

Monthly Newsletter October 15, 2025



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**Check out the Newspaper Keyword
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Please Note: Hot Links are in **BLUE**



Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – October 1-15, 2025](#)
- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – September 1-30, 2025](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – September 1-30, 2025](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – October 1-15, 2025](#)
- [50 Top U.S. Centers, Museums, and Libraries for Genealogy Research](#)
- [64 Genealogy Items to Collect from Your Home](#)
- [Reclaim the Records – Available Genealogy Collections](#)
- [Researching Using Sanborn Maps](#)
- [Search for Your Ancestors in the 25 Million Images in Picryl](#)
- [Use the National Archives' Numident Computerized Files to Search Social Security Applications, Claims, and Death Records](#)
- [Using Dead Fred Genealogy Photo Archive to the Fullest](#)
- [Using DP.LA for Family History Research](#)
- [Using One-Step Genealogy Webpages by Stephen P. Morse](#)
- [Using The Internet Archive for Genealogy Research](#)
- [Find Your Ancestors in I Dream of Genealogy](#)
- [Finding Ancestor Photos in Ancient Faces](#)
- [Finding Your Ancestors in Access Genealogy](#)
- [Finding Your Ancestors in Death Indexes](#)
- [Finding Your Ancestors in Genealogy Trails](#)
- [Finding Your Ancestors in Genealogy Trails](#)
- [Finding Your Ancestors in the Ellis Island Database](#)
- [16 Hidden Genealogy Clues That Help Determine Relationships](#)
- [16 Places Where You Can Find Genealogy and Family History Books](#)
- [17 Things You Can Find in Criminal Records](#)
- [32 Ways to Find Ancestor Locations and Addresses](#)
- [7,375 Free Online Military Record Collections from the United States](#)
- [1,275 Free Online Immigration Record Collections from the United States](#)
- [1,280 Free United States Online Voter Record Collections](#)
- [3,580 Free United States Online Tax Records](#)
- [3,600 Free Online Naturalization Collections for the United States](#)
- [1,400 Free Online Naturalization Collections from the Mid West States](#)
- [1,465 Free Online Military Records from the Western States](#)
- [2,110 Free Southern States Online Tax Records](#)
- [2,535 Free Online Military Records from the Mid West States](#)
- [205 Free Online Immigration Collections from the Mid West States](#)
- [675 Free Mid Atlantic States Online Tax Records](#)
- [950 Free Mid West States Online Tax Records](#)

New From The Newspaper Corner

- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 72 Titles – September 2025](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – September 2025](#)
- [Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection Adds/Updates 43 Titles – October 2025](#)
- [Elephind Update – October 2, 2025](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 102 Historical Newspaper Titles – September 2025](#)
- [Hidden Newspaper Articles – Gem of the Week: Hotel Guest Lists](#)
- [Newspaper Research Academy Weekly Update – October 9, 2025](#)
- [Newspaper Research Academy Weekly Update – September 19, 2025](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – September 2025](#)
- [Newspapers dot Com Update – September 2025](#)
- [Say Hello to Elephind!](#)
- [Veridian Adds/Updates 270 Titles – October 2025](#)
- [Virginia Chronicle Newspaper Collection Adds/Updates 12 Titles – October 2025](#)

Strange Headlines

Man with nothing to declare
had 55 tortoises in his pants

**HE LOST HIS BATHTUB,
NUDE ON STREET SAYS**

**Stabbing disrupts class
for anger management**

**Students Cook &
Serve
Grandparents**

Statistics show that
teen pregnancy
drops off significantly
after age 25.

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



Useful Articles from Other Sources

- [10 Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy: Navigating the Minefield of Family History](#)
- [10 Websites for Polish Genealogy Research](#)
- [13 Overlooked Eastern European Genealogy Records](#)
- [14 Genealogy Tasks to Do on Your Lunch Break](#)
- [17 Types of US Records to Check for Immigrant Ancestors](#)
- [23 AI Genealogy Prompts: Free Templates and Expert Advice](#)
- [A Genealogist's Research Guide to the Caribbean](#)
- [Find Your Ancestor in a Week: A 7-Day Genealogy Research Plan](#)
- [Finding and Using Scottish Civil Records for Genealogy](#)
- [Genealogy Q&A: Passenger and Ship Lists](#)
- [How to Research English Ancestors](#)
- [The Do's and Don'ts of Find a Grave](#)
- [What is a Collateral Relative and Why Do They Matter](#)

Genealogy Did You Know

Are you getting lousy results from your online newspaper searches? Have you tried misspelling on purpose? For example, changing the search string to replace a "b" with an "h", or a "c" with an "e", or an "n" with an "r" will get you more results. I guarantee it!

Research Your Family History With Help From The Ancestor Hunt at www.theancestorhunt.com

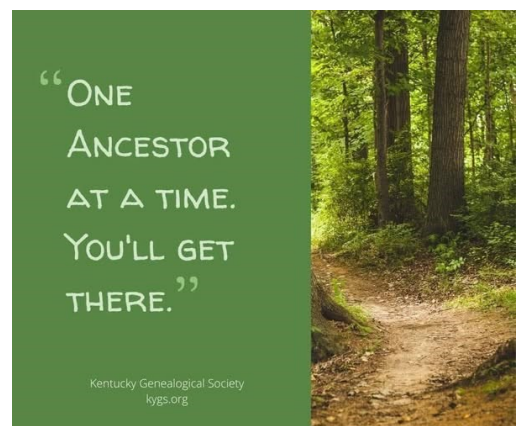
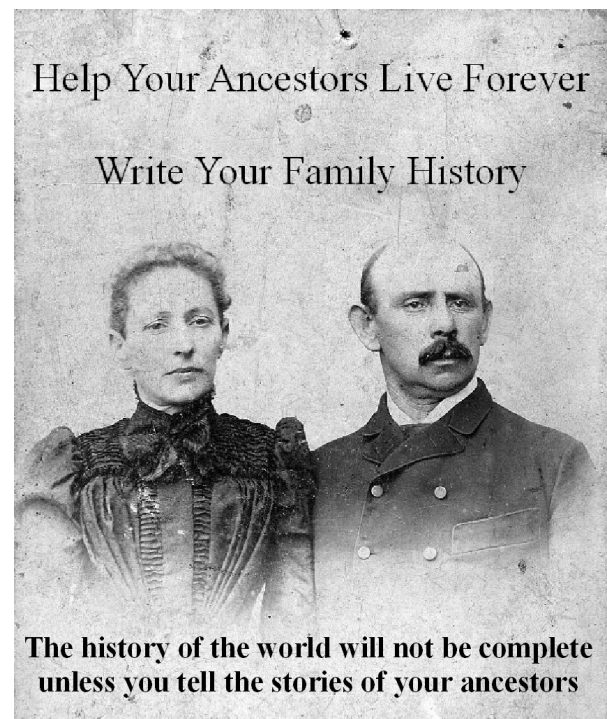
Genealogy Did You Know

A "feature" of older newspapers was the use of the hyphen. Hyphenated words were often used heavily to save space and due to the limitations of fixed-width type.

But if you search for syllables rather than complete words you will get more and better results. Search for "Mont", "gomery", "ery" as well as the complete name "Montgomery".

Research Your Family History With Help From The Ancestor Hunt at www.theancestorhunt.com

Genealogy Memes to Live By



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.



Newspaper Research Academy Updates



The Newspaper Research Academy was launched in early August. Here are the updates.

To refresh your memory, the Academy is designed to serve newspaper researchers at every skill level through a tiered structure of resources:

- **Free Resources:** A vast, free collection of websites, tutorials, and reference guides from leading industry professionals and newspaper database companies.
- **Subscription Resources:** An exclusive offering for subscribers, featuring The Ancestor Hunt's Video Guides, comprehensive Research Guides, the brand new Newspaper Keyword Compendium, and an ad-free Browse experience across the entire website.
- **Premium Resources:** A curated list of top-tier, third-party resources, including advanced courses, books, and webinars from expert genealogy professionals and leading newspaper database vendors.

On the next page is a list of the 94 Research Guides and Video Guides that are currently available for Subscribers. The regular price is \$39.99 per year. This includes the materials available at the time of registration PLUS all new materials created during the year. You can find out all about the Academy at <https://theancestorhunt.com/academy.html> including details about every Research Guide, the Newspaper Keyword Compendium, and Video Guides. You can also find out all the details regarding subscribing at the [Subscription Page](#)

Later in the newsletter is a complete discussion of the recently created Newspaper Keyword Compendium. In addition to the Compendium, 35 new Free Resources have been added, as well as 32 New Research Guides.

The Research Guide Bundle

Get all Newspaper Research Academy Research Guides – Forever.

What is the Research Guide Bundle and Why Should I Purchase It?

- You don't want to subscribe, but would really like to have all the current 62 Research Guides
- It is a one-time **PERENNIAL** purchase. As long as you keep the Google Drive Link where all the Research Guides are stored, you get all of them **FOREVER**. If I add 50 more Research Guides in the next two years, you will receive **ALL** of them. There are **NO RENEWALS**.
- It is less expensive than the complete Newspaper Research Academy subscription.
- If you are familiar with the [Quicksheets](#) that I have published over the last 5 years, the Research Guides are similar in form, but they have much more detail and contain a significant amount of information. They generally range from 2 to 26 pages in length.
- Access is easy. After your purchase, I receive an email. I will then email you the link to Google Drive, where the Research Guide folder is stored. You can read and download the PDFs whenever you want. Just save the emailed Google Drive link, and you will have access to all the Research Guides that I add – forever.

You can purchase the Research Guide Bundle for \$20.00 at <https://theancestorhunt.com/research-guide-bundle.html>

The Newspaper Research Academy Resources

Below is a list of All the Research Guides and Video Guides

RESEARCH GUIDES	RESEARCH GUIDES
ACA20 – Finding Obituaries	ACA58 - Disasters and Accidents in Newspapers
ACA21 – 40 Online Techniques That Get Results	ACA59 - Immigration & Naturalization Reports in Newspapers
ACA22 – Search Nicknames As Well As Formal Names	ACA60 - Birth and Adoption Announcements in Newspapers
ACA23 – Abbreviations Are The Most Powerful Technique	ACA61 - Religious News in Newspapers
ACA24 – Deliberately Misspelling is Your Search Superpower	ACA62 - Clubs, Fraternal Organizations, and Benevolent Societies in Newspapers
ACA25 – How to Use a Newspaper Research Log	ACA63 - Real Estate and Land Transactions in Newspapers
ACA26 – Old State Abbreviations	ACA64 - Occupations and Professional Life in Newspapers
ACA27 – Combination Searches – Property and Legal	ACA65 - Military News in Newspapers
ACA28 – Searching for Hyphenated Words	ACA66 - Entertainment and Cultural Life in Newspapers
ACA29 – Use These Obituary Words to Help Find More Obituaries	ACA67 - Political News and Elections in Newspapers
ACA30 – Find Newspaper Titles in 20 Free and Subscription Databases	ACA68 - Farming and Agricultural News in Newspapers
ACA31 – 50 Things You Can Find in Old Newspapers	ACA69 - Passenger Lists, Travel Notices & Hotel Guest Lists in Newspapers
ACA32 – Challenges in Downloading Newspaper Articles Correctly	ACA70 - Community and Society Life in Newspapers
ACA33 – What to Consider When Selecting a Subscription Site	ACA71 - Why Old Newspapers Produce OCR Chaos — and How It Happened
ACA34 – How to Properly Analyze the Vitals Section	ACA72 - Marriage, Engagement & Anniversary Notices in Newspapers
ACA35 – Analysis Traps with Old Newspapers	ACA73 - Editorials, Letters to the Editor & Opinion Pieces in Newspapers
ACA36 – How to Save Money on Newspaper Database Subscriptions	ACA74 - Sports & Athletics in Newspapers
ACA37 – Search Phonetically Spelled Surnames	ACA75 - Tax Notices, Tax Sales & Financial Notices in Newspapers
ACA38 – Combination Searches with Life Events	ACA76 - Missing Persons, Lost & Found, Unclaimed Mail in Newspapers
ACA39 – Combination Searches – Business and Occupational	ACA77 - Distortion, Intention, and Education – Three Underappreciated Barriers in Newspaper Research
ACA40 – Search Ethnic and Special Newspapers	ACA78 - Transportation & Infrastructure in Newspapers
ACA41 – Old Occupations and Their Meanings	ACA79 - Weather and Environment
ACA42 – Old Illnesses and Modern Equivalents	ACA80 – Death Mentions, Funerals & Memorials in Newspapers
ACA43 - Searching Newspapers in HathiTrust	ACA81 - Public Health, Epidemics & Disease in Newspapers
ACA44 - Searching Newspapers in Internet Archive	ACA82 - Why You Must Use Combination Searches
ACA45 - Searching Newspapers in Google Books	VIDEO GUIDES
ACA46 - Use Proximity Search to Maximize Results	ACA01 – Double Your Online Newspaper Research Results
ACA47 - 25 Dos and Don'ts When Researching Historical Newspapers	ACA02 – The Easiest Way to Find Every Newspaper in America
ACA48 - Use Boolean Searches for Better Results	ACA03 – Exploring 95 Tips for Researching Historical Newspapers
ACA49 - Try Wildcard Searches for More Results	ACA04 – Mastering Chronicling America
ACA50 - Find Ancestor Articles Without Searching a Newspaper Database	ACA05 – Mastering Finding and Analyzing Newspaper Obituaries
ACA51 - Searching for Addresses and Street Names	ACA06 – How to Develop Critical Online Newspaper Research Skills
ACA52 - Searching Advertisements for Genealogy Clues	ACA08 – Deliberately Misspelling to Maximize Results
ACA53 - Searching Legal Notices for Genealogy Clues	ACA09 – Online Newspaper Research – Beginner
ACA54 - Mining the Society Pages: Genealogy Treasures in Local Newspapers	ACA11 – How to Find All the Titles in Chronicling America
ACA55 - School and Student-Related Newspaper Articles for Genealogy	ACA12 – How to Find All the Titles in Newspapers.com
ACA56 - Crime and Civil Court Reports in Newspapers	ACA13 – How to Find All the Titles in NewspaperArchive
ACA57 - Business and Commerce News in Newspapers	ACA14 – How to Find All the Titles in GenealogyBank

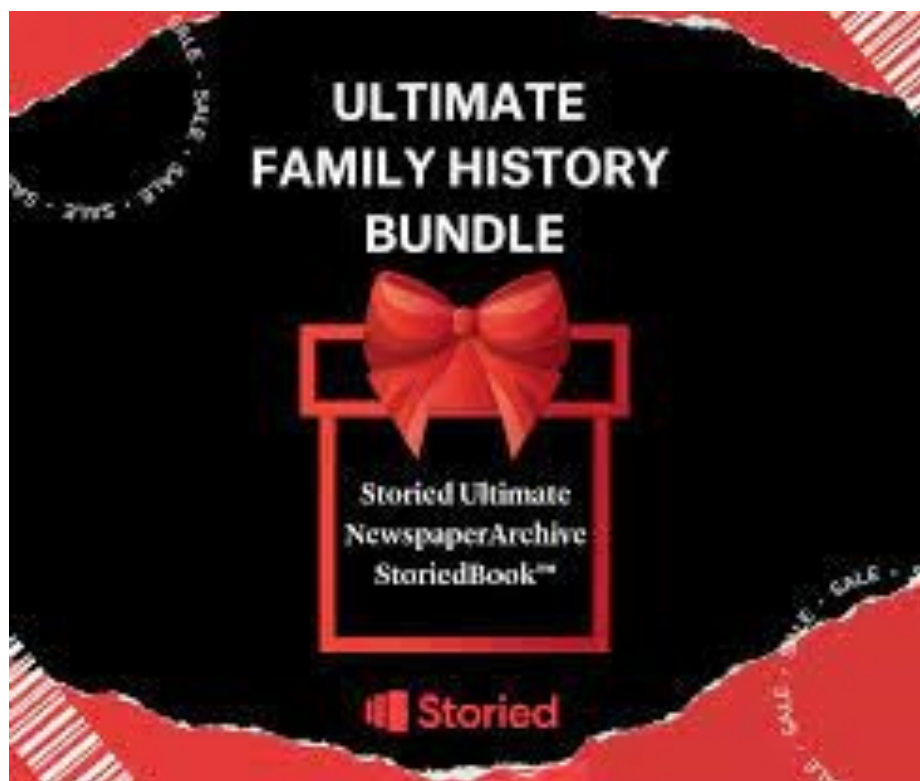


Monthly Raffle

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

Congratulations to the Raffle Winner Meredith Tomatore from Michigan !

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 Newspaper Keyword Compendium

Discover **5,000+ proven newspaper keywords** across 36 research categories — curated to help you find your ancestors faster. Once you own it, you keep it **forever**.

“Stop searching blindly — learn how newspaper keywords reveal hidden ancestors.”

The **Newspaper Research Academy Annual Subscription** already includes *everything* — all Research Guides, all Video Guides, all Keyword Compendium Lists, and an ad-free experience on *The Ancestor Hunt*.

If you only want the Keyword Compendium, it's available separately as a one-time, perennial purchase

Why Use the Newspaper Keyword Compendium?

Most people only search by surname or full name — but that's just the beginning. To find *everything*, you need what I call **Combination Searches**.

Searching for “Anderson” alone might bring up thousands of hits — but adding context changes everything:

- Anderson AND wedding
- Anderson AND married
- Anderson AND bride

These kinds of keyword pairings instantly narrow results and surface the stories you *actually want to find*.

“You'll instantly search smarter and uncover articles most researchers never find.”

What You'll Get

The Compendium is an **exhaustive, categorized collection** of newspaper keywords designed to improve every search.

Each spreadsheet is neatly organized by topic, ready to use or filter in Excel, Google Sheets, or Numbers.

Keyword Categories

☐ **Core Life Events**

Births • Marriages • Deaths • Obituaries

☐ **Civic & Social**

Community • Society • Religion • Education • Clubs & Organizations • Politics

☐ **Legal & Property**

Property & Land • Legal & Court • Probate

☐ **Work & Economy**

Occupations • Business & Commerce • Labor & Farming • Transportation

☐ **Service & Duty**

Military • Public Service • Immigration & Travel

☐ **Environment & Safety**

Health & Epidemics • Disasters & Accidents • Weather

☐ **Culture & Recreation**

Entertainment • Sports

☐ **Miscellaneous**

Missing Persons • Crime • Tax & Financial • Editorials & Opinion

☐ **Special**

Abbreviations • Nicknames • Letter Confusion • Old Occupations • Old Illnesses • Phonetic Names • Old State Abbreviations



The Newspaper Keyword Compendium

Stop guessing — start discovering.

The Newspaper Keyword Compendium gives you the words your ancestors left behind.

Why Purchase the Newspaper Keyword Compendium?

It's a **one-time, PERENNIAL purchase**. As long as you keep the Google Drive link where the Compendium is stored, you'll have access **forever**.

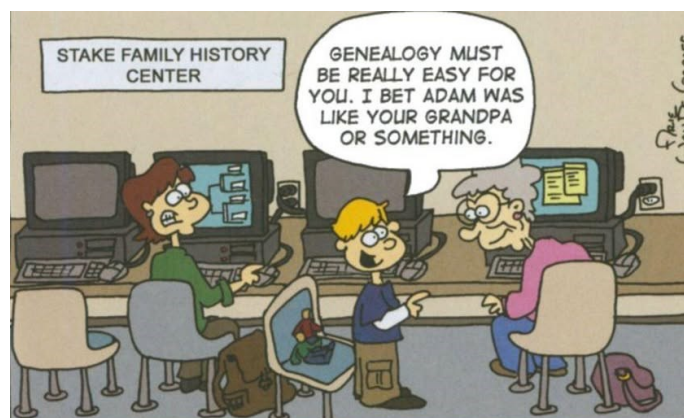
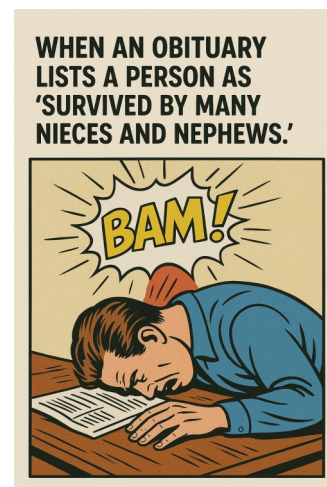
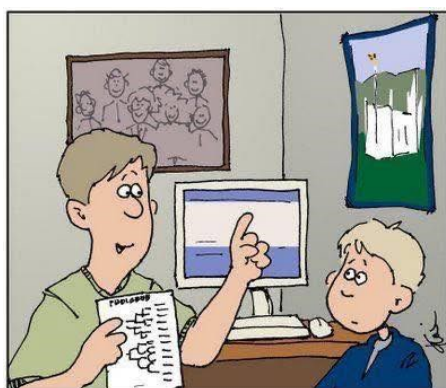
If I add 5,000 more keywords, you'll automatically have them — **no renewals, no extra cost**.

After purchase, I'll email you a secure Google Drive link to the complete Keyword Compendium folder. You can view or download them anytime. Just save that link — and you'll always have access to the full, evolving Keyword Compendium.

It's only \$9.95. One purchase—free updates—Forever.

Get more info at <https://theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-keyword-compendium.html>

Genealogy Cartoons



Hidden Newspaper Articles – Gem of the Week: Hotel Guest Lists



Ever wondered where your ancestors stayed when traveling for business, visiting family, or seeking opportunity?

Hotel guest lists — once a regular newspaper feature — can help you trace their movements between censuses and uncover surprising details about their lives on the road.

Where to Find Them:

Guest lists often appeared in the *travel*, *society*, or *local news* sections of 19th- and early 20th-century papers. In resort towns, they might run daily during peak season, nestled among ads for steamship routes or excursion trains. Smaller cities often printed these lists weekly, supplied directly by local hotels eager to promote patronage.

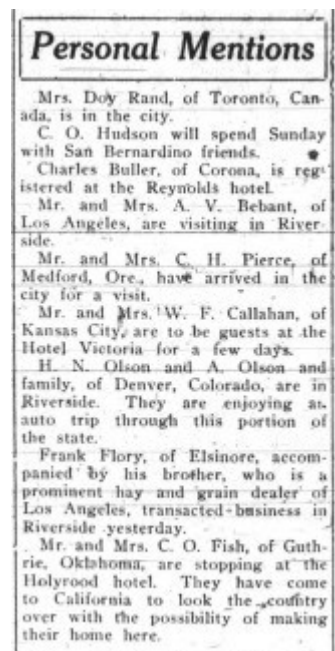
What You'll Discover:

Entries usually listed guests by name, city of residence, and sometimes even occupation. In larger establishments, they were organized by hotel — “Arrivals at the St. Charles,” “Guests at the Palace,” or “At the Grand.” Occasionally, you’ll spot clusters of names from the same town — clues to family visits or traveling groups. Some notices even mention wedding parties, salesmen “in town on business,” or civic delegates attending conventions.

Why It Matters for Genealogy:

A hotel guest list can fill in the blanks between census years, confirm an ancestor’s presence in a city, or reveal business and social ties. When paired with city directories or passenger lists, these snippets can help map a person’s movements over time — especially valuable for itinerant professionals, sales agents, or newly arrived immigrants seeking work.

If you’re tracing ancestors who traveled frequently — or who seemed to vanish between records — hotel registers might hold the breadcrumb you’ve been missing.



17 Reasons Summer Was Better in the 70s

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.

Summer hit different in the 70s.

No Instagram. No TikTok. No constant notifications pulling you away from the moment. Just pure, unfiltered summer.

Your parents didn't track your location. They just yelled your name from the front porch when dinner was ready.

And somehow, you always heard them.

The ice cream truck played actual music. Not some digitized nightmare.

Real bells that made every kid within a three-block radius drop everything and sprint home for quarters.

Was it actually better? Or do we just remember it that way?

Here's the thing: the evidence is overwhelming.

Here are 17 reasons why summer in the 70s was genuinely, objectively superior.

1. The Pool Was Actually Fun

Public pools were packed with kids everywhere. No one worried about germs or sued when someone scraped a knee.

The diving board was still there—the high one that would give modern lawyers nightmares. Marco Polo games lasted hours.

Adult swim meant fifteen minutes of pure torture. You watched the clock like your life depended on it.

The snack bar sold frozen candy bars for fifty cents. Your lips turned blue but you refused to get out.

2. TV Sign-Off Meant Something

Networks went off the air. Think about that.

The TV just stopped broadcasting around midnight. National anthem, maybe a prayer, then static.

Nothing else to watch meant you actually went to sleep. Or snuck outside with friends.

Summer reruns were special because you only got one chance. Miss an episode? Wait until next summer.

3. Bikes Were Transportation, Not Exercise

Every kid had a bike. Not a \$3,000 carbon fiber investment—just a bike.

You rode everywhere without a helmet. Somehow humanity survived.

Playing cards in the spokes made you sound like a motorcycle. That was enough.

You'd disappear for hours exploring neighborhoods miles away. Your parents' only requirement: be home before dark.

4. Water From the Hose Hit Different

Nobody carried water bottles. You drank from the hose and liked it.

That first blast of hot water from the sun-baked rubber. Then the cold rush that followed.

It tasted like summer. Metallic, sure, but refreshing in a way bottled water never could match.

Your mom would yell about germs. You'd drink it anyway when she wasn't looking.

5. Fireflies Were Everywhere

Lightning bugs filled every backyard. Thousands of them.

You'd catch them in mason jars with holes punched in the lid. Create your own lantern.

No one had explained bioluminescence yet. It was just magic.

By morning they'd be dead, but you'd do it again the next night. Circle of life.



17 Reasons Summer Was Better in the 70s

6. Station Wagons Were Adventure Vehicles

The way-back seat faced backwards. You'd make faces at the cars behind you.
No seatbelt laws meant you could lie down on long trips. The whole car was your playground.
Road trips meant counting license plates and playing punch buggy. Real games with real bruises.
Your dad would threaten to turn the car around. He never did.

7. Playgrounds Were Actually Dangerous

Metal slides that cooked your legs. Merry-go-rounds that launched kids into orbit.
See-saws that could catapult your friend. Monkey bars that guaranteed blisters.
The ground was concrete or packed dirt. No rubber mulch safety zones.
You learned physics the hard way. And you survived.

8. Popsicles Cost a Nickel

The ice cream man was an actual career. He knew every kid's name.
Twin pops meant you could share. Or eat both yourself.
Push-ups, bomb pops, orange creamsicles. Each one a tiny affordable miracle.
You'd hear that music from blocks away. Nothing else mattered.

9. Screen Time Meant One Thing

The TV had three channels. Maybe four if the antenna cooperated.
Saturday morning cartoons were appointment viewing. You planned your whole week around them.
No pause button. No rewind. You held your bathroom breaks.
When it was over, you went outside. Because there was literally nothing else on.

10. Neighborhoods Were Communities

Every parent watched every kid. Discipline was communal property.
Mrs. Johnson would absolutely tell your mom if you misbehaved. And your mom would believe her.
Block parties happened spontaneously. Someone would start grilling and everyone would appear.
You knew every family on your street. Their kids, their dogs, their drama.

11. Summer Jobs Were Real

Paper routes at age ten. Lawn mowing at twelve.
Nobody talked about child labor laws. You wanted money, you worked.
Lemonade stands were actual businesses. You'd make five dollars and feel rich.
That first paycheck from a real job? You'd never forget it.

12. Drive-In Movies Were Everywhere

You'd pile six kids in the trunk. Only pay for two tickets.
Speakers that hooked on your window. Half the time they didn't work.
Making out in the back row was a rite of passage. So was getting caught.
The double feature meant you'd be there until 2 AM. Your parents didn't care.

17 Reasons Summer Was Better in the 70s

13. Staying Out Until Dark Was the Rule

"Be home when the streetlights come on." That was it.

No check-ins. No texts. No Find My iPhone.

You'd push it until the very last second. Sprint home as the lights flickered on.

Your mom would be mad for exactly thirty seconds. Then dinner.

14. Sunscreen Was Optional

SPF 4 was considered strong. Most people used baby oil.

Getting burned was part of summer. You'd peel for weeks.

Tan lines were badges of honor. The darker, the better.

Skin cancer wasn't on anyone's radar. Ignorance was bliss.

15. Baseball Cards Had Value

You'd clothespin them to your bike spokes. Or trade them at recess.

That stick of gum inside was rock hard. You'd chew it anyway.

Nobody wore gloves to handle them. Nobody cared about mint condition.

They were toys, not investments. And that made them better.

16. Boredom Was Productive

"I'm bored" got you chores. So you learned not to say it.

You'd invent games with sticks and rocks. Build forts that would collapse immediately.

Clouds were entertainment. That one looks like a dragon.

Imagination was your only app. And it never needed updating.

17. Family Time Was Mandatory

No one scheduled "quality time." It just happened.

Dinner was at six. Everyone showed up or faced consequences.

Sunday drives were torture and tradition. You'd complain the whole time.

But somehow those are the moments you remember most.

Funny how that works.

The Real Magic

Here's what made 70s summers truly special: they're unrepeatable.

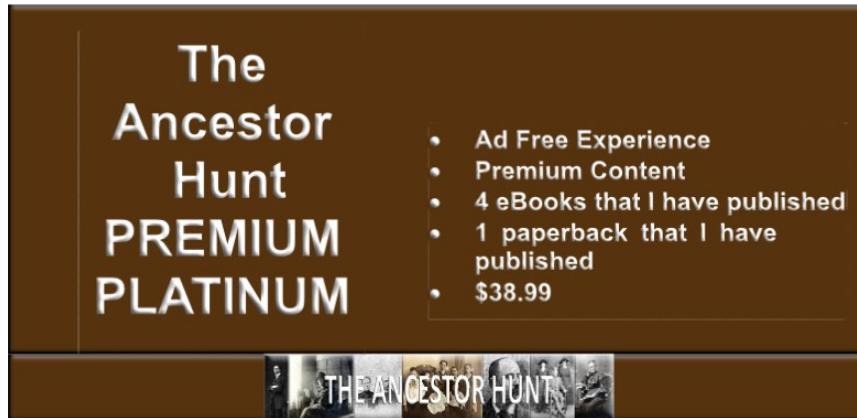
Not because of the freedom or the simplicity. But because of who was there.

Your grandparents were younger. Your parents were invincible. Your siblings were your best friends and worst enemies.

The magic wasn't in the decade. It was in the people.

And that's why genealogy matters. Those summer memories aren't just nostalgia—they're the stories that built your family tree, one backyard barbecue and pool day at a time.

The Platinum Premium Program from The Ancestor Hunt



Subscribers to the Platinum Level Premium service will receive:

- An ad-free experience while using The Ancestor Hunt website each year that you are a member
- A Paperback Book of your choice that I have published will be delivered to you.
- All 4 eBooks that I have published will be delivered to you in PDF format.
- 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.

Free Published Paperback

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.

4 Published eBooks

Get all 4 of my published books in PDF format without going through Amazon and get a significant discount.

Premium Content

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

Cost

The first year cost is \$38.99. Subsequent years will be \$11.99. 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 sales tax and shipping. The normal price of the 4 eBooks through Amazon is \$36.00 plus sales tax.

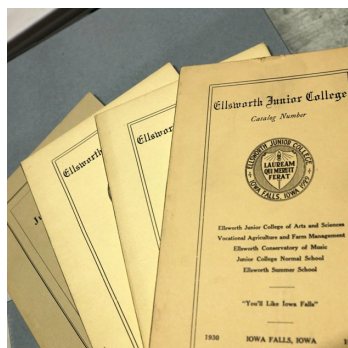
Registration

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



Yearbooks Are A Unique And Valuable Genealogical Resource

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



The sound of the bell, the excitement of a new school year, and the friendships formed in hallways—school days are filled with memories. For genealogists, yearbooks offer a chance to revisit these formative years, not for themselves, but for their ancestors. These annuals preserve snapshots of youthful ambition, community spirit, and the cultural backdrop of a specific era. They're more than just class photos; they're time capsules, offering an invaluable resource for uncovering family history.

Yearbooks open a window into ancestors' daily lives, providing context that vital records alone can't offer. From handwritten notes and prom pictures to the names of clubs and teams, these records reveal details that bring family history to life. They might not be the first thing that comes to mind when considering genealogical research, but they're an often-overlooked source for contextual information about your ancestors. These annual publications, primarily associated with schools, provide a unique glimpse into the lives of students, their communities, and even the broader cultural trends of their times. While modern yearbooks are often visually

elaborate, their origins as simple record books make them invaluable tools for researchers looking to uncover personal and historical stories.

What Makes Yearbooks Valuable for Research?

Yearbooks capture a unique perspective on the past, offering glimpses into the lives of students and their communities. Unlike census records or vital documents, yearbooks provide personal and cultural insights that make genealogical research more vibrant and relatable.

- **Personal Connections:** Yearbooks often include photographs, class lists, and personal notes that connect directly to ancestors. These records can reveal your ancestors' friendships, interests, and activities. A simple mention of a sports team or club membership can provide clues to their personality and social life. Any yearbooks include brief notes, achievements, or ambitions written by the students themselves. These personal touches may not exist in other records, providing insight into hobbies, career aspirations, and friendships. These can be invaluable for building a vivid picture of their lives.
- **Historical and Cultural Insight:** Yearbooks reflect the social norms, cultural trends, and educational priorities of their time. From hairstyles and clothing to club activities and school mottos, these details paint a vivid picture of what life was like in your ancestors' youth. They also document how schools and communities responded to major historical events, such as world wars or social movements.
- **Visual Snapshots:** Seeing an ancestor's photograph in a yearbook offers an unparalleled emotional connection. Beyond recognizing their face, you might notice fashion choices, hairstyles, or even personality traits captured in candid moments. These photos offer a tangible link to the past, bringing ancestors out of the abstract and into reality.
- **Social And Community Context:** By identifying classmates, friends, or even teachers, you can map out your ancestor's social circles and understand their relationships within the community. The advertisements and acknowledgments in yearbooks reveal details about local businesses, industries, and economic life, giving insight into the places our ancestors lived.

A Brief History of Yearbooks

Over the years, yearbooks have undergone a remarkable evolution. They have adapted to technological advances and cultural changes, all while remaining steadfast in their purpose: to capture the essence of a specific moment in time. Whether they are bound in leather, printed on glossy pages, or displayed on a screen, yearbooks continue to offer a unique glimpse into the lives of students and their communities, preserving their stories for generations to come.

The Early Beginnings

The concept of yearbooks as we understand them today took root in the early 19th century, with one of the first known examples created by Yale University's Class of 1806. These early yearbooks were far from the glossy, photo-rich editions we see now. Instead, they featured silhouettes of students—cut-out profiles created using a popular art form of the time—as printed photography had yet to be invented. These bound volumes also included basic information about the students, faculty, and events of the year, offering a snapshot of campus life in its simplest form.

Over the next few decades, advancements in printing technology began to change the way yearbooks were produced. By the mid-19th century, photographic negatives made it possible to incorporate actual photographs into these annuals. This innovation added a personal and visual dimension to the memories preserved in yearbooks, allowing students to see their classmates' faces rather than relying on sketches or silhouettes. As photography became more accessible and affordable, yearbooks transitioned from plain logbooks to visually engaging keepsakes.

Yearbooks Are A Unique And Valuable Genealogical Resource

The Rise of Yearbooks in the 20th Century

By the early 20th century, yearbooks had become a widespread tradition in schools across the United States, from small rural high schools to large universities. Advances in printing technology, such as linotype presses, made it easier and more cost-effective for schools to produce bound yearbooks, leading to their growing popularity. These editions began to feature creative layouts, including class portraits, photographs of sports teams and clubs, school event highlights, and even original poetry and artwork contributed by students.

During this era, yearbooks transformed into more than just a record of academic milestones; they became a celebration of student life. They documented extracurricular activities, school traditions, and even community events, reflecting the social and cultural fabric of the time. As schools embraced the tradition, yearbooks became cherished keepsakes, capturing not only the achievements of individual students but also the spirit and values of the broader school community.

The Continuing Evolution Of Tone And Style

As the decades passed, yearbooks continued to evolve in tone and style, mirroring the cultural shifts of the times. In the late 19th century, the signatures and messages written by students often included rhyming poems or philosophical quotes. These reflected the formal and sentimental tone of the era, with staff members and teachers frequently contributing thoughtful notes or excerpts from literature.

- **Early 1900s:** By the early 20th century, these formal signatures began to give way to shorter, more personal messages. Students would jot down phrases like "Good luck!" or "Stay as sweet as you are," reflecting a shift toward a more relaxed and colloquial tone. The American Depression may have influenced this trend, as messages became simpler and more practical during a time of widespread economic hardship.
- **War And Post-War Years:** By the 1940s, slang and casual expressions became increasingly common. The post-war years of the late 1940s and 1950s saw another shift, with yearbook messages becoming more playful and reflective of individual personalities. Students started to use humor and inside jokes, and it became common for messages to focus on the owner of the book, offering lighthearted compliments and memories of shared experiences.
- **The 60s – 90s:** By the 1960s and 1970s, yearbooks reflected the era's cultural revolutions. Slang, acronyms, and even drawings added a creative and sometimes irreverent flair, with the "free love" spirit of the time influencing the casual use of "love" in signatures, even for casual acquaintances. The 1980s brought a love for acronyms, many of which are still in use today. Phrases like "FF" (Friends Forever) evolved into "BFF" (Best Friends Forever) by the 1990s, while notes grew shorter but remained deeply personal. The early 2000s introduced phone numbers, email addresses, and screen names into yearbook messages, reflecting the growing influence of technology on communication.
- **More Recent Years:** In recent years, yearbooks have taken on a new form with the rise of digital technology. Many schools now offer online versions of their yearbooks, allowing students to customize their entries with interactive features like video clips and hyperlinks. This shift has made it easier than ever to preserve and share memories, as digital archives provide greater accessibility to students and alumni worldwide.
- **Digital Age:** The tone of yearbook messages has also shifted in the digital age. While social media has reduced the need for short, casual notes like "Have a great summer!" (HAGS), it has also made yearbook messages longer and more meaningful. Students are now more likely to write heartfelt reflections and detailed tributes, knowing that these entries will be preserved as part of a permanent digital record.

Cafeterias and Classrooms: What Yearbooks Reveal

Yearbooks are more than just formal portraits and lists of names. They capture the spirit of the time and place, often in unexpected ways. For genealogists, yearbooks provide much more than a nostalgic look at school life. They are invaluable for piecing together family histories, providing insight to:

- **Clubs and Sports:** Yearbooks document extracurricular activities that can shed light on an ancestor's talents and interests, from drama club to track and field.
- **Faculty and Staff:** Teachers and administrators often appear in yearbooks, providing additional context about the people who influenced your ancestor's education.
- **Student Signatures:** Handwritten notes in yearbooks can offer heartfelt messages, inside jokes, or even nicknames that add a personal layer to your research.
- **Cultural Trends:** From school dances to class mottos, yearbooks capture trends that reflect the social and cultural environment of the time.
- **Personal Connections:** Yearbooks often list not only students but also teachers, staff, and even younger classes in some schools. This makes them a rich source for identifying family members who may not appear in other historical records, such as census data or city directories.

Yearbooks Are A Unique And Valuable Genealogical Resource

- **Insights into Daily Life:** Beyond names and faces, yearbooks document student life, including clubs, sports, and social events. By understanding the activities your ancestor participated in, you can paint a fuller picture of their life and personality.
- **Community History:** The advertisements and sponsors featured in yearbooks often provide details about the businesses and industries that shaped the local economy. These insights can reveal where your ancestors worked or highlight the industries that supported their communities.
- **Visual Records:** Photographs in yearbooks are often the only surviving images of ancestors during their youth. These snapshots offer not just a look at their physical appearance but also clues about the fashions and hairstyles of the era.
- **Migration Clues:** Yearbooks can provide evidence of where your ancestors lived at specific times, especially if they attended multiple schools. This can help track their movements or confirm addresses.
- **Silly Photos:** Group photos or candid shots often show ancestors having fun, offering a more relaxed view of their personality.
- **Signatures and Notes:** Yearbooks filled with notes from classmates can offer surprising insights, like how your ancestor was perceived by their peers.

Extra Credit for Genealogists: How Yearbooks Enhance Research

Yearbooks aren't just a fun trip down memory lane—they're powerful tools for genealogical research. Yearbooks are increasingly being digitized by schools, libraries, and historical societies, making them accessible to researchers worldwide. However, they become even more powerful when combined with other records. Comb through digital archives and look for articles about the school, its events, or members in historical newspapers. These can add layers of context to your findings. Use the dates and names found in yearbooks to locate birth, marriage, and death certificates. Here's why they deserve a spot in your toolbox:

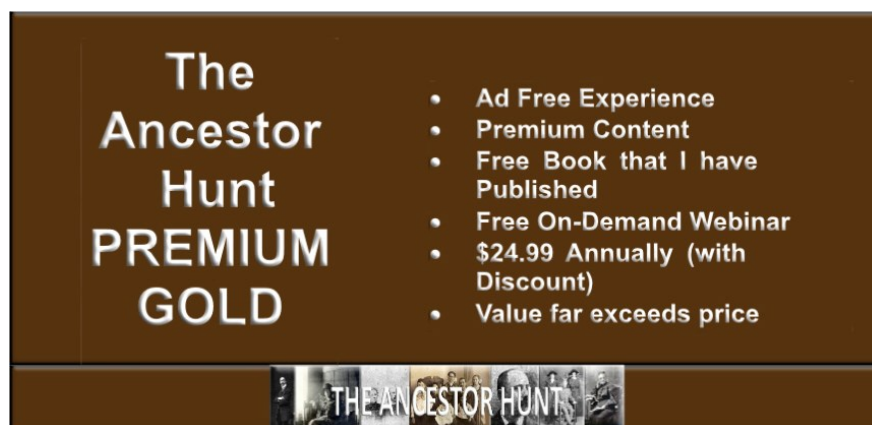
- **Filling in the Gaps:** Yearbooks can bridge gaps in family history where other records are sparse. They might list a student who didn't complete high school, offer a clue about a family's location during a particular year, or confirm the names of teachers or classmates who could lead to more discoveries.
- **Mapping Social Networks:** By identifying classmates, teachers, and friends, you can map your ancestor's social circle. This network may reveal connections to other family members, neighbors, or even future spouses.
- **Contextualizing Family Stories:** Did your grandmother talk about being on the debate team or playing basketball in high school? Yearbooks can validate and expand these anecdotes, showing how your ancestor participated in school life and their broader community.
- **Adding Depth to Historical Research:** Yearbooks often include ads for local businesses or lists of school sponsors. These sections can provide insights into the community's economic and social landscape, even giving clues about family businesses or professions.

Remember, yearbooks aren't just about students. They often include staff and faculty information, images of campus buildings, and even advertisements for local businesses. These additional details can reveal surprising connections. Ancestors who didn't attend school might still appear in yearbooks as sponsors or business owners in local ads. During wartime, many yearbooks included lists of students and alumni who were serving in the military, adding a layer of historical significance.

Yearbooks are more than historical artifacts—they're personal keepsakes that document milestones and memories. By incorporating them into your genealogical research, you can create a richer, more personal narrative of your family's history. From heartfelt reflections to the smiling faces of youth, each page offers a glimpse into the lives of those who came before us, bridging the gap between the past and the present.



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

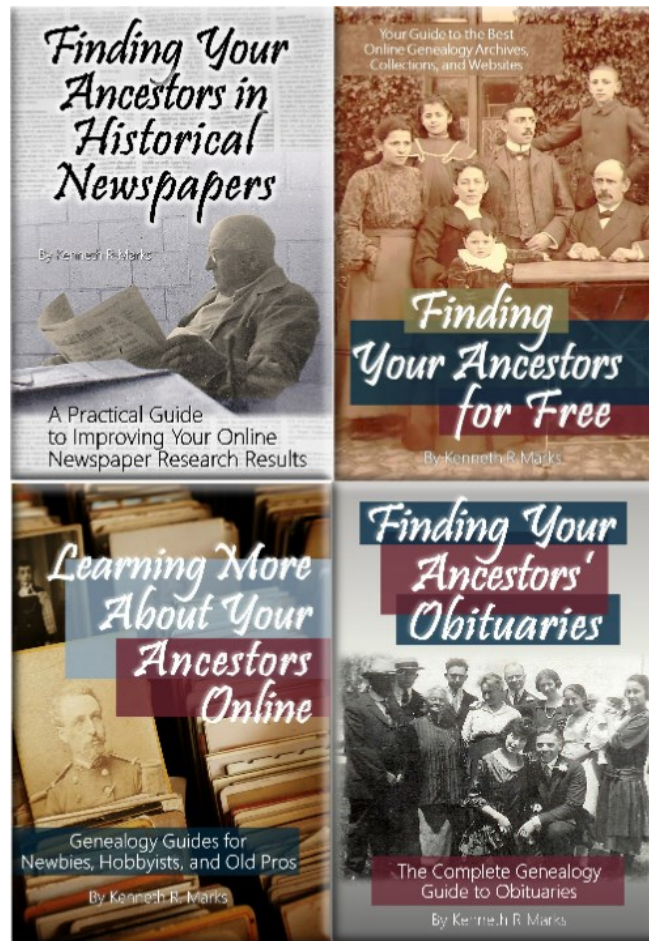
To register, please go to the Premium Page at <https://theancestorhunt.com/premium.html>

Discount for Monthly Newsletter Subscribers

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



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 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.

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>

Elephind Update

New Collections and Pages Added! Over 23 Million Pages Now Searchable—October 2nd Update

This week, Elephind has grown by more than 9 million pages, with three new collections now searchable:

- California Digital Newspaper Collection
- Ohio State University
- Ohio State University (Our Choking Times)

We've also added new titles and pages to existing collections, including:

- NYS Historic Newspapers
- Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection
- Virginia Chronicle
- Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection

And we're not stopping there—over 150 million additional pages (and counting) are still in the pipeline.

To view the full list of collections and titles available on Elephind, [click here](#)

AI Meets Ancestry

Ever wish someone could read through all those old clippings for you? 🧐

Now they can — thanks to Elephind's new AI Summary feature! 🐘💚

Here's how it works:

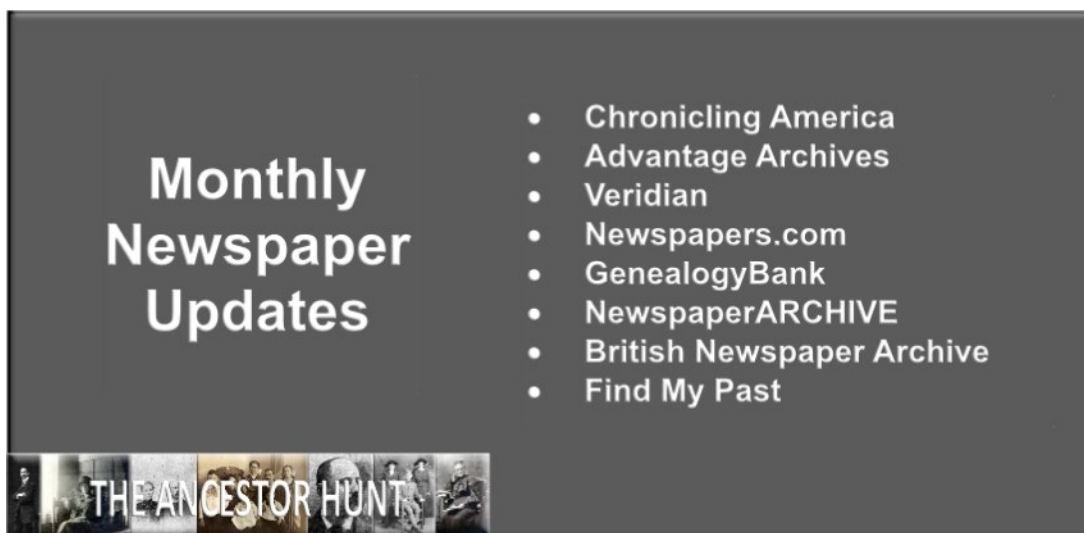
- 1 Search for a person, place, or event — just like usual.
- 2 Click "AI Summary" and type your question (like "What did William H. Brown do for a living?" or "Who did William Brown marry?")
- 3 The AI then scans your top 20 newspaper results from your initial search, pulling key details together into one easy-to-read summary.
- 4 The AI Summary includes links to the articles where the information was found — so you can easily click to read the full article.

You'll see patterns, connections, and stories that would've taken hours to uncover — all in seconds. 🕒

It's like having your own personal research assistant who never needs a coffee break. ☕💚

👉 Try it now at Elephind.com

Online Newspaper Database Updates for September/October



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-september-2025/>

Advantage Archives - Not Yet Published

Veridian - <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/veridian-adds-updates-270-titles-october-2025/>

Newspapers dot com - <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/newspapers-dot-com-update-september-2025/>

GenealogyBank - - Not Yet Published

NewspaperARCHIVE - <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/newspaperarchive-update-september-2025/>

British Newspaper Archive - <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/british-newspaper-archive-adds-updates-72-titles-september-2025/>

Find My Past - <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/find-my-past-adds-updates-102-historical-newspaper-titles-september-2025/>

The 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>

The By Location Page

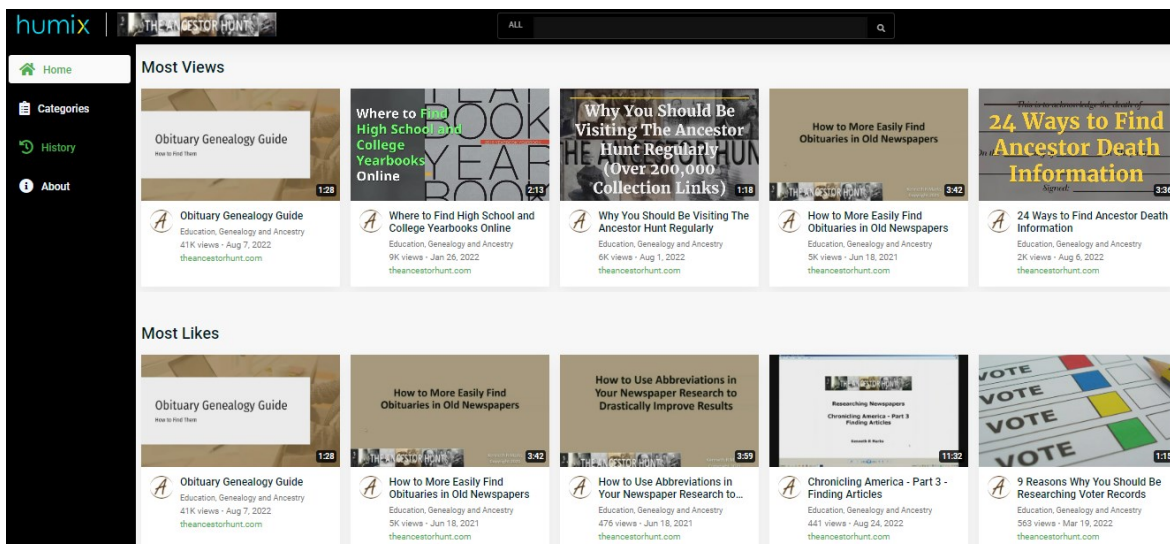
The easiest way to access a particular state's or province's list of collections and categories is via the [BY LOCATION](#) page.

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

Quicksheet of the Month

Using Dead Fred Genealogy Photo Archive to the Fullest



In short, Dead Fred is a photo archive. The site has been in existence for over 20 years. From the website: “**Dead Fred’s Genealogy Photo Archive**, a free, fun photo genealogy research website devoted to helping you visualize your heritage!”

If you are interested in obtaining a photo of your ancestors, you should try Dead Fred. There are not millions of identified photos, but you can search rapidly and determine if there is a hit for the ancestor you are seeking. Dead Fred has a few thousand people who have contributed photos to the site. There currently are about 24,000 surnames and over 163,000 records in the database. The main functions of the site are as follows:

[Detailed Search](#) – You can search by 12 different fields:

- Last Name
- First Name
- Maiden Name
- Date Range
- Age Range
- Country
- State/Province
- County
- Town
- Photographer
- Photographer State/Province
- Photo Type

[Post Photos](#) – If you wish to contribute a photo, you use this function.

[Surname Search](#) – You can select the surname from a list or enter a surname in a simple search box (this is called Quick Search), and the results will be all photos of people with that surname.

[Mysteries](#) – Search through the Mysteries section of the database, where there is incomplete information regarding the photo subject. You can enter 12 unique search criteria.

[Photographers](#) – You can search through a list of known photographers and the results are which photos in the database were taken by the selected photographer.

[Annuals](#) – There is a list of yearbooks, sorted by year, where you can look at the photo pages of yearbooks. There is not a great number, but it is worth a look.

[Keyword Search](#) – This search enables you to search the entire site by keyword.

There is an excellent FAQ section, which likely answers almost all questions a user might have. Dead Fred is a fun and easily usable site that might have a photo of your ancestor. To access the site, go to [DeadFred.com](https://www.deadfred.com)



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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.

Compare Pricing for Storied

Check out our pricing compared to other popular genealogy sites.

