

Newspapers

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The biggest thing with all these sites is how you frame your search. Searching too narrow could net you nothing; searching too broadly could net you thousands of hits. Take the time to learn some of the ins and outs of searching a site to get the best results.

A word of warning on OCR. It's fallible. Many lowercase letters can be read incorrectly depending on how good or bad the original scan was. Lowercase "e" often turns into an "o" or a "c" in OCR. You may have to vary spellings on your ancestor's names to get results.

It's often a good idea to know what newspapers were available in your ancestor's area during their lifetime. You have a couple options for finding this out.

- City Directories - Start here: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/City_Directories
- Chronicling America Map: <https://www.loc.gov/ndnp/data-visualizations/>
- Chronicling America Directory of Newspapers in Libraries:
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/directory-of-us-newspapers-in-american-libraries/?searchType=advanced>

Don't shy away from foreign language newspapers because you don't know the language. Keep in mind there are tools like Google Translate that can help you translate that article that your ancestor's name is listed in.

Don't forget to occasionally to just browse the newspaper. You can find a lot of interesting information about your ancestor's life at the time by seeing what was happening around them in the newspapers.

All of the below sites have different amounts of newspapers available on them. No one site is better than the other. There is some overlap between the sites for what newspapers they have, but it's not that much.

Free Newspaper Sites

These sites are free to search on.

Library of Congress (LOC) – Chronicling America

URL: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

The interface for Chronicling America was redesigned on 8/4/25. You now start at the advanced search for their "Collection Items". You can put in your ancestor's name here. You can narrow by locality (state, county, city) and date range. There is also a tab to explore all their digitized titles.

If you need help, take a look at "Chronicling America: A Guide for Researchers" located here: <https://guides.loc.gov/chronicling-america/>. The site now has a map that you can explore. The map has a timeline you can adjust that shows what newspapers are available for a certain area. You can find that map here: <https://arcg.is/09fWXX>. When Chronicling America started the digitization project, they worked with libraries and universities to make a list of everything they had. Not everything has been

digitized. That list of what newspapers libraries have is located here:

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/directory-of-us-newspapers-in-american-libraries/?searchType=advanced>

Fulton History – over 57 million digitized pages available.

URL: <https://fultonhistory.com>

Read the Help & FAQ available here: [https://fultonhistory.com/Fulton New help.html](https://fultonhistory.com/Fulton_New_help.html)

The site has options for searching and it can be a challenge to get results. You have to play around with it a bit. Keep in mind you have search results in the frame on the left below search input area. Once you click on a result, the PDF is brought up on the right and you can navigate it from there. The search results will be highlighted, but you may have to zoom in to see them. Adjust the frame sizes to your liking.

Google Newspaper Archive

URL: <https://news.google.com/newspapers>

Google ran into some copyright issues so they stopped the digitization project, but there are lot of newspapers still available on the site. If you know the newspaper's name, you can come see if it's digitized here. The best way to view these is to browse them. The search function isn't helpful.

State Digitization Projects

All the states were provided money by the Library of Congress to digitize some of their newspapers. Some states used it more wisely than others. Google your state and "newspaper digitization project" (without the quotes) and see what comes up. Keep in mind the first few results may be sponsored ads.

There is a decent list here of several of the projects: <https://library.unt.edu/digital-newspaper-unit/other-state-digital-newspaper-programs/>

Ancestor Hunt

URL: <https://theancestorhunt.com/>

This site has some great lists of newspaper resources by location. Check out the newspaper links here: <https://theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html> It has some general information on newspapers here: <https://theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html> . The issue I have with this site is the large number of ads per page which can make it very difficult to read and determine if you are looking at an ad or actual information. Be careful and make sure you are looking at a link.

Paid Newspaper Sites

Please check with your local library to see if you can access these sites through a library subscription. Many CA libraries allow you to sign up for a library card online which can allow you access to their online subscriptions.

Many of these sites offer free trials. Get a list of searches together and do a free trial for a week and download what you find.

Genealogy Bank

URL: <https://genealogybank.com>

Do not ignore the other collections they have. While they have many newspapers, they also have the U.S. Census Records, SSDI, Government Publications, and some Historical Books. You never know where your ancestor may turn up. Start by searching “All Collections”.

They also have a lot of more current obituaries. If you are trying to trace someone forward, you might try this site for more recent obits.

You can save your searches and see your search history. This makes it easier to stop and come back later. You can save clippings to your account if you have a paid subscription.

Browse by state, title, or date to see what’s available in their collection. They are focused solely on U.S. based newspapers.

Newspapers.com

URL: <https://newspapers.com>

The site is owned by Ancestry. The search offers hints when entering a Keyword to try and help you get the most from your searches.

There are 2 subscription options for this site. The basic one and publisher’s extra. With the publisher’s extra you get access to more recent articles.

You can setup “Search Alerts” to continually search new additions for your family. The site offers a free trial. They have U.S. newspapers and some from other countries.

Newspaper Archive

URL: <https://newspaperarchive.com/>

The site is now owned by Storied – a site that allows you to build a tree and collaboratively attach stories to the tree through newspaper articles, historical records, and your own typed stories.

They do have free historical articles that you can browse through. The site starts you on a simple search. I do recommend going to advanced search to allow you to narrow your options more quickly.

The site allows for saved searches and shows you recent searches as well. This makes it easy to pick up where you left off when searching the site.

Under the “Publications” tab you can quickly see what titles they have available for a specific location and timeframe. This makes it really easy to see if they have what you might be looking for. You can get to the same point by browsing through their newspaper collections as well.

They have U.S. newspapers and many from around the world, too.

Old News

URL: <https://www.oldnews.com>

The site is owned by MyHeritage. You can enter a Name/Keyword, a publication year, and a location. For the year you achieve a range by selecting +/- two, ten or twenty years. For Name/Keyword and location you can select to match the terms exactly. I've found it useful to put in a state and select match location exactly to properly narrow results to a specific state or country.

If you want to see what newspapers they have then select the browse feature. I recommend scrolling down to the bottom of the page to see lists. At the top of the page, MyHeritage provides lists of the most popular countries and papers.

You can download a copy of the article once you are looking at a result. You cannot save searches or articles as part of your account.

Additional Resources

Article from FamilyTree Magazine Comparing sites:

https://www.mapyourshow.com/mys_shared/rootstech2023/handouts/Titans-of-Industry-RootsTech-2023-rev.pdf

Newspapers at MyHeritage Collection

<https://www.myheritage.com/research/category-8000/newspapers?s=175437652>

Legacy Family Webinars Newspapers

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar-library/?category=records&subcategory=newspapers>

Family Search Wiki entry on Newspapers – contains a list of online newspapers collections

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Newspapers>