



Black and White and Read Online:

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Genealogy has much in common with journalism, depending on the same "5W" concepts for interest. We start with "who", then continue with the statistics of "when" and "where" an event (the "what") took place. But what makes our ancestors interesting and unique is the "why" and "how". Newspapers can be used to expand our genealogical information and add depth to our research by giving answers (or at least clues) to these keys. Newspaper research is getting somewhat easier for the family historian, now that more newspapers are becoming available online.

Not all newspapers have/had the same focus. There are different types of publications, which have differing value to the genealogist.

Newspapers are not just obituaries. In the pages of a newspaper you will find everything from birth to marriage to death, with everything from legal notices to human interest stories in between.

You know why you want to read newspapers, the next trick is to find them.

- Determine the place and time period you want to check.
- Check in any/all directories and note the pertinent newspapers.
- Search online.
- Search offline.

You probably already know (or even subscribe to) a few of the most popular general online sources, which often include newspapers. The ones you want, however, might not be where you normally look.

- Look in the bibliography below for sources which may lead you to a specific newspaper's online archive.
- Try Amazon.com for books. Google for websites on newspaper research [I used **genealogy newspapers** for my search term]. And don't forget Cyndislist for hints and links (there are over 1000 links just in the category "Newspapers").

If you don't find it online, you may need to go "old school", so try:

- Newspaper Office
- Local Libraries
- Large Genealogical Libraries
- LDS Family History Library [catalog]

Cautions

- Remember to consider the information in the article (who supplied and why?)
- Verify all information.
- As in all genealogy, spelling is optional.
- When doing an online search, consider all possible misspellings (especially if OCR was used to index).
- AND DON'T FORGET TO CITE YOUR SOURCE!

Newspaper research can be rewarding and fun, as long as you keep it in perspective.

Bibliography

Books:

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- o Gregory, Winifred, Editor. **American Newspapers, A Union List 1821-1936**. New York: H.W. Wilson Co., 1937.
- o Szucs, Loretto Dennis and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking. **The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy (Revised Edition)**. Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, Inc., 1997.

Web Sites:

- o American Journalism Review - News Link. Listed by state. Not all papers have on-line archives; contact information provided. <http://www.newslink.org/news.html>
- o Chronicling America. Library of Congress. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- o National Digital Newspaper Program. Library of Congress. <http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/>
- o Newspaper Indexes / Archives / Morgues. <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/news/oltitles.html>
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- o Other Sources for Newspapers Online. http://metalab.unc.edu/slanews/internet/archives_other.html
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- o U. S. News Archives on the Web. [limited] <http://metalab.unc.edu/slanews/internet/archives.html>



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