

Read All About It! Techniques to Find Your Ancestors in the Newspapers

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Types of Newspaper Articles to Look For

- Birth Announcements
- Bridal Shower Announcements
- Business Advertisements
- Crime Related Articles (Arrests, Trials)
- Death Notice
- Funeral Article
- Land Sales
- Local Interest/Historical Stories
- Marriage Announcements
- Obituaries
- Probate

Search Tips

- Use known nicknames
- Abbreviated names/initials (ex. J.B. Connolly)
- Proper addresses (ex. Mr. Connolly)
- For women, use the husband's name (Mrs. James Connolly)
- Search by location (including street address)
- Use variations for surnames
- Use multiple keywords to narrow results (ex. name, location, occupation, etc)
- Use library catalogue to look up newspaper abstracts that have been typed up
- Research in newspapers outside the area where the ancestor died (ex. past residences, where current family members, where they attended school)

OCR Transcription Errors:

- “m” transcribed as “rn”
- “e” transcribed as “c”
- “l” transcribed as “1”
- “o” transcribed as “c”

Newspaper Partner Databases (available remotely to American Ancestors members)

- These databases can be accessed by logging into AmericanAncestors.org and navigating to our Partner Databases From Home Page - <https://www.americanancestors.org/Search/External-Databases>
 - Boston Globe
 - Early American Newspapers
 - Gale General OneFile
 - Irish Newspaper Archives
- NewspaperArchive by Storied
 - The New York Times
 - Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers

Newspaper Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

- **Albany Argus: Records of Deaths and Marriages, 1826-1828** - <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/225/albany-argus-records-of-deaths-and-marriages-1826-1828>
- **Boston Evening Transcript: Genealogy Pages, 1911-1940** - <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/1655/boston-evening-transcript-genealogy-pages-1911-1940>
- **Boston Pilot: Irish Immigrant Advertisements (Search for Missing Friends), 1831-1920** - <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/510/boston-pilot-irish-immigrant-advertisements-search-for-missing-friends-1831-1920>
- **Christian Intelligencer: Death Reports of Reformed Dutch Church, 1830-1871** - <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/70/christian-intelligencer-death-reports-of-reformed-dutch-church-1830-1871>
- **Christian Intelligencer: Marriages (Reformed Dutch Ch.), 1830-1871** - <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/181/christian-intelligencer-marriages-reformed-dutch-ch-1830-1871>
- **New Hampshire Gazette: Newspaper Abstracts, 1756-1769** - <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/1654/new-hampshire-gazette-newspaper-abstracts-1756-1769>
- **New Hampshire: Marriage and Death Notices Published in Newspapers, 1848-1856** - <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/153/new-hampshire-marriage-and-death-notices-published-in-newspapers-1848-1856>
- **New York Evening Post: Death Notices, 1801-1890** - <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/1656/new-york-evening-post-death-notices-1801-1890>

- **New York Evening Post: Marriage Notices, 1801-1890 -**
<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/155/new-york-evening-post-marriage-notice-1801-1890>
- **Otsego County, NY: Newspaper Records, 1808-1831 -**
<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/208/otsego-county-ny-newspaper-records-1808-1831>
- **Portsmouth, NH: Abstracts from Newspapers, 1776-1800 -**
<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/480/portsmouth-nh-abstracts-from-newspapers-1776-1800>
- **Springfield [MA] Republican: Marriages and Deaths, 1847 -**
<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/164/springfield-ma-republican-marriages-and-deaths-1847>

Newspaper Databases (Free at Home)

- Ancestor Hunt
 - <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>
- Chronicling America (1789-1963)
 - <https://www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>
- Elephind
 - <https://elephind.com/>
- Google News Newspaper Archive
 - <https://news.google.com/newspapers>
- Small Town Papers
 - <http://www.smalltownpapers.com/>
- State Digital Newspaper Project Web Sites
- Google the name of the state and “digital newspaper program”
- Ex. Texas Digital Newspaper Program <https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TDNP/>

Newspaper Databases (Subscription Required)

- Arcanum Newspapers (The Eastern European Newspaper Archive)
 - <https://adt.arcanum.com/en/>
- British Newspaper Archive
 - <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

- GenealogyBank
 - <https://www.genealogybank.com>
- Irish Newspaper Archives
 - <https://www.irishnewsarchive.com>
- Newspaper Archive
 - <https://newspaperarchive.com>
- OldNews by MyHeritage
 - <https://www.oldnews.com>

Microfilm (at American Ancestors Headquarters)

- **Boston Evening Transcript, 1872-1912** – Request at 7th Floor Reference Desk
- Index to Obituary Notices in the Boston Transcript, 1875-1899 (F73.A25.A40 v.1-2) 1900-1930 (F73.A25.A41 v1-3) - 7th Floor Reference
- **Charles R. Hale collection of newspaper notices & headstone inscriptions** (F93 .H35 1949 Microfilm) - Connecticut newspaper notices are on reels H35-3375 - H35-3433 – in Offsite Storage
 - Also available on Ancestry.com - <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2900/>
- **Columbian Centinel, 1790-1799** (F73.1.C65) - Request at 7th Floor Reference Desk

Publications

Beidler, James. *The Family Tree Historical Newspapers Guide: How to Find Your Ancestors in Archived Newspapers* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books, 2018).

Chipman, Scott Lee. *New England Vital Records from the Exeter News-Letter, 1831-1865* (Vols. 1-5) (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1993).

Codman, Ogden. *Index of Obituaries in Boston Newspapers, 1704-1800* (Boston, Mass.: G.K. Hall, 1968).

Dunkle, Robert and Ann Lainhart. *Deaths in Boston, 1700-1799* (Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1999).

Also available remotely on AmericanAncestors.org at

<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/34/boston-ma-deaths-1700-1799>