

Bi-Monthly Newsletter December 15, 2020



Major Contents for this issue:

- *Articles Published Since Last Issue*
- *Interview with Jeff Kiley, CEO of Advantage Archives*
- *Quick Sheet for Online Newspaper Research*
- *The usual tips, jokes, etc.*

Bi-Monthly Newsletter December 15, 2020, Volume 2020 Issue 5

Please Note: All Hot Links are in **BLUE**

Articles Published Since Last Issue

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please Read - Change to Subscriptions - Two Options • Advantage Archives Adds 900 Thousand Historical Newspaper Pages - November, 2020 • Free California Online Alumni Records • 299 Free Western States Online Alumni Collections • 1,685 Free United States Online Alumni Collections • 675 Free Mid Atlantic States Online Photo Archives Available • 265 Free Western States Online Historical Newspaper Titles Added • New York Online Historical Photos Research • Historical Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Newspapers Online - Update • Alberta Birth, Marriage, and Death (BMD) Record Links • Indiana Online Historical Photos Research • Historical American Farming Newspapers Online • Nova Scotia Birth, Marriage, and Death (BMD) Record Links • Nebraska Online Historical Photos Research • Historical U.S. Alternative Press Newspapers Online - Update • Colorado Online Historical Newspapers Summary • Michigan Online Historical Photos Research • Arizona Online Historical Newspapers Summary • New Jersey Online Historical Photos Research • Nevada Online Historical Newspapers Summary • Pennsylvania Online Historical Photos Research • Alaska Online Historical Newspapers Summary • Maine Online Historical Photos Research • Connecticut Online Historical Photos Research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FamilySearch New and Updated Collections - December 1-15, 2020 • Just Sayin' • Bi-Monthly Newsletter from The Ancestor Hunt - November 30, 2020 • 35,100 Total FREE U.S. Historical Newspaper Links - Final 2020 Update • Ancestry New and Updated Collections - November 1-30, 2020 • Chronicling America Updates - November, 2020 • FamilySearch New and Updated Collections - November 1-30, 2020 • 1,155 Free Mid West States Online Photo Archives Available • Massachusetts Online Historical Photos Research • Historical U.S. Free Online Protestant Newspapers - Update • Minnesota Online Historical Photos Research • 430 Free New England States Online Photo Archives Available • Oregon Online Historical Newspapers Summary • 4,008 Free Online Illinois Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories • Illinois Online Historical Photos Research • Washington Online Historical Newspapers Summary • Iowa Online Historical Photos Research • Historical German American Newspapers Online - Update • Wisconsin Online Historical Photos Research • Ohio Online Historical Photos Research • Maryland Online Historical Photos Research • Utah Online Historical Newspapers Summary • District of Columbia Online Historical Photos Research • California Online Historical Newspapers Summary |
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Why Aren't You Searching Naturalization Records?

Here are some of the extensive information that can be found in Naturalization Records:

- Name Can help with spelling of more complex names for future searching as well.
- Age
- Occupation
- Physical Characteristics - color/race, complexion, height and weight, hair and eye color, and scars or other distinctive marks.
- Birth Location
- Birth Date
- Current Residence Address
- Emigration Information - port of departure, name of ship/vessel, and date of departure
- Immigration Information - port of arrival and date of arrival, name of ship/vessel
- Last Foreign Residence
- Photo
- Marital Status
- Marriage Date
- Marriage Location
- Spouse Information - Name of spouse, birth location and current address, when they entered the U.S. May include their naturalization information if applicable
- Signature (always fun to see how they signed their name)
- Name and Location of court handling the proceedings
- Children - names, place of birth and current residence
- Witnesses - names, occupations, and addresses - always useful (and underappreciated) - may provide possible clues.
- Former Names - if they changed their name or if they got married in the U.S

Popular Articles That You May Have Missed:

[Where to Find City Directories Online](#)

[Where to Find High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)

[What is the Difference Between an Obituary, a Death Notice, an Obituary Index and a Death Index?](#)

[Finding Your Remarkable Family History Via Newspapers](#)

[Two Hidden Secrets to Find a Ton More Results from the FamilySearch Catalog](#)

[Historic or Historical? That is the Question](#)

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Genealogists on the road.




Super Quick Tip

Make sure that you research draft cards and voter records. They are two of the few documents that have your ancestor's middle name.

You Know You are a Genealogy Addict When:

- **You brake for libraries.**
- **You hyperventilate at the sight of an old cemetery.**
- **You would rather browse in a cemetery than a shopping mall.**
- **You would rather read census schedules than a good book.**
- **You are more interested in what happened in 1699 than in 1999.**
- **Eenrum, Baflo and Groningen are household names, but you can't remember what to call the dog.**
- **All your correspondence begins with "Dear Cousin".**

Quirky Old Newspaper Ad



UFO DETECTOR

- Detects Strong Electromagnetic Force Fields.
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- Operates On A Single Flashlight Cell.
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Have you Reviewed the Two Newsletter Subscription Options?

Subscription Option 1

For the last 5 years, if you have subscribed on my site, you receive 5 times a month in your email a simple list of the links to articles that I have posted on this website since the prior mailing. Sometimes there are about 10 links and lately, many more. I am changing the delivery dates to the 7th, the 15th, the 23rd, and the last day of the month. By subscribing, you will receive 4 emails a month.

Subscription Option 2 (new)

In the past month, I have started publishing a Bi-Monthly Newsletter (This!), with 4 to 8 pages of all kinds of useful (I hope) information. It includes links to all the articles published since the previous Bi-monthly newsletter, as well as articles that I think you might find interesting from other authors. It also includes research tips, a joke or two, and other useful genealogical stuff. By subscribing, you will receive the Bi-monthly email twice a month, on the 15th and the last day of the month.

Interview with Advantage Archives CEO Jeff Kiley

A couple of years ago, I interviewed Jeff Kiley, the CEO of Advantage Archives (formerly Advantage Preservation.) I thought I would share it with you. Currently, Advantage is one of the few leading providers of digitization and search software for local libraries and archives, with about 720 clients throughout the U.S. They and their clients have created a real boon to all of us newspaper researchers.

1. Hello, Jeff. Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions. Could you provide a short history of the Advantage Preservation company and its mission?

For many years, I had been working in the online historical newspaper business and was looking for a new opportunity, as was much of my staff and my executive team.

There was a company here Cedar Rapids that I had a great deal of respect for. The Advantage Companies had been around since 2003, and had a wonderful reputation not only for records management and storage, but also a very strong team of information management professionals and imaging specialists. A member of the Advantage management team, with whom I had an existing relationship with, saw an opportunity. He arranged for a meeting between the owner Paul Eganhouse, a key partner and myself. It didn't take long at all for us to recognize the similarities between our goals, and that we actually shared a very similar mission: "To protect documents, and make them easily accessible". By changing one word, the mission became "To preserve documents, and make them easily accessible". My team moved into their 80,000 sq ft secure records management facility....and Advantage Preservation was born.

2. I know that preserving and providing online newspaper collections record "the first rough draft of history." This, of course is very important for community libraries and historical societies. You seem to be adding online collections at quite a rapid rate. To what do you attribute this increase in activity?

The communities, publishers, and libraries deserve 100% of the credit for this. We merely provide the means in which they can make sure their own history is preserved and accessible. We believe that the preservation of a community's history is a shared responsibility. By bringing together strategic community partners, we are able to accomplish our mutual goals much more effectively. We collaborate with the community publisher, libraries, historical societies, and other interested institutions to develop a plan, and then engage local community businesses to assist with funding. This is primarily done via existing partnerships with the local library foundations and support with programs like the Friends Of The Library, or other community donor networks. This approach has been met with enthusiastic participation and it has been really rewarding for all of us.

And as an aside, I would like to thank you Ken, for becoming an evangelist for all of the free newspaper archives available online. Whether Advantage is involved or not, I am a cheerleader for all of these projects. Each and everyone of these institutions need to be applauded, and you do a great job of giving their efforts some much needed recognition and exposure.

3. Recently I read about a very interesting project that you are doing with the State of Iowa, where ultimately 12 million additional historical newspaper pages will be added to the more than 100 collections that you already have made available in the state. Please tell us briefly about the project.

We work with nearly 1300 libraries in 37 states and over 500 cities, and every one of those relationships are incredibly important to us. The current initiative in Iowa is no more or less important than the those outside of the state, but I have to admit, it does feel a little more personal. We are an Iowa company owned and operated by Iowans. Many of us (myself included) were born and raised here, and we are raising our children here. We are extremely honored to be actively involved in preserving our OWN history. It is the same pride I hope others feel when their community comes together to preserve their history.

Over the past 7 years, we have provided our services at no cost to the State Historical Society Of Iowa, and this new chapter in our relationship provides us with access to the physical materials in their collection. This will allow us to ensure that the each community's archive is as complete as possible, and that the best available source material has been preserved to microfilm. It is an extensive undertaking to say the least. The State has two large collections of bound newspaper volumes, and a collection of microfilm stored in our facility. This will need to be cross-referenced, and evaluated against preservation or digital projects we have done for Iowa libraries and publishers directly. Not to mention any private collections, projects performed by other vendors, at risk materials, materials of inferior quality, materials not filmed to standards, damage or defects within current collections, and missing materials that are known to have existed but do not exist in any of the collections available. We have our work cut out for us.

The 12M pages referenced in some of the articles written about this project only represents the estimated number of pages yet to be preserved to microfilm. Once filmed, the reels will be added to the states collection. This collection is currently comprised of more than 24 million pages from more than 650 statewide titles on more than 44,000 rolls of microfilm. With help and permission from the rights holders, we hope to be able to aggregate the majority of this content into a consolidated collection of Iowa newspapers that can be shared by the libraries across the state, and make it available in every classroom as a resource for Iowa's students.

Interview with Advantage Archives CEO Jeff Kiley

4. I am interested in the history and educational "bent" of this project. It sounds to me that just like genealogists in the past were not making use of historic newspapers, that maybe historians, educators and students should add historic newspaper research to their research repertoire. Do you agree?

You and your followers have known for a long time how incredibly valuable old newspapers can be in your research. The birth announcements, obituaries and almost every significant events of ones life in between, are recorded in those pages. My team has always believed that old newspapers can "connect the dots" in a way no other medium can.

The motivation that drives genealogists is pretty cut and dry: We want to know more about where we came from. What better way to understand the generations before us, then to understand the era in which they lived? Not only can we learn **about** our ancestors, we can learn **from** them. We can see through their eyes the way certain events impacted and shaped their community, and how that community reacted to those events. When you read stories in the days and weeks before and after a "moment" it can place them in context. The articles, ads, and editorials from that day, can provide new perspective. This is "history as it happened" and by reading people's accounts using their own words, terminology, phrasing, and verbiage of the time, we can better understand our past, and connect with it in a very meaningful way.

The Executive Director of the Iowa Museum Association, Cynthia Sweet spoke to this in a very eloquent way when she was asked about our IA History Project: "The Advantage Company's Iowa History project to microfilm, digitize, and make available Iowa's newspapers to schools, libraries, and museums at no charge to the state, offers an opportunity to engage Iowans of all ages in the joy of research and discovery. **Through research and the process of understanding past events, valuable 21st century skills are developed such as critical thinking, independent thinking, judgment of the accuracy and reliability of sources, analysis of conflicting evidence, awareness of multiple perspectives, interpretation, and communication.** The Iowa Museum Association celebrates projects such as this, that provide historical resources to Iowans of all ages through their schools, museums, and libraries."

5. In reviewing your collections online, it looks like you are changing the software's user interface. It was always easy to use and the changes seem to be maintaining that element. I know that you are in a competitive business environment and may not want the world to know just yet, but is there anything upcoming that you can tell us about?

This isn't an easy question to answer, because our list of future releases is literally 4 pages long as it stands today...and it continues to grow. Some will be imperceptible to the end user. Some will be performance based. Some will add more functionality. All of them will roll out as completed, one at a time... over the course of the next few weeks, months, and years. We purposefully don't make large scale changes or announce "product releases", we just make small feature upgrades that are rolled out to our 500+ client sites as they are developed. Some of the stuff going on "behind the scenes" is much more impactful than some of the client facing features being released, but there is always "something" being worked on. Yes, we would like to be able to spend the money on graphic artists, UX engineers, content managers, and teams of product engineers working on "what is next", but we spread out our resources in a more holistic approach that also includes preservation, and archival storage.

We have created our Community History Archive platforms to serve as a practical means to explore and discover content, nothing more and nothing less. When we started building these online archives, we were focused on making it as simple as possible so anyone can use it. It is intended as a way to unlock content that was previously only accessible on microfilm, within the library, and not searchable in any practical way. We have tried not to concern ourselves with the "bells and whistles" or "cutting edge" features meant to attract subscribers or retain memberships. The content is the product, not the delivery method...but we do want an archive that the community is proud of, so we will continue to improve the aesthetic as time and resources allow...as long as they don't interfere or distract us from our core values.

By focusing on small incremental changes, our platform continues to evolve at a pace which keeps our expenses at a reasonable level. This has been key to everything we do....simple, sustainable, and affordable. We know full well the painful condition and trends of budgets in our city, county, and state libraries... and we are extremely conscious of the fact that one of the hardest hit areas has been in newspaper and historical preservation services. Every decision we make in design and development is geared to ensuring we have a cost effective solution to stretch what money is available.

Interview with Advantage Archives CEO Jeff Kiley

6. Is there anything that I haven't asked that you would like to share with us?

It is all about the microfilm....

Microfilm is at the heart of everything we do. Digitization alone offers amazing access, but we believe microfilming is a necessity for the preservation process, and digitization is just a piece of a bigger puzzle.

As technology advances, we can always go back to the film and re-digitize the images to whatever the "new cutting edge" image format is. Just take a minute to think about the advances we have seen in the last 50 years alone. I am not just talking about storage technology becoming obsolete like floppy disks and CDs have, but even the way we consume digital content. The changes are exponential from decade to decade. The iPhone in my pocket has more computing power than the \$16M Cray 2 super computer had in 1985. Where will digital technology be 50 years from now? We are not "chasing" the highest quality digital image that technology can provide today...because it WILL become obsolete. When it comes to our digital product, we strive to strike the perfect balance between value, volume, and quality. None of these factors can become more important than the other when considering digitization. We will always be improving our online platform, but will be doing so in the most pragmatic cost effective manner as possible.

That being said, we will make no such "compromises" when it comes to the preservation of the newspaper content. Their value and volume are clearly secondary and tertiary concerns behind the quality and care of the microfilm. Without well preserved content on archival quality film, what source material will we have to digitize from in the future? 500 years from now, a simple candle and a magnifying glass will be all the technology one needs to view this content if properly preserved.

Here's the link to my latest summary of all the Advantage Archives Collections:

[80 Million Historic U.S. Newspaper Pages Now Available from Advantage Archives](#)

Useful Articles from Other Sources

Have You Ever Used Google Books? You Should and Here's How

- [How To Find & Use Google Books For Genealogy Research](#)

10 Essential Genealogy Books for Your Reference Library

- [10 Essential Genealogy Books](#)

Trying to Analyze your Old Ancestor Photos?

- [How To Pull Genealogy Clues From Your Old Family Photographs](#)

No Discipline Usually Yields Limited Success

- [The Disciplined Researcher's 20-Question Guide from Elizabeth Shown Mills](#)

Hit a Brick Wall?

- [Help! My Genealogy Research Is Stuck!](#)

Interested in a Free Virtual Conference Next Year?

- [RootsTech is Going Virtual!](#)

Bunch of Old Newspaper Articles Laying Around?

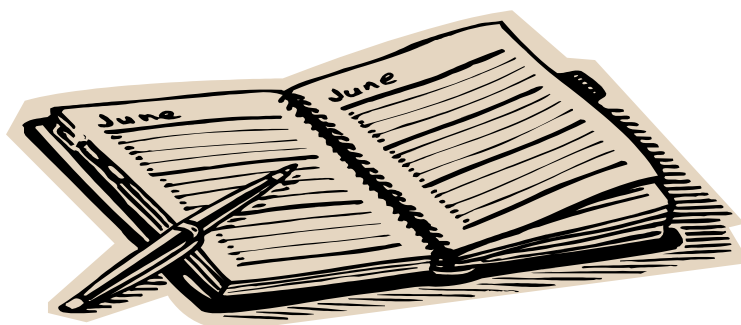
- [How to Preserve Newspaper Clippings](#)

Need to Convert File Formats?

- [Use CloudConvert to Convert a File from One Format to Another](#)

Got a Few Minutes?

- [Free Printable – 15 Quick Genealogy Tasks To Do in 15 Minutes](#)



Looking for a seminar, webinar or conference? [Conference Keeper](#) is your best bet to find what is available

Online Newspaper Research Quick Sheet

19 Do's and Don'ts when Researching Old Newspapers

- DO Misspell search criteria words on purpose. The OCR process tries to create letters from dots, not words
- DO Search in the nearest big city or county seat
- DO Add the word(s) beloved, dear, or loving to help find obituaries
- DO a search with syllables rather than whole words to take advantage of the significant use of hyphenated words in older newspapers
- DO take advantage of free trials with subscription based newspaper sites before you buy
- DO use abbreviations, such as Wm, Jos, Eliz, Ave, or Sgt, etc in your search criteria
- DO search for husbands name with Mrs for married women
- DO a search for a few weeks prior to death date in the newspaper for hospitalization, illness or accident - helps determine the cause of death
- DO try to exchange a "b" for an "h", or a "c" for an "e" and many other combinations since they are very similar to the OCR process many times
- DO search for a street address. You might be surprised.
- DON'T just select a newspaper subscription database just because it's on sale
- DON'T assume that the newspaper collection has what you want just because the title is from your chosen city or town. Check the collection's date range
- DON'T assume that the cemetery stated in the obituary has not changed since the obituary has been published
- DON'T assume that the published obituary location is only published in the newspaper where death has occurred
- DON'T search just surnames
- DON'T just search U.S. newspapers based on ethnicity. Search newspapers in the ancestor's homeland
- DON'T rush out and purchase a subscription to newspaper collections. Libraries often subscribe to the same pay sites and if you have a library card, you may be able to search from home!
- DON'T assume that a wedding happened because your ancestor is listed in the Marriage Licenses Issued section. Cold feet does happen!
- DON'T assume that because an obituary states someone is a "native of", does not mean they were born there.



Last But Not Least

Free Stuff from the Southern States

- 
- 1,689 Free Online [Tennessee](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 4,450 Free Online [North Carolina](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 2,449 Free Online [Virginia](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 1,205 Free Online [Mississippi](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 1,138 Free Online [Arkansas](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 1,222 Free Online [Louisiana](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 4,840 Free Online [Texas](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 3,753 Free Online [Missouri](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 1,536 Free Online [West Virginia](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 3,132 Free Online [Kentucky](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 1,514 Free Online [Alabama](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 2,214 Free Online [Oklahoma](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 3,239 Free Online [Georgia](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 1,756 Free Online [Florida](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 1,504 Free Online [South Carolina](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories

The Ancestor Hunt Research Link Categories:

- Newspapers
- Obituaries
- BMD Records
- Directories
- Photos
- Yearbooks
- Divorce Records
- Naturalizations
- Mortuary Records
- Immigration
- Church Records
- School Records
- Voter Lists
- Coroner Records
- Probate and Wills
- Alumni Records

Check out The Ancestor Hunt on Social Media



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