

FINDING & USING HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS



Presented by
Sue Mueller

OUTLINE

- Understanding digitized collections
- Limitations of accuracy of even primary sources
- Accessing obituary, SSDI records
- Books in and out of copyright
- Online newspaper collections
- Work around with Facebook

PUBLIC RECORDS

- Census records – 72 years (law)
- Birth certificates – 105 years
- Death certificates – 50 years
- Marriage licenses; wills
- Newspapers
- History (including family) books

LIMITATIONS OF DIGITIZED COLLECTIONS

- In order to search (usually pdf), scanning must have been OCR and clear copy
- Search function only as good as copy is
- Many google e-books scanned as images!
Cannot be searched

DIGITIZED COLLECTIONS

- Usually indexed by **machine**
- Use CREATIVE searching
- Use wild card *
- Narrow by date, place, if possible
- Add **keyword** where appropriate
- “First Last” name

CREATIVE SEARCHING

- Adams County, PA + cemetery records
- Thompson Boyle + genealogy
- John Bowser + Mary Helm + genealogy
- Margaret Anderson + obituary
- Ohio + free + death records

LIBRARY RESOURCES

- University libraries
- Local city/county libraries
- County library where ancestors settled
- Microfilmed newspapers
- Local indexes

LIBRARIES COULD HAVE

- County marriage index
- Newspaper obituary index
- Cemetery index
- Marriage index
- Local/regional, genealogy links

**DON'T FORGET COUNTY/REGIONAL
HISTORICAL/GENEALOGY SOCIETIES**

ONLINE LIBRARY RESOURCES

- Some for library card holders only
- HeritageQuest
- Subscriptions –Newsbank,
Newspapers, Fold3
- ECPL – obituary index, genealogy

ONLINE SEARCHES


- If using an index, start with
 - ✓ **Surname only**
 - ✓ No date
- Call library, talk to genealogist
 - ✓ May have resource room
 - ✓ Surname files
 - ✓ Business, company files







ARCHIVE.ORG


- Out-of-copyright materials (before 1925)
- Full text downloadable (pdf)
- Census records
- County history books
- Family history books
- Some state indices





ARCHIVE.ORG

Search the history of over 445 billion pages on the Internet.







INTERNET  ARCHIVE


 Sign In  EXIT


ABOUT CONTACT BLOG PROJECTS **DONATE** HELP TERMS JOBS VOLUNTEER PEOPLE





Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, and more.



8.5M



2.2M



2.7M


113K


1.1M


158K


179K



[Advanced Search](#)

Announcements

Pro-Airbnb advertising dominated recent political TV ads in San Francisco

Aaron Swartz Day – Hackathon, Privacy-enabling conference and Reception

Grant to Develop the Next Generation Wayback Machine

[SEE MORE](#)

Search here

NY STATE BMD INDICES

Media Type

<input type="checkbox"/> collections	4
<input type="checkbox"/> texts	72,532
<input type="checkbox"/> movies	9,668
<input type="checkbox"/> web	1,937
<input type="checkbox"/> audio	634
<input type="checkbox"/> data	12

[More](#)

Availability

<input type="checkbox"/> Available to Borrow	57,208
<input type="checkbox"/> Always Available	27,594

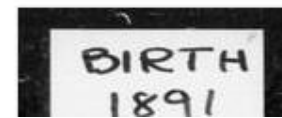
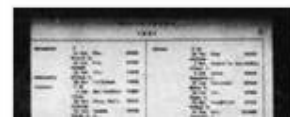
Year

<input type="checkbox"/> 2020	485
<input type="checkbox"/> 2019	669
<input type="checkbox"/> 2018	442
<input type="checkbox"/> 2017	375
<input type="checkbox"/> 2016	829
<input type="checkbox"/> 2015	1,597

[More](#)

Topics & Subjects

<input type="checkbox"/> new york	8,807
<input type="checkbox"/> washington	6,007
<input type="checkbox"/> obama	4,860
<input type="checkbox"/> california	2,937
<input type="checkbox"/> florida	2,000



HERITAGEQUEST

- Online, free with library card
- Family, lineage, and local histories
- Books (even in copyright)
- Owned by ancestry
- Download/view books
one page at a time

NEWSPAPERS - BIRTH

- Birth announcement
- Birthday parties
 - ✓ Age
 - ✓ Attendees (parent, grandparent, sibling names)
- High school/college graduation
- Join military

NEWSPAPERS - MARRIAGE

- Marriage license application
- Engagement announcement
- Wedding
- Anniversary celebration
(names of children)
- Years ago features

NEWSPAPERS - DEATH

- Dates of death, burial information, and even cause of death
- Obituaries around since 1800s
- Standard practice beginning end of 19th century
- Estate sales, executor, death notices
- Post-funeral thank you notices

SEARCH TIPS

- Search local newspaper and surrounding area newspapers
- Before estimated death date
- Funeral articles (pall bearers, church affiliation)
- Several months following death
- Search for death of spouse and/or siblings

OBITUARY LIMITATIONS

- Information in obituaries, death certificates usually provided by survivors
- Information may not be accurate
- Add updated/corrected information in brackets to a typed copy of original and include original with typed copy

ACCIDENTS

- National news
- Search for accident details/features
- *The Indiana Democrat*, Indiana, PA
Thursday, 16 Jul 1874, page 3

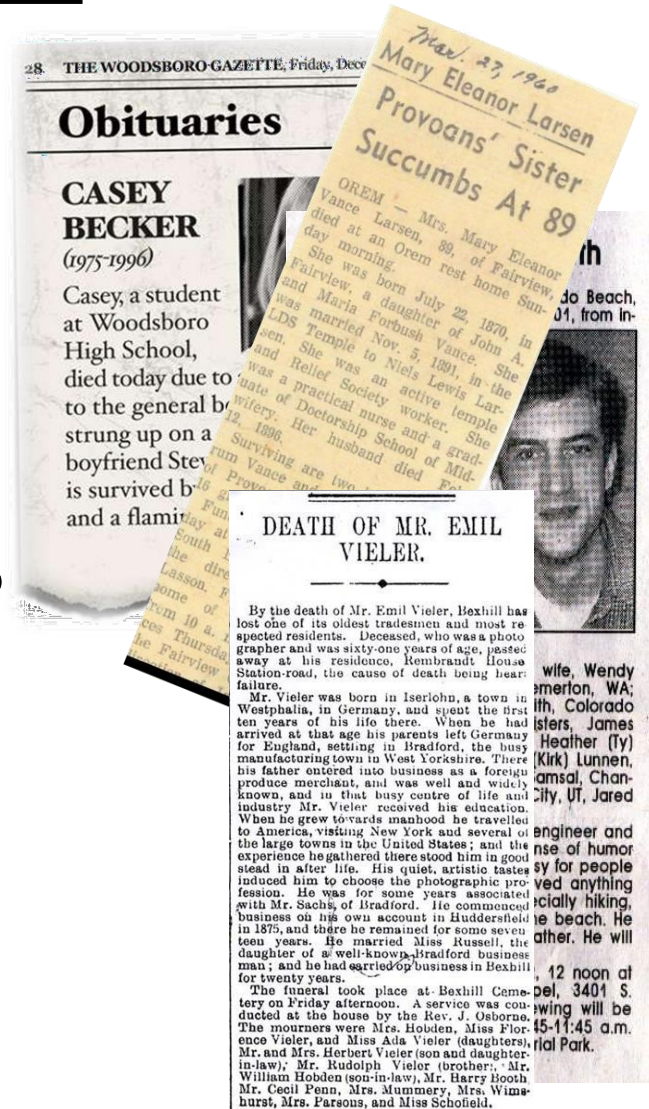
STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.—Two young men named Schreckengost, brothers, residing near Rural Village, Armstrong county, were struck by lightning on Wednesday afternoon of last week and instantly killed. They had been engaged in harvesting, and at the time of their sudden and terrible death were engaged in shocking wheat. A sudden storm coming up they were just about to quit work when the electric fluid descended and instantly deprived them of life. The one was a married man, with a family.

CURRENT NEWSPAPERS

- Newspaper home pages
- Use google search for story
- Use FB to have someone access for you
- Obituaries (only) through [legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com)

WWW.LEGACY.COM

- Major world newspapers
- Complete recent obituaries (2000 forward)
- Abbreviated obituaries, older dates
- Includes funeral home information
- May include picture



LEGACY.COM

Legacy.com®

OBITUARIES | FUNERAL HOMES | NEWSPAPERS | SYMPATHY GIFTS | FEATURES | MEMORIALS

 Search

Where Life Stories Live On®

More Options ›

Search

Getty / Chad Springer



SEARCH OBITUARIES BY NEWSPAPER



MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL
Milwaukee, WI



NORTHERSEY.COM

- ADVERTISEMENT -

LEGACY.COM

- ADVERTISEMENT -

OBITFINDER®


ObitFinder® searches obituaries from more than [1500 national & international newspapers](#).

The newspaper obituary information in ObitFinder® is updated daily, and searches obituaries dating as early as February, 2001.

<input type="text" value="First Name"/>	<input type="text" value="Last Name"/>	<input type="text" value="Keyword"/>	<div>Past 3 Days</div>
<div>United States</div>	<div>All States</div>	<input type="text" value="All obituaries"/>	<div>Past 24 hours</div>
<input type="button" value="Reset"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>		<div>Past 3 Days</div>
			<div>Past 2 Weeks</div>
			<div>Past 30 Days</div>
			<div>Past 6 months</div>
			<div>Past Year</div>
			<div>2010-2016</div>
			<div>2000-2009</div>
			<div>All Records</div>

[Obituaries Home Page](#)

Obituary Messenger



Free Obituary Alerts

E-mail notifications for specific names, towns, & more [Sign up](#)

Already registered? [Sign in](#)

OTHER NEWSPAPERS

- Stories and/or obituaries not included in larger newspapers
- Foreign language and other ethnic newspapers
- Religious newspapers
- School newspapers

HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

- Cyndi's List
- Chronicling America
- Godfrey.org
- Google newspapers
- BGSU site
- Theancestorhunt.com
- Newsbank
- Fultonhistory.com (alternate search)
- NY state historical newspapers
- PA newspapers

CYNDI'S LIST

- General resources
- How to
- Newspaper directories (alpha)
- Social networking
- Obituaries
- Books
- Magazines, journals
- Libraries, archives, museums
- Microfilm, microfiche
- Video + audio

CHRONICLING AMERICA

- Library of Congress
- Digitized, 1836-1925
- State indices of available newspapers
- Don't make search too restrictive

CHRONICLING AMERICA

➤ US newspaper directory 1690-2017


1. [The daily Democrat. \(Jamestown, N.Y.\) 187?-1879](#)
2. [The Post-journal. \(Jamestown, N.Y.\) 1966-current](#)
3. [The morning news. \(Jamestown, N.Y.\) 1885-1897](#)
4. [Jamestown evening times. \(Jamestown, N.Y.\) 189?-1???](#)

Libraries that Have It: The Post-journal.

Jamestown, N.Y. (1966-current)

(Jamestown, N.Y.) :

GODFREY.ORG



GODFREY LIBRARY

GODFREY EST. 1947
Memorial Library
ONLINE

The Internet Branch of Godfrey Memorial Library
A Library of Genealogy, History and Biography

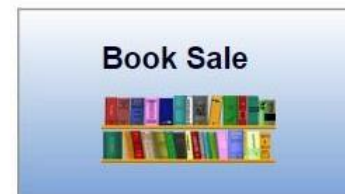
Hours
The Library is open to patrons
Tuesday, 9 am to 4 pm
Wednesday, 12 pm to 8 pm
Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm
Friday, 9 am to 4 pm
1st & 3rd Saturday, 9am to 1pm

Online Access is always 24/7!

HOME ABOUT US MEMBERSHIPS SEARCH EVENTS OPPORTUNITIES



New
Godfrey
Scholar⁺



Godfrey Memorial Library Scholar⁺ Home Page

Welcome suepasta to Godfrey Scholar Guest Level

SEARCH

Enter a first and/or last name in the boxes below and click search.
That will start a search for the name in all databases and certain
digital content within the category selected.

First Name Last Name

Category

Our most popular databases

Ed Laput
Cemetery Project

Newspaper
Archives

Godfrey Digital
on WVR

Helpful
Websites

GODFREY.ORG

BROWSE BY CATEGORY

Categories

[American Genealogical-Biographical Index](#)
[Biographies](#)
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[Finding Aids](#)
[Foreign](#)
[Funeral Home Records](#)
[Genealogies](#)
[Godfrey Digital Content on WVR](#)
[Helpful Websites](#)
[How to use the Scholar](#)
[Maps](#)
[Military](#)
[Most Popular](#)
[Newspapers](#) ←
[State and Local Histories](#)
[Vital Records](#)

Godfrey Memorial Library Scholar⁺ Helpful Domestic Websites

Our librarians and research volunteers have compiled 7470 links to websites that are helpful in researching history, biography, and genealogy within the United States. The links are organized by state, and within each state by category. Click on any number in the chart below and a page with the corresponding links will open.

Please let us know if you discover any broken links. And certainly feel free to tell us about links to websites that you use in your research and we will add them.

	African American	Cemeteries / Obituaries	Census	Church Records	Court & Probate Records	Directories (City & State)	Genealogies	Histories	Immigration / Naturalization	Maps	Military	Miscellaneous	Native American	Newspapers	Prison Records	Vital Records	Yearbooks	Total
Alabama	5	30		2	4	1	6	12		1	8			6		12	5	92
Alaska		4				1	2	4	2		3	1		2			1	20
Arizona		13		1		2	1	14	1		3		2	4	3	42	1	87 ₃₂

United States Online Historical Newspapers

Expand your research by checking out the United States Online Historical Directories [here](#).

GOOGLE INDEX ONLINE NEWS- PAPERS

Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas	California	Colorado
Connecticut	Delaware	District of Columbia	Florida	Georgia	Hawai'i
Idaho	Illinois	Indiana	Iowa	Kansas	Kentucky
Louisiana	Maine	Maryland	Massachusetts	Michigan	Minnesota
Mississippi	Missouri	Montana	Nebraska	Nevada	New Hampshire
New Jersey	New Mexico	New York	North Carolina	North Dakota	Ohio
Oklahoma	Oregon	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island	South Carolina	South Dakota
Tennessee	Texas	Utah	Vermont	Virginia	Washington
West Virginia	Wisconsin	Wyoming			

GOOGLE HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

C

[The Cabinet](#)

141 issues

May 27, 1992 - Dec 11, 2008

[The Calgary Weekly Herald](#)

216 issues

Jan 11, 1888 - Aug 17, 1894

[The Calhoun-Liberty Journal](#)

102 issues

Dec 21, 2005 - Apr 15, 2009

[Le Camarade](#)

9 issues

Jan 11, 1913 - Jun 7, 1913

[Camden Democrat](#)

2 436 issues

[Le Cahier](#)

1 issues

Sep 1, 1971 - Sep 1, 1971

[Calhoun Times](#)

1,511 issues

Dec 13, 1924 - Nov 29, 2008

[California Oil Worker](#)

19 issues

Feb 6, 1922 - Dec 18, 1922

[The Cambridge City Tribune](#)

2,428 issues

May 13, 1869 - Jul 27, 1939

[The Camp Verde Journal](#)

[The Calgary Daily Herald](#)

7,750 issues

Sep 8, 1888 - Nov 5, 1948

[Calhoun Times and Gordon County News](#)

957 issues

Jan 3, 1967 - Aug 26, 2006

[The California Star](#)

81 issues

Jan 9, 1847 - Dec 23, 1848

[Cambridge Reveille](#)

82 issues

Oct 27, 1817 - Dec 28, 1850

[La Campagne](#)

91 issues

[The Calgary Herald](#)

11,686 issues

May 1, 1929 - Jan 10, 1987

[Calhoun Times/rome News-Tribune](#)

10 issues

Dec 4, 2005 - Jan 7, 2006

[The Californian](#)

214 issues

Jan 4, 1893 - Dec 30, 1893

[The Cambridge Times](#)

148 issues

Jun 5, 1908 - Oct 15, 1919

[Le Canada](#)

14 699 issues

Pennsylvania Online Historical Directories - listed by county

Expand your research by checking out the Pennsylvania Online Historical Newspapers [here](#).

Unsure of which county your city, town or village is a part? Check out RootsWeb's Town/County Locator [here](#).

Adams	Allegheny	Armstrong	Beaver	Bedford	Berks	Blair
Bradford	Bucks	Butler	Cambria	Cameron	Carbon	Centre
Chester	Clarion	Clearfield	Clinton	Columbia	Crawford	Cumberland
Dauphin	Delaware	Elk	Erie	Fayette	Forest	Franklin
Fulton	Greene	Huntingdon	Indiana	Jefferson	Juniata	Lackawanna
Lancaster	Lawrence	Lebanon	Lehigh	Luzerne	Lycoming	McKean
Mercer	Mifflin	Monroe	Montgomery	Montour	Northampton	Northumberland
Perry	Philadelphia	Pike	Potter	Schuylkill	Snyder	Somerset
Sullivan	Susquehanna	Tioga	Union	Venango	Warren	Washington
Wayne		Westmoreland		Wyoming		York

Statewide

[Pennsylvania Business Directory, Ulman, 1854-5](#) - Free (Don's List)

[Pennsylvania Business Directory, Ulman, 1854-5](#) - Free (Historic Pittsburgh)

[Monongahela and Youghiogheny Valleys Directory, Thurston, 1859](#) - Free (RootsWeb)
- transcribed

BGSU, FREE BY STATE

Historical U.S. Newspapers Online: Home

[LibGuides](#) / [Historical U.S. Newspapers Online](#) / Home

A guide to historical U.S. newspapers that are freely available on the Internet.

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This LibGuide No Longer Being Updated

As of June 1, 2019 this LibGuide is no longer being updated because I am retiring at the end of June. If you are looking for newspapers that aren't listed here, a great source to try is:

- [The Ancestor Hunt: Newspaper Links](#)

Identify a U.S. Newspaper from a Place and Time

The Library of Congress's web site, *Chronicling America*, has a

Newspapers Are Arranged by State

To find the newspaper you want, click on the first letter of the alphabet for the state in which it was published.

Author of this LibGuide



THEANCESTORHUNT.COM

- Lessons
- Links
 - ✓ Obituaries
 - ✓ Newspapers
 - ✓ Photos
 - ✓ BMD links



STATEWIDE NEWS SITES

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Maine
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oregon
- South Carolina
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wyoming

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Pages Available: 7,735,815

Welcome!

The NYS Historic Newspapers project provides online access to a wide range of newspapers chosen to reflect New York's unique history. To search the entire collection, use the Search Tab. Or, click on a county to search or browse by geography.

Updates

Site restored with limited damage. Please [read more here](#).

Subscribe

Interested in hearing our latest news? [Subscribe](#) to our newsletter!

HISTORIC NY STATE NEWSPAPERS



Northern New York
Library Network



Empire State
Library Network

Click on a county to begin searching or browsing titles.

FULTONHISTORY.COM

- Over 51 million historical newspapers, US & Canada
- Tom Tryniski, retired engineer
- Totally free
- Use alternate search engine

FultonSearch

Alternative search interface for over **47,059,000** historical newspaper pages from www.fultonhistory.com (Old Fulton NY Post Cards). [Why?](#)

Peter Boyle postmaster

Type: boolean

Results: 50

Region:

New York

Date range: 1912 - 1916

Fuzziness: -

- ☐ Stemming
- ☐ Synonyms
- ☐ Related words

Search

[Reset form](#) | [Search help](#) »

[View papers](#) / [search by paper](#) »



Results: 3 files / 30 hits

Filter

#	Dates	Excerpt	Paper	Added
1	1912-1916	<p>10 hits</p> <p>TH» PO*TVILLB REVIEW *f * Get the Habit of making your friends happy on Christma</p> <p>...in Genesee Tuesday to cast their votes. Death of Mr. Peter Boyle. Postmaster, Boyle of this place received a message Sunday, telling him ...</p> <p>...York 13069 www.fultonhistory.com Filename: I:\Newspaper 15\PortVille NY Review\PortVille NY Review 1912-1916\PortVille NY Review 1912-1916 a - 2951.pdf ...</p> <p>Direct Link Highlighted Text</p> <p>Pages: « 2949 « 2950 2951 2952 2953 »</p>	PortVille NY Review	2011-12-05
2	1912-1916	<p>10 hits</p> <p>TH» PO*TVILLB REVIEW *f * Get the Habit of making your friends happy on Christma</p> <p>...in Genesee Tuesday to cast their votes. Death of Mr. Peter Boyle. Postmaster, Boyle of this place received a message Sunday, telling him ...</p> <p>...York 13069 www.fultonhistory.com Filename: I:\Newspaper 15\PortVille NY Review\PortVille NY Review 1912-1916\PortVille NY Review 1912-1916 - 0788.pdf ...</p> <p>Direct Link Highlighted Text</p> <p>Pages: « 786 « 787 788 789 790 »</p>	PortVille NY Review	2011-12-05
3	1913-1915	<p>10 hits</p> <p>THE BOLIVAR BREEZE, THURSDAY, OCT. 29,1914 -rnn-rrar FRIKNDSHIP. VICINITY LETT</p> <p>...on Henry Ray's lot in Ceres township. DEATH OF PETER BOYLE Postmaster Boyle of this place re- ceived a telephone message shortly ...</p> <p>...York 13069 www.fultonhistory.com Filename: V:\Newspapers 21\Bolivar NY Breeze\Bolivar NY Breeze 1913-1915\Bolivar NY Breeze 1913-1915 - 0519.pdf ...</p> <p>Direct Link Highlighted Text</p> <p>Pages: « 517 « 518 519 520 521 »</p>	Bolivar NY Breeze	2013-04-04

SUBSCRIPTION SITES

Review collection index before subscribing

- **Genealogybank.com**
- **Newspapers.com**
 - ✓ **Publishers Extra**
- **Newspaperarchives.com**
- **Ancestry.com**

NEWSPAPERS ON ANCESTRY

- All access subscription includes basic newspapers.com – search on newspapers.com site
- Ancestry has other newspapers
 - ✓ Use location search, or
 - ✓ Restrict search to stories and publications

RECENT RECORDS

- Online newspapers
- Google is your friend
- Funeral home sites
- Bridal/baby registries
- Realty transfers
- Social media

FACEBOOK

- Genealogy interest groups
- Random acts of genealogical kindness
- Random acts of photo restoration
- Genealogy translations
- City/county/regional genealogy groups

HELP FROM A “FRIEND”

- Use social media (Facebook)
- Ask for suggestions
- Search yourself – post request to access for-free source
- Ask others to search
- Translations

Questions?

Finding & Using Historical Newspapers
Sue Mueller, Genealogy SIG Organizer,
Computer Users of Erie

[suepasta \(at\) roadrunner.com](mailto:suepasta@roadrunner.com)



An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups