

Bi-Monthly Newsletter July 15, 2021



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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)

Do You Have Indigenous
or Native American Ancestors?



Check out 228 Digitized Indigenous American Newspapers
[HERE](#)

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



Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – July 1-15, 2021](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – June 1-30, 2021](#)
- [Free Online Oregon Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [11 Reasons Why Alumni Records are a Gold Mine for Genealogists](#)
- [9 Reasons Why You Should Be Researching Voter Records - A Hidden Gem](#)
- [2,068 Free Online West Virginia Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [32 Free Genealogy and Newspaper Research Quick Reference Guides](#)
- [2,555 Free Online Tennessee Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [1,643 Free Online Mississippi Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
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- [2,330 Free Online Florida Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [Free Online Nevada Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Missouri Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Kansas Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Iowa Birth Records and Indexes](#)

New From The Newspaper Corner

- [Did You Know That Veridian has Over 50 Million Digitized Newspaper Pages to Search for Free Online?](#)
- [Newspaper Research Tip – 8 Ways to Not Screw Up](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 29 Titles – June, 2021](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – June, 2021](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 38 Historical Newspaper Titles – June, 2021](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – June 2021](#)
- [GenealogyBank Adds/Updates 53 Titles – June, 2021](#)
- [Newspaper Research Tip – 4 Challenges in Downloading Historical Newspaper Articles](#)
- [Canada Online Historical Newspaper Links](#)
- [Canadian Territories Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Quebec Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Prince Edward Island Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Manitoba Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Saskatchewan Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [New Brunswick Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Nova Scotia Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Newspaper Research Tip – 5 Things to Consider When Selecting an Online Newspaper Subscription Site](#)
- [Newspaper Research Tip – 4 Challenges in Downloading Historical Newspaper Articles](#)
- [Advantage Archives Adds 600K Historical Newspaper Pages – June, 2021](#)
- [Alberta Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Newspaper Research Tip – 12 Keys to Properly Analyzing the Vitals Section of Historical Newspapers](#)
- [Ontario Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Why the Heck Aren't You Researching Old Newspapers - The Third Dimension](#)
- [GenealogyBank Adds/Updates 64 Titles – July, 2021](#)



An Interview With Stefan Boddie, CEO of Veridian Software/DL Consulting

Did you know that Veridian Software has collections of digitized newspapers that can be searched for free? Over 50 million pages, I might add.

Did you know that they power California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming state newspaper collections? You may have used their software and didn't know it!

How about country-wide collections, such as Estonia, Israel, New Zealand, Singapore, and Switzerland?

Did you know that they are the folks behind the [Elephind](#) federated search facility that allows you to search many collections all at once?

[Veridian](#) is the name of the software and service package created by [DL Consulting](#), a firm headquartered in Hamilton, New Zealand.

The very first online newspaper collection that I ever used was their implementation of the California state newspaper collection, and that was about 10 years ago. It still is the collection that I search the most for my own personal genealogy.

I recently conducted an interview with the CEO, Stefan Boddie. Below is a transcript of that interview:

Hello, Stefan. Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions. Could you provide a short history of the DL Consulting company and its mission?

DL Consulting was born in 2002, so we've been doing this for nearly 20 years. For about 5 years prior to that I worked on a research project at the University of Waikato here in New Zealand, developing open source "digital library" software called Greenstone (several others who work here at DL also came out of that project). The Veridian product was first developed for the National Library of New Zealand "Papers Past" newspaper project in 2006. It's still used by that project, and is of course now used for many other digitisation projects. Our mission is to make it easy for institutions to digitise their newspaper collections and to make previously difficult to access information available to everyone.

You seem to have been adding online collections at a very constant, but increasing rate. To what do you attribute this increase in activity?

Perseverance! We keep doing the best job we can and each successful project becomes a reference site and adds to our credibility for other potential projects. It's kind of a slow snowball effect...

Veridian software is one of my favorites for personal newspaper research. It's been around for over 10 years but always seems to get more robust. I am especially impressed with your recent use of non-Roman/Latin alphabets, such as Hebrew in the National Library of Israel collection, and Japanese characters in the Stanford/Hoover Collection of Japanese-American newspapers. Without getting too technical, how is that achieved?

One key point is that Veridian is constantly evolving and improving, and is dramatically more robust, feature rich, stable, fast, and scalable than it was when it was first developed nearly 15 years ago. We're a small and very specialised company, and digitisation projects are all we do, so the technology we're using is always improving. A second point I guess is we've found something of a niche in handling difficult digitisation projects. For example, if you have a simple collection of a few thousand English-language documents or photographs or some such thing there are dozens of products you can use to put them online. However, if you have a collection of several million pages of digitised newspapers, with large page sizes and poor OCR quality and all the other issues that come with historic newspapers, then Veridian is one of only a few viable options. Likewise if you're dealing with newspapers in more difficult languages like Hebrew, Arabic, and Japanese. We pride ourselves on being able to handle the complex projects that others can't, so that naturally creates some opportunities for us to work on some interesting and unusual collections.

METS/ALTO is a standard that was created by the Library of Congress I believe and is used by Chronicling America and of course yourself. Again without getting too technical, what is it?

There's an article on our website (<https://veridiansoftware.com/knowledge-base/metsalto/>) that hopefully explains it.



An Interview With Stefan Boddie, CEO of Veridian Software/DL Consulting

Another favorite of mine is your crowdsourcing of text correction, necessary because of the quality issues of old newsprint. Other than the obvious need for such a tool, what prompted you to create the feature over a decade ago? No other provider has it, as far as I know.

We borrowed the idea from the National Library of Australia, who included it in their Trove system (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>) when they launched it way back in about 2007 or 2008. Trove is a system NLA built themselves in-house — that is, it's not Veridian or any other "product" that can be used by other projects, and I believe it's still the only system with crowdsourced text correction, aside from Veridian. We're not above borrowing good ideas from others, and crowd-sourced text correction is a great idea!

For what it's worth, while the obvious benefit of crowdsourced text correction is the improved text and searchability, there are less obvious benefits that we think are just as important. The key one is that it tends to create communities of like-minded and very engaged users for these collections. Finding smart ways to encourage people to really engage with and care about the content of these collections is one of our key goals for Veridian.

I discovered Elephind over 5 years ago and always publish an article when you provide updates. It is a popular tool. Since the federated search of multiple collections is so desirable. Any updates on that service?

No updates at this point. We actually built Elephind.com originally to test the search systems we use in Veridian, to see how they perform with 10 million or 20 million or 30 million pages of newspapers. It then became popular enough that we've left it online, with occasional content updates, for many years. We don't currently have any plans to change it, but that may change in future.

People may be surprised, but the number of pages of the collections for which your software is used doubles that of Chronicling America. You're the best-kept secret in the newspaper digitization world! Without giving away any of your secret plans, what can we expect in the next few years from Veridian?

We'll continue to develop the software to add new features, as well as regularly upgrading all the existing Veridian-based collections to keep them looking modern and running well. And of course, we'll hopefully continue to become less of a secret, and to expand the group of newspaper digitisation projects using Veridian.

Here is a list of some of DL Consulting's clients who are using Veridian Software. The total number of pages exceeds 50 Million.

- [Boston College Newspapers](#)
- [Cambridge Public Library](#)
- [Case Western Reserve University – Student Newspaper Archive](#)
- [Catholic Research Resources Alliance – The Catholic News Archive](#)
- [Central Michigan University – Digital Michigan Newspapers](#)
- [Colorado State Library – Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection](#)
- [Columbia University – Columbia Spectator Archive](#)
- [Cornell University – Cornell Daily Sun](#)
- [Hoover Institution Library & Archives – Hoji Shinbun Digital Collection](#)
- [Illinois State University – Vidette Digital Archives](#)
- [Indiana State Library – Hoosier State Chronicles](#)
- [Kani'āina "Voices of the Land" Digital Library – Native Hawaiian](#)
- [Kent State University – Kent Stater Archive](#)
- [Lehigh University – The Lehigh Digital Archives](#)
- [Library of Virginia – Virginia Chronicle](#)
- [National Library of Estonia](#)
- [National Library of New Zealand – Papers Past](#)
- [Phillips Exeter Academy – The Exonian Archive](#)
- [Plains to Peak Historic Newspapers](#)
- [Princeton University – Papers of Princeton](#)
- [Purdue University – The Purdue Exponent Archive](#)
- [Singapore National Library – Newspaper SG](#)
- [Southeastern New York Library Resources Council – HRVH Historical Newspapers](#)
- [Swiss National Library](#)
- [The National Library of Israel – Historical Jewish Press](#)
- [The Ohio State University Newspaper Archives](#)
- [University of California Riverside – California Digital Newspaper Collection](#)
- [University of California San Francisco – Synapse Archive](#)
- [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – Illinois Digital Newspaper Collections](#)
- [University of Pennsylvania – Daily Pennsylvanian Digital Archives](#)
- [University of Richmond – The Collegian](#)
- [Vassar College – Vassar Newspaper Archives](#)
- [Washington State Library – Washington Digital Newspapers](#)
- [Wyoming State Newspapers](#)
- [Yale University – Yale Daily News Historical Archive](#)



Useful Articles from Other Sources

Looking for a Genealogy Event?

- [Remember to Check Out Conference Keeper!](#)

Wanna Know About the Infamous 1890 Census?

- [1890 Census Records Research Guide](#)

Researching Italian Ancestors?

- [10 Key Italian Genealogy Resources](#)

Ancestors Name Spelled Different Ways?

- [Spelling Irregularities are a Genealogy Fact of Life](#)

Looking for Ancestors in the Early 1800s?

- [8 Tips for Finding Ancestors Prior to 1850](#)

Doing Union Army Civil War Research of Your Ancestor?

- [Using Grand Army of the Republic Records for Civil War Research](#)

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 JULY

FINISH NEW CATEGORY: CEMETERY AND BURIAL RECORDS

COMPLETE BIRTHS UPDATE

WORK ON CORONER RECORDS UPDATE

WORK ON CANADIAN RECORDS UPDATES



11 Things You Can Find by Researching Alumni Records

Maybe it's just me, but I have never heard anyone write or talk about using Alumni Records in their genealogy research. I use them personally, and have discovered mountains of information in these gems.

I contend that alumni records are part directories, part newspapers and magazines, part biographies, part obituaries, part yearbooks, part vital records, etc. You get the idea. If you are seeking genealogy clues, these "records" are full of them. All of the information is derivative, but it can provide leads for you to search for original documents. And if you are documenting a person's family story, well, there's a ton of that kind of information too.

So what am I including in Alumni Records?

- Alumni directories
- Alumni registers
- Alumni newsletters, bulletins, newspapers, and magazines
- Commencement programs
- Alumni Association records

And what information is available in them?

- Graduation dates and degree(s) received
- Current photos and/or those of their family
- Current address lists
- Where are they now and what are they doing?
- Obituaries and "In Memoriam"
- Marriages
- Children born to the alumnus
- Deaths in their family
- Life achievements and awards
- Interesting stories about the alumnus and their family
- Class reunion memorabilia

The message here is to research these genealogical gold mines. You'll be glad you did!

Check out The Alumni Record Collection links at The Ancestor Hunt, which are presented by state by clicking on [Alumni Records](#)



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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.

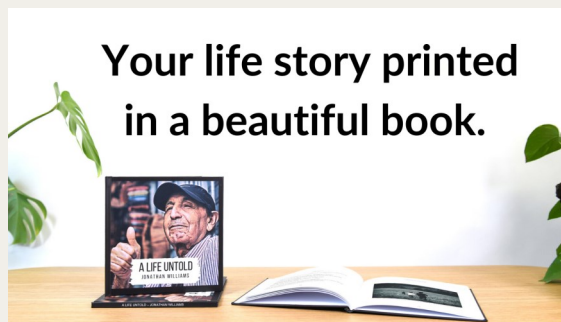
Whoowe is available from the AppStore and Google Play. Info at whoowe.com Try it out for free. Discount coupon for readers coming soon.



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

**My kidnappers returning
yours truly after listening
to me chat about genealogy
for 12 straight hours**



There are now over 152,000 Free Collection links Available in 19 categories from The Ancestor Hunt.

The largest is Newspapers with 41,540 Online Digitized Newspaper Titles Available. Second is 20,177 Directories; and third is 12,305 Schools with Online Yearbooks. All include the U.S. and Canada.

The lowest are Immigration, Mortuary, and Coroner collections, all less than 600 each.

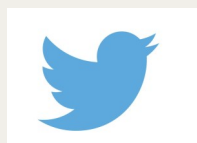
Newly Completed States with All Categories Created and Updated

- [1,627 Free Online Arkansas Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,330 Free Online Florida Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [3,283 Free Online Virginia Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,063 Free Online Alabama Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [7,318 Free Online North Carolina Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
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- [2,827 Free Online Oklahoma Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [4,256 Free Online Kentucky Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)

The Ancestor Hunt Research Link Categories:

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

Check out The Ancestor Hunt on Social Media



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