

Newspaper Records

Identifying and Accessing

What you can find in newspapers

- Obituaries and other death announcements
- Birth and marriage announcements
- Special occasions such as anniversaries and reunions
- Divorce notices
- Reports on court cases
- Announcements for the public sale of land or property
- Comings and goings
- Town visitors
- Church and school activities
- Achievements/ awards
- Reports on local military personnel
- Missing person reports/ ads seeking separated family members
- General town news
- Lists of juries and people that needed to pick up their mail
- War listings – missing in action, killed in combat
- Accidents/ tragedies
- Other newsworthy items

Special challenges in searching newspapers

Newspapers in the U.S. have always been private companies. As such they have no rules governing their publication, geographic coverage, or preservation. They are **Difficult to Identify** and **Difficult to Access**.

Difficult to Identify

Step 1: Learn about the newspapers of the area

- Maps - Start with a map, and look for all major towns and cities around the area, whether or not they are within the county of interest.
- FamilySearch.org Wiki – learn about the newspapers of the state, county, and city
- USGenWeb.org – many of the states and counties have newspaper links

Step 2: Narrow down to a specific newspaper(s)

- Chronicling America – www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov
The Newspaper Directory is a great source for identifying newspapers
- State Archives and Libraries

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Accessing Newspapers

Step 1: Search for digital access for free

- Library of Congress - Chronicling America: www.loc.gov
- State Digital Collections
- Genealogical and Historical Societies
- Other Private digitization projects
 - Google News Archive: www.google.com/archivesearch
 - ProQuest : available at the CA State Library
 - Newspaper Indexes Online: <http://userdb.rootsweb.ancestry.com/news/>
 - The Olden Times: www.theoldentimes.com
 - ProQuest Archiver: www.pqarchiver.com/titles.html
 - Small Town Papers: www.smalltownpapers.com

Step 2: Search for digital access with payment

- Ancestry: www.ancestry.com
- Newspaper Archive: www.newspaperarchive.com
- Genealogy Bank: www.genealogybank.com
- Newspapers.com: www.newspapers.com
- Fold3: www.fold3.com
- World Vital Records: www.worldvitalrecords.com
- New England Historical Society: www.newenglandancestors.org
- Godfrey Memorial Library: www.godfrey.org
- News Library: www.newslibrary.com
- Paper of Record: www.paperofrecord.com

Step 3: Search for microfilm copies you can buy or borrow via interlibrary loan

- WorldCat: www.worldcat.org
- State libraries or archives
- Local university and public libraries or archives
- Genealogical and historical societies
- Family History Library
- Ethnic societies
- Major collections of Microfilmed Papers
 - Allen County Library: www.genealogycenter.org/Pathfinders/NewspaperMicrofilm.aspx
 - Midwest Genealogy Center at Mid-Continent Library: www.mymcpl.com/genealogy
 - American Antiquarian Society: www.americanantiquarian.org

Step 4: Search for repositories where you can access microfilm copies or originals on location