

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

Melanie McComb, Senior Genealogist
April 2025



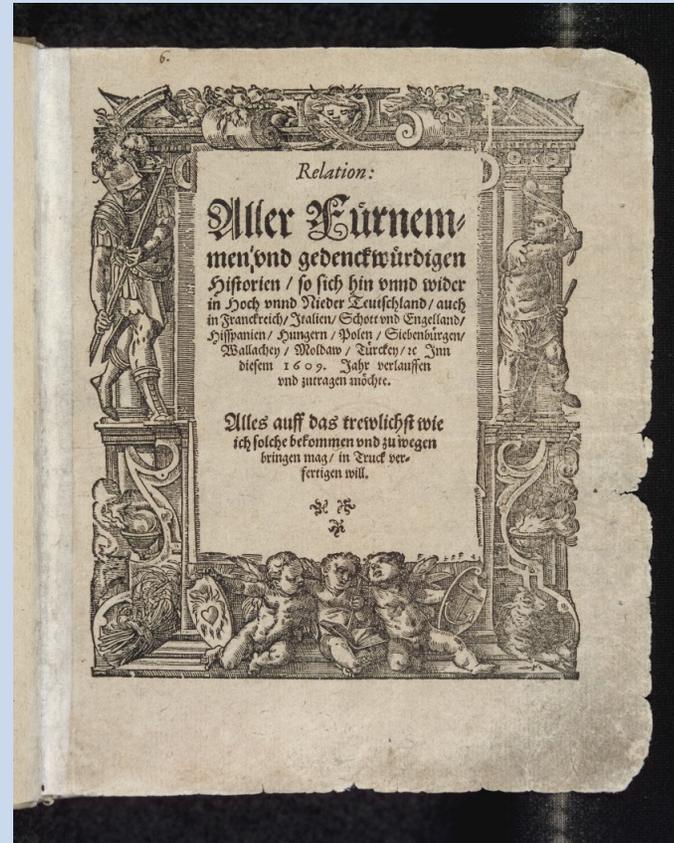
American Ancestors[®]
A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

Overview

- ✓ Brief History of Newspapers
- ✓ Types of Newspaper Articles
- ✓ Search Tips
- ✓ Newspaper Collections

History

- 1566 – Handwritten news sheets in Venice. War and politics was the focus.
- 1609 – First printed newspapers published weekly in Germany. Reported foreign news.
- Post-1695 – English relaxed censorship on newspapers, with more papers published in London as well as in American colonies like Boston and Philadelphia.
- 1830's – High speed presses were able to print newspapers at a cheaper cost.



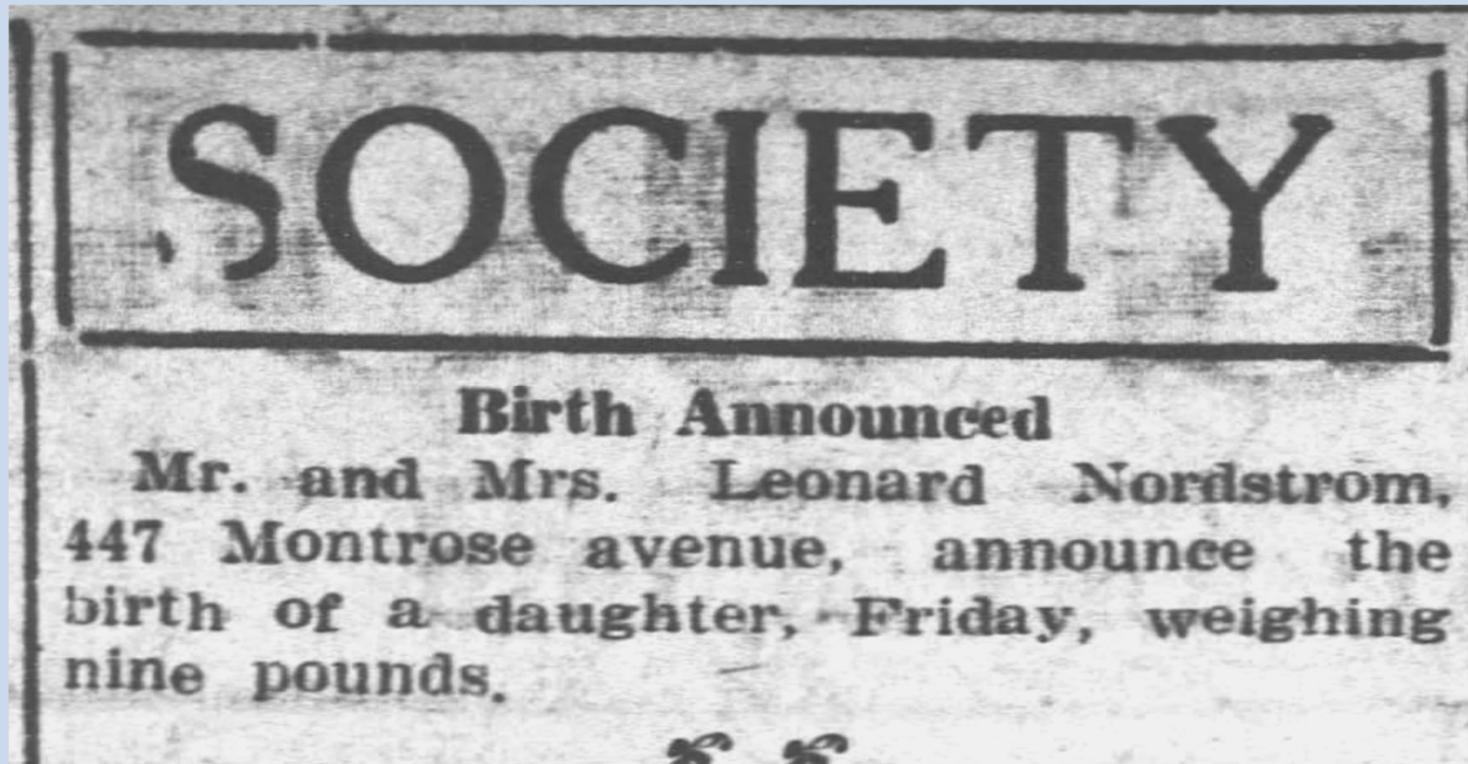
Title page of the *Relation aller Fürnemmen und gedenckwürdigen Historien* from 1609 (Wikimedia Commons)

Birth Announcements

- List parents and location where baby was born
 - Parents' residence may be listed
 - Later obituaries may list the hospital where baby was born when hospitalization became more common



Birth Announcement Example

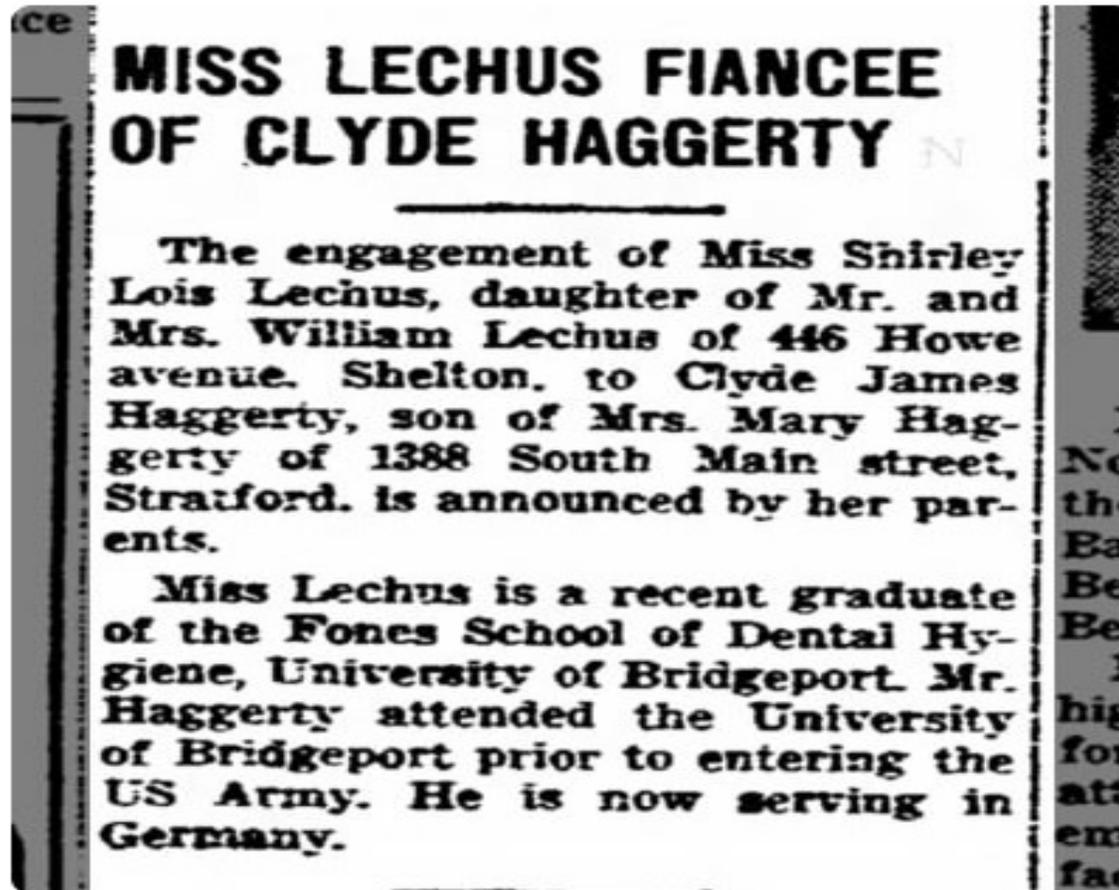


Salina Evening Journal - 26 Aug. 1919 (Newspapers.com)

Engagement Announcements

- Details can include the following:
 - Couple's parents' names
 - Residence of the couple
 - Upcoming wedding date (if date was set)
 - Occupation/education of the couple

Engagement Announcement



The Bridgeport Post – 22 Aug. 1954
(Newspapers.com)

Engagement Announcement Example

Bridal Shower Articles

- Bridal shower details were quite detailed - hosted by close family or friends
- Guests usually include relatives



BRIDAL SHOWER.—The home of Mrs. Thomas McCabe, Newton was the scene of a pleasing event on Friday evening, Dec. 28th, when her niece Miss Mary E. McCabe was tendered a miscellaneous shower by her friends of Newton and Kinkora, prior to her marriage. After the guests had arrived Miss McCabe was escorted to the seat of honor by Misses Anna McCabe and Lucretia Mulligan while Miss Jessie Mulligan played the wedding march. This was followed by the opening of the many beautiful gifts by Mrs. Isadore Smith, while Miss Mary E. Greenan read the charming verses. Miss McCabe in a few chosen words thanked the donors for their many expressions of kindness and good wishes. A dainty lunch was then served by the ladies, after which the remainder of the evening was spent in music and dancing.

Bridal Shower Example

Charlottetown Guardian – 9 Feb. 1929
(islandnewspapers.ca)

Marriage Announcements

- In lieu of a long write-up, these are typically shorter, but include the following details:
 - Date of marriage
 - Parents
 - Residence
 - Where couple married



MARRIAGES.

CORCORAN AND CAMPBELL—Nov 22, 1905, at the Roman Catholic Church, Togher, by the Rev Canon Powderly, P P, V F, Bernard Joseph, third eldest son of Thomas Corcoran, Dillons-town, to Bridget Mary, third eldest daughter of John Campbell, Hitchestown, Dunleer

*Drogheda Argus and Leinster
Journal – 2 Dec. 1905
(Findmypast.com)*

Marriage Announcement
Example

Wedding Articles

- Information about the couples' families
- Where and when the wedding took place
- Who was in the bride's and groom's wedding party
- The guests in attendance
- What the bride wore
- Where the couple will honeymoon
- Future residence of the couple



SULLIVAN—CALLAGHAN WEDDING.—A quiet but pretty wedding was solemnized in St. Patrick's Church, Ottawa, when Mary Callaghan, became the bride of Francis E. Sullivan. Rev. Father Gorman officiated. The bride looked lovely in a gown of white satin with overdress of gold lace, blue velvet and gold hat, and corsage bouquet of sunset roses. She was attended by her sister-in-law, Mrs. W. J. Callaghan, who wore a white gown, black picture hat and corsage bouquet of Killarney roses. Mr. W. J. Callaghan was groomsman. Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan left later for Boston and New York and Vernon Bridge P. E. I. where they will in future reside.

Wedding Article Example

Charlottetown Guardian – 25 Feb. 1920 (islandnewspapers.ca)

Obituaries

- Include the following:
 - Details on the deceased's parents
 - sometimes mentioning their full names
 - Siblings
 - Spouse
 - Children
 - Other surviving relatives
 - ex. Grandchildren, nieces, nephews

Obituaries Cont'd

- Details of the death are noted
 - Date of death
 - Location where ancestor died
 - Sometimes hometown is noted
 - Cause of death in some cases
 - Could be a mention to a "long illness"

Obituaries Cont'd

- Funeral home arrangements
 - Were flowers accepted or were donations asked?
 - For donations, what organization were funds requested for?
 - This may be a crucial clue into your ancestor's health or membership associations
- Location for services and burial
 - Family's house of worship mentioned?



Obituary Example (1884)

One of the most really beautiful and edifying marks of a long, well-spent life, is a happy, Christian death. Such was the demise of Mr. Philip Rooney, of Montague, Lot 5^s, on the 25th ult. Mr. Rooney was a native of the County Fermanagh, Ireland, born in 1805, and was a real, warm-hearted, genial Irishman. During his illness his spiritual wants were lovingly ministered by his beloved pastor, Rev. Wm. Phelan. He died as he lived, at peace with God and man. His remains were interred in Montague cemetery, in a manner becoming a good, practical Catholic. May his soul rest in peace.

Herald – 16 Apr. 1884. Accessed from Library and Archives Canada microfilm.

CORCORAN (New York)—On July 26th, 1957, at his residence, 21 15 45th Avenue, Long Island City, Thomas James Corcoran, fourth son of the late Thomas and Brigid Corcoran, Dillonstown, Dunleer, Co. Louth, and brother of the Very Rev. P. Corcoran, P.P., Collon. Fortified by the Rites of the Holy Church; deeply regretted by his sons, daughters, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, and a large circle of friends. Funeral took place on July 30th after Solemn Requiem Mass at St. Mary's, Long Island City, to Calvary Cemetery. R. I. P.

Drogheda Independent –
17 Aug. 1957 (Irish
Newspaper Archives)

Obituary Example (1957)

Funeral Announcements

- Following the death there is an article that may give specifics on the funeral ceremony:
 - Was it well attended?
 - Who were the pallbearers?
 - Place and date of burial



FUNERAL SERVICES — The funeral of Mr. Edward McKenna, Iona, was held from his late residence November 15th, to St. Michael's Church, Iona, Mass was celebrated by his pastor, Rev. Charles McCarthy who also conducted service at the graveside. The pallbearers were: Messrs, Joseph Beard, Joseph Slavin, Basil Slavin, Michael Morrissey, John Connolly and P. J. McKenna.

Funeral Announcement Example

Charlottetown Guardian – 21 Nov. 1942
(islandnewspapers.ca)

Crime Articles

- Newspapers carry a wide variety of articles about local crimes
 - Recap on event
 - Witness stories
 - Trial proceedings



St. Louis Post-Dispatch – 24
May 1934
(Newspapers.com)

SWINDLERS GOT FORTUNE ... BY FRAUDS SAY POLICE

Opened "Fake" Stores in Several Cities, is Charge

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 8.—Three alleged swindlers who are charged with having obtained thousands of dollars in several cities by means of a fake merchandise scheme are under arrest to-day and the police say they are hot on the trail of other members of the gang.

According to the plan said to have been worked here, the gang opened up a merchandising store and a checking account. After obtaining goods first with good checks and later with bad, they are accused of having shipped them to Brooklyn, closed up their store overnight and disappeared. They are said to have pramided their checking accounts with as many

worthless checks as they could negotiate.

Local police say that the gang worked in New York, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Newport, Ky., Cleveland, Detroit, Mt. Clemens, Mich., Gary, Ind., and East St. Louis.

Morris Moskiwitz, Isidore Slegel and Abraham Rohrllich are the men under arrest. They were found at a hotel here under assumed names, on information supplied by the New York police.

The Meriden Journal, 8 Jan. 1917, p. 3.
Accessed on www.newspapers.com

Marriage of Isidor Siegel and Clara Rohrlich

10 H-1904
 THE CITY OF NEW YORK.
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. STATE OF NEW YORK. No. of Certificate. **3294**

CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF MARRIAGE

OF *Isidor Siegel* and *Clara Rohrlich*

Groom's Residence	<i>Newark N.J.</i>	Bride's Residence	<i>213 S. 3rd St. Bklyn</i>
Age	<i>25</i>	Age	<i>23</i>
Color	<i>White</i>	Color	<i>White</i>
Single, Widowed or Divorced	<i>Single</i>	Single, Widowed or Divorced	<i>Single</i>
Occupation	<i>dry goods dealer</i>	Maiden Name, if a Widow	<i>Clara</i>
Birthplace	<i>Romania</i>	Birthplace	<i>Romania</i>
Father's Name	<i>Heinrich Leib Siegel</i>	Father's Name	<i>Isidor Rohrlich</i>
Mother's Maiden Name	<i>Hannah Goldberger</i>	Mother's Maiden Name	<i>Miriam Rabinowitz</i>
Number of Groom's Marriage	<i>first</i>	Number of Bride's Marriage	<i>first</i>

I hereby certify that the above-named groom and bride were joined in Marriage by me, in accordance with the Laws of the State of New York, at *131 Havemann St.* (Street) in the Borough of *Bklyn* City of New York, this *3* of *April* 19*11*.

Signature of person performing the Ceremony: *Leib Rose*
 Official Station: *Rabbi of Cong B. J.*
 Residence: *158 Rivington St*

Witnesses to the Marriage: *Max Mendelsohn*

NO MUTILATED CERTIFICATE WILL BE RECEIVED.

Historical Vital Records web site, New York City Municipal Archives

Tip

Research the people
associated with your
ancestor for additional
records

Probate

- When an ancestor died intestate (without a will), descendants needed to be sought out to divide up the deceased's assets (particularly the land) and settle up any debt that the deceased incurred
- Notices placed in newspapers for a number of weeks

**CANADA
PROVINCE OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

IN THE PROBATE COURT

the 7th day of August, A. D., 1942

**In Re Estate of Joseph Rooney
formerly of Morell in Kings County
late of Cardigan in Kings County
in the said Province, Parish Priest,
deceased, testate.**

**To the Sheriff of the County of
Kings County or any Constable or
literate person within said County**

GREETING:

**WHEREAS upon reading the peti-
tion on file of Rev. Owen Kiggins
of Georgetown in Kings County
aforesaid, Parish Priest, and Dennis
Rooney of Cherry Valley in Queens
County in said Province, Farmer,
the executors of the above named
estate, paying that a citation may
be issued for the purpose herein-
after set forth: You are therefore
hereby required to cite all persons
interested in the said Estate to be
and appear before the Judge present
at a Probate Court to be held in the
Court House in Charlottetown in
Queens County, in the said Province,
on Thursday the 10th day of Sep-
tember next coming, at the hour of
eleven o'clock forenoon of the same
day to shew cause if any they can**

Probate Example

Charlottetown Guardian – 10 Aug. 1942
(islandnewspapers.ca)

Land Sales

- Land for sale was posted in newspapers to attract buyers
- Land sales that occurred were also recorded
 - Grantor and grantee may be related - esp. If sale amount was nominal (\$1)

Shifting Soil.

Real Estate Transfers, Reported by Abbe
& Ellison Abstractors.]

C J McAllaster to Olof Ulmstedt e½ lt
12 16-13-3, \$30.

N B Robson to Ephreham Hawk lts
67 69 n 3d st T & M add, \$870.

W T Harris to James Neil lts 145 147
149 Main st Salomon, \$60.

E C Merrifield to Wm H Wonn lt 10
bk 4 R & A add, \$250.

G A Gould to Thos McGrath pt sec 20
and 29-13-1.

Drusilla Parkin to Conrad Schwartz
lts 10 12 bk 126 Herington, \$50.

Peter Dougherty to Peter Cairns s½
ne¼ 19 pt s½ nw¼ 20-16-2, \$1.

Patrick Cairns to same ne¼ se¼ 19-16
2, \$1.

Land Sale Example

Abilene Weekly Reflector – 23
Nov. 1899 (Newspapers.com)

Local Interest/Historical Stories

- Anniversaries of events will be posted
 - Ex. Founder's day, memorial for locals who died in a tragedy
- Military Articles About Current and Former Residents
- Neighborly disputes and other civil court issues

Charlottetown Guardian –
24 Feb. 1945
(islandnewspapers.ca)

Former Islander In Lively Action With U. S. Forces

WITH THE 45TH DIVISION OF THE 7TH ARMY IN FRANCE—Crawling to within 20 yards of a German machine-gun emplacement, Private Michael J. Doherty of 21-15 45th Avenue, Long Island City, knocked it out with a rifle grenade. The action occurred on the 45th "Thunderbird" Division's front in France when Doherty's company was halted in its advance by the "Kraut" gunners.

"We had been advancing through one of the most heavily-wooded sectors I have ever been through when the Jerry gun opened up and pinned us down," Doherty declared.

"The layout of the front was such that we had to go through a break in a ridge right where the enemy gun was located.

"We all crawled around through the brush and tried to get a shot at the gun with our rifles. But the trees and bushes were too thick. Everybody took some shots but we could not stop it.

"As the bushes and trees were working entirely in favor of the Germans I decided they could serve to our advantage also," Doherty continued.

"So I worked my way over to one side of where we were pinned down and started to crawl in a wide circle which, if things came out okay, would bring me right up to where I could get the gun with a hand grenade or a rifle grenade.

"The only trouble was I didn't know exactly what else I would find in the underbrush as I circled around. However, as it was, things came out all right but I could only get within about 20 yards of the gun.

Local Interest/Historical Story
Example

Charlottetown Guardian – 24 Feb.
1945 (islandnewspapers.ca)



"It was too far to throw a hand grenade so I shot a rifle grenade at it, or rather where I thought it was. After the grenade exploded the gun didn't shoot any more.

"In a little while we all worked our way to the position and found the grenade had done the work. The gun was finished," Doherty concluded.

Doherty's wife, Mrs. Rose Doherty, and their three-year-old son, Michael, Jr., make their home at the Long Island City address. The soldier has been awarded three campaign stars, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Good Conduct Medal.

(Pvt. Michael J. Doherty is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Doherty, Vernon Bridge, P. E. I. He enlisted in the U. S. 7th Army, 45th Division, and has been in Italy for the past two years. Michael has two brothers in the Canadian Army, Gnr. Owen Doherty in France, and Cpl. Dennis Doherty in Holland.)

Local Interest/Historical Story
Example



**MR. AND MRS. PHILIP ROONEY
CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING
Twelve Children Present, of Whom Seven Are in Religious Life**

Ordeal was the rejoicing at Cherry Valley, P. E. I. on the Feast of Good St. Anne, Thursday, July 26th, 1904, the occasion being the celebration of the Fifty-first Anniversary of the Marriage of Mr. Philip Rooney, formerly of Iona, P. E. I. and Miss Ellen McKenna of Vernon River, which had been solemnized in St. Joseph's Church at the latter place in 1854, the Night of Mass having been celebrated by the late Rt. Rev. Monsignor James Pellan, D. D. For many years the happy couple had resided at Iona, where they had surrounded themselves to all with whom they had come in contact. However, about the year 1880, they moved to Cherry Valley, where they have since resided. Now, after fifty years of happily married life, they have celebrated their Golden Jubilee, surrounded by their twelve children, seven of whom, five sons and two daughters, are in religious life, some of whom had come from the distant points to be present at this most auspicious event.

The family comprised fourteen children, ten sons and four daughters, whose names are as follows: Rev. Joseph Rooney, Marcell, P. E. I.; Master of Ceremonies. Seated in the Sanctuary were: Rt. Rev. O. J. McEllan, D. D., Sumneride, Vice-General of the diocese; Rt. Rev. Monsignor Maurice McDonald, Tracadie; Rev. P. D. McQuinn, Vernon River; Rev. J. A. Murphy, D. D., Rector of St. Dunstan's University; Rev. Father Ignace of the Paulist Fathers of New York; Rev. A. J. McIntyre and Rev. P. Hogan of Charlottetown; Rev. J. McQuinn and Rev. R. McKenna of St. Dunstan's University; Rev. D. P. Crossin of Fort Augustus; Rev. Kenneth McPherson, St. Margaret's; Rev. W. V. McDonald, New River; Rev. B. Cowden, St. Theresa's; Rev. C. McCarthy, Iona; also Rev. J. C. McDonald, Rev. Leonard McDonald and Rev. J. McEwan. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion and was filled to capacity. The choir under the capable direction of Mr. J. A. O'Keefe, with Miss Mary Collins, daughter of Dr. J. T. Collins, as organist, rendered the Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At the Offertory the "Sub Tuum" by Lambach was sung. At the conclusion of the Mass, Mr. and Mrs. Rooney knelt at the sanctuary-rail and renewed their marriage vows.

mother that depends the christian atmosphere of the home. It is she who brings the child into the world, feeds and clothes it and brings it up to maturity. She rules the home as did Rachel and Sara in Scriptural times, was in heavenly doctrine and faithful in transmitting that doctrine to her children.

This happy couple have passed half a century living together and no doubt at times they have come in contact with little thorns by the wayside, but these are forgotten today in the joy of being surrounded by their children. His Excellency stated that marriage is essential because God is in it, and that the blessing given to every newly-married couple extends to their children and may we not, in a sense, include as spiritual children, the members of those vast congregations over whose souls the worthy sons of this worthy couple have charge. We are told that the mother of a priest is assured of her eternal salvation and if this be true, then the heart of this dear mother must be filled with oriental joy, knowing five of her sons as priests of God.

forward to it for many years past. He said that he had been pastor of Vernon River Parish for the last twenty years and that during that time that he had always noted the wonderful unity of christianity in Mr. and Mrs. Rooney and their family. As parish-pastor, he wished to praise the beautiful example set by this worthy couple and which show such good results. It is a home in which the law of God rules. The members of this family practice their religion at all times, publicly and privately. These jubilarians have brought up their family nobly. Father McDonnell then thanked His Excellency and the visiting clergy for their presence in the sanctuary of his church today. Concluding his remarks, he said that this is an event that it would be hard to duplicate and he thanked the jubilarians for their hospitality.

Father Lyons of the Paulist Fathers of New York then spoke, saying that he had come among them as a stranger but that he no longer felt so such. He experienced a tremendous joy in being present here today and was deeply edified with

arrived in this province on the day of the Jubilee, having made that long journey to be present at this event. He was accompanied by Rev. Dr. Sullivan, another nephew of the jubilarians, who is stationed about two hundred miles from Charlottetown, N. W. T.

Included among the assembled clergyman there were so many sons, nephews, grand-nephews and cousins of the jubilarians that it would be hard to count them. It is needless to say that the rest of the day was spent in a most enjoyable manner, many guests remaining until night.

Among the honored guests at the supper-table were the Hon. W. J. P. MacMillan, Premier of Prince Edward Island, and Mrs. MacMillan. Being called upon, the Honorable Premier gave an inspiring and appropriate address. He said that he considered it an honor and a privilege for himself and Mrs. MacMillan, to be present at such an auspicious event. He warmly congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Rooney, paying a glowing tribute to the manner in which their sons and daughters had gone forth and brought honor to the name of our fair Province, their birthplace, and in return, this province is proud and justly proud of so remarkable a family. He expressed many other complimentary remarks and wished the jubilarians a long life of happiness and prosperity.

As the evening drew to a close, the guests sang "Ode Have the King" and departed for their respective homes, carrying with them the sweet memory of having spent one of the happiest days of their lives.

**Peters Road
And Vicinity**

A decided change in weather conditions has lately resulted in a measure the unfavorable period of drought, and a decided improvement in grain and stock crops is apparent.

Having completed the venerable period of fifty years as a place of worship and religious services, the Presbyterian Church at Peters Road has been extensively renovated. The interior has been cleaned, painted and papered, and the steeple platform has been extended. The work, under the direction of the Ladies' Aid was performed by Mr. Joseph Aorn, Glen Williams and reflects much credit to his skill in the various phases of his contract. The Church now presents a remarkably pleasing appearance in its new dress. Special services were held on July 26th commemorating the Golden Anniversary of its interesting history.

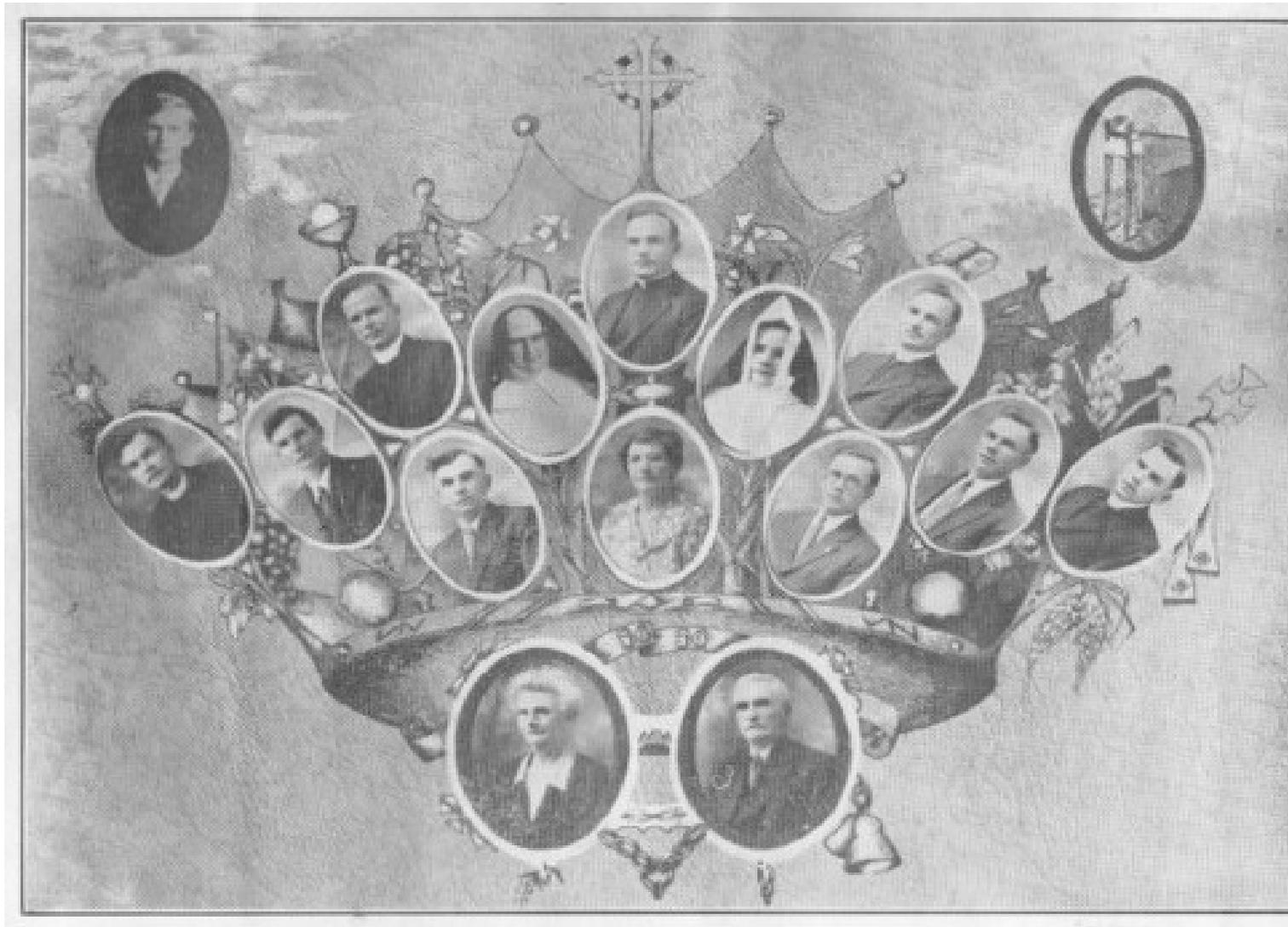
Quite a number of visitors are now in this community, where they will spend their vacation with relatives and friends.

Mrs. Blanche Johnston and son Harry, with party, Miss Hime and Mrs. Bain, all of Toronto, are spending their vacation in their summer home near the invigorating waters of the Gulf, and incidentally are visitors at the homes of relatives Mr. and Mrs. George MacDonald and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. MacKinnon and family, Peters Road, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnston and family, Murray Harbor North.

Mrs. Edith MacKay of West Newbury, Mass. is now spending her mid-summer holidays at Peters Road with her son, Raymond and aunt

Local Interest/Historical Story Example

Charlottetown Guardian – 1 Aug. 1934 (islandnewspapers.ca)



Local Interest/Historical Story
Example

Charlottetown Guardian –
1 Aug. 1934
(islandnewspapers.ca)

A Dickinsonian Aged 103.

A few days ago the REFLECTOR asked who was the oldest person in Dickinson county. A valued subscriber in Holland township informs us that the prize long-liver resides in that township. His name is Francis Dougherty and he is 103 years of age. He was born in Ireland in 1788 and emigrated to Canada 52 years ago. Three years ago he came to Kansas where he lives with his son in Holland township. He has been hale and hearty and is apparently as young as he was 40 years ago. He has, until four weeks ago, never been sick or taken medicine in his life. During the past month he has felt somewhat under the weather but is still in fair health. He used tobacco

constantly for 70 years only leaving off last fall. Whether that has had any effect on his spring's sickness or not is not known but the tobacco using certainly never produced any apparently injurious results. Since coming to Kansas he has made a trip back to Canada, traveling alone. He returned from there to Kansas last fall and to those who asked if he was not afraid to journey alone he laughed and gave them to understand that he was all right. Mr. Dougherty seems to be pretty well in the lead. If there is an older person in the county we would like to hear of it.

Abilene Daily Reflector, 13 June
1891, p. 4, Newspapers.com

Business Advertisements

- Regional newspapers may have advertisements for your ancestor's business and include the following details:
 - Name of business
 - Address
 - Types of goods

Guanos, Manures, & Seeds.

JOHN CORCORAN,
BALLYCASTLE.

Begs to notify to his numerous Customers and the Public generally that he has received per Rail to Killala and s.s. "Ollvo" to Killybegs Pier

VERY LARGE CONSIGNMENTS OF ABOVE COMPRISING OHLEN-DORFF'S CELEBRATED PERUVIAN GUANO, CROSS' FERUVIAN GUANO, SPECIAL POTATO MANURE, BONE COMPOUND, and XXX GRASS MANURE, 35 to 37 per cent Phosphate guaranteed.

The Seeds, as usual, are selected with the greatest care and judgment, and will be guaranteed fresh and true to kind.

NO OLD STOCK ON HANDS.

Farmers desirous of getting **GENUINE, HONEST VALUE** should purchase their requirements from J. C. at his Stores in Ballycastle and Ardnagor.

The best value at the lowest possible price. Terms very moderate.

F
age
neve
—F
and
allo
and
man
a ra
Win
£70,
a ra
extr

Fi
Flat
huni
(99-
unde
for c
will
publ
after
valu
10lb
fied
| •

Business Advertisement Example

Western People – 26 May 1900 (Irish Newspaper Archives)

Personals

- Newspapers were the social media of our time
 - Announcements were made of people visiting from out of town visiting the area on holiday
 - If visiting relatives, they were noted
 - Local neighbors in the hospital
 - People moving and to where
 - Local events occurring

The many friends of Mr. F. D. Brehaut are glad to see him out again after his recent illness.

A Roll Call Service was held in the Murray River Baptist Church on Wednesday, November 6th. Rev. Duncan conducted the service and a splendid address was given by Mrs. Waghorne. The program consisted of a solo by Miss Vernita Keenan, chorus by girls, a selection by the Murray River Ladies Quartette, also an appropriate selection by the choir "The Calling of the Roll" under the direction of Mrs. T. A. Keenan.

Mrs. Walter Dalziel is convalescing at her home, after a serious operation in the P. E. I. Hospital.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Bert MacLeod on the birth of twin sons on Nov. 1st.

The many friends of Mr. W. R. Keenan are sorry to learn of his continued illness and wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Levert Graham and Mr. Carl MacLeod left for St. John, N. B., where they have taken a position.

Mr. and Mrs. Olive Hume have taken up their residence in Dartmouth, N. S. for the winter.

Wet
and
they
afte
pres
in t
dist
Air
seer
pres

M
truc
he
thir
mis
way

M
Gas
Hal
for

N
era
nev
Dra
plo
abo
1st
He
day

A
wet
to
see
sea

Personals Column Example

*Charlottetown Guardian -
islandnewspapers.ca*

Many friends here and in this vicinity will learn with regret that Rev. Joseph Rooney, for many years parish priest at Morell, has been transferred to Cardigan. Fr. Rooney has scores of friends here being a great horse lover. He attended all the races and at present is the proud owner of Nancy Budlong, considered the fastest filly ever to come to the Island. Fr. Rooney will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him in his years here and as a chaplain in the last Great War in France. Fr. Rooney will be replaced here by Rev. Phalen McKenna, at present reported stationed at Summerfield. This column extends best wishes to Father Rooney, in his new home.

Personals Column Example

Charlottetown Guardian -
islandnewspapers.ca

Search Tips

- Searching by name
 - Use known nicknames
 - Abbreviated names/initials (ex. J.B. Connolly)
 - Use different variations (spellings) of surnames
 - Proper addresses (ex. Mr. Connolly)
 - For women, use the husband's name (Mrs. James Connolly) as well as maiden name

Search Tips Cont'd

- Searching by location
 - Specific city/town
 - Ancestor's address
 - If ancestor was from a different state/province or country, check local newspapers near where they were raised

Search Tips Cont'd

- Searching by business
 - Business name
 - Business address

Optical Character Recognition (OCR)

- Computer software that looks for specific shapes and transcribes the text
- Most newspapers are digitized with OCR software due to the time it would take to index every article
- Not all characters read by computer correctly



OCR Tips

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

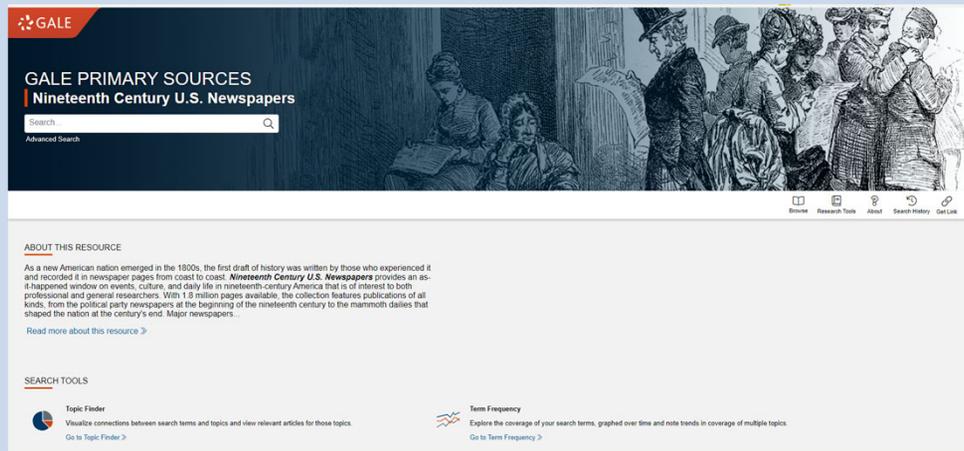
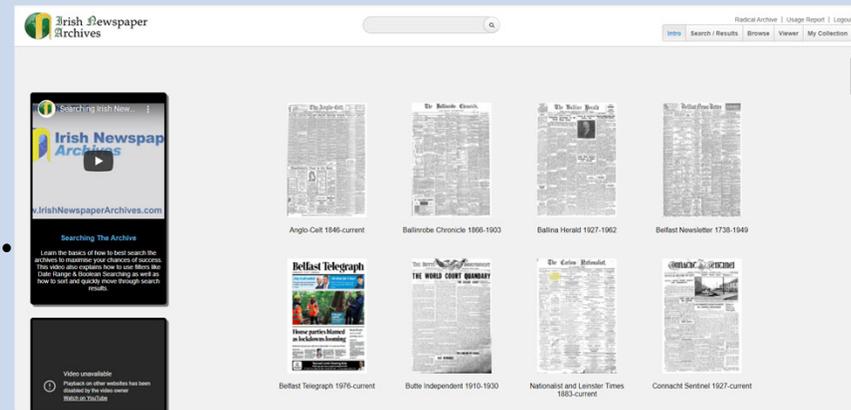


OCR Tips Cont'd

- Vary your keyword searches
 - Ex. When searching for “Smith”, try “Srnith”
 - Use multiple keywords to narrow results
 - Ex. “Corcoran” + “Dillonstown”

Newspaper Databases for American Ancestors Members

- Irish Newspaper Archives
- Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers



Examples of Newspaper Databases on American Ancestors Web Site

- Boston Evening Transcript: Genealogy Pages, 1911-1940
- New Hampshire Gazette: Newspaper Abstracts, 1756-1769
- Portsmouth, NH: Abstracts from Newspapers, 1776-1800

Newspapers.com Birth, Marriage, and Obituary Indexes

- Ancestry has indexed millions of birth, marriage, and obituary articles found on Newspapers.com for U.S. and Canada newspapers.
- These indexes are invaluable in determining the parents, siblings, children, of your ancestor.
- Caution: Records are OCR'ed so there may be errors with matching records to your family or issues with spelling, incorrect relationships, etc.

Card Catalog

Searchable listing of all record collections



Title

Keyword(s)

Filters [Clear All](#)

- > Birth, Marriage & Death 9
- > Newspapers & Periodicals 62

Filter By Location

- > Australia 3
- > Canada 3
- > Europe 6
- > North America 60
- > Oceania 3
- > USA 57

Filter by Dates

Results 1-25 of 69

Sort By

Title	Category	Records
Canada, Newspapers.com™ Stories and Events Index, 1800's to current	Newspapers & Periodicals	924,460,460
U.S., Newspapers.com™ Auctions of Enslaved People and Bounties on Freedom Seekers Index, pre-1880	Newspapers & Periodicals	183,817
England, Newspapers.com™ Stories and Events Index, 1800's to current	Newspapers & Periodicals	1,717,109,289
Ireland and Northern Ireland, Newspapers.com™ Stories and Events Index, 1800's to current	Newspapers & Periodicals	24,406,691
Scotland, Newspapers.com™ Stories and Events Index, 1800's to current	Newspapers & Periodicals	70,696,188
Wales, Newspapers.com™ Stories and Events Index, 1800's to current	Newspapers & Periodicals	91,690,301
U.S., Newspapers.com™ Birth Index, 1800s-2003	Birth, Marriage & Death	122,823,815
Australia and New Zealand, Newspapers.com™ Stories and Events Index, 1800's to current	Newspapers & Periodicals	417,153,952

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/catalog>

U.S., Newspapers.com™ Birth Index, 1800s-2003

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s) **Last Name**

	Day	Month	Year	Location
Birth	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Lived In	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Any Event	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Add family member: [Father](#) [Child](#)

	First & Middle Name(s)	Last Name
Father	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Child	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

	Day	Month	Year	Location
Publication Info	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



Provided in association with Newspapers.com (subscription required).

This Collection

The facts in this collection are made available by [Newspapers.com™](#).

Related data collections

[U.S., Newspapers.com™ Obituary Index, 1800s-current](#)

This Newspapers.com™ index contains newspaper obituaries published in the United States from the early 1800s until the present day.

Free Newspaper Collections

- Ancestor Hunt
- Chronicling America
- Elephind
- Google News Newspaper Archive
- Old Fulton Post Cards
- Small Town Papers
- State Newspaper Project web sites



CHRONICLING AMERICA
Historic American Newspapers

Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1789-1963 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) and the Library of Congress. [Learn more](#):

Search Pages **Advanced Search** All Digitized Newspapers 1789-1963 **US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present**

All states + from 1789 to 1963 + enter one or more search words GO

Pages Available: 13,609,048

Print Subscribe Share/Save Give Feedback



- ➔ [About Chronicling America](#)
- ➔ [About the Site and API](#)
- ➔ [Recommended Topics](#)
- ➔ [Help](#)

More Resources

- ➔ [National Digital Newspaper Program](#)
- ➔ [NDNP Award Recipients](#)
- ➔ [Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room](#)
- ➔ [Ask LC Newspaper & Current Periodicals Librarian](#)
- ➔ [Historic Newspapers on Flickr](#) (part of the LC Flickr Commons photostream)
- ➔ [Beyond Words](#) (Help find pictures in historic newspapers!)

100 Years Ago Today: 9/12/1918 (174 issues)



[The Cordova daily times.](#) (8pp.)
Cordova, Alaska



[Svět = World. \[volume\].](#) (6pp.)
Cleveland, Ohio



[The daily Alaskan.](#) (4pp.)
Skagway, Alaska

Chronicling America (1789 – 1963)



Search Pages **Advanced Search** **All Digitized Newspapers 1789-1963** **US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present**

All states ▼ + from 1789 ▼ to 1963 ▼ + enter one or more search words **GO**

Pages Available: 13,609,048

Print Subscribe Share/Save Give Feedback

Search U.S. Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

This directory of newspapers published in the United States since 1690 can help identify what titles exist for a specific place and time, and how to access them. Use the options below to select a particular place and time, using keywords to locate specific titles. Titles currently listed: 154,792.

Browse the Directory by newspaper title:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Select where the newspaper was published:

Select State(s) ▼ Select Counties... ▼ Select Cities... ▼

Select when the newspaper was published:

from 1690 ▼ to 2018 ▼

Enter keywords:

More search options:

Frequency: Select ▼ Language: Select ▼

Ethnicity Press: Select ▼ Labor Press: Select ▼ Material Type: Select ▼ LCCN:

Library of Congress U.S. Newspaper Directory

Subscription Based Newspaper Sites

- Arcanum Newspapers (The Eastern European Newspaper Archive)
- British Newspaper Archive
- Irish Newspaper Archives
- Genealogy Bank
- Newspaper Archive by Storied
- OldNews by MyHeritage

FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Indexing Activities

Records Images Family Tree Genealogies **Catalog** Books Wiki

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog
 PRINT Catalog Print List (0)
 1-20 of 13,167 results

Refine your search

Search by:
 Place
 Surnames
 Titles
 Author
 Subjects

Subject Number

Keywords
 newspapers

Search for:
 Call Number
 Film/Fiche/Image Group Number (DGS)

Availability
 Any
 Online
 Family History Center

Family History Library

Update Reset

Year
 ▶ 1300 (2)
 ▶ 1400 (4)
 ▶ 1500 (15)
 ▶ 1600 (36)
 ▶ 1700 (76)

Print List

[Irish University Press series of British parliamentary papers : newspapers](#) Add
 Author: Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. Select Committee on Newspaper Stamps

[Utah's newspapers, traces of her past : papers presented at the Utah Newspaper Project Conference, University of Utah, November 18, 1983](#) Add
 Author: Holley, Robert P.; McCargar, Dennis; Stroup, Yvonne; University of Utah. Libraries; Utah Newspaper Project Conference (1983 : University of Utah)

[Abstracted names from the Davenport, Iowa democrat and leader newspapers](#) Add
 Author: Scott County Genealogical Society (Davenport, Iowa); Iowa Genealogical Society

[Abstracts of marriages and deaths of extant Washington, North Carolina, newspapers](#) Add
 Author: Chauncey, Jim; Chauncey, Esther; Beaufort County Genealogical Society (Washington, North Carolina); Smithwick, Sybble M.; Oden, John H., III, 1948-2003

[Announcements in Brantford newspapers](#) Add
 Author: Cross, Marilyn; Eacrett, Joyce; Scott, Gloria J.; Eacrett, John; Ontario Genealogical Society. Brant County Branch

[Baker City, Oregon, newspaper clippings from The Morning Democrat](#) Add
 Author: Bartlett, Bonnie; McKee, Jan Kerrick; Lay, Otilya

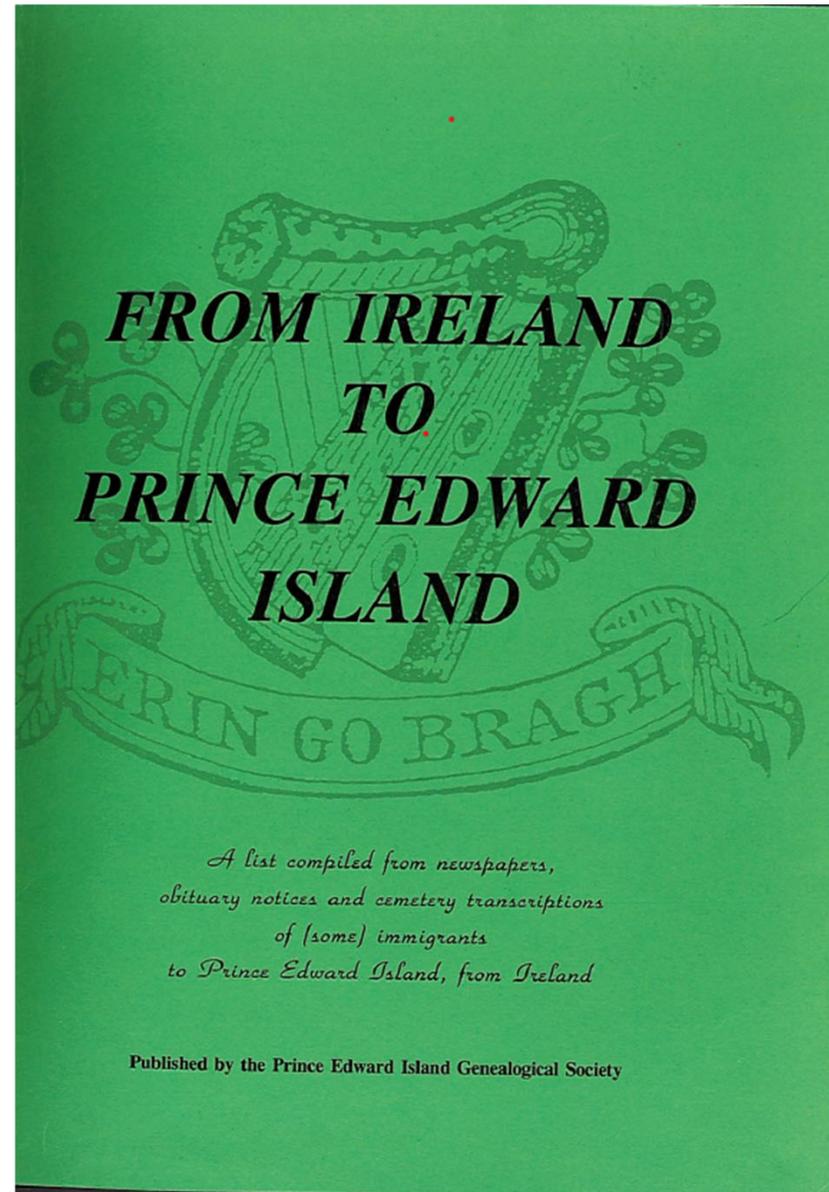
[Birth announcements extracted from the Scarborough newspapers 1839 to 1881](#) Add
 Author: East Yorkshire Family History Society

[Births, deaths, marriages from the Telegraph newspaper, 1963-1968](#) Add

[Births, marriages, deaths from New South Wales newspapers, 1804-1819, 1964](#) Add

[Breckinridge County, Kentucky newspaper abstracts](#) Add
 Author: Wimp, Carolyn; Nacke, Judy Pierce

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>



Newspaper Abstract Example



Rogers -- At Lot 61, on 1st May, Sgt. Patrick D. Rogers, Age 77. Native of County Roscommon. Emigrated in June 1841. Joined 48th regiment in 1814. Examiner Patriot, 20 May 1869.

Rooney -- At Lot 58, on 25th ult., Phillip Rooney. Born 1805 in County Fermanagh. Herald, 16 April 1884.

Russel -- On 9th, George Russel, shoemaker, Age 70. Native of Parish of Balomana (Ballymena), County Antrim. Herald, 19 July 1871.

Russell -- On the 1st, Mrs. Catherine Russell, Age 74. Native of Fethard, County Tipperary. Herald, 7 November 1894.

Ruth -- At Souris, on the 31st July, Ellen, relict of Henry Ruth, Age 74. Native of Limerick, Ireland. Emigrated in 1818. Herald, 1 September 1886.

Ryan -- On 30th September, John Ryan, Age 86. Native of Rhode Island. Loyalist. (Probably Irish descent). Royal Gazette, 19 October 1847.

Ryan -- On 17th, John Ryan senior, Age 82. Native of Kilkenny. Emigrated in 1815. Examiner, 2 January 1865.

Ryan -- On the 1st, at Lot 18, Margaret, wife of Moses Ryan, Age 62. Native of Glesshouse, County Kilkenny. Emigrated in 1825. Examiner, 14 February 1860.

Ryan -- At Johnston's River, on 28th August, Mary, wife of Dennis Ryan, Age 70. Native of Thurles, County Tipperary. Emigrated in 1834. Herald, 11 September 1867.

Ryan -- At Marsh Road, on 12 October, Mary, relict of Matthew Ryan, Age 83. Native of County Monaghan. Emigrated in 1837. Herald, 25 October 1899.

Ryan -- At Lot 42, on the 5th, Matthew Ryan, Age 65. Native of County Tipperary. Vindicator, 15 June 1864.

Newspaper Abstract Example

One of the most really beautiful and edifying marks of a long, well-spent life, is a happy, Christian death. Such was the demise of Mr. Philip Rooney, of Montague, Lot 5¹/₂, on the 25th ult. Mr. Rooney was a native of the County Fermanagh, Ireland, born in 1805, and was a real, warm-hearted, genial Irishman. During his illness his spiritual wants were lovingly ministered by his beloved pastor, Rev. Wm. Phelan. He died as he lived, at peace with God and man. His remains were interred in Montague cemetery, in a manner becoming a good, practical Catholic. May his soul rest in peace.

Obituary of Philip Rooney

Newspaper Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

- Boston Evening Transcript (Genealogy Pages, 1911-1940)
- Boston Pilot: Irish Immigrant Advertisements (Search for Missing Friends), 1831-1920
- Christian Intelligencer: Death Reports of Reformed Dutch Church, 1830-1871

Newspapers on Microfilm at American Ancestors

- Boston Evening Transcript
- Charles R. Hale Collection (Offsite Storage)
 - Also available on Ancestry.com
- Columbian Centinel

Reference Books at American Ancestors Headquarters

- *Deaths in Boston, 1700-1799*
- *Index of Obituaries in Boston Newspapers, 1704-1800*
- *New England Vital Records from the Exeter Newsletter, 1831-1865*

Where Can I Find More Newspapers?

- American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, Mass.)
- Libraries
- University collections
- Archives
 - Newspaper Archives

Review

1. Newspapers are a window into an ancestor's daily life.
2. You may uncover hidden vital records by researching your ancestors and relatives in the newspapers.
3. New stories are often found by researching the newspapers of the community where your ancestor lived.



THANK YOU!
AmericanAncestors.org



Copyright © 2025