



Newspaper Treasures: Beyond the Obit

Erin E. Moulton

Why use newspapers? Newspapers, as a narrative form, can flesh out a life story in a way that records can't. Once you narrow in on the location of a particular ancestor, local newspapers often reveal many details, notices and articles that go way beyond the typical obituary.

REMINDERS:

- *Consider Collection:* Explore and understand the holdings at each repository you're investigating.
- *Control the Timeline:* Establish the timeline of your ancestor before diving into newspapers.
- *Control Your Keywords:* Prior to beginning your search, consider name variations, associated keywords, street addresses etc.
- *Consider Search Functions:*
 - Use "quotations" for exact phrase searching.
 - Use AND to search two words or phrases in combination, OR for one word vs. another, and NOT to eliminate a keyword. This is called Boolean searching.
 - Use ? and * for searches where there are unknown characters or misspellings.

RESOURCES:

-Chronicling America- <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

-Advantage Preservation - <https://directory.advantage-preservation.com/SiteDirectory> (after narrowing to your desired region, navigate to the repository and then hit the home button. The home button looks like a house).

-Newspapers.com (\$\$) - <https://www.newspapers.com/>

-Genealogybank (\$\$) - <https://www.genealogybank.com/>

-FultonHistory - <https://fultonhistory.com/> or Fulton Search - <https://fultonsearch.org/>

-Internet Archive - <https://archive.org/> (Use metadata search AND contents search)

-Worldradiohistory.com - <https://worldradiohistory.com/> (Trade publications rock!)

-Cultural Newspapers—Do research, check finding aids and connect with local experts to identify cultural publications. Get LOCAL.

-Libraries and Historical Societies—Many libraries and historical societies still have newspapers in print and on microfilm. Reach out.

HAVE FUN