

# Bi-Monthly Newsletter July 31, 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](mailto: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 Nordic American Ancestors?



Check out 90 Digitized Nordic American Newspapers [HERE](#)

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



## Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – July 1-31, 2021](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – July 1-31, 2021](#)
- [Free Online Texas Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Two Hidden Secrets to Find a Ton More Results from the FamilySearch Catalog](#)
- [Bi-Monthly Newsletter from The Ancestor Hunt – July 15, 2021](#)
- [Free Online United States Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [13 Ways to Find Physical Characteristics Without Photos](#)
- [Free Illinois Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Nevada Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Washington Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Wyoming Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Colorado Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – July 1-15, 2021](#)
- [24 Things You Can Find from Cemetery Records Besides Tombstone Inscriptions](#)
- [Use the National Archives' Numident Computerized Files to Search Social Security Applications, Claims, and Death Records](#)
- [20 Things You Can Find in Church Records to Help Find Your Ancestors](#)
- [25 Reasons to Research Probate Records and Wills](#)
- [How to Determine the State of Residence from Social Security Numbers](#)

Check out Updated Links to Free Collections for 26 U.S. states and Canadian provinces on the last page of this newsletter

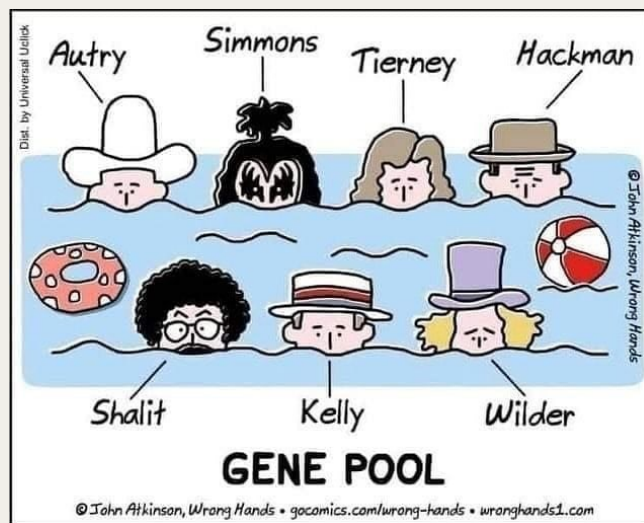
Are you the last person alive in this world who knows the stories of your ancestors? I don't mean their birth and death dates, but their stories! However you learned about their lives, via talking to older relatives, or published materials, such as books, or newspaper articles, what are you doing that will record their lives for posterity. If you're like me, and your descendants are not interested, how will you ensure that your ancestors are honored? I have many ancestors who have no descendants, or their children had no descendants.

In other words, if we don't write about them and honor them who will?

**They deserve to be remembered, don't you think?**

## New From The Newspaper Corner

- [GenealogyBank Adds/Updates 64 Titles – July, 2021](#)
- [An Interview With Stefan Boddie, CEO of Veridian Software/DL Consulting](#)
- [13 Hidden Gems in Old Newspapers to Amplify Your Ancestors' Life Stories](#)
- [Search Hyphenated Words in Historical Newspapers to Get Up To 30% More Results](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – July 2021](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 157 Titles – July, 2021](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – July, 2021](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 129 Historical Newspaper Titles – July, 2021](#)



## Newspaper Article Segmentation — The Pros and Cons

In the last newsletter, I introduced you to Veridian, and included an interview that I conducted with Stefan Boddie, the CEO of the company behind Veridian Software. Just to repeat: **Veridian** is the name of the software and service package created by **DL Consulting**, a firm headquartered in Hamilton, New Zealand.

The Veridian software package has two unique features that are not commonly provided by digital newspaper “vendors”. The first, Article Segmentation, is discussed below. In short, the smallest unit that is created and saved into the digitized newspaper collection is a newspaper article on the page, rather than the entire page. But rather than me trying to explain it, Veridian has given me permission to reprint their discussion of this interesting feature.

When digitizing newspapers it is possible to identify, segment, and categorize individual newspaper articles as they appear on the page. Deciding whether to perform this “article segmentation” process is one of the key decisions when planning a newspaper digitization project.

As discussed in other articles on our site, we strongly recommend using the METS/ALTO format/standard when digitizing newspapers.

METS/ALTO supports both digitized newspapers without article segmentation (sometimes called “page level” METS/ALTO) and those with article segmentation (sometimes called “article level” METS/ALTO). Likewise our Veridian discovery and delivery platform supports both types of METS/ALTO data. Some projects even mix the two types of data in the same collection, on the same site.

### Example newspaper projects using METS/ALTO with article segmentation

#### Cambridge Public Library

Historic Cambridge newspapers, 1846 – 1923  
59,070 pages

#### Vassar College

Vassar College student newspapers, 1872-present  
55,426 pages

### Example newspaper projects using METS/ALTO without article segmentation

#### Library of Virginia

Virginia newspapers, 1841 – 1999  
350,000+ pages

#### Indiana State Library

Indiana newspapers, 1840 – 1922  
90,000+ pages

### The advantages of article segmentation

Article segmentation identifies newspaper articles within each digitized page. With this type of METS/ALTO data the smallest component is a newspaper article, as opposed to a newspaper page.

When a user searches a collection at the article level they retrieve a list of articles matching their search terms, as opposed to a list of matching pages. That makes search results much more useful to users — for example, headlines and bylines and other article-level metadata may be displayed in search results.

With this type of article-level data each article can also be categorized. For example, articles can be specified as “advertisements”, or “illustrations”, or “family notices”. Those categories allow for much richer search options — for example, users can restrict their searches to just family notices, or can exclude advertisements from their search results.

Article-level data also allows individual articles to be identified and highlighted when viewing a newspaper using Veridian’s discovery and delivery platform. That has a number of benefits, including allowing articles to be “clipped out” from the original page image, for saving or printing.

### The disadvantage of article segmentation

Cost!

All the advantages listed above unfortunately come at a price. There are some solid software products available for automatically identifying articles on digitized newspaper pages, but those systems still need considerable input from human operators in order to produce high quality output.

The result is that the article segmentation process takes a lot of time, which adds significantly to the per-page digitization cost. Producing METS/ALTO data with article segmentation may cost \$0.80 or more per newspaper page, which is two to five times more than producing METS/ALTO without article segmentation.





# The Future of Obituaries

The methods of preparing and publishing obituaries are changing quickly. A simplistic view might be – “What’s the Big Deal?” Instead of paper, they are now online. I’m not so sure there is a simple answer. Here are my thoughts:

## **Publishing Newspaper Obituaries and Online Newspaper Obituaries**

Physical newspaper obituaries are costly. So besides the burial and funeral expenses, a newspaper obituary just adds to the expense.

*From National Cremation:*

“An average obituary can easily be \$200.00-500.00. Costs vary by publication. Newspapers charge by the line and can average \$450 for a complete obituary. The average obituary cost begins at \$200.00 and increases due to the amount of content, including a photograph and the length of the obituary.”

*From Legacy.com:*

A recent study they performed shows that most people seeking to publish a newspaper obituary have no clue how much they cost. See the results of their study – [Obituaries: The Gap Between Newspaper Pricing Trends & Consumer Expectations](#)

*From BeyondTheDash.com.*

In their article, they discuss published newspaper obituaries and published online obituaries. The complete article is at: [How Much Does an Obituary Cost?](#)

The good news about publishing an obituary via an online newspaper is that despite the cost, it can be inexpensive enough that one can author a longer obituary than you might if it was intended for an obituary that would actually be published in the physical newspaper.

## ***So, as genealogy researchers, where does that leave us in the future in order to find Obituaries?***

There will still be published newspaper obituaries, whether in a physical newspaper and/or in the online version of their newspaper.

## **Where Can I Find Published Newspaper Obituaries?**

The old-fashioned way – the primary methods we use now, such as searching old newspapers, or specialty obituary web pages, or obituary indexes, often prepared by libraries and genealogical societies. For free resources, check out the [Newspaper Links](#) Page, and the [Obituaries](#) Page on this website.

## **Where Can I Find Online Obituaries?**

This is where it gets interesting. They are all over the place. Here are the options:

- Individual online newspaper websites
- Funeral Home websites
- Free aggregators like Legacy.com, who on their website state that they partner with 1,500 newspaper websites, and 3,500 funeral homes. There are quite a few aggregators.
- Individual “remembrance” and other online obituary sites where one can post a recently deceased relative. I have personally made use of one of these. These are typically not aggregated.
- Schlock sites who gather up obituaries from a bunch of sources and publish them, but they really are a bait and switch because they are simply trying to get you to click on their ads. And their web pages are incredibly ugly and busy and full of ads.
- Aggregators who charge a few bucks for a one time or subscription access to their posted obituaries.

So, in the future, where do we find all these online obituaries? The answer seems to be incredibly easy, and the future seems to be bright.

## ***To find an online obituary or memorial, use Google (or your favorite search engine). It works!***

I have personally used this technique successfully for recently departed relatives and friends. There is a caveat of course – what happens 30 years from now? These online companies need to stay in business. But what if they don’t? There is always the Wayback Machine I guess.

**See? Not so easy.**



## Useful Articles from Other Sources

Looking for a Genealogy Event?

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

French Ancestors?

- [Finding Your French Roots](#)

German Ancestors?

- [Understanding German Surnames](#)

Do You Use Find a Grave?

- [How to Get Your Ancestor's FindAGrave Memorial Transferred to You](#)

Do You Apply the Genealogical Proof Standard in Your Research?

- [What is the Genealogical Proof Standard and Why Should You Use It?](#)

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## 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.

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## Quirky Old Newspaper Ad

WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN AUGUST

FINISH NEW CATEGORY: CEMETERY AND BURIAL RECORDS

BEGIN MILITARY RECORDS CATEGORY

CONTINUE ADDING NEW FREE QUICKSHEETS

## 20 Things You Can Find in Church Records to Help Find Your Ancestors

Prior to the recording of civil records and even now, Church Records have become a necessary, and valuable category of collections that should be researched. They provide information that often cannot be found anywhere else. Baptisms, marriages, and funerals are commonly thought of when we discuss church records, but there is so much more. For example, I found the death date of one of my relatives in Berlin, Germany via a Church Newsletter!

Here is a list of the valuable information contained in Church Records and why you should be researching them:

- **Baptisms and Christenings** - Names of godparents and witnesses are often included as well as the names of the child and parents, parish where the family is residing, legitimacy of the child, etc. These additional names may provide relationship clues
- **Marriages** - church weddings are documented. In more modern times, witnesses are required in order to civilly record the marriage, and may be required in some religions.
- **Deaths and Funerals** - If the funeral "ceremony" is conducted in a church, it is generally recorded
- **Burials** - if it is a church-affiliated cemetery, the burial information will be recorded in the church's records.
- **Confirmations, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs** - these are generally recorded by the church or synagogue
- **Membership Lists** - Members and congregants are kept in membership lists. These are quite useful to compare year to year, as an absence from the list may indicate that a member may have moved their residence, passed on, or joined another church.
- **Admissions of New Members** - will be recorded in the membership list and/or church newsletter. The date of entry may indicate when someone moved to a new location
- **Transfers of Memberships Out of the Church** - there even may be a formal document indicating that the member leaves in good standing with the church
- **Letters of Introduction** - a current church official might write to assist the member and family in joining a new church within the denomination, but in a different area
- **Disciplinary Actions Against Members** - might be recorded in the Church Minutes
- **Dismissals** - for whatever reason, an individual or family may be dismissed from the church. These would be recorded.
- **Church Minutes** - the church officials often would conduct meetings to discuss the administrative and business side of the church, and the meetings would be recorded in official minutes of the meetings
- **Church Directories** - similar to membership lists, these might include residence information and other contact information of the church clergy and all members.
- **Sunday School Lists** - lists of children who attend Sunday School, as well as the teacher's name.
- **Church Newsletters** - regularly published documents that discuss events of the church, new members, transferring members, birthdays, anniversaries, births, marriages, and deaths of members
- **Clergy Admissions and Dismissals** - might be included in the church minutes; also, may be formal documents from the higher ups in the church organizational structure for a larger area
- **Church Newspapers and Magazines** - a more recent phenomenon; essentially another way, similar to a newsletter, to communicate between the church and congregants and members
- **Family Relationships** - may be specifically documented in membership lists, or can be determined from people attending baptisms, weddings, or funerals.
- **Church Cemetery Records** - includes name of deceased, date of death, burial date and place, sometimes age and cause of death.
- **Newspaper Obituaries and Other Articles** - Clues to church membership can be found in historical newspaper articles such as obituaries. Also, upcoming and past church events will be documented in newspapers.

Check out links to 8,000 Free Online Church Record Collections at The Ancestor Hunt's [Church Records](https://www.theancestorhunt.com) page.



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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.

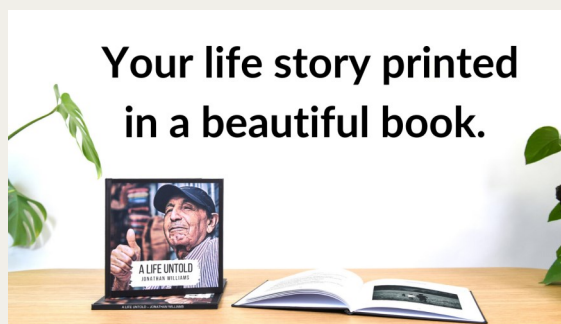
Whoowe is available from the AppStore and Google Play. Info at [whoowe.com](http://whoowe.com) Try it out for free. Discount coupon for readers coming soon.



### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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

### Newly Completed States with All Categories Created

- [7,885 Free Online New York Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,080 Free Online New Hampshire Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,429 Free Online Vermont Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [893 Free Online South Dakota Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [760 Free Online Rhode Island Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,009 Free Online Washington Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [803 Free Online Wyoming Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [521 Free Online Nevada Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [483 Free Online District of Columbia Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [6,952 Free Online Texas Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [834 Free Online North Dakota Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [975 Free Online New Mexico Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [1,968 Free Online Maryland Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [1,643 Free Online Mississippi Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [4,256 Free Online Kentucky Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [560 Free Online Nova Scotia Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [4,303 Free Online Ontario Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [268 Free Online Newfoundland and Labrador Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [317 Free Online New Brunswick Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [3,010 Free Online Minnesota Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [3,959 Free Online Michigan Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [519 Free Online Manitoba Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,057 Free Online Alberta Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [176 Free Online Prince Edward Island Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,230 Free Online New Jersey Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [4,735 Free Online Missouri Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)

### The Ancestor Hunt Research Link Categories:

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

### Check out The Ancestor Hunt on Social Media



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