

Monthly Newsletter April 15, 2025



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**Check out the New Silver Premium Program
And
The New EBook Bundle**



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



Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – April 1-15, 2025](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – April 1-15, 2025](#)
- [MyHeritage New and Updated Collections – March 2025](#)
- [1,015 Free New England States Online Church Records](#)
- [1,320 Free Obituary and Obituary Index Collection Links for the Mid Atlantic States](#)
- [1,490 Free Online Divorce Record Collections for the United States](#)
- [1,585 Free Obituary and Obituary Index Collection Links for the Western States](#)
- [1,955 Mid Atlantic States Free Online Probate Record and Wills Collections](#)
- [10,320 Free Online Obituary and Obituary Index Collection Links from the U.S.](#)
- [10,720 Free Online Probate Record and Wills Collections for the United States](#)
- [100 Free Online Divorce Record Collections for the New England States](#)
- [165 Free Online Divorce Record Collections for the Mid Atlantic States](#)
- [190 Free Online Divorce Record Collections for the Western States](#)
- [2,365 Free Mid Atlantic States Online Church Records](#)
- [2,760 Mid West States Free Online Probate Record and Wills Collections](#)
- [27,975 Free Online City Directories from the United States](#)
- [285 Free Obituary and Obituary Index Collection Links for the New England States](#)
- [3,535 Free Mid West States Online Church Records](#)
- [3,595 Free Online City Directories from the New England States](#)
- [3,650 Free Southern States Online Church Records](#)
- [3,760 Free Obituary and Obituary Index Collection Links for the Mid West States](#)
- [31,610 Free United States Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [4,425 Free Obituary and Obituary Index Collection Links for the Southern States](#)
- [4,615 Free Western States Online Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [400 Free Online Divorce Record Collections for the Mid West States](#)
- [5,240 Free Online City Directories from the Mid Atlantic States](#)
- [5,690 Free Online City Directories from the Western States](#)
- [6,200 Southern States Free Online Probate Record and Wills Collections](#)
- [6,425 Free Online City Directories from the Southern States](#)
- [780 Free Online School Record Collections from the Mid West States](#)
- [8,095 Free Online City Directories from the Mid West States](#)
- [885 Free Online Divorce Record Collections for the Southern States](#)
- [9,730 Free United States Online Church Records](#)
- [975 Free Online School Record Collections from the Southern States](#)

New From The Newspaper Corner

- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 153 Titles – March 2025](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – March 2025](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 145 Historical Newspaper Titles – March 2025](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – March 2025](#)
- [Newspapers dot Com Update – March 2025](#)
- [Veridian Adds/Updates 387 Titles – April 2025](#)
- [Alabama Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Alaska Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Arkansas Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [California Digital Newspaper Collection Adds/Updates 12 Titles – April 2025](#)
- [Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection Adds/Updates 16 Titles – April 2025](#)
- [District of Columbia Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Illinois Digital Newspaper Collections Adds/Updates 33 Titles – April 2025](#)
- [Maryland Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Mississippi Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Missouri Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Nevada Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [New Mexico Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [North Dakota Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Oklahoma Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Tennessee Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Virginia Chronicle Newspaper Collection Adds/Updates 22 Titles – April 2025](#)
- [Virginia Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [West Virginia Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection Adds/Updates 47 Titles – April 2025](#)
- [Wyoming Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)

Strange Newspaper Ads



Useful Articles from Other Sources

- [10 Clever Ways to Sneak Family History into Everyday Conversations](#)
- [10 Hilarious Excuses Genealogists Use to Dodge Social Events](#)
- [10 Ways to Connect With Distant Cousins](#)
- [10 Weird Taxes Our Ancestors Paid](#)
- [13 Overlooked Eastern European Genealogy Records](#)
- [16 Records for Identifying Your Immigrant Ancestor's Hometown](#)
- [20 Things Your Ancestors Did That You Probably Never Will](#)
- [23 Things Genealogists Do When No One's Watching](#)
- [30+ Questions to Ask Your Grandma](#)
- [4 Library Research Tips for Genealogists](#)
- [6 Common Mistakes New Genealogists Make and How to Avoid Them](#)
- [8 Tips for Finding Ancestors Prior to 1850](#)
- [9 Kinds of Ancestor Death Records You Should Look For](#)
- [A Guide to Libraries for Genealogy Research](#)
- [Beyond Names and Dates: Adding Color to Your Family's Story](#)
- [Cluster Research – Start Your FAN Club!](#)
- [Family History Interview Questions](#)
- [Family Legends Debunked: Separating Fact from Fiction in Your Family Tree](#)
- [Finding Female Ancestors: Common Brick Walls and How to Solve Them](#)
- [Finding Photo Clues in Historical Hat Styles](#)
- [Finding Your Ancestors in Scotland – An Introduction to the Main Records and Archives](#)
- [Five Strategies to Find Your Female Ancestors During Women's History Month](#)
- [How I Traced the Genealogy of a House](#)
- [How to Become a Dual Citizen Using Genealogy](#)
- [How to Find and Use Naturalization Records](#)
- [How to Find Where Someone is Buried](#)
- [How to Request Genealogy Records \(Plus Sample Letters\)](#)
- [How to Use Online Sanborn Maps for Genealogy](#)

- [Online Tools for Finding Your Ancestors' Germanic Villages](#)
- [Medicine in History: What Medical Advancements Have Happened in Your Lifetime?](#)
- [Naming Traditions Across Multiple Cultures](#)
- [Old School vs. New Tech: The Genealogy Methods That Define Generations](#)
- [Photo Negatives: How to Scan, Preserve and Store Them](#)
- [Quality vs. Quantity: The Psychology Behind Tree Building](#)
- [Remembering the Ladies: Labeling Photos With Maiden Names](#)
- [Researching Your Ancestors' Old Divorce Records](#)
- [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 Great Name Game: Decoding Nicknames, Misspellings, and Aliases in Family Records](#)
- [The Hidden Meaning of Grave Marker Symbols Explained](#)
- [The Secret to Finding Hidden Maiden Names](#)
- [Unlock the Magic of AI Images for Your Family History](#)
- [Was Your Family Name REALLY Changed At Ellis Island?](#)
- [Your Most Common Genealogy Questions Answered](#)

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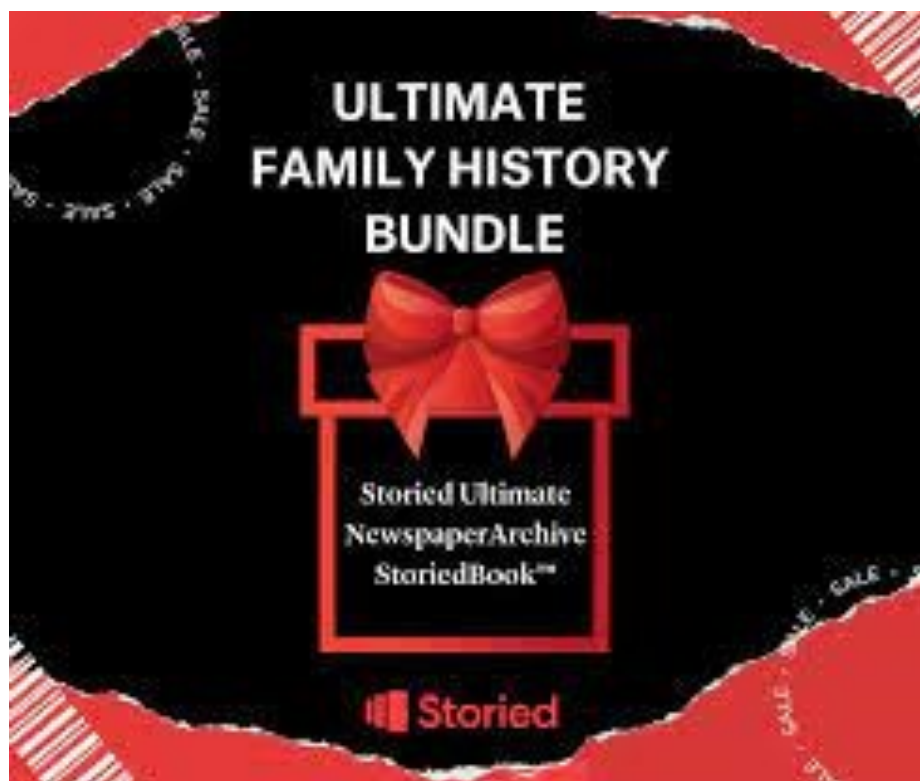


Monthly Raffle

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

Congratulations to the Raffle Winner!

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!

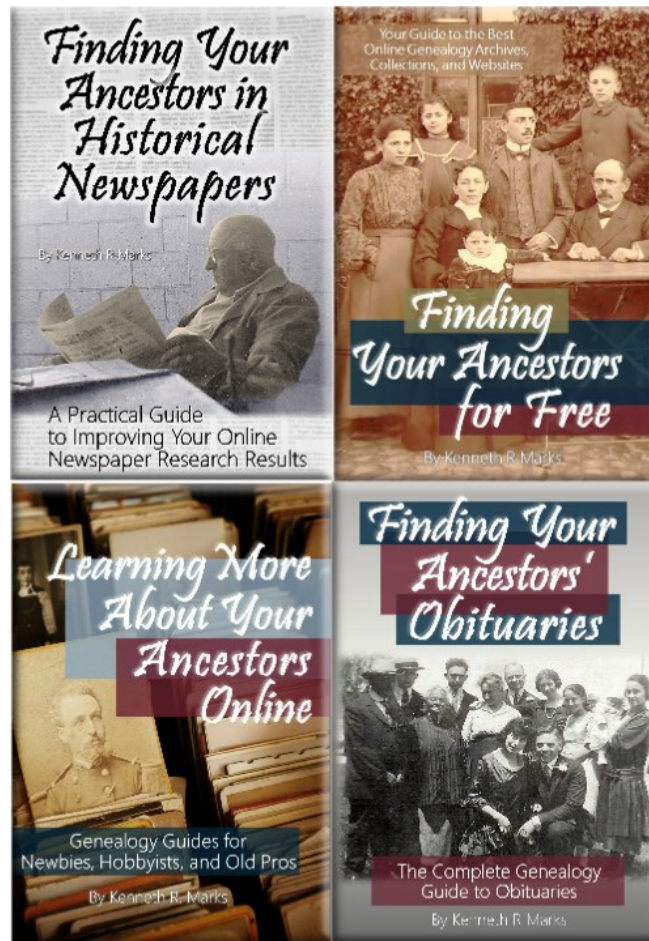
I have been a user of NewspaperArchive for over a decade, and have found hundreds of articles about my ancestors and relatives. I started using Storied over the last year to capture written stories, clippings, and photos of my ancestors (and myself). And I really like it. It is so easy.

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](#)

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

The eBook Bundle



If you were to purchase all 4 from Amazon as paperbacks, you would pay \$75.00 plus sales tax and shipping. If you were to purchase these as eBooks through Amazon, you would pay \$36.00 plus sales tax.

By purchasing all 4 eBooks here, you will receive a 25% discount (and tax is included). The price is \$27.00. All you need to do is purchase below. After doing so, I will email you links to all 4 books that you can download as a PDF (for each one).

Just go to [eBook Bundle](#) to see more details and to purchase.

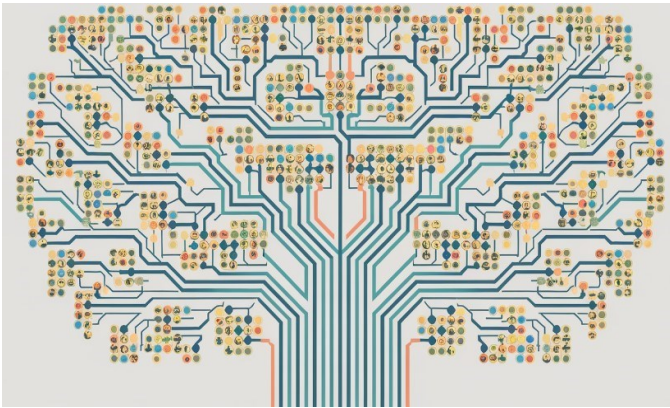
[Discount this month \(through April 31 for Subscribers ONLY. 44% discount \(\\$20.00\)\)](#)

All 4 books are still available in paperback at Amazon:

- Finding Your Ancestors for Free: Your Guide to the Best Online Genealogy Archives, Collections, & Websites <https://amzn.to/3GPcbf1>
- Improving Your Online Newspaper Research Results <https://amzn.to/4fMRZZI>
- Finding Your Ancestors Obituaries: The Complete Genealogy Guide <https://amzn.to/3JxiiWB>
- Learning More About Your Ancestors Online: Genealogy Guides for Newbies, Hobbyists, and Old Pros <https://amzn.to/3kUrebJ>

Quality vs. Quantity: The Psychology Behind Tree Building

This article is shared with permission from Marc McDermott's [Genealogy Explained](https://www.genealogyexplained.com) website. I strongly urge you to subscribe to his website at <https://www.genealogyexplained.com/subscribe/> IMO his blog is one of the very best to follow daily.



Ever notice how some family trees have 200 people while others have 200,000?

Weird, right?

I've spent years observing this strange divide in our genealogy community. Some researchers meticulously document every fact about fewer relatives. Others race to connect as many branches as possible.

Neither approach is wrong. But they reveal something profound about who we are as researchers.

Understanding why we build trees the way we do helps us make better choices about our research. It shows us our blind spots. And it forces us to confront the real purpose behind all those hours hunting for records.

The Two Schools of Genealogical Thought

Let me be direct: there are two types of genealogists in this world.

The quality people and the quantity people.

Quality-focused researchers are obsessed with verification. Every. Single. Fact. Must. Be. Proven.

They don't just add names. They reconstruct lives. They can tell you not just when their 3rd-great-grandfather was born, but what crops he planted, what church he attended, and which neighbors he argued with.

I know one researcher who spent 40 years building a tree of just 560 people. That's painfully small by some standards. But he can "stand over every single individual" with absolute confidence. No guesses. No maybes.

Then there are the quantity-focused researchers.

These folks maintain massive networks. They're pattern hunters. They see connections across centuries that others miss because they have the broader context.

One historian I follow maintains a tree of more than 470,000 people. Insane, right? But he uses it as "reference notes" for his historical work, tracking how communities formed and shifted over generations.

He doesn't claim every connection is bulletproof. That's not the point of his research.

The Psychology Behind "Name Collecting"

Let's talk dopamine.

Finding a new ancestor triggers the same reward systems in your brain as gambling, shopping, or scrolling social media. Click. New relative. Dopamine hit. Repeat.

The satisfaction is immediate. The verification? That's work. Hard work.

Many genealogists are essentially puzzle solvers wearing history hats. The thrill comes from cracking cases no one else has solved.

"I found Great-Great-Grandpa's military pension record that no one knew existed!"

This parallels other collecting hobbies:

The drive for completeness. ("I need all 16 great-great-grandparents, AND their siblings!")

The thrill of the hunt. ("Just one more record search before bed...")

The joy of organizing and cataloging. ("My color-coding system for document types is magnificent!")

And let's be honest: genealogy platforms know this. They've gamified the whole experience.

Those shaky leaves? Ancestry's version of a slot machine payout.

That suggested connection? MyHeritage's dopamine delivery system.

One click adds an ancestor. One click requires no skill. One click feels productive.

But verification? That takes discipline. That's delayed gratification in a world trained for instant rewards.

Quality vs. Quantity: The Psychology Behind Tree Building

The Evolution of a Genealogist

Most of us start as collectors.

Names. Dates. Places. More is better.

But something fascinating happens over time. We evolve.

The names become people. The dates become life events. The places become communities.

We transform from collectors into historians.

This evolution typically follows a predictable path: from breadth first to depth later.

I've watched countless genealogists make this transition. They start by mapping vast branches of distant cousins, then gradually narrow their focus to understand fewer ancestors more deeply.

As one researcher told me: "Genealogy teaches you a lot about why you are the way you are."

That insight rarely comes from collecting 10,000 fifth cousins. It comes from deeply understanding your direct ancestors and their immediate families.

This growth happens through:

- Education about methodology. Learning how to evaluate evidence properly.
- Community feedback. Having experienced researchers point out your assumptions.
- Personal investment in ancestors' stories. Finding yourself caring about their lives, not just their vital statistics.

The collector becomes the storyteller. The hobbyist becomes the historian.

This transformation is the true reward of genealogy.

Identity and Connection: Why We Build Trees

Ever wonder why some people have zero interest in genealogy while others become obsessed?

It's about identity.

Our trees help establish who we are. They create belonging. They connect us to history through blood and marriage instead of just textbooks.

The motivations driving genealogists are complex:

For some, it's the detective work. The intellectual challenge of tracking people across centuries with minimal evidence.

For others, it's understanding their personal origin story. Why do I have this trait? Why does our family value this tradition?

Many live vicariously through ancestral stories. We find meaning in their struggles and triumphs.

And almost all of us get a thrill from finding connections to historical events. "My 4th-great-grandmother lived three miles from the Battle of Gettysburg!"

The Impact of Technology on Tree Building Psychology

Digital platforms have radically changed researcher behavior.

Twenty years ago, building a 10,000-person tree meant decades of library visits, cemetery trips, and correspondence. The physical effort limited tree size.

Now? You can add 100 ancestors in an afternoon of "leaf clicking."

Technology has created new psychological traps:

- The temptation to copy from public trees without verification.
- DNA matching algorithms encouraging broader but shallower trees.
- The social validation that comes from impressive numbers.

Online communities subtly reward quantity. "Wow, your tree has 25,000 people? You must be an expert!"

Size isn't expertise. Documentation is.

Quality vs. Quantity: The Psychology Behind Tree Building

The Challenge of Accuracy in Larger Trees

Let's face reality.

Every person you add to your tree increases your chance for error. Simple math.

When your tree hits 10,000 people, you're juggling 10,000 opportunities to mess up. And those mistakes compound.

The most common verification nightmares haunt every genealogist:

- Multiple John Smiths born within five years in the same county. Which one is yours?
- A marriage that seems perfect on paper but would require your ancestor to travel 200 miles in 1795. Possible? Yes. Likely? No.
- A mother who would have been 60 at childbirth in an era when that was practically unheard of.

These red flags get missed in the excitement of expansion.

Too many researchers treat verification as optional. It's not.

Every unverified connection that gets published online becomes "truth" when another researcher copies it.

Your guess becomes someone else's fact.

Let me say that again: Your guess becomes someone else's fact.

This is how entire fictional family lines propagate through the genealogy world. One unverified assumption gets copied thousands of times.

The solution isn't complicated:

- Mark uncertain connections clearly.
- Keep speculative branches private until verified.
- Document your sources meticulously.

But simple doesn't mean easy. Discipline rarely is.

Legitimate Uses for Quantity-Focused Research

I'm not anti-big-tree. Far from it.

Broad trees serve crucial research purposes when built intentionally.

Surname studies tracking how the Johnsons spread across five states from a single immigrant ancestor? That requires scale.

Community reconstruction projects mapping every resident of a small town across generations? You need hundreds or thousands of interconnected people.

DNA match analysis becomes exponentially more powerful with robust trees.

The difference? Purpose.

These aren't random name collections. They're targeted research with specific goals requiring breadth.

Collaborative genealogy also improves quality through shared expertise. Twenty researchers checking each other's work catch mistakes that solo researchers miss.

The key is intentionality. Build big if your research requires it. Not because big feels impressive.

Finding Your Balance: Building a Tree That Satisfies

There's no "correct" tree size. That's critical to understand.

Your research approach should align with your personal goals:

- Are you more interested in life stories or broad connections?
- How much time can you realistically invest in verification?
- Are you working alone or collaborating with family members?

Consider these factors honestly when choosing your path.

Quality vs. Quantity: The Psychology Behind Tree Building

Regardless of your approach, certain best practices remain non-negotiable:

- Document your sources clearly. Always.
- Review and correct regularly. Set aside time to clean house.
- Be transparent about confidence levels. "Proven" and "speculative" aren't the same.
- Set intentional research goals instead of growing randomly.
- The right balance feels satisfying. You'll know it when you find it.

For some, that's 500 people with rock-solid documentation. For others, it's 5,000 with varying levels of verification but clear markers of confidence.

Either way, the choice is yours to make.

Final Thoughts

Before I get off my soapbox, a few final thoughts.

Here's the truth: You should build your family tree however you damn well please.

If collecting thousands of distant cousins brings you joy, do it.

If meticulously documenting every fact about your direct line fulfills you, perfect.

But remember this: With shared research comes responsibility.

Unverified information spreads like wildfire. What you add to public trees affects thousands of other researchers.

One careless connection can send hundreds of people down the wrong ancestral path.

The ripple effect is real. And permanent.

If you maintain a large tree with varying verification levels, consider these precautions:

- Use private AND unsearchable trees for research still under investigation.
- Add clear confidence ratings to each fact and relationship.
- Implement your own verification system before making discoveries public.

The genealogy community thrives on shared knowledge. But that knowledge is only as good as its weakest source.

Quality and quantity aren't mutually exclusive. The best researchers find ways to balance both.

They build trees that satisfy their research goals while respecting the collaborative nature of our work.

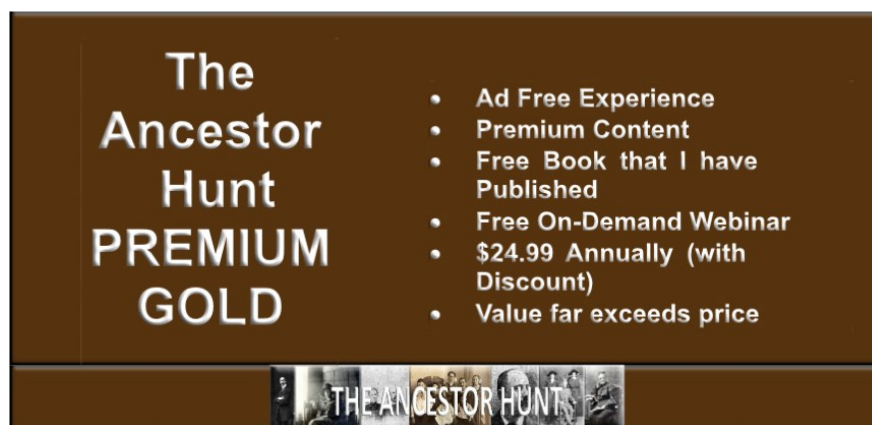
Your ancestors' stories deserve nothing less than your best effort.

Whether your tree contains 200 people or 200,000, make each connection count.



Click on image for more information

The Gold Premium Program from The Ancestor Hunt



Take advantage of the discount! Details at the bottom of the page.

The Ancestor Hunt Gold 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>

Discount for Monthly Newsletter Subscribers

Enter the Discount Code TAHSUBS to receive a 20% discount. Only for Newsletter Subscribers



Free Online Genealogy Website of the Month – JSTOR



In a nutshell, JSTOR is a massive database that contains journals, books, images, and primary sources. I have found many college and university databases that use JSTOR as their primary database collection provider.

From the site:

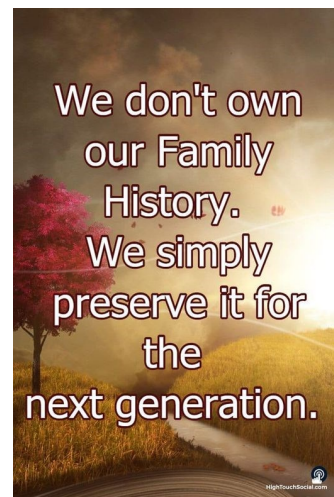
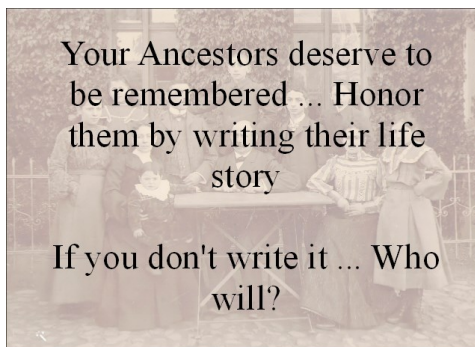
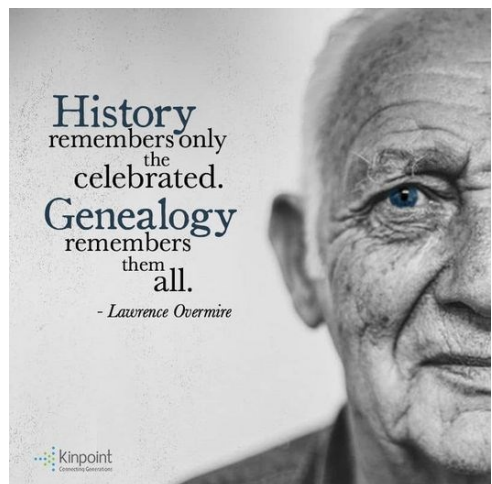
JSTOR provides access to more than 12 million [journal articles](#), [books](#), [images](#), and [primary sources](#) in 75 disciplines.

We help you explore a wide range of scholarly content through a powerful [research and teaching platform](#). We collaborate with the academic community to help libraries connect students and faculty to vital content while lowering costs and increasing shelf space, provide independent researchers with free and low-cost access to scholarship, and help publishers reach new audiences and preserve their content for future generations.

In my opinion, it is a “must research” set of databases that genealogists should include in their repertoire.

To access the main site, go to [JSTOR](#)

Memes to Live by



German Given Name Abbreviations

When searching for given names in old newspapers, you will discover that given names are very often abbreviated, so if you search for the whole given name, you will miss a significant amount of search results, I estimate that as many as 50% more relevant results can be achieved by searching these abbreviations. I have previously published English language given name abbreviations, but if you are searching German language newspapers, you will need given name abbreviations in that language. Below are a list of about 150 German abbreviations for given names.

Adalbert – Alb.	Eva – Ev.	Luise – Luis.
Adelheid – Adelh.	Felix – Fel.	Magdalena – Magd.
Adolf – A.	Ferdinand – Ferd.	Manfred – Manfr.
Agnes – Ag.	Friedrich – Fr.	Margareta – Marg.
Agnes – Agn.	Friedrich – Friedr.	Margarete – Marg.
Albert – Al.	Gabriele – Gabr.	Maria – Mari.
Albert – Alb.	Georg – G.	Marianne – Mariann.
Alexander – Alex.	Georg – Georg.	Markus – Mark.
Alfred – Alf.	Gerhard – Gerh.	Martin – Mart.
Amalie – Am.	Gertrud – Ger.	Martina – Mart.
Andreas – And.	Gertrud – Gertr.	Matthias – Math.
Andreas – Andr.	Gottfried – Gottf.	Melanie – Mel.
Anna – An.	Günter – Günt.	Michael – Mich.
Anna – Ann.	Gustav – Gust.	Monika – Mon.
Anselm – Ans.	Hanna – Hann.	Norbert – Norb.
Anton – Ant.	Hans – H.	Otto – O.
August – Aug.	Hedwig – Hedw.	Otto – Ott.
Barbara – Barb.	Heinrich – Heinr.	Paul – P.
Bernhard – Bernh.	Helena – Hel.	Paul – Paul
Brigitte – Brig.	Helene – Hel.	Peter – Pet.
Caroline – Car.	Helmut – Helm.	Peter – Pt.
Christian – Chr.	Hermann – Herm.	Philipp – Phil.
Christiane – Chris.	Hildegard – Hild.	Reinhard – Reinh.
Christina – Chris.	Horst – Horst	Richard – R.
Christoph – Chr.	Hubert – Hub.	Robert – Rob.
Christoph – Cph.	Ingrid – Ingr.	Roland – Rol.
Clara – Cl.	Jakob – Jak.	Rudolf – Rud.
Claudia – Claud.	Johann – J.	Sabine – Sab.
Conrad – Con.	Johanna – Joh.	Sandra – Sandr.
Cornelia – Corn.	Johannes – Joh.	Silvia – Silv.
Daniel – D.	Josef – Jos.	Sonja – Sonj.
Daniel – Dan.	Julia – Jul.	Sophia – Soph.
David – Dav.	Julius – Jul.	Stefan – Stef.
Detlef – Detl.	Karin – Kar.	Stefanie – Stef.
Dieter – Diet.	Karl – K.	Susanne – Sus.
Dorothea – Dor.	Katharina – Kath.	Theodor – Th.
Dorothea – Dorothea.	Klaus – Kl.	Theodor – Theo.
Eberhard – Eberh.	Konrad – Konr.	Theresia – Theres.
Eduard – Ed.	Kurt – K.	Thomas – T.
Elisabeth – Elis.	Laura – Laur.	Ulrich – Ulr.
Elisabeth – Else	Lena – Len.	Ursula – Urs.
Emil – Em.	Leo – Leo	Werner – Wern.
Erich – Er.	Leonhard – Leonh.	Wilhelm – W.
Ernst – E.	Lisa – Lis.	Wilhelm – Wilh.
Ernst – Ern.	Louise – L.	Wolfgang – Wofg.
Eva – E.	Ludwig – Ludw.	Zacharias – Zach.

The New Silver Premium Program from The Ancestor Hunt



If you don't want a free book or webinar and want to save some money, you can choose the Silver Level.

Subscribers to the Silver Level Premium service will receive:

- An ad-free experience while using The Ancestor Hunt website 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 must log in 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.

Premium Content

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

Cost

The annual cost is \$11.99. There are no refunds if you cancel during any year you are a member.

Value

You are receiving an ad-free experience and Premium Content for less than \$1 a month.

Registration

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

Common Words And Phrases Printed In Old Newspapers That Are Associated With A Woman's Name

This article is reprinted with permission from Jeff Kiley, The CEO of [Advantage Archives](#).



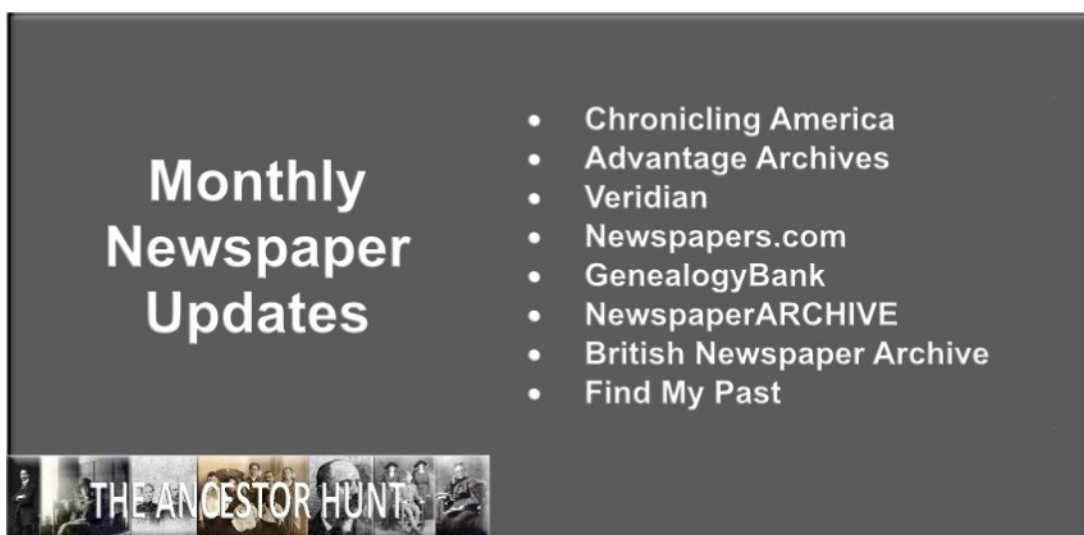
Searching for references to women in historical newspapers can be challenging due to naming conventions, societal norms, and variations in phrasing. Women were often identified by their husbands' names, maiden names, or a combination of both, making targeted searches essential. Including specific keywords and context, such as family relations, locations, or events, can improve results.

Here is a list of 100 phrases that may assist researchers in finding references to women in historical newspaper archives:

Mrs. [husband's name]	Housekeeper	Chairwoman
Miss [maiden name]	Spinster	Engaged to
Ms. [last name]	Divorcee	Hostess for
Widow of [husband's name]	Mistress	Bridesmaid
Engaged to	Madam	Flower girl
Mother of	Resided with her	Women's Club
Grandmother of	Ma'am	Club treasurer
Sister of	Suffragette	Homemaker
Daughter of	Maiden name	Volunteer
Wife of	Club leader	Potluck
Midwife	Socialite	Pianist
Teacher	Charity organizer	She
Nurse	Proud mother	Her
Social worker	Matriarch	Ladies' tea
Homemaker	Beloved wife	Young woman
Dressmaker	Cherished mother	Maiden
Seamstress	Loving daughter	Spinster aunt
Helped organize	Devoted grandmother	Widow of the late
Secretary	Widowed mother	Divorced woman
Typist	Gold Star Mother	Chaperone
Telephone operator	Lady of the house	Engaged woman
Celebrated her	Feminist	Devoted sister
Dress	Artist	Respected neighbor
Milliner	Poetess	Known for her work
Librarian	Married to	Announced her engagement
Schoolmistress	First lady	Accomplished woman
Caregiver	Homemaker	Mother of the bride
Lady	Lady of leisure	Grandmother of the groom
Maid	Patroness	Sister of the bride
Matron	Honorary member	Teacher
Missus	Debutante	To be wed
Matriarch	Celebrating her life	Ladies Auxiliary
Hostess	Tea hosted by	Married on
Garden club	Reception held for	Wedding of
Honored widow	Missus	Visiting from
Respected mother	Mistress of ceremonies	

Using advanced search techniques, you can combine phrases like "Mrs. [Husband's Name]" with broader terms such as "society pages" or "club meetings" to locate mentions. Filters for time periods and publication types help refine searches further. These strategies uncover articles that highlight a woman's contributions to society, family milestones, and other significant events.

Online Newspaper Database Updates for March/April



Over 1,000 New titles were added by various Free and Subscription databases in the last month. Here are links to all the updates:

- **Chronicling America** - <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/chronicling-america-updates-march-2025/>
- **Advantage Archives** - No update this month
- **Veridian** - <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/veridian-adds-updates-387-titles-april-2025/>
- **Newspapers dot com** - <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/newspapers-dot-com-update-march-2025/>
- **GenealogyBank** - No update this month
- **NewspaperARCHIVE** - <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/newspaperarchive-update-march-2025/>
- **British Newspaper Archive** - <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/british-newspaper-archive-adds-updates-153-titles-march-2025/>
- **Find My Past** - <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/find-my-past-adds-updates-145-historical-newspaper-titles-march-2025/>

The By Location Page

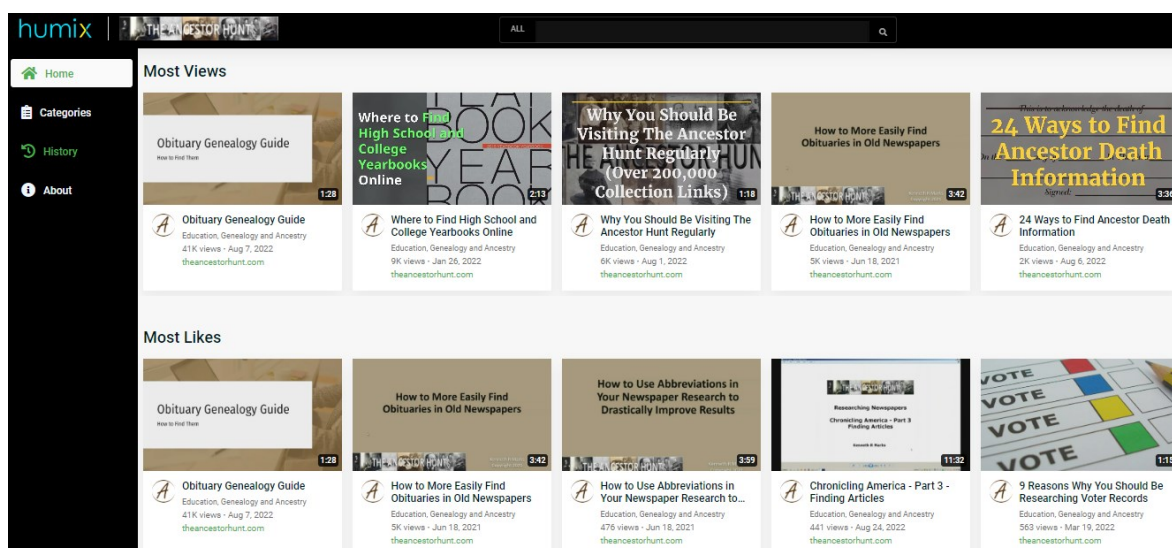
The easiest way to access a particular state's or province's list of collections and categories is via the [BY LOCATION](#) page.

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)

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GENEALOGYBANK

32 Ways to Find Ancestor Birth Information

- **State Birth and Death Indexes** – whether online or in a book at a library/archive – these provide dates and sometimes the location of birth. But since they are indexes that are most likely entered from birth certificates, hospital reports, or death indexes, you always have to keep in mind that transcription and typing errors can occur.
- **Birth Certificates** – this is the best document for establishing date and location of birth. Usually they are signed by an attending physician who was there when the baby was born. At least for those in the last several decades.
- **Cemetery Records** – there are lots of different ways to find this information. On a headstone the date of birth (often only the year) is inscribed. And you can visit individual cemeteries where records sometimes are made available. But these are only as good as the information that the purchaser of the gravestone has provided. Mistakes can be made.
- **Draft Cards** – the applicant must enter their exact birth date.
- **Naturalization and Citizenship Records** – Exact birth dates are included.
- **Military Records** – the military is quite good at keeping lots of information regarding service members – so you should have lots of places where the birth information is recorded, especially in enlistment papers.
- **Social Security Applications** – the birth date is always requested in the SS-5 application.
- **Birth Announcements in Newspapers** – older ones in the Vitals section say “To the wife of John Smith, a son, in Marysville on Wednesday” or something like that. You can calculate based on the date of the newspaper the exact birth date. There are also birth announcements in the local news and society page sections.
- **Census Records** – well you won’t find anyone’s birth dates in most census records (except you can get the birth month and year in the 1900 U.S. Census). But you do get the age stated and that could lead you to a possible birth year within 1, 2, or 3 years.
- **Immigration Records** – although the exact birth date is not often included – the age is, so simple math, similar to census records, can get you within a year or so for the birth year.
- **Travel Records** – although these are sometimes called immigration records – many in the 1900’s indeed do have the actual birth date of the traveler.
- **Death Certificates** – often the date of birth is included in the death certificate, if not the actual date but at least the age at the person’s passing so the year can be calculated. But again – the information is only as good as the memory of the informant.
- **Church Records** – baptism and christening records and similar records for other faiths may include birth dates or the date of the event, from which you might be able to calculate the birth date. You might want to keep track of what churches, synagogues, etc. that your ancestors and their families worshiped.
- **Personal Bibles** – many families recorded birth and death date information in the family Bible.
- **Marriage Licenses and Announcements** – usually the age of the applicant is listed in the newspaper and on the license itself, so again simple math can lead you to the birth year.
- **Funeral and Memorial Records/Books** – often the deceased’s birth date is included in the memorial cards or books. And also the records from the funeral home.
- **Passport Applications** – the date of birth is included in many variations of applications for passports.
- **Social Security Death Index (SSDI)** – the date of birth is included in the SSDI.
- **Great Registers** – used for voting primarily in the 1800’s, the age of the voter is included – so you will have to use your math and subtraction skills to ascertain the approximate birth year.
- **Employment and Union Records** – hard to find but may include date of birth
- **Newsletters and Minutes** – organizations, clubs, churches, and other types of organizations often publish or recognize birthdays for members, which sometimes may include the year of birth as well.
- **School Records** – enrollment records
- **Employment Records** – job applications and other employment files
- **Membership Organizations** – unions, fraternities/sororities, lodges, clubs, etc.
- **Divorce Records** – at least the age is included if not the birth info
- **Wills and Estate Files** – age and possibly birth information is included. Probate court documents may provide fruitful.
- **Pension Records** – whether military or civilian, birth date and location may be included.
- **Town Records** – Most often in the New England states, but also in others, towns maintained vital statistic information and published them in annual Town Reports.
- **Personal Testimony** – often used in obtaining a Delayed Registration of Birth when no official records was created at the actual time of birth.
- **Hospital Records** – might be useful if accurate records were maintained and made accessible years after the birth.
- **Obituaries** – might include the actual birth date and location, if not just the age. It seems that more recent online tributes contain the actual date, while older newspaper obituaries more than likely do not.
- **Motor Vehicle Department Records** – if retained, at least the age if not the birth date of the driver will be included



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Help Your Ancestors Live Forever - Write Your Family History And Write Your Own History While You're At It

One of my goals in my personal genealogy is to make sure that my ancestors are remembered. Many had no descendants, so absolutely no one alive remembers them. That's sad to me, which is why I created a couple of family history websites. But recently I have been seeking even better ways to memorialize their lives. Their stories are important to be documented, which might explain why I am such a fan of newspaper research.

In any case, here 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

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