

# Monthly Newsletter May 15, 2024

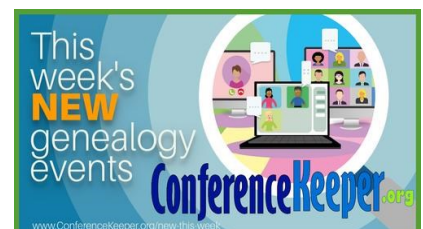


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## We Have a Winner!!!

Check out Page 4 for the Raffle Winner and their prize. Also about next months raffle



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



## Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – May 1-15, 2024](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – May 1-15 2024](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – April 1-30, 2024](#)
- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – April 1-30, 2024](#)
- [MyHeritage New and Updated Collections – April 1-30, 2024](#)
- [9,735 Free Mid West States Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [4,085 Free Mid Atlantic States Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [1,225 Free New England States Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [12,670 Free Southern States Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [1,550 Free Online Criminal Records from the United States](#)
- [10,815 Free Online Obituary and Obituary Index Collection Links from the U.S.](#)
- [1,390 Free Obituary and Obituary Index Collection Links for the Mid Atlantic States](#)
- [10,815 Free Online Obituary and Obituary Index Collection Links from the U.S.](#)
- [1,390 Free Obituary and Obituary Index Collection Links for the Mid Atlantic States](#)
- [17,005 United States High Schools and Colleges with Free Online Yearbooks](#)
- [6,465 Free Mid West States High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [3,960 Free Obituary and Obituary Index Collection Links for the Mid West States](#)
- [4,705 Free Obituary and Obituary Index Collection Links for the Southern States](#)
- [865 Free New England States High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [2,790 Free Mid Atlantic States High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [6,700 Free Southern States High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [9,740 Free United States Online Church Records](#)
- [450 Free Western States Online Church Records](#)
- [1,015 Free New England States Online Church Records](#)
- [2,365 Free Mid Atlantic States Online Church Records](#)
- [3,535 Free Mid West States Online Church Records](#)
- [3,650 Free Southern States Online Church Records](#)
- [28,780 Free United States Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [4,195 Free Western States Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)

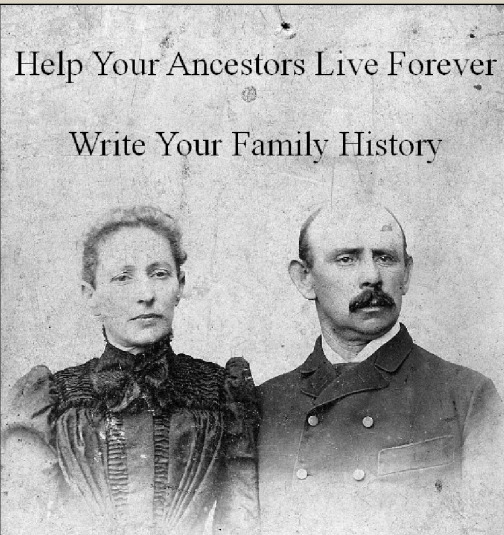


## New From The Newspaper Corner

- [Veridian Adds/Updates 247 Titles – May 2024](#)
- [Digital Michigan Newspapers Adds/Updates 15 Titles – April 2024](#)
- [How to Use Chronicling America Version 2.0](#)
- [Advantage Archives Adds 2.2 Million Historical Newspaper Pages – April 2024](#)
- [Veridian Hits 100 Million Online Historical Newspaper Pages](#)
- [Georgia Historical Newspapers Spring 2024 Update Adds 67 Titles](#)
- [Search Multiple Maine Historical Newspaper Collections at Once](#)
- [120 Million Historic U.S. Newspaper Pages Now Available from Advantage Archives](#)
- [How to Find Where Newspapers are Available with Chronicling America 2.0](#)
- [Chronicling America Has 33 Types of Ethnic Newspapers in 28 Languages](#)
- [University of Michigan Makes Historical Black Community Newspapers Available](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – April 2024](#)
- [Newspapers dot Com Update – April 2024](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 80 Titles – April, 2024](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 86 Historical Newspaper Titles – April 2024](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – April 2024](#)
- [GenealogyBank Adds/Updates 350 Titles – May 2024](#)
- [NY State Historical Newspapers Adds/Updates 8 Titles – April, 2024](#)
- [Veridian Adds/Updates 247 Titles – May 2024](#)
- [Digital Michigan Newspapers Adds/Updates 15 Titles – April 2024](#)
- [Virginia Chronicle Newspaper Collection Adds/Updates 29 Titles – April 2024](#)
- [How to Use Chronicling America Version 2.0](#)

Help Your Ancestors Live Forever

Write Your Family History



The history of the world will not be complete unless you tell the stories of your ancestors

## Useful Articles from Other Sources

### Looking for a Maiden Name?

- [What Is My Ancestor's Maiden Name? 5 Tips for Finding Out](#)

### Confused by Census Codes?

- [Mysterious Circled Xs, Cryptic Codes And Other Confusing Details In The 1940 Census Explained](#)

### Do You DNA?

- [DNA Q&A: 6 Things to Do When Your DNA Match Doesn't Have a Tree](#)

### Looking for Ancestor Photos?

- [13 Websites for Finding Old Family Photos](#)

### Vietnam Vet Ancestors/Relatives?

- [How to Research Vietnam War Military Service](#)

### Looking for Land Records?

- [Land Patents: Your Step-by-Step Guide](#)

### Native American?

- [5 Clues You May Have Native American Ancestry](#)

### Researching Immigrants?

- [15 Steps to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors](#)

### Looking for Marriage Records?

- [5 Unique Places To Find Those "Missing" Marriage Details](#)

### Using AI with Documents?

- [Transcribing Document Images with ChatGPT and Claude](#)

### Irish Ancestors?

- [Irish Naming Conventions and Baptism Traditions](#)

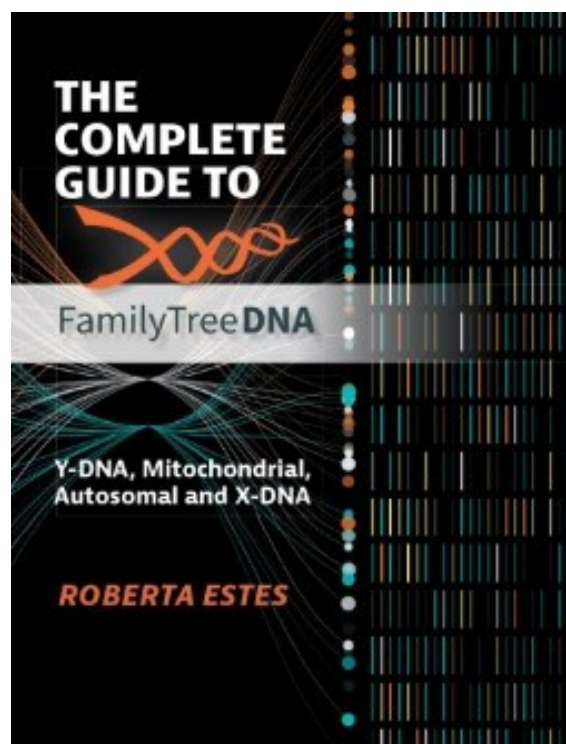
### Using Timelines in Your Research?

- [The Timeline Technique Will Help You Uncover Missed Facts About Your Ancestors](#)

## WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN APRIL AND MAY

- FINISH DIGITAL ARCHIVES UPDATE
- FINISH ALUMNI RECORDS UPDATE
- FINISH PHOTOS UPDATE
- SCHEDULE WEBINARS WITH INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATIONS

## Book of the Month



Click on the Image for More Information

## Check out The Ancestor Hunt on Social Media



Thank You for being a loyal reader and visiting The Ancestor Hunt. To Subscribe, Click [HERE](#)

*This newsletter contains affiliate links. The Ancestor Hunt will be compensated if you purchase after clicking on these links. There is no additional cost to you. Thank you for supporting The Ancestor Hunt.*

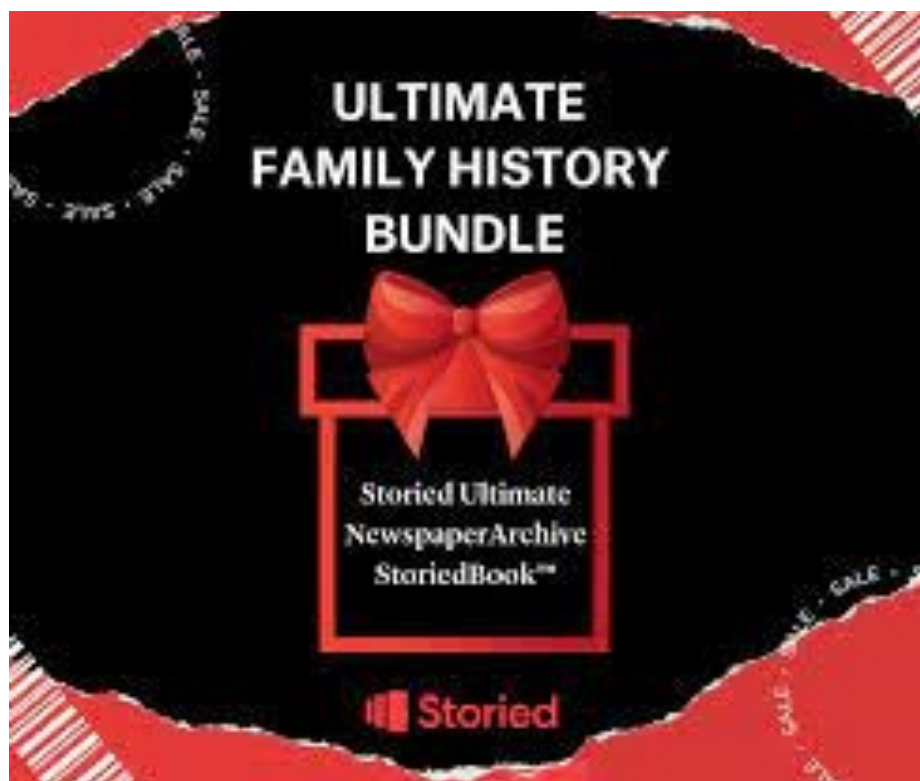


## Monthly Raffle

This past month (April 15th through May 14th), I offered a raffle for all subscribers.

The winner of the raffle is Pam Sulzer of Louisiana. Congratulations!

And what did she win?



Yes. A full year of Storied Ultimate—for free. Includes a full year of Storied, a full year of NewspaperArchive, and also the publication of your very own StoriedBook!

I have been a user of NewspaperArchive for over a decade, and have found hundreds of articles about my ancestors and relatives. I started using Storied over the last year to capture written stories, clippings, and photos of my ancestors (and myself). And I really like it. It is so easy.

So I wanted to share these tools, and with the cooperation of the folks at Storied we are doing this.

To get an idea of what the winner is receiving and the details of all the options, please go to [STORIED](#)

**BUT—There is more!**

Next month's raffle will be for the same Storied Prize and will include Existing Subscribers as well as new subscribers

## Free Genealogy Website of the Month - DP LA



DP.LA is one of my favorite websites to use for genealogy research. An overstatement would be that is like a Google search for library databases. Since all libraries and other similar institutions do not participate, it does not have the breadth of content that a Google search into all library databases might have.

Yet, it is a good way to perform searches to find what library databases are online, without digging into every library website that is out there, one by one.

Here is some background information from the DP.LA website.

***“Our Mission:*** *The Digital Public Library of America empowers people to learn, grow, and contribute to a diverse and better-functioning society by maximizing access to our shared history, culture, and knowledge.*

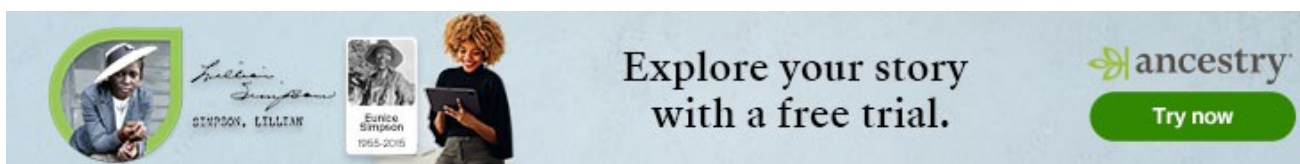
***Our Strategy:*** *The Digital Public Library of America amplifies the value of libraries and cultural organizations as Americans’ most trusted sources of shared knowledge. We do this by collaborating with partners to accelerate innovative tools and ideas that empower and equip libraries to make information more accessible.*

*We work with a national network of partners to:*

- *Make millions of materials from libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural institutions across the country available to all in a one-stop discovery experience.*
- *Provide a library-controlled marketplace and platform for libraries to purchase, organize, and deliver eBooks and other e-content to their patrons.*
- *Convene library leaders and practitioners to explore and advance technologies that serve, inform, and empower their communities.*
- *In addition, the site has a Browse by Topics area, Online Exhibitions, and the ability to download one of over 11,000 eBooks.”*

There is a newsletter as well, and one for the Genealogy topic area, which could be helpful to any researcher.

To access the site, go to [DP.LA](https://dp.la)



## Newspaper Research Tip of the Month - 9 Ways to Effectively Find Obituaries in Online Newspapers

Obituaries are one of the most sought after articles that are published in old newspapers. They can be found a multitude of ways. If you are searching newspapers online, there are several methods to get you to the obituary faster and more effectively. There are thousands of indexes to newspaper obituaries that have been created by libraries, genealogical societies and from volunteers in a multitude of organizations and websites. Online search engines are valuable, especially since most obituaries in the past two decades appear in obituary and tribute websites only.

Here is a summary of 9 different ways to get to that elusive obituary and the information written in it:

### **Use Keywords in Your Search Criteria that are Frequently used in Obituaries:**

- Beloved
- Dear
- Loving
- Passed away
- Survived by
- Died
- Funeral
- In lieu of flowers
- Native of
- Devoted

### **Continue Searching After Finding the First Obit**

Sometimes they are amended after the first publication, especially in cases of multiple marriages. Often step-children are omitted (accidentally, or on purpose).

### **Obituaries in the Last 20 Years**

Can be found generally online, so use your favorite search engine.

### **They Might Have Died Far From Home**

So search both locations.

### **If You are Looking through Online Indexes**

Understand that a Death Index is not an Obituary Index. Death Indexes do not (usually) have the newspaper title & date. The death date is not the date of the obituary article in the newspaper.

### **Use Smart Browse Techniques**

Recognize that the Vital Statistics sections of many old newspapers were on the same page. So when browsing from day to day after the known death date, just go to the same page number from issue to issue.

### **Check Papers in Places They Lived Before**

Obituaries are sometimes copied in other locations.

### **Use Obituary Indexes from Libraries and Societies**

Find your ancestor in these indexes and then (Hopefully if the newspaper title and date are online) go to the issue and then to the Obituary section to get the obit.

### **Make sure that you Visit the [Obituaries Page](#) on The Ancestor Hunt website**



## Quicksheet of the Month

### 32 Ways to Find Ancestor Locations and Addresses

- **Census Records** – includes addresses; often written vertically on the left side of the page.
- **City Directories** – by definition include people's addresses, (includes telephone directories). Don't forget that they are very useful for business, lodge, associations, and church addresses as well.
- **Mortuary Records** – the decedent's address is included in the document.
- **Obituaries** – some obituaries contain the residence of the deceased.
- **Marriage Announcements in Newspapers** – marriage license announcements include the bride and groom's addresses. The society pages include parties and visitors, and addresses of the event and some participants.
- **Marriage Licenses** – include the address of the bride and groom. May be on the marriage certificate as well, but more likely in the ledger or register of marriages or other pertinent log book of the local jurisdiction.
- **Special Marriage Documents** – such as marriage banns, bonds, contracts, consent papers, dowries, etc. are likely to have address information.
- **Death Certificates** – the decedent's address as well as that of the informants are generally included.
- **SSDI** – The Social Security Death Index contains the county and state where the last benefits were distributed.
- **Social Security Application** – contains the address of the applicant.
- **Birth Certificates** – the parents address is included and one is not making a rush to judgment that this same address may be the babies first residence as well – at least in most cases.
- **Immigration and Travel Records** – post 1900 the address of the traveler is included in travel records and the address of where the immigrant is "going" is included in immigration records.
- **Draft Cards** – the draftee's address is included and often when asked for a contact person – that person's address is included.
- **Naturalization Records** – the potential citizen's address is specified.
- **Voting Registration and Great Registers** – the address of the registered voter is included.
- **Land, Deed and Property Records** – After 1860, it is likely that a physical address may be associated with the deed. Later property records include the address.
- **The U.S. Public Records Index** is an online compilation that includes addresses from Public Records from as early as 1950. Although these provide clues, their accuracy is often questionable, but worth the effort if you have little success elsewhere
- **Family and Personal Correspondence** – letters and postcards to and from family members typically included their residence addresses.
- **Business Correspondence** – letters, receipts, contracts, and even old business cards include addresses.
- **Cemetery Records** – if the ancestor purchased a cemetery plot, it is likely that the cemetery has a record of the person's address at the time of the purchase.
- **Military Records** – if the person was drafted or enlisted, it is likely that their permanent address and that of the next of kin were recorded in their enlistment papers.
- **Newspaper Legal Notices and Real Estate Transactions** – likely would include the address of your ancestor.
- **Court Records** – most kinds of court records would include the address of your ancestor. Likely candidates are divorces and civil judgments.
- **Patents and Patent Applications** – contain the address of the applicant.
- **Photographs** – most photographs don't have addresses affixed or hand written on them, but I have several photos of my ancestors and relatives taken in front of their house, with the house number prominently displayed. Snapshots were often taken at places that they visited, which were generally hand written on the back of the photo. Also sittings for a professional photographer might include the photographer's name and city, providing more clues.
- **Miscellaneous Newspaper Articles** – many list the address of the subject(s) of the article. Don't forget classified ads.
- **Probate Records and Wills** – generally contain the address of the people involved.
- **Maps and Atlases** – generally do not have people's name on them, but they might. A location might be identified as the "Smith Farm" or the "Johnson General Store". These might be helpful in narrowing down the location, residence, or business of an ancestor.
- **Tax Records** – generally don't have the person's address, but they might, especially if the taxation pertains to property holdings of your ancestor.
- **School Records** – enrollment lists might have the student's address.
- **Alumni Records and Student Directories** – generally include the college student or alumnus' current address in them.
- **Veteran's Benefit or Pension Record** – would include the address at time of enlistment, and possibly their current address where they are receiving benefits. If they were deceased, their beneficiaries address would be available.



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Get the Quicksheet PDF (with clickable links) by Downloading [HERE](#)



Monthly Newsletter May 15, 2024, Volume 2024 Issue 5

## Free Newspaper Indexing Project Update! Would you Like to Contribute?

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 actively working to grow a freely available online database of names that appear in the papers; you can view the database at <https://tngenweb.org/news/>. Similar to FamilySearch Indexing, this project uses a crowd-sourcing approach where volunteers will help extract names (personal names, business names, organization names) using a web-based indexing software platform. So far, more than 100,000 entries have been indexed!!

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 participating, visit the project page at <https://fromthepage.com/tngenealogyindexing/tennessee-newspapers>. There is an [instructions guide](#) and [video series](#) you can use to learn the indexing process. There is also have a Facebook community where we share periodic updates and answer your questions.

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## User Text Correction Crowdsourcing from Veridian

An unique feature of Veridian Software is the ability, via crowdsourcing, for registered users to make corrections to the text that resulted from the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) process. Since digitized newspaper research is primarily dependent on the quality of the original newsprint, which is often over 140 years old, the ability for users to positively contribute to the newspaper index is a useful feature. Here are the [Details](#) about this unique feature.

Veridian powers over 60 Historical Newspaper Collections. Below are some of the larger ones. The entire list can be found [HERE](#)

- [American Foundation for the Blind – Helen Keller Archive](#)
- [Cambridge Public Library](#)
- [Catholic Research Resources Alliance – The Catholic News Archive](#)
- [Central Michigan University – Digital Michigan Newspapers](#)
- [Colorado State Library – Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection](#)
- [Consortium of Pentecostal Archives](#)
- [Hoover Institution Library & Archives – Hoji Shinbun Digital Collection](#)
- [Illinois State University – Vidette Digital Archives](#)
- [Indiana State Library – Hoosier State Chronicles](#)
- [Library of Virginia – Virginia Chronicle](#)
- [National Library of Estonia](#)
- [National Library of New Zealand – Papers Past](#)
- [Northern New York Library Network – The NYS Historic Newspapers](#)
- [Office of Hawaiian Affairs – Papakilo Hawaiian Newspaper Collection](#)
- [Plains to Peaks Historic Newspapers](#)
- [Singapore National Library – Newspaper SG](#)
- [Southeastern New York Library Resources Council – HRVH Historical NewspapersSudan Open Archive](#)
- [Swiss National Library](#)
- [The National Library of Israel – Historical Jewish Press](#)
- [University of California Riverside – California Digital Newspaper Collection](#)
- [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – Illinois Digital Newspaper Collections](#)
- [Washington State Library – Washington Digital Newspapers](#)
- [Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection](#)





## Don't Search For An Obituary By Only Searching For An "Obituary"

Obituaries are usually newspaper researchers favorite type of article. This is reprinted with permission from [Advantage Archives](#).

In the quest to trace our roots and understand our heritage, obituaries often serve as a crucial starting point. Obituaries are undoubtedly a rich source of information for genealogists. They often provide vital details about the deceased, including their full name, date of birth, date of death, and often, the names of their relatives. However, in the realm of genealogical research, understanding the nuances of historical newspapers is crucial. Particularly in the case of death announcements, the placement and titling of these notices were far from standardized, especially in earlier times and smaller communities. This lack of uniformity can present a unique challenge for researchers, but it also opens up avenues for a more comprehensive exploration of our ancestors' lives.

In many instances, the layout of a newspaper was dictated by the space available rather than a fixed template. This was especially true for smaller communities where the local newspaper served multiple purposes, from reporting local news to advertising local businesses. In such cases, the death announcements were often tucked away in corners, sandwiched between other news items, or placed wherever there was room. They were not necessarily confined to a dedicated obituary section as we are accustomed to in modern times. This practice was not out of disregard for the deceased but rather a reflection of the practical constraints of newspaper publishing in those times.



Furthermore, the titling of these death announcements was far from consistent. While we might expect to see the term "obituary" used, this was not always the case. Instead, a variety of phrases were employed to denote these announcements. Some were straightforward, such as "Recent Passings" or "In Memoriam". Others were more poetic or euphemistic, like "Gone But Not Forgotten". There were even instances where less traditional, and sometimes less reverent, titles were used, such as "Death's Doings" or simply "Died". This variety in titling was often a reflection of the cultural norms, linguistic preferences, and even the personal style of the newspaper's editor or publisher. It's also worth noting that the language used in these titles could vary significantly based on the time period, geographical location, and the community's socio-cultural context. Broadening your search terms to consider these diverse practices can open up new avenues

of discovery. Moreover, consider the cultural and temporal context of the newspaper. The language used in these announcements could vary significantly based on the time period, geographical location, and the community's socio-cultural context. Understanding these nuances can help you tailor your search strategy and interpret the results more effectively.

The Community History Archive is a treasure trove of historical records, providing a wealth of information for genealogical research. However, the sheer volume of data can sometimes be overwhelming. That's where the Community History Archive's query builder comes in. This powerful tool can assist you in conducting a more comprehensive and targeted search, helping you uncover the hidden stories of your ancestors. The query builder allows you to run separate searches using different combinations of your ancestor's name and common terms found in obituaries or death announcements. Alternatively, you can use the query builder to add these words to your search, enabling you to find every instance of your keyword across all publications and dates within your collection.

A screenshot of a newspaper page titled "DEATHS / LINN COUNTY". The page contains several obituary notices. The first notice is for Shirley A. Cole, 57, of 1141 26th St. Marvin, who died Monday morning in her home after a sudden illness. Memorial services are at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Marshburn Funeral Home. The notice lists survivors including three daughters, a son, and a sister. The second notice is for Laura B. Brewer, 24, of 216 Concord Dr. SE, who died Sunday evening in St. Luke's Hospital of injuries suffered in a fall Thursday night at the Five Seasons Center. Memorial services are at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Marshburn Funeral Home. The page also includes sections for "ARRANGEMENTS PENDING" and "DEATH NOTICES &amp; OBITUARIES".

Instead of limiting your search to the term "obituary", consider using the query builder to incorporate words commonly found in death announcements. Terms such as "burial", "funeral", "graveside", "cemetery", "surviving", "remembrance", "preceded in death by", "church", "departed", and "pallbearers" can help you uncover more relevant results. For example, a search for "John Smith" and "burial" or "funeral" might reveal an announcement that was placed in an unexpected section of the newspaper. Similarly, searching for "John Smith" and "surviving" or "remembrance" could lead you to a heartfelt tribute written by a family member or friend, providing valuable insights into John Smith's life and relationships.



## Don't Search For An Obituary By Only Searching For An "Obituary"

You can use the query builder to add these words to your search, allowing you to find every instance of your keyword across all publications and dates within your collection. For example, you could search for "John Smith Services Burial" or use the query builder to search for "John Smith" AND "Services" OR "Died" OR "Burial" OR "Cemetery". The query builder is designed to work like you would tell someone what you are searching for, and you can get quite detailed, making for a very comprehensive search.

You should also consider running separate searches using different combinations of your ancestor's name in conjunction with those terms commonly found in the obit, such as: "John, Johnny, Johnathan" AND "smith".

Another effective method is to add the names of relatives to the mix, which is especially useful when your query includes words or phrases like "survived by" or "pallbearer". For instance, you could search for "John Smith" AND "Survived By" AND "Jenny Smith" OR "Pallbearer" AND "Joe Smith".

The query builder is designed to function as if you're explaining your search to another person. It allows you to delve into the details, facilitating a thorough search, or assisting you when you're struggling to locate exactly what you're after. For instance, you might say, "I'm on the hunt for any articles or notices that mention 'John Smith' or 'J. Smith' AND include the word 'Buried', 'Cemetery', 'Funeral', or 'Services'."

You can also introduce alternative ways the information might be listed. An exact search will yield results that match precisely what you've typed, in the order you've typed it. While this provides a more focused set of results, it can be restrictive.

For example, you might specify, "I'm searching for the first name 'John' and the last name 'Smith' appearing in EXACT order, or 'Johnathan Smith' or 'Johnny Smith' in EXACT order, AND the article or notice must include the word 'Buried', 'Cemetery', 'Funeral', or 'Services'."

When you combine an exact phrase search with a "regular search", you open up the possibility of finding results where a middle name or an initial might appear between the first and last name.

For instance, you might say, "I'm searching for the first name 'John' and the last name 'Smith' appearing in EXACT order, or 'Johnathan Smith' or 'Johnny Smith' in EXACT order, or just the word 'Smith' AND any of the words 'John', 'Johnny', 'Johnathan' AND the article or notice must include the word 'Buried', 'Cemetery', 'Funeral', or 'Services'."

Adding the names of relatives to your search can be particularly effective, especially when your query includes words or phrases like "survived by" or "pallbearer".

For example, you might specify, "I'm searching for the first name 'John' and the last name 'Smith' appearing in EXACT order, or 'Johnathan Smith' or 'Johnny Smith' in EXACT order, or just the word 'Smith' AND any of the words 'John', 'Johnny', 'Johnathan' AND the article or notice must include the word 'Buried', 'Cemetery', 'Funeral', or 'Services', or the EXACT phrase 'Survived By' AND the name 'Jenny Smith' OR the word 'Pallbearer' AND ANY of the names 'Joe', 'Jim', 'John Jr.', 'Jack Johnson', 'Steve Jones'."

And, of course, don't forget to include the time frame:

"I'm searching for the first name 'John' and the last name 'Smith' who lived BETWEEN Jan 1st 1902 and December 31st of 1980. The first name and last name must appear next to each other in EXACT order, or you can return results for the name 'Johnathan Smith' in EXACT order, or try to find 'Johnny Smith' in EXACT order, or also try just the word 'Smith' AND any of the words 'John', 'Johnny', 'Johnathan' AND the results must include the word 'Buried', 'Cemetery', 'Funeral', or 'Services' in the same article or notice, or the EXACT phrase 'Survived By' AND the name 'Jenny Smith' OR the word 'Pallbearer' AND ANY of the names 'Joe', 'Jim', 'John Jr.', 'Jack Johnson', 'Steve Jones'."

Remember that the journey of genealogical research is not just about finding specific records or piecing together a family tree. It's about understanding the lives of our ancestors, the times they lived in, and the communities they were a part of. Each death announcement, each obituary, each tribute is a window into the past, offering a glimpse of the human stories that make up our collective history. The Community History Archive's query builder is a powerful tool that can significantly enhance your genealogical research. By understanding how to use it effectively, you can conduct more comprehensive searches, uncover hidden stories, and bring your family history to life. So, start exploring, and let the journey of discovery begin!

## How to Use Chronicling America Version 2.0



After over a decade of availability, the Library of Congress (LOC) has upgraded the user interface for Chronicling America. It now incorporates the standard LOC search and results interface, which includes Results Filtering. It is available now (they still call it a Beta release) and my summary review is as follows:

- The addition of **Results Filtering** is in a word – “Fantastic”. The old version provided no results filtering, which is a real boon to researchers.
- The **Basic Search** is accurately named. It has less capability than the old version. But I have always recommended and still do, to use the Advanced Search only.
- The new **Advanced Search** is comparable because a similar number of fields are available to enter your search criteria. The big change is that now when you select a state, the software auto-populates counties, cities, and titles for you to search if you choose to restrict your initial search to these elements.
- The **Image Handling** is similar, with a few new features.

If you want to keep up with the detailed progress of the migration to Version 2.0, click on [Chronicling America Website Migration](#)

If you want to try out the new interface, go to [Chronicling America](#)

Below is a summary of the Advanced Search and Results Filtering features and how to use them.

### Basic Search

Below is the Basic Search box, which is in the upper right of the screen. It allows you to enter a name or word(s). It is far better to use the Advanced Search feature, which provides many more capabilities.

A screenshot of the Basic Search interface. It features a dropdown menu on the left with the text "This Collection" and a downward arrow. To the right of the dropdown is a large, empty search input field. On the far right of the input field is a black square button with a white magnifying glass icon.

## How to Use Chronicling America Version 2.0

### Advanced Search

Below is the Advanced Search box, followed by a description of all the features.

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' form. At the top, there are four radio buttons: 'All' (selected), 'Titles', 'Issues', and 'Pages (Full Text)'. Below this is a search input field with the text 'keyword(s)'. A section titled '+ Add Field' contains several dropdown menus: 'State/Province (Geographic Coverage)', 'County', 'City', and 'Title'. Below these is an 'Ethnicity' dropdown. At the bottom, there are two date input fields labeled 'Start Date' and 'End Date', each with a calendar icon. To the right of the date fields are 'Clear' and 'Search' buttons.

Here is a description of all the features fields, and options:

#### *Radio Buttons*

You have the option to select All, Titles, Issues, or Pages (Full Text). Personally, I have not found a use for these options (yet), so I leave them all blank.

#### *All of these words*

This is a dropdown where you can choose:

- All of these words – all words must appear on a page to return a positive result (Same as a Boolean AND)
- Any of these words – any of the words on a page will return a positive result (Same as a Boolean OR)
- This exact phrase – The exact phrase must occur on a page to return a positive result.
- These words within 5 words of each other – a proximity search which is useful when searching for a name with a middle name or middle initial)
- These words within 10 words of each other – a proximity search which is useful when searching for a term that often has many variations (e.g., Montgomery Bus Boycott, or boycott of buses in Montgomery, etc.)

#### *Geographic Coverage, Title, and Ethnicity*

In this field, you can select a State. Upon the selection, any counties that have titles in the Chronicling America are pre-populated in the Counties field. Similarly, the Cities field is populated the same way. And following that, the Titles for the City are populated. Likewise, the Ethnicity of the newspapers are also presented to you to select.

Please note that you can select a County, or a City, or a Title, or Ethnicity BEFORE you choose a state. You do not need to select a state if you do not wish to.

#### *Dates*

You can select a Date Range by entering a Start Date and an End Date. A small calendar is useful. Or you can enter the dates in dd/mm/yyyy format.



## How to Use Chronicling America Version 2.0

### Image Handling

Image handling is similar to the initial version with regard to the number of features. There are a few new options, including more citation options. The best way to discover the image handling features is to work with it to see what you like.

### Filtering

This is the area where the new version of Chronicling America shines. No more will you have to redo searches to create filters. Now you can filter the results that you have received.

Some researchers use the “small to large” technique to search, while others like the “large to small” technique. What do these mean? Small to large means that you specify as many details as possible in the original search, making use of all the fields, and then eliminating specificity as you refine the results.

If you use the “large to small” technique, then you can use the new filtering features to refine your search. It is personal preference as to which technique you employ. Personally, I like the “large to small” and then use filters to refine.

Below are all the items that you can filter. The best way to understand what they all offer is to use them.

- **Original Format**
- **Title**
- **Date**
- **Country**
- **State/Province (Geographic Coverage)**
- **County**
- **City**
- **Ethnicity**
- **Language**
- **Subject**
- **Collection**
- **Online Format**
- **Contributor**
- **Division**
- **Access Condition**
- **Batches**

To try out the new interface, go to [Chronicling America](#)

COLLECTION

**Chronicling America**

Historic American Newspapers



## Webinars

**NOW AVAILABLE FOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS**



This webinar is intended to build newspaper research skills for genealogy and history researchers. Online newspaper research can be a frustrating endeavor for several reasons. The goal is for the audience to understand why it can be difficult and to learn some skills that will drastically improve search results. There are four sections in the webinar:

- Why search old newspapers?
- The challenges in searching old newspapers online
- Several skills and techniques to successfully search newspapers online
- A detailed demonstration of these skills and techniques

It will last one hour, including time for questions.

Currently, it is intended for Genealogy and Historical Societies, as well as Libraries and other institutions or groups.

The price is reasonable, and I can schedule and do the webinar with minimal notice (if you have a last-minute cancellation for example).

Just email me at [kenmarksology@gmail.com](mailto:kenmarksology@gmail.com) to schedule an upcoming webinar or to ask questions.

I love teaching people how to find their ancestor stories in online newspapers.

### COMING SOON

This webinar (**How to Develop Online Newspaper Research Skills**) will soon be available for individuals. Check my [Facebook Page](#) or my Weekly Newsletter on a regular basis to see the upcoming schedule.

I also am preparing a Webinar about **How to Use the New Chronicling America Version 2.0 Software**.

And I am working on a 3-hour webinar which discusses **Online Historical Research Skills** in more depth than the one-hour version that is currently available.

## Evidence Explained - 4th Edition



**NOW AVAILABLE AS eBook ALSO!**

### **Evidence Explained 4th Edition Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace**

**Elizabeth Shown Mill's** renowned book "Evidence Explained" is now available in its updated 4th Edition.

In the six years since the last edition was published, changes at major repositories and online information providers—as well as the ever-evolving electronic world—have generated new citation and analysis challenges for researchers. As a consequence, Mrs. Mills has once again updated her citation models and added descriptions and evaluations of numerous contemporary materials not included in the Third Edition Revised.

*Evidence Explained's* new fourth edition significantly *reexamines* historical resources and *simplifies* long-standing practices.

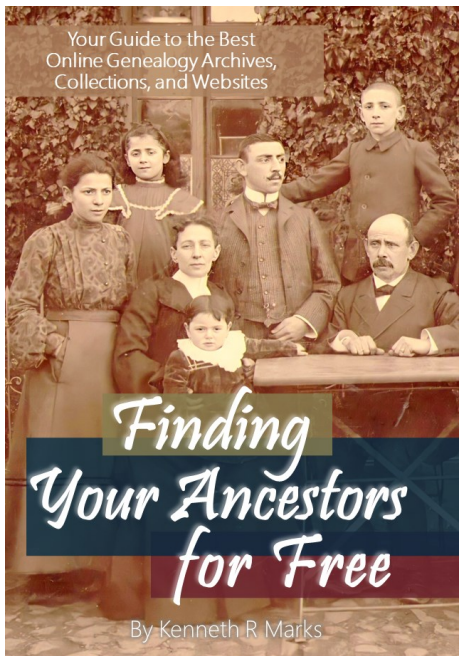
**Highlights of the Fourth Edition** include:

- Updated Chapters One and Two ("Fundamentals of Analysis" and "Fundamentals of Citation"), continue to lay the foundations for successful research.
- An entirely new Chapter Three, "Building a Citation," provides a tutorial for the construction of citations. Here, you learn to work with seven basic building blocks that can be mixed and matched to create a citation for any kind of source.
- Chapter Three's 14 streamlined templates replace the previous 170 QuickChek Models, assembling the *basic building blocks* as needed to create citations for every type of material—whether accessed as an unpublished manuscript, print publication, database, or online image delivered at a specific URL or through a complex path and its waypoints.
- All examples in the twelve "Records" chapters (Chapters Four through Fifteen) are keyed to the specific templates that work best for each source or situation.
- Hundreds of new citation examples emphasize modern modes of access, particularly the layered citations that modern media require.

[CHECK OUT MORE DETAILS](#)



## Genealogy Books Details



Published in November, 2022

***“Finding Your Ancestors For Free - Your Guide to the Best Online Archives, Collections, and Websites”***

Available via Amazon at <https://amzn.to/3GPcbf1>

In paperback, eBook, and you get a free PDF as a bonus.

### Introduction

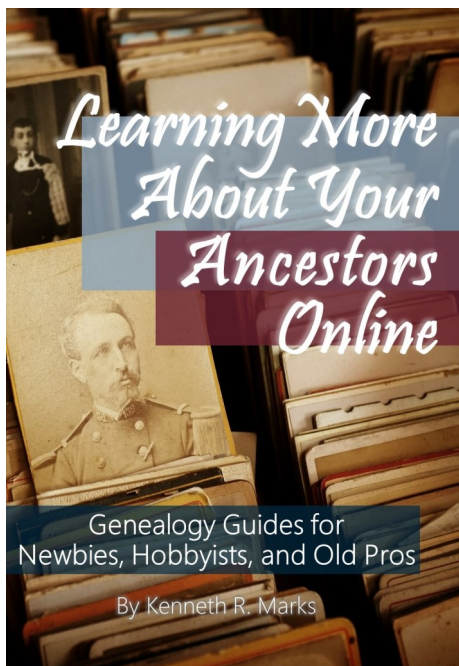
- About the Author
- Getting Started
- The History of Free
- Not All Records are Online
- Free Access to Subscription Databases
- Access to Free Collections for Residents
- Why Isn't Genealogy Always Free?

### Nationwide Websites

- Aggregation Sites
- Link Sites
- Library Sites
- Cemetery Sites
- Newspaper Sites
- Miscellaneous Sites

### State Websites

### Appendix



Published in November, 2021

***“Learning More About Your Ancestors Online - Genealogy Guides for Newbies, Hobbyists, and Old Pros”***

Available via Amazon at <https://amzn.to/3kUrebJ>

- Introduction
- Birth and marriage
- Death records and information
- General advice about genealogy research
- Immigration, naturalization, travel
- Military
- Miscellaneous records (societies, illnesses)
- Newspaper research
- Occupations
- Photos and physical description
- Residences and other locations
- Schools and yearbooks
- Resources

...and stay tuned for more in 2024. Am writing a book about Researching Historical Newspapers.

And there are plans for maybe another two.....



## The By Location Page

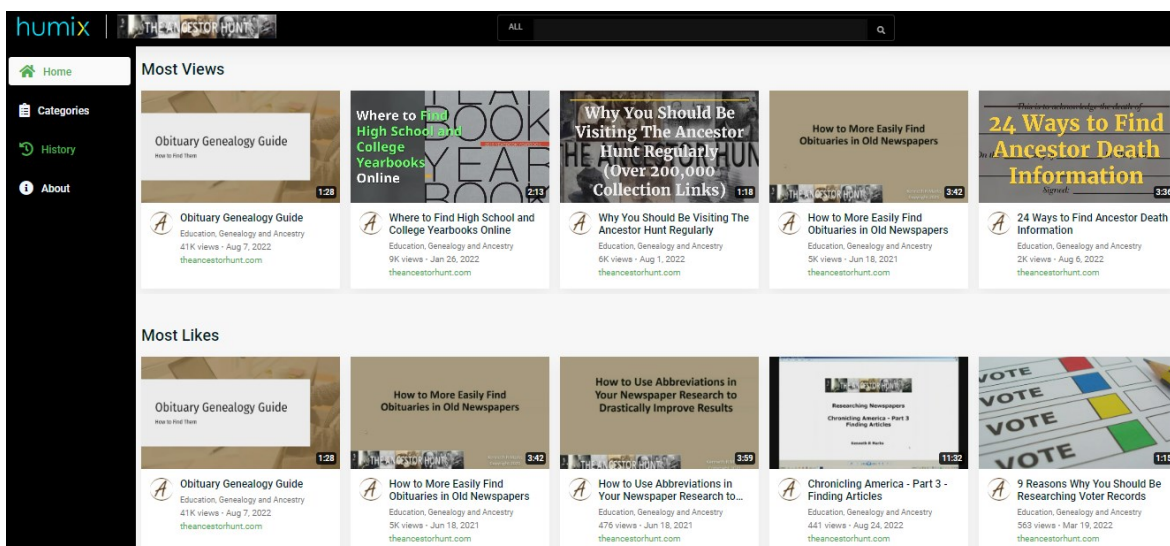
The easiest way to access a particular state's or province's list of collections and categories is via the [BY LOCATION](#) page.

This page has a dropdown for each state or province, with a link to the online collections links for every category available.

## Video Channel

There are now over 50 videos. Check them all out at

### [The Ancestor Hunt Video Channel](#)



## Place Finders

Do you often find yourself wanting or needing to know what county a city is located in or what places might be found in a specific county?

You could do a Google search but what if you had a handy list that included a list of all the cities, other places, and ghost towns that identified their corresponding county along with a list of the counties in a state that listed all of the places in that county?

What is a place? Besides cities and towns, you will find that the names of other places may vary from state to state. Most states have Census Designated Places, Unincorporated communities, Indian Reservations, and ghost towns. Other places may be known as villages, hamlets, historic districts, townships, boroughs, municipalities, and more.

Each state has a list of all the places in the state and their corresponding county. Each place has a link to a page that includes information about that place. The page may include geographical information, historical information, current information about the place and its surroundings, and much more.

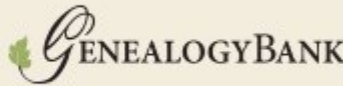
Included also for each state, is a Downloadable PDF with two lists: A list of places and their corresponding county, and; A list of counties with the places that are in that county.

Check out [Place Finders](#)

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

Search Now







## National Military Appreciation Month

# US Military

## 5 Free Online Resources

#1

**National Cemetery Administration**  
<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/ngl>



#2

**Genealogical Research System (DAR)**  
[https://services.dar.org/public/dar\\_research](https://services.dar.org/public/dar_research)

#3

**War of 1812 Pension Files**  
<http://fold3.com/publication/761/war-of-1812-pension-files>

#4

**Mexican War Soldiers & Sailors Database**  
<http://nps.gov/paal/learn/historyculture/search-usmexwar.htm>

#5

**American Battlefield Trust**  
<https://www.battlefields.org>



Genealogy In Action with Julie Cahill Tarr  
[GenealogyInAction.com](http://GenealogyInAction.com)

# Revolutionary War

## 5 Free Online Resources

#1

**The American Revolution**  
<http://theamericanrevolution.org>

#2

**Liberty! The American Revolution**  
<http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty>

#3

**Patriot Research System (SAR)**  
<https://sarpatriots.sar.org>

#4

**Genealogical Research System (DAR)**  
[https://services.dar.org/public/dar\\_research](https://services.dar.org/public/dar_research)

#5

**American Revolution and Its Era @ LOC**  
<http://loc.gov/collections/american-revolutionary-war-maps>



Genealogy In Action with Julie Cahill Tarr  
[GenealogyInAction.com](http://GenealogyInAction.com)

## 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 is my favorite tool 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.



The Next Chapter in Family History™

Build your family tree with historical records and bring it to life with vibrant, collaborative stories

Join for Free

### Compare Pricing for Storied

Check out our pricing compared to other popular genealogy sites.



## Read and Search Over 800 eBooks

Would you be interested in accessing over 800 Genealogy eBooks? How about the capability to search by topic and more importantly **search for your ancestor in all of the eBooks at once**? Earlier this year, Genealogical Publishing made a substantial upgrade to their My GPC Library service. Here are some details:

### The My GPC Library

#### Here's what you'll be getting:

#### The Absolute Best Content:

- Time tested titles from our 70 years of publishing
- Books from the leading authorities like Elizabeth Shown Mills, Val Greenwood, Drew Smith and others
- The very best quick reference guides from our At a Glance series

#### Tools to Find what you are looking for:

- Global searching of all our eBooks – what a time saver!
- Set Book marks, make Notes, and find Citations in every book!
- Work online or remotely – and they stay in sync!




#### Breakdown of the major categories:

- Industry leading how to books and manuals – an unsurpassed collection of more than 140 of our best titles that you cannot find anywhere else
- More than 375 genealogy books on colonial American families
- Over 239 books on New England or Mayflower genealogy
- Nearly 200 immigration titles covering Colonial America to about 1865
- Native American guides and records
- The best collection of titles on Royal and Noble genealogy
- More than 90 titles on Irish and Scottish genealogy
- Guidebooks for African American genealogy and records of families prior to 1870
- Nearly 800 titles in all, and growing

How do I find out more?

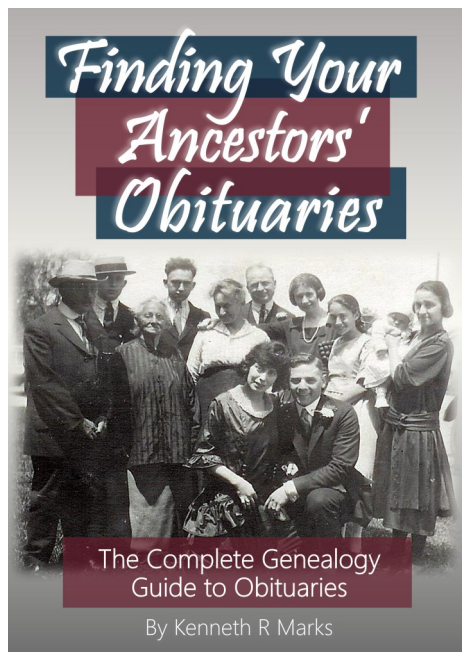
- Just click on this link: [My GPC Library](#)

What is the cost of a subscription?

		
<b>1 YEAR</b>	<b>6 MONTHS</b>	<b>3 MONTHS</b>
\$135	\$75	\$45



## Newest Genealogy Book Details



Published - March 6th

**"Finding Your Ancestors' Obituaries: The Complete Genealogy Guide to Obituaries"**

Available via Amazon at <https://amzn.to/3JxiiWB>

In paperback, eBook, and you get a free PDF as a bonus.

Delve into the fascinating history of obituaries and discover what crucial information they contain, with real-life examples to help you understand their importance. You'll also learn expert techniques for finding and obtaining obituaries in both obituary databases and online newspaper archives, making your research easier than ever before.

But that's not all! With over 10,000 free online obituary databases and 50,000 historical newspaper titles for the United States and Canada in the Appendix, you'll have access to an incredible wealth of resources to aid your research.

This book isn't just about finding obituaries—it's about using them to gain a deeper understanding of your family's story. With helpful tips on analyzing obituaries and incorporating them into your genealogy research, "Finding Your Ancestors' Obituaries" is an essential part of any genealogy reference collection.

### CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Research Methods</b>
About the Author	Libraries
Why Obituaries?	• Microfilmed Newspapers
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	• Online Article Index
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The Moral of the Obituary Story	Newspapers
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Information Available	• Search Criteria Keywords
History of Obituaries	• Continue Searching After Finding the First Obit
The Future of Obituaries	• Published in the Last 20 Years
The Basics of Obituary Research	• Location of Death
	• Online Indexes
<b>Getting Obituaries</b>	• Smart Browse Techniques
Obituary Formats	• Newspapers in Places Previously Lived
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Find the Obituary	• Searching for Names in Newspapers
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