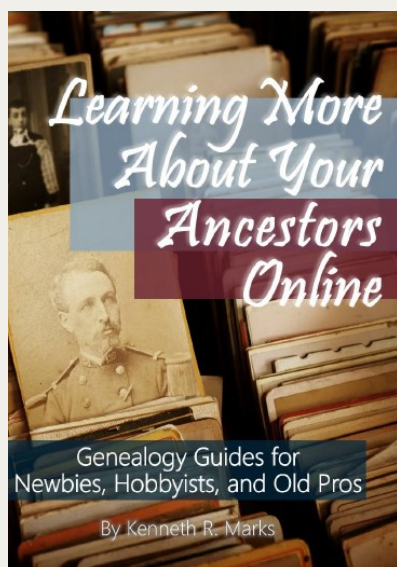


## Bi-Monthly Newsletter November 30, 2021



### Contents for this Issue:

- Articles Published Since Last Issue
- Useful Articles from Other Sources
- Historical Newspaper Research Considerations
- Top 40 Free Online Genealogy Websites You Should Be Visiting Now
- What You Must Know Before Researching Historical Newspapers
- Chapter List for "Learning More About Your Ancestors Online"
- Three Very Cool Online Collections from the National Archives



### Just Published!

I just published my first book about Genealogy Research: "Learning More About Your Ancestors Online: Genealogy Guides for Newbies, Hobbyists, and Old Pros" See Chapter List on page 5

**Cyber Monday Special - 40% Off at Amazon at**

<https://amzn.to/3kUrebJ>

The discount is only good today. Back to original price on December 1.

Thank you to all who have already purchased. I really appreciate it, and I hope the contents of the book help you in your research.

**FYI** - I had so much fun doing this book that I am already working on a book about newspaper research to be published in Summer, 2022

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



## Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – November 1-30, 2021](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – November 1-30, 2021](#)
- [Using DP.LA for Family History Research](#)
- [Top 40 Free Online Genealogy Websites You Should Be Visiting Now](#)
- [Free Online Arkansas Military Records](#)
- [Beyond the Search Engine: Using Google Databases for Genealogy Research](#)
- [17 Tips for Using Google Search for Genealogy](#)
- [Free Online California Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free New York High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free New Jersey High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Online Texas Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Georgia Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online North Carolina Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Florida Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Indiana Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Michigan Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Illinois Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Missouri Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Ohio Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
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- [Free Maine High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
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- [Free Online New York Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Virginia Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online West Virginia Marriage Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Minnesota High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Florida High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Utah Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Free Virginia High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Mississippi High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Oklahoma High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Kentucky High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Georgia High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Tennessee High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)

## New From The Newspaper Corner

- [52 Newspaper Titles from NDNP Added to DigitalNC](#)
- [Veridian Adds/Updates 50 Titles – November, 2021](#)
- [Advantage Archives Adds 900 Thousand Historical Newspaper Pages – October, 2021](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – November 2021](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 179 Historical Newspaper Titles – November, 2021](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 172 Titles – November, 2021](#)
- [Mastering Chronicling America's Advanced Search](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – November, 2021](#)
- [The National Digital Newspaper Program in 2021](#)
- [39,120 Free Online U.S. Historical Newspapers Now Available](#)
- [NY State Historical Newspapers Adds/Updates 18 Titles – November, 2021](#)
- [Historical Indigenous and Native American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical U.S. College and High School Student Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical American Labor and Union Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical African American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical U.S. Free Online Protestant Newspapers](#)
- [Historical Swedish American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical Hispanic and Portuguese American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical French American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical Italian American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical Irish American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical Polish American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical Jewish American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical Nordic American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical U.S. and Canada Free Online Catholic Newspapers](#)
- [Historical American Farming Newspapers Online](#)
- [25 North Carolina Historical Newspaper Titles Added to DigitalNC](#)
- [Historical German American Newspapers Online](#)
- [Historical Civilian Conservation Corps \(CCC\) Newspapers Online](#)





## Useful Articles from Other Sources

Looking for a Genealogy Event?

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

Researching Native American Ancestors?

- [Resources for Finding Native American Ancestors](#)

Are You a Young Genealogist?

- [Check out Hidden Branch](#)

Do You Use the National Archives' Website ?

- [Navigating the National Archives Website](#)

Puzzled About Given Name Traditions?

- [Naming Traditions Across Multiple Cultures](#)



## New Website Navigation

There are 4 Menu Items

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

The Resources Menu item includes all 20 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.

WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN DECEMBER

FINISH CEMETERY AND BURIAL RECORDS AND MILITARY RECORDS CATEGORIES

START TAX RECORDS CATEGORY RESEARCH

CHECK FOR BROKEN LINKS AND FIX THEM

UPDATE YEARBOOK CATEGORY

## Quirky Old Newspaper Ad



FIND *your* ANCESTORS  
Newspapers and more  
(1690 to today)

[Search Now](#)



GENEALOGYBANK



## What You Must Know Before Researching Historical Newspapers

Before you start researching old newspapers, or if you wish to increase your skills and improve your results, please take a moment and read below a few things that will help you understand what you are dealing with. This will not only improve your results, but can lessen your frustration.

Most people think that all they have to do is enter a first name and a last name in a search box; hit Go and up will come all of these old newspaper articles about their ancestors. Unfortunately it isn't that easy.

A very important thing to know is about scanning and Optical Character Recognition (OCR). Newspapers are printed on paper (and not very high quality paper). Paper does not hold up well over time and can yellow, get brittle etc. If the online database scans directly from paper it can be an issue because of aging and condition. Also ink spots, folds and creases do appear and they can disrupt the accuracy of the digitization and recognition process.

Many newspapers have been scanned in the past to microfilm. Great! When the online database tries to digitize the microfilm, a scan of the microfilm has to be performed. But then again, maybe the microfilm is a copy of a previous microfilm reel or a copy of a copy. Now we are dealing with at least second and often third or fourth generation copies when the OCR process is applied.

The OCR process is simply a way to convert the ink dots on the newspaper to digital form. That is a series of characters that ultimately will make a word, etc. So if your ancestors' name is "Washington", and the article includes that word, one would hope that the OCR process will convert all those dots that make up the letters of the word "Washington" to the same letters in the digitized database. And therein lies the challenge. The resulting database content depends on the quality of the scanned image that is "fed" to the OCR software, as well as the capability of the software itself. I guarantee you that the intended word "Washington" will show up in the database in some instances as "Washington" or Wa5h1ngt0n" or maybe even "W&)\*^q#om\*". The last example is no joke. This is what you are faced with. You will need to have patience.

Let's discuss a couple of things that if you take the time to read them, will enhance your online search experience:

- All online newspaper websites are not created equal. Some are easy to use and others are not so easy. You will get frustrated at some and enjoy others more. Be aware of this ahead of time.
- There will be lots of instances where you swear that an article should exist but it doesn't and you can't find it.
- It is important to know the dates of newspapers that are available in an online database before you start searching. If you are looking for articles in the Sacramento Bee for the year 1892 and the database that you are searching has newspaper pages available from 1895 through 1922, you are wasting your time if 1892 and only 1892 is your target. It seems simple but it is easy to forget to check dates first.
- Plan your research and research your plan. I am a believer in stream of consciousness type research or ad hoc re-searching, but it should not be the main course of your research "meal." Think about what you are searching for before you start. And a written plan is not a bad idea.

So your attitude must be in the right place. This is rewarding research if you mentally prepare, have a plan and believe in having fun.

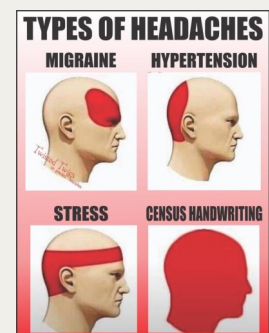
Thus, understanding the challenge and arming yourself with a positive attitude is half the battle. The remaining battle is to outsmart the OCR process that produces a less than optimal result. Another challenge is to know how people wrote articles, using abbreviations, nicknames, misspellings and the like. (There are several Quick Sheets dedicated to showing you ways to improve the creation of your search criteria). Your job if you are successful is to craft your search criteria, knowing that the index often bears no resemblance to the article as it was originally written. If you can do all of that and keep smiling, then you will find what if you are looking for, if indeed it is findable in the first place.,.



Register for RootsTech 2022  
for free at

[www.rootstech.org](http://www.rootstech.org)

March 3–5, 2022



## Three Very Cool Online Collections from the National Archives



The National Archives, has just announced the third in a series of online finding aid tools: the [Donated Collection Explorer](#).

Rather than me trying to explain it, please go to the link above. As of September 2021, there are **829,815** scans from Donated Collections online representing **1.500%** of the estimated total number of **55,316,116** estimated total textual pages. Yes, they have a ways to go, but it's worth taking a look at. There are bound to be some gems in there to aid in your genealogy research.

The other two online collections are:

- [Record Group Explorer](#) includes all of NARA's Record Groups (over 600) and provides access to over 140 million of our digital pages. As of September 2021, there are **143,040,642** scans online representing **1.239%** of the **11,545,451,761** estimated total textual pages
- [Presidential Library Explorer](#) includes 14 Presidential Libraries and provides access to over 1.6 million digital pages. As of September 2021, there are **1,648,592** scans online representing **0.251%** of the **656,946,000** estimated total textual pages across all Presidential Libraries

### Chapter List for "Learning More About Your Ancestors Online"

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Birth and marriage
- Chapter 3: Death records and information
- Chapter 4: General advice about genealogy research
- Chapter 5: Immigration, naturalization, travel
- Chapter 6: Military
- Chapter 7: Miscellaneous records (societies, illnesses)
- Chapter 8: Newspaper research
- Chapter 9: Occupations
- Chapter 10: Photos and physical description
- Chapter 11: Residences and other locations
- Chapter 12: Schools and yearbooks

### Real Newspaper Headlines

**Stabbing disrupts class  
for anger management**

**Students Cook &  
Serve  
Grandparents**

**Cows lose their jobs  
as milk prices drop**



## Top 40 Free Online Genealogy Websites You Should Be Visiting Now

Everyone has their “go to” websites that they use often to find genealogy resources and information. Here is a list of my favorites; and everyone is Free!

<a href="#">Access Genealogy</a>	Transcribed U.S. genealogy records
<a href="#">Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center</a>	Genealogy collections and records
<a href="#">American History &amp; Genealogy Project</a>	Transcribed U.S. genealogy records
<a href="#">Ancestry Free Index Collections</a>	Genealogy collections and records
<a href="#">CanGenealogy</a>	Links to Canadian Genealogy websites
<a href="#">Castle Garden</a>	Immigration records
<a href="#">Chronicling America</a>	Digitized U.S. newspapers
<a href="#">Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database</a>	Civil War veteran records
<a href="#">Cyndi's List</a>	List of links to genealogy related resources
<a href="#">Death Indexes</a>	Links to death, cemetery, and obituary collections
<a href="#">DP.LA</a>	Search facility for genealogical collections and records
<a href="#">Ellis Island</a>	Immigration records
<a href="#">FamilySearch</a>	Search facility for genealogical records
<a href="#">FamilySearch Catalog</a>	Genealogical materials; mostly browsing
<a href="#">FamilySearch Wiki</a>	Links and information for genealogy collections and records
<a href="#">FindAGrave</a>	Cemetery and Burial records and tombstone photos
<a href="#">Fulton History</a>	Over 50 million digitized newspaper pages
<a href="#">Genealogy Trails</a>	Transcribed U.S. genealogy records
<a href="#">German Genealogy Group</a>	Mostly New York records
<a href="#">Google</a>	Genealogy resources search
<a href="#">Google Books</a>	Digitized books
<a href="#">Hathitrust</a>	Digitized books and other printed materials
<a href="#">I Dream of Genealogy</a>	List of links to genealogy related resources
<a href="#">Interment.net</a>	Cemetery and Burial records
<a href="#">Internet Archive</a>	Genealogy records, newspapers and related collections
<a href="#">Italian Genealogical Group</a>	New York City records
<a href="#">Jewish Gen</a>	Jewish genealogy records
<a href="#">LDS Genealogy</a>	List of links to genealogy related resources
<a href="#">Library and Archives Canada</a>	Canadian Genealogy records
<a href="#">Library of Congress Digital Collections</a>	Genealogy collections and records
<a href="#">Linkpendium</a>	List of links to genealogy related resources
<a href="#">National Archives and Records Administration</a>	Genealogy collections and records
<a href="#">National Archives resources for genealogists</a>	Links to genealogical records and collections
<a href="#">National Cemetery Administration</a>	Veterans cemetery records
<a href="#">New Horizons Genealogy</a>	Transcribed U.S. genealogy records, mostly New England
<a href="#">One-Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse</a>	Links to search genealogical records and collections
<a href="#">Reclaim the Records</a>	Genealogy collections and records
<a href="#">The Ancestor Hunt</a>	Links to genealogical records and collections
<a href="#">US GenWeb</a>	Transcribed U.S. genealogy records
<a href="#">US GenWeb Archives</a>	Transcribed U.S. genealogy records



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Download this Quick Reference Guide by clicking [HERE](#)



## Historical Newspaper Research Considerations

This article is reprinted with the permission of Advantage Archives. It presents several considerations when one is analyzing an article and its truthfulness. As genealogists we are always on the hunt for evidence. And we all know that:

### If it's in the newspaper it must be true, right?

There is a lot to learn from old newspapers if you know what you are looking for. Before the advent of the Internet, it was newspapers that were relied on most for information. Now, many old newspapers have been digitized and made available online as a resource for historians, genealogists and writers among others.

With the use of newspapers as a research tool; information such as birth and marriage announcements, obituaries, advertisements, cartoons and news coverage all provide a glimpse of the past. When conducting research using newspapers in a database such as our Community History Archives, it is important to view items through a lens of time and place. The context surrounding a story in an old newspaper can often tell us more than the story itself. This is also important to consider when conducting a search, as newspapers can be written in language that has changed over time or written to connect with a very different audience. Items to consider when using newspapers for research include:

**Language** – Language and the use of common terms change over time as well as place or region. An example of this is “The Great War” used at the time of World War I and used interchangeably with “the war to end all wars” until the start of a second World War. An example of language by region in the United States is the word most commonly used for a carbonated beverage – Pop or Soda. We see differences in the use of pop or soda by region and in the south they simply refer to it as Coke.

Other important items to consider are the audience, politics and how coverage of the event developed over time. The intended audience of any article as well as the political and social agendas of the time will all contribute to the narrative to a certain degree as they do today.

It is also important to differentiate between a Primary & Secondary source in a newspaper article. A Primary source is a first-hand account published at the time of the event while a Secondary source is published at a later date, often providing commentary without first-hand experience of the event.

A primary source in the news is often the very first published record and can provide more than a detailed account of events. A primary source can also provide valuable information on political and social agendas and how events were viewed at the time compared to how we view them now.

In a previous article, we examined how the sinking of the Titanic was covered in our local newspaper. With our knowledge of the topic today, looking back at the first accounts of the event is a fascinating case study. An initial report of “No Lives Lost” is an unfortunate reminder of how stories can develop over time. The coverage of the Titanic at the time provides an abundance of information on the tragedy, but also a lesson on using newspapers as a research tool to find facts.

#### Hit a Brick Wall? Need Help?

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

Get some help from

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



**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.

*Finding out that one of your ancestors was a murderer, a philanderer, or a robber is no reason to smile... unless you are a family historian.*



## 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.

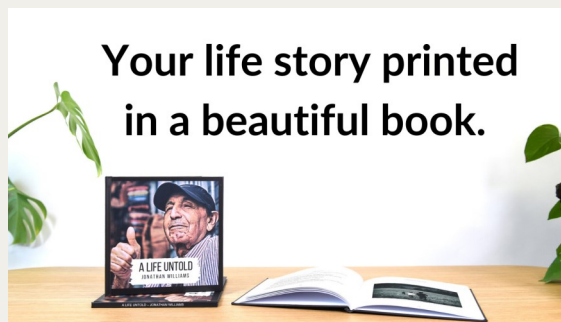
Whoowe is available from the AppStore and Google Play. Info at [whoowe.com](http://whoowe.com) Try it out for free. Discount coupon for readers coming soon.



### 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](#)

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