

Bi-Monthly Newsletter June 15, 2021



Contents for this Issue:

- Articles Published Since Last Issue
- New Website Navigation Overview
- The 6 Best Ways to NOT FIND Your Ancestors
- Exciting New Newspaper Indexing Project Needs Your Help
- Another Online Research Quick Sheet Regarding Photograph Analysis

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 Protestant Newspapers?



Check out 220 Digitized
Protestant Newspapers [HERE](#)

→ Please Note: Hot Links are in [BLUE](#)



Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – June 1-15, 2021](#)
- [Free Online Illinois Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Nebraska Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Connecticut Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Massachusetts Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [11 Ways That Historical Photos Provide Clues About Our Ancestors Lives](#)
- [Free Online South Dakota Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online North Dakota Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Rhode Island Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Vermont Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online New Hampshire Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Oregon Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online New Mexico Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Indiana Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Tennessee Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online West Virginia Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Washington Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Florida Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Alabama Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Delaware Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Pennsylvania Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online New York Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Mississippi Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Idaho Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Illinois Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Colorado Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online New Jersey Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Maryland Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Oklahoma Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Michigan Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Minnesota Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Utah Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Louisiana Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Wisconsin Death Records and Indexes](#)

New From The Newspaper Corner

- [Chronicling America Updates – May, 2021](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – May, 2021](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 56 Titles – May, 2021](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 88 Historical Newspaper Titles - May, 2021](#)
- [37,500 Free Online U.S. Historical Newspapers Now Available](#)
- [Utah Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Washington Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Advantage Archives Adds 1.2 Million Historical Newspaper Pages – May, 2021](#)
- [California Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Historical Civilian Conservation Corps \(CCC\) Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical American Farming Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical U.S. College and High School Student Newspapers Online](#)
- [20 Special Collections of Online Historical Newspapers](#)
- [Historical Jewish American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical German American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical Nordic American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical U.S. and Canada Free Online Catholic Newspapers](#)
- [Historical American Labor and Union Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical Polish American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical Hispanic and Portuguese American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical African American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical Indigenous and Native American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical U.S. Alternative Press Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical French American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical Italian American Newspapers Online](#)



New Newspaper Indexing Project Needs Your Help as Beta Testers

If you search old newspapers online, you have certainly run into one of its biggest problems—the failure of the results of the scanned newspaper after the OCR process is applied. Old brittle originals, tears, creases, and ink spots distort the original text and make the OCR'd results look like, in a word “Garbage”. Software such as Veridian (Illinois, California, and Colorado state newspaper sites, just to name a few), enable users through crowdsourcing to voluntarily improve the results.

FamilySearch provides indexing of document collections that enable us to actually search an index in order to find pertinent ancestor documents. This indexing is often performed by volunteers.

But what about newspapers?

Taneya Koonce and Billie McNamara, founders of the Tennessee Genealogy Indexing Project, are seeking volunteers to participate in web-based indexing of Tennessee historical newspapers. The project is in its very early stages and has a goal to create a freely available online database of names that appear in the papers. Similar to FamilySearch Indexing, this project will use a crowd-sourcing approach where volunteers will help extract names using a web-based indexing software platform.

How many of you would be willing to index -- not abstract or transcribe? You could do as little as an average of a page a day? You would not download or print but instead, you would view the document and fill in blanks on a form on the screen.

Depending on the newspaper page's content and your typing skills, it could take anywhere from 5 minutes to 30 minutes to complete a page. Then, someone will spend 5-30 minutes per page (depending again on computer skills and reading speed) verifying the accuracy.

If you are interested in learning more, please fill out the form at <https://bit.ly/newspaper-indexing> and we will share additional details; we look forward to hearing from you!

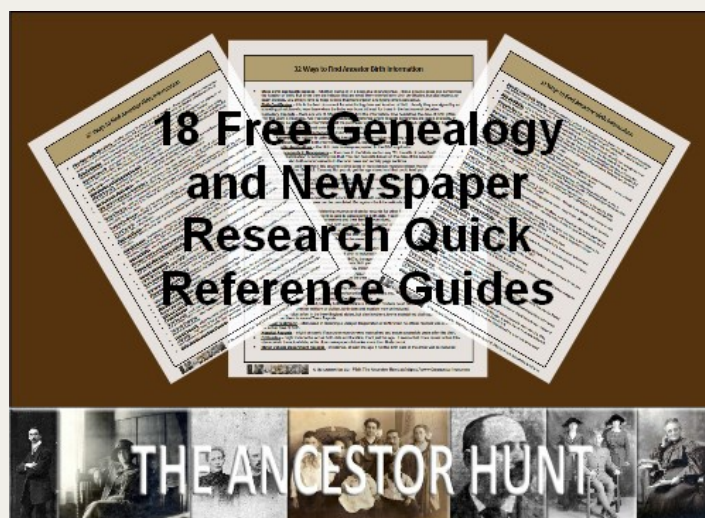
We also have a link on the TNGenWeb site that includes a descriptive video:

<https://www.facebook.com/301280523409776/posts/1666931076844707/>

Recently, I've been creating Quick Reference Guides (or Quick Sheets as I call them) primarily to help folks with online genealogy and/or newspaper research. In the last month, I have added 10 new Quick Sheets. There are a total of 18 of them in pdf format that you can download (2 have not been published or shared previously).

Include are tips regarding using abbreviations, nicknames, keywords, and changing letter pairs in your search criteria. And also: old diseases and occupations, naturalization laws, draft card rules, lodges, and clubs, etc. And yes, they are free. Download 1, 2, or all 18. Please feel free to share them on Facebook, Twitter or with your local genealogy society.

Download them at <https://bit.ly/2SOgvEz>



Useful Articles from Other Sources

Interviewing Your Relatives?

- [Interviewing Questions and Prompts for Family History Interviews](#)

Planning a Family Reunion?

- [10 Ideas for How to Organize a Family Reunion with Success](#)

Do You Have the Right Birth Document?

- [Certification of Birth vs. Birth Certificate](#)

Need Help Finding Cemetery Records?

- [Historic Cemeteries: A Closer Look at Cemetery Records #2](#)

Researching UK Census Records?

- [Everything You Need to Know about UK Census Records](#)

Looking for Webinars?

- [Conference Keeper is The Best Place to Look](#)

New Website Navigation

There are 4 Menu Items

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

The Resources Menu item includes all 18 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.

Quirky Old Newspaper Ad

WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN JUNE

FINISH NEW CATEGORY: CEMETERY AND BURIAL RECORDS

COMPLETE DEATHS AND BIRTHS UPDATE

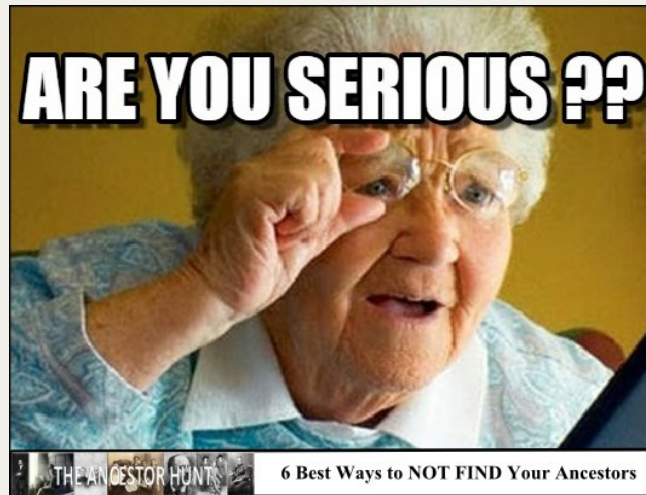
COMPLETE SITE REDESIGN AND NEW HOST

IT TAKES
MANY
INGREDIENTS
TO MAKE
BURGER KING
GREAT BUT...



“The Secret Ingredient
is our People”

The 6 Best Ways to NOT FIND Your Ancestors



Genealogy researching is hard; nobody cooperates; the database you want to research is the next county over; you have names that have thousands of duplicates; the online family trees are all over the place, etc. So you continue to not find your ancestors.

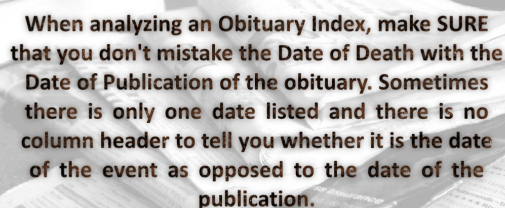
In the interests of keeping this losing streak alive, here are 6 ways to continue to not find your ancestors:

- **Don't interview your older relatives** – I have 3 of them left and what a pain they are. They can't hear you. They suffer from CRS disease (Can't Remember Squat). If you bring a bunch of technology, like voice recorders, smartphones, iPads, laptops – they freak out. Don't bother showing them your old photos because most of the answers will be "I don't remember" or "I don't know." And that is if you can get them to stop crying over all their old friends and close relatives who have died. And make sure you argue with them when they tell you something about somebody that you know is not true. They are probably wrong anyway. They were "there" but their memory is failing so they are probably making stuff up. Make sure you ask them about all the "skeletons in the closet" stories that you heard about them and others. That will really get them to cooperate, because at their age they like nothing better than to tell embarrassing stories about themselves that they forgot about 40 years ago. Yeah – older relatives – what a waste of time. And they will be mad at you afterwards for dredging up old crappy memories.
- **Always do exact searches** – When you are searching online, like FamilySearch or that not free one – Ancestry? Or any other – make sure that you always do exact searches because those are the best. If you have written down that they lived in Georgia, why would you search in South Carolina – that's dumb. And oh yeah – regarding last name spelling – Imagine the census taker in the early 1900's. They show up at the door and ask your great grandmother a bunch of questions. He says – "What's your last name? And she says "Mankiewicz". He says "Huh?" She says "Mankiewicz" and knowing that most people have no clue how to spell it – she starts "M..A..N...." and he writes down the letters one by one. So no mistakes made there. And even if she didn't spell it out for him, he was smart enough to know how to spell it. They paid those census takers a lot of money – so they were smart and also had to have exceptional penmanship to get the job. So you say – what about the data entry of documents into an index? Ever heard of two pass verification or double data entry – problem solved – 99.5% success is pretty darn good. So you say – what about the changing of names at Ellis Island? Don't even get me started on that hocus pocus baloney. Of course they were all changed – nobody could speak English, Duh!
- **Only search online** – Everybody knows that everything is online, so why would you want to go to a library or an archive? You can't take pictures; you have to wear gloves, and forget going to a courthouse – all that dust and crabby people that work there? Not for me. And besides you have to get out of your pajamas, get dressed – shave or put makeup on – no way. And it takes too darn long looking for things one boring page at a time. You can't read half the stuff anyway. Don't get me started with microfilm readers. So 20th century!

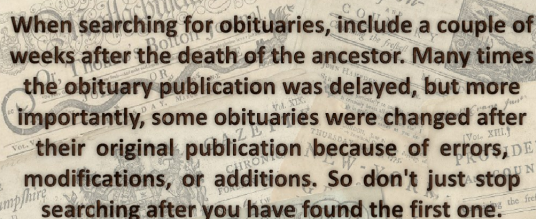
The 6 Best Ways to NOT FIND Your Ancestors

- **Don't write down where you got stuff** – all the experts tell you to write down where you found stuff – you know documents and things. Why? You already found it – so why would you write down where you found it? That's dumb. If you were walking down the street and found a twenty dollar bill would you rush home and write down the address of where you found it? Heck no – you'd spend it. Look – I found it – you didn't. if you want to prove me wrong – go find it yourself. That's your problem, not mine. Why? Cause I already found it. That's another "Duh". So you say – for future generations! Again that's their problem – you'll be dead anyway – what do you care?
- **Copy from every tree you can find** – this is my favorite because it makes it so easy to not find any of the right ancestors. There are tons of already perfect family trees out there – on Ancestry, FamilySearch, WikiTree, My Heritage, and many more. I have always felt that if it is written down and/or published then it has to be correct. So you want to join all these sites and copy all of the trees and merge them with your tree. Then you will have tons of possible ancestors all in one place. What a goldmine of ancestors – most of whom aren't yours.
- **Don't try to find living relatives** – Okay – you have been at this "not finding ancestors" thing for quite awhile. Everybody says that you should try to find "cousins" – not necessarily first cousins, but 2nd, 3rd, removed ones, etc. Have you met my cousins? I don't need more cousins like them. But I digress. Here's the deal – if these so-called cousins were interested in genealogy wouldn't they have already contacted you? And if they haven't, then it means that they don't care. And let me tell you – some of these cousins make this "not finding ancestors" thing an art form. They hide old boxes of ancestor documents and photos in their garages and attics and claim to have no time to look through them. So don't even bother trying to find them and contact them. Keep your not finding ancestors streak alive.

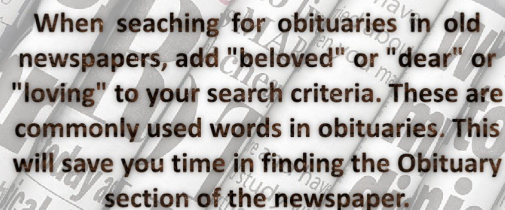
FULL DISCLOSURE – everything written above is intended to be a joke. PLEASE do NOT do any of these things like I said. Meet with your older relatives NOW; don't rely on exact searches; get out of the house and to libraries and archives – that is where you will find some really great stuff; please write down your sources – if not for future generations but for yourself – so you don't have to ask yourself where you found it; be very careful with existing online family trees – use them as clues only and VERIFY!; and yes – try to find other "cousins" – not only will you expand your tree but you will meet some great people who may indeed help you.



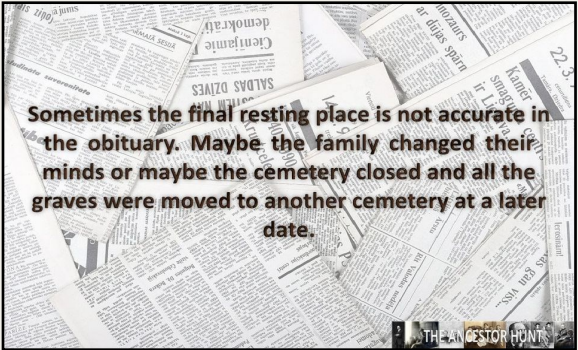
When analyzing an Obituary Index, make SURE that you don't mistake the Date of Death with the Date of Publication of the obituary. Sometimes there is only one date listed and there is no column header to tell you whether it is the date of the event as opposed to the date of the publication.



When searching for obituaries, include a couple of weeks after the death of the ancestor. Many times the obituary publication was delayed, but more importantly, some obituaries were changed after their original publication because of errors, modifications, or additions. So don't just stop searching after you have found the first one.



When searching for obituaries in old newspapers, add "beloved" or "dear" or "loving" to your search criteria. These are commonly used words in obituaries. This will save you time in finding the Obituary section of the newspaper.



Sometimes the final resting place is not accurate in the obituary. Maybe the family changed their minds or maybe the cemetery closed and all the graves were moved to another cemetery at a later date.

11 Ways That Historical Photos Provide Clues About Our Ancestors

- Professional Photographer – If a professional photographer took the photos, does his name and location or the name of the studio give us a clue as to the ancestor's residence?
- Type of Photo – Daguerreotype? Tintype? Cabinet card? Can provide you with timing information.
- Photo Frame – was it in a cardboard frame that often had the photographer's name and city or address?
- Clothing – the clothing that was worn can give us great clues as to the date of the photograph and therefore clues for our research.
- Hair Style – clues about the timing of the photo.
- Furniture and Props – in a professional photograph – more timing clues.
- Surrounding information – such as landscape, signs, furniture, machinery, automobiles, and even technology, such as radios and televisions. This can give you dating clues as well as the location of the photo; in some cases their residence location or where they went on vacation.
- House Architecture – many photos were taken on the outside of a home. I even have many photos where the house number is included. The architecture of the home can provide some clues as to its location.
- Gravestone Photo – terrific birth and death date information (although not always accurate) and who the person is buried next to or near can provide additional clues.
- Writing on the back – many times the name(s) of the folks in the photo were written on the back. But since you don't know who wrote the names or when they were written, caution should be taken as to their accuracy.
- Postcards – in the first few decades of the 20th century, special postcards with a photo on the back were mailed. Obviously, the writing in the corresponding part of the card can provide great clues.

For the best information regarding dating an old photograph – it would be very helpful to visit Maureen Taylor's [Photo Detective](#) website. And in the U.K., [Jayne Shrimpton](#). Both have numerous articles and books pertinent to photo analysis.



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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.

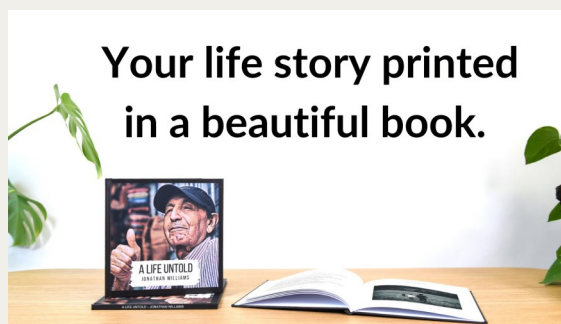
Whoowe is available from the AppStore and Google Play. Info at whoowe.com Try it out for free. Discount coupon for readers coming soon.



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

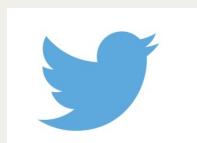
Free Stuff from the Southern States

- 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
- 1,504 Free Online [South Carolina](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 1,756 Free Online [Florida](#) 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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