with

libraries that have archival holdings. The site prioritizes according to user demand.

About 75% of the papers in the NewspaperArchive library are from the United States. (Most of the rest are from Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.) All 50 US states have coverage, with relative strength in the Mid-Atlantic, Great Lakes and Upper Midwest regions. Older newspapers account for the majority of content; there is relatively strong coverage for the 1800s and early 1900s.

The company prides itself on seeking out small-town newspapers that haven't been digitized by others. They estimate 85% of their content is unique to their site. They host over 100 African American titles, though there's not a dedicated portal for searching them.

The site also has an Obituaries search portal, but note that it's not sourced from their digital newspapers. Rather, the portal returns results from the Social Security Death Index and Legacy.com <www.legacy.com>, a site that curates online obituaries and memorials in partnership with funeral homes and newspapers. This is a static collection, meaning it is not currently growing.

One fun feature for subscribers is the ability to order poster-sized prints of any newspaper page on the site. You can also choose from a pre-selected group of popular pages related to major historic events: Prohibition, the Civil War, the *Titanic* and so on. Poster prints are created on acid-free, 100% cotton double-weight paper with archival-quality ink.



The websites mentioned here have collections from around the world. For a state-by-state listing of smaller-scale online newspaper collections, see page 24.



HEADLINING SEARCH TIPS

Regardless of which site you choose to search on, here are some tips for finding your ancestors among the digitized volumes.

1 Start with free—but don't stop there. All US newspaper sleuthing should start with Chronicling America's U.S. Newspaper Directory, where you can find newspapers that covered your ancestral hometowns. Drill down to the time periods and locales of interest, then click on entries of individual papers to learn what libraries have copies.

In some cases, you'll learn that a hometown never published its own newspaper. That's still helpful information, as you can change your focus to *nearby* cities and niche papers that may have covered your family's community.

Chronicling America's own digital collections are relatively small, but still worth a look. Start with the All Digitized Newspapers tab to see what coverage there is for your ancestral region. Narrow to your desired location and time period. Click on individual titles to read excellent historical summaries of the paper, and click through to digitized coverage (under Related Links).

To keyword-search Chronicling America's 20 million digitized pages from across the country, use the Search Pages and Advanced Search tabs. Even if your community's papers aren't digitized by Chronicling America, other publications may have reported items relating to your family.

Turn next to other free websites. Fulton History has digitized more than twice the number of pages as Chronicling America, with extra depth in specific states. The visual experience at Fulton History is relatively primitive (and the website experiences periodic outages), and searches may not always properly direct you to all results. But you probably won't mind once you start finding free results.

From the main search page, use the various search fields to focus your results. You can also search within a specific publication by selecting a title from the <fultonsearch.org/papers>. Sort by state, county city, title and years covered.

Together, Chronicling America and Fulton History hold about 70 million digitized pages. That's a lot for the free price tag, even when you consider possible overlap. But that's still a fraction of what's

available on GenealogyBank, Newspapers.com and NewspaperArchive.

2 Bigger can be better, but unique is best. By page count, Newspapers.com is by far the biggest newspaper website. It has nearly three times the digitized pages as NewspaperArchive. (GenealogyBank does not report a page count, but its title count is comparable to NewspaperArchive.) All three of the commercial sites dwarf the free sites: Newspapers.com has more than 15 times the pages on Fulton History and 40 times the pages on Chronicling America.

These larger numbers may increase the odds that a site has news coverage for your ancestors, but there's no guarantee. In fact, all the sites strive to have unique content. They also have their own priorities and methods for sourcing digitized pages, with different geographical, cultural and chronological strengths. And (critically, for those researching recent decades) only the subscription sites offer in-copyright content.

That's why it's an excellent strategy to explore the holdings of GenealogyBank, Newspapers.com and NewspaperArchive *before* you subscribe. See what they have for the times and places you care about. Here's how to do that at from the home pages (without logging in):

- **GenealogyBank:** Scroll down to Browse Newspaper Titles by State. Click See All States, then select the state. A list of newspaper titles will appear, alphabetized by city. Scroll down, or filter by city or title.
- **Newspapers.com:** Scroll down to Search by Location and click Explore all Locations. You'll be able to drill down by country, state and city to see what titles and which issues are in the collection.
- **NewspaperArchive:** Click Browse to drill down by country, state, and city. Select a title, then the option to Browse All for that title to see coverage.

If your favorite library has the institutional versions of the subscription sites (known as America's GenealogyBank, Newspapers.com Library Edition and Access NewspaperArchive), even better. You can run searches for your family names and locales to see if they're mentioned.



CLIP TIPS: Make Clippings of Digital Newspapers



Newspapers.com's Clip tool

By Andrew Koch

Clipping newspaper articles has long been a popular hobby for family historians. But newsprint fades over time and (worse still) can be so acidic that it breaks down other objects that you store with it.

Fortunately, many of the major newspaper websites allow you to digitally “clip” images of newspaper pages, then save them to your account, download, or share with other users. Best of all, the subscription newspaper websites allow you to share clippings with others for free, at least for a limited time. That makes clippings a great way of sharing exciting newspaper finds, plus save just the articles relevant to your family.

Here’s a roundup of clipping tools at the major websites:

Chronicling America: Clipping is clunkier here than at the subscription sites—there’s not a way of clipping an individual article. Instead of a click-and-drag tool, you can use the clipping icon to essentially crop the newspaper image. Scroll around the image, then zoom in so the section you want clipped is enclosed in the red preview box. The site generates a link to share the cropped image, or you can print or download it.

GenealogyBank: Create and save snippets of a newspaper page to your account. Find clippings you’ve made under My Folder, and search those made by others at <www.genealogybank.com/newspaper-clippings>. Links to articles that you send others are free to view—even for non-subscribers—but expire after 30 days. If you sign in to your FamilySearch account, you can attach articles to the FamilySearch Family Tree. Learn more at <www.genealogybank.com/information/help/commonly-asked-questions>.

Newspapers.com: Your clippings are collected in a dedicated section in your account <www.newspapers.com/clippings>. They’re also, by default, added to a searchable database available to all Newspapers.com users—you can view and search for other users’ clippings and vice versa, so add tags to make them easier for others to find. Ancestry.com users can also save clippings to their family tree on the site. Learn more at <blog.newspapers.com/how-and-why-to-use-our-clipping-embed-tools>.

NewspaperArchive: Find your clippings at <newspaperarchive.com/allmyclippings>. You can share them via email, Facebook, or using an embed link. You cannot search other users’ clippings. Learn more at <kb.newspaperarchive.com/help/getting-started/how-do-i-clip-an-article>.



If your library doesn't have one you want, request it—maybe they will in the future. Also, many Family-Search Centers offer Access NewspaperArchive for free; find a location near you at <www.familysearch.org/centers/locations>.

3 Get to know your search tools. Keyword-searching old newspapers can be tricky. Newspaper-indexing relies on optical character recognition (OCR) technology. It doesn't have perfect "eyesight," so to speak, and it's even less reliable if pages are faded, smudged or deteriorated. The variety of fonts, columnar layouts, and other issues add to the challenge.

Furthermore, your OCR searches on the newspaper giants take your search terms more literally than you may be used to. For example, when you search for the name *Lizzie* at your favorite genealogy website, it will probably give you results for Elizabeth, Liza, Liz, and so on. But that's not the case at the newspaper giants; what you search for is what you get (barring legibility issues). You'll have to run those extra searches—*Elizabeth* and so forth—yourself.

That said, the newspaper giants understand the challenges of OCR search. Each offers a variety of options to help you find what you're looking for. Watch for the ability to:

- Filter your results by place and date/date range
- Enter multiple words or phrases
- Add quotation marks to restrict results to an exact phrase
- Find words within a certain distance of each other on the page
- Use *AND*, *OR*, or *NOT* to specify that you want both words; either word; or to exclude a word from results
- Use wildcards, such as ? to replace a single unknown character (such as *Hans?n* to search for Hansen or Hanson) or * to replace multiple unknown characters (such as *Jorg*n* to find Jorgeson, Jorgenson, Jorgensen, etc.)

All the newspaper giants offer helpful search tools. So once you've chosen a site, do all you can to master the search experience. Use the advanced search tool instead of the basic one. Save your searches, and sign up for alerts in case new search results are found as more papers are added.

Check out these tips for searching each site:

- **Chronicling America** <blogs.loc.gov/families/2021/01/chronicling-america-searching-made-easy>
- **Fulton History** <jeanettesgenealogy.com/fulton-history>
- **GenealogyBank** <www.genealogybank.com/static/downloads/GB_Search_Tips.pdf>
- **Newspapers.com** <www.newspapers.com/basics>
- **NewspaperArchive** <www.newspaperarchive.com/resources/help/getting-started/how-can-i-perform-a-search>

4 Value copyrighted content. Newspapers published more than 95 years ago are now in the public domain, which is why so much of the digitized content you'll see online is at least that old. Some—but not all—newspapers published since then are free from copyright restrictions. (If you're curious about the details, "The Legal Genealogist" Judy G. Russell explains it well <www.legalgenealogist.com/2019/10/10/the-history-in-the-news>.)

Providing access to content that's still protected is expensive. The provider has to research each paper's copyright status and, if needed, find the copyright holder(s) and negotiate licensing agreements. That cost is passed on to users, which is why you'll only find in-copyright newspapers at the premium websites. Newspapers.com even has a separate membership tier that's heavy on licensed and more-current content.

If you pass up the copyrighted content at the subscription giants, you'll miss nearly 100 years of more-recent news: your mom's high school play; your grandpa's football team; family celebrations, tragedies and gossip; legal notices; and career moments. You may also miss obituaries full of mini-family trees and mini-biographies.

The more-recent coverage is just one more reason you'll want to know about all five of these newspaper giants. They've each—potentially—got something to tell you about your relatives' lives. Which giant will you explore next? And which one after that? Just give yourself a little time. Even with near-instant searching, a billion newspaper pages is a *lot* of pages. ●

Contributing Editor **Sunny Jane Morton** made discoveries on every single newspaper giant while researching this story.

EXTRA, EXTRA!





Don't stop at the megawebsites—these smaller newspaper databases might cover your ancestral hometown's beat.

by RICK CRUME

Earlier in this issue, we talked about the largest newspaper websites. They let you cover a lot of ground in a single search. But even those massive databases might not have publications from *your* ancestors' hometowns.

We scoured the 'net for the best smaller-scale newspaper archives that might just have the publications you're looking for. The first part of this list inventories headline-worthy collections that aren't necessarily focused on a place. And the second section includes important state-specific collections—plus a sampling of local ones—that are available for you to search for free.

General Resources

Google News

<news.google.com/newspapers>

This collection includes newspapers from the United States and other countries dating from 1738 to 2009. Click on a title to browse the newspaper.

Note that the search box at the top of the page does not technically keyword-search the archived newspapers; it performs a *site*: search. Instead, use Google Books Advanced Book Search <books.google.com/advanced_book_search> and select Content > Newspapers.

SmallTownPapers

<www.smalltownpapers.com>

Search over 300 small-town newspapers, some dating back to the 19th century, for free. As of early 2023, you could search just one newspaper at a time, but the site plans to release a tool to search across all titles.

The company's ArchiveInABox service <www.archiveinabox.com> works with historical and genealogical societies and publishers to digitize newspapers and other collections, then create searchable online archives from them.

Elephind

<www.elephind.com>

This tool lets you cover multiple newspaper collections at once. It searches more than 4,000 newspaper titles, including papers in the California Digital Newspaper Collection, the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, and Digital Michigan Newspapers.

Newsboys outside the Wilmington
Evening Journal offices, 1910

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Advantage Archives

<www.advantagearchives.com>

Advantage Archives, based in Iowa, specializes in converting newspaper microfilm to a searchable digital archive. So far, the company has digitized over 100 million newspaper pages from all over the United States, plus a few from Canada. Many public libraries use the service to digitize their newspapers on microfilm and make them available to search for free on the libraries' websites. (Advantage Archives created several of our state-specific entries, for example.) See a map of past projects at <<https://directory.advantage-preservation.com/SiteDirectory>>.

Newspaper directories

To find smaller newspaper archives yourself, you can turn to dedicated directories that catalog and link to online newspaper collections. Some prominent directories include:

- The Ancestor Hunt: "Newspaper Links" <www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>
- Cyndi's List: Newspapers <www.cyndislist.com/newspapers>
- FamilySearch Research Wiki: "United States Newspapers" <www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Newspapers> (separate pages for each state)
- LDS Genealogy: "U.S. Newspapers and Obituaries Directory" <www.ldsgenealogy.com/newspapers-obituaries>
- Wikipedia: "List of Online Newspaper Archives" <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives>

Of course, Chronicling America hosts *the* U.S. Newspaper Directory <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles>. Entries may include links to known digital collections, either hosted at Chronicling America or other sites.

You can also simply Google a newspaper's name. For example, I learned from Chroni-

tip

You may need to live in a state to access its newspaper archive for free (for example, the Archive of Wisconsin Newspapers <badgerlink.dpi.wi.gov/resource/archive-wisconsin-newspapers>).

cling America's directory that the *Dickey County Leader and Ellendale Commercial* was published from 1897 to 1931. A Google search on *dickey county leader archives* turns up the Newspaper Archive of *Dickey County Leader* <dic.stparchive.com>, which has digitized issues from 1911 to 1913.

To find historical newspapers, you could also Google a place name plus *newspaper archive* and, optionally, a range of years. For example, a search on *houlton maine newspaper archive 1840..1920* turns up copies of *The Aroostook Times* from 1905 to 1916 in the Digital Maine Repository <www.digitalmaine.com/aroostook_times>.

Alabama

Birmingham Public Library Digital Collections

<cdm16044.contentdm.oclc.org>

In the collections list, select "Newspapers (1874–1901)" to search four newspapers published in Birmingham. Another collection includes newspaper clippings from 1930 to the early 1980s.

Alaska

The Petersburg Public Library Digital Archives

<petersburg.advantage-preservation.com>

The library's digital archives include newspapers back to 1913.

Tundra Times Indexing Project

<ttip.tuzzy.org>

Click anywhere on the page, then on Search to find articles in *The Tundra Times*, "the voice of Alaska Natives," from 1962 to 1997.

Arizona

Arizona Memory Project

<azmemory.azlibrary.gov>

This collection includes a wide variety of items, such as books, city directories and oral histories, plus newspapers dating back to 1859.

Casa Grande Public Library

<casagrande.advantage-preservation.com>

This newspaper archive includes newspapers back to 1912, plus scrapbooks and yearbooks.

Arkansas

The Arkansas City Traveler Newspaper Archives

<arkansascity.advantage-preservation.com>

The Arkansas City Public Library hosts this collection of newspapers dating from 1876 to 2014.

California

California Digital Newspaper Collection

<cdnc.ucr.edu>

This collection consists of more than 10 million pages dating back to the state's first newspaper, the *Californian*, published in 1846.

The City of Monterrey: Historical Newspapers

<www.monterey.org>

Click on Services > Research, then Historical Newspapers to search Monterey newspapers from 1846 to 1964.

Colorado

Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection

<www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

A service of the Colorado State Library, this collection includes more than 2.7 million pages from newspapers dating to 1859.

Connecticut

Connecticut Digital Archive

<collections.ctdigitalarchive.org>

Click "Newspapers of Connecticut" to search papers published between 1818 and 1996.

Delaware

New Castle Public Library

<newcastle.advantage-preservation.com>

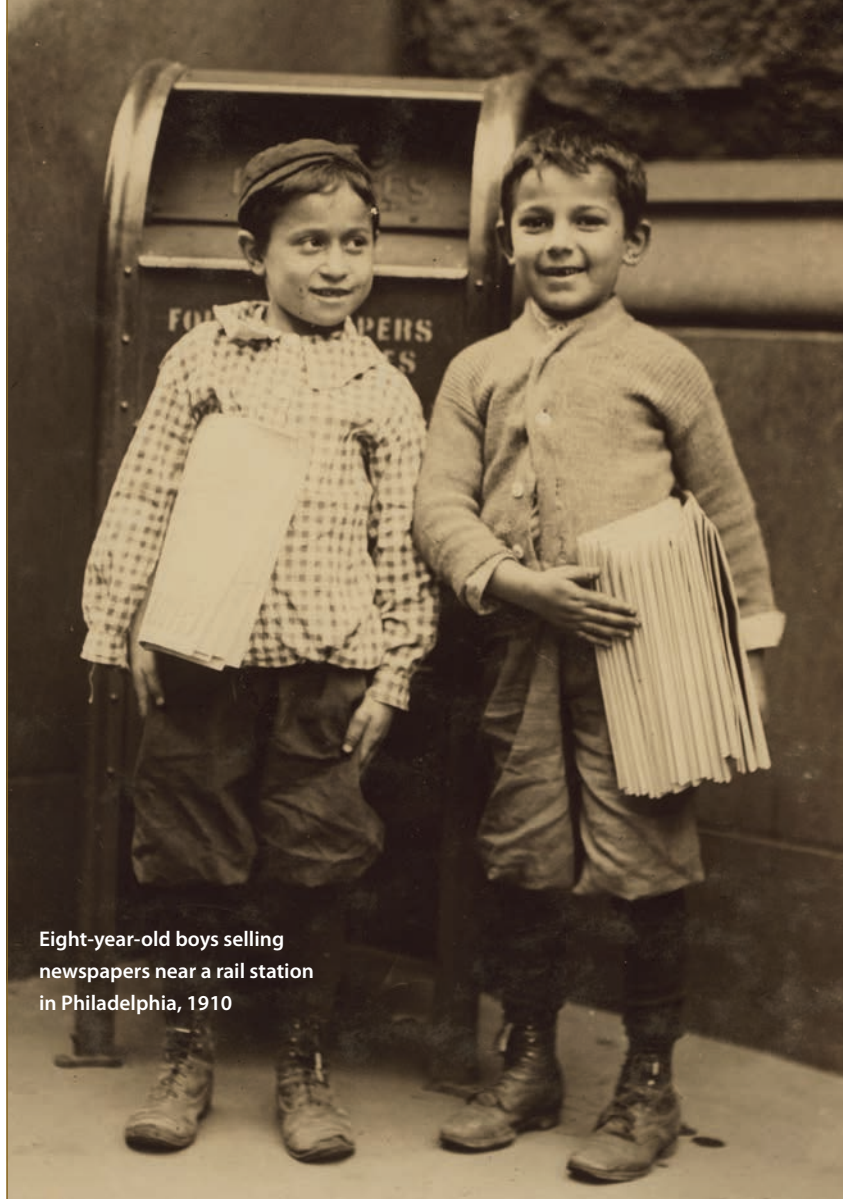
This online archive has New Castle newspapers dating back to 1919.

Florida

Florida Digital Newspaper Library

<newspapers.uflib.ufl.edu>

This collection includes more than a thousand different newspapers published in both English



Eight-year-old boys selling newspapers near a rail station in Philadelphia, 1910

and Spanish. Early titles include *Lloyd's Evening Post* (published in London in 1777) and the *Florida Herald and Southern Democrat* (published in St. Augustine in 1783).

Georgia

Georgia Historic Newspapers

<gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>

This archive includes more than 2 million pages from newspapers dating back to 1763, when the first issue of *The Georgia Gazette*.

Hawaii

Papakilo Database

<www.papakilodatabase.com>

Click on Search Newspapers to access both English- and Hawaiian-language papers dating from 1834 to 1980.



Newsboys at *The Hartford*
(Conn.) *Times* offices, 1909

Idaho

Marshall Public Library

<marshallidaho.advantage-preservation.com>
This archive of Pocatello newspapers dates from 1895 to 2022.

Illinois

Illinois Digital Newspaper Collections

<idnc.library.illinois.edu>
In addition to standard, general-interest publications, this collection includes farm, vaudeville, student and Black newspapers, some dating back to 1819.

Indiana

Hoosier State Chronicles

<newspapers.library.in.gov>
Operated by the Indiana State Library, this collection has more than 1.4 million pages from newspapers dating back to 1804.

Iowa

Cedar Rapids Public Library

<cedarrapids.advantage-preservation.com>
This collection has newspaper pages from 1839

to 2021, plus city directories, phonebooks, rosters of Civil War soldiers from Iowa, and Linn County atlases and histories.

Kansas

Kansas Memory

<www.kansasmemory.org>
Crated by the Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Memory includes letters, diaries and photographs, plus newspapers (under Type of Material or at <www.kansasmemory.org/category/1626>) dating from 1854.

Kentucky

Kentucky Digital Newspapers and Microfilm

<www.kentuckynewspapers.org>
Created by the University of Kentucky Libraries, this collection has newspapers dating to 1787.

Kentucky Digital Newspapers

<www.archive.org/details/kentuckynewspapers>
The University of Kentucky Libraries' newspapers are also available at the Internet Archive. Even though the collection is available in two places, it's worth checking both of them. Select

“Text contents,” rather than metadata, to search the full text of the newspapers on the Internet Archive version.

Louisiana

Louisiana Digital Library

<[www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/
louisiananewspapers](http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/louisiananewspapers)>

Search Bayou State papers dating back to the late 19th century.

Maine

Maine Newspaper Project

<www.digitalmaine.com/newspapers>

This collection's newspapers are part of DigitalMaine, a partnership between the Maine State Library, the Maine State Archives, libraries, historical societies and museums. Newspapers date back to the mid-19th century; click a link to search either on DigitalMaine or a partner website. DigitalMaine also includes maps, church records and local histories.

Maryland

Worcester County Library

<worcester.advantage-preservation.com>

This collection includes newspapers, plus census and land records, marriage licenses and wills, from 1665 to 1976.

Massachusetts

Boston College Newspapers

<newspapers.bc.edu>

Newspapers on this site include *The (Boston) Pilot* from (1836–1908). Recent immigrants, many of them Irish, placed ads in the papers' "Missing Friends" column in an attempt to locate lost family and friends.

Cambridge Public Library

<cambridge.dlconsulting.com>

Search Cambridge newspapers back to 1846, plus an index to obituaries from 1950 to 2008.

Sturgis Library

<[www.sturgislibrary.org/research/
notable-collections/newspaper-indexes](http://www.sturgislibrary.org/research/notable-collections/newspaper-indexes)>

This digital archive covers Cape Cod newspapers back to 1830.

Michigan

Digital Michigan Newspapers

<digmichnews.cmich.edu>

The Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University maintains this collection of newspapers dating back to 1830. Click on Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal to access links to Michigan newspaper archives across the web, including some as far back as 1815.

Minnesota

Minnesota Historical Society

<www.mnhs.org/newspapers>

The Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub has papers back to 1849, the year Minnesota Territory was first formed. The Swedish American Newspapers collection has Swedish-language papers published across the United States between 1857 and 2007.

Mississippi

Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale

<cplclarksdale.advantage-preservation.com>

This collection includes newspapers back to 1845, plus marriage, death, court, probate, census and funeral home records.

Newspaper Archive of The Woodville Republican

<wvr.stparchive.com>

Search scattered years of the newspaper back to 1882.

Missouri

Missouri Digital Newspaper Project

<[www.shsmo.org/collections/
newspapers/mdnp](http://www.shsmo.org/collections/newspapers/mdnp)>

This collection includes millions of newspaper pages dating back to 1808. To search just one newspaper, click on its title.

Montana

Montana Newspapers

<www.montanane newspapers.org>

Search 140 town, county, school and tribal newspapers back to 1873.

Nebraska

Nebraska Newspapers

<nebnewspapers.unl.edu>

This archive has 80 newspapers published between 1854 and 2001.

NebraskaAccess

<nebraskaccess.nebraska.gov/websites/historicalnewspapers.asp>

Follow the links on this site to access newspaper archives for dozens of cities in Nebraska.

Nevada

Nevada Library Cooperative

<nvlibrarycoop.contentdm.oclc.org>

Key resources on this site include oral histories and high school yearbooks, plus newspapers dating from 1863 to 1927. Note there's no one, central newspaper collection; each publication in the database has its own collection.

New Hampshire

NH History

<keene.advantage-preservation.com>

This database covers Keene newspapers from 1799 to 1945.

New Jersey

New Brunswick Free Public Library

<newbrunswick.archivalweb.com>

Search New Brunswick newspapers from 1871 to 1930, plus records from the city's board of health.

New Mexico

New Mexico Historical Newspapers

<digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm_newspapers>

The University Libraries at the University of New Mexico host an archive of more than 60 newspapers dating from 1852 to 2002.

tip

As previously discussed, libraries might subscribe to one of the major newspaper databases. And they might also subscribe to library- and institution-specific collections: Accessible Archives, NewsBank, Gale or ProQuest, to name a few. Check your local public library or even college libraries to see what they have.

New York

Brooklyn Newsstand

<bklyn.newspapers.com>

The Brooklyn Public Library makes 44 newspapers from 1809 to 1999 searchable on this site, hosted by Newspapers.com. You can gain access to the full collection at a branch of the Brooklyn Public Library.

HRVH Historical Newspapers

<news.hrvh.org>

This collection includes dozens of newspapers published in the Hudson River Valley (HRV) between 1803 and 2013.

NYS Historic Newspapers

<www.nyshistoricnewspapers.org>

Search over 11 million pages of newspapers published all over the state between 1790 and 2020.

North Carolina

North Carolina Newspapers

<www.digitalnc.org/collections/newspapers>

This archive contains pages of community, student and African American newspapers dating back to 1751.

North Dakota

Leach Public Library

<leachlibrary.advantage-preservation.com>

This database has more than 85,000 pages from newspapers published in Richland County between 1883 and 1962.

NDArchives

<ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com>

This large collection includes over 1.1 million pages of newspapers published throughout North Dakota as far back as 1879.

Ohio

Ohio Memory

www.ohiomemory.org

This collection includes digital images of photographs, letters, diaries, books and other sources, including newspapers published as early as 1809. Click the Newspapers tab to see a list of titles covered. Note: The search box on this page crawls through newspaper *titles*, not content; use the box on the home page to search the full text of the newspapers and other digital images.

Oklahoma

The Gateway to Oklahoma History

gateway.okhistory.org/about/gateway

The Oklahoma Historical Society's digital collection includes records, photographs and maps, plus newspapers. Find collections under the Explore drop-down. There's no central newspapers collection—some publications have their own collection, and others are grouped by region or subject (e.g., Native American Newspapers).

Oregon

Historic Oregon Newspapers

oregonnews.uoregon.edu

The University of Oregon Libraries' online collection includes more than 2.2 million pages of newspapers dating back to 1846.

Pennsylvania

Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library

alexanderhamilton.advantage-preservation.com

This collection includes more than a half-million pages of Waynesboro newspapers from as early as 1851.

Pennsylvania Newspaper Archive

panewsarchive.psu.edu

Developed and hosted by Penn State University Libraries, this collection includes newspapers dating back to 1789.



An unnamed newsboy
and his stack of papers,
c. 1910s

Puerto Rico and the Caribbean

Digital Library of the Caribbean:

Caribbean Newspapers

dloc.com/collections/CNDL

This collection includes newspapers from Barbados, Puerto Rico and Cuba dating back to the early 19th century.

Rhode Island

Pawtucket Public Library

pawtucket.advantage-preservation.com

Search Pawtucket newspapers published between 1825 and 1972.

South Carolina

Historical Newspapers of South Carolina

historicnewspapers.sc.edu

The University of South Carolina Libraries provide access to newspapers published since 1815.



Most of the sites listed in this article are free. For more free newspaper search suggestions, read <www.familytreemagazine.com/records/newspapers/free-press-using-free-online-historical-newspapers>.

South Dakota

Grant County Public Library

<grantcountypubliclibrary.advantage-preservation.com>

This collection includes Milbank newspapers back to the 19th century and high school yearbooks from 1934 to 2020.

Tennessee

Chattanooga Newspapers

<chattanooga.advantage-preservation.com>

This archive has over 30,500 pages of Chattanooga newspapers dating from 1838 to 1912.

Texas

The Portal to Texas History

<texashistory.unt.edu>

In addition to newspapers dating back to 1813 <texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TDNP>, this huge digital collection includes photos, manuscripts, videos, maps and letters.

Texas Tech University DSpace Repository

<newspapers.swco.ttu.edu>

This archive includes dozens of Texas newspapers, beginning with an issue of *The Aberdeen Chronicle* from 1816.

Utah

Utah Digital Newspapers

<digitalnewspapers.org>

Search over 6 million pages of newspapers dating back to 1850.

Vermont

Arvin A. Brown Public Library Community History Archive

<richford.advantage-preservation.com>

Richford's public library makes the town's newspapers back to 1879 available online.

Virginia

Virginia Chronicle

<www.virginiachronicle.com>

The Library of Virginia's collection contains more than 3 million pages from newspapers dating back to 1787.

Washington

Washington Digital Newspapers

<washingtondigitalnewspapers.org>

The Washington State Library maintains this growing collection of over 600,000 newspaper pages. They begin with newspapers published in 1852, the year before the Territory of Washington was organized.

West Virginia

Potomac State College

West Virginia Newspapers

<wvnewspapers.advantage-preservation.com>

This database of West Virginia newspapers contains over a half-million pages dating back to 1837.

Wisconsin

Irvin L. Young Memorial Library

<irvinlyoung.advantage-preservation.com>

This collection includes Whitewater newspapers dating back to 1855, plus high school yearbooks and the University of Wisconsin—White-water yearbook from 1909 to 1963.

Wyoming

Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection

<www.wyomingnewspapers.org>

Search Wyoming newspapers published as early as 1849. For one-stop searching of both Wyoming and Colorado newspapers, use Plains to Peaks Historic Newspapers <www.ppc-historicnewspapers.org>. ●

Contributing Editor **Rick Crume** specializes in online research, genealogy software, DNA testing and British genealogy.

RESEARCH GUIDE

UTAH

by GENA PHILIBERT-ORTEGA



THE BEEHIVE STATE IS BEST KNOWN FOR ITS UTAH pioneers, but the Mormons (members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) weren't the first to call Utah home. At least eight tribal nations have lived in Utah, including the Paiutes and the namesake Utes.

Also home to the genealogy-minded LDS Church, Utah's Salt Lake City has become a popular destination for family historians from around the world. Whether your ancestors were among early pioneers or recent ancestor-seekers, here's how to research family in Utah.

PIONEERING HISTORY

The Fremont Indians and (later) Anasazi or Pueblo culture created agricultural societies based in what is today Southern Utah as early as thousands of years ago. By the time of European contact, other tribes—the Ute, Bannock, Goshute, Paiutes, Shoshone and Navajo—lived there.

In the 1700s, the area was claimed by Spain and visited by Spanish explorers and European fur trappers. New Spain became part of the newly independent Mexico in 1821. But after the Mexican-American War, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 transferred much of the West to the United States.

Around the same time, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), who faced persecution in the Midwest, arrived en masse. July 24 is celebrated today in Utah as Pioneer Day, commemorating the first Mormon pioneers who arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847. An estimated 70,000 people traveled the "Mormon Trail" from that year through 1868.

Enough Mormons migrated to the region that LDS leaders sought statehood.

Their proposed "State of Deseret" encompassed vast territory including modern Utah and parts of seven other states. The U.S. Congress, ignoring the proposal, organized the region into the Territory of Utah as part of the Compromise of 1850. It then included most of Nevada, as well as parts of Colorado and Wyoming.

Church president Brigham Young served as Utah's first territorial governor, with other LDS church members as elected representatives. But the Church's practice of polygamy unsettled others around the country, and the U.S. Army arrived in 1857 to install a new non-Mormon governor. Far from the main theater of war, Utah played a relatively small role in the Civil War.

Gold rushes in Nevada and Colorado led to increased non-Mormon settlement in the region. Utah Territory lost land to new neighboring territories as a result, and shrank to its modern borders by 1868. The transcontinental railroad, ceremoniously completed in Promontory Summit, Utah, in 1869, brought more people through the territory.

Tensions between the United States and Mormons continued. The federal Edmunds Act (1882) barred polygamists from voting, holding public office, and serving on juries. Men practicing polygamy were arrested and jailed. And as part of an amendment to the act, Utah women, despite being given the right to vote in 1870, were disenfranchised.

The controversy ended with the Manifesto of 1890, in which Church president Wilford Woodruff ended official church support of the practice. Utah eventually became a state in 1896.

Since the time of the Mormon migration, Utah has been a home of immigrants. Mormon missionary work to foreign countries introduced immigrants

FAST FACTS

STATEHOOD:
1896

FIRST FEDERAL CENSUS:
1850

BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS BEGIN:
1905 (state)

MARRIAGE RECORDS BEGIN:
1887 (state)

CONTACT FOR VITAL RECORDS:
Utah Office of Vital Records
and Statistics

Whether your ancestors were among early pioneers or recent ancestor-seekers, here's how to research family in Utah.

from England and Northern Europe, in particular, to the area. But others settled in the area too, including Jewish populations.

Today, Utah is known for more than just its history. The annual Sundance Film Festival, founded in 1981, attracts movie buffs each January and spurs other programming throughout the year. Utah is also a well-known destination for skiing enthusiasts and was the host of the 2002 Winter Olympics—as well as for genealogists visiting the FamilySearch Library <www.familysearch.org/en/library> and the annual RootsTech genealogy conference <www.rootstech.org>.

LIVING IN THE BEEHIVE STATE

Official statewide birth and death registration didn't begin in Utah until 1905. Despite that late implementation date, you may still find earlier vital records depending on the county (often, beginning in 1898). Marriage records were kept earlier, dating to the Edmunds-Tucker Act in 1887.

The Office of Vital Records and Statistics <vitalrecords.health.utah.gov/certificates/order-a-vital-record-certificate> holds records for births, stillbirths, deaths from 1905 to the present, and marriages from 1978 to 2010. (County clerk offices hold marriage records created before 1978 and after 2010.)

Privacy laws restrict access to vital records less than a certain age: 100 years for birth certificates, 75 for marriage and divorce, and 50 for death. Only the person listed in a record, their immediate family, or legal guardians/representatives can order records under privacy restriction.

You can find name indexes for births (1905–1911) and deaths (1905–1967) through the Utah Division of Archives and Records Service <archives.utah.gov/research/indexes>. FamilySearch also has some vital records and indexes; see the FamilySearch Catalog <www.familysearch.org/search/catalog> for details.

COUNTING UTAH

Utah first appeared in the US federal census in 1850 as Utah territory. Utah achieved statehood on 4 January 1896, and so won't appear as the state of Utah until the 1900 census. You can find federal censuses for free on FamilySearch; records of the 1890 census have been lost.

Utah didn't take any of its own censuses as a state, but FamilySearch has an 1856 territorial census <www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/12915>. Note that some of the names in this count are fictitious or repeated.

You can, however, find nonpopulation schedules for Utah Territory: mortality schedules (1850–1880), a slave schedule (1850), and a Civil War veterans schedule (1890). These can serve as useful substitutes for missing federal censuses.

OTHER RECORDS

Trace your Utah ancestors using these other resources.

- **Land Records:** Utah's unique settlement pattern led to early land grants being made not by a government, but by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. (Utah is a public-land state, but a US land office didn't open there until 1869.) Search the records of the Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office <glorerecords.blm.gov> for

TIMELINE

1521

Spain claims much of the modern western United States

1821

Utah is part of the newly independent Mexico

1848

Modern Utah becomes part of the United States through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

1849

LDS leaders, traveling en masse from persecution, propose the "State of Deseret"

1850

Utah Territory is formed



1857

The federal government installs a non-LDS governor of Utah

1869

The transcontinental railroad is completed at Promontory Summit, Utah

1896

Utah becomes the 45th state of the Union

1918

Daggett County is created from Summit and Uintah Counties, the most-recent change to Utah's county boundaries

1985

The FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City opens at its current location

TOOLKIT

Websites

Cyndi's List: Utah <www.cyndislist.com/us/ut>

FamilySearch Research Wiki: Utah <www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Utah_United_States_Genealogy>

Linkpendium: Utah <www.linkpendium.com/ut-genealogy>

Utah Cemeteries and Burial Databases <history.utah.gov/cemeteries>

Utah Digital Newspapers <digitalnewspapers.org>

Utah History Encyclopedia <www.uen.org/utah_history_encyclopedia>

UTGenWeb Project <sites.rootsweb.com/~utgenweb/index.html>

Publications

A Guide to Mormon Family History Sources by Kip Sperry (Ancestry.com)

Slavery in Zion: A Documentary and Genealogical History of Black Lives and Black Servitude in Utah Territory 1847–1862 by Amy Tanner Thriot (University of Utah Press)

Utah: A People's History by Dean L. May (University of Utah Press)

Utah Place Names: A Comprehensive Guide to the Origins of Geographic Names by John W. Van Cott (University of Utah Press)

Archives & Organizations

Brigham Young University (BYU)

Family History Library <fh.lib.byu.edu>

LDS Church History Library <history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/church-history-library>

Daughters of the Utah Pioneers <www.isdup.org>

Mountain West Digital Library <www.mwdl.org>

National Archives at Denver <www.archives.gov/denver>

Utah Genealogical Association <www.ugagenealogy.org>

Utah Jewish Genealogy Society <www.ujgs.org/blog>

Utah State Archives <archives.utah.gov>

Utah State Historical Society <history.utah.gov/utah-state-historical-society>

patents, and the FamilySearch Catalog for plat maps and deeds. Subsequent transactions between private parties are recorded by the county where the transaction took place—today, at the county recorder or assessor.

● **Newspapers:** The free website Utah Digital Newspapers <www.digitalnewspapers.org> includes 6.3 million pages from 374 publications. The Library of Congress' free Chronicling America <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> contains dozens of Utah newspapers, the oldest of which is *The Mountaineer* (published from 1859 in Salt Lake City). Subscription websites Newspapers.com <www.newspapers.com>, GenealogyBank <www.genealogybank.com>, and NewspaperArchive <www.newspaperarchive.com> all also have Utah newspapers.

● **Military Records:** Records from the various 19th-century "Indian Wars" are at the Utah State Archives and FamilySearch, including an index to service affidavits <archives.utah.gov/research/indexes/2217.html>. In addition, Utah had a militia ("Nauvoo's Legion") dating to early LDS days that was in operation from 1849 to 1887; FamilySearch and the Utah State Archives hold records of that group as well <archives.utah.gov/research/inventories/6195.html>. (Though many eventually migrated to Utah, members of the Mexican-American War's famed "Mormon Battalion" actually enlisted in Council Bluffs, Iowa.) 20th-century military and indexes can be found variously at FamilySearch, Ancestry.com, Fold3 <www.fold3.com> and the National Archives <www.archives.gov>.

● **Directories:** Directories for Utah cities can be found online and in library collections. FamilySearch holds directories for Ogden, Provo and Salt Lake City, but (as of writing) they're only available on microfilm. You can also search for digitized city directories at Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8854> and <www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2469> and MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10705/us-city-directories>.

● **Court and Probate Records:** As with early land matters, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also managed early court proceedings. Officially, Church courts only did so from 1847 to 1849, but some may have continued years (even decades) later. A system of civil courts formed around 1850 (upon Utah becoming a territory) and 1896 (upon statehood). The Utah Division of Archives and Records Services has a guide to the Utah court system, including court records, <archives.utah.gov/research/guides/index.html>. You can also find court records in the FamilySearch Catalog or on Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9082>.

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RESEARCH GUIDE

WEST VIRGINIA

by PEGGY LAURITZEN



SEVERAL IMAGES MIGHT COME TO YOUR MIND when you think of West Virginia: moonshine stills, coal mines, or the Hatfield-McCoy feud.

But there's another, less-obvious topic that *should* come to the genealogist's mind: the state of Virginia. "Old Dominion," as it's called, once claimed parts of many states. Modern West Virginia only split in 1863. As such, much of West Virginia's history and genealogical records are tied up with its eastern counterpart.

Here's what you need to know about researching in West Virginia, the Mountain State.

MOUNTAINS OF HISTORY

Various indigenous communities lived or migrated through what is now West Virginia in colonial times: notably, the Shawnee, Delaware, Monongahela, Iroquois and Cherokee.

From the founding of Jamestown in 1607 to the 1730s, most of Virginia's population lived east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. After the French and Indian War, King George III forbade all settlement west of the "proclamation line of 1763," which followed the Appalachian Mountains.

That constraint didn't much hamper immigrants, however, who flocked to British North America. Many who came through Philadelphia to Virginia were German Palatines and Scots-Irish. The latter brought with them their fierce independence and cultures of clans, and tended to migrate down the Great Wagon Road to the northern Shenandoah Valley.

Many researchers cite differences over slavery as the main historical distinction between Virginia and West Virginia. (Indeed, many "Mountaineers" worked small farms and didn't own slaves.)

But they also differed geographically and economically. The eastern part of the region is flatter, making large farms more viable. In contrast, West Virginia has deep hills and hollers, a unique terrain defined by mountain ranges and rivers and apt for mining.

Indeed, those mountains made West Virginia resource-rich. Settlers found bituminous coal along a tributary of the Kanawha River as early as 1742, and a mine opened in 1810 near Wheeling. West Virginia holds an estimated 62 individual seams of coal, with deposits in all but two of its 55 counties. Coal initially fueled just local businesses and homes, but river travel and railroad expansion allowed the industry to grow throughout the 1800s. Other major resources include salt and natural gas.

Cultural, economic and political differences between the "two Virginias" came to a head in 1861, when Virginia seceded from the Union over heavy opposition from its western counties. Those counties voted to create their own state and constitution, leading to their ultimate succession from Virginia and statehood in 1863. West Virginia was admitted as the 35th state, and provided some 32,000 soldiers to the Union during the Civil War. (About 9,000 West Virginians served for the Confederacy.)

Given the danger of mining, West Virginia has often found itself at the center of both safety regulations and passionate (even violent) labor disputes. Unionized mine workers clashed with coal companies throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, culminating in 1921's "Battle of Blair Mountain" (in which dozens were killed). The West Virginia Mine Wars Museum <www.wvminewars.org> curates exhibits of stories, photos and other artifacts from the era.

FAST FACTS

STATEHOOD:
1863

FIRST FEDERAL CENSUS:
1790 (as part of Va.); 1870 (as W.V.)

BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS BEGIN:
1853 (county); 1917 (state)

MARRIAGE RECORDS BEGIN:
from founding (county); 1964 (state)

CONTACT FOR VITAL RECORDS:
W.V. Health Statistics Center

Mountains made West Virginia resource-rich.

TAKE ME HOME, VITAL RECORDS

Any pre-1863 West Virginia vital records were created in the state of Virginia. Fortunately, Virginia mandated county-level record-keeping in 1853, and counties retained their records when the states separated 10 years later.

As a result, you can expect to find birth, marriage and death records for West Virginia counties from 1853, if not sooner. County-level marriage records were kept even earlier, usually from a county's founding.

The state didn't begin keeping copies of birth and death records until 1917, and marriages until 1964. Access to birth and death records is restricted by year; only direct descendants of those mentioned in records can request copies of records less than 100 years old (birth) and 50 years old (death) from the Health Statistics Center <www.wvdhhr.org/bph/hsc/vital/birthcert.asp>. A fire destroyed state copies of records for 1917 to 1921, so you'll need to request documents from those years from the county clerk.

FamilySearch partnered with the West Virginia State Archives to create the West Virginia Vital Research Records Project, a free database of images for out-of-privacy-laws records <archive.wvculture.org/vrr>. You can also find vital record indexes at FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>, Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com>, and MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com>.

You should also search for pre-1900 adoption records at the county level, using probate and guardianship records. Maternity homes may also have information. Later adoptions are recorded by the state.

COUNTING WEST VIRGINIANS

West Virginia first appeared in a federal census in its own right in 1870. From 1790 to that year, West Virginia settlements would have appeared as part of Virginia. Federal

New River Gorge
National Park



SEAN PAVONE/ISTOCK

TIMELINE

1609

A second charter of Virginia encourages settlement on the western frontiers

1624

Virginia becomes a royal colony

1731

Morgan Morgan, recognized as the first white settler in the region, builds a home in modern Berkeley County

1763

French land west of the Appalachians is ceded to Great Britain; a royal proclamation forbids white settlement west of the Appalachians

1776

In a prelude of things to come, settlers in the western Virginia region lobby for a new state of "Westsylvania"



1788

Virginia ratifies the U.S. Constitution

1810

The first coal mine in modern West Virginia opens near Wheeling

1859

Abolitionist John Brown tries to start a slave revolt by raiding the US armory at Harpers Ferry, W.V.

1863

The western counties of Virginia secede and become the 35th state, West Virginia

1895

Mingo County is created from Logan County, the last major change to West Virginia's county boundaries

TOOLKIT

Websites

Cyndi's List: West Virginia <www.cyndislist.com/us/wv>

FamilySearch Research Wiki: West Virginia

<www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/West_Virginia_United_States_Genealogy>

Linkpendium: West Virginia <www.linkpendium.com/wv-genealogy>

West Virginia Vital Research Records Project <archive.wvculture.org/vrr>

WVGenWeb <www.wvgenweb.org>

Publications

Hardesty's West Virginia Counties: Early West Virginia
by Jim Comstock (self-published)

History of West Virginia, Old and New, in One Volume
by James Morton Callahan (The American Historical Society) <www.archive.org/details/historyofwestvir01call>

Making a State: Formation of West Virginia by Edgar B. Sims (State of West Virginia)

Timesaving Aid to Virginia-West Virginia Ancestors by Patrick G. Wardell (Iberian Publishing Company)

West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia by Jim F. Comstock (self-published)

Archives & Organizations

Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library <www.clarksburglibrary.org>

Library of Virginia: West Virginia Records <www.lva.virginia.gov/public/wv>

Marshall University Morrow Library <www.marshall.edu/library/libraries/morrowstacks>

National Archives at Philadelphia <www.archives.gov/philadelphia>

Virginia Museum of History and Culture <www.virginiahistory.org>

West Virginia Archives and History <www.wvculture.org/research/archives-and-history-research-databases>

West Virginia University: West Virginia and Regional History Center <wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu>

censuses are widely available at sites like FamilySearch, Ancestry.com and MyHeritage, though its records for the 1790, 1800 and 1890 censuses have been lost or destroyed.

Certain West Virginia counties would have also been part of Virginia colonial and state censuses, taken between 1782 and 1786. These are available at Ancestry.com and the Internet Archive <www.archive.org>.

Tax records can be used as substitutes for censuses. Virginia created tax lists of land and personal property as early as 1782, and they may include ancestors who lived in what is now West Virginia or those who would eventually move there. Learn more at the Library of Virginia <www.lva.virginia.gov/public/wv>.

OTHER RECORDS

Find your West Virginian ancestors in these other kinds of documents. For more county-level resources, see the West Virginia Archives & History's county-by-county map <archive.wvculture.org/history/teacherresources/countiesmap.html>.

● **Military Records:** West Virginia was born from the Civil War, and you can find records of soldiers who fought in it through the Soldiers and Sailors database <www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>. West Virginians also fought in later conflicts, including World Wars I and II. Find draft registrations cards from those conflicts on FamilySearch, Ancestry.com or Fold3 <www.fold3.com>.

● **Land Records:** In colonial times, the Virginian government offered as many as 1,000 acres per family to settlers in western Virginia—in total, more than 2.5 million acres by 1754. The Virginia Land Office also began awarding military bounty land warrants in 1782, though many were later sold to speculators. FamilySearch has land records, some of which must be viewed at a local FamilySearch Center or an affiliate library.

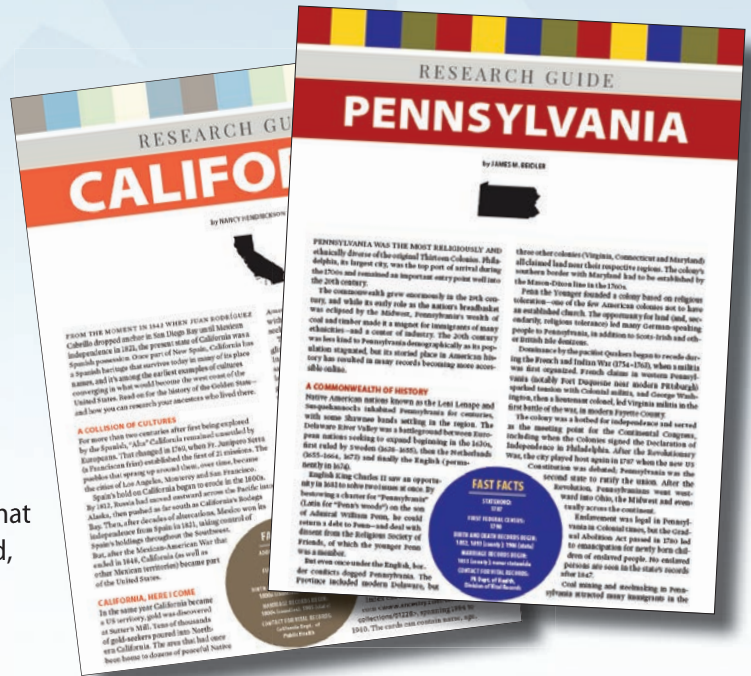
● **Historical Maps:** West Virginia University has a collection of some 1,300 maps dating from the 1600s to 2006 <wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/collections/maps-atlases-and-gazetteers>. Other sites that have historical maps from the state include the David Rumsey Map Collection <www.davidrumsey.com> and the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries <digital.newberry.org/ahcb>.

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RESEARCH GUIDE PUBLICATION HISTORY

State/territory	Most recent issue	State/territory	Most recent issue	State/territory	Most recent issue
Alabama	Jan/Feb 2023	Maryland	Jul/Aug 2020	Puerto Rico	Jan/Feb 2021
Alaska	Sep/Oct 2022	Massachusetts	Jul/Aug 2019	Rhode Island	Mar/Apr 2022
Arizona	Jul/Aug 2021	Michigan	May/Jun 2022	South Carolina	Mar/Apr 2019
Arkansas	May/Jun 2022	Minnesota	Oct/Nov 2019	South Dakota	Nov/Dec 2021
California	Mar/Apr 2021	Mississippi	Sep/Oct 2021	Tennessee	Sep 2019
Colorado	May/Jun 2019	Missouri	Jan/Feb 2022	Texas	Mar/Apr 2022
Connecticut	Nov/Dec 2021	Montana	Sep 2019	Utah	Mar/Apr 2023
Delaware	Jan/Feb 2018	Nebraska	Sep/Oct 2020	Vermont	May/Jun 2019
Florida	Jan/Feb 2022	Nevada	Nov/Dec 2022	Virginia	Nov/Dec 2022
Georgia	Sep/Oct 2020	New Hampshire	Jan/Feb 2020	Washington	Nov/Dec 2020
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Idaho	May/Jun 2021	New Mexico	Jul/Aug 2018	West Virginia	Mar/Apr 2023
Illinois	May/Jun 2020	New York	Dec 2019	Wisconsin	Mar/Apr 2020
Indiana	Sep/Oct 2022	North Carolina	May/Jun 2021	Wyoming	Jan/Feb 2020
Iowa	Jul/Aug 2022	North Dakota	Dec 2019		
Kansas	Sep/Oct 2021	Ohio	Mar/Apr 2021		
Kentucky	Jan/Feb 2021	Oklahoma	Jul/Aug 2020		
Louisiana	Nov/Dec 2020	Oregon	Jan/Feb 2023		
Maine	Jul/Aug 2022	Pennsylvania	Jul/Aug 2021		

UP NEXT*

New Mexico, South Carolina	May/Jun 2023
Colorado, Vermont	Jul/Aug 2023
Hawaii, Massachusetts	Sep/Oct 2023

*Schedule subject to change

In the News

Learn what newspapers can do for your research in this case study, in which they help reconstruct a long-forgotten ancestral history.

by STEPHEN WENDT

The degree to which we are able to learn about the lives of our ancestors—beyond just names, dates and locations—depends on our meticulousness, the information available (either online or offline), and our skill set.

It also depends on whether we've taken advantage of all avenues available to us in our family history quest. Moving beyond the low-hanging fruit (e.g., a census, a death certificate, or a church record) may make the difference between a basic sketch of an ancestor or a life-like portrayal of him.

That's where historical newspapers come in. In my experience, newspapers make the seemingly impossible, possible.

That was certainly true in my years-long quest for answers about my great-grandfather, Hugo Wendt. Neither I nor my living family members knew much about him. But all that changed when many small-town historical newspapers from Nebraska came online for the first time.

After weeks of extensive digging, I largely reconstructed Hugo's life. Through historical newspapers, many details of Hugo's long-forgotten past came to light. And Hugo, the man whom we previously knew so little about, came to life!

Here's the story of how I used newspapers to reconstruct my great-grandfather's life. I won't be able to cover all of the events (both momentous and mundane) that were documented by small-town newspapers. Nevertheless, it will give you a birds-eye view of an extraordinary man whose forgotten past, which came to light, is now memorialized. Hopefully it inspires you to do the same for your ancestors.

Family Stories

Family lore had little to say about Hugo, and the oral history that did get passed down was superficial (albeit, poignant). Years ago, I asked a now-deceased relative about Hugo and received a vague, cryptic response. I knew, without a doubt, that she had withheld information.

She gave me some details to work from, however. Hugo owned a dry goods store in Big Springs, Neb. And she said that Hugo had a tragic head injury resulting from a train accident, and it caused his family to split up.

Life Summary: Hugo Wendt

1871

Born in Minnesota

1890

Moves to Deuel County, Nebraska

1900

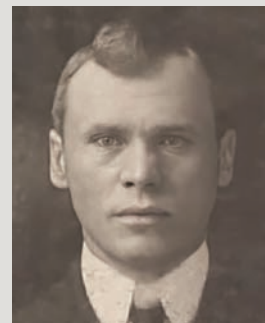
Suffers injuries in a train accident outside Gothenburg

1902

Appointed as postmaster of Big Springs

1909

Takes law courses at Creighton College (now Creighton University) in Omaha



1910

Runs for Congress in Omaha, unsuccessfully

1912

Marries Elsie West in Tennessee

1924

Separates from his wife and daughters

1958

Dies in Nebraska

Sure enough, research showed that Hugo and his wife, Elsie, my great-grandmother, had separated by 1924. Their two sons (one of whom was my grandfather) remained with Hugo in Nebraska. Their two daughters left with Elsie, eventually settling down in California.

These twin tragedies—Hugo's train accident and the family's separation—formed the basis of my interest in genealogy. And newspapers were there to guide my research.

Disaster by Train: 'Fog Causes a Collision'

Research into the train accident yielded an unforgettable discovery, not too long after I began digging through newspapers.

On 27 October 1900, Hugo—working as a cattleman—was hauling cattle on an eastbound Union Pacific train from Big Springs, Neb. Near Gothenburg, Hugo's train slowed because of dense fog. But a mechanical failure prevented the train's brakeman from successfully contacting the engineer of a second, rapidly approaching train.

NEWSPAPERS make the seemingly impossible, possible.

The engine of the second train collided with the caboose of the first—with Hugo sleeping inside. Hugo suffered several burns from the engine's steam, as well as three broken ribs and a bad cut on his head. He and the two injured brakemen were given medical care, then boarded on another train for Omaha to receive more attention.

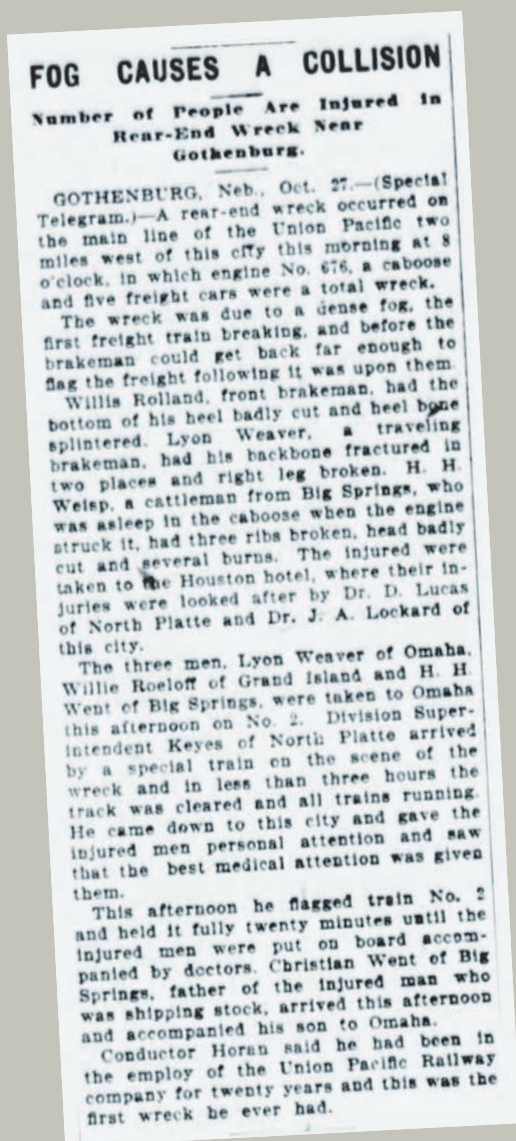


IMAGE A: News article on Hugo Wendt's train accident in a 1900 edition of the *Omaha Daily Bee*

Thanks to that article in the *Omaha Daily Bee* (image A), I learned—with unusual clarity—the specific details of Hugo's tragic train accident. But it took some creativity on my part to find the article. The story didn't come up for a search of *Wendt*, because Hugo's last name was misspelled in this article (and thus, indexed by the website) as "Welsp." I only found it by searching for alternative keywords, though a wildcard search for *We** might have also found it.

Surprisingly, Hugo's accident took place almost 25 years before his family split up. We'll discuss that in more detail shortly, but it cast doubt on the family story that his accident caused his family's later separation.

Postman, Student, Lawyer, Congressional Hopeful

After recovering from his injuries, Hugo continued raising cattle and farming. But, according to the *Chappell Register*, his career took multiple different turns over the years.

In 1902, he was recommended for postmaster of Big Springs (also known as Big Spring). He worked in that position until resigning in 1906. From 1907 to 1908, Hugo attended "the university at Lincoln" (today, the University of Nebraska—Lincoln), then attended law school at Creighton College (today, Creighton University) in Omaha in 1909.

Once out of law school, Hugo filed to run for the Democratic nomination for Nebraska's 6th congressional district in 1910. The notice in the *Omaha World-Herald* (image B) offers an excellent summary of Hugo's background, which is replete with genealogical details. It does, however, contradict an earlier report when it says he attended law school at "Nebraska State university" (not Creighton, a private school).

The photograph of Hugo on his horse (image C) was taken on his property in Lewellen, Neb., likely (given his heroic pose) to promote his run for Congress.

According to *The North Platte Semi-Weekly Tribune*, Hugo garnered just 25 votes. (Needless to say, he did not win the Democratic primary.) But not long after his congressional run, he met Elsie West in Tennessee, where he married her in 1912.

No living family members knew that Hugo went to law school or ran for Congress. Clearly,

FILES FOR CONGRESS IN SIXTH DISTRICT

Special Dispatch to the World-Herald.

Oshkosh, Neb., July 9.—Hugo H. Wendt of Lowellton, Garden county, paid into the county treasury the \$10 fee today and filed for the democratic nomination for congressman of the Sixth district.

His filing papers were sent to the secretary of state by registered letter. Mr. Wendt is a successful farmer and stock raiser and settled in this section of the country in 1890. He came here from Crete, Salina county, at which place he resided fourteen years. He took the law course at the Nebraska State university. He is 38 years of age and unmarried.

IMAGE B: 1910 notice in *The (Omaha) World-Herald*



IMAGE C: Hugo Wendt on horseback, circa 1910

there was more to Hugo's life than we'd known from oral history.

Misfortune: 'When One Becomes Heavy-Hearted or Troubled'

We've so far covered Hugo's achievements—only some of which could be included in this case study. But financial problems loomed over Hugo in the following years, culminating into disaster in 1923.



Elsie and Hugo Wendt, 1912

Hugo spent years acquiring vast sums of wealth, both through an inheritance and through real estate ventures in Nebraska and Kansas. But times grew hard, and newspapers reported a series of foreclosures on his properties. Hugo had no choice but to file multiple bankruptcies.

Hugo wrote an opinion piece in *The (Omaha) World-Herald* (image D) that provides a window into his new financial reality (as well as his ability to express himself clearly). In it, he rails against prohibition in biblical terms, highlighting how poverty and hard labor were each more challenging without alcohol:

"But strong drink and wine, that God says the poor shall have and gave to them, has been denied and destroyed. When one becomes heavy hearted or troubled he cannot get wine or strong drink to cheer him and take on new life and hope."

Prohibition also, Hugo maintained, formed the basis of a mental health crisis: "Suicide is increasing in our dry United States so fast that the most extreme drys will have to vote it wet at the first opportunity to ease their guilty conscience."

Amid financial turmoil, the prospect of becoming homeless would likely have been on my great-grandma Elsie's mind. To remain with Hugo in Nebraska with financial matters only worsening would have no longer been an option for her. I haven't found any newspaper accounts that reveal exactly when Elsie left Nebraska

THE BASICS of NEWSPAPERS

WHY NEWSPAPERS?

By investigating historical newspapers, you can potentially obtain more information about a particular ancestor or a family line with greater clarity.

Beyond obituaries, death notices and marriage announcements, what can you expect to find? The following list, which is by no means exhaustive, represents some of the most common genealogically relevant articles:

- obituaries/death notices
- marriage announcements
- court cases
- articles about illnesses
- birthday/anniversary announcements
- notes about visitors
- local news
- estate settlements

TOP RESOURCES

Earlier articles in this issue discuss some of the major newspaper databases (page 14), as well as those more closely honed to a specific time and place (page 24). Here are some of the most-popular historical newspaper websites:

- The Ancestor Hunt <www.theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html>
- Chronicling America <chronicling.america.loc.gov>
- Cyndi's List <www.cyndislist.com/newspapers>
- Findmypast <www.findmypast.com>
- GenealogyBank <www.genealogybank.com>
- NewspaperArchive <www.newspaperarchive.com>
- Newspapers.com <www.newspapers.com>
- Trove <trove.nla.gov.au>

The Ancestor Hunt, Chronicling America, Cyndi's List and Trove are all free to use, but the other sites require a paid subscription to view most content.

SEARCH TIP: BE FLEXIBLE

Spelling and indexing mistakes abound in historical newspapers, especially when it comes to names and in papers that were damaged or poorly scanned. To overcome these challenges, be flexible with spelling in name searches, searching multiple alternates.

Also take advantage of more-advanced search options, including "wildcard" characters that widen search parameters. Search tools vary from one database to another, but two special characters can be used in most search engines:

- An **asterisk (*)** can take the place of zero or multiple letters in a search. For example: Wen* to return "Wen," "Wendt," "Went," and so on.
- A **question mark (?)** can take the place of one letter in a search. For example: Wen?t to return both "Wentt" and "Wendt."



An unidentified woman
reads a newspaper
in New York, 1957

A "Most Precious Creation."
Big Spring, Neb., July 10.—To the Editor of the World-Herald: When Adam and Eve walked out of the Garden of Eden, God imposed a sentence upon them. It was heavy

and a hard one. To Adam he said: "You shall eat your bread by the sweat of your brow." Men are obeying this sentence more or less, some by instinct, some by compulsion, some by choice of occupation and some under pressure and duress to get this daily bread. One of God's creations was vineyards and wine to drink, which was for the express purpose to cheer man in his struggle for his daily bread and clothing. Read Proverbs 31:6, 7, where it says, "Give strong drink to him that is about to perish and wine to those who are of heavy heart, so that the poor might forget their poverty."

A few men with white collars round their necks, who neither sow nor reap and who have controlled our conventions and never done any of the hard toll that God told Adam to do, pressed onto the brow of labor a crown of thorns by taking away from him strong drink and wine that God has created. Can the prohibitionist not see that a poor man who toils hard every day must have some diversion, that he must have something to take his mind off his hard work and toll? Does he know that he has done wrong to the man that wants to take a drink, and that he has destroyed the most precious of God's creation?

There have been men who would drink too much at one time, and become intoxicated. Scripture says a drunkard shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. We should admonish those who transgress God's command.

More crimes are committed by men who are tempted by money than any other thing or cause. Rockefeller and Ford have more

money than they need, but no one has ever advocated to stop making money because a few men have more than they need or more than they should have, or because a few men have committed murder and killed his neighbor to get his money. No one ever says to stop coining money and stop this crime.

But strong drink and wine, that God says the poor shall have and gave to them, has been denied and destroyed.

When one becomes heavy hearted or troubled he cannot get wine or strong drink to cheer him and take on new life and hope.

And this destruction of God's most precious creation is the cause of thousands of suicides. Suicide is increasing in our dry United States so fast that the most extreme drys will have to vote it wet at the first opportunity to ease their guilty conscience, as the teaching of prohibition is in direct controversy of the teaching of the bible.

HUGO H. WENDT.

IMAGE D: Opinion piece in a 1923 edition of *The (Omaha) World-Herald*, written by Hugo Wendt

with the girls, but it would have been as soon as late 1924.

My late grandfather, understandably, did not want to share the many hardships he endured during his childhood years. At some point after Elsie departed, he, his brother, and Hugo ended up living in a tent. Only the generous intervention of Big Springs townspeople lessened their burdens.

Twin Tragedies Evaluated

With these twin tragedies in mind—Hugo's accident and later financial ruin—we can now evaluate our initial question: Did Hugo's head injury in 1900 lead to his family's breakup some 25 years later?

Newspaper accounts paint a more-complicated picture than did family lore. The accident didn't seem to hinder Hugo intellectually. That he was able to attend and complete law school nearly 10 years after the accident demonstrates he was able to handle advanced course work. And his profound prose in the *World-Herald* opinion piece on prohibition demonstrates his acuity in the decades that followed.

Perhaps the severe head injury affected Hugo's *judgment*, rather than his cognitive abilities. His financial mismanagement in the early 1920s led to his downfall, and through research, I found several instances of Hugo making sudden decision changes regarding how he made a living. For example, by the time Elsie left Nebraska, Hugo would leave town seemingly

at random to work odd jobs. He'd even leave his sons behind without proper supervision.

From a modern perspective, I wondered why his many nearby family members didn't show concern, or help the boys with food and shelter during Hugo's frequent absences. Hugo seemingly answers this riddle with several of his own, couplets published in November 1924 in dozens of newspapers across the United States. One in the *Salt Lake Telegram* read:

"High society's oft discussed:

Pies believe in the upper crust."

This hints at Hugo's previous life as a member of high society, as well as a newfound distaste for it.

...

Through newspapers, it's possible to reconstruct the long-forgotten past, both of an individual and of a family. Coupled with other sources, newspapers can make your family history come alive. What you can find will vary from one set of circumstances to the next. But the immense possibilities make the research effort worthwhile. ●

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Ladies-in-Waiting

Find long-lost female ancestors with these 12 resources for discovering maiden names.

by SHELLEY K. BISHOP

Finding female ancestors is a notorious roadblock for researchers because of the simple fact that women's names historically changed after marriage.

In fact, a married woman's identity became so affixed to her husband's that even her own death record or obituary might make no mention of her maiden name. Other records may give only a first name or nickname: Polly, Fanny or Sally. Finding that hidden maiden name is crucial to identifying the woman's parents and extending her family line, and a challenge nearly every genealogist faces at some point.

Fortunately, you can usually solve these maiden-name mysteries with a little leg-work. We'll look at 12 types of resources to explore (from easy-to-find documents to those that require more digging). As you search, keep an eye out for other names mentioned in your ancestor's records, because the people a woman interacted with and relied on could have been related to her.

1 FAMILY SOURCES
Keepsakes handed down from one generation to the next often provide information about the wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts and grandmothers in a family:

- **Letter and diaries:** Many women saved personal correspondence or kept diaries. As you read these, make a list of both familiar and unfamiliar names, noting any relationships you perceive.
- **Labels on photographs** could suggest unknown family members or old hometowns.
- **Scrapbooks** and **baby books** might contain newspaper clippings, lists of people who attended events, certificates or programs, and other clues to family origins
- **Bibles:** If you're lucky enough to have inherited a Bible, check inside to see if it includes any handwritten notes about the family.
- **Old recipe cards** can even help you make a connection to female relatives.

If you didn't inherit many keepsakes yourself, is there someone else who did? Now is the perfect time to talk to people who might know more about the family. Interview older relatives and see what they might be willing to share with you. Use what you learn as a starting point



for a deeper search. Just remember to check and verify family lore—whether written or oral—with other records.

2 CIVIL MARRIAGE RECORDS

No doubt one of the first things you'll look for is a legal record of your mystery female's marriage. Such a record could take several forms. And even if your ancestor's maiden name *wasn't* mentioned, a witness or other person named might be one of her relatives (i.e., someone who shares her last name).

Religious marriage records typically pre-date those kept by the civil government. Different localities began keeping those civil marriage records at different times—often at the town or county level before the state level. Some localities lost marriage records due to courthouse fires or other disasters.

Depending on the place and time of the event, you could find:

- A **marriage license**, which was issued by a civil court and signifies the couple's intent to marry. Older licenses name both parties and may also mention someone who certified they were of legal age or gave permission for a girl to marry. Could that person be the bride's father, brother, stepfather, or uncle? Modern licenses typically state the parents' names.
- A **marriage bond** also shows intention to marry, and was posted for the general public to see. Through the early 1800s, bonds often assured the groom's legal right to marry the bride. The bondsman who co-signed was usually a family member.
- A **marriage return** affirms that the union took place on a certain date. Returns typically name the bride, groom, officiant, and sometimes a witness.

Don't worry if no marriage records exist for the place and time you're researching—there are plenty of other options to explore. In cases where you don't know when or where the couple married, try to identify a range of potential years based on their ages and the birth of their first child. Work with other clues to figure out where at least one of them lived during that time period.

Learn more about these and other types of marriage records at <www.familytreemagazine.com/records/vital/marriage-records-checklist>.



You can usually solve maiden-name mysteries with a little legwork.

3 RELIGIOUS RECORDS

Various types of *church* records could also document a woman's maiden name. As with civil marriage records, you may find a parish or church register that lists when and where a wedding took place, or evidence of marriage banns that were publicly announced.

In addition, frontier ministers often kept personal journals of the marriages and baptisms they performed in their travels.

Some surviving journals of this type have been transcribed and published.

Baptism records of children, in general, are excellent sources for maiden name clues. Some state the mother's maiden name outright, while others name the child's sponsors or godparents. These were usually family members—perhaps the mother's parent, sibling, or aunt or uncle.

Where can you find church records? In many cases, they're still held by the church itself, or by a successive congregation. Older records might have been turned over to religious archives. Others have been indexed, published, microfilmed or digitized. While it may take some probing, the time you spend searching for church records could really pay off.

4 CHILDREN'S VITAL RECORDS

Children's birth records are one of the most reliable sources of mother's names. Most were created at or near the time of birth and reported by someone with first-hand knowledge of it. While some merely give the mother's first name, others specifically ask for her maiden name.

Like marriage records, birth and death records in the United States were usually kept first at the local level, and only later at the state level. Look for digitized records and indexes for your ancestor's locale or state. If you're working from an index, check to see how you can obtain a copy of the original record. Note that records created within the last 100 years or so may be restricted by privacy laws to only certain individuals.

Children's marriage records can be a similarly rich source of information, since they too provide first-hand accounts. Some directly ask for the mother's maiden name. Others may indicate where the bride and groom were born, offering a clue to where their parents could have married.

Seek birth and marriage records for *all* of a woman's children, including those she may have had by another husband. Doing whole-family research is crucial when trying to solve a tough genealogical problem, because you never know where a golden nugget might be hiding.

5 DEATH RECORDS

Until recently, relatively few death records asked for maiden name or the parents of a woman who was married or widowed. Certificates (and the indexes created from them) commonly do ask for this information. But even then, the answer is too often "unknown." Branching out beyond the woman herself, however, can be fruitful.



When looking for a widow, search for her husband's death record, as it will sometimes indicate her maiden name. Also look for the death records of all of her children, especially those of any who died young. Compare what these records say about the mother's name and birthplace.

Keep in mind that death-record informants may have had only second-hand knowledge of a person's life details. Even those who were confident about biographical information might have been too grief-stricken in the moment to be accurate, or even had reason to fib. Verify what you find with other sources.

6 CEMETERY SOURCES

Gravestones often indicate a birth date or year, but typically lack other details to help connect a woman to the family she was born into.

Burial records, however, could provide more information. Find out who or what municipality takes care of the cemetery, and inquire about any records they might have. These could give a maiden name, a place of birth, or even a father's name. Burial records of some cemeteries have been abstracted and published, while some others can be found in online indexes.

If possible, visit the cemetery in which your ancestor is buried in order to see who is buried near her. The arrangement of graves frequently suggests relationships that aren't apparent when viewing a single gravestone online. Because the last names are different, you might not realize a woman was buried near her parents or siblings until you see the stones together.

Take special note if she had a child who died young. More than one family mystery has been solved by finding a child buried with his or her (maternal) grandparents.

7 CENSUSES

Our ancestors typically found spouses within their own community, and newlyweds often took up residence close to home. Look at a couple's first census record and note the neighbors living nearby. Compare the neighbors' records to those of the previous census. Did any of them "lose" a daughter of marriageable age? If so, what was

Nicknames: Not a Given

Determining a woman's *first* name at birth can also be a challenge, given how diverse nicknames for women have been throughout history. Here are some historically popular given names for women in the United States, and common nicknames for each. Find this and other helpful tips and guides for researching the women in your family in the Female Ancestors Cheat Sheet <store.familytreemagazine.com/female-ancestors-cheat-sheet>.

Name	Common nicknames
Abigail	Abby, Gail, Nabby
Angela, Angelina	Angel, Angelica, Angie, Ann, Anna, Jane, Lina
Barbara	Babs, Barb, Barbie, Bobbie, Bonnie
Catherine, Cathleen, Kathryn, Kathleen, Katharine	Cathy, Karen, Katie, Kay, Kit, Kittie, Rhynie, Rina, Trina
Christine, Christina, Christiana, Kristine, Kristina	Chris, Christy, Crissy, Ina, Kit, Kissy, Kris, Krissy, Tina, Xina
Dorothy, Dorothea	Dora, Dot, Dottie, Dotha, Thea
Elaine, Eleanor, Leonora	Elena, Ella, Ellen, Elsie, Helen, Lana, Lainie, Nell, Nellie, Nora
Elizabeth	Bess, Bessie, Bet, Beth, Betsy, Betty, Bitsy, Eli, Eliza, Elsie, Ibbby, Libby, Lisa, Lish, Liz, Liza, Lizbet, Lizzie, Tess
Isabelle, Isabella	Bella, Belle, Cybilla, Ib, Issy, Izzy, Nib
Margaret, Margareta, Magdelene	Daisy, Greta, Madge, Magda, Maggie, Marge, Margie, Margo, Meg, Midge, Peg, Peggy
Martha	Marcy, Marty, Marta, Mattie, Pat, Patsy, Patty
Mary	Mamie, Mae, May, Mattie, Mimi, Molly, Polly
Sarah, Sara	Sally, Sadie
Susan, Susannah	Anna, Hannah, Nan, Nanny, Sue, Sukey, Susie, Suze
Theresa	Terrie, Tess, Tessie, Tessa, Thursa, Tracy

her name? Investigate the family to learn more about her.

Women often became caregivers of elderly parents or disabled siblings. If you find a census record showing an older man or woman living with your couple, he or she was likely a relative. This can be a good clue to a potential maiden name. Try to learn more about the person and how he or she was related.

Conversely, when a woman died young, her parents or siblings might have taken in one or more of her children, either temporarily or permanently. If you find a census record showing a child living with people you don't recognize, examine them closely. They could provide your missing link.

8 NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers can be a rich source of clues about a woman's identity. Among the things to look for:

- **Marriage announcements** generally give the bride's maiden name and often the names of her parents. Look for short notices in the 1800s, typically combined with other community news. Modern announcements may be longer and full of details.
- **Golden anniversary announcements** are a gem for long-married couples. They can reveal the parents and birthplaces of both the husband and wife, as well as their marriage date and place.
- **Social notices**, such as those noting visitors from out of town and trips taken to visit relatives, can help link a woman to her parents or siblings. These are common in small community newspapers.
- **Obituaries** or **death notices** may name a woman's parents or give her birthplace. Even if they don't, look for lists of surviving relatives or of those who attended the funeral. Investigate those names to see if some could be siblings.

➤ For more records that might name your female ancestors specifically, read <www.familytreemagazine.com/female-ancestors/best-records-female-ancestors> and (for less-typical resources) <www.familytreemagazine.com/female-ancestors/unusual-records-female-ancestors>.

- **Obituaries of relatives** are definitely worth seeking out, too. Look for obituaries of all of a woman's children, even those who moved far away. If you've found potential sisters or brothers, notices of their deaths could give you more material to work with.

9 PUBLISHED SOURCES

Old town and county histories contain information about early settlers and biographical sketches of select residents. You could find clues to a woman's maiden name or family origins in the sketch of her husband, son, son-in-law or grandson. Since you don't know what the original source of this information was, you'll want to confirm it with other records.

Published family histories that trace the descendants of a shared ancestor are another potential resource, as they often list maiden names of women who married into the family. Sources, however, are often lacking. As with town and county histories, you'll need to verify what you find.

Online family trees are both a blessing and a curse, and must be used with caution. It's easy (and unfortunately common) for erroneous material to be copied and spread among these trees. Look for the records and sources behind the "facts." Do these align with other materials you've found? Look, especially, for any evidence provided for parent-child relationships. Be wary of connections that are not backed by actual records. Do your own research and try to find evidence to either support or refute them.

10 COURT RECORDS

In the eyes of the law, a married woman was historically "feme covert"—covered by her husband. She couldn't conduct her own business or handle her own affairs. Nonetheless, you may find court documents that link her to her birth family in some way, such as:

- **Estate records** naming her and her husband as heirs to property are a strong sign of kinship. This could occur during the probating of her father's or widowed mother's will, estate inventory and appraisal, or probate settlement. Try to get all available estate

records, including the complete case file if it still exists.

- **Guardianship records** may have been created if a woman's husband died while their children were young. Guardianship was designed to protect the children's property against potential claims—including those of their mother's future husbands.
- **Divorce records** often summarize the details of the marriage, thus revealing the woman's maiden name.

11 DEEDS

If you haven't found a probate record naming your mystery woman, consider deed records. Sometimes when a father died, his land passed on to his heirs without a court settlement.

The heirs (usually siblings or children of deceased siblings) could each decide what to do with their share. Typically, the ones who had moved off the homestead sold their shares to the brother or sister remaining on the homestead, or all of them sold the property to a third party. This created a series of "quitclaim" deeds, in which the heirs gave up their shares.

Look for a quitclaim deed that names both the wife and her husband. Does the deed say whose property the land was? Who did the survivors sell it to? Search for other people who quitclaimed land to that person. Chances are good that they're all related, and by researching them, you may develop a picture of the whole family.

12 MILITARY PENSION RECORDS

Was your female ancestor married to a veteran of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, or Civil War? If so, did he receive a pension, or did she apply for one after his death?

Widows' pensions, in particular, can be chock-full of personal information. Among other things, you could learn the widow's maiden name, the date and place of her wedding, the birth dates of minor children, and details about the veteran's life and death.

Revolutionary War pensions are available online at FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>, Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com> and

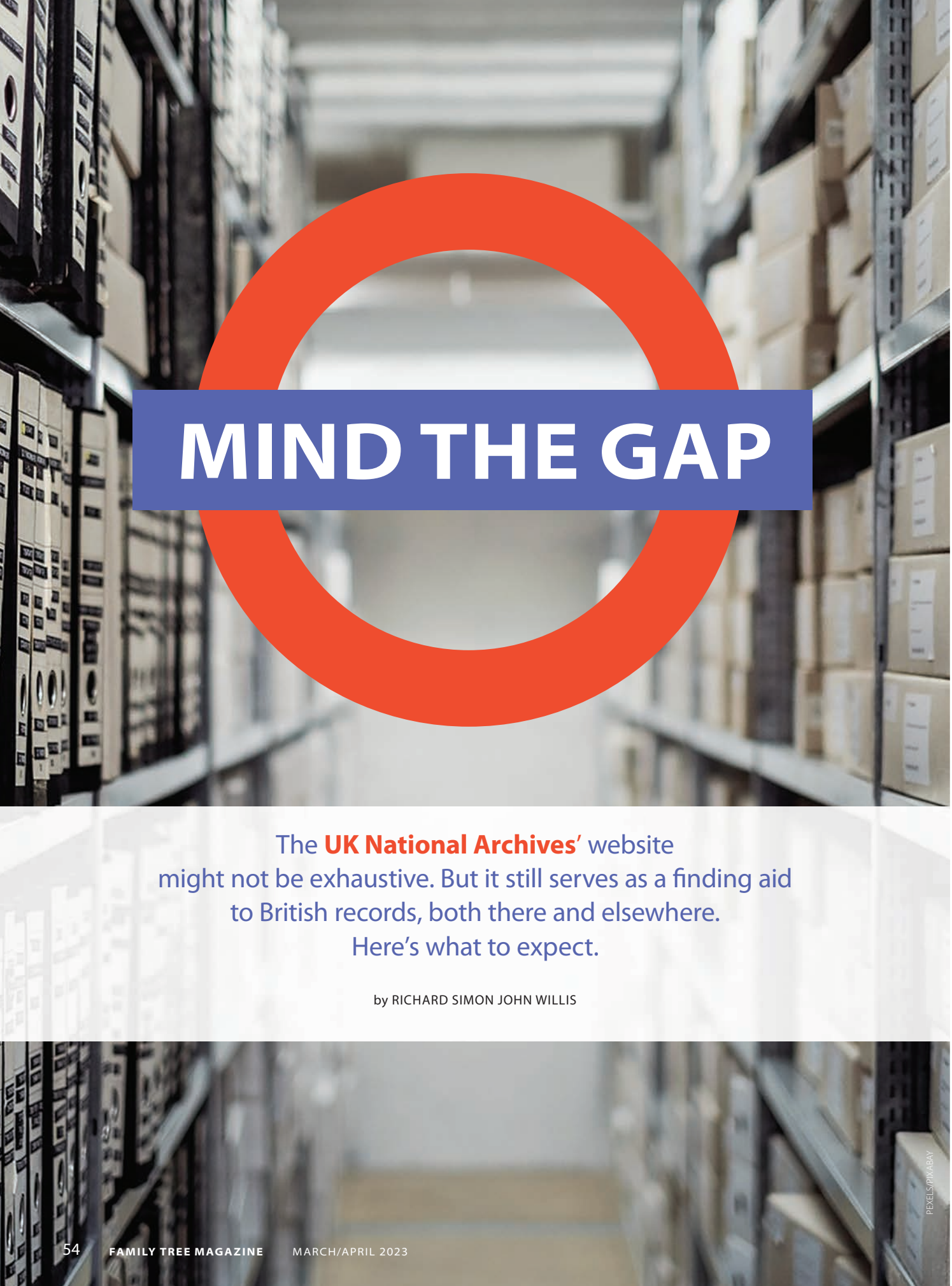
Fold3 <www.fold3.com>. Fold3 also holds free digitized pension records from the War of 1812, although the series is still incomplete as of writing. Ancestry.com and FamilySearch each have an index to War of 1812 pension files.

Find indexes to Civil War pensions at Ancestry.com and Fold3. Use that information to request the complete record file from the National Archives <www.archives.gov/forms>.

While it might not be the simplest task, uncovering a woman's maiden name is always an exciting discovery. Using all available resources and following clues wherever they lead will help you unlock the mystery of her origins. ●

Shelley K. Bishop is a professional genealogist with a passion for discovering and preserving the stories of ancestors. Learn more about her at <www.buckeyefamilytrees.com>.





MIND THE GAP

The **UK National Archives'** website might not be exhaustive. But it still serves as a finding aid to British records, both there and elsewhere. Here's what to expect.

by RICHARD SIMON JOHN WILLIS

The National Archives (TNA)

in London is just a stone's throw from the River Thames. TNA houses billions of records, some dating to 974 and including the will of "Bill" Shakespeare himself. And much is of potential value to the genealogist in the United States and beyond.

The number of digital records on TNA's site <www.nationalarchives.gov.uk> is growing, but still doesn't represent close to the archives' full holdings. Still, staff continue scanning images, hopefully saving you the time and expense of traveling to London in person.

A majority of the site's roughly 9 million online records relate to British subjects, but individuals from all over the world might find documentation of themselves or their ancestors among them. Researchers can access TNA's digital archive "across the pond" on the screen of a desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone. Some records were even "born digital": text derived from modern, word-processed documents, spreadsheets, digital presentation slides, and emails.

With the right know-how, you can join tens of thousands of researchers worldwide who have downloaded records from the TNA website at no charge. Here's how to navigate TNA's website and tap into the hundreds of years' worth of materials there.

First, register for a free account <secure.nationalarchives.gov.uk/Login/Register>. You'll need to provide an email address and password, but you can optionally add a name and your country. Click Register, then verify your email address and log in.

EXPLORING THE CATALOGUE

The TNA website can be daunting to a newcomer, but don't let that discourage you. Use the Discovery catalogue <discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>, a database of 32 million record descriptions, to discover a wealth of information.

From the Discovery page, you can search a keyword and enter a range of years. Specify which institution's records you want to search (all archives, just the National Archives, or just other archives), then enter a keyword.

Search results include collections that have the keyword in their title or description. For example, a search for *miners* brings up papers from the South Yorkshire Miners' Association



and minutes from National Union of Mineworkers meetings in Staffordshire.

Click a result to view the collection and some basic information, including if and where you can search the collection online. You can filter results by year or (critically, for the overseas researcher) by ability to download.

The Discovery Page also links to the site's 150-plus family history-related research guides. Each covers a subject of vital know-how for genealogists and other historians. The entry for the 1939 Register <www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/1939-register>, for example, discusses:

- what details are included in the Register's records, and who in the population was enumerated
- why the census was taken in the first place
- how the Register was compiled and arranged
- how to access records, including links to records on third-party sites (some of which may require subscriptions)

tip

The National Archives: A Practical Guide for Historians by Stella Colwell (The National Archives) is useful for beginners and experts alike. Published in 2006, the book is a little outdated, but still gives details of some of the records available online. For more up-to-date information, see TNA's online guides.

Entrance to the National Archives building in Kew

Across the UK

TNA primarily serves England and Wales, as well as the UK government. For records from Scotland and Northern Ireland (the other constituent countries of the United Kingdom), visit their respective archival websites:

- **National Records of Scotland** <www.nrscotland.gov.uk>
- **The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)** <www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/public-record-office-northern-ireland-proni>

The value of these TNA guides cannot be overstated. Some include forms for you to search the relevant collection, or even sample records. They might also recommend other publications for further reading.

You can browse guides by keyword, or view them all at <www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides>. Click the “Show only guides with all records online” box to filter out collections that can only be accessed in person.

Don’t overlook the guides on more-general history as well. Many include information on the social, political, economic and cultural context that was relevant to your ancestors. For example, the guide on divorce <www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/divorce> includes a brief history of divorce law, as well as different kinds of divorce settlements. Some guides also cover foreign or colonial history.

RECORD HIGHLIGHTS

Among TNA’s records are censuses, WWII British Army casualty lists, wills of Royal Navy and Marines personnel, WWI British Army nurses’ service records, and Household Cavalry service records.

You might reach a dead-end when researching US citizens who served in the British military (and associated occupations). But even those painstaking efforts can produce invaluable results. For example, TNA contains personnel files for Henrietta Mary Dufferin, a US citizen who was a member of the British Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) during World War I. Details include her age, birthplace, height, weight, address and vaccination record.

Though much of the site pertains specifically to British history, the TNA website also covers

several areas of US history given that the United States was once a British colony. Records of the American Revolution, for example, were produced by British government departments: the Colonial Office, the War Office, the Admiralty and the Treasury. Letters from these departments, for example, might cite individual people.

TNA’s guide to the American Revolution <www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/american-revolution> discusses these records and how to search them. Holdings include records created immediately before (1770–1773) and during (1775–1783) the Revolution, plus documents related to the British government’s relationship with the new United States (1783 and onward).

Try searching by names of battles or places, and learn some common department codes (for example, *CO* refers to Colonial Office records, and *WO* to War Office records).

Also note that not all Revolution records can be downloaded from TNA for free. Some are only available in person at the archives in Kew, and others will be available at the subscription site Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com>.

One example is a collection of petitions for compensation put forward by colonists loyal to the Crown. Some Loyalists joined the British army or set up their own guerrilla units, with New York alone enlisting about 23,000 Loyalist troops. Many records haven’t yet been digitized and are available only in-person at Kew; Ancestry.com has copies of records that have been digitized. (The TNA guide also suggests *A Bibliography of Loyalist Source Material in the United States, Canada and Great Britain* by Gregory Palmer, Meckler Publishing.)

FINDING AND DOWNLOADING RECORDS

Once you’re registered and have found a record you want to print off, the website allows you to order and download up to 10 items at a time. (The site caps downloads at 100 items over 30 days—a generous allowance when you consider the service is free.)

Let’s look at an example. TNA holds wills of certain US citizens, including that of John Lee of Boston (dated 30 November 1840). From that



For more on researching English and Welsh roots, visit <www.familytreemagazine.com/english-welsh-heritage>.

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LEARNING FROM PODCASTS AND VIDEOS

Complementing the array of documents available for access is a series of podcasts. TNA's podcast "On the Record" <media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/category/podcasts-2> shares true stories stemming from the archives' collections. Subjects range from fashion and nightlife in the 1920s to Victorian cats to medieval hospitals.

TNA also publishes educational videos <media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/category/video> that cover historical topics. Examples include a talk by TNA's Dr. Richard Dunley on American-British wartime partnerships, including US involvement in World War I.

...

TNA's online services, like those of so many archives around the world, provide researchers with a window into a vast amount of material. Even if they represent only a small percentage of the archives' total holdings, the digitized records otherwise could well lie beyond the reach of the family historian. That makes TNA an invaluable resource for examining the traces left by our forebears. ●

Richard Simon John Willis is a research professor at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom.

TNA's Discover home page, featuring a search form and links to research guides



USE WILDCARD CHARACTERS to broaden your search for records. Characters like the asterisk (*) and question mark (?) can stand in for one or more letters, allowing you to search for multiple spellings of a name at once. This is especially helpful when looking for hard-to-spell names or through digitized records that were handwritten and/or indexed by artificial intelligence. Some search engines also allow you to run “fuzzy” searches for results that phonetically sound like your search terms.

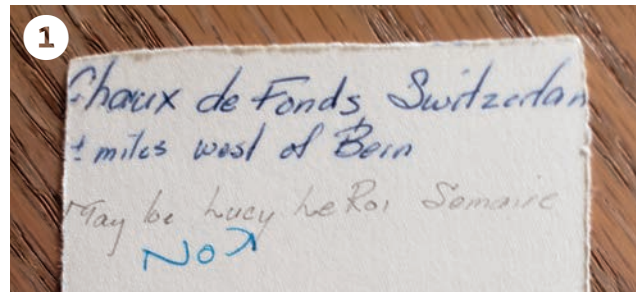
Searching newspapers, which we’ve discussed throughout the issue, can especially benefit from wildcard characters. Thinking more broadly about name spelling in searches was also the key to success for researcher Stephen Wendt (page 44) and Website Tutorial columnist Sunny Jane Morton (page 65). ●

Mistaken Identity?

Face comparisons cast a handwritten caption into doubt.



Front



Back

1 Karen Harrison received this reproduction of a photo around 1975, and the original is missing. The back of Karen's copy reads "Chaux du Fonds, Switzerland" and identifies the subject as Lucy LeRoy Simair/Somaire. Karen disagrees; she's identified Lucy in a different photo, and this woman isn't a visual match.

2 With braided hair and layered pleats on her skirt, this woman is the epitome of mid-1870s fashion. Heavy-looking clothing like this was common in that period, with lots of trim, a long bodice, and a ruffle at the neck. Stripes often appear on clothing in that decade, and a fan was popular accessory.

3 The rolled-back chair made its debut in the 1870s. Young women often leaned on it in photos to show off their bustles. The woman in this photo sits on her bustle instead; you can see a bit of fabric next to her.

4 Cabinet cards like this were the dominant format in the mid-1870s. They were usually 4.25x6.5 inches, but also available in larger sizes.

5 In the mid-1870s, Lucy (Lucie) would have been in her 20s. The timeline could overlap with her marriage to Jean Baptiste Theodore Simair, which Karen believes occurred between 1870 to 1874. Indeed, the clothing suggests the photo was taken for a special occasion. Another possibility is the subject is Theodore's *second* wife, Emma, who married him in 1890 and also would have been in her 20s at the time the photo was taken. Karen's cousin sent her two pictures of unidentified women who resemble this subject; searching for photos from other descendants could confirm an identity. ●



Maureen A. Taylor is the author of *Family Photo Detective* (Family Tree Books).

➤ Have a photo mystery you'd like Maureen to investigate? Email FamilyTree@YankeePub.com with your photo, any details you know about it, and *Photo Detective* in the subject line, and your question may be selected for a future issue.

US Censuses

Imagine someone showing up at your American ancestors' door every 10 years and taking a group photo of the household. You'd want all of those pictures, wouldn't you? They'd show a time-lapse biography of your family. You'd study each person's age progression, plus who appeared or disappeared (and when).

The US census is that decade-by-decade picture—albeit in words. Every decade, census-takers compiled a list of nearly all American households. As time went on, they gathered slightly different—but increasingly more—information. By the late 1800s, censuses could tell us who lived with whom and how they were related, how well they lived, what work they did, and sometimes when or where they were born, married and died.

Censuses are so data-rich that they're among the first places you should look for your family history—and you should keep coming back to them.

We'll show you what's in census records, how to find your ancestors' records, and how to extract every possible clue.

CENSUS RECORD COVERAGE

The US Constitution calls for a nationwide population tally every 10 years for congressional-representation purposes. The first was in 1790; the most recent was in 2020.

Census-takers were to visit each household. It might have taken weeks or months to visit everyone, but all information collected was supposed to reflect the household as it was on a specific date. The official census date is important when you're calculating household members' birth years based on the age in a census, or if someone was born or died around the time a census was taken.

Over time, standardized questions, forms and procedures developed. Enumerators received instructions about the direction to proceed around neighborhoods, the intent behind questions, and how to code a variety of answers. For some censuses, enumerators asked a set of supplemental questions of those in certain population segments, such as veterans or those with disabilities, to capture social, economic and public health information.

CLUES IN CENSUSES

Genealogists might cluster US censuses into three groups: the least informative (1790–1840), the fairly informative (1850–1870) and genealogical jackpot (1880–1950).



1790–1840

Early censuses provided precious few details, naming only head of household. Other residents were merely tallied by age group, gender, race, and free or slave status. Later censuses added tallies of aliens and workers (1820) the disabled (1830), and military pensioners and the illiterate (1840). The 1830 census was the first to be conducted on a pre-printed form.

1850–1870

Beginning in 1850, every free household member was named, and homes and families were numbered in order of visitation. Other details included age (given as a number, not a range); sex; color; place of birth; value of real estate owned; whether married or attended school in the past year; and whether illiterate, disabled, poor, or a convict. Males over age 16 were asked for occupation, and the 1860 census added a question about value of personal property.

The 1870 census, the first taken after the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, is the first to name the formerly enslaved. It also added more-detailed age, race and literacy descriptions, plus questions about whether parents were foreign-born and voter eligibility (including if the person experienced voter discrimination).

1880–1950

Beginning in 1880, the level of family history detail in the census rose to a new high. Home addresses, relationships to head of the household, marital statuses, occupations for all residents, birthplaces, and more put these among the richest existing sources for US genealogy.

Other questions, such as about native language ("mother tongue"), naturalization status, veteran status, parents' birthplaces and number of years in the United States, come and go over this time span. Later censuses ask about occupation, employment, schooling and number of children borne in varying degrees of detail. The 1900 census is notable for asking for both month and year of birth.

Note that some information in the 1940 and 1950 counts—both new to the census and questions that had been asked in previous enumerations—were relegated to only a subset of respondents.

ACCESSING AND USING CENSUSES

Original and microfilmed population schedules are at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), but most originals are closed to researchers. It's easier to find relatives by searching digitized, indexed versions of decennial censuses at major genealogy websites: Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com>, FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>, Findmypast <www.findmypast.com> and MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com>. Records are free to search at FamilySearch, but you may need a paid subscription to search certain censuses at the other three sites.

Per privacy laws, US censuses are restricted from public view for 72 years. As a result, the 1950 census is the most-recent available for research as of writing. The next, the 1960 census, will be released in April 2032.

Search Tips

Search first by the person's name. If needed, use the site's filters to narrow your search to a specific census and location (state, county or town). Restrict your results to just census records. (There's usually a filter called something like "restrict by record type.") Then broaden the location if you can't find the person.

Census-takers didn't ask people how to spell their names, so misspellings are common. In addition, indexers may have made errors when transcribing the names to create searchable indexes. To overcome these problems, try spelling variations, nicknames, different combinations of first and middle names and initials, and both maiden and married names for women. If the site allows it, you can leave out the name and search on other variables.

Still can't find someone? Browse the census in a probable location. You can do this on several genealogy websites. Beginning with the 1880 census, you may need to know the

enumeration district (ED) as well as the town or county to browse by location. (The city of Chicago alone had nearly 200 EDs in 1880.) One-Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse <stevemorse.org> offers several tools for finding EDs.

Your ancestor might simply not appear in a given census. At times, the census missed people. And almost all of 1890 census was destroyed in a fire; lost, too, were significant portions of the 1790 through 1810 censuses.

In such cases, look to census substitutes—records created around the same time with similar information. These include state censuses, tax records, school censuses, voter lists and other local enumerations. Consult state and local genealogical guides for availability.

Try to locate each relative in every census taken during that person's life. Begin with the most recent census in which someone should appear, and work back through time (then forward, to help verify the person's death date). You'll be able to track migrations and note slightly (or widely) different answers to similar questions over the years—even for categories you'd expect to be consistent, such as age. You might discover surprises and detours in relatives' lives.

Errors and Inconsistencies

Note that it's not uncommon to find someone whose age "changes" by more or less than the expected amount from one census to another (e.g., 22 in one census, then 30 in another). Before birth certificates and Social Security, many people didn't know or care exactly when they were born. Others misrepresented ages to enroll in the military or marry, and may have kept up the lie. Officials didn't have a way to double-check for accuracy.

Discrepancies may show up for other reasons. The census-taker's source of information may have been a child or neighbor. Language barriers and cultural prejudices could result in miscommunication and inaccurate write-ups. Mistrust of the government may have led to lies, particularly about income or naturalization status. Someone wishing to hide a former marriage or childbirth might not report these events. Consider which of these reasons might best apply in your ancestor's case and look for other records to confirm your suspicions.

SPECIAL CENSUSES

Some censuses included schedules for certain groups, such as veterans, the enslaved, the disabled, owners of farms or manufacturing businesses, and the recently dead.

These special "nonpopulation" censuses are available on microfilm and (often) on the same genealogy websites as population counts. (Ancestry.com has several.) Here are the most-prominent, and what you can expect to find in them:

Fast Facts

Coverage: Across the United States every 10 years beginning in 1790; records widely destroyed for 1890 and select locations from 1790 to 1810

Jurisdiction where kept: The U.S. Census Bureau, part of the federal government; records held by the National Archives and Records Administration

Key details: Vary by year, but generally: name, address, age/birth year, sex, relationship to head of household

Alternates and substitutes: State and local censuses, tax records and lists, voter registrations, city directories, Sanborn maps

At a Glance: 1900 US Census

7-224.

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

State Missouri Supervisor's District No. 147
 County Camden Enumeration District No. 8
 Township or other division of county Osage Township (East Part) Name of Institution, X
 Time of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, X Ward of city, _____

1 Enumerated by me on the 11 day of June, 1900, Sue L. Bruin 4

LOCATION.		NAME	RELATION.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.										NATIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.			
House Number.	Subdiv. of dwelling house, in the order of the number of families.			AGE AND SEX.	DATE OF BIRTH.	AGE AND SEX.	WEIGHT AND COMPLEXION.	NUMBER OF YEARS MARKED.	NUMBER OF YEARS MARKED.	NUMBER OF YEARS MARKED.	NUMBER OF YEARS MARKED.	NUMBER OF YEARS MARKED.	NUMBER OF YEARS MARKED.	Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of father of this person.	Place of birth of mother of this person.			Years of schooling in the United States.	Years of schooling in the United States.	Years of schooling in the United States.	Years of schooling in the United States.
		<u>Ava A.</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Nov. 1894</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>		<u>at school</u>	<u>4</u>				
		<u>Harry H.</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Sept. 1893</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>							
		<u>Green John</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>May 1860</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Illinois</u>	<u>Illinois</u>		<u>Pauper</u>		<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Patrick Chas.</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Apr. 1875</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Ohio</u>		<u>Pauper</u>		<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Thomas Joe</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>May 1851</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>			<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>		<u>Pauper</u>		<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>John</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Feb. 1871</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>		<u>Pauper</u>		<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Leahy John</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Sept. 1847</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Ill</u>	<u>Ill</u>		<u>Pauper</u>		<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Garrison Alfred</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>Feb. 1825</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>			<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>		<u>Farmer</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Margaret</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>Jan. 1828</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>			<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Ellis</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Sept. 1855</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Schultz Leason</u>	<u>Servant</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Nov. 1874</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Germany</u>	<u>Germany</u>	<u>Germany</u>	<u>1885</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Bl. Louis Casander</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>Sept. 1865</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>			<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Tennessee</u>	<u>Tennessee</u>		<u>Farmer</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Alfred G.</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>May 1855</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>		<u>Farmer</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Flova P.</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Jan. 1893</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Minors Geo. B.</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>March 1867</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>			<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Maryland</u>	<u>Maryland</u>		<u>Farmer</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Gertrude</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>March 1827</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>			<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Hester</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Feb. 1893</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Hellen</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Oct. 1894</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Wayne</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Dec. 1896</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Ruth</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>May 1897</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Hall James</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Oct. 1861</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>			<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Virginia</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>		<u>Farmer</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Edna</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>Feb. 1859</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>			<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Ohio</u>	<u>Ohio</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Thomas E.</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Oct. 1897</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>		<u>Farmer</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>May H.</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>April 1899</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>		<u>at school</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Maud</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>June 1891</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>		<u>at school</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Mary E.</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Feb. 1892</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>		<u>at school</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Robert L.</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Oct. 1894</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Imogene</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>March 1896</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>James B.</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>April 1898</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
		<u>Isabella</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Jan. 1899</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>					<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Missouri</u>				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	

Citation: Missouri, Camden, Osage. 1900 US census, population schedule.
 Digital image. Ancestry.com. <http://www.ancestry.com>; accessed 11 January 2023.

- Note the actual date the census was taken—June 11. The information recorded should reflect the official census date, June 1. But sometimes births or deaths occurring in the interim weren't accurately logged.
- Later censuses like this one collected a variety of data. This one requests birth month, year and place for household members, and birthplaces of their parents. Extract all the information (including what you already knew) onto a blank census form.
- Households are numbered in the order the census-taker visited them. Browse through a few pages for familiar names and neighborhood makeup, such as a dominant ethnicity and common occupations.
- The occupation column may include nonworking terms such as *at school* (for students), *pauper*, *pensioner* and *at home* (for homemakers). These clues may point you to school, poor relief, pension and other records.

Agricultural schedules (1850–1880): These list farm owners or managers, acreage, cash value, crops and other products, livestock number and value, and value of home-made goods. Schedules were also created in years outside of this range, but those records are no longer available.

DDD Supplemental Schedule (1880): If the 1880 population census designated any relatives as sick, disabled (either physically or mentally), impoverished, homeless or a prisoner, look for them in the Schedules of Defective, Dependent and Delinquent (DDD) Classes.

Manufacturer/Industry Schedules (1810–1820, 1850–1880): Records from 1810 are largely lost. Reports for 1820 and 1850 through 1880 exist for manufacturers producing at least \$500 annually in goods. These contain the name, business/product type, investment amount, values of raw materials and machinery, annual production, number of employees and labor costs.

Mortality Schedules (1850–1880, 1885): During each census, deaths from the previous June 1 to May 31 were logged with the deceased's gender, age, color, widow(er) status, birthplace, death month, occupation, cause of death



Read an extended version of this article (including a bonus sample record) at <www.familytreemagazine.com/records/census/us-census-genealogy-workbook>.

and length of illness. The 1870 and 1880 enumerations add more detail.

Social Statistics (1850–1880): These list no names, but they do list churches, cemeteries, fraternal organizations, clubs, schools, libraries, newspapers and other organizations in your ancestors' communities.

Slave Schedules (1850–1860): These censuses name enslavers, but generally identify the enslaved only by age, sex, color (Black or "mulatto") and whether a fugitive or manumitted. Use other sources to confirm a possible match for an enslaved ancestor.

Veterans Schedules (1840, 1890): The 1890 census listed Civil War Union veterans and their widows, plus some Confederate veterans. Schedules survive for half of Kentucky and the states alphabetically following it, plus Indian Territories and US ships and navy yards. ●

Sunny Jane Morton



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Searching Land Patents from the Bureau of Land Management

The **Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office website** <glorerecords.blm.gov> hosts over 5 million title records for US public-land sales. Through the 1862 Homestead Act, the federal government distributed 270 million acres of land across 30 states. About half of the recipient "homesteaders" successfully proved their claims, meaning they qualified to keep parcels of 160 acres each. Was your family part of this history? What records tell their stories?

Sunny Jane Morton

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PRIVATE CLAIMS

General Land Office Records

The Official Federal Land Records Site

Welcome to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation web site. We provide live access to Federal land conveyance records for the Public Land States, including image access to more than five million Federal land title records issued between 1788 and the present. We also have images of survey plats and field notes, land status records, and control document index records. Due to organization of documents in the GLO collection, this site *does not* currently contain every Federal title record issued for the Public Land States.

Subscribe to General Land Office Record of the Week [here](#).

1

Land Patents

Federal Land Patents offer researchers a source of information on the initial transfer of land titles from the Federal government to individuals. In addition to verifying title transfer, this information will allow the researcher to associate an individual (Patentee, Assignee, Warrantee, Widow, or Heir) with a specific location (Legal

1 The website offers several kinds of records, each worth investigating. But you'll likely want to start with a land patents search, especially if you have family who lived in one of the 30 public-land states during the distribution era.

From the Land Patents portal, you can enter a state and county name, plus the names of patent owners. If you already know about the land, you can also search by Land Description: township, range, section number, and so on.

Under Search Tips, you can access a glossary of some of the website's terminology, plus (through Patent Search Overview) tips for using wildcard characters when you don't know an exact spelling. You can also change your search to find different kinds of documents using the options at left.

1

Search Documents

Search Documents By Type | Search Documents By Location | Search Documents By Identifier

Patents

Search

Location
State: ALABAMA
County: Any County

Names
Last Name:
First Name:
Middle Name:
☒ search patents ☒ search warrants

Land Description
Township: /
Range: /
Meridian: Any Meridian
Section: /

Search Patents

To search for land patents:
1. Start by selecting the State.
2. You do not have to fill in all fields, but provide at least one additional field.
3. Click the Search Patents button.

Search Tips:
• Hover your mouse over a field to get a brief description.
• Get detailed information by checking the [Glossary](#) in the Reference Center.
• For more tips and help, check out our [Patent Search Overview](#).

Miscellaneous
Land Office: Any Land Office
Document #:
Indian Allot #:
Survey #:
Issue Date: to
Millia:
Tribe: Any Tribe
Geo. Name/ Mining Claim:
Authority: Any Authority

Note: This site does not cover every state, but we do have [resource links](#) for most states.

2

Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	1234142	WOODWARD, BOYD W. McCLELLAN, SCOTT	11/13/1963	09454	ID	Boise	008S - 022E	Lot/Trct 3	31	Minidoka
							008S - 022E	Lot/Trct 4	31	Minidoka
							008S - 022E	E½SW¼	31	Minidoka
	1114564	McCLELLAN, WILLIAM	9/16/1942	044790	ID	Boise	006S - 038E	Lot/Trct 1	23	Caribou
							006S - 038E	Lot/Trct 2	23	Caribou
							006S - 038E	Lot/Trct 4	24	Caribou
	390510	McCLELLAN, WASHINGTON	3/7/1914	07038	ID	Boise	007S - 039E	SW¼SW¼	32	Caribou
	ID0480_145	McCLELLAN, WASHINGTON	12/15/1902	3567	ID	Boise	009S - 038E	SE¼NE¼	30	Bannock

2 For now, start with a surname search. My ancestor Washington McClelland lived in “Nowhere,” Idaho, during this time period, so I’m going to look for him. He has an unusual surname, so a simple search with his surname and the state will hopefully do.

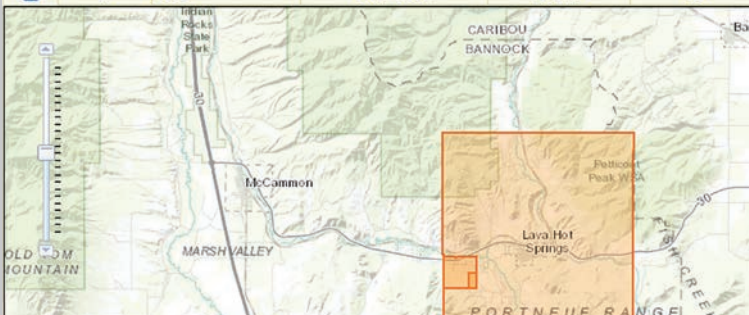
Unfortunately, the search system isn’t flexible, and a Washington McClelland didn’t show up in my results. I tried a spelling variant that I know he used later in life—*McClellan*—and was able to find claims from both him and his daughter. (Searching by surname is also helpful to find multiple members of the same family.)

I see two different claims from two different counties, one from 1902 and from 1914. I could go directly to the patent image (the yellow paper icon), but I want to see the full information first. Click the link in the second column to do so.

3

Land Descriptions

Map	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section
☐	ID	Boise	009S - 038E	SE¼NE¼	30
☒	ID	Boise	009S - 038E	E½SE¼	30



3 The Patent Details page has lots of information extracted from the patent, plus (critically) a map. Select the checkbox under Land Descriptions > Map to auto-zoom to the land parcel in question. Washington has two parcels listed; I’ve only mapped one here.

According to the map and the Township-Range, Aliquots, and Section values in the table, Washington owned the east half of the southeast quarter of section 30 in this township. (Again: Consult the GLO website’s glossary to learn what these terms mean.) This is indicated by the innermost highlighted area on the map.

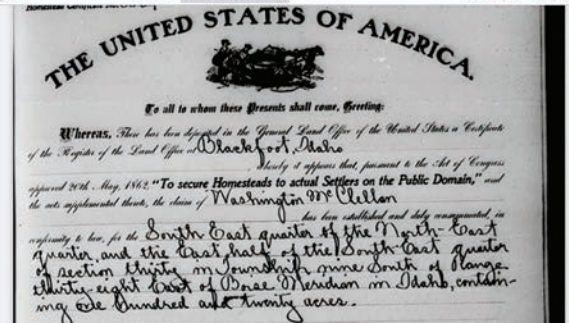
You can also use mapping software to visualize the land. I’ve taken simple screenshots from the GLO website and placed them next to each other on a third-party map to see where family members’ claims were in relation to each other.

4

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Whereas, There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Blackfoot, Idaho, dated May 1902, "To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemented thereto, the choice of Washington McClellan

has been established and duly recognized in conformity to law, for the South East quarter of the North East quarter, and the East half of the South East quarter of section thirty in Township nine South of Range thirty-eight West of Bore Meridian in Idaho, containing one hundred and twenty acres.



4 As previously stated, you can also view a digitized image of the original patent directly on the site. In addition to Washington’s name, the patent spells out what two parcels of land he acquired: the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter, and the east half of the southeast quarter (which we mapped in step 3). Both parcels are in section 30 in township 9, south of range 38. The meridian was Boise.

You can download or print a copy of the patent. (Unless you have a specific legal need, you do not have to buy a certified copy.) There’s also a section for Related Documents, where you can see nearby land claims—some of whom could be owned by relatives. ●

Preserving Coins and Paper Money



JULIE BARNETT

1 Avoid environmental hazards.

Humidity, sea air, pollution and tobacco smoke can seep into albums on open shelves, damaging their contents. Store valuable collections away from such hazards in a place with consistent temperature and humidity. In most homes, an interior closet or cabinet is a good choice. Avoid keeping items in a basement, attic, garage or unheated shed.

2 Keep collections together.

Sets of proof coins (which are struck twice to create a highly polished coin) and uncirculated coins sold by the U.S. Mint (which are usually mass-produced and not as vibrant) are ever-popular gifts for new babies, recent graduates, and honorees of milestone events. Keep sets together in their original protective folders, and never remove coins to handle like pocket change.



Denise May Levenick counts her pennies in her family archive in Pasadena, Calif. She is the author of *How to Archive Family Keepsakes and How to Archive Family Photos* (Family Tree Books).



3 Use the right materials.

Place loose coins in archival plastic cases or paper-and-plastic “flips” that completely encase the coin. Then place the cases in collection boxes. You can find flips and boxes at suppliers such as Littleton Coin Company <www.littletoncoin.com/shop> and Gaylord Archival <www.gaylord.com>. Modern paper money, printed on high-quality rag paper, is inherently stable, but should be preserved like any other value paper artifact (perhaps in mylar sleeves). For both coins and paper money, avoid polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic sleeves and albums, which can speed up deterioration.

4 Use coins as a gateway.

Foreign coins, themed or commemorative coins, or a classic collection folder are great ways to introduce history and preservation best practices to children. In addition to gifting classics like the Whitman Lincoln Cents Album or National Park Quarters Album, you could collect notes or coins from each of your family’s ancestral homelands, or notes dated from the lifetime of an ancestor. The U.S. Mint has a dedicated website for school-age children, including games and videos <www.usmint.gov/learn/kids/collectors-corner>.

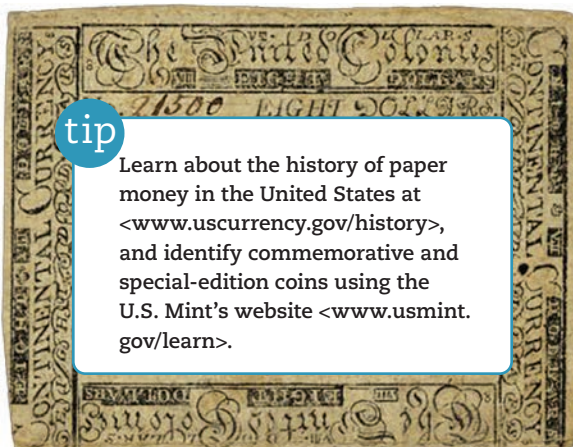
5 Don’t clean collectible coins.

The American Numismatic Association <www.money.org> recommends leaving any dirt on coins, as cleaning is irreversible and could devalue the coin. But if you *really* want to clean old coins, practice with a handful of pennies. (After checking for rare coins, of course!) Distilled water is the least-damaging of any cleaning solution. Handle coins by the edges, and rinse the surface with distilled water mixed with mild dishwashing detergent. Rinse with distilled water and air dry.



6 Learn the lingo.

“Numismatics” is the study of collecting coins and paper money. Other key terms to know include “obverse” (the “front” side of a coin) and “reverse” (the “back” side). Study other terms—such as “relief”—at <www.usmint.gov/learn/collecting-basics/anatomy-of-a-coin>. ●



tip

Learn about the history of paper money in the United States at <www.uscurrency.gov/history>, and identify commemorative and special-edition coins using the U.S. Mint's website <www.usmint.gov/learn>.

Q I've inherited a tote of old loose family pictures that have a terrible smell. How do I remove the smell without damaging the pictures?

A According to the experts at the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services <www.ala.org/alcts>, start by placing the loose photos in zip-lock bags and tucking them into the freezer. (Photo albums can be wrapped in wax paper before freezing.) If mold is the culprit, this will stop any active mold growth and buy time for you to clean and repair the photos.

Next, remove one batch at a time, unbag, and defrost. If you suspect mold, inspect each batch outdoors while wearing gloves and an N95 mask (so familiar to the general public now, from the COVID-19 pandemic). Use a damp cotton ball or cotton swab to gently clean any suspect areas.

To tackle lingering smells (whether due to mold or other causes), place photos in a small lid-less bin inside a larger bin that has a lid. Spread baking soda, activated charcoal or fragrance-free odor absorbers in the larger bin, close the lid, and wait a month or so. (Note: The baking soda, charcoal, etc., will not directly touch the photos.) Repeat as necessary.



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Library preservation experts also recommend MicroChamber interleaving paper <www.microchamberpaper.com>. Place these sheets in-between photos in a stack or between every two or three album pages. Again, repeat until photos are stink-free.

If all else fails, scan the photos (including the backs, if information is written there) and relegate the originals to a tightly closed box out of smelling range.

Q I'm searching for my lost great-uncle, born in the 1890s. I filed an SSA-711 but was informed that there is no Social Security file for him. Why would someone not be registered with the Social Security Administration?

A Unlike today, when most Americans are assigned a Social Security number (SSN) at birth, the Social Security system didn't immediately include everyone who was eligible when it was first launched in the 1930s.

Congress passed the Social Security Act in the summer of 1935, and officials had to scramble to identify workers and their employers from scratch. Even the formula for SSNs had to be developed. The nine-digit system we know today was reached only after officials realized applicants could lie about their age on applications, thus affecting their assigned number.

In just the first two years of registration, 37 million SSNs were issued. Those early SS-5 registration forms include:

- name
- address
- age
- birthdate and place
- name and address of employer
- sex
- color (race)

Later applications required supporting documentation.

Even after the initial enrollment sprint, however, not every American worker was included. The original act excluded categories of employment that together represented some 40 percent of the working population: agricultural workers; domestic servants; casual laborers; government employees; employees of philanthropic, educational and similar institutions; the self-employed; and more. Individuals age 65 and older were also excluded. As SSNs increasingly became used for administrative purposes (such as in state unemployment offices), more and more people who applied could be assigned an SSN.

In short: Your relative had to actively apply for an SSN, so it's certainly possible he never filed an SS-5. He may have fallen into one of the categories of workers who were initially excluded, or perhaps he died before SSNs became more universal. ●



David A. Fryxell is a contributing editor of Family Tree Magazine and the author of *The Family Tree Guide to Scandinavian Genealogy* (Family Tree Books) and *MicroHistory* (Continental Divide Publishing).



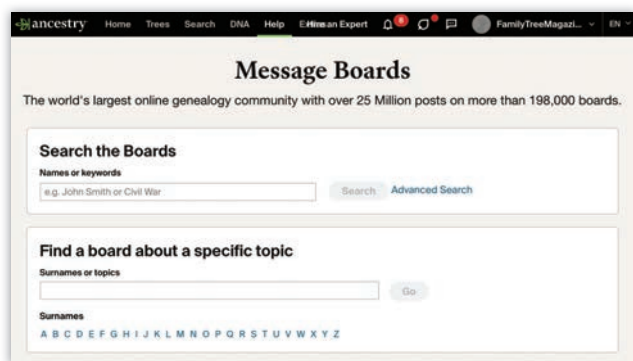
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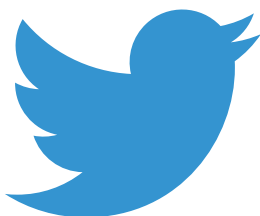


Places to Connect with Genealogists

Family Tree Magazine is on many of the platforms below. See page 5 for account information.



Instagram



1 Ancestry.com Message Boards

<www.ancestry.com/boards>

Search among 25 million posts from nearly 200,000 different boards, each of which may have many discussion threads. The boards were most active in the early 2000s, but still thrive in certain pockets. Even inactive threads may hold valuable clues to further your research. See <www.dataminingdna.com/ancestry-message-boards> for more tips.

2 Facebook

<www.facebook.com>

More than 16,000 genealogy-friendly Facebook groups and pages have been catalogued by Katherine R. Willson; her directory is now maintained at <www.cyndislist.com/facebook>. Look for groups that share interest in your ancestral places, languages and cultures. Post old photos; get help reading or translating an old document; ask about local landmarks; and more.

3 Instagram

<www.instagram.com>

Two billion people share their pictures and short videos here. Post old family photos, food traditions and snapshots of ancestral places. (Add hashtags like #indianahistory, #jewishfood or #heritagetravel so others can find your content.) Follow your other favorite genealogy and DNA experts for tips on #familyhistory.

4 Pinterest

<www.pinterest.com>

Get inspired by other people's creative ideas and historical imagery. Curate boards (collections) of old pictures and ideas for heritage displays, heirloom crafts and other genealogy-related topics. Explore vintage fashions and décor, military memorabilia and family recipes.

5 Twitter

<www.twitter.com>

Follow tweets (short posts) from your favorite authors, historians, subject-matter experts, repositories and fellow genealogists. Learn about new sources, repositories, and genealogy news. Join live weekly #AncestryHour conversations (Tuesday evenings), and search for #genealogy and #familyhistory to find interesting tweets—and people to follow. Some genealogists formerly on Twitter are migrating to Mastodon <www.joinmastodon.org>. ●



Read *Family Tree's* list of social media accounts to follow at <www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/best-social-media-for-genealogy>.

Testing at Multiple Companies

Q Why would I DNA test at multiple companies?

A There are five major testing companies that offer some genealogy component to their results and at least attempt to connect you with identified DNA matches: 23andMe <www.23andme.com>, AncestryDNA <www.ancestry.com/dna>, Family Tree DNA <www.familytreedna.com>, Living DNA <www.livingdna.com>, and MyHeritage DNA <www.myheritage.com/dna>. Testing your DNA through multiple of these companies has become more affordable. Whether that is necessary relies on two factors: your goals and your budget.

Let's start with the latter, as it is the more obvious. There's some value in physically testing at each company—it ensures your actual, physical DNA sample is “banked” in multiple laboratories. But to get the biggest return on your DNA-dollar investment, you can also *transfer* your DNA between companies (i.e., download a digital file of your DNA results from one company and upload them to another).

You can download your raw DNA results from all five companies. But only three allow uploads from other services: Family Tree DNA, Living DNA and MyHeritage DNA. Those three allow you to upload your results and access DNA matches for free, though you may have to pay a one-time fee to access other tools.

However, you *cannot* transfer results into AncestryDNA or 23andMe. To access those databases, you'll need to pay for each of those tests.

This means the most cost-efficient strategy is to test at AncestryDNA and 23andMe, then transfer your results to Family Tree DNA, Living DNA and MyHeritage DNA. By doing so, you can essentially get five DNA match lists for the price of two tests—not bad.

Logistics aside, though, the bigger question is about your goals. Do you *need* all those databases? You'll want to consider another two factors: ethnicity estimates and possible DNA relatives.

Every database has a different “take” on ethnicities—different reference populations (i.e., the people the company compares your DNA against) as well as different algorithms. Because of this, you'll have slightly different ethnicity results at each company. And getting estimates from multiple companies can help you “double-check” your



results, comparing them to look for consistencies (which are more likely to be accurate) and any outliers (which are more likely to be inaccurate).

Each company also has a different composition of test takers in its database, with some having thousands more than others. This means each has a different pool of potential DNA matches for you: some large, some small, some hyper-focused in one country, and others international.

In truth, the exact DNA matches you need may already be at a company you've tested with. So instead of testing at more companies (and becoming overwhelmed with multiple websites and systems) you may be better off diving into your existing match lists first. Then, if you exhaust matches at one company, you can move on to another. ●

Diahan Southard

GET ORGANIZED

Newspaper Article Transcription Form

Record articles that mention your ancestor.

Article title _____

Publication title _____

Issue date / / Page Number(s)
DD MM YYYY

Source information _____

Image available? ☐ Y ☐ N

Transcript

[illegible]

In each issue, **Your Turn** offers a form that'll help you preserve your family's unique stories and organize your research. Tear out and use the form or make a photocopy.

4 Things You'll Find in Old Newspapers

1 BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH DETAILS
Especially from the late-19th to mid-20th century, look for obituaries of the deceased. (Before and after that, mostly prominent citizens were honored this way.) Papers also might carry regular lists of deaths, probate cases, marriage licenses issued, and births.

2 SEEMINGLY MUNDANE HAPPENINGS
Especially in small towns, newspapers covered everyday events you won't find in today's news: birthday parties and social club meetings (often with names of attendees), out-of-town visitors, residents' minor illnesses and injuries, and more. In addition to names, search for employers, clubs, churches and street addresses.

3 DETAILS ON FAMILY STORIES
Turn to newspapers when you can't document an ancestral event or you suspect your ancestor was involved in a newsworthy occurrence (such as a crime or local celebration).

4 NATIONAL AND LOCAL NEWS
Read up on events that affected your ancestors' lives, such as epidemics, droughts and the raising of local military units.



COURTESY NEWSPAPERS.COM

WHAT IS A NEWSPAPER?

The US Newspaper Program, a nationwide effort to preserve newspapers on microfilm beginning in the 1980s, defined a newspaper as:

- a primary source of written information on current events connected with public affairs
- intended for the general public
- formatted in a specific way (masthead but no cover, no less than three columns per page, etc.)
- serial (published at regular intervals, whether daily, weekly, monthly, etc.)

CITING NEWSPAPER SOURCES

Format	Full Source Citation
Authored newspaper article, digitized online	Western Newspaper Union News Service, "Four Persons Killed: Train Hits Auto at Scene of Many Fatalities," <i>Akron Weekly Pioneer Press</i> , 12 November 1915, p. 1, col. 1; digital images, <i>Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection</i> (http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org : accessed 3 November 2013).
Newspaper obituary from Chronicling America website	"Obituary of Wm. M. Brownlee," <i>The Abingdon Virginian</i> , 13 November 1863, p. 3, col. 3; digital images, <i>Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers</i> , Library of Congress (http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov : accessed 16 July 2013).
Newspaper article from microfilm	"Assyrians Are Held," <i>Daily Texarkanian</i> , 22 May 1913, p. 2; microfilm image.
Newspaper clipping	"Bellevue, Ky.," <i>The Cincinnati Enquirer</i> , Cincinnati, Ohio, 29 September 1916, p. 10, col. 8.

NEWSPAPER RESEARCH TIPS

1 LOOK FOR REPRINTS.

An old adage in the news business says, “There are no new stories, only new reporters writing about them.” Different articles may discuss the same events or concepts, sometimes with new details.

Some may even look like cut-and-paste repeats of earlier articles, and details in these pieces may have evolved over time. Keep this in mind as you make your way through newspapers, and keep track of conflicting information that appears across issues or publications.

2 LEARN SOME LATIN.

When referring to when events occurred, old newspaper articles often use the abbreviations *ult.* (for the Latin *ultimo*, meaning the previous year, month or week) and *inst.* (for *instant*, meaning the current time period).

3 REMEMBER TO FACT-CHECK.

Though obituaries and other coverage related to deaths can help your research in a number of ways, they sometimes include incorrect information. They also may omit data considered embarrassing to the deceased or the survivors. Use obituaries in conjunction with other genealogical records (including obituaries in other publications) to ensure the document is accurate.

4 FIND PATTERNS.

When browsing old newspapers, look for consistent formats. For example, marriages notices may always be on page 2 and society news on the last page. This will help you tune out irrelevant information and more quickly find what you need.

5 PARDON TYPOS.

In the 19th and early 20th century, typographical errors were difficult to correct because the “hot type” process meant either creating a new piece of leaden type or “chipping off” part of the existing lead. Typos in the 21st century may come more from lack of copy editors and a rush to produce the news—modern newspapers have no mechanical excuse.

6 SEARCH FOR ALTERNATE VERSIONS.

Changes and corrections made to different editions of the same day’s newspaper may not have been microfilmed (and therefore may also remain undigitized). Keep this in mind if you notice an error in an old newspaper.

American Newspaper History

1690s The first known newspapers are published in the modern United States.

1730s German immigrants begin publishing in their native language in Philadelphia, the first known non-English publications in the United States.

1800s Newspapers become the preferred medium for news amongst most Americans, beginning a “golden age” for newspapers.

Benjamin Franklin became publisher of *The Pennsylvania Gazette* in 1729.

1830s Newspaper publication soars; many titles target specific groups such as immigrants, workers or abolitionists.

1840s Newspapers begin using wire services such as the Associated Press, which allow stories to more quickly disseminate.

1920s Radio broadcasting enters the mainstream, initially threatening newspapers.

1950s Television begins to compete for advertising revenue and shift the way people consume their news.

1970s Widespread inflation leads the cost of newspapers to skyrocket.

2000s Print newspapers struggle in the internet age, with many publications shutting down or moving to digital-first (or digital-only) models.

FINDING ONLINE NEWSPAPERS

Searching Newspapers.com

Newspapers.com <www.newspapers.com>, a subsidiary of Ancestry.com, contains more than 800 million pages from 25,000 newspaper titles. Access to more-recent papers may require an additional Publisher Extra subscription.

1 Enter your search terms. Search either from the main page or by clicking the Search tab on the main tool-bar. Adding a place of publication helps target your results.

2 Review your results. Use filters to narrow your search by place, year range and newspaper. This lets you cut through to the most-relevant results.

3 Select a paper. Results show you a preview of your keyword in a newspaper, plus the name of the publication, its location, and the date of the issue and page number where it appears. Click to see the full digitized page.

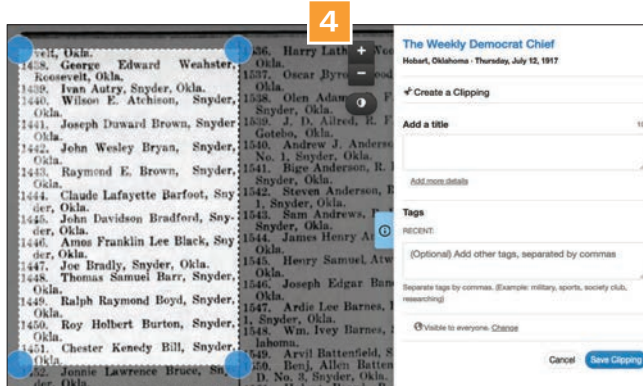
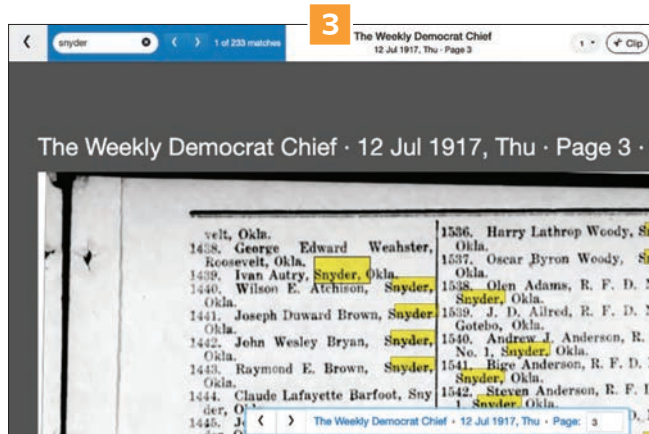
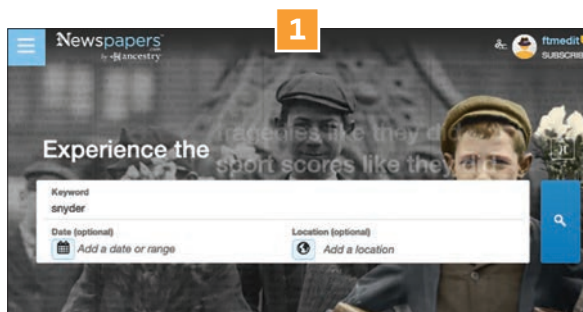
4 Save the article. Click the Print/Download button to save the page (either whole or just a portion of) as a JPG or PDF, or print. Use the Clip icon to create a snippet of the article that's saved to your account; by default, clippings are also visible to other users. You can also click Save to Ancestry to attach the article your Ancestry.com family tree, or Share to send the article to someone via email or post a link to social media.

OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION SEARCH PROBLEMS

Optical character recognition (OCR) technology translates newspaper page images to text. This allows you to search for any word in a digitized newspaper. But poor-quality images, ink splotches, and damaged or faded pages can cause OCR to “misread” the paper—so your searches may not work. Here’s how to outsmart OCR:

- **Be flexible.** Try another family member’s name or a street address. Shorten your search string: *Seeger cigar* instead of *H.A. Seeger Cigar Manufacturer*.
- **Use wildcard characters** if the site allows it. *Ladenk** finds *Ladenkotter* and *Ladenkutler*; *Seeg?r* finds *Seegur*, *Seegar* and *Seeger*.
- **Allow for hyphenation.** OCR may not pick up words that are hyphenated, especially on separate lines. Try searching with broken words: *Charles Smith field* or *386 Broad way*.
- **Search for variant spellings**, keeping in mind these common OCR character mixups:

B and H	S and 5	i, l, 1, /, ! and I
B and R	Z and 2	o, O and 0 (zero)
B and 8	Fb and h	n and ri
D and G	c, e and o	r and n
D and O	cl and d	rn and m
G and 6	h and k	v and y
S and 8	h and n	



Searching GenealogyBank

GenealogyBank <www.genealogybank.com>, a subsidiary of NewsBank, contains more than 15,000 titles from all US states. The site also has historical books and documents, plus the Social Security Death Index.

1 Enter your search terms. Use the name fields to search articles. Also try names and other terms in the keyword field. To limit your search to location, use the State and/or City fields. You can also search specific newspapers from this screen.

1

FIRST NAME: Snyder
LAST NAME: Hiram

☐ Exact Name Search

DATE RANGE OR DATE: mm/dd/yyyy TO mm/dd/yyyy
☐ Use a specific date

KEYWORDS: Include these keywords: Exclude these keywords:

STATE: All States

CITY: All Cities

NEWSPAPER: All Newspapers

COLLECTIONS: All Collections

Search

2 Review results. By default, results are sorted by relevance. You'll see the article's headline, plus the date, location and publication name. Click the headline or image preview to see the full article.

3 View and save the article. GenealogyBank isolates the article, and highlights your search term in it. (You can toggle off the latter.) Using icons at top-right, you can save the article to your My Folder, create a clipping of the article, or print/save the article to your device.

2

1,775 Newspaper Archives 11 Obituaries 0 U.S. Federal Census 5 Social Security Death Index 64 Government Publications 0 Historical Books

Snyder x Hiram x Save/Alert v

Results 1 - 15 of 1,775 SORT BY: Relevance

Did you find these results helpful? Mostly Some Not Really

1. He Was Unreliable. Why the Minister Looked With Suspicion Upon Hiram Snyder
Date: July 10, 1899
Location: Jackson, Michigan
Newspaper: Jackson Citizen Patriot

2. Mortuary Notice
Date: April 9, 1911
Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Newspaper: Philadelphia Inquirer

3

GENEALOGY BANK

← Back to Results Result 1 of 1,775 Next >

He Was Unreliable. Why the Minister Looked With Suspicion Upon Hiram SnyderMore
JACKSON DAILY CITIZEN. | Monday, Jul 10, 1899 | Jackson, MI | Page:8

1 of 7 matches < > Hiram;Snyder Find

Highlighting ON OFF

HE WAS UNRELIABLE.

Why the Minister Looked With Suspicion Upon Hiram Snyder

The author of "Little Journeys to the Homes of American Statesmen" tells a story of the civil war, when the days dragged gloomily in anticipation of news from the front and when grief was likely to overtake any who had boys in the ranks. He says:

One night the postmaster was reading aloud the names of the killed at Gettysburg, and he ran down to the name of a youth we knew. The boy's father sat there on a nail keg, chewing a straw. The postmaster, for his sake, tried to shuffle over the name and hurry on to

ROUNDUP: DIGITIZED NEWSPAPER WEBSITES

- **Accessible Archives** (at institutions only)
<www.accessible-archives.com>
- **Ancestry.com** \$ <www.ancestry.com/search/categories/np_newspapers>
- **BC Historical Newspapers**
<open.library.ubc.ca/collections/bcnewspapers>
- **British Newspaper Archive** \$
<www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>
- **California Digital Newspaper Collection** <cdnc.ucr.edu>
- **Chronicling America** <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>
- **Elephind.com** <www.elephind.com>



ISTOCK/NEWYORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

- **Findmypast** \$ <www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/world-records/newspaper-archives>
- **Fold3** \$ <www.fold3.com>
- **GenealogyBank** \$ <www.genealogybank.com>
- **Google News Archive** <news.google.com/newspapers>
- **Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection** <idnc.library.illinois.edu>
- **Legacy.com** <www.legacy.com> (digitized obituaries)
- **MyHeritage** \$ <www.myheritage.com/research/category-8000/newspapers>
- **NewspaperArchive** \$ <newspaperarchive.com>
- **Newspapers.com** \$ <www.newspapers.com>
- **New York Times Article Archive** \$ <help.nytimes.com/hc/en-us/articles/115014772767-Archives>
- **NYS Historic Newspapers** <www.nyshistoricnewspapers.org>
- **Obitsarchive.com** \$ <www.obitsarchive.com>
- **Old Fulton NY Postcards** <www.fultonhistory.com>
- **The Portal to Texas History** <texashistory.unt.edu>
- **ProQuest Historical Newspapers** (at institutions only)
<www.proquest.com/products-services/pq-hist-news.html#accordionOne>
- **SmallTownPapers** <www.smalltownpapers.com>
- **Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection** <www.wyomingnewspapers.org>

RESOURCES

Websites

The Ancestor Hunt <www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>

CanGenealogy <cangenealogy.com/newspapers.html>

Cyndi's List: Newspapers <www.cyndislist.com/newspapers>

FamilySearch Research Wiki: United States Newspapers
<www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Newspapers>

Online Historical Newspapers
<sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite>

Books

African-American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography by James P. Danky, editor, and Maureen E. Hady, associate editor (Harvard University Press)

American Newspapers, 1821–1936, A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada by Winifred Gregory (H.W. Wilson Co.)

Chronological Tables of American Newspapers, 1690–1820 by the American Antiquarian Society

The Family Tree Historical Newspapers Guide: How to Find Your Ancestors in Archived Newspapers by James M. Beidler (Family Tree Books)

Finding and Using African American Newspapers by Timothy N. Pinnick (Gregath Publishing Company)

The German Language Press of the Americas, 3 volumes, by Karl J.R. Arndt and Mary E. Olsen (Verlag Dokumentation)

Guide to Collections Care: Paper, Photographs, Textiles & Books by Gaylord (Gaylord Brothers)

History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690–1820 by Clarence S. Brigham (reprinted, Greenwood Press)

Newspaper Indexes: A Location and Subject Guide for Researchers, 3 volumes, by Anita Cheek Milner (Scarecrow Press)

Searching for Your Ancestors in Historic Newspapers by Claudia C. Breland (self-published)

Trade Union Publications: The Official Journals, Convention Proceedings, and Constitutions of International Unions and Federations, 1850–1941 by Lloyd G. Reynolds and Charles C. Killingsworth (Johns Hopkins Press)

FINDING OFFLINE NEWSPAPERS

Chronicling America

The Library of Congress' Chronicling America website <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> hosts a large, searchable collection of digitized newspapers. But another important feature of the site is its directory of US newspapers published since 1690 <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles>. You can search for newspapers published in your ancestor's state, county and city, and specify publication years and keywords in the title. Results display libraries that hold the newspaper. Visit the library website for details on ordering copies or borrowing through interlibrary loan.

Search U.S. Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

This directory of newspapers published in the United States since 1690 can help identify what titles were published in a particular place and time, using keywords to locate specific titles. The options below to select a particular place and time, using keywords to locate specific titles.

Browse the Directory by newspaper title:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V V

Select where the newspaper was published:

Select State(s) Select Counties... Select Cities...

Select when the newspaper was published:

from 1690 to 2023

Enter keywords:

WorldCat

Searching WorldCat <www.worldcat.org>, a database of the holdings of libraries around the world, can help you find microfilmed newspapers. Enter your search terms, such as a publication place or words in the newspaper title. On the results page, use the Format filter to view only newspapers. Then click a result to see participating libraries that have at least a partial run.

WorldCat

Home Libraries Topics Lists About For Librarians

Find items in libraries near you

Items Search for books, articles, and more Search

CREATE A NEWSPAPER CHRONOLOGY

A newspaper chronology can help you keep track of local papers published during your ancestor's lifetime, so you can conduct a thorough search for related articles. Keep this document in an Excel spreadsheet or Google Sheets file. Note the name of each newspaper in the area, with columns for year ranges. Fill in the appropriate columns to reflect when each newspaper was published, and color-code them to help you more easily distinguish them. You can add notes about websites that offer digitized versions or libraries that hold microfilm.

B25					
	A	B	C	D	
	Date Range	1850-1859	1860-1869	1870-1879	1880-1889
1	Name of Newspaper				
2	The Omaha Republican (daily)		1864		
3	Western Bugle	1852-53			
4	Omaha Arrow	1854			
5	Papillion Times			1874	
6	Omaha Daily News				
7	Omaha Daily Herald (evening)				
8	Examiner				
9	Newspaper - 8				
10	Newspaper - 9				
11	Newspaper - 10				

TYPES OF NEWSPAPER RECORDS

CLASSIFIEDS

A newspaper's classified ads might go on for pages and include a variety of notices:

- job postings
- job-seekers looking for positions
- lost and found items
- properties for sale
- real-estate auctions
- probate and other court notices

Pennsylvania Gazette
(Philadelphia, Pa.),
30 May 1754

SERIOUS CONSIDERATIONS on the PRESENT STATE of the AFFAIRS of the NORTHERN COLONIES.

BANCROFT WOODCOCK, Goldsmith, Ereby informs the publick, that he has set up his business in Wilmington, near the upper market house, where all persons that please to favour him with their custom, may be supplied with all sorts of gold and silver work, after the neatest and newest fashions.

N. B. Said Woodcock gives the full value for o'd gold and silver.

ISRAEL MORRIS Whip-maker,

STILL continues to make and repair horse-whips, at the house of Joseph Saul, chair and spinning-wheel maker, in Market-street, opposite the lower end of the Jersey market, after the best and neatest manner, as usual; and has now made by him, for wholesale or retail, a neat assortment of the following whips, viz. Whole hunters, half hunters, silver and white mounted ditto, large and small silver mounted switches, white mounted ditto, crop whips, jockey, silver mounted, and white mounted ditto, thongs and lashes, womens best tortoise-shell handle whips, bone, horn, vellum, and wire handle womens ditto, &c.

N. B. The said Morris sells no whips but his own make; he has lately got a large well-struck with the buck, and his name round the border, which he puts in all his mens whips, that are large enough to take so large a nail; and on the lesser sorts cuts the first letters of his name, I M. Ⓢ. The 3 m.



Responding
to young letter-writer
Virginia O'Hanlon,
New York's *Sun* editor
Francis Pharcellus Church
confirmed the existence
of Santa Claus
in 1897.

EDITORIALS

Read about the most hotly contested topics of the day (from zoning debates to politics) in editorials and letters to the editor.

Dear Editor:

It seems to us that the city has enough to handle without trying to hog any more territory. Talk about the benefits we will gain, when the city cannot even take care of the people you have in the City.

You talk about the advantages to the city of Fairbanks, that is just what it will amount to when you consider there is 10,000 people in the city at present, and there is about 20,000 in the so called bedroom areas. We all know where the tax money will go. It seems odd that last summer when we wanted some road work on Badger Road, we were just a secondary community, but when you need more tax money, we are promoted to first class citizens at once. You say if it wasn't for Fairbanks we wouldn't be here. You should say, "If it wasn't for Ladd and Eielson Fields that Fairbanks wouldn't be here." We know of several families that have moved out in this bedroom area to get away from your so-called advantages of living in Fairbanks.

PAUL W. WHITE

Clear, Alaska
January 3, 1960

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (Fairbanks, Ala.),
9 January 1960

ADVERTISEMENTS

Search for names and addresses of businesses where your ancestor worked to find advertisements. Ads also might tell you where your relatives likely shopped and what they paid for groceries.

**A Tribute--
To Our Policeman!**

The uniformed man who walks his beat, every day to combat lurking danger, is an officer of the city, working for you. All through the stillness of the night . . . when homes are dark and stealth is on the prowl . . . your watchful Policeman is going his rounds. Smiling, rosy-cheeked, a mountain of security clad in blue, he shepherds the little children across the street. He is their friend, their protector, their laughing pal, on occasion . . . and who of us would have it any other way! So let's be considerate and really warm-hearted toward our fine Policemen. The Cop, please remember, is one of our most dependable citizens!

CRITZ
Chevrolet Co.
300 W. Broadway, NLR
Phone 9204

**SUPER
CHEVROLET
SERVICE**

We Salute Our Town!

Arkansas Democrat (Little Rock, Ark.),
31 December 1950

NEWS ARTICLES

Newspapers covered national and local news. Read not only for mention of your family, but also to get context for their lives.

New Store Opens Today.

People's China Store Opens With Line of China, Crockery, Etc., A. B. Overholt, Manager.

Arthur B. Overholt announces the opening of a new venture for Kalamazoo today. He said to a reporter yesterday, "I have for some time contemplated the move which I have made, because I have felt the growing demand for some time of an exclusive China and crockery store of this kind. By the word exclusive I don't mean 'high price,' but a stock comprised of China and crockery the price of which being within the reach of all.

"I also added a fine line of tin, granite ware and kitchen utensils in order to satisfy the numerous demands for a store of this kind.

"We'll strive to please all the people all the time."

Kalamazoo Gazette (Kalamazoo, Mich.),
28 May 1910

VITAL EVENT NOTICES

Search for listings of births, marriage licenses, and deaths, along with milestone wedding anniversaries and divorce notices.

MARRIAGE LICENSES	
Following are marriage licenses issued during the last 48 hours by Probate Judge Ralph H. Gaw:	
John A. Hammond, Emporia.....	over 21
Lenora H. Lane, Topeka.....	over 21
Walter A. Porter, Kansas City, Mo.....	over 21
Mabel H. Lyon, Topeka.....	over 21
Edward Giffen, Bennington.....	29
Edna Ostlander, Bennington.....	35
Oscar Taylor, Kansas City, Mo.....	32
Roberta Dorsey, Kansas City, Mo.....	28

The Topeka State Journal (Topeka, Kan.), 26 March 1920

OBITUARIES

Obituaries can contain valuable, unique information about deceased ancestors. They may be printed with local news, rather than in an obituaries section. You also might find a “card of thanks” to family and friends after a funeral, or a tribute published on a death anniversary.

George E. Hiersemann.

After four years of patient suffering, George E. Hiersemann passed away from the home, 1139 Twelfth avenue, at 3:15 yesterday afternoon. Tumor of the brain was cause of death.

Mr. Hiersemann was born in Buffalo, Iowa, Jan. 23, 1880, and came to this city in 1902, entering the livery business. He continued in this business until 1910, when he sold his establishment, owing to failing health.

He was married to Miss Theresa Free in Rock Island Sept. 18, 1907, and she, with one daughter, Elizabeth, survives him. He also leaves four sisters, Mrs. Frank Kautz of Moline, Mrs. William Cox and Mrs. O. Miller, of Rock Island, and Mrs. John Leyden of Goodland, Kas., and two brothers, Charles of Blue Grass, Iowa, and John of Buffalo, Iowa.

His long illness was marked by his patient and cheerful suffering, two operations being necessitated during that time, but through all his affliction Mr. Hiersemann bore up bravely and patiently. He was a devout member of St. Mary's church, Moline and of Leo Council No. 716, K. of C.

Rock Island Argus (Rock Island, Ill.),
29 September 1916

CLASSIFIED, NEWS ARTICLE, ADVERTISEMENT, GENEALOGY COLUMN, SOCIAL COLUMN: COURTESY GENEALOGYBANK

EDITORIAL: COURTESY NEWSPAPERS.COM

VITAL EVENT, OBITUARY: COURTESY CHRONICLING AMERICA

SOCIAL COLUMNS

Social columns might contain the latest gossip, news on social clubs, attendees at parties, out-of-town visitors and more.

LOCAL CHURCH MATTERS.

Ask for Pastor's Return.

Rev J. P. Sampson, presiding elder of this district of the African Methodist Episcopal church, last evening conducted the fourth quarterly conference of the Loring-street Methodist church. A unanimous vote was passed asking that the pastor, Rev C. H. Yearwood, be returned next year, and this sentiment was very much in sympathy with that of Rev Mr Yearwood. The reports for the past quarter of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted and a general retrospect was given of the past three months' work.

The young women's class of Memorial church will give a reception to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock to their teacher, Mr Laudenslager, who graduated this month from the training school and closes his work with the class. A final union lawn fete will be held Saturday afternoon and evening on the church lawn. A sale of ice-cream, candy, aprons, etc., will be conducted from 3 to 10 p. m. Band music will probably be furnished by the Springfield musical club.

The Sunday-school of Wesley church will have its annual picnic at Riverside grove Saturday. A long list of athletic events has been arranged for the day. A lawn party and supper will be held at the church to-morrow afternoon, beginning at 4. At 8 in the evening a reception will be given to Rev Dr. C. F. Rice, pastor of the church.

The Cheerful Workers of Hope church will meet this afternoon at 4.30 with Miss Lillian Murphy on Homer street. A reception for members of the cradle roll and their mothers will be held at 123 Buckingham street Friday afternoon from 3 to 5. All children of the church under five years will be welcome.

The Dorcas society of Asbury church will meet Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the church. The official board of the church will meet to-morrow evening at 7.45. The junior league of the church will have a picnic at Glendale Saturday.

Springfield Republican (Springfield, Mass.),
21 June 1904

GENEALOGY COLUMNS

Newspapers sometimes published histories of local families.

REMARKABLE LINEAGE

UNIQUE METHOD OF A KENTUCKY FAMILY TO PRESERVE GENEALOGY.

Louisville, Ky., May 5, 1901.

Editor Herald:

While walking through the wilderness of this world, I happened to find a family of people in Edmonson County, Kentucky, near Mammoth Cave, that had the strangest peculiarity of any family, even in that strange and peculiar county. Their distinctive peculiarity is the method by which they preserve their genealogy—a method that is sui generis and without a parallel.

The name of the progenitor of this family was Meredith. This man had three sons—Pig, Jack and Sam. In the process of time there was born unto Pig Meredith a son whose name was Pete. Therefore, Pete, being a grandson of the original Meredith, was called Pete Pig Meredith, or, briefly, Pete Pig when ordinarily addressed. Pete has a son of the name of Toad. Now, for all practical purposes, Toad Pete answers for his name. But if he wishes to give his full name it is Toad Pete Pig Meredith. Jack has a son, Bill, who is called Bill Jack, etc. Thus the Christian name of the father becomes the surname of the son. Now it happens that Pete also has a son of the name of Pig. His name is Pig Pete, while his father is Pete Pig. Whether one finds a Toad Sam or a Sam Toad, the original name of Meredith is maintained.

The same fashion obtains when the daughters marry. Suppose, for instance, Jane Meredith marries and there be a son in her family named Sam. This son is called Sam Jane Meredith whatever be the name of Jane's husband. By this method the genealogical tree may be preserved ad infinitum.

There appeared in the papers recently a genealogy of William McKinley in which the lineage was traced back almost to the tertiary period. With the history of some of our modern great men, on account of its close proximity to a prehistoric period, it is easier to trace a genealogy than to maintain one.

J. H. PILAND.

Morning Herald (Lexington, Ky.), 6 May 1901