

Bi-Monthly Newsletter April 30, 2021



Contents for this Issue:

- Articles Published Since Last Issue
- New Website Navigation Overview
- Preservation Is Every Bit As Important As Access
- Another Online Research Quick Sheet Regarding Lodges, Clubs, and Secret Societies
- The usual tips, jokes, etc.

Important Notice for Readers

The Ancestor Hunt has undergone a major redesign and a new host as well. Please email me at kenmarksology@gmail.com with any problems that you encounter so that I may fix them readily.

Hit a Brick Wall? Need Help?



**Risk-free genealogy research
from the most talented
professionals on Earth**

Stop overpaying researchers you don't know or who don't have the specific skills you need. Our process and network give you the best price with high-quality results.

Sometimes, we need to call in an expert, and yes, we may have to pay a few bucks, but it's worth it.

Check out the 4,000 Pros at

[Trace.com](https://www.trace.com)

Have You Researched German-American Newspapers?



Check out 222 Digitized German-American Newspapers
[HERE](#)

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



Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – April 1-30, 2021](#)
- [Bi-Monthly Newsletter from The Ancestor Hunt – April 15, 2021](#)
- [8 Free Genealogy and Newspaper Research Quick Reference Guides](#)
- [Free Online Texas Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online New Jersey Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Illinois Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Pennsylvania Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [2,715 Free Online Marriage Collection and Index Links for the Mid West States](#)
- [Free Online New York Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Maryland Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [5,070 Free Online Marriage Collection and Index Links for the Southern States](#)
- [Free Online Indiana Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [1,375 Free Online Marriage Collection and Index Links for the Mid Atlantic States](#)
- [Free Online Maine Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Connecticut Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Ohio Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Minnesota Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Massachusetts Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – April 1-15, 2021](#)
- [2,670 Free Online Marriage Collection and Index Links for the New England States](#)
- [19 Places Where You Can Access Old Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Online Michigan Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – April 1-30, 2021](#)

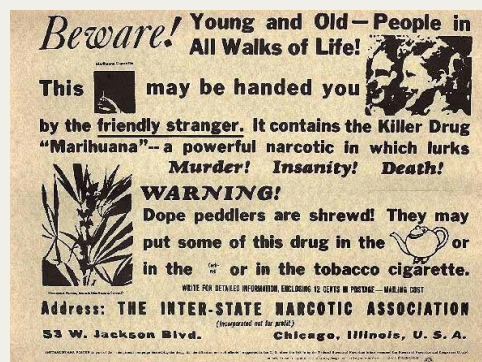
WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN MAY

FINISH NEW CATEGORY: CEMETERY AND BURIAL RECORDS

CONMPLETE MARRIAGES UPDATE

COMPLETE SITE REDESIGN AND NEW HOST

START NEWSPAPER UPDATE



New From The Newspaper Corner

- [Use Nicknames in Your Newspaper Searches to Find 50% More Ancestor Articles](#)
- [How to More Easily Find Obituaries in Old Newspapers](#)
- [8 Free Genealogy and Newspaper Research Quick Reference Guides](#)
- [33 Different Things You Can Find About Your Ancestors By Searching Old Newspapers](#)
- [280 Old Occupations Used in the Census and Newspapers in the U.S. and U.K.](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 102 Titles – April, 2021](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – April, 2021](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – April, 2021](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 89 Historical Newspaper Titles – April, 2021](#)

21 Ways You Know

YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT

Genealogy

1. Your favorite tree is a family tree.
2. You plan vacations to ancestral hometowns.
3. You prefer to read census schedules over novels.
4. You forget your first born's birthday, but remember your 5th cousin's.
5. You have a lifetime membership to your local genealogical society.
6. To you, visiting a cemetery is the best date idea ever.
7. You own a dozen historical maps, but not any current ones.
8. Your web browser start page is your favorite genealogy website.
9. You join every new social networking site in hopes of finding a long lost relative.
10. You seem to have misplaced your desk underneath all that genealogy research.
11. You read the obituaries every morning in hopes of recognizing a family member.
12. You're seriously considering moving to your ancestral homeland.
13. If you meet someone that shares your surname you immediately try to figure out if you're related.
14. Every city clerk in your state knows who you are.
15. You think everyone is somehow related to you.
16. Librarians are jealous of your many genealogy books.
17. You get excited when DNA testing kits go on sale.
18. You're consistently late to work because you stay up all night on research binges.
19. You think the single most important household item is a microfilm reader.
20. You have a rental storage unit specifically for genealogy research documents.
21. You decided to make a midlife career switch and are now a professional genealogist.



Crestleaf.com - Capture Your Family's Story

Useful Articles from Other Sources

Ancestors Immigrate Through New York?

- [Search New York Passenger Lists For Free](#)

Analyzing Photos?

- [Identifying Ancestor Photographs: Ambrotypes](#)
- [30 Pro Tips for Making the Most of Old Family Photos](#)

Need Better Genealogy Skills?

- [Strengthen Your Genealogy Research Skills in One Month](#)

Trouble Finding Stuff on Newspapers dot Com?

- [No Matches? 5 Strategies to Try Next on Newspapers.com™](#)

But, I'm Sure They're in There Somewhere!

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

Scots-Irish ancestors?

- [Scots-Irish Genealogy Websites, Books and Organizations](#)

New Website Navigation

There are 4 Menu Items

[Home](#) [Resources](#) ▾ [Blog](#) [More](#) ▾

The Resources Menu item includes all 17 Categories of Links (e.g., Newspapers, Yearbooks, Directories, etc.), Plus the By Location Feature

The More Menu Item includes: Recent Articles, Quicksheets, Newsletters, Subscribe, About, Contact, and Tools

In the Footer, there is a Search bar, Access to Blog Posts and Article Archives, and a New Category feature. Every Blog Post will be assigned at least one category.

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.

Preservation Is Every Bit As Important As Access

This article, published by Advantage Archives, deals with the other important issues with newspaper and other materials. It's not just an access issue. We love to have online access to online genealogical materials of all kinds. But preserving the originals or their facsimiles is equally as important.

From Jeff Kiley, Advantage Archives:

Digitizing your microfilm holdings and other documents of historical interest will unlock history by bringing it out of the drawer and putting it at your fingertips. However, access is only ½ the equation. Before you embark on a digitization project, you need to evaluate the risk to any original source materials in your collections

Historical newspapers and documents provide the first draft of a community's history. It is not a history remembered or retold years later. It is not an oral account handed down. It is not an interpretation of a historian. It is the history recorded the day of, or in the days following. That allows us to watch "history as it happened" through the lens of the individuals who witnessed it firsthand and recorded in their words.

It allows us to see how our community reacted to local and national events, and how those events shaped not only our community, but the nation, and the world as a whole

They also help us put people, places, and historical events in perspective. I often use the phrase "to understand the present, we need to take a look at the past". This was and is especially true at times like these. Between the pandemic or civil and political unrest, it is eye-opening to compare them to events in American history that mirror them. The Spanish flu pandemic. The Civil Rights Movement. Polarizing political figures like Joseph McCarthy, Andrew Johnson, or James Buchanan. There are parallels everywhere, and because of those parallels, they give us a chance to see how far we have come, and how far we have yet to go.



Genealogists have been pouring through newspapers for decades while doing their family history research. Scouring each page for birth and marriage announcements, death notices and obituaries, community events, scholastic and athletic achievements.

And don't forget my favorite: the "around town" blurbs. You know the ones: "Sally May was seen having a picnic under the old oak tree at Miller park with Johnny Jones, who is back in town for the weekend and staying at the home of Johnny's maternal aunt and her husband, Mr. Arnold Roberson. They had fried chicken, and homemade potato salad and both looked happy and satisfied when the meal was finished." These sections of the newspaper were the "Facebook" updates of the era!

I have been in this business for a long time, and through the years technology, methodology, and presentation, have changed quite a bit. What has never changed is the importance of the content. The words printed in a community's newspaper are so incredibly important. They allow us to connect with the past in a very tangible way. These words not only need to be made easily availa-

Preservation Is Every Bit As Important As Access

It goes without saying, but physical newspapers, either loose or in bound volumes, are at risk. Paper is fragile and not stable. Humidity, temperature variations, and other environmental factors accelerate the degradation of the paper, and the history recorded on it will eventually be lost unless steps are taken to ensure those words will be available to read for the generations to come.

Sometimes the older the newspaper, the better the condition you will find it. Most of the newspapers prior to the Great War were published on paper stock with a large percentage of cotton fabric. While these “rag” papers are more resistant to damage with the passage of time, they are also more susceptible to contamination from oils on the skin, leading to discoloration and fading of the print,

Newspapers printed in the early 1900s are brittle and fragile. Depending on the condition, even turning a page can sometimes “snap” a page in half, or leave part of the page in your hand.

The only true way to ensure the survival of that printed history is through preservation microfilming. 35mm Silver Halide microfilm is considered the archival standard and offers 500+ year life expectancy when captured and stored to standards. Archived content will be available for future generations and can be accessed by anyone with a magnifying glass and some light.

If digitization is a higher priority than preservation, I urge you to look at microfilm as your “**analog backup**” for your digital images. New digital images can be created from quality microfilm at any time, now or in the future. If a digital file is lost due to hardware failures, lack of redundancy, or obsolescence of technology, you can “restore” your digital image from your “analog backup” by rescanning the microfilm.

Properly preserved content on microfilm also will allow you to “upgrade” your archive as technology advances, processes become more efficient, and things like hardware, software development, infrastructure, and bandwidth become increasingly affordable.

If you have paper in your collection, microfilm is the “gold standard” for long term archival preservation. But what if you already have your content preserved to microfilm? Did you know that your microfilm might also be at risk?

Microfilm is vulnerable to a “disease” known as “Vinegar Syndrome”, which is a chemical of degradation that occurs with cellulose acetate film. It takes its name from the obvious vinegar smell, which is the identifying characteristic of the degradation process. It smells like vinegar because infected film releases acetic acid, the same substance in common vinegar. Microfilm made with acetate backing is susceptible to vinegar syndrome. Most films of this type were made prior to 1980.

Vinegar syndrome is also “contagious”. If a reel in your collection is infected, the other reels it is stored with could “catch it” too. The autocatalytic nature of vinegar syndrome triggers the breakdown of any cellulose acetate film reels stored in the proximity to each other.

Microfilm can also suffer from another condition known as “redox”. Redox describes the process that forms the blemishes caused by a localized, cyclic reduction, and oxidation of the silver in the image area. Redox appears most commonly on microfilm, but may also appear on prints made that used silver in the development process. Many kinds of defects and blemishes that occasionally appear on processed microfilm can be attributed to redox. Most commonly, redox blemishes are small circles outlined with concentric rings that alternate between dark and light. They are frequently in shades of brown or yellow and often seen centered on scratches in your film, sometimes closely packed, like water droplets on a spiderweb.

Proper storage can help mitigate the risk. To ensure your collection meets the 500-year life expectancy target, your microfilm should be stored in a temperature and humidity-controlled environment. This is difficult to do with your institution’s service copies, but steps should be taken to ensure there is a well-maintained microfilm master in addition to the service copy in your collection. You would be surprised how many clients embark on a digitization project, only to discover that the only available source material to scan is a scratched service copy because the master was either missing or damaged.



Preservation Is Every Bit As Important As Access

Ideal storage conditions for microfilm masters consist of 67-degree base temperature, that does not exceed 70 degrees with a constant relative humidity of 35%. These conditions should not vary more than 5% in a 24-hour period. The master film should be stored on 1,000-foot reels (as opposed to the 100' reels used for your service copies) in a non-reactive container.

Only, chemically stable materials such as non-corrosive metals (anodized aluminum or stainless steel), peroxide-free plastics, and acid-free paper should be used for containers to ensure no degradation is caused to the image. Container label information should include an identification number or barcode to allow for cataloging the location and contents.

I know resources and time are limited commodities in most organizations, and I certainly understand it is difficult to perform a full audit of the integrity of your film archive or evaluate existing acetate based microfilm collections on an annual basis. I would, however, recommend that each year you randomly select a sample of not less than 2% of the total number of reels in your collection and do a quick "health check" on the film. Document any brittle film, microfilm with redox or other blemishes, the presence of vinegar syndrome, any discoloration, or any other condition that may jeopardize the life and longevity of your valuable archive.



If you know for a fact that your collection contains older films, I recommend you consider doing a larger annual sample. If you identify a suspect reel, immediately "quarantine" it away from your collection, and test the reels stored in close proximity to the infected reel. ***A-D Strips are available to purchase from the Image Permanence Institute.*** These are dye-coated paper strips that provide a simple and safe method for detecting, measuring, and recording the severity of vinegar syndrome.

If you want to perform a more in-depth and thorough inspection, Guidelines for inspection are available and can be found in the ANSI/AIIM standards (***section MS45-1990 can be purchased at the ANSI Webstore***). In addition to common microfilm maladies, you may want to take the opportunity to check the reels for quality and adherence to standards. This includes counting the number of physical splices (and butt splices as opposed to overlap splices) and that there are no rubber-based adhesives contained in any tape material used. A content inventory can also be helpful to determine gaps in coverage, missing dates, and/or incorrect labeling.

I am of the opinion that microfilm should be used as a preservation tool, and should be touched as little as possible. Obviously, the microfilm master should not be handled at all, as it is the archival copy, and should be tucked away in a climate-controlled environment, but I also encourage our partners to limit the use (if possible) of the service copies in their collection. This is where digitization comes in to play. Digitization offers practical access to the content in your microfilm collection, making it widely available, and limiting the wear and tear on your film.

When preparing original source materials for digitization, if you discover the available microfilm of the newspaper to be digitized is poor, or the edition has not yet been preserved on microfilm, then consider making filming your first priority. Newspaper digitization is most commonly done from microfilm as scanning from microfilm is generally faster and less expensive. I generally advise against using an institution's service copies as a source material to scan from (if at all possible). These duplications are likely scratched or have surface damage from handling, and that will impact the image quality. Unfortunately, if the microfilm master is unable to be located or is damaged, sometimes the reel in your collection may be the only available copy. It happens more than you might think.

You can look at your service copy as a "second archival copy", one that preserves the printed word in the unlikely the master microfilm, or other service copies in the wild, are lost, destroyed, or otherwise unavailable. They should be handled and used with care. Care that is not always exercised by patrons.

Rough handling leads to tears, creases, scratches, and breaks. Occasionally the reel will need to be replaced due to "wear and tear", and purchasing a duplication made from the microfilm becomes necessary. Replacing one reel is relatively inexpensive, however, over time, replacement costs can add up. Damage can be caused by patrons abusing the high-speed motors, letting the film "flap" at the beginning or end of a reel. It also is caused by improperly threading the film into the reader, improperly reboxing the reel, and rough handling in general. I had a client once send us a reel they described as "tarnished and splotchy". Of course, we first suspected redox, but when the reel arrived, we discovered it was most likely catchup...so there is that too I guess.

Preservation Is Every Bit As Important As Access

Damage does not just come from abuse but from just the act of using it as an access tool. Residual oils from the skin collect dust and other contaminants that are abrasive to the film leading to scratches and tears.

Even if your microfilm readers are properly cleaned and maintained, and covered when not in use, it too can be a source of damage. Dust, oils, and particulates settle on the glass and are likely to scratch and wear the film with each use. Improperly seated glass platens, broken clutches, and sharp edges don't help either...



At Advantage, we “practice what we preach”, and use the only proven long term preservation method for newspaper & document preservation: Capturing content on to 35MM silver halide archival quality microfilm. This polyester-based microfilm is the only medium currently recommended for preservation microfilming. Silver halide is a gelatin film based composed of very fine grains of silver and is the most light-sensitive of all the films used in microform. This allows the greatest amount of detail to be captured on the film and provides the richest tonal variance. Silver halide microfilm provides the most faithful reproduction of the source document. This stable and durable medium has a life expectancy of over 500 years under the proper storage and handling conditions.

Advantage Archives prides itself not only meeting but exceeding ANSI/AIIM (Association for Information and Image Management) standards for the production, processing, and storage of this film as an archival medium. We also have built our process upon specifications once developed by the Research Libraries Group (RLG) and guidelines written by the National Archives, as well as the Library of Congress. This requires stringent adherence to internal Advantage guidelines regarding the careful production and examination of all archival microfilm, in addition to well-controlled storage and handling conditions.

Online Newspaper Research Quick Sheet

Was Your Ancestor a Member of a Lodge, Club, or Secret Society?

Why is this important? - 20% of men in 1900 belonged to a lodge or club and their membership was usually cited in Obituaries

Lodges, Clubs, and Societies

B'nai B'rith: a Jewish service organization.

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks: A fraternal order focused on charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity with an emphasis on patriotism and belief in God.

Colonial Dames of America: an American organization composed of women who are descended from an ancestor who lived in British America from 1607–1775.

Daughters of Norway: A sisterhood aimed at preserving Nordic heritage.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR): a lineage-based membership service organization for women who are directly descended from a person involved in the United States' efforts towards independence.

Fraternal Order of Eagles: "People Helping People" in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality. Local units are called "Aeries."

Freemasons: The Masonic Fraternity claims to be the oldest Fraternity in the world and seeks men (Masons) wishing to become better men through service and self-improvement.

Grange: A community-based, fraternal organization with an interest in representing rural residents and the agriculture community.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows: To improve and elevate the character of mankind by promoting the principles of friendship, love, truth, faith, hope, charity, and universal justice.

International Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo, Incorporated is a fraternal and service organization whose members are involved in the forests products industry.

Job's Daughters International: a Masonic affiliated youth organization for girls and young women aged 10 to 20.

Kiwanis: an international service club founded in 1915 in Detroit, Michigan.

Knight of Pythias: a fraternal organization and secret society founded in Washington, D.C., on 19 February 1864

Knights of Columbus: A Catholic fraternal benefit society.

Lions Club: an international non-political service organization established originally in 1917 in Chicago, Illinois.

Loyal Order of Moose: a fraternal and service organization founded in 1888 and headquartered in Mooseheart, Illinois.

Optimist International: an international service club organization with almost 3,000 clubs and over 80,000 members in more than 20 countries. The international headquarters is located in St. Louis, Missouri

Order of the Eastern Star: The members of the Order of the Eastern Star are dedicated women and men who sincerely reflect the spirit of fraternal love and the desire to work together for good.

Rebekahs: This is the female organization of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Rotary International: an international service organization whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.

Shriners: Fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Sons of Italy: A fraternal group focused on preserving Italian heritage.

Sons of Norway: A fraternal group focused on preserving Norwegian heritage. Founded in 1895.

Soroptimist International (SI): a worldwide volunteer service organization for women who work for peace, and in particular to improve the lives of women and girls.

The American Legion: commonly known as the **Legion**, is a nonprofit organization of U.S. war veterans.

Visit The Ancestor Hunt at: <http://www.theancestorhunt.com>



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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.

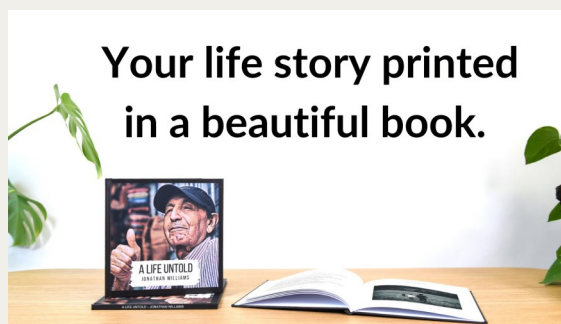
Whoowe is available from the AppStore and Google Play. Info at whoowe.com Try it out for free. Discount coupon for readers coming soon.



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 Mid West States

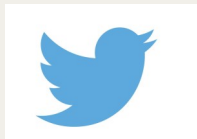
- 3,753 Free Online [Missouri](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 2,214 Free Online [Oklahoma](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 633 Free Online [South Dakota](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 2,367 Free Online [Kansas](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 2,385 Free Online [Minnesota](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 4,559 Free Online [Iowa](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 4,008 Free Online [Illinois](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 3,355 Free Online [Indiana](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 649 Free Online [North Dakota](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 1,626 Free Online [Nebraska](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 3,041 Free Online [Michigan](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 2,112 Free Online [Wisconsin](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 5,593 Free Online [Ohio](#) 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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