

FINDING FAMILY IN DIGITAL NEWSPAPER COLLECTIONS

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Pedigree charts only record names, dates, and places, but newspapers record our ancestors' stories.

SEARCH TECHNIQUES

When searching newspaper collections, the "less is more" policy is best. By searching only for a "surname" one may find important articles that a more detailed search may not. For example: "Featherstun" rather than "Francis M. Featherstun." will yield more results. Use quote marks around your search term, or use the site's "exact search" option if available. Individual's names may be abbreviated "Geo." instead of George, or may appear by their initials and surname such as "F. M. Featherstun." Search for surname variables. Read the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of each newspaper collection's website. Be sure to search for their friends, relatives, and neighbors. Also search for the town or county (Vicksburg or Warren County) where they lived to discover events in which they may have participated or others that significantly impacted their lives.

FREE NEWSPAPER COLLECTIONS

- **Chronicling America** - Sponsored by the Library of Congress the collection contains newspapers from 48 states, and it continues to grow. Publication dates range from 1789-1924. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
Tutorial http://library.uvm.edu/vtnp/?page_id=2030
- **Old Fulton Postcards** – A large collection of primarily 47 million New York newspaper pages, but recently more newspapers have been added from other states. It is absolutely necessary to read the "Frequently Asked Questions" section to learn how to properly formulate searches. <http://www.fultonhistory.com/> and new FultonSearch: <https://fultonsearch.org/>
- **Google News Archive** - The search engine on this site does not work. Use the [U. S. Newspaper Directory](#) at Chronicling America to find newspapers that were published in areas where your families lived. It will then be necessary to read page-by-page through the issues of interest. <http://news.google.com/newspapers>
- **Los Angeles Public Library** - Library card holders have home access to NewspaperArchive.com; ProQuest Newsstand; Historical *Los Angeles Sentinel* 1934-2005; Historical *Los Angeles Times* 1881-1990; Newsbank 1991 and later; and *The San Francisco Chronicle* 1865-1922. www.lapl.org
- **Archive.org** - This site has recently added a small collection of historical newspapers on microfilm. Enter a search term in quotes, and place a check in the search "full text of books" option. This allows one to search across all text, and microfilm collections. It does not do a good job locating a name or other search term in newspaper microfilm. A better method is to search for the newspaper title, then browse each issue page-by-page. <https://archive.org>
- **Harper's Weekly, 1857-1916** – Great content, and superb illustrations. <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000061498> and <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/serial?id=harpersweekly>
Civil War issues only: <http://www.sonofthesouth.net/>
- **Elephind** – The world's largest newspaper search portal. Search across 198,867,124 items from 4,209 newspaper titles. <https://elephind.com/>

- **Newspaper Yet Not Digitized?** - The VCGS Library has 106 titles containing newspaper abstracts. <https://venturacogensoc.org/libraryRecords.php>
- Many libraries and historical societies have scanned their newspaper microfilm collections. Use Google to locate libraries and historical societies where your families lived. Then check each one's website to see if their newspaper microfilm collection has been digitized.

LISTS OF HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS AND COLLECTIONS

- **U. S. Newspaper Directory 1690 to the present** is arranged by state, county, and city. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>

None of the sites listed below is all-encompassing. Sometimes a Google search for a newspaper title will reveal a somewhat hidden digital collection. As an example, the "Napa Register" is available through the Napa County Library.

- **Wikipedia** - A worldwide list of digital newspaper collections: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives
- **Ancestor Hunt** - This site provides an up-to-date listing of U. S. and foreign newspaper collections. <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>
- **Mexico** - National Digital Library of Mexico – Includes newspapers and other periodicals. <http://www.hndm.unam.mx/index.php/es/>
- **Advantage Preservation** - <https://directory.advantage-preservation.com/SiteDirectory> Hover cursor over icon on map to see the repository holding the collection. Not all digital collections are available online.

SUBSCRIPTION SITES

- **GenealogyBank** – 13,000+ newspapers. <https://www.genealogybank.com/>
- **Newspapers.com** – 16,400+ newspapers. <https://www.newspapers.com/>
- **NewspaperArchive.com** – 14,200+ titles. See Los Angeles Public Library in the list of "Free Digital Newspaper Collections" above. www.lapl.org
- **FindMyPast** – British, Irish, Canada, and World <http://search.findmypast.com/search/us-and-world-newspapers>
- **Ancestry.com** – Only available with a paid subscription through "Stories & Publications" category.
- **Fold3** – Includes titles from Chicago, Atlanta, San Francisco, Kentucky and 5 other locations. <https://www.fold3.com/> Free through Camarillo Library.

TUTORIALS AND INFORMATIONAL SITES

- **Ancestor Hunt** - U. S. and foreign newspaper lists: <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html>
- **GenealogyinTime** – First name abbreviations - <http://bit.ly/2uVH09g>
- **Ancestor Hunt** - *The One Absolute Best Way to Find More Ancestor Articles in Historic Newspapers Online*, April 20, 2017 blog: <http://bit.ly/2wYf3PM>