Read All about It!
Using Online Newspapers for Genealogical Research

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Why are newspapers important to genealogists?

- BMD: Births/christenings; engagements/marriages/anniversaries/separations/divorces; deaths/obits/probate
- School/College Attendance
- Legal Notices/Court Cases/Naturalizations/Land
- Business News/Politics
- Travel by Ship/Train
- Social Notes/Local News/Gossip
- Job Notes/Military Service
- Moves/Relocations
- Photographs
- and more . . .

Types of Newspapers (from a genealogist's perspective)

- 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), *Marin Independent Journal*
- Ethnic papers: *Jewish Sentinel* (Chicago), *Edmonton Ukrainian News* (Edmonton, Canada)
- Institutional papers: *Stars and Stripes*, Brandeis *Justice*, *Basic Bombardier* (Big Magnesium, Inc.)

Subscription Databases Free to Use at LDS FamilySearch Centers and Libraries

- NewspaperArchive.com
- 19th Century British Newspapers
- Ancestry.com Library Edition
- Fold3.com
- MyHeritage Library Edition (freely available newspapers only)
- FindMyPast.com (newspaper index only)

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Subscription Databases at California Genealogical Society

- NewspaperArchive.com
- Fold3.com
- Ancestry.com
- Historic American Newspapers (NewsBank)
- San Francisco Notices (local list of extracted BMD notices)

Subscription Databases at CSU San Jose

- Early American Newspapers Series 1 and 2 (NewsBank)
- America's Historical Newspapers
- African Newspapers 1827–1998
- Hispanic American Newspapers 1808–1980
- *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*

Subscription Databases at Santa Clara City Public Library

- *San Jose Mercury* (1884–current)
- *New York Times* (current)
- Ancestry.com Library Edition (in library only)
- FindMyPast (index; in Central Park library only)

Other Subscription Databases

- GenealogyBank.com (individual subscriptions)
- Accessible Archives (historic black and abolitionist newspapers): http://www.accessible.com/ (individual)
- Newspapers.com (from Ancestry; individual subscriptions)
- ObitsArchive.com (same collection as on GenealogyBank)
- *New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle* (ProQuest): SF Public Library (and at home with library card)

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/
- FultonHistory.com
- SmallTownPapers.com
- Google News Archve, http://news.google.com/newspapers
- Obituaries.com, Legacy.com
- WayBack Machine (Internet Archive), http://www.archive.org/
- Rootsweb.com, USGenWeb.org, NewspaperMap.com

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Portals

- ***Wikipedia*** http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper_archives_online
- Catalog of Digital Historical Newspapers, http://ufdc.ufl.edu/hnccoll/
- Google News Archive, http://news.google.com/, http://news.google.com/archivesearch***
- GenealogyBuff.com Newspaper Directory (personal site), http://www.genealogybuff.com/np/
- Cyndi's List, http://www.cyndislist.com/newspaper.htm
- OnlineNewspapers.com, USNPL.com, NewspaperMap.com (current papers)

Search Sites

- Elephind.com
- WorldCat.org

"Growth of Newspapers Across the U.S." map

- http://web.stanford.edu/group/ruralwest/cgi-bin/drupal/visualizations/us_newspapers, http://goo.gl/0eiYGF

Database Basics

- Is database electronically created, transcribed, or optical character recognition (OCR)?
  - Electronic: probably fairly reliable index
  - Transcribed: varying quality; depends on who did index, quality control
  - 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; most, especially subscription sites, add new items regularly

Lots of newspaper lessons, hints, and links

- http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html

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