

# Newspapers Online

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Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society

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Why are newspapers important to genealogists?

- Births
- Engagements/Marriages/Anniversaries
- Deaths/Obituaries
- Legal Notices/Court Cases
- Business News
- Social Notes/Local News/Gossip
- Job Notes/Military Service
- Moves/Relocations
- Photographs
- and more ....

Types of Newspapers

- Nationals: *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Christian Science Monitor*
- Large nationally distributed "locals": *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *London Times*
- Large locals: *San Jose Mercury News*, *San Antonio Express*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Newcastle Courant* (Newcastle-on-Tyne, England), *Winnipeg Free Press* (Winnipeg, Manitoba)
- Small locals: *Titusville Herald* (Pennsylvania)
- Ethnic papers: *Jewish Sentinel* (Chicago), *Edmonton Ukrainian News* (Edmonton, AB, Canada)

Subscription Databases at Santa Clara City Public Library

- *San Jose Mercury News* Historical Archive (1886–1922)
- Ancestry.com Library Edition
- Newspaper Source Plus
- TOPICsearch (EBSCO)

Subscription Databases at Santa Clara Family History Center

- Access Newspaper Archive
- Footnote.com
- 19th Century U.S. Newspapers (through Godfrey)
- 19th Century British Newspapers
- SmallTownPapers.com (through Footnote.com)
- Ancestry.com Library Edition
- WorldVitalRecords.com

## Subscription Databases at Santa Clara University

- Hispanic American Newspapers (1808–1980)
- *Los Angeles Times* Historical Archive (1881–1987)
- *New York Times* Historical Archive (1851–2006)
- 19th Century U.S. Newspapers
- *Washington Post* Historical Archive (1877–1993)

## Free Databases

- Library of Congress Chronicling America, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- California Digital Newspaper Collection, <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/>
- Catalog of Digital Historical Newspapers, <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/hnccoll/>
- WayBack Machine (Internet Archive), <http://www.archive.org/>
- Rootsweb.com

## Portals

- \*\*\*Wikipedia\*\*\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper\\_archives\\_online](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper_archives_online)
- Google News Archive, <http://news.google.com/>, <http://news.google.com/archivesearch>
- GenealogyBuff.com Newspaper Directory, <http://www.genealogybuff.com/np/>
- Cyndi's List, <http://www.cyndislist.com/newspaper.htm>
- OnlineNewspapers.com, USNPL.com (current papers)

## Database Basics

- Is database electronically created, transcribed, or OCR?
  - Electronic: probably fairly reliable index
  - Transcribed: varying quality; depends on who did index
  - OCR: quality of index depends on quality and condition of materials scanned
- Look for multiple access methods: search, browse
- Experiment to see how searches work
  - Uncommon names: basic search
  - Common names: restrict with advanced searches
  - Unexpected lack of results: test with common word or name, e.g., Smith
- If you find something, copy/save it; it might go away
- Check back with databases regularly; they are always adding new items

## The Tip of the Iceberg

The vast majority of newspapers (and other records) are still not available online. If you can't find a newspaper online, don't forget to look offline! But that is another class ....

Follow my genealogy blog at <http://ancestraldiscoveries.blogspot.com/> . You can contact me with questions at [janicemsj@gmail.com](mailto:janicemsj@gmail.com).