

Top Tips for Newspaper Research

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Orange County FamilySearch *Branch Out* Event

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- **Choose database wisely** - If the papers you primarily need or use are found in Genealogy Bank, you may not need access to Newspapers.com
- **Subscription papers** -
 - *Newspapers.com* - \$74.99 six months premium account, \$59.90 with Ancestry
 - Largest online newspaper archive: 846 million+ pages of historical newspapers from 26,900+ newspapers from the United States and beyond
 - *GenealogyBank* - \$19.99 a month or \$99 for 1 year
 - Over 15,000 Newspapers 1690–Today
 - 95% exclusive newspapers (not available online anywhere else)
 - 260 million obituaries
 - *Newspaper Archive* - \$158.88 per year
 - *Arcanum Newspapers* - \$8.50 a month
 - Eastern Europe newspaper database
 - 58 million pages from newspapers and other historic periodicals published in Eastern Europe
 - *British Newspaper Archive* - about \$11 a month USD
 - Includes some papers for free, many by subscription
 - In partnership with FindMyPast
 - 83,782,673 pages dating from the 1700s
- **Free papers** - There are so many free papers available online and in person at libraries and historical societies. Besides those, try the following:
 - *Newspaper Archive* (subscription, but available for free at the Orange County FamilySearch Center)
 - *Google News Archives* - Ambitious (abandoned, but still available) Google project
 - *Chronicling America* - Library of Congress
 - *Internet Archive* - a non-profit library of millions of free texts, movies, software, music, websites, and more.
 - *Veridian* - Collections included State, University, Religious, School, and International papers
 - State Archives and libraries, ex. California Digital Newspaper Collection, Missouri Digital Newspapers, Maine Newspaper Project

- **Contact the local library or historical society**
 - They are the one of the best resources for discovering what is available for a particular area. More and more libraries are including genealogy librarians who are eager to help.
- **Small papers vs. big papers**
 - Depending on the editor, small town papers freely printed all the details of the lives of those who lived in the vicinity. Bigger papers tended to carry bigger news. It's still worth it to check both if your ancestor lived nearby.
- **Name Variations**
 - Think of all the ways you can spell a name, including any common misspellings
- **Broad to narrow search**
 - Start big, then think small
 - Names - Full name, initials, Nickname
 - Locations - State, County, City, Town, Village
 - Dates - All time, Lifetime, Decade, Years, Months, Specific Date
- **Use filters**
 - Some databases have options to filter your results, ex. By obituaries, wedding announcements, birth announcements, etc.
- **Use wildcards**
 - QUOTATION MARKS ARE YOUR BEST FRIENDS WHILE SEARCHING. Sorry to scream that at you, but it will save you so much time. Using them narrows your search to only the terms within the quotation marks.
- **Boolean operators**
 - AND, OR, and NOT will help narrow your search results even further.
 - "John Fall" AND "Berwick Maine"
 - "William Smith" OR "Will Smith"
 - "Portland Maine" NOT Oregon