

Bi-Monthly Newsletter February 15, 2021



Contents for this Issue:

- Articles Published Since Last Issue
- Interview with Amber Brown, CEO of Story Spot
- Quick Sheet “Abbreviations to Use to Find 50% More Ancestor Newspaper Articles”
- The usual tips, jokes, etc.

Why Aren't You Searching Church Records?

What might be in a Church Record?

- ⇒ Baptisms and Christenings
- ⇒ Marriages
- ⇒ Deaths
- ⇒ Burials
- ⇒ Confirmations
- ⇒ Membership lists
- ⇒ Church Minutes
- ⇒ Church Directories
- ⇒ Transfer Letters
- ⇒ Bar or Bat Mitzvahs
- ⇒ Sunday School lists
- ⇒ Church newsletters

Who Is Your Favorite Ancestor?



Mine is Samuel Braunhart, former rabble rouser, California State Senator and San Francisco Supervisor

Write me at kenmarksology@gmail.com with a photo and a paragraph about your favorite ancestor and I will feature them in a future newsletter issue!

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



Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [85 Million Historic U.S. Newspaper Pages Now Available from Advantage Archives](#)
- [The Best Way to Find 20% More Pertinent Newspaper Articles Online](#)
- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections - February 1-15, 2021](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates - January, 2021](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections - January 1-31, 2021](#)
- [Doing Your Autobiography or a Memorial? Try Audiobiography - A Fantastic Option!](#)
- [Free Georgia Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Connecticut Obituaries and Obituary Index Links](#)
- [Please Read - Change to Subscriptions - Two Options](#)
- [Free Massachusetts Obituaries and Obituary Index Links](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 55 Titles - January, 2021](#)
- [Free South Carolina Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [250 Free Obituary and Obituary Index Links for the New England States](#)
- [Free Mississippi Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Colorado Obituaries and Obituary Index Links](#)
- [Free Oklahoma Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Virginia Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free New Jersey Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Wyoming Libraries Launch New Digital Historic Newspaper Collection](#)
- [GenealogyBank Adds/Updates 88 Titles - January, 2021](#)
- [Free Delaware Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Oregon Obituaries and Obituary Index Links](#)
- [Free Arizona Obituaries and Obituary Index Links](#)
- [Free Nevada Obituaries and Obituary Index Links](#)

WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN FEBRUARY

FINISH OBITUARIES UPDATE

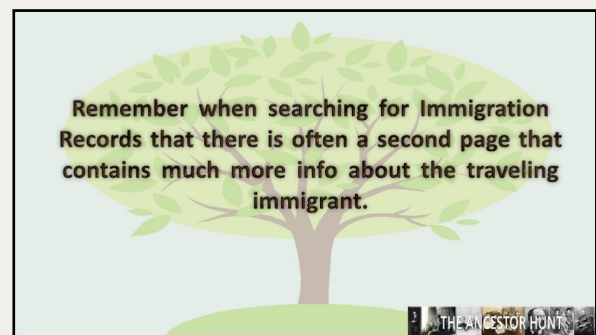
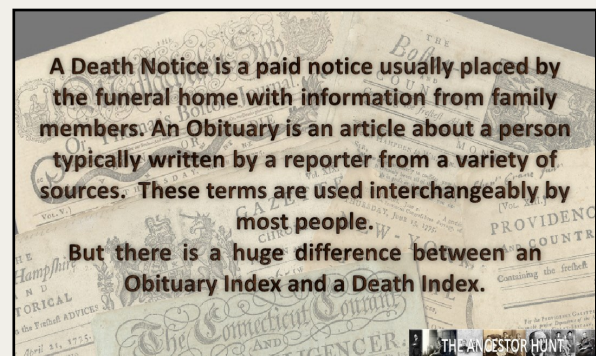
FINISH NATURALIZATIONS UPDATE

NEW CATEGORY: CEMETERY AND BURIAL RECORDS

Quirky Old Newspaper Ad



Remember This!



FamilySearch 2020 Achievements



2020 GENEALOGY HIGHLIGHTS

1.7 BILLION

Total Sources in the Family Tree

FAMILY TREE

1.3 Billion

Total People in the Family Tree



● = 1 million people in the tree

8.3 BILLION

Total Names in Historical Records

SEARCHABLE RECORDS

4.3 Billion

Total Digital Images Published

494,000

Digital Books Online

207 MILLION

Total Annual FamilySearch.org Visits

DISCOVERY EXPERIENCES

5,229

Family History Centers

ROOTSTECH 2020



16,000

Total Registered



75,000

Livestream Views



25,000

Family Discovery Day Guests

FamilySearch.org

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Check out the By Location feature that has recently been added to The Ancestor Hunt Website:

As you probably know if you have used the site, that each state or province's link lists are separated for each category. For example, there is a New York Newspapers article, a New York Obituaries article, a New York Naturalizations article, etc. I have just made it a little easier to go from one category to the other (saves a click or two). At the very end of each article there is a list to the article links for **every** category for that state or province. Try it. It will save you time if you are searching in just one geographical area.



Useful Articles from Other Sources

Can't Find Someone in the Census and You Know They Should Be There?

- [How to Find Ancestors Hiding in the Census](#)

Trying to Find Genealogy Records at the Library?

- [The Best Libraries for Genealogy Research](#)

African-American Ancestors?

- [Explore Your African American Heritage](#)

Did Your Ancestors Own Land?

- [What You Can Find in Land Records](#)

Do You Have Civil War Ancestors?

- [What's In a Civil War Pension File?](#)

Do You Use Maps in Your Genealogy Research?

- [Old Map Collections That Every Family Historian Should Know About](#)

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.



Why You Should Check Out The Ancestor Hunt Online U.S. Newspaper Links First:

- Ancestry.com - 1,361 U.S. Titles (\$\$\$)
- Newspaper Archive - 11,670 U.S. Titles (\$\$\$)
- Newspapers.com - 18,429 U.S. Titles (\$\$\$)
- Genealogy Bank - 13,000+ U.S. Titles (\$\$\$)
- My Heritage - 1,285 U.S. Titles (\$\$\$)
- The Ancestor Hunt Links to 35,100 Free U.S. Titles (FREE)

Go to www.theancestorhunt.com and click on "Newspaper Links"

Just Sayin'



Interview with StorySpot CEO Amber Brown

I am always interested in software, services, and/or applications that assist us in memorializing our ancestors, telling their stories, and documenting our own autobiographies. Recently I became aware of a new service, called StorySpot, that incorporates stories, audio, video, photos, music, timelines and other various means to tell people's stories. I am currently in the process of documenting my own autobiography using StorySpot. I asked Amber Brown, the CEO a few questions about StorySpot.

The logo for StorySpot, featuring the word "STORYSPOT" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a solid red circle. The logo is centered within a thin black rectangular border.

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

StorySpot started in 2015 when two buddies, Carl and Joe were riding bikes at the foothills of Colorado mountains. They imagined a simple web-application where people could craft and share a soundtrack of their favorite music for their funeral, the idea being "it's your last party; you should be able to choose the music." That idea evolved into a platform to generate a multi-media legacy site to help people add photos, video, and stories to the music, all in less than an hour. Friends and family would remember you and your life, potentially forever.

Carl and Joe's original idea to prevent their Aunt Mable from playing the wrong music at their funeral slipped comfortably into a death and dying, memorial and tribute model. That seemed like an obvious fit. It was after Joe built a tribute to his late mom and Carl to his dying father that they had their Eureka moment. The tributes were really a way to say, "I love you." Why wait until someone is dying, or dead?

That's when My Last Soundtrack became StorySpot. With StorySpot, people can tell the story of a life, working alone or with others, choosing how much music or audio, how many photos or stories they need to capture a life. Create a StorySpot and showcase life's little moments - in one place. StorySpot's mission is to help people bring those stories to life.

2. There are a lot of websites and other applications that are emerging with the goal to capture life stories and publish them. Some in hardbound books, others including video, etc. What prompted your multi-media approach?

For thousands of years, people have sought to be remembered. From the earliest cave drawings, to the pyramids, to the Mona Lisa, and through millions of letters and diaries, people have said, "this is how I lived. This is what I believed, what I loved." Because people have different methods for cherishing memories, we decided to include all possible features – music, audio, written, and video.

Ultimately, experience with users told us that they want as many approaches as possible. Some conversations ranged from "I only have audio to upload," to "I really care about stories and photos," so we decided to have a customizable template to meet every user's needs. If a user only wants photos, that's doable. If a user wants to collaborate on stories only, that's great, too!

After years of hearing that our platform allowed families to save and cherish memories of loved ones, similar to a yearbook or scrapbook, we developed a way for users to order a hard-color, hard-copy, custom-made StoryBook. We can create a unique book for only \$99.99 – that way, customers who want to give these cherished memories as a gift can do so to whomever they want.

Interview with StorySpot CEO Amber Brown

3. I notice that you have a new "Memorials" feature. Could you summarize that?

Imagine being able to save the story of your grandparents' first date, the story of your family vacation to Israel, or save life lessons from the elders of the family. That's what the "Memorials" theme allows users to do. The "Memorials" theme comes with special headings and subheadings, a video and photo slideshow maker, a place for milestones, and a Spotify integrated playlist section, too.

We've learned that people really wanted to do more than celebrate someone's life, which is why we have birthday, anniversary, wedding, and education themes – plus more!

4. I am interested in combining several StorySpots for a set of ancestors. Sort of a FamilyTree set of individual StorySpots that could be linked. Is that a current feature or possibly something in the future?

That's a great idea! We currently don't have the ability to combine several StorySpots for a set of Ancestors, but we do have the ability to create multiple StorySpots, individually. Meaning, under one profile, you can create multiple StorySpot's (up to 100 currently). Once you create each ancestors' StorySpot, there's a unique, sharable link to share with your family and friends.

You pay per profile, so you can create 10 StorySpots and keep them under the same account (under one email address) if you'd like! We tried our best to make saving stories and memories as easy as possible.

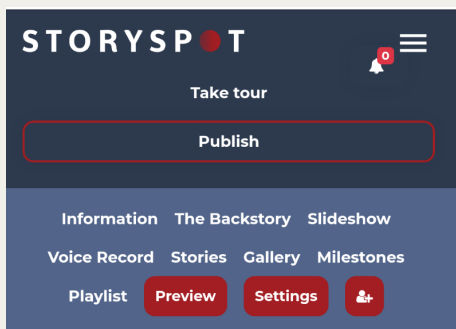
In the future, we hope to have a way to combine several StorySpots for a family tree, so stay tuned!

5. Can I convert my StorySpot to a hard or soft bound book?

Yes! In order to create a hard-bound book, you must first complete your StorySpot profile. Let's say you are creating a profile for your Aunt June, who passed away a few years ago. You have lots of great stories and photos to share, so you choose the Master Historian plan and build a site with those memories. When you are finished, all you have to do is choose "Order a Book" in the main navigation menu, select the profile you want, select a few design options, and press submit.

After we receive your request, our graphic designer will create a mockup and send you a few pages for your approval (we want 100% satisfaction, so you don't pay until you approve the design). Then, you pay the \$99.99 which includes shipping and handling.

Some customers even choose to create a family-based StorySpot and order books for a family reunion, or from a family vacation. Sort of like a modern scrapbook!



Interview with StorySpot CEO Amber Brown

6. I noticed on your website that the product can be used to capture an event, like a birthday party or a wedding. Could I use StorySpot to produce an online representation of a Family Reunion?

Absolutely! The best way to create a StorySpot for a family reunion is to create one using our collaborators feature. Simply create the profile with any email you choose, then use your family and friends' email addresses to invite them to add stories, photos, videos, and audio to the StorySpot.

Let's say you have 7 brothers and sisters; you can invite each of them to the profile through the web-application. After they add stories, you will approve the story directly from your account. After approving, they will automatically show up on the main StorySpot page. This way you can have multiple family's perspectives, stories, and memories all in one StorySpot. Also, you can invite unlimited collaborators to any account!

7. One big question is, how do I ensure that my StorySpot will be maintained and available after my passing?

Currently, we can project that our data storage method will be viable for the next 25 years. Based on the rapid growth and changes in the technology industry, it's hard to project anything past that. That's why we recommend two things – adding multiple collaborators and ordering a hard-copy book.

We are working on a way to add multiple administrators, in the meantime, customers download the book and that allows them to keep those stories forever.

8. Is there anything else that potential users/customers should know?

We are a growing business and welcome any and all feedback!

Use coupon code "Ancestor" to receive 10% off any StorySpot plan!

STORY
SPOT

Find out all about StorySpot right [HERE](#)



Online Newspaper Research Quick Sheet

Abbreviations to Use to Find 50% More Ancestor Newspaper Articles

- **What?** - Use an abbreviation instead of full word
- **Why?** - Typesetters used abbreviations to save space
- **How?** - Enter the abbreviation in your search criteria
- **Result?** - Find hidden articles - Usually 50% more pertinent hits

Abbreviations Frequently Used

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| • Eliz for Elizabeth | • Capt for Captain |
| • Wm for William | • Pl for Place |
| • Sgt for Sergeant | • Co for Company |
| • Ave for Avenue | • Pres for President |
| • Corp for Corporation | • Ln for Lane |
| • Jno for John | • Col for Colonel |
| • St for Street | • Chas for Charles |
| • NYC for New York City | • Benj for Benjamin |
| • Jos for Joseph | • Cpl for Corporal |
| • Jas for James | • Geo for George |
| • Margt for Margaret | • Robt for Robert |
| • Saml for Samuel | • Thos for Thomas |

Include these abbreviations in your search criteria and you will find hidden articles and get as much as 50% more pertinent hits.

For more neat tricks to help you find more ancestor newspaper articles,

Visit The Ancestor Hunt at:

<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html> to get hundreds of articles and links to help you become a master newspaper researcher



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Help Your Ancestors Live Forever - Write Your Family History And Write Your Own History While You're At It

One of my goals in my personal genealogy is to make sure that my ancestors are remembered. Many had no descendants, so absolutely no one alive remembers them. That's sad to me, which is why I created a couple of family history websites. But recently I have been seeking even better ways to memorialize their lives. Their stories are important to be documented, which might explain why I am such a fan of newspaper research.

In any case, here are a few tools that I have discovered that provide a unique means to memorialize our ancestors.

And guess what? We need to produce our own autobiographies. We aren't getting any younger and memories do fade.



Whoowe

Produce an online history easily with text, video, and audio from online questions on your phone. You can contribute content in minute or several minute increments.

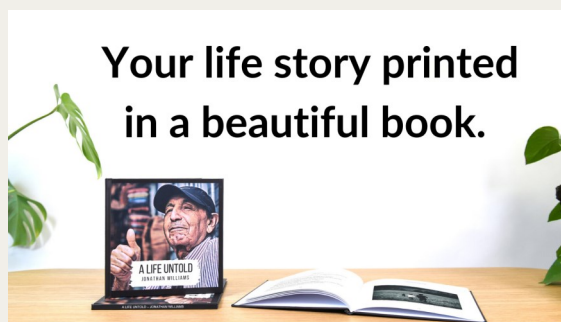
Whoowe is available from the AppStore and Google Play. Info at whoowe.com Try it out for free. Discount coupon for readers coming soon.



StorySpot

Produce an online memorial with text, video, timelines, photos, favorite songs, and audio, and produce an optional book. Great for family reunions also

Available at www.storystop.com. Try it out for free. 25% discount available by using "ANCESTOR" as coupon code.



A Life Untold

Produce an online history easily with text, video, and audio from online questions. Proceed at your own pace, and add questions if you like. Very easy to use.

Available at A Life Untold. Try it out. 10% discount available by using "HUNT as coupon code.

Record Your Autobiography With



AUDIOBIOGRAPHY

Audiobiography

They say the closest you can feel to someone without touching them, is hearing their voice. Produce an online autobiography or memorial with audio; add photos and coordinate with a book.

Available at Audiobiography. Try it out. 10% discount available by using "HUNT as coupon code.

"The Ancestor Hunt" is an affiliate for several of these companies and may receive a small commission should you purchase through this newsletter or the website and/or if you use the coupon codes mentioned above.

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](#)
- [Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [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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