

# **Extra! Extra! Read All About It!**

## **Using Newspapers to Enhance Your Genealogy Research**

Genealogy presentation at the Gulf Breeze Library

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There is no one website or any one place to go to find access to all newspapers. Newspapers can be found in paper, on microfilm, or digitized online. Although searching for family history in newspapers can be challenging and tedious, when you find the hoped for or unexpected, you will probably be glad you spent the time looking.

### **Look for these types of newspaper items:**

VITAL STATISTICS – birth, marriages/engagements, deaths/obituaries

LEGAL NOTICES – divorces, real estate transactions, delinquent taxpayers, probate, guardianship, letters left at the Post Office

COMMUNITY NEWS – smaller community news in a larger town/city newspaper: births, relocations, sicknesses, house guests, deaths

SOCIETY COLUMNS – social or fraternal organizations, sometimes weddings

ADS – promoting business of ancestor, prices of common items for sale

HOSPITAL NEWS –births, surgeries, general admission

NEWS ARTICLES – accidents, crimes, trials, politics

JURY LISTS

SHIP PASSENGERS LISTS – arrivals and departures

### **Special Newspapers:**

- Ethnic newspapers
- Religious denomination newspapers

### **Search Tips:**

- Cast a larger net than just the local paper where your ancestors lived, although that is a good place to start.
- LESS is usually MORE when searching in newspapers.
- Use Search Tips or Help at individual websites
- Try misspellings of given names and surnames
- Use abbreviations for given names
- Use nicknames for given names
- Use initials for given and middle names
- For married women, look for “Mrs. [husband’s given name or initials] Cook” rather than her given name.

## **Where can I find newspapers that were published in my ancestors' time and location?**

- *Cyndi's List* – [www.cyndislist.com/newspapers](http://www.cyndislist.com/newspapers) - Check out “General Resources” and “How To” under the Category Index
- *Growth of Newspapers Across the U.S.: 1690-2011* - [http://stanford.edu/group/ruralwest/cgi-bin/drupal/visualizations/us\\_newspapers](http://stanford.edu/group/ruralwest/cgi-bin/drupal/visualizations/us_newspapers)  
move slider across the time line to desired year; Click “View the Map”; zoom in to the area you are looking for; click on the circle; a list of papers (with links) will appear in the list below the map; click on a newspaper title to link to information in Chronicling America. Here you will find out the beginning and ending dates of publication, title changes, notes, and links to libraries with holdings of the paper.
- *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers* [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/)  
– Here you will find out the beginning and ending dates of publication, title changes, notes, and links to libraries with holdings of the paper.
- *Newspaper Map* – [newspapermap.com](http://newspapermap.com) - Click “Historical” on the blue tab at the top. Click on a marker to see a page of the paper for that location. Click on the image of the paper to go to the digital collection. Unlike Chronicling America, this site only links to newspapers with digital images online.
- *World Cat* – [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org) – Click on “Advanced Search.” In Keyword box, type a location; under “Year,” type a date range; under “Format,” choose “Newspaper,” and then search. A list of results will appear; when you click on one of them, more information about the item will display and, as you scroll down, you will see a list of libraries where you can find that paper.

## **Where can I see digital images of historic newspapers online?**

These sites are part of the Santa Rosa County Library System databases and need a library card to access from home. Use the Genealogy Links on the left toolbar at [www.santarosa.fl.gov/libraries](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/libraries) to find a link to the following sites:

- *America's Genealogy Bank* – Historical Newspapers search
- *World Vital Records* – Newspapers and Periodicals

*Ancestry Library Edition* – This site **cannot** be accessed from home. You must be in a library to use it. Under “Card Catalog,” search keyword box for “newspapers.”

The following sites are available for free and give access to digital newspaper pages:

- *Google News Archives* – [www.news.google.com/newspapers](http://www.news.google.com/newspapers)
- *NewspaperCat* – [www.newspapercat.org](http://www.newspapercat.org)
- *Historical Newspapers Online (University of Pennsylvania)* – [gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/hist/onlinenewspapers.html](http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/hist/onlinenewspapers.html)
- *Old Fulton NY Postcards* – [www.fultonhistory.com/fulton.html](http://www.fultonhistory.com/fulton.html)
- *Small Town Papers* – [www.smalltownpapers.com](http://www.smalltownpapers.com)
- *Elephind* – [www.elephind.com](http://www.elephind.com)

Other resources for locating newspapers online:

- *Online Historical Newspapers Site* - <https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/>

- *Lawson Research Services : Newspaper Links of Old* - <http://www.lawsonresearch.net/1/post/2012/09/newspaper-links-of-old.html>
- *ICON: International Coalition on Newspapers* – Newspaper Digitization Project - <http://icon.crl.edu/digitization.htm#USM>
- State archives – many states have newspapers online at the state archives website. Do a Google search with “historical newspapers” [name of state] “state archives.” Do not use [ ] in your search.
- Genealogical societies – may have newspapers or newspaper clippings online at their website. Search a location (usually a county) and “genealogy society.”

**Sources used for this presentation or recommended for your further study:**

Books:

Cooke, Lisa Louise. *Everything You Need to Know About How to Find Your Family History in Newspapers*. [United States], 2012.

Pinnick, Timothy N. *Finding and Using African American Newspapers*. Wyandotte, Oklahoma: Gregarth Publishing, 2008.

Online Webinars:

- Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search: genealogy AND newspapers
- Gary Toms, “Newspaper Research” at [http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/Community/Mid\\_Continent\\_Library/Newspaper\\_Research/Player.html](http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/Community/Mid_Continent_Library/Newspaper_Research/Player.html) (25 minutes). You can print a handout and bibliography to go along with the webinar.
- Other online webinars/lessons are available at Family Search through this link: [https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/results.html?fq=subjects\\_en%3A%22Newspapers%20and%20periodicals%2F%22](https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/results.html?fq=subjects_en%3A%22Newspapers%20and%20periodicals%2F%22)

Other:

FamilySearch has a Wiki page about newspapers in the United States and a section on newspapers for each state -

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Newspapers](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Newspapers)