

DIGITAL NEWSPAPER WEBSITES:

Searching old newspapers can be one of the most rewarding activities in researching family history, since the detail found in news articles can add richness and context to an ancestor's daily life. The most unusual catastrophic and even trivial details can be found.

These are just a few of the many sites available on-line to search digitized newspapers for family information. You can access the paid sites in public libraries such as: Shell Point Genealogy Library OR Lee County Public Library (downtown). Use the many free sites below to start your search.

Do not limit your search to just the sites listed here as many more can be found on-line. Use the search line:

“(city, state or country name) digital newspapers online” to locate additional digitized archives.

If the newspaper you are looking for is still being published, check their website for a searchable digital archive. If you find any other very helpful newspaper site, please pass the web address on to me, Stephen Baluch, to be included in the list below.

KEEP IN MIND:

Newspaper articles often contain many errors, such as misspelled names, incorrect dates, mistaken or incomplete information. This happens because reporters gather loads of information under tight time constraints that do not allow double checking all details. Incomplete and inaccurate information also may be provided by eyewitnesses and bystanders.

The process of digitizing old newspapers uses Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software to translate news print images to searchable text. This process can be highly inaccurate depending on the quality and condition of the original paper document. The OCR process often incorrectly interprets similar appearing letters such as the number “1”, and letters “i” and “l”.

Be sure to search many possible spellings of name, and be flexible in searching relevant time frames for family events.

Every site will have different searching capabilities, from basic name/keyword searches to very sophisticated content and date range searching. When you find a helpful site, take full advantage of the available searching techniques.

Many newspapers in immigrant communities were published in foreign languages. Determine how your ancestor's name would appear in the native language and include these in your searches.

You can use very broad searches for unusual names, like mine “Baluch”, but when searching common names, like “Mitchell”, you need to be very specific as to location and timeframe in your searches to find relevant articles on your specific ancestors. The information you already know about these individuals will help you zero in on the specific people of interest.

If specific newspapers are not available in digital format, look for the availability of paper copies in local libraries. Local librarians will often copy and email specific articles if you can determine the date and page in the relevant newspaper. WorldCat.org and the Library of Congress site “Chronicling America” can help locate where paper copies may be available.

Be persistent. “Seek and ye shall find...”

PAID sites:

GenealogyBank.com

Newspaper Archives 1690-2016

Newspapers.com by Ancestry

Large inventory of digital newspapers searchable by location

FREE sites:

United States Newspapers

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Newspapers

On-line Newspapers

<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/Home>

Library of Congress

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Wyoming Newspapers

<https://newspapers.wyo.gov/>

Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/>

Georgia Historic Newspapers

<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>

Utah Digital Newspapers

<https://digitalnewspapers.org/>

Hoosier State Chronicles

<https://newspapers.library.in.gov/>

Cyndi's List Historical Newspapers

<https://www.cyndislist.com/newspapers>

Cyndi's List Historical Newspapers - Canada

<https://www.cyndislist.com/canada/newspapers/>

National Library of Australia

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

Nova Scotia Historical Newspapers

<https://novascotia.ca/archives/newspapers/>