

Bi-Monthly Newsletter March 31, 2021



Contents for this Issue:

- Articles Published Since Last Issue
- “Making Old Newspapers Searchable: The History of Printing”
- Quick Sheet “9 Ways to Effectively Find Obituaries in Online Newspapers”
- The usual tips, jokes, etc.

Why Aren't You Searching Naturalization Records?

What can you find?

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ⇒ Name | ⇒ Marital Status |
| ⇒ Age | ⇒ Marriage Date |
| ⇒ Occupation | ⇒ Marriage Location |
| ⇒ Physical Characteristics | ⇒ Spouse Information |
| ⇒ Birth Location | ⇒ Signature |
| ⇒ Birth Date | ⇒ Name/Location of court |
| ⇒ Current Residence | ⇒ Children |
| ⇒ Emigration Information | ⇒ Witnesses |
| ⇒ Immigration Information | ⇒ Former Names |
| ⇒ Last Foreign Residence | ⇒ Photo |

Have You Researched Student Newspapers?



Check out 2,490 Digitized College and High School Newspapers [HERE](#)

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



Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections - March 1-31, 2021](#)
- [Free Pennsylvania Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free District of Columbia Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [2,420 Free Mid Atlantic States Online Cemetery and Burial Record Collections](#)
- [Free Indiana Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Colorado Online Divorce Record Collections](#)
- [Free Idaho Online Divorce Record Collections](#)
- [Free Oregon Online Divorce Record Collections](#)
- [Free Washington Online Divorce Record Collections](#)
- [Free Utah Online Divorce Record Collections](#)
- [Free North Dakota Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Montana Online Divorce Record Collections](#)
- [Free Online Divorce Record Collections for the Western States](#)
- [1,400 Free Online Divorce Record Collections for the United States](#)
- [Free Maine Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free South Dakota Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections - March 1-15, 2021](#)
- [Free Michigan Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Vermont Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Minnesota Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Online Tennessee Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [What is That Weird Word as Cause of Death?](#)
- [Free Connecticut Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Online Kentucky Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online West Virginia Marriage Records and Indexes](#)

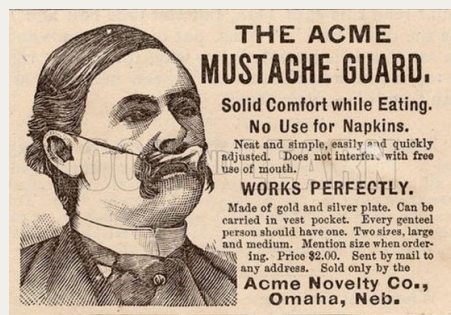
WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN MARCH

FINISH NATURALIZATIONS UPDATE

FINISH NEW CATEGORY: CEMETERY AND BURIAL RECORDS

START BMD UPDATE

Quirky Old Newspaper Ad

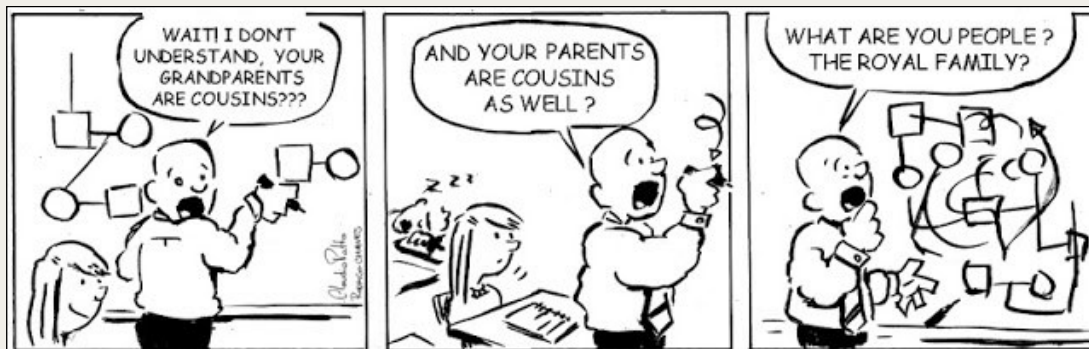


New From The Newspaper Corner

- [NY State Historical Newspapers Adds/Updates 6 Titles - March, 2021](#)
- [9 Ways to Effectively Find Obituaries in Online Newspapers](#)
- [Georgia Adds 2 Historical African American Newspaper Titles to Total 22](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates - March, 2021](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 51 Titles - March, 2021](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 78 Historical Newspaper Titles - March, 2021](#)



When Did Your Ancestor Serve in the Military?



Useful Articles from Other Sources

Looking for Location?

- [*Buried In Does Not Mean Died In*](#)

Are You Popular?

- [*How Popular is Your Name?*](#)

Was Your Surname Changed?

- [*No, Family Names Were Not Changed at Ellis Island*](#)

Do You Have Irish Ancestors?

- [*10 Free Resources for Irish Genealogy Online*](#)

Looking to Get Your Genealogy Pursuits Organized?

- [*Spring Clean Your Genealogy with These Tips and Tricks*](#)

Not So Fast?

- [*How Careful Are You When Imaging Documents?*](#)

Are You in the Upcoming 1950 U.S. Census?

- [*Only 1 More Year to the Release of the 1950 U.S. Census*](#)

Missouri Ancestors?

- [*Research in Missouri: The Land and the History*](#)

Getting a Lot of Automatic Tree Hints?

- [*10 Rules for Accepting \(or Rejecting\) Online Family Tree Hints*](#)

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.

Making Old Newspapers Searchable: The History of Printing

To be a successful online newspaper researcher, it is beyond helpful to understand the basics of newspaper printing, especially its history. The limitations and quality of old newspaper print as well as OCR are the largest contributing factors in our inability to find what we are looking for when searching digitized newspapers (discounting our skill and experience, of course). Our friends at Advantage Archives have allowed me to reprint this article, which begins to explain these limitations.

From Advantage Archives:

Until the first part of the 19th century, the composition and typesetting were accomplished by painstakingly placing each individual letter into a “galley” by hand. The galleys were then placed into a “chase” that was the size of the final page. Since each letter was placed individually, there was no method for standardization or uniformity. If there was a picture or a drawing in the newspaper, it was created primarily by using woodcuts or engravings. This was a very time-consuming and expensive process.

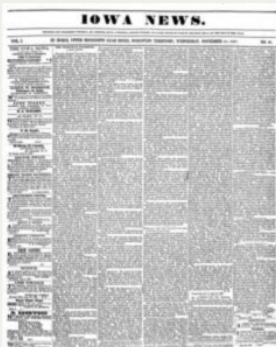


The actual print quality varied not only from paper to paper, but also in each edition. The type and consistency of the ink used, coupled with quality of the rag or cotton paper, contributed to “word bleed”, splatter and other imperfections.

Composing sticks were later used, allowing the length of the lines and consequent width of the page or column to be set, with spaces and quadrants of different sizes being used to make up the exact width. This added uniformity and consistency to the page.

Around 1815, one of the first significant advances in composition emerged: the development of stereotyping. This method of pre-press production allowed for a whole page of type to be cast in a single mold so that a printing plate could be made from it. Until the invention of stereotype printing, type had to be reset if a second printing was to be made.

The invention of the stereotype led to the mass production of printing plates. Multiple copies could now be sent to other printers and newspapers, which allowed for the reproduction of larger numbers of identical images. Paper was in high demand and costly at the time, which ultimately influenced the design and layout of this era. Newspapers were dense and dark, as publishers shrank type and eliminated illustration in an effort to get as much information as possible into a limited space. The denseness of the type-setting of this era created yet another OCR challenge. Due to the tight fit, many words were combined into a single line of text without spacing to separate the words. Columns were not detected properly in many cases due to their proximity to one another. In addition to the gothic fonts commonly used, there was no way to adjust the spacing between characters in a proportional font, especially in relation to height. For instance, the S/F challenge still existed, but for new reasons. The “f” was now occasionally truncated at the top, creating a “t”. Tops of an “A” could be cut off, creating an “H” in the OCR process. A capital “R” could easily become either a “K” or a “H”. These are just a few examples.



This page of the Iowa News, published on June 3, 1837, was selected for testing due to its image clarity. Again, this is a testament to the quality of the paper stock used, and the condition in which this title was kept. The paper was carefully preserved to microfilm and the microfilm was stored properly. When this image was scanned to create the digital image, over 175 years had passed since it came off of the printing press.

In total, 6,214 “words” were captured on this page; however the “words counted” include strings like this:

J ^ • O —>VH I.V. MW tvuw. .v <i j, l'Mil I (U PVUIbiUII" IUI U i .v,e, | 1 walci*s edge. li was in the Solf, inexpert, rxhau&tcd, nnd cncumbercd as j for the public road leading from Wdpello's old ...1 ~r ' r ' " *' village on tho Iowa to Du lluque, I fell iu

If we striped out the extra spaces and “non-words”, this would remain:

1 edge. was in the inexpert as for the public road leading from old village on Iowa to I fell.

Although this OCR text output is an extreme example, it illustrates the difference in what is captured by the OCR software and what is legible.

Making Old Newspapers Searchable: The History of Printing

A better demonstration is derived from the following article on the same page:

America* Statu.uy Marble.—We have authority for stating that Mr. Fen-
stonhaugh, U. States Geologist, has ascertained the existence of some im-
portant deposits of white statuary marble, in the Cherokee country, lie has
followed an ob-icuro ridge in the mountains six miles, consisting entirely of
that v iluable substance, hitherto only soon in tlio United States in thin beds,
not exceed-ini' u few Indies, lie reports ono of these dopu-sios ns equal to
thnt of Masna-Carrara, In Italy, ivith which he is familinr. Marble of this kind
lias been hitherto brought, nt a groat expense, from Italy. We trust this addi-
tional development of our mineral resources will be highly advantageous m
tho linn arts, in tlio hands of our men ofgenlus. (Jreecc and Italy owe much of
their celebrity in sculpture to tho iibundanco of statuary marble in thoso co-
antrics. We imagino that if Phidias and P'raxilcins had boenobligild lo import
tlicir material from foreign countries, posterity would never iavo possessed
the noblest examples of art, which their genius has boqucnlod to mankind.-
[Nat.Int.

AMERICAN STATUARY MARBLE.—We have au-
thority for stating that Mr. Featherstonhaugh, U.
States Geologist, has ascertained the existence of
some important deposits of white statuary marble,
in the Cherokee country. He has followed an ob-
scure ridge in the mountains six miles, consisting
entirely of that valuable substance, hitherto only
soon in the United States in thin beds, not exceed-
ing a few inches. He reports one of these depo-
sites as equal to that of Masna-Carrara, in Italy,
with which he is familiar. Marble of this kind
has been hitherto brought, at a great expense, from
Italy. We trust this additional development of
our mineral resources will be highly advantageous
to the fine arts, in the hands of our men of genius.
Greece and Italy owe much of their celebrity in
sculpture to the abundance of statuary marble in
those countries. We imagine that if Phidias and
Praxiteles had been obliged to import their mate-
rial from foreign countries, posterity would never
have possessed the noblest examples of art, which
their genius has bequeathed to mankind.—[Nat.Int.

There are 172 “words” that are counted in this very short article. If we were to clean the OCR to only include real words, we would be left with 126 words. That is less than a 30 percent loss on a newspaper page that is over 180 years old. The newspaper is also in remarkably good shape with a high-quality image. The majority of the OCR text is legible; most importantly, the names, no matter how unusual, were captured

America Marble. We have authority for stating that Mr. Fen-
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genius has to mankind.



Newspapers were originally printed on wood presses that were operated by turning a crank by hand. In 1814, the first mechanized printing press was introduced. This steam-powered machine could produce more than 1000 pages per hour. The production potential was more than tripled in 1832 with the introduction of the first cylinder press. Cylinder presses were much faster than platen and hand presses and could print between 3,000 and 4,000 impressions per hour.

The rate at which a newspaper page were printed doubled again in 1844. The first rotary press was invented and could print up to 8,000 copies per hour. Photographs of this era could be reproduced on rotary presses via halftones, providing a higher resolution at a significantly lower cost compared to previous methods of illustration.

Larger rotary presses, containing multiple machines, made printing large newspaper runs possible. The age of mass production of newspapers had begun, and it coincided with the development of a new paper-making technique based on pulping wood. By 1870, wood pulp had completely replaced rags as the main ingredient in producing paper. This innovation allowed paper production to finally keep pace with the increased rate at which newspapers were printed.

9 Ways to Effectively Find Obituaries in Online Newspapers

1. Use Keywords in Your Search Criteria

- Beloved
- Dear
- Loving
- Passed away
- Survived by
- Died
- Funeral
- In lieu of flowers
- Native of
- Devoted

2. Use Smart Browse

Techniques Recognize that the Vital Statistics sections of many old newspapers were on the same page. So when browsing from day to day after the known death date, just go to the same page number from issue to issue

3. Continue Searching After Finding the First Obit

Sometimes they are amended after the first publication

4. Use Obituary Indexes from Libraries and Societies

Find your ancestor in these indexes and then (Hopefully if the newspaper title and date are online) go to the issue and then to the Obituary section to get the obit.

5. A Death Index is not an Obituary Index

Death Indexes do not (usually) have the newspaper title & date.

6. They Might Have Died Far From Home

So search both locations

7. Check Papers in Places They Lived Before

Obituaries are sometimes copied in other locations

8. Obituaries in the Last 20 Years

Can be found generally online, so use your favorite search engine

9. Visit The Ancestor Hunt at:

<https://www.theancestorhunt.com/obituaries.html> for obituary resources
or <https://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html> for newspaper links



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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.

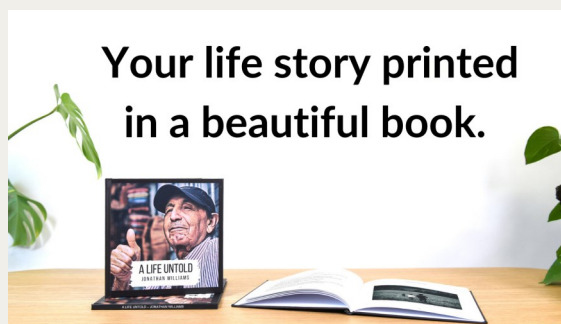
Whoowe is available from the AppStore and Google Play. Info at whoowe.com Try it out for free. Discount coupon for readers coming soon.



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.storyspot.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

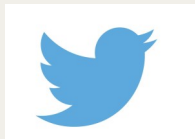
Free Stuff from the Western States

- 
- 1,061 Free Online [Idaho](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 752 Free Online [New Mexico](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 3,443 Free Online [California](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 574 Free Online [Alaska](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 512 Free Online [Hawaii](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 1,713 Free Online [Washington](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 1,314 Free Online [Arizona](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 1,644 Free Online [Colorado](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 1,230 Free Online [Oregon](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 341 Free Online [Nevada](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 574 Free Online [Alaska](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 970 Free Online [Utah](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
 - 1,074 Free Online [Montana](#) 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](#)

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