

GETTING YOUR NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

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A LONG HISTORY:

Since September 1690, the US had newspapers. Initially papers had only two pages of small, tight text running down to the bottom of one column and up into the top of the next one. There were no graphics.

Over the years, newspapers changed. One saw larger typeface, different stories, graphics, and more sections.

As men migrated and towns grew, cities began exchanging news by telegraph.



DIFFERENT TYPES OF NEWSPAPERS:

- Metropolitan papers (e.g. *New York Times*) provided news from around the world, across the nation, or throughout the state.
- Regional newspapers (e.g. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*) focused on news from around their area and provided more local coverage on both the people and the community.
- Specialized papers provided articles that targeted their focus readers. Some examples:
 - Ethnic language newspapers
 - Labor & Occupational newspapers
 - Legal newspapers
 - Religious newspapers
 - Specialty newspapers (military or political)

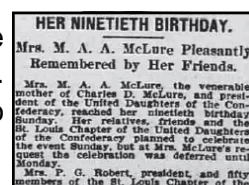
NEWSPAPERS HAD:



Articles – These told of current or recent local and national incidents (e.g. criminal actions, fires, disasters, or scandals). Stories included background information, photographs, or eye witness accounts pertaining to the event.

Events – Newspapers reported on various government (newly elected officials, bills passed, and zoning issues) and community (fraternal organizations', ladies auxiliaries', church groups' meeting notes, school rallies, or sports tournaments) happenings. At times, photographs with names appeared.

Columns – When a neighborhood or town was small and did not have their own newspaper, the county paper had columns devoted to them. Within these “personal” columns, one saw diverse information on visitors to the area, church socials, meetings, births, weddings, and anniversaries.



Legal announcements – Papers published legal news, (fines, probate actions, and sheriff's sales), real estate information (property transfers, tax defaults, and building permit applications), and circuit court entries (divorces, dram shop petitions, jury participants, marriage licenses, and burial permits). During election cycles, papers had information on candidates and ballot issues appeared.

Advertisements – Ads sold land, home products, and dry goods. The classified section had ads from residents selling items prior to their departure from the area. Returning soldiers sold military script or bounty land warrants.

Sunday editions – Added sections had features (serialized stories, comics, book reviews, activities, and regional sporting events), pictorials, special commemoratives, and society pages (details about parties, guests, and announcements).



CITATION:

Identify the article with as much information about the newspaper as possible. Please refer to *Evidence Explained*, chapter 14, “Publications, Periodicals, Broadcasts, and Web Miscellanea.” Here is a suggested citation based on “Newspaper Articles Online” from *Evidence Explained*.¹

“Herman Stamm Resigns,” article, *St. Louis (Missouri) Republic*, 11 September 1894, p. 7, col. 2; digital image, *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 30 January 2010).

FINDING THE PAPERS:

Initially, they preserved papers on microfilm. Check for these papers at various libraries, historical societies, and universities. Two references, *American Newspapers, 1821–1936: A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada* and *Encyclopedia Directory of Ethnic Newspapers* have references for papers. Upon finding a newspaper, you can do an Internet keywords search, e.g. “Easton Gazette” newspaper. Then if available in microfilm, you can possibly borrow it through Inter-Library Loan.

¹ Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Publications, Periodicals, Broadcasts, and Web Miscellanea.” *Evidence Explained! Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2012), p. 777–816.

NEWSPAPERS ONLINE:

There are a number, either free or commercial, websites available. Some sites have full editions while others contain extracted articles. Check your local library for sites available through your library card.



Many online collections use Optical Character Recognition or OCR. While helpful, there are problems. Here are some tips for searching:

- Use abbreviations;
- Utilize filters; and
- Rearrange your search terms.

READING AND REFERENCE LIST:

Books

1. Brigham, Clarence S. *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690–1820*. Worcester, Massachusetts: American Antiquarian Society, 1962.
2. Gerould, Winifred G. *American Newspapers, 1821–1936: A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada*. New York: Kraus Reprint Corporation, 1967.
3. Henritze, Barbara K. *Bibliographic Checklist of African American Newspapers*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1995.
4. *Newspapers in Microform, United States, 1948–1983*. 6th edition. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1983.
5. Szucs, Loretto Dennis, and Sandra Hargreaves Leubking, editors. *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*. 3rd edition. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Publishing Company, 2006.

Websites (all websites current as of November 2015)

6. [“All Digitized Newspapers in LOC”](#)
7. [Arizona Department of Libraries, Archives, and Public Records](#) part of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)
8. [Central Michigan University](#) (NDNP)
9. [Chronicling America](#)

10. [Connecticut State Library](#) (NDNP)
11. [Elephind.com](#) Fee
12. [Fold3](#) Fee
13. [GenealogyBank](#) Fee
14. [Google News](#)
15. [Idaho State Historical Society](#) (NDNP)
16. [Indiana State Library](#) (NDNP)
17. [Kansas State Historical Society](#) (NDNP)
18. [Library of Virginia](#) (NDNP)
19. [Louisiana State University](#) (NDNP)
20. [Minnesota Historical Society](#) (NDNP)
21. [Mississippi Department of Archives and History](#) (NDNP)
22. [Montana Historical Society](#) (NDNP)
23. [National Digital Newspaper Program](#)
24. [New York State Library](#) (NDNP)
25. Newsbank, Inc. Fee [available on some library's webpage]
26. Newspaper Source Fee [available on some library's webpage]
27. [Newspapers.com](#) Fee
28. [Ohio History Connection](#) (NDNP)
29. [Oklahoma Historical Society](#) (NDNP)
30. [Penn State University Libraries](#) (NDNP)
31. ProQuest Historical Newspapers Fee [available on some library's webpage]
32. [State Historical Society of Iowa](#) (NDNP)
33. [State Historical Society of Missouri](#) (NDNP)
34. [State Historical Society of North Dakota](#) (NDNP)
35. [University of California](#) (NDNP)
36. [University of Delaware](#) (NDNP)
37. [University of Florida](#) (NDNP)
38. [University of Hawaii](#) (NDNP)
39. [University of Illinois](#) (NDNP)
40. [University of Kentucky](#) (NDNP)
41. [University of Maryland](#) (NDNP)
42. [University of Nebraska](#) (NDNP)
43. [University of New Mexico](#) (NDNP)
44. [University of North Carolina](#) (NDNP)
45. [University of Oregon](#) (NDNP)
46. [University of South Carolina](#) (NDNP)
47. [University of Tennessee](#) (NDNP)
48. [University of Texas](#) (NDNP)
49. [University of Utah](#) (NDNP)
50. [University of Vermont](#) (NDNP)
51. [Washington State Library](#) (NDNP)