

# Monthly Newsletter August 15, 2024

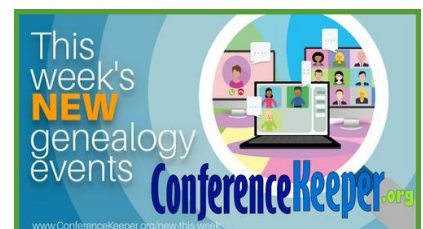


## Contents for this Issue:

- Articles Published Since Last Issue
- Useful Articles from Other Sources
- Webinars - Individual Registration Available - August and September Schedule
- Free Genealogy Website of the Month - David Rumsey's Historical Maps
- Discovering Family Relationships Through Newspapers
- My Genealogy Books Details
- Monthly Raffle - Winner and Next Month
- Genealogical Publishing Books - 15% Discount
- Quicksheet of the Month - 24 Places Where You Can Find Your Ancestors Occupation
- Newspaper Research Tip of the Month - Use Nicknames in Genealogy Search
- Quick Tips
- Was Your Ancestor a Member of a Lodge, Club, or Secret Society?
- Lost Letters, Found Stories - Exploring Unclaimed Mail in Historical Newspapers
- Free Genealogy Archives, Websites, and Other Collections - By State
- Read and Search Over 800 eBooks

## 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 – August 1-15, 2024](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – August 1-15, 2024](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – July 1-31, 2024](#)
- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – July 1-31, 2024](#)
- [1,050 Free Online Mid Atlantic States Birth Record and Index Collections](#)
- [1,065 Free Online Mid Atlantic States Death Record and Index Collections](#)
- [1,115 Free Online Western States Birth Record and Index Collections](#)
- [1,265 Free Online Immigration Record Collections from the United States](#)
- [1,480 Free Online Marriage Collection and Index Links for the Western States](#)
- [1,610 Free Online Marriage Collection and Index Links for the Mid Atlantic States](#)
- [13 Ways to Find Physical Characteristics Without Photos](#)
- [14,190 Free Online Marriage Collection and Index Links for the United States](#)
- [175 Free New England States Online Tax Records](#)
- [2,080 Free Online Mid West States Birth Record and Index Collections](#)
- [2,110 Free Southern States Online Tax Records](#)
- [2,305 Free Online Southern States Birth Record and Index Collections](#)
- [2,900 Free Online New England States Birth Record and Index Collections](#)
- [2,990 Free Online New England States Death Record and Index Collections](#)
- [20 Things You Can Find in Church Records to Help Find Your Ancestors](#)
- [24 Things You Can Find from Cemetery Records Besides Tombstone Inscriptions](#)
- [240 Free Western States Online Tax Records](#)
- [26 Things That You Can Find in School Records](#)
- [27 Ways to Find Ancestor Marriage Information](#)
- [28 Things You Can Find in Military Records to Help Find Your Ancestors](#)
- [3,470 Free Online Marriage Collection and Index Links for the Mid West States](#)
- [3,595 Free United States Online Tax Records](#)
- [3,140 Free Online Marriage Collection and Index Links for the New England States](#)
- [3,140 Free Online Southern States Death Record and Index Collections](#)
- [32 Ways to Find Ancestor Birth Information](#)
- [370 Free Online Immigration Collections from the Western States](#)
- [45 Reasons to Research Immigration Records](#)
- [5 Free Ways to Find Patents from Your Inventor Ancestor](#)
- [5,975 Free Online Marriage Collection and Index Links for the Southern States](#)
- [675 Free Mid Atlantic States Online Tax Records](#)
- [950 Free Mid West States Online Tax Records](#)

## New From The Newspaper Corner

- [32 Reasons Why Searching for Obituaries is Like Finding Gold](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – July 2024](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 76 Titles – July, 2024](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – July 2024](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 62 Historical Newspaper Titles – July 2024](#)
- [Newspapers dot Com Update – July 2024](#)
- [Vermont Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [The Best Way to Find 20% More Pertinent Newspaper Articles Online](#)
- [Veridian Adds/Updates 195 Titles – August 2024](#)
- [California Digital Newspaper Collection Adds/Updates 14 Titles – July 2024](#)
- [Digital Michigan Newspapers Adds/Updates 5 Titles – July 2024](#)
- [Advantage Archives Adds 900 Thousand Historical Newspaper Pages – July 2024](#)
- [Discovering Family Relationships Through Newspapers](#)
- [Alaska Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [West Virginia Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Kentucky Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Oregon Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Indiana Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Minnesota Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Missouri Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Utah Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)

## Quirky Old Newspaper Ads

**"LOOK OUT, GRACIE!**

**WITH ZENITH SPACE COMMAND TV I CAN CHANGE PROGRAMS FROM ACROSS THE ROOM!"**

**ZENITH**

**RECEIVE TUNE CHANGE SOUND**

**ONLY ZENITH HAS SPACE COMMAND. THE REMOTE CONTROL UNIT THAT TUNES TV BY "SILENT SOUND" ...**

**JUST TOUCH A BUTTON TO ...**

- Turn off the sound of the TV.
- Change channels without the tedious manual on the screen.
- Turn it on and off.
- Change channels faster than lightning.

**NO VIBES. NO BATTERIES. NO TROUBLE...**

**NOTHING BETWEEN YOU AND THE SET BUT SPACE!**

Don't take TV from your living room—move them to the room. At the touch of a button, the remote unit in your hand enters a "Silent Sound" mode, only the slightest ear of your Space Command receiver hears. Instantly your set responds. Automatically, each channel appears in order, from first through the channel immediately preceding "Blackout" Picture Tube.

The Zenith has 14 fully-adjustable buttons. Zenith's four High Fidelity Speakers mounted on the sides of your picture screen, fill the room with clear "Silent Sound."

Select the perfect Space Command TV for your room from Zenith's line of 100 models. In 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, 42, 45, 48, 51, 54, 57, 60, 63, 66, 69, 72, 75, 78, 81, 84, 87, 90, 93, 96, 99, 100. You'll have the best of both worlds. The joy of Space Command Remote TV Control. The extra cost and convenience of built right into your set!

**BUYER AND ALUMINUM**

**ZENITH**

**QUALITY BY**

**Zenith**

**SPACE COMMAND TV**

The Royalty of Television



## Useful Articles from Other Sources

- [10 Best Websites for Italian Genealogy Research](#)
- [Genealogy Tips: 3 Reasons You Can't Find Your Ancestor's Grave](#)
- [Unusual Last Names: 7 Research Tips](#)
- [How to Research What Your Last Name Means](#)
- [Flatbed Scanning Q&A: Slides, Photo Negatives and More](#)
- [How to Organize Old Photographs and Memorabilia For Genealogy Research](#)
- [Bad Words in Genealogy](#)
- [Black Archives in KC is now showing African Americans how to uncover their roots](#)
- [Full Name Review: A Great Way to Help Others Discover Their Ancestors](#)
- [Is It Plagiarism To Use AI-Generated Content? The Ethics of Content Creation in an AI World](#)
- [What Makes Genealogy So Important?](#)
- [Enhancing Genealogical Research with AI: 5 Practical Tips](#)
- [23 Unexpected Websites You Can Use for Genealogy Research](#)
- [FamilySearch's New AI Tool Makes Unindexed Records Searchable For First Time](#)
- [Advice from a Recovering Blowhard: A Genealogist's Guide to Getting Over Yourself](#)
- [Your Genealogical Family Tree Versus Your Genetic Family Tree: Inheritance Patterns and Why They Matter](#)
- [10 Million Names project working with Local Genealogists to uncover names of enslaved Americans](#)
- [Perplexity as an AI Genealogy Report Tool](#)
- [Rhode Island Archives: 102 Newspapers for Genealogy Research](#)
- [4 Ways US Census Records Can Fool You](#)
- [5 Strategies for Deciphering Old Handwriting on Documents](#)
- [10 Top Websites for Finding Death Records and Obituaries](#)
- [Find an Obituary for a Specific Person with These Expert Tips](#)
- [Who Were the Ashkenazi Jewish People, and Are You Related to Them?](#)
- [Can You Find Your Ancestors In These Old Post Office Records?](#)

- [10 Best Websites for Italian Genealogy Research](#)
- [5 Overlooked Resources for Eastern European Genealogy Research](#)
- [5 Genealogy Filing Systems to Get You Organized](#)
- [The Top Things that Make Genealogy a Fun, Fascinating Hobby](#)
- [Must-Have Tools for a New Genealogist](#)
- [South Carolina Archives: 272 Newspapers for Genealogy Research](#)
- [Asian Genealogy Research: The Challenges and The Rewards](#)
- [Chasing Counties: Use County Formation Maps](#)
- [5 Ways to Use Online Historical Maps for Genealogy](#)
- [A Genealogist's Research Guide to the Caribbean](#)
- [How to Use Old Newspaper Advertisements to Research the Childhood Lives of Your Ancestors](#)
- [The "Secret" Codes on Death Certificates That Can Tell You How Your Ancestors Died](#)
- [50 historical Arizona newspapers now available online through Library of Congress collection](#)
- [Genetic Genealogy Mysteries: How to proceed if a DNA match never responds](#)
- [The Top British Genealogy Websites](#)
- [8 Binge-Worthy Family History Shows You Don't Want to Miss](#)

### WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

- FINISH ALUMNI RECORDS UPDATE
- FINISH NEWSPAPERS UPDATE
- START SPECIAL NEWSPAPERS UPDATE
- FINISH DEATH RECORDS UPDATE
- FINISH YEARBOOKS UPDATE
- IMPLEMENT ON DEMAND WEBINARS

### Check out The Ancestor Hunt on Social Media



YouTube



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.



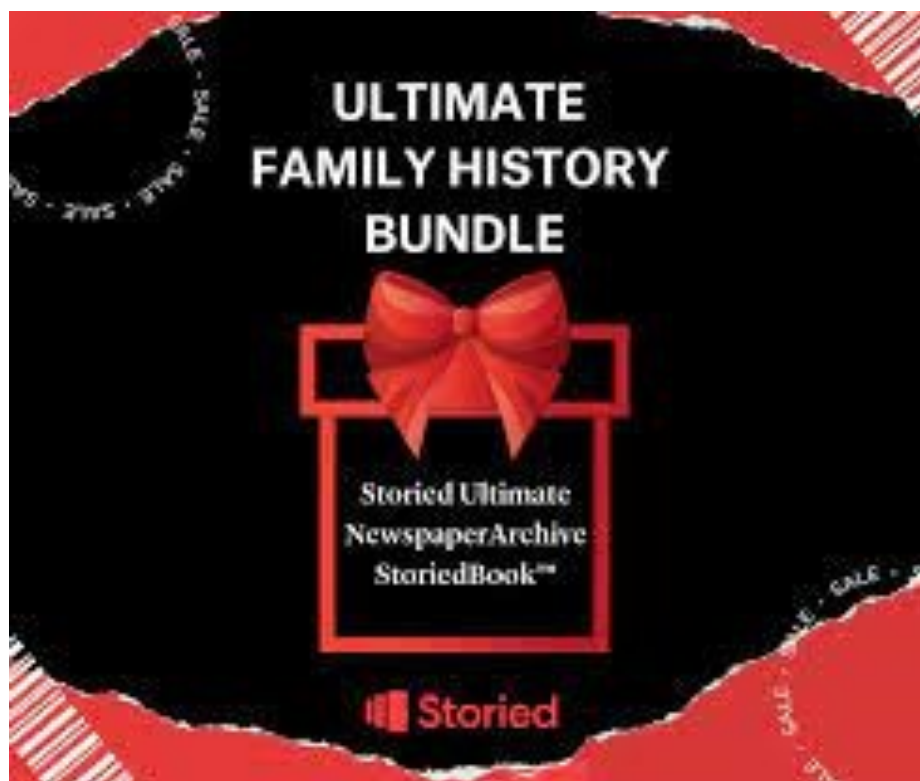


## Monthly Raffle

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

The winner of the raffle is Janice Thompson from Ontario, Canada. Congratulations!

And what did they 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 - David Rumsey's Historical Maps

# David Rumsey Map Collection

If you are looking for maps to aid in your genealogy research, the David Rumsey Map Collection website should not be missed. It has a terrific search engine with associated tools, as well as an abundance of information.

From the website: *"The David Rumsey Map Collection was started over 35 years ago and contains more than 150,000 maps. The collection focuses on rare 16th through 21st-century maps of North and South America, as well as maps of the World, Asia, Africa, Europe, and Oceania. The collection includes atlases, globes, wall maps, school geographies, pocket maps, books of exploration, maritime charts, and a variety of cartographic materials including pocket, wall, children, and manuscript maps. Items range in date from around 1550 to the present. Digitization of the collection began in 1996 and there are now over 118,000 items online."*

Additional tools and features include:

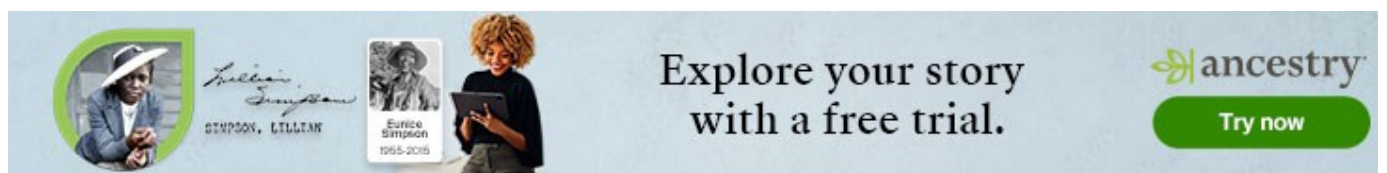
- Interactive Globes
- Georeferencer
- MapRank Search

There is a robust Help Center that includes Frequently Asked Questions as well as information on how to use the Luna Viewer and Browser.

To access the site, go to [www.DavidRumsey.com](http://www.DavidRumsey.com)



**NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE®** Explore billions of newspaper articles from all over the world. [Start Free Trial](#)



Explore your story with a free trial. [Try now](#)



## Newspaper Research Tip of the Month - Use Nicknames in Genealogy Search

In many genealogically related documents (especially newspapers and census records), nicknames were frequently used, as those names were more often used than the “formal” given name of the person.

Your search index database is not smart enough, for example, to interpret ‘Sadie” for the formal given name of “Sarah”. Thus, you will need to use both names separately in your search criteria.

So when developing your search criteria for both genealogy and newspaper searches, you need to include nicknames in your repertoire.

Below is a list of about 60 common names and nicknames.

Name	Nickname	Name	Nickname
Abigail, Tabitha	Abbie, Abby	Hiram	Hy
Abraham	Abe, Abra	Isaac	Ike
Alexander	Alec, Alex	Jackson, John	Jack
Alexander	Sandy	Jacob	Jake
Alice	Allie	Janet, Virginia	Jenny
Alice	Elsie	Jedidiah	Jed
Antoinette, Henrietta	Nettie	Josiah, Cyrus	Si, Cy
Archibald	Arch, Archie	Katherine, Kathleen	Kate, Kay
August	Gus	Malachi, Malcolm	Mal
Augustus	Augie	Margaret	Meg, Maggie
Bartholomew	Bart, Bat	Margaret	Peggy
C/Katherine	Kitty	Margaret, Margery	Madge
Caroline	Callie, Carrie	Martha	Mattie
Charlotte	Lollie, Lottie	Martha	Patsy
Christopher	Kit	Martha, Mary, Amelia	Mollie
Clarissa, Clarinda	Clara	Martha, Patience	Patty
Cornelius	Con	Mary	Mamie
Cyrus	Cy	Mary	Polly
Dorothy	Dolly, Dot	Mary, Wilhelmina	Minnie
Edith	Edie	Mindwell, Wilhelmina	Mina
Edwin, Edward	Ned	Nathaniel	Nat, Nate
Eleanor, Ellen, Helen	Nellie	Newton	Newt
Elizabeth	Bess, Betsey	Oliver	Ollie
Florence	Flora, Flossie	Patrick	Paddy
Frances	Fanny, Frankie	Phineas	Finney
Hamilton	Ham	Richard	Dick
Harold, Henry	Hal	Sarah	Sadie, Sally
Harriet	Hatty	Thaddeus	Tad
Henrietta, Louetta	Etta	Virgil	Virg
Henry	Hank	Wiley, William	Willie, Bill
Henry	Harry	Winifred, Edwina	Winnie



## Free Genealogy Archives, Websites, and Other Collections - By State

These curated links for each state include genealogy websites, archives, university collections, library and other institutions' genealogy collections. All Free!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Alabama</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Alaska</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Arizona</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Arkansas</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in California</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Colorado</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Connecticut</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Delaware</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in District of Columbia</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Florida</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Georgia</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Hawaii</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Idaho</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Illinois</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Indiana</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Iowa</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Kansas</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Kentucky</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Louisiana</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Maine</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Maryland</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Massachusetts</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Michigan</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Minnesota</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Mississippi</a></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Missouri</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Montana</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Nebraska</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Nevada</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in New Hampshire</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in New Jersey</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in New Mexico</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in New York</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in North Carolina</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in North Dakota</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Ohio</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Oklahoma</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Oregon</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Pennsylvania</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in South Carolina</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in South Dakota</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Tennessee</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Texas</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Utah</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Vermont</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Virginia</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Washington</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in West Virginia</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Wisconsin</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Online Genealogy Collections in Wyoming</a></li></ul> |
|---|---|



**MyHeritage**

### Discover your family history

Explore 20 billion historical records with MyHeritage

**FREE for 14 days**

Plus 50% off the annual plan

Click on the image for more details



## Discovering Family Relationships Through Newspapers

It is my opinion that of all the resources and records available to research – newspaper articles are most critical, because of the richness and variety of their content.



For example, I had found my great great grandfather Louis Marks (left) early on but knew nothing of his siblings or parents. Louis was the first who immigrated to America so his parents and siblings were significantly more difficult to discover.

I began to get clues that he had a brother Emil. I had found a newspaper clipping about an Emil Marks, who had been hit by a train and killed in Oakland, California.

### Is Emil His Brother?

#### **Accidental Death.**

An inquest was held last evening on the body of Emil Marks, who was run over by a train at the mole Sunday night. It appeared from the testimony that the man, after visiting friends in this city, aimlessly wandered around the mole and fell on the track accidentally. The engineer of the train gave it as his opinion that the man was under the influence of liquor. Mr. Rothschild, a San Francisco attorney, was in attendance at the inquest, and it is likely that he will bring suit against the railroad company. The jury rendered a verdict of accidental death, and attached no blame to nobody.

From a naturalization log and naturalization index cards from 1864, they were suspiciously next to each other in the log, had the same naturalization date and had the same witness at their naturalization "hearing."

Two years later, I found an entry in the 1875 San Francisco City Directory, which cites a company named "Louis Marks and Bro" and names both Louis and Emil. Not proof, but certainly enough for me at that juncture to claim their brotherhood.

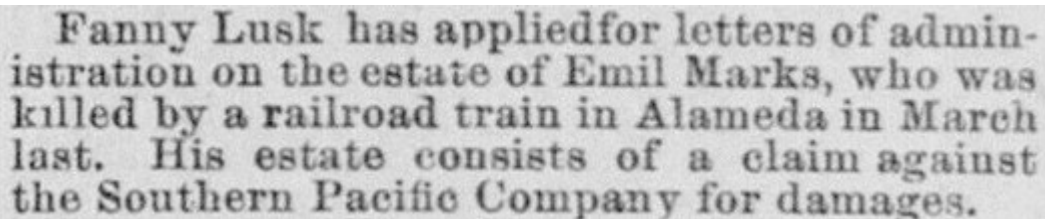
So now we have brothers Louis and Emil.



## Discovering Family Relationships Through Newspapers

### Is Fanny His Sister?

A few years later I received an email from a descendant of Fanny Lust. A newspaper article stated that Fanny was suing the railroad company, as she was handling Emil's estate. This potential cousin had asked if I thought that Emil and Fanny were brother and sister. He had heretofore not known anything about Emil or Louis.



Fanny Lusk has applied for letters of administration on the estate of Emil Marks, who was killed by a railroad train in Alameda in March last. His estate consists of a claim against the Southern Pacific Company for damages.

After a bit more research, including the California Death Index, it was discovered that Fanny's maiden name was indeed "Marks" and it was likely that Emil and Fanny were brother and sister, although they could have been cousins. Fanny's Death Certificate was ordered and it showed that her maiden name WAS Marks.

But - The Story Doesn't End - Because of..... A Newspaper!

### And There's More!

We have a lot of clues, but nothing that really ties Emil, Louis and Fanny together more tightly. Until I later found an obituary in the newspaper and it was for Emil - and it was a fantastic find!



DEATHS.  
MARKS—In Oakland, March 31, Emil Marks, brother of the late Louis Marks, Mrs. S. Lust and Mrs. I. Schudmack, a native of Prussia, Germany, aged 49 years.  
Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral this day (Wednesday), at 1 o'clock, from B'nai B'rith Hall, 121 Eddy street. Funeral under the auspices of Doric Lodge, No. 216, F. and A. M.

## Discovering Family Relationships Through Newspapers

This obituary confirms the brotherhood of Emil and Louis - but who are Mrs. S. Lust and Mrs. I. Schudmack, their sisters? Well we know from many records that have been accumulated, that Fanny was married to Simon Lust, who coincidentally was also killed by a train. And Emil and Simon were business partners in the 1860s as we also discovered.

But who is Mrs. I. Schudmack? Another sister! Thus, Lottie Marks Schudmack was discovered – only via a newspaper article.

Old newspaper articles are a thread through all of this research and critical to establishing these relationships,

**Use newspapers in your research. You will be glad that you did!**

---

### QUICK TIPS

#### *Genealogy Did You Know*

You can find your ancestors in Classified Ads. Search for names in the “want ads” as either selling something or if they owned a business and are trying to hire a new employee. Another trick is to search for their phone number in the Ads. I found my grandmother via her phone number looking or work in 1910

Research Your Family History With Help From The Ancestor Hunt at [www.theancestorhunt.com](http://www.theancestorhunt.com)

#### *Genealogy Did You Know*

To save money:

- Take advantage of free trials with subscription newspaper sites before you buy.
- Libraries often subscribe to the same pay sites and if you have a library card, you may be able to search from home!

Research Your Family History With Help From The Ancestor Hunt at [www.theancestorhunt.com](http://www.theancestorhunt.com)

#### *Genealogy Did You Know*

If your ancestor was a school teacher, a principal, or a school employee, and the school published yearbooks, you may be lucky enough to get photos of them for all the years that they were employed and there was a yearbook.

Research Your Family History With Help From The Ancestor Hunt at [www.theancestorhunt.com](http://www.theancestorhunt.com)

#### *Genealogy Did You Know*

Interested in knowing where your ancestors took vacations?

Before the advent of air conditioning, in warmer climes, folks would travel to resorts, springs, and other spots and the names of the travelers were often listed in the local newspaper.

Research Your Family History With Help From The Ancestor Hunt at [www.theancestorhunt.com](http://www.theancestorhunt.com)

## Webinars

NOW AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION

All Details and Registration can be found at [Webinars](#)

**SPECIAL OFFER** – If you register for a total of 2 webinars in August/September, I will mail you a copy of one of the three books that I have published in the last two years. You select the title, and I will mail the book to you (I pay for the book and the postage). Go to the [Books](#) page on The Ancestor Hunt website to choose your book. After you register for the 2 webinars, just email me at [kenmarksology@gmail.com](mailto:kenmarksology@gmail.com) with your selected book plus your name and address and I will verify your registration and mail the book to you.

### August 2024

**August 19 – 7:00 PM EDT** – Using the New Chronicling America Version 2.0 – It is Different and It Is Better

**August 27 – 12:00 PM EDT** – How to Develop Critical Online Newspaper Research Skills

**August 29 – 3:00 PM EDT** – Exploring 95 Tips for Researching Online Historical Newspapers

### September 2024

**September 12 – 4:00 PM EDT** – How to Develop Critical Online Newspaper Research Skills

**September 18 – 12:00 PM EDT** – Using the New Chronicling America Version 2.0 – It is Different and It Is Better

**September 24 – 7:00 PM EDT** – Exploring 95 Tips for Researching Online Historical Newspapers

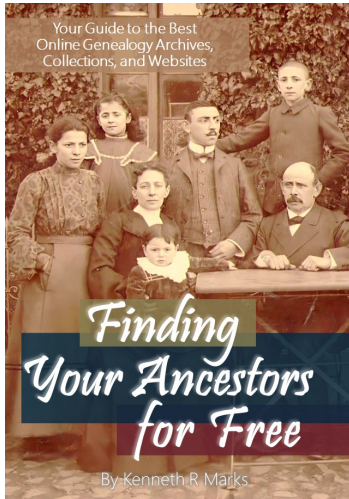
**STAY TUNED** - On Demand Webinars will be offered soon! You can view a pre-recorded webinar at your leisure and will not be tied to a Live Webinar Schedule.

As always we are open for group sessions with genealogical societies and other institutions





## My 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?
- Disclosures

### Nationwide Websites

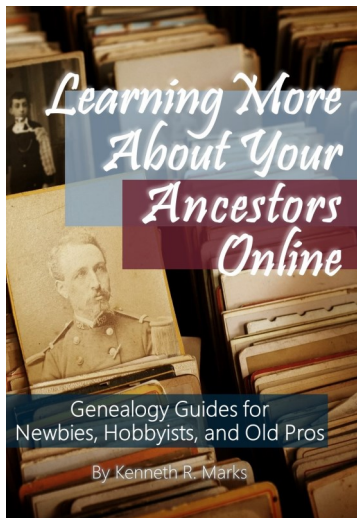
- Aggregation Sites
- Link Sites
- Library Sites
- Cemetery Sites
- Newspaper Sites
- Miscellaneous Sites

### State Websites

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

Published in March, 2023

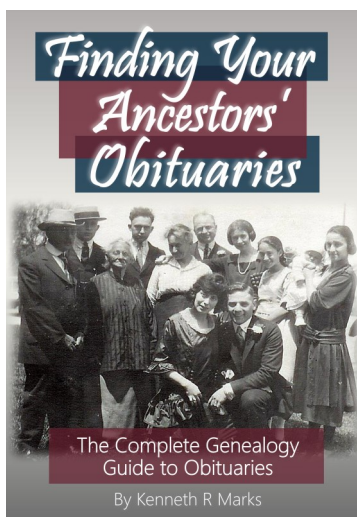
***“Finding Your Ancestors’ Obituaries: The Complete Genealogy Guide to Obituaries”***

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.





## Quicksheet of the Month

### 24 Places Where You Can Find Your Ancestors Occupations

If you are like me, you want to know as much as possible about the lives of your ancestors. Determining their stories is a challenge, especially if there is no one alive who remembers the ancestor that you are researching.

But fortunately, there are a number of documents that record at least, the occupation of the target ancestor, and that can tell you a lot about the person.

Knowing how the ancestor worked tells you a lot about how they lived and possibly their standing in the community.

- Census Records
- City Directories
- Draft Cards
- Death Certificates
- Passenger Lists
- Birth Certificate/Record of child – the parents occupations are often provided
- Military Enlistment and Other Records
- Photographs – although not written – if in some kind of uniform, this can be a good hint as to occupation
- Marriage Certificates
- Voter Registrations
- Mortuary Records
- Naturalization Records
- Passport Applications
- Patent Applications
- Social Security Applications – Employer's name is often included
- Obituaries
- Membership in Fraternal Societies
- Union Membership Documents
- Wills/Probate
- Newspaper Articles of all kinds – Legal notices, advertisements and classified ads are often useful
- Miscellaneous Court Documents
- Apprenticeship Records
- Recorded local and town histories
- Alumni Directories

Was one of your ancestor's occupation a word that you don't understand?

Make sure and check out the "280 Old Occupations Used in the Census and Newspapers in the U.S. and U.K." Quicksheet. Click on the blue link to download the list of [Old Occupations](#) pdf



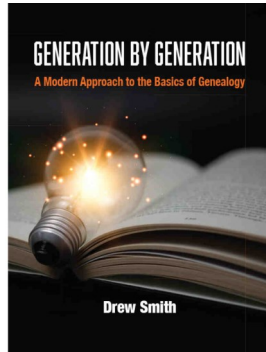
© The Ancestor Hunt 2024 Visit **The Ancestor Hunt** at: <https://www.theancestorhunt.com>

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

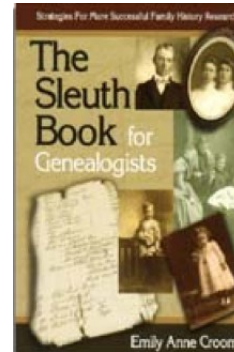


## Genealogical Publishing Books - 15% Discount

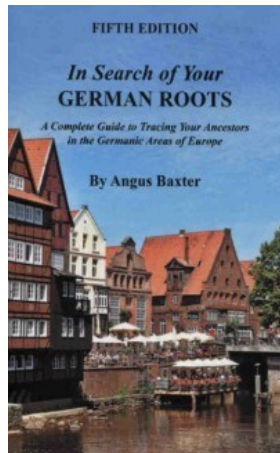
I have negotiated a 15% discount for you from Genealogical Publishing for these 4 books. Please use the coupon code to access the discount. Click on the image for more information.



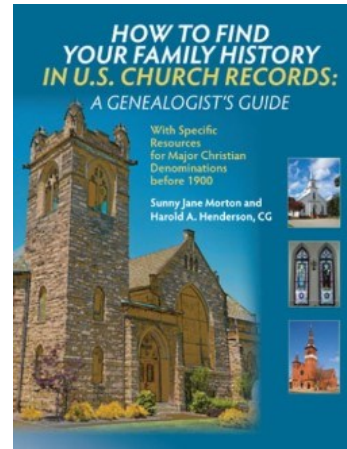
KMGBG15



KMSB15



KMGR15



KMCR15

## 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

How do I find out more?

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



## Was Your Ancestor a Member of a Lodge, Club, or Secret Society?

Why is this important? - 20% of men in 1900 belonged to a lodge or club; their membership was often cited in Obituaries. Knowing of their membership in a society helps complete their family "story" and possibly understand them better. Here are some examples of the more well known, with links to more information about them.

- [B'nai B'rith](#): a Jewish service organization.
- [Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks](#): A fraternal order focused on charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity with an emphasis on patriotism and belief in God.
- [Colonial Dames of America](#): an American organization composed of women who are descended from an ancestor who lived in British America from 1607–1775.
- [Daughters of Norway](#): A sisterhood aimed at preserving Nordic heritage.
- [Daughters of the American Revolution](#) (DAR): a lineage-based membership service organization for women who are directly descended from a person involved in the United States' efforts towards independence.
- [Fraternal Order of Eagles](#): "People Helping People" in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality. Local units are called "Aeries."
- [Freemasons](#): The Masonic Fraternity claims to be the oldest Fraternity in the world and seeks men (Masons) wishing to become better men through service and self-improvement.
- [Grange](#): A community-based, fraternal organization with an interest in representing rural residents and the agriculture community.
- [Independent Order of Odd Fellows](#): To improve and elevate the character of mankind by promoting the principles of friendship, love, truth, faith, hope, charity, and universal justice.
- [International Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo, Incorporated](#) is a fraternal and service organization whose members are involved in the forests products industry. {My personal favorite name!}
- [Job's Daughters International](#): a Masonic affiliated youth organization for girls and young women aged 10 to 20.
- [Kiwanis](#): an international service club founded in 1915 in Detroit, Michigan.
- [Knight of Pythias](#): a fraternal organization and secret society founded in Washington, D.C., on 19 February 1864
- [Knights of Columbus](#): A Catholic fraternal benefit society.
- [Lions Club](#): an international non-political service organization established originally in 1917 in Chicago, Illinois.
- [Loyal Order of Moose](#): a fraternal and service organization founded in 1888 and headquartered in Mooseheart, Illinois.
- [Optimist International](#): an international service club organization with almost 3,000 clubs and over 80,000 members in more than 20 countries. The international headquarters is located in St. Louis, Missouri
- [Order of the Eastern Star](#): The members of the Order of the Eastern Star are dedicated women and men who sincerely reflect the spirit of fraternal love and the desire to work together for good.
- [Rebekahs](#): This is the female organization of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows
- [Rotary International](#): an international service organization whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.
- [Shriners](#): Fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth.
- [Sons of Italy](#): A fraternal group focused on preserving Italian heritage.
- [Sons of Norway](#): A fraternal group focused on preserving Norwegian heritage. Founded in 1895.
- [Soroptimist International](#) (SI): a worldwide volunteer service organization for women who work for peace, and in particular to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.
- [The American Legion](#): commonly known as the Legion, is a nonprofit organization of U.S. war veterans.



## The By Location Page

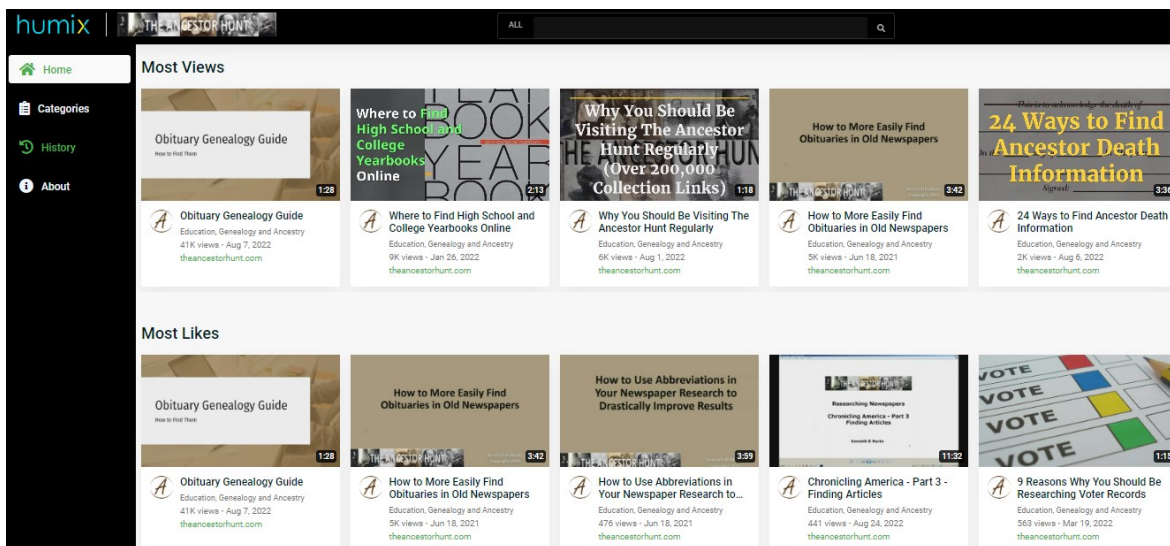
The easiest way to access a particular state's or province's list of collections and categories is via the [BY LOCATION](#) page.

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 60 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







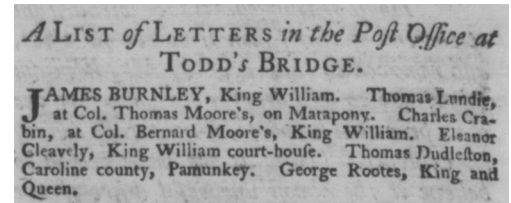


# Lost Letters, Found Stories

## Exploring Unclaimed Mail in Historical Newspapers

*This article is reprinted with permission from the folks at Storied.*

Have you ever been reading through old newspapers, searching for clues about your ancestors, when you stumbled upon a list of unclaimed letters? These intriguing notices, often overlooked by researchers, can hold the key to unlocking fascinating stories and historical insights. In this blog post, we'll explore the mysteries behind unclaimed letters in old newspapers and what they can tell us about our ancestors.



The Virginia Gazette, 1766

### The Evolution of Postal Services

Before the advent of modern postal systems, mail delivery was fraught with challenges. Misdirected, undelivered, and unclaimed letters were common. In the 18th and 19th centuries, post offices were still perfecting methods to handle mail efficiently. As a result, letters that couldn't find their recipients often ended up on public lists published in local newspapers. This practice highlights the developmental stages of early postal services and their efforts to connect people across distances.

### The Role of Newspapers in Community Communication

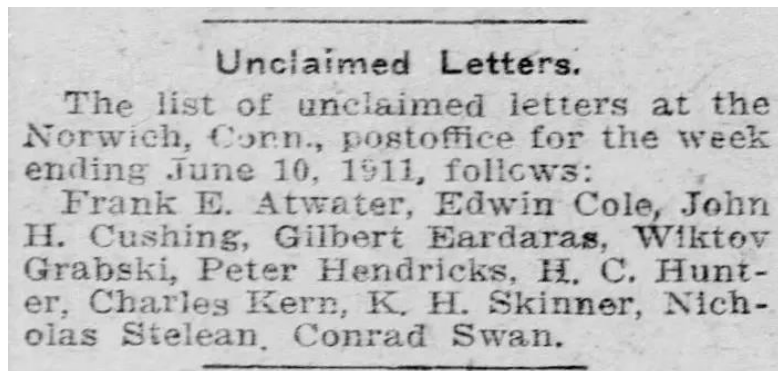
Publishing unclaimed letters served as a crucial public service. These lists notified individuals that mail awaited them at the post office, particularly important when people frequently moved for work or in pursuit of new land and opportunities. Newspapers, serving as the primary means of mass communication, played a vital role in ensuring that important information, whether personal, legal, or business-related, reached its intended recipient eventually.

### The Stories Behind the Letters

The lists of unclaimed letters are not just lists; they are snapshots into the social and historical context of a particular era. Here are some of the stories that these letters might reveal:

#### 1. Migration and Movement

Many unclaimed letters belonged to individuals who had recently moved or were in transit. These letters can shed light on the mobility of populations during different times, such as the Great Migration or the westward expansion. By tracing the paths of these letters, you might uncover clues about your ancestors' journeys and the reasons behind their relocations.



The Norwich Bulletin, 1911

#### 2. Economic Hardship

During times of economic struggle, such as the Great Depression, people often moved in search of work, leading to lost connections and unclaimed mail. These letters can provide glimpses into the financial challenges your ancestors faced and how they coped with difficult circumstances.



## Lost Letters, Found Stories

### Exploring Unclaimed Mail in Historical Newspapers

#### 3. Social Stigma

In some cases, unclaimed letters might have been intentionally abandoned due to social stigma or personal circumstances that individuals wished to escape. For example, a letter addressed to an unmarried woman from a man who was not her husband could have caused a scandal, leading her to leave the letter unclaimed to protect her reputation.

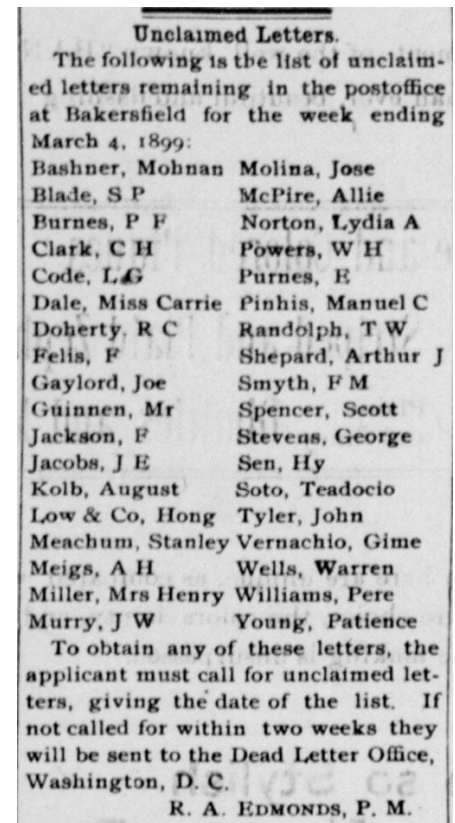
#### 4. Historical Events

Significant historical events, such as wars, natural disasters, or epidemics, could also contribute to the accumulation of unclaimed letters. These letters might hold stories of separated families, displaced individuals, or those who never returned home.

#### How to Research Unclaimed Letters

For researchers, genealogists, and history buffs, unclaimed letter listings are invaluable. If you come across a list of unclaimed letters in an old newspaper, here are some steps you can take to investigate further:

1. Note the date and location of the newspaper. This will help you contextualize the historical and social backdrop of the unclaimed letters.
2. Look for any familiar names or addresses. If you find a name that matches your ancestor or a location relevant to your family history, take note of it.
3. Cross-reference the names with other historical records, such as census data, city directories, or vital records. This can help you confirm the identities of the individuals mentioned and uncover more details about their lives.
4. Research the historical context of the time period. Understanding the events, social norms, and challenges of the era can provide valuable insights into the reasons behind the unclaimed letters.
5. Share your findings with other family members or genealogy researchers. They might have additional information or perspectives that can help you piece together the stories behind the letters.



The Daily Californian, 1899

#### Conclusion

Unclaimed letters in old newspapers offer a fascinating glimpse into the lives of our ancestors and the times they lived in. By researching these letters and the stories behind them, you can uncover valuable insights and add depth to your family history. So, the next time you come across a list of unclaimed letters, take a moment to wonder about the mysteries they hold. You might just discover a piece of your ancestor's story waiting to be told.

#### Want to Learn More About Unclaimed Letters?

The [Smithsonian's National Postal Museum](#) offers a wealth of information on this intriguing topic. Visit their online exhibit dedicated to the Dead Letter Office, where you can explore the history and inner workings of this unique postal department. Don't miss their spotlight on a rare [Dead Letter album](#), which provides a captivating visual journey through the stories and secrets hidden within undelivered mail. Discover the untold tales and mysteries that lie waiting to be uncovered in the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum's collection.



## 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.



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

[Join for Free](#)

Get a 20% Discount for NewspaperArchive and Storied by using the "TAH20" coupon code.

### Compare Pricing for Storied

Check out our pricing compared to other popular genealogy sites.

