

Monthly Newsletter January 15, 2025



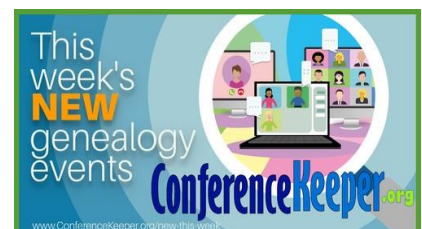
Contents for this Issue:

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We Have a Winner!!!

Check out [Page 4](#) for the Raffle Winner and their prize. Also about next months raffle

Check out the [New Premium Program from The Ancestor Hunt on Page 5](#)



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



Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – January 1-15, 2025](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – January 1-15, 2025](#)
- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – December 1-31, 2024](#)
- [1,015 Free New England States Online Church Records](#)
- [1,050 Free Mid West States Institutional Record Collections](#)
- [1,235 Free Mid West States Online Photo Archives](#)
- [1,235 Free Online Rhode Island Collections Available in 24 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [1,345 Free Southern States Online Photo Archives Available](#)
- [1,390 Free Southern States Institutional Record Collections](#)
- [110 Million Online Obituary Records Available from FamilySearch](#)
- [140 New England Institutional Records](#)
- [230 Western States Institutional Records](#)
- [260 Free Online Criminal Records from the Mid Atlantic States](#)
- [28,300 Free Online City Directories from the United States](#)
- [3,180 United States Institutional Record Collections](#)
- [3,535 Free Mid West States Online Church Records](#)
- [3,650 Free Southern States Online Church Records](#)
- [3,725 Free Online City Directories from the New England States](#)
- [320 Free Online School Record Collections from the Western States](#)
- [330 Free Online Criminal Records from the Mid West States](#)
- [4,270 Free Online Historical Photo Archives from the U.S.](#)
- [450 Free Western States Online Church Records](#)
- [460 Free New England States Online Photo Archives Available](#)
- [5,405 Free Online City Directories from the Mid Atlantic States](#)
- [5,695 Free Online City Directories from the Western States](#)
- [6,440 Free Online City Directories from the Southern States](#)
- [700 Free Mid Atlantic States Institutional Record Collections](#)
- [705 Free Online Criminal Records from the Southern States](#)
- [710 Free Online School Record Collections from the Mid Atlantic States](#)
- [715 Free Mid Atlantic States Online Photo Archives Available](#)
- [8,110 Free Online City Directories from the Mid West States](#)
- [875 Free Western States Online Photo Archives Available](#)
- [9,740 Free United States Online Church Records](#)
- [980 Free Online School Record Collections from the Southern States](#)
- [Free Online Genealogy Website of the Day – Digital Library of Appalachia](#)
- [Free Online Genealogy Website of the Day – PastPerfect Online](#)

New From The Newspaper Corner

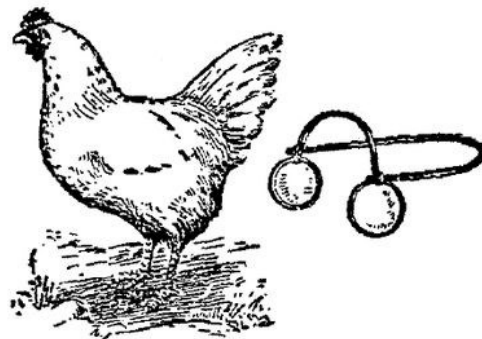
- [Advantage Archives Adds 600K Historical Newspaper Pages – December 2024](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 67 Titles – December, 2024](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – December 2024](#)
- [Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection Adds/Updates 33 Titles – January 2025](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 83 Historical Newspaper Titles – December 2024](#)
- [GenealogyBank Adds/Updates 173 Titles – January 2025](#)
- [Illinois Digital Newspaper Collections Adds/Updates 20 Titles – January 2025](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – December 2024](#)
- [Newspapers dot Com Update – December 2024](#)
- [NY State Historical Newspapers Adds/Updates 25 Titles – January, 2025](#)
- [Veridian Adds/Updates 312 Titles – January 2025](#)

Strange Newspaper Ads

EYE GLASSES FOR CHICKENS

Intended to Prevent Fowls From
Picking Out Each Other's Eyes—
Make Unique Appearance.

It might be supposed from a glance at these spectacles that chickens, like human beings, suffer from diseases of the eye, and that the inventor de-



Eye Glasses for Chickens.

signed them as an aid in their search for bugs, but such was not his intent. The eye glasses were patented in 1903, and were intended to prevent chickens from pecking out each other's eyes. A flock of them so equipped would present a very intellectual appearance.

Useful Articles from Other Sources

- [10 Clever Ways to Sneak Family History into Everyday Conversations](#)
- [12 Quick Wins to Kickstart Your Family History Journey](#)
- [12 Tips to Effortlessly Transcribe Historical Records Like a Pro](#)
- [15 Creative Ways to Repurpose Old Family Photos](#)
- [1840 Census Records Research Guide](#)
- [23 Things Genealogists Do When No One's Watching](#)
- [4 Key Steps to Trace Your Icelandic-Canadian Ancestry](#)
- [5 Questions to Determine Your Ancestor's Correct Birth Date](#)
- [6 Common Mistakes New Genealogists Make and How to Avoid Them](#)
- [8 Outrageous Occupations Your Great-Great-Grandparents Might Have Had](#)
- [A Genealogist's Research Guide to the Caribbean](#)
- [A Guide to Photography for Genealogy Research and Projects](#)
- [A Map of Historical Scottish Counties](#)
- [AI in Genealogy: Game-Changing Tools That Are Revolutionizing Family History Research](#)
- [Beyond Names and Dates: Adding Color to Your Family's Story](#)
- [Break Down Brick Walls with These Expert Tips](#)
- [Caught In Between: Tips for Researching Ancestors' Middle Names](#)
- [Collaboration in Genealogy: Your Secret Superpower](#)
- [Confessions of a Find A Grave Photo Volunteer: How to Explain to Cemetery Caretakers Why You're Climbing Trees for the Perfect Headstone Shot](#)
- [Daguerreotype, Ambrotype and Tintype: Telling Them Apart](#)
- [Dear Santa: A Genealogist's Christmas Wish List \(Including That One Elusive Death Certificate We've Been Hunting for Three Years\)](#)
- [Family Tree Fails: 11 Embarrassing Mistakes Every Genealogist Has Made](#)
- [FamilySearch Year in Review 2024 • FamilySearch](#)
- [Genealogy: The Ultimate Cognitive Gym You Didn't Know About!](#)
- [Griffith's Valuation: 6 Steps to Tracing Irish Ancestors](#)
- [How to Find Military Records for Various Family Members](#)
- [How Genealogy Can Help You Understand \(and Tolerate\) Your Quirky Relatives](#)
- [How to Preserve Newspaper Clippings](#)
- [How to Search the Social Security Death Index](#)
- [How to Trace Your Ashkenazi Jewish Genealogy](#)
- [How To Use Catholic Christening and Baptism Records Around the World](#)
- [Mapping Your Past: Using Sanborn Maps for Genealogy Research](#)
- [Skeletons in the Closet: Dealing with Uncomfortable Discoveries in Your Family Tree](#)
- [Steve Morse's One-Step Journey](#)
- [Strengthen Your Genealogy Research Skills in One Month](#)
- [The Fine Art of Pestering Distant Relatives for Family Photos \(and How to Apologize Later\)](#)
- [The Genealogist's Guide to Time Management \(Or How to Explain Where Your Weekend Went\)](#)
- [The Secret to Finding Hidden Maiden Names](#)
- [Tips for Etiquette in Online Genealogy Research](#)
- [Unexpected Sources: Finding Family History in Old Postcards and Letters](#)
- [Want to Join the DAR or SAR? Here Are 4 Tips for Applying](#)
- [What is a Chromosome Browser?](#)
- [What Is Boxing Day? Everything You Need to Know](#)
- [What Is Transgenerational \(Transcending Generations\)?](#)
- [Why and How to Document Personal Stories for Future Generations: Be a Good Ancestor!](#)
- [Your Ancestors' New Year's Resolutions vs Yours: A Hilarious Comparison](#)
- [Your Ancestors' World: Unlocking Family History Through Historical Context](#)

Are You a frequent visitor to The Ancestor Hunt website?

Make sure that you check out the Ancestor Hunt Premium Program on Page 5

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.

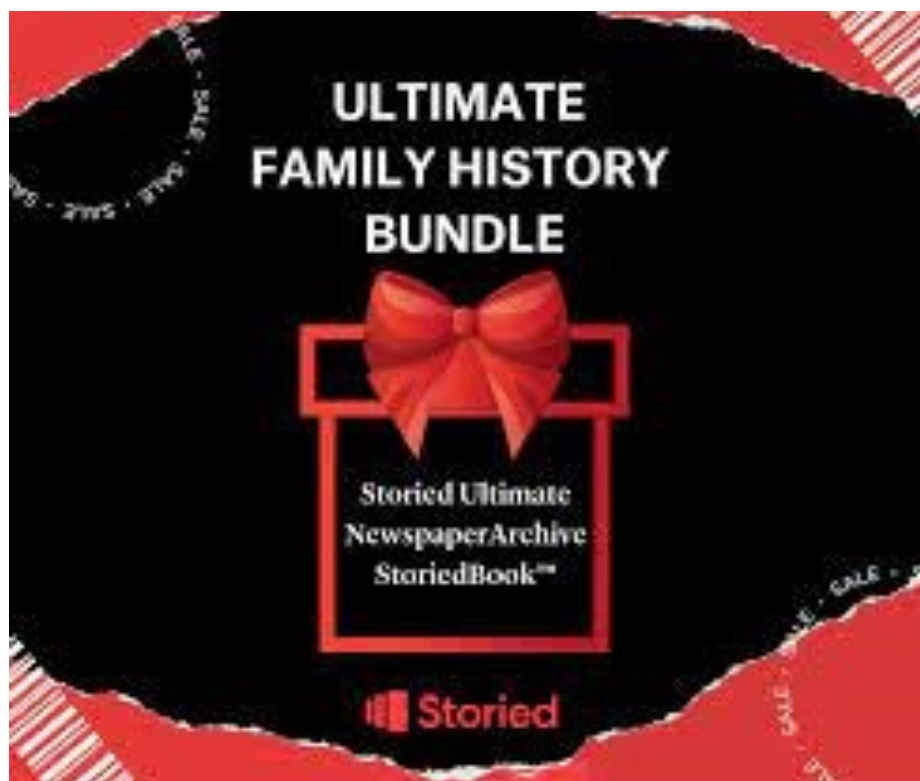


Monthly Raffle

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

The winner of the raffle is Jay Qualman from Michigan. 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.

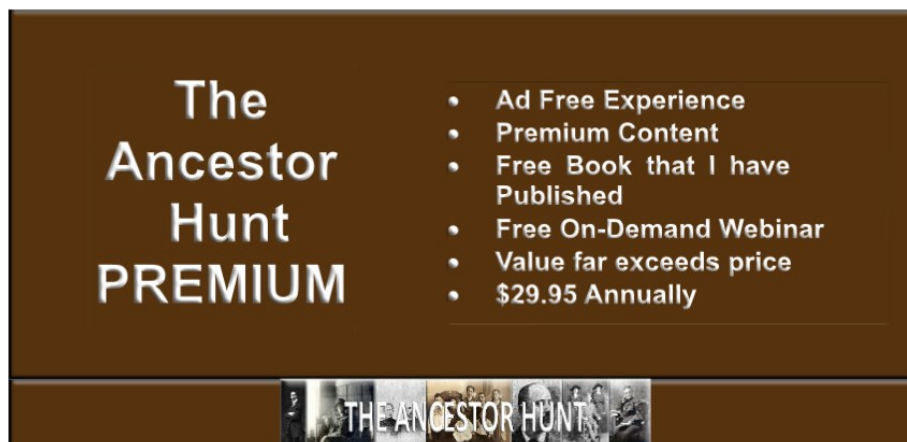
So I wanted to share these tools, and with the cooperation of the folks at Storied we are doing this.

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

Exciting News! The New Premium Program from The Ancestor Hunt



The **Ancestor Hunt Premium** level service is intended to provide members with an added level of service. Subscribers to the Premium service will receive:

- An ad-free experience while using The Ancestor Hunt website each year that you are a member
- A Book of your choosing that I have published will be delivered each year that you are a member
- An On-Demand Webinar of your choosing that I have created will be provided each year that you are a member
- Premium Content will be provided as it is published

Here are the details of how it will work:

Ad-Free Experience

Upon successful registration, you will need to log in to The Ancestor Hunt website with your email address as your Userid and a Password of your choosing. The Login link will be on the upper right side of each page on the site. You will need to log in so ads will not be served while you are on the site and to receive Premium Content.

Free Published Book and On-Demand Webinar

After you register, I will send you an email requesting which book you wish to be mailed to you and your mailing address. Only U.S. residents will be mailed the paperback version. If you choose an eBook or are an international member, you will be provided a link where you can download the PDF version of the book. You also will choose the On-Demand Webinar. A link to the chosen On-Demand Webinar will be emailed to you.

Premium Content

As I create premium content, members only will be able to access that content.

Cost

The annual cost is \$29.99. There are no refunds if you cancel during any year you are a member.

Value

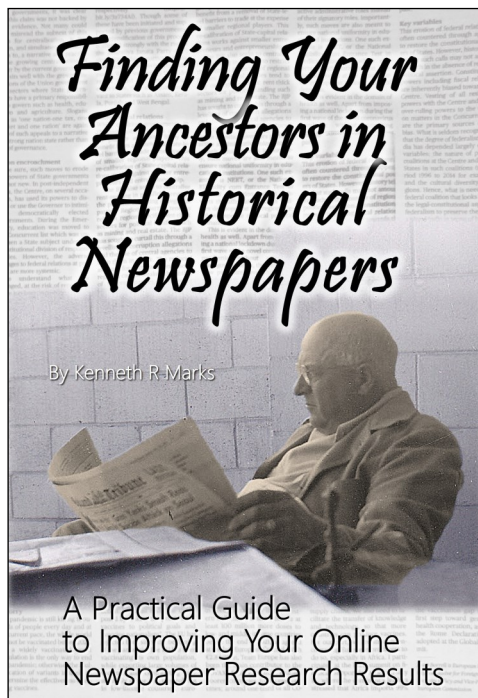
The normal price of a paperback is \$19.99 plus tax and shipping. The normal price of an hour-long On-Demand Webinar is \$15.00. You also receive an ad-free experience and premium content. Thus you are receiving \$34.99 of value plus the value of an ad-free experience and Premium Content.

Registration

To register, please go to the Premium Page at <https://theancestorhunt.com/premium.html>



Just Published - Finding Your Ancestors in Historical Newspapers: A Practical Guide to Improving Your Online Newspaper Research Results



Why This Book?

Since I am a newspaper research aficionado, I have been working on this for 3 years.

This is why you should consider adding it to your collection:

Discover Hidden Stories: Learn how to find remarkable stories about your family that can be easily overlooked.

Master Powerful Techniques: Unlock advanced newspaper research methods that go far beyond basic surname searches. For example, using abbreviations, nicknames, misspellings, and hyphenated words.

Access Exclusive Resources: Gain a comprehensive list of historical newspaper databases that save you time and expand your research capabilities.

What You'll Find Inside

The information in this book is presented in seven sections, each designed to guide you step-by-step toward becoming a proficient newspaper researcher:

Section 1: Why Newspapers Matter — Discover the incredible secrets hidden in historical newspapers and why they are essential to successful genealogical research.

Section 2: What You'll Find in Historical Newspapers — Learn about the various types of information and articles available, including obituaries, local events, and personal stories that add depth to your family history.

Section 3: The Digitization Process — Understand how original newspapers are transformed into digital formats, helping you make sense of digital searches and what to expect from scanned content.

Section 4: Basic and Advanced Search Elements — Develop a thorough understanding of search techniques, from fundamental to advanced, enabling you to find even the most elusive articles.

Section 5: Tools and Techniques for Success — Master advanced search strategies, plus dozens of practical tips that will help you find the information you need efficiently.

Section 6: Software and Subscription Databases — Explore the various online software packages and subscription databases available, making your search more productive and informed.

Section 7: Historical Newspaper Databases — Access major online newspaper databases from the United States, Canada, Europe, and beyond, complete with direct links to each resource.

Available in Paperback and eBook. Get MORE INFO on Amazon at <https://amzn.to/4fMRZZI>

9 New Year Newspaper Research Resolutions

This article is shared with permission from Storied.

As the new year begins, genealogists and family historians are setting resolutions to deepen their research, uncover family stories, and preserve their legacies. Whether you're a seasoned researcher or just beginning your family history journey, online newspapers are a goldmine for discovering the untold stories of your ancestors.

Here's how you can make online newspaper research a key part of your 2025 family history New Year's resolutions:

1. Research One Family Member Each Month

Instead of feeling overwhelmed by your entire family tree, commit to focusing on one ancestor each month. Start by creating a timeline of their life events, then search newspapers around those dates. Look for birth announcements, marriage notices, obituaries, and mentions in local news. You might be surprised to find your great-grandmother's high school graduation announcement or your grandfather's little league baseball victory.

Resolution: Write at least one detailed family story each month.

How to Start:

- Collect clippings that connect to your ancestor.
- Organize them chronologically or thematically.
- Write a short narrative using the newspaper details, blending facts with your reflections.

2. Try Advanced Search Techniques

Mastering advanced search techniques can uncover hidden records, and adding filters can refine your results.

Resolution: Expand your skills in newspaper research.

How to Start:

- Learn the advanced search features of your chosen newspaper archive. If you use NewspaperArchive, we have an [Advanced Search video on our YouTube channel](#) that explains the different features and filters available.
- Practice combining keyword searches.
- Use date ranges and/or locations for better results.

Skill Check: Have you used advanced search techniques before? If not, start with one new method and observe how it changes your results. Check out this blog post by Kenneth Marks of The Ancestor Hunt for some search tips: [The Best Way to Find Up to 20% More Pertinent Newspaper Articles Online](#).

3. Search for Ancestor Mentions in Newspapers

While obituaries, birth announcements, and marriage announcements are typically full of genealogical treasure, newspapers contain so much more. Make it your mission to find articles about your ancestors' neighborhoods, churches, schools, and workplaces. Even seemingly mundane mentions can provide insights into their personalities and lives.

Resolution: Go beyond the basics of birth, marriage, and death records.

How to Start:

- Use specific keywords such as your ancestor's name, town, and a specific event like "wedding" or "school."
- Don't forget to check variations of names, including initials or nicknames.

Pro Tip: If you're not finding anything, expand your search to neighboring towns or counties where your ancestors might have been mentioned.

Let's Reflect: Have you used different name variations in your searches? If you haven't yet, try experimenting with initials or nicknames and note any new findings. The guest blog post [Use Abbreviations and Nicknames in Newspaper Searches to Drastically Add Pertinent Results](#), written by Kenneth Marks of The Ancestor Hunt, is a great resource for tips and tricks.



9 New Year Newspaper Research Resolutions

4. Create a Newspaper Research Log

Start keeping detailed records of your newspaper searches. Tracking your newspaper research helps prevent duplicate work and identifies research gaps, making your genealogy journey more efficient and organized.

Resolution: Maintain a detailed research log of your newspaper searches.

How to Start:

- Create a spreadsheet or document to track your searches.
- Record the newspaper title, date ranges, and search terms used.
- Note any successful findings and unsuccessful attempts.
- Document any follow-up research needed.

Pro Tip: Include a “results” column in your log to quickly identify which searches were successful and which need revisiting with different search terms or strategies.

Let’s Reflect: Do you currently track your newspaper research? If not, start small by logging this week’s searches and notice how it affects your research efficiency. Read [Why You Should Be Using a Newspaper Research Log](#) for more information and two free newspaper log resources.

5. Explore Your Ancestors' Social Networks

Make 2025 the year you discover your ancestors’ friends, neighbors, and associates (otherwise known as FAN club) through newspaper coverage. Social columns and community news can reveal fascinating connections between families and provide insights into your ancestors’ social circles that aren’t found in traditional genealogical records.

Resolution: Map out your ancestors' community connections through newspaper research.

How to Start:

- Search for your ancestor in society columns and local news sections.
- Create a list of names that appear alongside your ancestor.
- Look for patterns in social events, church activities, and community gatherings.
- Document family connections mentioned in wedding announcements and party guest lists.

Pro Tip: Build a simple network diagram to visualize how different families are connected through social events, church activities, and community organizations.

Let’s Reflect: Have you considered how your ancestors’ social connections might lead to new research paths? Try focusing on one social event and mapping all the people mentioned – you might discover unexpected family connections. For further reading, try the blog post, [Social Sleuthing: How to Find Your Ancestors in Newspaper Society Pages](#).

6. Document Family Businesses

If your ancestors owned or worked in local businesses, newspapers can provide fascinating insights into their professional lives. Business advertisements, commercial announcements, and local commerce coverage can paint a vivid picture of your ancestors’ professional lives and their role in the community economy.

Resolution: Build a comprehensive profile of your family's business ventures and working lives.

How to Start:

- Search for business names and addresses associated with your family.
- Collect advertisements and business announcements.
- Look for mentions in “Local Business” or commerce sections.
- Track changes in business locations, partnerships, and services offered.

Pro Tip: Create a timeline of business activities – from grand openings to special sales events – to understand how your family’s business evolved and adapted over time.

Let’s Reflect: What do you know about your ancestors’ business ventures? Start with one family business and see how newspaper research might expand your understanding of their business legacy. Want to learn more? Read [Ancestor Job Hunt](#) for hacks to uncover your family’s career secrets.



9 New Year Newspaper Research Resolutions

7. Focus on Breaking Down Brick Walls

Newspapers often contain unique clues that can help solve genealogical mysteries and breakthrough research barriers that traditional records haven't resolved.

Resolution: Tackle one brick wall challenge using intensive newspaper research.

How to Start:

- List your most stubborn research questions.
- Brainstorm related keywords and events to search.
- Expand your search to include things like social columns and legal notices.
- Create a timeline of known facts to identify research gaps.

8. Organize and Save Your Newspaper Finds

As you research, it's easy to lose track of what you've found. Create an organization system tailored to your needs. This might include folders labeled by family name, digital spreadsheets, or genealogy software to track your sources.

Resolution: Create a system for preserving discoveries.

How to Start:

- Decide on a storage method: digital folders, cloud storage, or physical binders.
- Save newspaper clippings with proper citations, including the paper name, date, and page number.

Pro Tip: If you use [NewspaperArchive](#), create folders to save your clippings. Think about organizing them by surname or even person.

Pro Tip: If you use [Storied](#), make sure to tag the people mentioned in the article to people in your family tree, even non-familial relationships. That makes finding the article a snap!

Ask Yourself: Have you reviewed your current organization system? Does it support easy retrieval of articles? If not, what can you improve this year?

9. Share Your Discoveries

Sharing family history keeps it alive for future generations. Whether through a family history site, blog, social media, or a printed book, sharing your newspaper discoveries can inspire others and preserve your work.

Resolution: Inspire others with your research.

How to Start:

- Choose one interesting newspaper clipping and write a short story or caption about it.
- Share it with family members and/or online communities.
- Invite others to contribute their memories or clippings.

Engage Others: How will you encourage your family or community to connect with your research? Brainstorm ways to involve others.

Tips for Success

Remember these key points as you pursue your newspaper research resolutions:

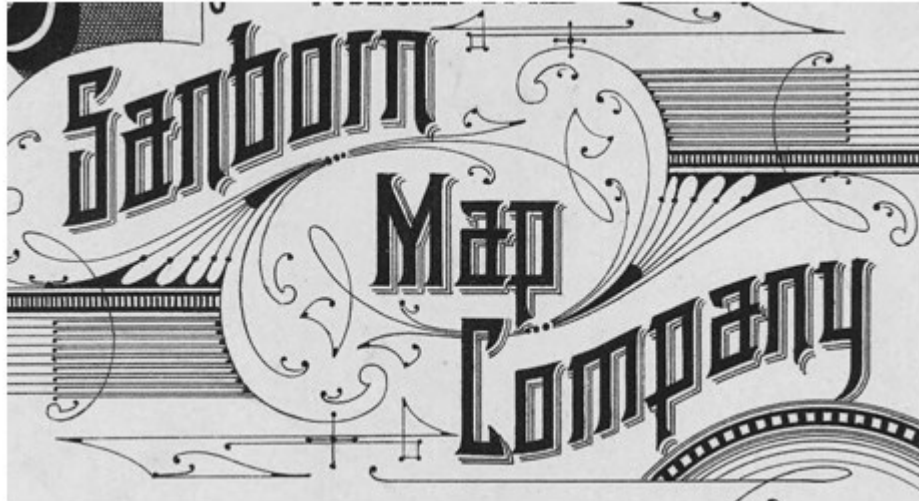
- Set aside regular time each week for newspaper research
- Save and properly cite every article you find
- Be persistent – sometimes the most valuable discoveries come after multiple searches

Your Turn to Make History

As you embark on your newspaper research journey in 2025, remember that every discovery, no matter how small, adds to your family's story. These resolutions aren't about perfection – they're about progress. Each article you find helps reconstruct the daily lives, personalities, and experiences of your ancestors.



Free Online Genealogy Website of the Month – Sanborn Maps



The Sanborn Map Collection is available via the Library of Congress. There are maps available from all 50 states in the US, and DC, as well as Canada, Cuba, and Mexico.

From the website: *"The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Online Checklist provides a searchable database of the fire insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company housed in the collections of the Geography and Map Division. The online checklist is based upon the Library's 1981 publication Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress and will be continually updated to reflect new acquisitions."*

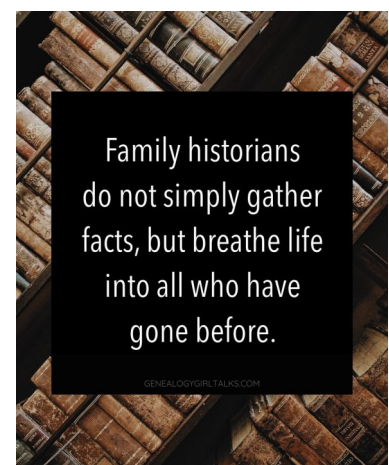
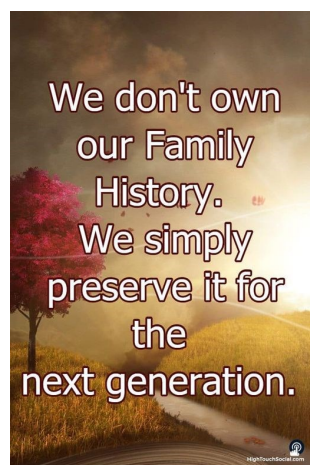
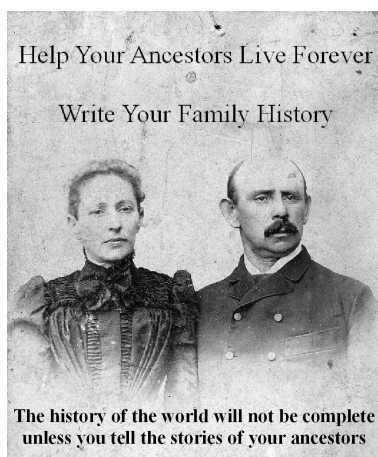
By clicking on the Collection Items link on the site, it displays over 35,000 online maps. Using the filters, you can narrow down the maps by date range and location, such as state and county.

There also are some Articles and essays with detailed information about the maps, including:

- Introduction to the Collection
- Sanborn Samplers
- Sanborn Time Series

To access the site, go to [LOC.gov/collections/sanborn-maps](https://loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps)

Memes to Live By



State Digital Archives Updated

All relevant genealogy material doesn't fit into neat categories. These Digital Archives have abundant genealogy collections plus other collections such as scrapbooks, diaries, letters, family papers, oral histories, maps, rare manuscripts, etc. The Archives listed include state and local genealogy websites, library collections, and college and university collection websites.

I have completed adding and updating each states available online genealogy websites and online archives. Here are the links to all the states:

[Free Online Alabama Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Alaska Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Arizona Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Arkansas Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online California Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Colorado Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Connecticut Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Delaware Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online District of Columbia Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Florida Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Georgia Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Hawaii Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Idaho Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Illinois Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Indiana Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Iowa Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Kansas Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Kentucky Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Louisiana Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Maine Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Maryland Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Massachusetts Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Michigan Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Minnesota Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Mississippi Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Missouri Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Montana Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Nebraska Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Nevada Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online New Hampshire Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online New Jersey Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online New Mexico Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online New York Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online North Carolina Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online North Dakota Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Ohio Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Oklahoma Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Oregon Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Pennsylvania Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Rhode Island Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online South Carolina Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online South Dakota Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Tennessee Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Texas Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Utah Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Vermont Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Virginia Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Washington Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online West Virginia Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Wisconsin Digital Archives](#)

[Free Online Wyoming Digital Archives](#)



2024 Newspaper Innovation - Chronicling America Version 2.0



Chronicling America has created a new version of their search engine which is far superior to the version that has been around for a dozen years or so.

From Chronicling America:

The Library of Congress has transitioned the longstanding Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers website to this new digital collection format. This change includes a brand new interface and back-end search infrastructure. We are currently maintaining both sites into 2025. On a future date yet to be announced, existing URLs to Chronicling America pages will re-direct to the new environment. Please visit the [Chronicling America Website Migration page](#) or subscribe to the [Chronicling America Historical Newspapers email list](#) for updates.

The most recent version of Chronicling America has been in use since 2011. This new version being deployed this year has some exciting new features that will make your search experience more beneficial and more enjoyable.

Here are the highlights;

There are three parts to CA.

- **Collection Items** – Where you can perform a Basic and Advanced Search
- **All Digitized Titles** – Where you can discover which Newspaper Titles and Date Ranges are available in the CA Database
- **Directory of U.S. Newspapers in American Libraries** – Where you can discover where non-digitized titles are held

Some of the new features include results filtering, auto fill-in of counties, cities, titles, and ethnicities after selecting a state, and several more.

The filtering and auto fill-in are game changers in my opinion. Try out the new version at <https://www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america/>

A screenshot of the "Advanced Search" interface. At the top, there are radio buttons for "All", "Titles", "Issues", and "Pages (Full Text)". Below this is a search input field with a dropdown arrow and the placeholder text "All of these words:" followed by "keyword(s)". A "+ Add Field" link is below the input. There are four dropdown menus: "State/Province (Geographic Coverage)" with "Select State/Province (Geographic C...)", "County" with "Select Counties", "City" with "Select Cities", and "Title" with "Select Titles". Below these is an "Ethnicity" dropdown with "Select Ethnicities". At the bottom, there are "Start Date" and "End Date" input fields, each with a calendar icon. A "Clear" button and a "Search" button with a magnifying glass icon are at the bottom right.

2024 Newspaper Innovation - Advantage Community History Archives



From Advantage:

"I'm excited to announce the launch of the brand-new Community History Archives Directory! This directory is designed to make it easier for you and your community to access and explore a vast collection of historical resources. The directory can be found here: <https://communityhistoryarchives.com/>. It is a great resource to include in your website's digital resources section to inform your patrons about these free historical resources. We are working to change the link to direct people to the new directory on each archive and hope to have that link updated soon."

Here are some of the many features:

- One way to use the new Directory is via the **Map**. You can scroll in or out and select one of the over 1000 Community History Archives (CHA) by selecting a pin, which represents the location of the institution that has the CHA
- On the **Map** page, you can also search for a state and location. You will be presented with all the institutions for that location (and links to their CHA) as well as a map of the location with pins where the institutions are located
- The **Browse** tab is fantastic. All the states are represented by blocks with the number of CHAs in the upper right corner. Click on a state and all of the CHAs are listed as well as a map with pinned locations.
- Want to know how to use the new CHA software? A very detailed list of 40 tutorials is presented via the **Resources** tab.
- The **Profile** tab presents detailed information about Featured Partners and Archives.
- The **Settings Page** (Click on the *) is really cool. You can select CHAs by clicking on a state name, a content type, an institution type, and select institutions with CHAs via distance (in miles). So if you are searching for an ancestor in a specific area, you can look for CHAs within a chosen distance.

You can access the Community History Archives Directory [HERE](https://communityhistoryarchives.com/)



2024 Newspaper Innovation - MyHeritage OldNews



MyHeritage made available in March its Historical Newspaper Research subscription site, called OldNews. From My Heritage:

We're delighted to announce the release of [OldNews.com](https://oldnews.com), an innovative website for historical newspapers, by MyHeritage. OldNews.com enables genealogists, researchers, and history enthusiasts to search, save, and share articles about people and events throughout history. At launch, OldNews.com includes a huge repository of hundreds of millions of historical newspaper pages from around the world, with millions more added monthly. The website features easy navigation and consists of a diverse range of high-quality publications, from major international newspapers to small-town journals and gazettes.

OldNews.com offers a wide range of publications from local, national, and international news, with extensive coverage of the 1800s and 1900s. At launch, the website includes newspapers from across the U.S., Canada, U.K., Austria, Germany, Czechia, the Netherlands, and Australia. Millions of newspaper pages are added each month, and content from additional countries will be added in the future. The OldNews.com website is available in 11 languages: English, French, German, Dutch, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. More newspapers in some of these languages will be added soon.

The new content on OldNews.com was scanned using best-in-class optical character recognition (OCR) technology and enhanced with sophisticated algorithms developed in-house by MyHeritage. The website also offers optimized performance through a new technical implementation where the content is served from a Content Distribution Network, through a point of presence closest to the user. This means that users from all over the world can access OldNews.com at an extremely fast speed.

Here is my initial review from March:

There are some good things and things that need to be improved. All in all, I think the site shows great potential. Here are my review comments:

- I like the Image Handler. It is modern in that it has contrast controls. Moving the image around and zooming in and out is easy.
- I like that you can see the results of the OCR process in text form
- The text is highlighted and the first instance displayed zooms right to the article that the highlighted text appears in – this is good
- Zooming in and out with a mouse is handy.
- I would like to be able to clip an article
- I would like to be able to download a PDF of the page. One can print the page and change the output to PDF alternatively
- When I print a page, it would be useful to include the citation in the printed page along with the image.
- The auto-generated file name when downloading a page should include the location.
- The biggest drawback is the lack of a title list including locations and dates.

Webinars

ON DEMAND WEBINARS

Can't make the scheduled Live Webinars? No problem. You can access the exact same content in an On-Demand Webinar, which means a recorded webinar that you can watch whenever you want. You can pause, rewind, or watch it as many times as you like. And you can ask questions during the recorded webinar by leaving Messages, which I will read and answer back to you via email. P.S. They are less expensive.

These are available On Demand:

- How to Develop Critical Online Newspaper Research Skills
- Using the New Chronicling America Version 2.0 – It is Different and It Is Better
- Exploring 95 Tips for Researching Online Historical Newspapers
- Mastering Finding, and Analyzing Newspaper Obituaries

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

LIVE WEBINAR SCHEDULE

January/February 2025 - To Be Announced

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

As always we are open for group sessions with genealogical societies and other institutions. Just email me at kenmarksology@gmail.com

Make Sure you check out our New Guided Courses

African American Genealogy

5 Free Online Resources

- #1 AfriGeneas
<http://afrigeneas.com>
- #2 Documenting the South
<http://docsouth.unc.edu>
- #3 Slave Voyages
<http://slavevoyages.org>
- #4 Digital Library of American Slavery
<http://dlas.uncg.edu>
- #5 International African American Museum
<http://cfh.iaamuseum.org>

Genealogy In Action with Julie Cahill Tarr
GenealogyInAction.com

The graphic features a purple background with a list of five resources. To the right of the list is an illustration of a diverse family of six people. At the bottom, there is a small logo for 'Genealogy In Action'.

These Rare U.S. Surnames Might Be Going Extinct

This article is reprinted with permission from MyHeritage



If your last name is Summerbell, you are probably among the final bearers of this surname. To date, it is held by only 98 people in the United States, including both citizens and non-citizens alike. If your last name is Bell, you may well be on your way to joining Summerbell and becoming a rare breed, at least in the U.S. On the other hand, if your last name is Beil, your family name is gaining momentum and multiplying at a significant rate in the United States.

What a difference one letter makes!

The MyHeritage Research team examined the data in the U.S. Census Bureau to discover which other surnames have surged in popularity in the U.S. and which names have become so rare in recent decades that they may well disappear altogether.

In 2000 the U.S. Census Bureau recorded surnames of 270 million people. A decade later, in 2010, surnames were recorded for 295 million people in the U.S. — citizens and non-citizens. This increase did not change the situation of certain surnames in the U.S. facing extinction with fewer than 100 bearers each.

Among the rarest names recorded in the 2010 Census are:

- Yess: 99 bearers, down from 123 in 2000. Possibly derived from the German mess(e) (“brass”), referring to the profession of brazier.
- Bouchier: 99 bearers, down from 106. Likely derived from the Old French word for butcher.
- Zillmann: 95 bearers, down from 108. An Americanized form of German and Danish Tillmann.
- Ammen: 96 bearers, down from 129. Possibly related to Arabic Amin or Swedish Améen: an ornamental or habitational name formed with the suffix -én, meaning “related to.”
- Bevere: 97 bearers, down from 102. Possibly a variant of Dever, with Irish (Ó Duibhidhir), Flemish (ever, “wild boar”), or French (Ver, “alder”) origins.
- Woledge: 90 bearers, down from 97. Likely tied to Kentish place names such as Woolwich, Wollage Green, or Woolwich Wood, reflecting English geographical roots.
- Blander: 97 bearers, down from 125. Of German origin, either as a nickname from Middle High German gländer (“shine”) or as a habitational name tied to Glann near Salzburg.
- Tuffin: 91 bearers, down from 102. Likely a variant of Tiffin or Tiffany, both derived from the Middle English female personal name Tiffania or Teffania. These names trace back to the Old French Tiphaine and Late Latin Theophania, meaning ‘manifestation of God.’
- Rigger: 96 bearers, down from 121. Likely a variant of the Italian Ruggiero, which originates from the Germanic personal name Roger, meaning ‘famous spear.’
- Summerbell: 98 bearers, down from 102. Believed to be a form of the Norman name Somerville, brought to Scotland in the 12th century by William de Somerville. The name combines the Germanic Sigimar with the Old French ville, meaning “settlement.” In Ireland, it could also be an Anglicized form of the Gaelic Ó Somacháin or Mag Shamradháin.

The Ancestor Hunt is Now Offering Guided Courses

Guided Courses

- **Born in Print: Hunting Down Birth Notices in Newspapers**
- **Newspaper Nuptials: Finding Marriage Records in Old Newspapers**
- **Beyond the Grave: Uncovering Hidden Tales of the Departed**



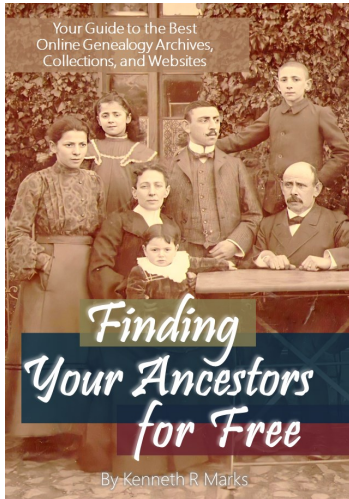
The Ancestor Hunt is pleased to offer three self-paced courses regarding acquiring vital information from historical newspapers. Find out about marriage notices, birth announcements, obituaries, and dozens more relevant newspaper article types.

This is a collaboration with Storied and the details can be found on the [Webinars](#) page.

Make sure that you apply the **ANCESTOR** coupon code for a significant discount!



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

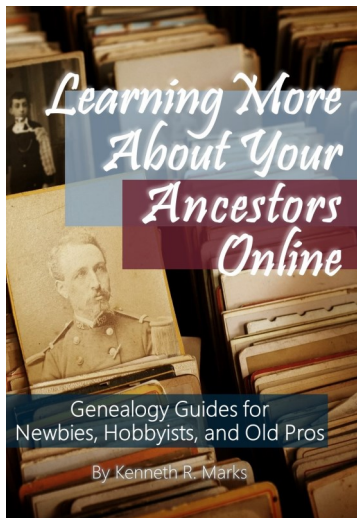
- Aggregation Sites
- Link Sites
- Library Sites
- Cemetery Sites
- Newspaper Sites
- Miscellaneous Sites

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

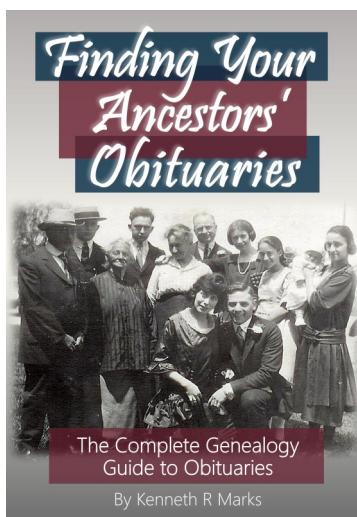
“Finding Your Ancestors’ Obituaries: The Complete Genealogy Guide to Obituaries”

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.



The By Location Page

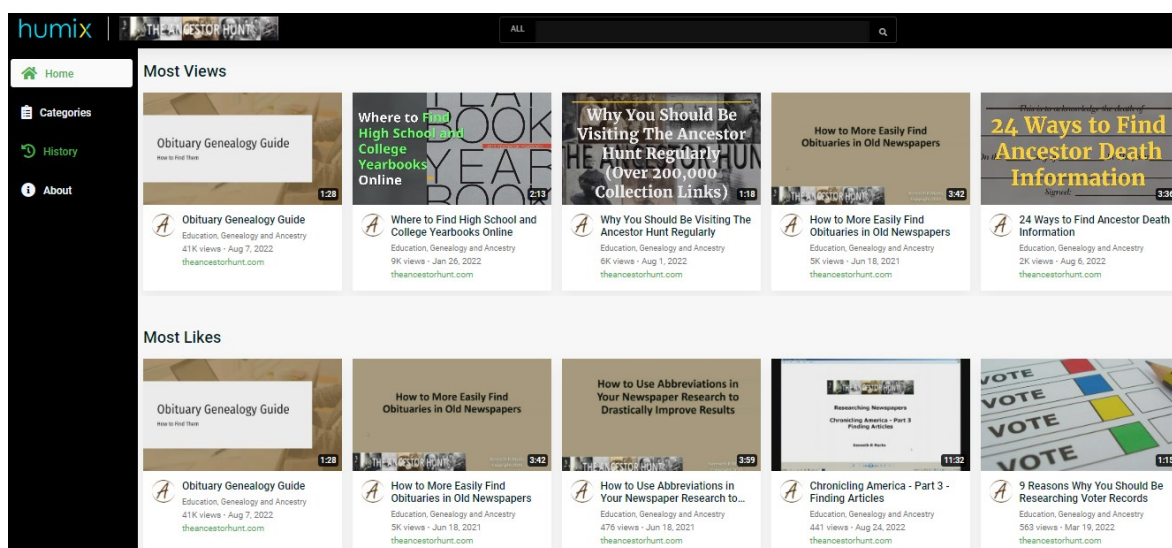
The easiest way to access a particular state's or province's list of collections and categories is via the [BY LOCATION](#) page.

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](#)



GENEALOGYBANK

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.



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



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.

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